

## **Sanctuary Advisory Council**

Thursday, January 23, 2003  
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
Honolulu International Airport  
Interisland Conference Center, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor

### **Final Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendance:**

*SAC Members Present:* James Coon, Elizabeth Corbin, Eric Gilman, Walter Haas, Louis Herman, Rebecca Hommon, Cindy Knapman, John Laufer, Teresa Leicher, William Lennan, Naomi McIntosh, Patty Miller, Paul Nachtigall, Jerry Norris, Terry O'Halloran, Sara Peck, Richard Poirier, John Reghi, Glen Soma, Jeffrey Walters, Reginald White, Bob Wilson.

*SAC Alternates Present:* Michele Kayal (for Michael Stanton).

*Excused:* Athline Clark, Nancy Daschbach, Margaret Dupree, William Friedl, June Harrigan Lum, Richard McCarty, Robert Smith, Michael Stanton.

#### *Others Present:*

HIHWNMS: Christine Brammer, Claire Cappelle, Amy Glester, David Mattila, and Paul Wong

PUBLIC: Aaron Mooney, Adam Pack, Don Thornburg, Claud Sutcliffe, Marc Lammers, Jennifer Weise

#### **Distributed Materials**

- Final Agenda
- Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Conservation Committee Report
- Education Committee Report
- Hawaii County Report
- Honolulu County Report
- Kauai Report
- Maui Report
- Vessel Collision Working Group Report
- Draft Boater Outreach Project Summary

## **Call to Order**

SAC Chair, James Coon, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Coon welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending the meeting. The items on the agenda include the welcoming of new members and thanking of former members, a committee orientation, and a facilities update. Jim Darling will also give a presentation on his research findings regarding whale songs. Other items will be addressed in unfinished & new business.

## **Welcome New Members**

Mr. Coon introduced the newly selected SAC members and asked them each to say a few words about themselves and what interests they represent. The Business/Commerce Representative is James Coon. David Hoffman is the alternate. The Citizen At Large Representative is Terry O'Halloran. Mr. O'Halloran is a lawyer/business owner who has been involved with the ocean for most of his life. He was also recently selected for the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee. His alternate is Claud Sutcliffe. The Commercial Shipping Representative is John Laufer and his alternate is Donald Bunnell. Mr. Bunnell has worked in Hawaii's maritime community since 1969. He is currently the Honolulu Port Captain for Sea Engineering. The Conservation Representative is Dr. Louis Herman and his alternate is Samantha Whitcraft. Ms. Whitcraft is the Ocean Resources Program Manager for the Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission. The Ocean Recreation Representative is Teresa Leicher and her alternate is Donald Thornburg. Mr. Thornburg is from Kaua'i. He owns and operates Ocean Frontier, LLC, a company dedicated to successful management of complex, highly technical projects. The Tourism Representative is Michael Stanton and his alternate is Michele Kayal. Ms. Kayal is a Honolulu based freelance writer. She has spent four years covering Hawai'i's tourism industry. The Whale Watching Representative is Reginald White. His alternate is Wallace Patch.

Mr. Coon announced that Sara Peck is now the Hawai'i County Representative and her alternate is Sallie Beavers. Becky Hommon, an environmental law and policy advisor to the U.S. Navy regional commander, has also joined the SAC as a representative for the U.S. Navy. Ms. Hommon has been involved with the Sanctuary since before its designation.

## **Thank you to former members**

Naomi McIntosh stated that this has been an amazing group of members and the efforts of the group have been extremely impressive. She reviewed a few milestones of the group including the support the SAC provided through the Sanctuary's Management Plan Review, for the funding that has been approved for the Vessel Strike Workshop and for the Kona office. In addition, many SAC members contributed to other Sanctuary

projects that were not directly related to the SAC activities and the Sanctuary staff is very appreciative of everyone's volunteer efforts.

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Coon apologized for the inconvenience that the minutes from the September and November meetings are not available. They will be approved and distributed as soon as they are completed.

### **Public Forum**

Marc Lammers, research alternate, introduced himself and Aaron Mooney from the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawai'i. Ms McIntosh introduced new staff member, Paul Wong, who will serve as the Sanctuary Program Specialist. Paul will provide management, program, and administrative support to the Sanctuary.

### **Reports and Updates**

#### **SAC Chair**

Mr. Coon reported that from February 18<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> he would be attending the National SAC Chairs/Coordinators Meeting in Santa Barbara, CA. The five policy topics he submitted as important to the national system of sanctuaries were wildlife interaction, acoustic impacts, vessel traffic, military activities, and aquaculture. He has also been asked to give a presentation on vessel whale interactions. He will be seeking help from various members and the staff to prepare this presentation.

#### **Acting Sanctuary Manager's Report**

Ms. McIntosh submitted a written report detailing Sanctuary activities (see attachment #1). She highlighted some of the activities from her report.

The NMSP's Leadership Team meeting will be held in Hawai'i from February 3 - 8, 2003. On Monday February 3<sup>rd</sup>, all SAC members is invited to attend a reception at the Waikiki Aquarium.

Congratulations to Eric Gilman and Terry O'Halloran for their recent selections to the Commerce and Interior Department's National Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee.

Ms. McIntosh stated that public information briefings would be conducted on Maui to discuss preliminary plans for the new multi-purpose building. The O'ahu Office anticipates relocating with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve in the Spring. The two offices will share the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Hawai'i Kai Corporate Plaza at 6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy. Also, the Sanctuary plans to schedule discussions with NELHA and the Kona Community regarding the plans to open a

Sanctuary office in Kona. Paul Wong will help with that effort. A community meeting will be scheduled within the next few months.

Ed Lyman, from the Center for Coastal Studies, will be working with Science and Rescue Coordinator, David Mattila, from January 3 to February 28, 2003. He will support the science and rescue efforts of the Sanctuary.

The Final Revised Management Plan was distributed to 800 addresses. If you did not receive the plan or would like extra copies they are available on the back table.

The Hawai'i Drift Card study is a 2-year study of the near shore waters. It will help scientists learn how floating pollutants may affect the islands. The Sanctuary is assisting NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, Hazardous Materials Division, with those efforts.

Sanctuary Ocean Count Coordinator, Christine Brammer is gearing up for this year's Ocean Count. Volunteers attended site leader training on the Big Island, Kaua'i and O'ahu. The training prepares site leaders for the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count, which will be conducted on January 25, February 22, and March 29.

Dr. Paul Nachtigall gave an excellent presentation entitled "Studying Hearing in Dolphins and Whales" at the Maui office. Over 50 people attended the evening lecture.

The Sanctuary hosted the annual Ocean User Workshops on Kona, Kaua'i, O'ahu, and Maui in November.

Claire Cappelle, Maui County liaison, was chosen as one of 5 National Marine Sanctuary staff members to participate in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Meeting in South Korea in December. As always, Claire represented the Sanctuary well.

Keeley Belva, a Sanctuary intern, researched the cultural and historical background of the 26 O'ahu Ocean Count sites and presented it to her class at the University of Hawai'i. Her report will soon be available on the Sanctuary website.

Sanctuary staff, Joe Fell-McDonald, participated in a reforestation and alien species removal project on Molokini Crater.

Ms. McIntosh then announced that she would like to share the rest of her time with David Mattila for a Research update and Claire Cappelle for a Maui Facilities update.

David Mattila discussed the vessel that broke free of its moorings and ran aground at Sugar Beach in Kihei, Maui. The vessel, the Messenger of Peace, was originally built for fishing, but in recent years was being used for missionary work. It ran aground due to high winds that were experienced around the islands. The U.S. Coast Guard removed fuel and hazardous substances from the vessel. After that, the State of Hawai'i became the responsible agency for dealing with the removal of the vessel since the responsible

party did not have insurance coverage or any other funding to deal with the situation. Because the vessel ran aground within the waters of the Sanctuary, the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) offered to assist the State of Hawai'i in covering the removal costs. The NMSP will use damage and restoration funds for this effort. Members of the SAC asked if the vessel could be sunk and utilized as an artificial reef. Dr. Walters stated that there was no funding to launch a clean up of the boat for such an effort.

David Mattila also gave a brief update on entanglement reports in the Sanctuary. Last whale season, there were six reported incidents. This season we have already had two reported incidents. The Sanctuary in coordination with NOAA Fisheries plans to conduct disentanglement training for first responders on the different islands.

David reported on the Steering Committee meeting that was held on Maui in early December to discuss the SPLASH (Structure or Populations, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpback Whales) project. The group met to discuss the feasibility of conducting a dedicated sampling and analysis of humpback whales across the entire North Pacific. The objectives of SPLASH include obtaining a better estimate of overall whale numbers in the North Pacific, providing a better understanding of population structure, improving understanding of reproductive and mortality rates, studying specific wintering and feeding areas, and identifying human impacts on the population. The SAC discussed whether it would be appropriate for them to draft a letter of support for this research effort. SAC Chair Jim then requested that the Research Committee draft a letter of support for action at the next meeting.

Claire Cappelle, Maui County liaison, gave an update on the Maui Facility project. She explained that due to extensive termite damage on the staircase leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of the main building at the Maui site, the staircase would need to be replaced. In addition, the recent Kona storms escalated erosion around the main office building at the Maui site. The problem has become so bad that the Sanctuary may need to look at sand replenishment as an alternative for addressing the problem. Finally, Ms. Cappelle expressed a thank you to SAC member Dr. Louis Herman who agreed to let Dr. Adam Pack provide a presentation for SeaGrant's ReefTalk Lecture Series on the Big Island. The talk saw a huge turnout of 65 people. Ms. Cappelle also expressed thanks to SAC member Sara Peck for giving the Sanctuary an opportunity to be a part of the lecture series effort.

### **State Co-Manager's Report**

Dr. Jeff Walters gave a quick overview of his written report (see attachment #2). He announced the selection of the research project that received funding for the 2002-2003 humpback whale season. Shore-based Acoustic and Visual Monitoring of Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) along the Kohala Coast of the Island of Hawai'i. Principal Investigators: Adam S. Frankel, Christine M. Gabriele, Susan H. Rickards, and Suzanne E. Yin, all are associated with the Hawaii Marine Mammal Consortium. The project is expected to provide important information in sanctuary waters along the Kohala Coast an area where we do not currently have a lot of research being conducted. The

project also includes plans to host a "Listen to the Whales" community involvement day at the shore observation site in February 2003.

Dr. Walters also announced that he hopes to hire a Marine Conservation Specialist soon. The position is federally funded and currently waits approval from the new State administration.

Dr. Walters briefly discussed a bill is expected to be introduced in this year's State Legislature that would have the State create and manage a statewide network of marine reserves by January 1, 2010.

The State sanctuary office continues to administer a short-term contract funded by NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Island Area Office to assist with Monk Seal Conservation efforts on Kauai. A Kauai Monk Seal Coordinator has been working on Kauai to document monk seal utilization on Kauai shorelines. Twenty distinct individual seals have been already been identified. The coordinator is also working to facilitate communication and coordination between organizations that are involved in monk seal conservation efforts. The Kauai Monk Seal Coordinator is funded through the end of January.

The State Sanctuary office is also working on printing a series of humpback whale posters. The posters have been designed to meet National Marine Sanctuary Program graphics specifications. Dr. Walters announced that he is seeking input from the SAC and has asked Patty Miller, Education Committee Chair for assistance.

Dr. Walters announced that Peter T. Young has been appointed as the new Administrator and Chairperson for the Department of Land and Natural Resources. Dr. Walters hopes to have an opportunity to brief his new boss and the new administration on the Sanctuary soon. SAC member Teri Liecher added that Mr. Young was very active in the Kona community and was very good about keeping the community well informed.

Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere was scheduled to meet with Governor Linda Lingle today to discuss opportunities for NOAA to have a consolidated presence in one location in Honolulu.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Conservation Committee**

Conservation Committee Eric Gilman submitted a written report (see attachment #3). The report includes three requests for information on the status of threat assessment efforts, the U.S. Navy proposed expansion of their underwater training range on Maui and the Interisland Ferry System. These topics will be taken up under unfinished business.

### **Research Committee**

Research Committee Chair, Dr. Paul Nachtigall reported that the Research Committee had anticipated being involved in the selection of the research project that received funding for the 2002-2003 humpback whale season. Dr. Walters initially asked Dr. Nachtigall for the Research Committee's assistance in helping to make a selection but was then told that the decision was going to be made internally. Dr. Walters explained that because members of the SAC were connected to some of the proposals that were received he wanted to avoid any conflict of interest and any challenge to the contract award that could arise. As a result a decision was made not to have the Research Committee review the proposals. Dr. Walters did emphasize that the Research Committee did provide advice on the focus of the research topic in the Request for Proposals. Members of the SAC felt that they should be able to be contributing to the review process and discussed a number of ideas that might allow for the group to participate without creating a conflict of interest. SAC Chair Jim Coon asked that members think of a motion that may help to address the issue and to bring it up under new business.

### **Education Committee**

Patty Miller, Education Committee Chair submitted a written report (see attachment #4). She mentioned that at the last meeting, it was suggested that the Sanctuary approach the Advertiser to get a spot in the paper to be used for "Whale Updates and Information" during whale season. Ms. Miller reported that she met with representatives of the Honolulu Advertiser and they liked the idea but wanted to do this under KidScience. Ms. Miller will continue to work closely with the Sanctuary to develop story ideas for the newspaper. A new weekly item under KidScience will be appearing in the family section in the Wednesday papers. The articles will focus on environmental and science related topics highlighting current events.

### **COUNTY REPORTS**

#### **Honolulu**

William Friedl, Honolulu County Representative, submitted a written report (see attachment #5).

#### **Kauai**

Dr. Walter Haas, Kaua'i County Representative reported that the Sanctuary had an overwhelming number of volunteers that attended the whale count training. He also had an opportunity to discuss the Sanctuary with the new Kauai Mayor who is now in support of the Sanctuary, which wasn't the case in the beginning. Dr. Haas also submitted a written report.

#### **Maui County**

Richard McCarty, Maui County Representative submitted a written report (see attachment #6).

## **Hawaii County**

Sara Peck, Hawaii County Representative submitted a written report (see attachment #7). Ms. Peck emphasized the importance of the State Legislative Bill (S.B. 205) to create and manage a statewide marine reserves network by January 1, 2010. She also mentioned that All talks related to marine mammals have been well received at the Reeftalks Lecture Series and that the lectures have been conducted in the community for the last 9 years. Participants who attend the lectures are usually a very well informed and educated group.

## **WORKING GROUP REPORTS**

### **SAC Vessel Collisions Working Group**

No new action in this area since the last SAC meeting.

### **Boater Outreach Working Group**

Chair, Reginald White acknowledged Dr. Walters for his help in preparing the group's written report (see attachment #8). The report included a summary of a meeting that was held on December 3<sup>rd</sup> that featured a presentation by John Nazzaro, the coordinator for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Team Ocean program. Mr. White commented on the quality of John's presentation and thought that it provided a wealth of information for the working group.

### **Naturalist Training Working Group**

Chair Teri Leicher reported that the working group has no new activity to report.

## **Presentations**

### **Research Findings regarding whale song**

Jim Darling from the West Coast Whale Research Foundation and Whale Trust gave a presentation to the SAC on their latest research findings investigating the function and role of the humpback whale song.

## **Unfinished Business**

### **Threat Assessment**

Ms. McIntosh reported that a contract has been awarded to the Dolphin Institute to conduct a study to analyze natural and anthropogenic threats to humpback whales within waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands. She asked Dr. Herman if he had any additional comments to add, Dr. Herman reported that they are still at the beginning stages and will be submitting a draft outline of the project scope to the Sanctuary

Ms. McIntosh also mentioned that the Sanctuary is looking to pull together a panel discussion regarding threats to humpback whales for the 2003 Sea to Summit Conference that is being planned for October 2003.

### **U.S. Navy Training Exercises “Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training”**

Ms. McIntosh reported that she had no new information to report on this project. She did check again with Rebecca Hommon, General Counsel for the U.S. Navy and the status of the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the HISWTR is still undergoing internal review by the U.S. Navy. There is no anticipated public release date at this time.

Ms. Hommon did not have any information on the status of the proposed memorandum of agreement (MOA). Ms. McIntosh mentioned that the MOA for the Navy to utilize the Kihei property had expired some years ago. She had not had any recent discussions on this issue with the Navy. Currently, the Sanctuary does not have plans for the Navy to be on property. Ms. Hommon expressed concern that the Navy not be foreclosed from an opportunity in the future.

### **Inter-island Ferry System**

Ms. McIntosh reported that she didn't have any new information on plans for a Hawaii interisland high-speed ferry system. Glenn Soma also commented that he hadn't heard of any new proposals.

### **Letter of appreciation for Carol Carey**

A draft letter of appreciation for Carol Carey was presented. The SAC voted to approve sending the draft letter.

### **New Business**

#### **Education Poster**

The Education Committee has received comments on the poster images and the information. Dr. Walters will work to incorporate these comments and any new comments he receives at today's meeting.

#### **SAC Meeting Dates**

- March 19 (Wednesday) Meeting will be planned for a neighbor island either Hilo or Maui
- May 14 (Wednesday)
- July 9 (Wednesday) SAC may consider canceling this meeting because of summer vacation schedules
- September 10 (Wednesday)
- November 13 (Thursday)

*Note: The date for the March 19 was later changed due to scheduling conflicts. In addition, we do anticipate also having to revisit future SAC meeting dates that were set at the last meeting for the May, July, September months.*

### **Independent Review of Research Proposals**

Dr. Lou Herman that would recommend that the Sanctuary send out all responses to a Request For Proposal for peer review to at least two individuals not involved with the Sanctuary introduced a motion. Liz Corbin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Cruise Ship Expansion in the Islands**

The SAC expressed interest in learning more about the waste-water practices of cruise ships operating in Hawaii. SAC Chair Jim Coon suggested that the Sanctuary look into arranging a presentation on this issue at the next SAC meeting. In addition, Mr. Coon requested that the Sanctuary provide any related information on this topic for the next meeting. Ms. Hommon volunteered to acquire information about the Navy's waste-water practices for comparison.

### **Committee Orientation**

New SAC members were given a brief overview of the SAC committees and were invited to sign up to be members of the committees.

### **Public Forum**

Mr. Coon asked the members of the public for any last comments. Dr. Adam Pack asked if the SAC would be interested in having information about research that is being conducted in the Sanctuary on the website. The SAC agreed that this was a good idea and that the Sanctuary should look into doing this. Dr. Pack also commented on the lack of funding for research and hoped that the Sanctuary would be able to support more research efforts in the future. David Mattila commented that he hoped that SPLASH would generate more money for humpback whale research in Hawaii.

### **Announcements**

Ms. McIntosh reminded the SAC to RSVP to the reception at the Waikiki Aquarium.

Ms. Miller announced that there will be a series of three programs on Humpback Whales featured on KidScience in February. The dates of those programs are February 13, 20, and 27.

### **Review of Decisions and Action Items from the Meeting**

Mr. Coon reviewed the action items from the meeting.

## **Adjournment**

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2: 45 p.m.

## **ATTACHMENT 1**

### **Acting Sanctuary Managers Report**

#### **National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) Updates**

- Jean Souza attended the National Marine Sanctuary Program's (NMSP) annual education coordinators meeting in New Orleans, LO, November 18 through 22.
- The NMSP's Leadership Team meeting will be held in Hawai'i from February 3<sup>rd</sup> through February 8<sup>th</sup>.
  - February 3<sup>rd</sup> 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. Waikiki Aquarium Reception will be held. Members of the SAC will be receiving invitations to this event.
- *The NMSP's Annual Research Coordinators meeting will be held January 28<sup>th</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup> at NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service Southwest Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz, CA. David Mattila will be attending.*
- *The NMSP's annual Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair's and Coordinator's meeting will be held February 18<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup> in Santa Barbara, CA. SAC Chair Jim Coon and SAC coordinator Amy Glester will be attending.*
- Michiko Martin has joined the National Marine Sanctuary Program as the National Education Coordinator. Michiko comes from the United States Naval Academy as a professor of Meteorology and Oceanography. She has advanced degrees in oceanographic engineering and educational leadership and over four years of experience teaching oceanography and meteorology courses at the undergraduate level. She will lead the NMSP site education coordinators in promoting the public understanding of our national marine sanctuaries.

#### **Pacific Region Updates**

- Allen Tom, Pacific Regional Coordinator
- On Friday, December 13th, Naomi McIntosh and Robert Smith traveled to Kaua'i to visit the Kaua'i Sanctuary Office and Jean Souza to discuss collaborative

opportunities including the possible use of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve 40' Manacat vessel.

- Naomi McIntosh participated in the following Pacific Region meetings:
  - December 17<sup>th</sup> Hawai'i Congressional Briefing to provide an update on Sanctuary activities
  - December 17<sup>th</sup> The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i to discuss collaborative opportunities
  - December 18<sup>th</sup> SeaGrant to discuss collaborative opportunities

## **HIHWNMS Updates for September through November 2002**

### 1. SAC Activities

- Congratulations to Former SAC Member Eric Gilman and new SAC member Terry O'Halloran for their recent selections to the Commerce and Interior Departments National Marine Protected Area Federal Advisory Committee. The creation of the committee was a requirement as part of Presidential Executive Order 13158 dealing with Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The 30-person committee represents a broad stakeholder community, including scientists, academia, commercial and recreational fishermen, resource users and managers, and environmentalists. The advisory committee's duties include providing advice and recommendations to the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior on implementation of aspects of the MPA Executive Order. For more information online: Department of Commerce - <http://www.commerce.gov>

- SAC Selection

The HIHWNMS is currently reviewing applications for the fishing and native Hawaiian SAC seats.

- The SAC Boater Outreach Working Group held a video conference on December 4<sup>th</sup>. John Nazarro, from the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, attended the video conference and gave a presentation on the Team Ocean Boater Outreach efforts in the Florida Keys. Following the presentation the group discussed the best way to begin a boater outreach effort in Hawai'i. The focus for Hawai'i will initially be to develop appropriate outreach materials.

### 2. Facilities

Maui Sanctuary Office – The Sanctuary will be conducting various public information briefings to discuss preliminary plans for the “new” multi-purpose building.

Extensive termite damage was found on the staircase leading to the 2<sup>nd</sup> story of the main building at the Maui site. Preliminary investigation reveals that this is a serious safety issue and one that needs immediate attention.

O'ahu Sanctuary Office – The O'ahu Sanctuary office anticipates relocating its O'ahu office with the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve sometime in the Spring 2003. The two offices will share the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Hawai'i Kai Corporate Plaza at 6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy.

Kona Office – The HIHWNMS plans to schedule discussions with NELHA and the Kona Community to discuss a Sanctuary Kona Office within the next month.

Honolulu Consolidation - NOAA is investigating the possibility of locating all its NOAA Honolulu office within one consolidate complex. At this point, the effort is focused on determining the project's scope in terms of the number of FTEs, square footage, etc. In addition, NOAA will attempt to identify other potential sites on O'ahu

### 3. Staff Positions

Paul Wong has reported to the O'ahu Sanctuary office and will serve as the Sanctuary Program Specialist. Paul's role as program specialist will be to provide management, program and administrative support to the Sanctuary.

Ed Lyman, Center for Coastal Studies will be working with David Mattila on contract from January 3<sup>rd</sup> to February 28 to support the science and rescue efforts of the Sanctuary.

### 4. Sanctuary Management Plan

- The management plan review section of the HIHWNMS website has been updated and the revised plan is available in pdf format.
- The final revised management plan was distributed by mail to over 800 addresses on January 6, 2003.

### 5. Sanctuary Partnerships

- Kaua'i Sanctuary Liaison Jean Souza assisted Lt. Sarah Scherer of NOAA HAZMAT on the Hawaii Drift Card Study by coordinating and hosting meetings and interviews on Kaua'i with government agencies and organizations and the local media. The Hawai'i Drift Card study is a 2-year study of the nearshore waters to learn where floating pollutants might go if released from the south shore of O'ahu. The project is being conducted by NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, Hazardous Materials Division, in cooperation with Clean Islands Council Spill Response Cooperative, Chevron, Tesoro, NOAA'S National Weather Service and the U.S. Coast Guard. The Sanctuary is also allowing its

toll free number (1-800-831-4888) to be used for the project in fielding calls from the public.

6. Sanctuary Science and Rescue Activities (David Mattila will be providing additional updates during the SAC meeting)
  - The Sanctuary hosted a research meeting, December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> on Maui, “SPLASH” (Structure of Populations, levels of abundance and status of humpbacks). A Steering committee of thirteen humpback whale researchers from various locations in the North Pacific met to discuss the feasibility of conducting a dedicated sampling and analysis of humpback whales in the entire North Pacific Ocean. Support for the meeting was provided by the Sanctuary, Outrigger Hawai‘i Hotels and Resorts and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.
  - On January 8<sup>th</sup>, David Mattila and Ed Lyman responded to a call that reported a red and white buoy attached to a whale. The reported area was near Black Rock, on Maui. David and Ed took out the NOAA Boat investigate the report. They saw two humpbacks, both clear of obstructions. David checked to ensure that all area buoys were accounted for and headed back to the Maui Sanctuary office.
  - On January 8<sup>th</sup>, a call regarding an entangled whale at South Point on the Big Island was confirmed and David Mattila and Ed Lyman were standing by, prepared to respond to this report. The whale was not sighted on the second day and therefore David and Ed remained on Maui.
7. Education and Outreach
  - On Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 20 students from ‘Iao Intermediate School visited the Sanctuary headquarters' site to learn several activities regarding fishponds in Hawai‘i. This was the first school group to visit the Sanctuary as part of the Project Kahea Loko curriculum development program.
  - On Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup>, the Maui office participated in the “Celebration of the Kai” an event hosted by Maui Community College with assistance from the Maui Chamber of Commerce and the Hawai‘i Kiteboarding Association. The event was held at the Maui Ocean Center. Rhonda Van Wingerden and four Sanctuary volunteers manned a booth and dispensed Sanctuary materials.
  - Maui Office and the ‘Ao’ao O Nā Loko I’a O Maui hosted English as a Second Language students from Maui Community College on Friday, December 13. They were greeted with a traditional Hawaiian chant and protocol. The students then enjoyed a variety of activities that highlighted Hawaiian culture, the national marine sanctuary program, and humpback whales.

- Twenty 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students made an impromptu stop at the education center for a program on January 8<sup>th</sup>. The students were visiting from O‘ahu.
- O‘ahu Ocean Count Site Leader training was held at the Hanauma Bay Education Center on January 4, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. This training prepares site leaders for the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count, which will be conducted on January 25, February 22, and March 29.
- Big Island Ocean Count Site Leader training was held in Kona and Hilo on Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup>. The Kona training was held at the NELHA Conference room at the Natural Energy Lab and the Hilo training was held at the U.H. Hilo Marine Science building.
- Kaua‘i Ocean Count Site Leader and Volunteer training was held in Līhu‘e on Saturday, January 11<sup>th</sup>. This training prepares site leaders and general volunteers for the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count on Kaua‘i, which takes place at 16 sites around the island. Two site leaders who will conduct the count on the island of Kaho‘olawe were also trained. A lecture on **orcas** and their relationship to the declining population of stellar sea lions followed in the afternoon.
- On January 10, the Waikoloa Beach Marriott, an Outrigger Resort hosted a “Celebration of Whales” Day on the property. A mini whale count was held on the beach from 7:30 – 10:00 a.m. An information booth with educational activities was hosted by Sanctuary staff and volunteers from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- Lectures and Training Workshops
- On Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, Jerry Stowell, Education Center Coordinator, and Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator, gave a 30-minute presentation to the participants in the Pacific Whale Foundation Naturalist Training Course.
- On November 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, the Sanctuary hosted the annual Ocean User Workshops on Kona, Kauai, Oahu, and Maui. This year, Ocean User Workshops added several additional elements including a presentation on humpback whale research and conservation by David Mattila and an agency overview by the State of Hawaii Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement office. The workshops are sponsored by the Sanctuary, the State of Hawai‘i NOAA Fisheries Office for Law Enforcement, and NOAA Fisheries - Pacific Islands Area Office.
- On Thursday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, Jerry Stowell and volunteer Bob Raigans presented at Lahainaluna High School’s Career Day. This is the fourth year that the Sanctuary has been invited to participate in this event.

- Christine Brammer, O'ahu Program Coordinator, gave a presentation on the Sanctuary and humpback whales to the Waikiki Resident's Association.
- SAC member Dr. Paul Nachtigall, was the guest lecturer on Tuesday November 19<sup>th</sup>. His presentation "Studying Hearing in Dolphins and Whales" drew a crowd of 50 people.
- David Mattila presented a program on the methods used to disentangle whales at the local Hawaiian Immersion School in Paia. Joylynn Oliveira accompanied David and helped answer questions (in Hawaiian language) on the sanctuary, Hawaiian Culture and humpback whales.
- On January 8<sup>th</sup>, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Christine Brammer, hosted a video presentation at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve. Monthly videos are now sponsored by the City and County of Honolulu and the Hanauma Bay Education Program. The Sanctuary hosted "Pacific Adventures: Mystery of a Whale Song". Approximately 45 people attended the video presentation and took part in a discussion on humpback whales afterward.

#### 8. Staff and Volunteer Accomplishments

- Sanctuary volunteer, Sheila Ople, was nominated for the 2002 Tony Tomoso Outstanding Volunteer awards at the annual Kaunoa Senior Services' Retired and Senior Volunteer Program luncheon on Thursday, November 21, 2002.
- Claire Cappelle was chosen as one of 5 NMS staff invited to participate in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Meeting in South Korea on December 4, 5, and 6, 2002. The meetings were part of combined efforts by NOAA and the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) to promote bilateral cooperation in ways that address local management needs for selected MPA sites in each country. The MOMAF wishes to focus attention on the needs for better management of Seogwipo Marine Park Area on Jeju Island and to a second extent, ideas for cooperation to build a better national management program in Seoul.
- Keeley Belva, an intern in the Honolulu office of the Sanctuary, completed her Sanctuary project and presented it to her class at the University of Hawai'i on December 11, 2002. Keeley's internship was through a University semester credit class Independent Studies (IS) 489. Her project was to research the cultural and historical background of the 26 Ocean Count sites around O'ahu. Her research will be made available on the Sanctuary website and in the Ocean Count handbook. Keeley will continue to work with the Sanctuary office on this year's Ocean Count project as an intern from the Marine Option Program. As part of her internship, she will continue to research cultural and historical

backgrounds but her focus will now be the Ocean Count sites on the Big Island. Keeley focus at the University of Hawai'i is on Ecotourism.

- Maui volunteers, Dick and Julie Kiligan, were honored at the annual Christmas party for staff and volunteers on Thursday, December 19, 2002. The Kiligans have volunteered with the sanctuary for four years.
- Sanctuary staff, Joe McDonald, participated in a reforestation and alien species removal project on Molokini Crater, a small offshore island off of Maui. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and the State of Hawai'i provided the native plants. The sanctuary also provided use of their boat.

## 9. Media Coverage

- November 11, 2002 - The Honolulu Star Bulletin issue highlighted the Ocean User Workshops, 45 Ton Talks, and the upcoming lecture by Paul Nachtigall entitled, "Studying Hearing in Dolphins and Whales".
- November 11, 2002 - Honolulu Advertiser listed the upcoming Ocean User's Workshops.
- The Maui News featured an article entitled *Perry Receives Tony Tomoso Outstanding Volunteer Award*. Sheila Ople, a Maui Sanctuary volunteer, was one of twelve volunteers honored by R.S.V.P, the Retired Seniors Volunteer Program.
- Paul Gray, from the television program "Exploring Alaska", interviewed Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator about the historical relationship between Native Hawaiians and humpback whales. They also discussed the history of whaling in the Hawaiian Islands and the establishment of the HIHWNMS.
- January 5, 2003, Honolulu Star Bulletin ran an article that discussed the Celebration of Whales Day and the Sanctuary Ocean Count. It also included a picture of a Sanctuary volunteer conducting the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count from the Keauhou Scenic Lookout on the Big Island.
- January 2003, Numerous articles featuring the vessel grounding of the M/V Messenger of Piece appeared in the Maui News, The Honolulu Star and The Honolulu Advertiser.
- The Maui Weekly announced the January Lecture entitled "45 Ton Talk" that our very own Jerry Stowell, Education Center Coordinator, will be offering on Tuesday January 14, 2003 at 7pm. This announcement was accompanied by a small article about the lecture in the same issue.

- The Honolulu Advertiser and the Star Bulletin on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, mentioned the Sanctuary Ocean Count project and told readers how they can register to participate.
- The Honolulu Advertiser featured an article on Sunday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, entitled Hawai'i firm chosen in Navy whale study. Science and Technology International (STI) was awarded a contract to use hyperspectral cameras to identify submerged whales off the Florida Coast. The Sanctuary was mentioned because in previous years STI voluntarily used the same technology to assist in the annual Sanctuary Ocean Count. They are also scheduled to participate in the count again in either February or March of this year.

#### 10. Other

- On Friday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, the Maui site of the HIHWNMS hosted Mr. Mitch Luxenburg, Chief of National Ocean Service Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch.
- On Monday, December 30<sup>th</sup>, Eli Weissman of the Ocean Conservancy stopped by the Maui site for a brief visit with Sanctuary staff.
- On Saturday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, the M/V Messenger of Peace broke free of its moorings and ran aground at Sugar Beach in Kihei, Maui. The vessel, originally built for fishing, but used in recent years for missionary work, ran aground due to high winds that were experienced around the islands. The U.S. coast Guard removed fuel and hazardous substances from the vessel. The state then became the responsible agency for dealing with the removal of the vessel. Because the vessel ran aground within the waters of the Sanctuary, the National Marine Sanctuary Program offered to assist the state in covering the removal costs. The NMSP damage and restoration funds will be used for this purpose.
- Heads up  
Vice Admiral Lautenbacher will be visiting Hawai'i during the week of January 21<sup>st</sup>. He will be participating in the commissioning of the NOAA ship Oscar Sette.

### **ATTACHMENT 2**

To: Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

From: Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager

Subject: Update from the Sanctuary Co-Manager for the period of November 6, 2002 through January 10, 2003 (Prepared for the January 23, 2003 Council meeting)

#### Sanctuary Funded Research Project

After careful review of 10 excellent proposals, the sanctuary has selected the following research project for NOAA-NMSP funding support during the 2002-2003 humpback whale season: Shore-based Acoustic and Visual Monitoring of Humpback Whales (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) along the Kohala Coast of the Island of Hawai'i. Principal Investigators: Adam S. Frankel, Christine M. Gabriele, Susan H. Rickards, and Suzanne E. Yin, all of the Hawaii Marine Mammal Consortium. The project is expected to provide much needed information on humpback whale abundance, distribution and behavior in an important, yet "scientifically neglected," portion of the sanctuary. Specifically, the project will: a) continue shore-based scan samples and compare them to archival scan data from the 1980s and 1990s, b) make observations of humpback whale behavior and vocalizations using a three-element hydrophone array, c) collect humpback whale song samples for comparison with Alaska songs collected in Glacier Bay National Park and d) periodically conduct photographic identification surveys to document the age-sex composition of the whale population of the study area. All of these activities would take place in sanctuary waters along the Kohala Coast of the island of Hawai'i. The project also includes plans to host a "Listen to the Whales" community involvement day at the shore observation site in February 2003. Funding for the project is provided by NOAA NOS National Marine Sanctuary Program HIWHNMS and will be administered by the state sanctuary office, in coordination with NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Area Office and NOAA Fisheries Permits, Conservation and Education Division.

#### State Office Welcomes New Sanctuary Staff, Bids Fond Farewell to Carol Carey

The state office welcomes David Mattila as the sanctuary's new Science and Rescue Coordinator and Paul Wong as the sanctuary's new Program Specialist. We look forward to working together with David and Paul on many productive efforts. The state office also wishes to express its deep appreciation and best wishes to Carol Carey who is leaving the sanctuary after many years of serving as the sanctuary's Administrative Officer. Carol was essential in effectively managing DLNR's contract with NOAA and in making the administrative/financial aspects of the sanctuary's federal-state partnership function effectively. Carol has started work in a new capacity providing administrative assistance to the Sanctuary Program's new Pacific Regional Coordinator (Allen Tom).

#### New Position in State Office - Marine Conservation Specialist

The Governor's approval to create and fill the new, full-time position (marine conservation specialist) has been obtained. The process to advertise and fill the position is expected to start in mid-January. The SAC will receive notice of the recruitment advertisement via email. The basic function of this new sanctuary position is to accomplish various technical and administrative tasks related to implementation of the sanctuary's revised management plan (2002) and other aspects of marine protected species conservation and resources management undertaken by NOAA and/or DLNR. These tasks include assisting in: 1) identification of marine resources and ecosystems of national significance for possible inclusion under HIHWNMS designation; 2) oversight of sanctuary-funded research projects; 3) conduct of field research activities; 4) responses to strandings and entanglements of marine protected species; 5) development and implementation of sanctuary education and outreach products and activities; 6) review of permit applications, project proposals, and EIS's related to the marine environment; and, 7) preparation of state marine scientific research permits.

### **Ocean User Workshops**

The co-manager attended all 4 workshops conducted in November 2002. This year's workshops featured a new lecture portion with the sanctuary's David Mattila providing an informative and entertaining talk on humpbacks in Hawaii. This year's workshops also benefited from active participation and presentations from DLNR DOCARE Officers on each island. Sanctuary staff and various SAC members really worked hard to make these workshops very well received by the numerous participants.

### **Boater Outreach Project**

The SAC working group for boater outreach met on December 3, 2002. The meeting report will be distributed separately to the council. In summary, the group reached consensus on the general approach of the project and the general outreach products that will be developed. The next step in the project entails Sanctuary staff developing draft versions of the products for subsequent review by the group.

### **Education and Outreach**

The second edition of the sanctuary newsletter *Ka Leo O Ke Kohola* was distributed on January 6, 2003. A new issue is planned for distribution in March. A poster series featuring 3 images of humpbacks in the sanctuary is nearing the finalization and printing stage. The SAC education committee is currently reviewing elements of the posters. Two other posters, one depicting all of the marine mammals of Hawaii and another featuring traditional Hawaiian cultural uses and practices in the sanctuary are also under development.

### **Cetacean Strandings**

1. A *Kogia* species (Pygmy or Dwarf Sperm Whale) stranded on the N. Shore of Kauai, near Tunnels, on December 22, 2002. The animal was alive when first discovered by beach-goers, but had wounds from apparent contact with the reef. It was pushed back out to sea, but washed up dead in the same area with apparent shark bites. Lifeguards attempted to pull the carcass up on the beach, but high surf pulled the carcass back out. Sharks were soon after observed feeding on the carcass. No remains were found washed up on the beach.
2. A juvenile, female spotted dolphin stranded alive on December 25, 2002, in Pokai Bay, Waianae. NOAA Fisheries PIAO coordinated the response with assistance from a number of agencies, organizations and individuals. The Hawaiian Islands Stranding and Response Group (HISRG) coordinated care of the dolphin at UH Marine Mammal Research Rehabilitation Facility at Marine Corps Base Hawaii in Kaneohe. Diagnosed with pneumonia, the dolphin was euthanized on January 7<sup>th</sup> when its condition deteriorated drastically and it became unable to swim. HISRG veterinarians and members, NOAA Fisheries staff, and numerous volunteers worked around the clock for 2 weeks providing the best care possible for the dolphin. News media coverage of the event was extensive.
3. An entangled humpback whale was observed off Southpoint on the Big Island in the afternoon of January 8, 2003. The apparent juvenile humpback, approx 20 ft in length, was reported by observers to be entangled in 1/2-inch polypropylene line. The line was wrapped around the tail only once and the animal was dragging about 20 ft of line with two hard plastic mooring balls attached. The buoys were black and white in color and the size of basketballs. The animal was traveling in the direction of Hilo. A DOCARE officer responding to the scene was not able to resight the animal. Sanctuary Science and Rescue Coordinator David Mattila and assistant Ed Lyman were standing-by on Maui at the time of this writing, ready to immediately fly over and respond in coordination with NOAA Fisheries PIAO should the entangled whale be resighted.

### **Kauai Monk Seal Conservation**

The state sanctuary office continues to administer a short-term job funded by NOAA Fisheries, Pacific Island Area Office. The Kauai Monk Seal Coordinator will work on Kauai through at least the end of January on the following scope of services:

1. Document monk seal utilization on Kauai shorelines and report haul-outs to NOAA Fisheries and DLNR.
2. Facilitate communication and coordination and serve as a resource point-of-contact for Kauai organizations involved in monk seal conservation activities.
3. Prepare a final report describing the utilization of monk seals on Kauai by the end of the period of service and provide recommendations for enhanced conservation and management.

As discussed in the previous SAC update, Shawn Farry has been hired to serve as the coordinator. Shawn has worked with NOAA Fisheries on monk seals in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and has also been active in Condor conservation and recovery activities on the mainland. Some highlights of his work so far include:

- 20 distinct individual seals identified
- 8 Female (6-adult, 1-S3, 1-S4)
- 11 males (6-adult, 1-J1, 3-J2, 1-S3)
- 1 Unknown sex (adult)
- 144 observed and/or reported haul-out events (may indicate multiple seals)
- 116 haul-out events observed by coordinator representing 143 seals (not individuals)
- Of 143 seals observed by coordinator, 141 identified to their permanent or temporary ID
- 3 tagged seals observed
- 116 “Seal Courtesy Zones” erected

### **State Legislature**

A bill is expected to be introduced in this year’s Legislature that would have the state create and manage a statewide marine reserves network by January 1, 2010, which shall consist of marine reserves encompassing a minimum of 20% of the state’s marine waters around each of the Main Hawaiian Islands (excluding Kahoolawe). The bill was developed by the Marine Managed Areas Working Group convened by Rep. Hermina Morita, Rep. Brian Shat and UH Law Professor Denise Antolini. A House Resolution is also expected to be introduced that calls on the state to create an MPA in Kaneohe Bay, a move that was recently unanimously endorsed by the Kaneohe Bay Regional Council.

### **Ahi Nui Tuna Growout Cages, N. Kohala Coast, Big Island**

The proponents of this project, Ahi Nui Tuna Farming, LLC, have decided to prepare an EIS for project, in part due to community concerns, in particular those expressed by fishers of the area.

### **Other Activities**

- 1) December 4 - 6, 2002 - Co-manager attended NOAA Fisheries Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team meeting on Oahu, developing draft endangered species recovery plan for monk seals.
- 2) December 13, 2002 – Co-manager met with Linda Shea-Flanders, DLNR-DAR MPA Coordinator re developing an integrated marine protected area system for the Main Hawaiian Islands.
- 3) December 23, 2002 – January 3, 2003 – Co-Manager on vacation.
- 4) January 10, 2003 – Co-Manager attended morning sessions of a marine mammal naturalist training offered to several Oahu-based whale and dolphin watching tour operators. The training was conducted aboard the *Star of Honolulu* by the Pacific Whale Foundation with special assistance and support from SAC member Reg White.

### ATTACHMENT 3

The Conservation Committee decided not to meet since the last SAC meeting in November 2002 due to a lack of expression of interest by committee members. The Conservation Committee last met in August 2002.

Committee members have requested information from the Sanctuary Managers on (a) the status of implementation of three components of a planned assessment of threats to humpback whales and their habitat in Sanctuary waters, (b) the Navy's planned Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training Range military training program, and (c) the status of the planned inter-island ferry system.

#### **REQUEST FOR UPDATES FROM SANCTUARY MANAGERS**

**1. Threat Assessment:** What is the status of Humpback Whale Sanctuary plans to (a) develop a working paper on threats to humpback whales and their habitat in Sanctuary waters, (b) request for national-level funding from the Sanctuary System to convene a national vessel strike workshop in Hawaii in fiscal year 2003, and (c) request for funding for fiscal year 2003 to broaden the scope of the vessel strike workshop to a comprehensive threat assessment, to identify priority threats to whales while in the Hawaii sanctuary waters.

At the August Conservation Committee meeting, Naomi reported that she hopes to issue a Request for Bids by the end of September for \$20k for a contract to develop the threat assessment working paper, funds had yet to be allocated for the planned vessel strike workshop, and there were tentative discussions of holding the threat assessment workshop in conjunction with the Hawaii Ocean Summit, to be convened by the Hawaii Coastal Zone Management program in May 2003.

**2. U.S. Navy Training Exercises "Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training Range":** In October 2001 the SAC submitted comments to the Navy on their proposed installation and operation of the Hawaiian Islands Shallow Water Training Range. The Conservation Committee requested an update from the Sanctuary managers on the Navy's plans, including the planned renewal of an MOA between the Navy and Sanctuary System to lease Sanctuary land to the Navy to enable implementation of this training program. The Conservation Committee requests information on the status of the proposed MOA and any other new information regarding the proposed Navy exercises.

**3. Inter-island Ferry System.** What is the status of the planned Hawaii inter-island high-speed ferry system?

## ATTACHMENT 4

SAC Education Report  
Submitted by Patty Miller 1/20/03

1. Each Sanctuary has been requested to complete a "Site Poster". Headquarters' established basic guidelines for these posters. The poster is to display the resources that the Sanctuary protects. There is to be one basic image on each poster and the wordage is to focus on what the sanctuary is all about. Jeff Walters has asked the group for advice on the poster that is being designed. The intent is to have 3 different posters. The image for the first poster is of a mother and calf. Suggestions are being requested as to the other two images. Since the sanctuary is looking at adding other resources, could the other posters feature other animals found in the sanctuary waters?

The following suggestions have been made:

Use an image of a whale breaching and include some background of the Islands.

The word "Hawaii" on the top of the poster looks out of proportion, use the words Hawaiian Islands instead.

Suggested using a turtle or a monk seal on a poster but include in the written section something about the whales also.

2. At the last SAC meeting it was suggested that the Sanctuary approach the Advertiser to get a spot in the paper to be used for "Whale Updates and Info" during whale season. The paper loved the idea but was concerned about giving a dedicated spot to the Sanctuary itself. (concern over other agencies requesting the same) They suggested that it be given to KidScience, (Patty Miller's program in the DOE) instead, avoiding conflict of interest. This article will focus on environmental and science related current events. The Advertiser is starting a new family section in the Wednesday papers. This article will be appearing in this section. Obviously the whales will be priority articles during whale season.

## ATTACHMENT 5

ACTIVITY REPORT TO THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS HUMPBACK WHALE  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL – 23 JANUARY 2003

06 January 2003

*Meeting with Charles H. Greene, Director, Ocean Resources and Ecosystems Program, Department of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Cornell University to discuss passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals and fish on the Kona-Kohala coast of Hawaii Island.*

We had informal, preliminary discussions regarding requirements for passive acoustic monitoring of marine mammals and fish along the Kona-Kohala coast of Hawaii Island. The meeting was strictly informational and preliminary.

No other pertinent activity to report.

Bill Friedl  
Honolulu County Representative

## **ATTACHMENT 6**

### **MAUI COUNTY REPORT**

Richard McCarty  
Maui County Representative

#### **Accomplishments/Awards**

Maui volunteers, Dick and Julie Kiligan, were honored at the annual Christmas party for staff and volunteers on Thursday, December 19, 2002. The Kiligans have volunteered with the sanctuary for four years.

#### **Community Events**

David Mattila, Sanctuary Rescue and Research Coordinator, presented a program on the methods used to disentangle whales at the local Hawaiian Immersion School in Paia. Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator, accompanied David and helped answer questions (in Hawaiian language) on the sanctuary, Hawaiian Culture and humpback whales.

The Maui office was the site of the Marine Gap Analysis meeting on Friday, Dec. 20.

#### **Site Report for Maui 12/22/02 – 1/03/03**

#### **Accomplishments/Awards**

On Friday, December 27, the Maui site of the HIHWNMS hosted Mr. Mitch Luxenburg, Chief of NOAA'S Policy, Planning and Evaluation Branch.

Monday, December 30, Eli Weissman, Ocean Conservancy, stopped by the Maui site for a brief visit with staff.

### **Community Events**

45 Ton Talks are held every Tuesday at the Maui site.

Visitors to the Maui site are increasing dramatically as we enter whale season.

Sanctuary staff, Joe McDonald, participated in a reforestation and alien species removal project on Molokini Crater. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens and the State of Hawaii provided the native plants. The sanctuary provided use of their boat and staff.

### **Cultural**

Paul Gray, from the television program “Exploring Alaska”, interviewed Joylynn Oliveira, Hawaiian Cultural Educator about the historical relationship between Native Hawaiians and humpback whales. They also discussed the history of whaling in the Hawaiian Islands and the establishment of the HIHWNMS.

### **Site Report for Maui**

Date January 6-12, 2003

#### ***Accomplishments/Awards***

January 6- Ed Lyman, recently from the Center for Coastal Studies arrived to work with David Mattila until late February. His primary focus will be on setting up the disentanglement program.

January 7- Claire Cappelle, Maui County Liaison attended the Marine and Coastal Advocacy Council’s Shoreline Certification Working Group. The discussion was on shoreline certification recommendations for MACZAC to consider.

January 7- David Mattila and Ed Lyman put the Sanctuary boat in the water! The boat is located at Maalaea Harbor. It was put in just in time to respond to a call about a whale the following morning!

January 8, 2002- David Mattila and Ed Lyman responded to a call that claimed a red and white buoy was attached to a whale. The reported area was near Black Rock, on Maui. David and Ed took out the NOAA Boat and moved to the reported area. They saw two humpbacks, both clear of obstructions. All area buoys were accounted for and they headed back to the Maui Sanctuary office.

January 8- A call regarding an entangled whale at Southpoint on the Big Island was confirmed and David Mattila and Ed Lyman were standing by, prepared to respond to this sighting. The whale was not sighted the second day and therefore David and Ed remained on Maui.

January 8- Twenty 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students made an impromptu stop at the education center for a program. The students were visiting from Oahu.

January 11- Rhonda Van Wingerden, Marine Educator at the Maui office attended the Ocean Count training held on Kauai.

Our 45 Ton Talks continue to be a weekly hit!

### **Community Events**

*January 9- 'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui, Fishpond Association held their monthly board meeting at the Maui Site.*

Please note that a vessel was washed onto the reef on Maui and was towed out of Sanctuary waters. I believe that Naomi would have the most accurate details regarding this situation.

### **Media Coverage**

The January 10<sup>th</sup> issue of the Maui Bulletin announced our upcoming lecture on January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2002 in their calendar section.

The Maui Weekly announced our January Lecture entitled "45 Ton Talk" that our very own Jerry Stowell, Education Center Coordinator will be offering on Tuesday January 14, 2003 at 7pm.

## **ATTACHMENT 7**

### **HAWAII COUNTY REPORT**

Sara Peck  
Hawaii County Representative Alternate

#### ***November, 2002***

> Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>- The ReefTalk presenter was co-sponsored by the HIHWNMS. Rachel Cartwright, founder and principle investigator of the Keki Kohala Project, discussed her observations of mother-calf interactions. Over 70 people attended.

> Nov. 13<sup>th</sup>- In conjunction with the Ocean Users Workshop, David Mattila, Sanctuary Rescue and Research Coordinator, presented a program on the methods used to disentangle whales. Approximately 65 people attended this training.

> Nov. 20<sup>th</sup> – The West Hawaii Fisheries Council held an informational meeting to hear Dr. Bill Walsh discuss the history of and recent research findings on introduced fish species Ta'ape (*Lutjanus kasmira*) and Roi (*Cephalopholis argus*).

> Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> – The first cadre of adult ReefTeachers was trained by Sara Peck, to provide information to snorkelers and swimmers using Kahalu’u Bay, an extremely overused shallow water coral reef area in peril from human use trampling. Other groups involved as ReefTeachers include the West Hawaii Explorations Academy Charter School and the Kona Girls Scouts.

### **December, 2002**

> Dec. 18<sup>th</sup> – The WHFC held an informational meeting to hear Dr. Steve Dollar discuss his findings and data on water quality along the West Hawaii coastline. The WHFC is educating itself and the general public in preparation for development of recommendations for spearfishing regulations in the West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area.

### **January, 2003**

> Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> – The annual Ocean Count Training was held at the Natural Energy Laboratory was well attended by approximately 25 site coordinators. The first Ocean Count will take place on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

> Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> - Sally Beavers Buchal, SAC Big Island Representative, gave a talk to a boat captain's education class January 16<sup>th</sup>.

## **ATTACHMENT 8**

### **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary**

### **Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Boater Outreach Working Group**

### **SAC Working Group Meeting Report**

December 3, 2002

State Video Conference Facilities, Oahu, Maui and Kauai  
2:00 to 3:00 PM

Attendance: Walter Haas, Greg Kaufman, Sheri Knapp, Tarey Low, Dwayne Meadows, John Nazzaro, Sara Peck, Dick Poirier, Vaughan Tyndzik, Reg White (Chair). Sanctuary Staff: Chris Brammer, Naomi McIntosh, Jean Souza, Jeff Walters.

The group started the meeting after an informative presentation, and question and answer session regarding the FKNMS Team OCEAN program. John Nazzaro, the program’s coordinator for the southern Keys, gave the presentation. Team OCEAN is an on-the-water education and information program aimed at protecting the natural marine resources of the Florida Keys, while enriching the experiences of visitors to the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. It involves the stationing of trained volunteer teams at heavily visited reef sites throughout the Keys during peak recreational boating seasons in

order to educate and inform other boaters about the unique nature of the coral reef habitat, share their knowledge of the best approach to certain areas, demonstrate the use of a mooring buoy, and give out various safety information. Originally set up with the use of a few government owned boats, the program has recently been expanded to include the private boating sector, allowing trained volunteers to go out to a greater number of target reef areas using their own boats. Mr. Nazzaro provided informative responses to numerous group member questions after the presentation.

Jeff Walters then asked the group to review the 2-page project summary regarding the proposed HIHWNMS Boater Outreach Project reiterating the basic goal of the project to educate recreational boaters about the humpback approach rule and responsible marine wildlife viewing guidelines. The group generally supported the summary with the following revisions and/or additions:

1. The basic philosophy should be to “reach them before they get on the water.” An on-the-water outreach program does not seem appropriate at this point. The main goal will be to use key distribution points and partners to educate boaters and other ocean users with signage and printed materials.
2. Effective signage is needed at state boat ramps and small boat harbors, since they are places where boaters necessarily congregate. The signage should graphically display the approach rule and other marine wildlife viewing guidelines. DOBOR should be closely consulted with as the project moves forward. Mr. Tyndzik, Kauai DOBOR District Chief, indicated that his agency would be supportive of the project. Previous discussions between the sanctuary co-manager and the DOBOR Administrator also indicate that state-wide participation of DOBOR is anticipated and welcomed.
3. Kite surfers, wind surfers and kayakers are target audiences that will require a modified distribution approach since they do not need to use the harbor and ramp facilities. Distributing stickers and info packets to water sport retailers and rental shops and at popular beach sites was proposed to reach these ocean users. The stickers, made to be attractive and stay put on the craft under ocean conditions, would also graphically display the approach rule.
4. Commercial harbors should also be targeted where appropriate, and DOT Harbors Division should be consulted in this regard.
5. A plastic or waterproof nautical chart was supported by the group as a key outreach product. The chart would be island specific and would have many features desirable to boaters, including the latitude and longitude of various attractions and points of interest. The reverse side of the chart could include text and graphics re the approach rule, protocols for reporting entanglements, harassment complaints, etc.
6. Another product favored by the group was a species ID and behavior card that would help boaters identify and enjoy viewing Hawaii’s marine mammals and turtles.
7. As a general strategy, the project should leverage existing products. The project should also partner with marine-related businesses and other organizations to help defer the costs of printing/producing the products and to help with distributing the products. The USCG and USCG Auxiliary should also be consulted with.

Next Steps: The group agreed on the following course of action: Jeff will work with staff to develop a set of draft products, which will include the text and rough sketches of associated graphics. These drafts will be prepared for the signage, the nautical chart and the ID card. The group will then meet to review and comment on the draft products. After the group's review, a professional graphic designer will be retained to prepare second draft versions of the products. These second draft versions will be shared with various stakeholders, e.g., DOBOR, HOST, USCG, etc., to get further input prior to their finalization and ultimate production. Jeff and other sanctuary staff will also continue discussions with partners who may wish to assist with production costs and/or distribution. The products are expected to be produced and distributed prior to the beginning of the next whale season.