

**Science and Spirit:  
Managing the watershed and the inshore fishery in the old Hawaiian way**

Mary Brooks

This talk introduces Hawaiian *ahupua'a* concepts and practices: the ecological system of mid-oceanic mountain-islands, the traditionally engineered operating system of windward-side watersheds, the biophysical aquatic operating system of stonewall enclosed coastal fishponds, the integrated management of the inshore fishery, and the spiritual and social foundations of these systems as recorded in myth, oral history, written history, the archaeological record, and the author's experience. Over a 13 year period the speaker restored and brought back to productive life a 110-acre 500-year old Hawaiian polyculture tidal-reef aqua farm. She shares some of her experience and lessons learned. An aquaculture specialist, she began the project with a vision and management plan by which she would shape the pond's future. This, in hindsight, was naive; the pond – a place of great historical, cultural, biological, physical, mythic, spiritual and economic force – had other plans. The pond would become the teacher, changing the manager and revealing ancient realities of sustainable human-nature relationships that yet remain true.