

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Forty-second Meeting
Thursday, December 1, 2005
5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
Bay View Golf Park Restaurant
Kaneohe, Oahu, Hawaii

FINAL MINUTES

Attendance

Primary Council Members Present:

Cindy Barger, Jim Coon, Liz Corbin, Bill Friedl, Tommy Friel, Dave Hoffman, Becky Hommon, Marc Lammers, Teri Leicher, Jerry Norris, Terry O'Halloran, Sara Peck, Dick Poirier, Jeanne Russell, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Don Thornburg, Terry White, Michelle Yuen.

Alternate Council Members Present:

Duane Erway, Hank Janpol (for Lou Herman), Maile Sakamoto (for Harold Lao), Cheryl Sterling (for Richard McCarty), Reg White.

Absent:

Athline Clark, Nancy Daschbach, Lou Herman, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Eric Kingma, Harold Lao, Richard McCarty, `Aulani Wilhelm, Bob Wilson, Chris Yates.

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Keeley Belva, Christine Brammer, Patty Miller, Naomi McIntosh, Jean Souza, Jeff Walters, and Paul Wong.

PUBLIC: Kathy Bryant, John Corbin, Melvin Fisher

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- Copy of Letter Supporting Education Cruises from the Education Committee
- Draft Letter to the Aquaculture Development Program

Call to Order

The purpose of this meeting is to follow up on actions since the previous meeting and prepare for 2006.

Council Chair Terry O'Halloran called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Teri Leicher, secretary, then took role.

The members of the public who were attending and Maile Sakamoto, representing the State Department of Health, introduced themselves to the Council.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the Council's May 12, 2005 and September 8, 2005 meetings were unanimously approved.

Public Forum

There were no comments at this time.

Discussion on Reports and Updates

There were no reports given during this meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Letter Supporting Sanctuary Education Cruises—Education Committee Chair, Jeanne Russell explained that a letter supporting NOAA education cruises was previously sent by the education committee, however they hoped that the entire council would approve it as well. **ACTION:** Liz Corbin made a motion to send the letter from the council to all appropriate recipients; Sara Peck seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved this motion.

New Business

- Function of the Executive Committee—The council wanted to empower the executive committee to be able to draft and send informational letters without the prior approval of the whole council. After discussion on what guidelines would be appropriate, there was a motion to allow committee chairs to draft letters of inquiry or appreciation on matters pertaining to committee business for the SAC. This motion passed unanimously. Marc Lammers made a second motion that the executive committee can send a letter based on a position that has been discussed at a SAC meeting prior to the next SAC meeting if it has been circulated for review and comment. Dick Poirier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Charter Amendments—The council decided to discuss this at a future meeting.
- Proposed Letter regarding Aquaculture in the Sanctuary—Following a short discussion, Dick Poirier made a motion to send the draft letter (see attachment 1) with the following edits: 1) The second paragraph should

read, “In a proposed draft position statement issued by the Council’s research committee...” and 2) The third paragraph should read, “The members of the Council feel strongly....” **ACTION:** Jeanne Russell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Forum

- There were no comments at this time.

Announcements

- There were no announcements.

Adjournment

Council Chair, Terry O’Halloran, adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Attachment 1

1 December 2005

John Corbin, Manager
Aquaculture Development Program
1177 Alakea Street #400
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Aquaculture Activities in Sanctuary Waters

Aloha Mr. Corbin,

Thank you for participating in our discussion regarding open ocean aquaculture at our September 8, 2005, Council meeting. Considering the proposed and existing aquaculture facilities within the boundaries of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS), the Sanctuary Advisory Council’s Executive Committee (made up of officers and committee chairs) felt it was time to further address its concerns with these endeavors.

In a proposed draft position statement issued by the Council’s research and conservation committees relating to a proposed facility near Olowalu, Maui, specific concerns were addressed as possible threats including: loss of habitat, attraction by predators, collisions by competitive pods of whales, interaction by calves and juveniles, and acoustic pollution. Both committees agreed that more research is needed to evaluate the implications of these concerns, however they felt that it was ideal to do so, at least in Sanctuary waters, using existing ventures.

The members of the Council feel strongly that Sanctuary waters are important and sensitive habitat for the Hawaii's humpback whales. It would be helpful if the Aquaculture Development Program could provide the Council with a plan detailing future proposed aquaculture sites and activities within Sanctuary waters. In the absence of a plan, the committee recommends that the Council review proposals for future aquaculture activities on a case-by-case basis. Hopefully the Aquaculture Development Program and the private enterprises it serves will also thoroughly explore appropriate sites outside of Sanctuary waters.

We recognize the importance of aquaculture to Hawaii and the up-front costs incurred by private parties involved in suitable site selection. In order for the Council to properly advise Sanctuary management, we would appreciate notification of possible aquaculture activities and potential sites in Sanctuary waters at the earliest possible time in the process. This will allow us to provide Sanctuary management with appropriate advice in a timely manner.

We thank you for seeking the advice and involvement of the Council on these matters and greatly appreciate the time you have taken to educate our members through the frequent presentations and discussions at past meetings.

Sincerely,

Terry O'Halloran
Chair
HIHWNMS Advisory Council

cc: Naomi McIntosh, Manager, HIHWNMS
Jeff Walters, Co-Manager, HIHWNMS
Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Director, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture