



Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine  
Sanctuary Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

78<sup>th</sup> Meeting  
Tuesday, August 13, 2019 9:00 am – 1:00 pm  
Virtual Meeting

NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Vacant  
Business Commerce

VACANT  
Commercial Shipping

Barbara (Maka'ala) Kaaumoana  
Conservation

Judith Lemus  
Education

Myrick (Rick) Gaffney  
Fishing

Steve Turner  
Hawai'i Island

Maxx Phillips  
Oahu Island

Nina Monasevitch  
Kauai Island

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
Lana'i Island

Robin Newbold  
Maui Island

Vacant  
Moloka'i Island

Vacant  
Native Hawaiian

Jim Coon  
Ocean Recreation

Mark Deakos  
Research

Vacant  
Tourism

Tara Leota  
Whale Watching

GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Leo Asuncion  
DBEDT – Office of Planning

Cameron Black  
DBEDT Renewable Energy

Vacant  
Division of Aquatic Resources

Alec Wong  
DOH

Sandra Rosseter  
DOT – Harbors

Keola Lindsey  
OHA (Voting)

Allen Tom  
Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale NMS

Athline Clark  
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Jeffrey Pollack  
NOAA OLE

Jeff Walters  
NOAA Fisheries PIRO

Eric Kingma  
WESPAC (Voting)

Tunis McElwain  
US Army Corps of Engineers

Eric Roberts  
US Coast Guard

Janice Fukawa  
US Navy

Attendance

**Primary SAC council members present:** Business - Thorne Abbott, Conservation - Maka'ala Kaaumoana, Education - Judy Lemus, Fishing - Rick Gaffney, Hawai'i Island - Steve Turner, Kaua'i Island- Nina Monasevitch, Lāna'i Island - Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Maui Island - Robin Newbold, Energy Office – Cameron Black, Dept. of Health – Alec Wong, NOAA NMFS PIRO - Jeffrey Walters, PMNM – Naomi McIntosh, U.S. Navy - Janice Fukawa, U.S. Coast Guard - Eric Roberts, HIHWNMS Sanctuary Superintendent – Allen Tom and ONMS PIR Director – Kristina Kekuewa

**Alternate SAC council members present:** Business/commerce – Kevin Kelly and Native Hawaiian - Sabra Kauka

**ONMS Staff and outside presenters:** Cindy Among-Serrao, Jean Souza, Patty Miller, Ed Lyman, Marc Lammers, Amy Eldredge, Alan Lum and Chip Johnson (Navy)

Welcome and Opening Pule/Thought – Sol Kaho'ohalahala

‘Ōlelo No‘eau:

‘Ano lani, ‘ano honua

A heavenly nature, an earthly nature

The ‘aumākua who make themselves visible to loved ones by assuming an earthly form, such as fish, fowl or animal, yet retain the nature of a god.

-Mary Kawena Pukui

- We lived in both worlds, the visible and tangible on earth and the spiritual. Where their ‘aumākua, or family spirit resides. They gather information to make life decisions in both the walking world and in dreams. From signs, visitations, omens and divine guidance. It is important to see behind what the eyes can see, listen for things that are not said, and recognize what our na‘au, or gut instinct, already knows. We are naturally aware and are connected to the spirits and in doing so make their life with pure intentions. We believe life evolved as nature attended and the right time will come for all things. Words from our kupuna from their writings and thoughts.
- Good reminder that regardless of the global issues happening with the land and sea we are also blessed with the spiritual things around us along with the things we can see and touch.

Council Business

- Review and approval of March 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes
  - Motion to accept Maka'ala Ka'aumoana, seconded Rick Gaffney. Approved unanimously.
- SAC recruitment status: A recruitment was done in May to June followed by preliminary reviews of applicants. We are currently in the process of background

*“The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the State of Hawai'i.”*



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

checks of the recommended applicants. We hope to get folks on board by the next meeting. In addition to getting everyone's seats up to date asap.

- Action: Review and Approval of Resolution Supporting Transition of the Kaua'i Office to a New Discovery Center
  - Change language of last sentence to reflect that the resolution was adopted during video conference meeting #78 on August 13, 2019
  - Motion to accept and adopt by Maka'ala Ka'aumoana, seconded Rick Gaffney. Approved unanimously.

### Kaua'i Discovery Center Update – Jean Souza, Program Specialist

- Kaua'i, a new ONMS model for an interpretive facility
  - First ONMS center in a shopping center facility
  - Access to all features in the shopping center which is at no extra cost. Shopping center managers in charge of upkeep and use of the center's features.
- National Marine Sanctuary Foundation signs lease at the largest center on Kaua'i
  - One-year renewable lease, funded by ONMS, high visibility location - on main mall concourse and SAC advisory group engagement throughout the operations and planning of center highly appreciated
- Ocean Connections
  - Interpretive and operations plan in progress, partner interest and grant applications
  - Schedule:
    - Aug—Planning; docent recruitment; background check processing
    - Sept—Move in
    - Oct—Docent training
    - Nov—Display panels
    - Jan—Opening on 01/11
    - Feb—3rd Annual Oceanfest
- A role for everyone, especially SAC with providing guidance, feedback, shaping concept and operational policies. In addition to agreeing to be featured speakers, leading activities, promotions, being docents and suggesting funding leads
- **Questions:**
  - Longevity of funding for center?
    - Currently have a lease for one year and depends on future budgets and discussion for the continuation of center
    - Possible to add retail sales, big funders and etc. to encourage the continuation of the center financially
    - Ensure coordination of displays with the Hilo center with the Kaua'i center

### Superintendent Update – Allen Tom

- Introducing our HIHWNMS Superintendent, Allen Tom
  - Been with the sanctuary program for 26 years. Was an on-site liaison when the sanctuary was created. If anyone has questions regarding how the boundaries were designated and etc feel free to ask Allen.
- Staff changes include: Allen is now the superintendent, Jean Souza is on detail with the Pacific Island Region and Paul Wong and Nancy Daschbach are also in the Pacific Island region.

#### NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Vacant  
*Business Commerce*

VACANT  
*Commercial Shipping*

Barbara (Maka'ala) Kaumoana  
*Conservation*

Judith Lemus  
*Education*

Myrick (Rick) Gaffney  
*Fishing*

Steve Turner  
*Hawai'i Island*

Maxx Phillips  
*Oahu Island*

Nina Monasevitch  
*Kaua'i Island*

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
*Lana'i Island*

Robin Newbold  
*Maui Island*

Vacant  
*Moloka'i Island*

Vacant  
*Native Hawaiian*

Jim Coon  
*Ocean Recreation*

Mark Deakos  
*Research*

Vacant  
*Tourism*

Tara Leota  
*Whale Watching*

#### GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Leo Asuncion  
*DBEDT – Office of Planning*

Cameron Black  
*DBEDT Renewable Energy*

Vacant  
*Division of Aquatic Resources*

Alec Wong  
*DOH*

Sandra Rossetter  
*DOT – Harbors*

Keola Lindsey  
*OHA (Voting)*

Allen Tom  
*Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale NMS*

Athline Clark  
*Papahānaumokuākea MNM*

Jeffrey Pollack  
*NOAA OLE*

Jeff Walters  
*NOAA Fisheries PIRO*

Eric Kingma  
*WESPAC (Voting)*

Tunis McElwain  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*

Eric Roberts  
*US Coast Guard*

Janice Fukawa  
*US Navy*

*"The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the State of Hawai'i."*



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

### NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Vacant  
*Business Commerce*

VACANT  
*Commercial Shipping*

Barbara (Maka'ala) Kaaumoana  
*Conservation*

Judith Lemus  
*Education*

Myrick (Rick) Gaffney  
*Fishing*

Steve Turner  
*Hawai'i Island*

Maxx Phillips  
*Oahu Island*

Nina Monasevitch  
*Kaua'i Island*

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
*Lana'i Island*

Robin Newbold  
*Maui Island*

Vacant  
*Moloka'i Island*

Vacant  
*Native Hawaiian*

Jim Coon  
*Ocean Recreation*

Mark Deakos  
*Research*

Vacant  
*Tourism*

Tara Leota  
*Whale Watching*

### GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Leo Asuncion  
*DBEDT – Office of Planning*

Cameron Black  
*DBEDT Renewable Energy*

Vacant  
*Division of Aquatic Resources*

Alec Wong  
*DOH*

Sandra Rossetter  
*DOT – Harbors*

Keola Lindsey  
*OHA (Voting)*

Allen Tom  
*Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale NMS*

Athline Clark  
*Papahānaumokuākea MNM*

Jeffrey Pollack  
*NOAA OLE*

Jeff Walters  
*NOAA Fisheries PIRO*

Eric Kingma  
*WESPAC (Voting)*

Tunis McElwain  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*

Eric Roberts  
*US Coast Guard*

Janice Fukawa  
*US Navy*

- Upcoming events include: August 22-Ocean Guardian School w/ Kapa'a High School is the second school in Hawai'i with this program, fall 2019- Memorandum agreement with Queen Kapiolani hotel, January 11, 2020 - Kaua'i Center opening, winter 2020- Whalers Village and spring 2020 - Waikiki Aquarium teacher workshop. If you want additional information on these events please ask Allen.
- Mallows Bay is in the final process of becoming the 14<sup>th</sup> National Marine Sanctuary
- Short term goals include: rehabilitate Kihei Center, support HIHW research/risk assessment, support education and outreach and outreach to Lāna'i and Moloka'i (other communities)
- Long term goals include: SPLASH 2, visitor center or outreach centers on Moloka'i, Lāna'i and Kona, center of humpback whale for health and risk assessment and integrate Native Hawaiian practices
- Challenge SAC members to get more involved with sanctuary events and programs.
- **Questions:**
  - What is SPLASH?
    - SPLASH (Structures of Population, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpback Whales) is an international cooperative research project that was developed to understand the abundance, population structure, and potential human impacts on humpback whales across the entire North Pacific ocean.
    - The SPLASH project represents the largest and most complete examination of humpback whale migrations in the world and has revealed a far more complex pattern of movements than had been previously documented.
    - <https://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/science/splashinfo.html>
  - With potential policy changes with DOI and DOC on the Endangered Species Act and with the previous 2004 and 2006 work done is there any concern for our Hawai'i humpback whale population that have been taken off the endangered species list since then?
    - Every distinct population has its own distribution, abundance and regional threats. Any changes at the administrative level and how they will relate to us is unclear but since we are dealing with a population that is no longer endangered or threatened it may not affect us directly. That would not stop the work that is in progress. It is good to stay ahead of these possible changes in case it is impact our humpback whales.
- Sanctuary highlights since last meeting were sent out via e-mail as a pdf document titled: Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Agency Report to the Sanctuary Advisory Council March 20, 2019 – August 13, 2019.

### HIHWNMS Education Update – Patty Miller, Education Coordinator

- Kamakai, our life-size inflatable humpback whale mascot. Around 40 ft long and able to walk inside Kamakai to see the inflated internal organs. Great outreach tool for many different opportunities.
  - Very busy social calendar flying from island to island. If folks have a special event that they would like Kamakai present please coordinate with staff ahead of time.
- Community outreach events consist of environmental festivals, schools and libraries, conferences, lectures and outreach booths at aquariums and museums.

*"The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the State of Hawai'i."*



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

- Visitor center and site provide a lot of education opportunities with school groups and visitors. All folks get a whale lesson and are able to experience other types of learning opportunities.
  - Field opportunities with the fishpond right next to the center.
  - Classroom opportunities in a wet lab which could include bolus dissection, coral anatomy lesson and adaptation lesson.
  - Goal for this year is to conduct teach workshops on all islands.
- We have a variety of volunteer programs which include: Ocean Count, outreach interpreters, education programs, visitor center docents, sanctuary lectures, team ocean, whale watch experts, citizen scientist projects, naturalists on the beach and odd jobs at the Maui site.
  - Volunteers are the backbone of our programs.
  - Volunteers donated 14,000 hours of time this past year. This is equal to \$190,000 of donated time.
- Upgrading the Maui site: New mural on the wet lab building, copper whale sculpture and new campus signage. In addition to implementing new exhibits and activities in the visitor center such as virtual reality goggles, augmented reality sandbox and whale selfie station.
- **Questions:**
  - What are virtual reality goggles?
    - Virtual reality goggles allow folks to be immersed underwater and experience different sites, animals and locations without having to go swimming. Best method to get into your sanctuary without getting wet. New generation of how to get folks immersed in our sanctuary. A video is in the works with HIHWNMS own video by ONMS.

### NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Vacant  
Business Commerce

VACANT  
Commercial Shipping

Barbara (Maka'ala) Kaaumoana  
Conservation

Judith Lemus  
Education

Myrick (Rick) Gaffney  
Fishing

Steve Turner  
Hawai'i Island

Maxx Phillips  
Oahu Island

Nina Monasevitch  
Kaua'i Island

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
Lana'i Island

Robin Newbold  
Maui Island

Vacant  
Moloka'i Island

Vacant  
Native Hawaiian

Jim Coon  
Ocean Recreation

Mark Deakos  
Research

Vacant  
Tourism

Tara Leota  
Whale Watching

### GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Leo Asuncion  
DBEDT – Office of Planning

Cameron Black  
DBEDT Renewable Energy

Vacant  
Division of Aquatic Resources

Alec Wong  
DOH

Sandra Rossetter  
DOT – Harbors

Keola Lindsey  
OHA (Voting)

Allen Tom  
Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale NMS

Athline Clark  
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Jeffrey Pollack  
NOAA OLE

Jeff Walters  
NOAA Fisheries PIRO

Eric Kingma  
WESPAC (Voting)

Tunis McElwain  
US Army Corps of Engineers

Eric Roberts  
US Coast Guard

Janice Fukawa  
US Navy

### HIHWNMS Resource Protection Update – Ed Lyman, Natural Resources Management Specialist

- Health and Risk Assessment:
  - Monitoring of humpback whales at individual and population level. Since 2003. Emphasized after SPLASH. More recently, one aspect of sanctuary research. Focused on visual condition indices (e.g. emaciation, wound presence/impact, cyamid cover). Also include behavior, demographics, relative abundance (e.g. monitoring transects). Partnered to monitor chemical (e.g. breath analysis), biological factors (e.g. toxins, DNA, bacteria makeup), acoustic (e.g. HIMB). > 120,000 images, > 100 hrs of video, over 1600 individuals cataloged via fluke ID
- Health and risk assessment: methodology/ strategies
  - Scheduled monitoring cruises, on-water near-realtime response (e.g. separated calf, animal in distress, ship-strike, and entanglement). Reports from on-water community (is like our Ocean Count, but season-long and on water).
- Health and risk assessment: On-water community's role
  - Community is foundation of our monitoring and response programs. Find, report, assess, document, monitor animals towards response. Nearly half (48.6%) reports from public, but only 1 in 4 of these are confirmed. Tour industry provides nearly one-third of reports (29.4%), but have an 89% confirmation rate

*"The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the State of Hawai'i."*





## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

### NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Vacant  
*Business Commerce*

VACANT  
*Commercial Shipping*

Barbara (Maka'ala) Kaamoana  
*Conservation*

Judith Lemus  
*Education*

Myrick (Rick) Gaffney  
*Fishing*

Steve Turner  
*Hawai'i Island*

Maxx Phillips  
*Oahu Island*

Nina Monasevitch  
*Kaua'i Island*

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
*Lana'i Island*

Robin Newbold  
*Maui Island*

Vacant  
*Moloka'i Island*

Vacant  
*Native Hawaiian*

Jim Coon  
*Ocean Recreation*

Mark Deakos  
*Research*

Vacant  
*Tourism*

Tara Leota  
*Whale Watching*

### GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Leo Asuncion  
*DBEDT – Office of Planning*

Cameron Black  
*DBEDT Renewable Energy*

Vacant  
*Division of Aquatic Resources*

Alec Wong  
*DOH*

Sandra Rossetter  
*DOT – Harbors*

Keola Lindsey  
*OHA (Voting)*

Allen Tom  
*Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale NMS*

Athline Clark  
*Papahānaumokuākea MNM*

Jeffrey Pollack  
*NOAA OLE*

Jeff Walters  
*NOAA Fisheries PIRO*

Eric Kingma  
*WESPAC (Voting)*

Tunis McElwain  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*

Eric Roberts  
*US Coast Guard*

Janice Fukawa  
*US Navy*

- Large Whale Entanglement Response
  - Sanctuary takes a lead and coordinating role working under NOAA MMHSRP and alongside partner agencies. Built strong partnerships and engages community. 1° goal risk reduction. 1° objective is gaining information to better understand the threat and its impact (answer the questions of who, where, when why, what, and how?). 17th season (started in 2003).
- Alaska Detail: Collaborative effort with NOAA Fisheries
  - Started in 2006, every year except 2012, assist with response, trainings and preparation, also share info and resources, and fisher involvement
- Other species response efforts:
  - Stranding response: provide supportive role (e.g. vessel, personnel, equipment), on-water and on-shore, multiple species (monk seals, sea turtles, dolphins, mantas) and consultation (e.g. Pseudorca scarring).
- Network Preparedness: 10 trained teams, 9 rapid response telemetry kits, 4 full caches of equipment, 100's of network responders trained in various roles and 20 responders trained at higher levels.
- Hawai'i accomplishments 2002 – present:
  - Mounted more than 180 responses, gear removed from 33 whales, 29 animals (28 humpback whales and 1 sei whale) freed of significant amount of gear, representing a ~43% success rate toward those cases warranted and able, more than 12,000 feet of line removed, more than 70 sets of gear removed or documented identified.
- Presentation available upon request.

### HIHWNMS Science Update – Marc Lammers, Research Coordinator

- Assessing recent trends in Hawaii's humpback whale population.
  - The Hawaii distinct population segment, of DPS, of the North Pacific humpback whale population has been on a steady recovery curve for the past several decades after depletion from whaling. The last formal count of the DPS, which occurred back in 2008 estimated that approximately 10,000 whales use the Hawaiian Islands each year and that the population was growing at an estimated annual rate of about 6-7%. It's been assumed that this rate of recovery continued and this led to the DPS being removed from the U.S. endangered in 2016. However, coincidentally, some very unusual observations began to be reported that very same year.
- Recent trends in humpback whale abundance:
  - In fact, are more staying in feeding grounds or at least reducing their residency here? We have reports from Alaska of more animals over-wintering or extending their time (Eg Sitka Sound)
- NOAA/UH/OSI/WHOI acoustic and visual monitoring
  - Around this same time, beginning in 2014, my colleagues and I had begun a soundscape-monitoring project off Maui waters focused largely on coral reef sounds. As part of this effort we established several shallow water recording sites, which were later complemented with some deeper water sites as well. These sites allowed us to also monitor the singing behavior of male humpback whales, which produce their iconic song during the winter breeding season. A few years later, beginning in 2017, we also established a shore-based theodolite station, operated by my PhD student Anke Kuegler,

*"The opinions and findings of this letter/publication do not necessarily reflect the position of the sanctuary, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or the State of Hawai'i."*



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

off west Maui overlooking the area monitored by three of our recorders. As part of this effort, Anke would count and fix whales during 30 minute scans of the area throughout the day, approximately 1-2 days per week during the whale season.

- PIFSC/HHWNMS 2019 PMNM cruise
  - Significance of findings:
    - More whales in PMNM than expected. Whales are clearly using the Monument for breeding. Could support re-distribution hypothesis for low whale #s in MHI. PMNM could represent “missing breeding ground” from SPLASH.
  - Still TBD:
    - Are PMNM and MHI whales part of the same contiguous breeding area? How far up the archipelago do whales occur? Where are the hot spots? Could western DPS whales be breeding in the NWHI?
- Presentation available upon request.

### Navy Update on Work in Hawai'i and Monitoring Impacts to Marine Mammals – Chip Johnson

- Background: U.S. Pacific Fleet's Environmental Readiness Division manages natural resource projects at Navy ranges in the Pacific including Hawaii. Basic biology and occurrence; consultations; effects analysis. Set of 9 overarching “Intermediate Scientific Objectives” developed under Navy Strategic Plan for Marine Species Monitoring. Intermediate Study Objectives are then supported by region-specific and species-specific “Study Questions” and associated projects.
- Navy At-Sea Ranges In The Pacific: Application to funded projects: US Pacific Fleet annual funding has to be balanced and spread across up to 5 ranges (Different scientific objectives, different focus species, different costs by area).
- Considering all of the above combined with set annual budget, level of effort cannot be the same in each range
- **Questions:**
  - All projects mentioned, are they integrated with the sanctuary management?
    - Not currently but could have more coordination to work together in future since they do already work with NOAA Fisheries to get permits. There are cases where overlap occurs such as the use of the sanctuary vessel and common partners/projects

### 12:20 pm Public Comment – No public comment

### Next Steps

- Next SAC meeting will be on November 12, 2019. It has been decided to have the meeting in Hilo at the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center and primary non-governmental seats will be allocated travel to attend the in-person meeting. There will be a method for folks to join remotely.

### 12:49 pm Meeting Adjourned

#### NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Vacant  
*Business Commerce*

VACANT  
*Commercial Shipping*

Barbara (Maka'ala) Kaamoana  
*Conservation*

Judith Lemus  
*Education*

Myrick (Rick) Gaffney  
*Fishing*

Steve Turner  
*Hawai'i Island*

Maxx Phillips  
*Oahu Island*

Nina Monasevitch  
*Kaua'i Island*

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
*Lāna'i Island*

Robin Newbold  
*Maui Island*

Vacant  
*Moloka'i Island*

Vacant  
*Native Hawaiian*

Jim Coon  
*Ocean Recreation*

Mark Deakos  
*Research*

Vacant  
*Tourism*

Tara Leota  
*Whale Watching*

#### GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Leo Asuncion  
*DBEDT – Office of Planning*

Cameron Black  
*DBEDT Renewable Energy*

Vacant  
*Division of Aquatic Resources*

Alec Wong  
*DOH*

Sandra Rossetter  
*DOT – Harbors*

Keola Lindsey  
*OHA (Voting)*

Allen Tom  
*Hawaiian Islands  
Humpback Whale NMS*

Athline Clark  
*Papahānaumokuākea MNM*

Jeffrey Pollack  
*NOAA OLE*

Jeff Walters  
*NOAA Fisheries PIRO*

Eric Kingma  
*WESPAC (Voting)*

Tunis McElwain  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*

Eric Roberts  
*US Coast Guard*

Janice Fukawa  
*US Navy*