



# Ecosystem Protections Working Group

## Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 08/10/2011

**Start Time:** 2:00pm

**End Time:** 3:15pm

**Meeting Method:** Conference Call, Go-To Meeting

**Attendance:**

Adam Pack (Co-Chair, call lead), Lisa White, Jack Kittinger (Co-Chair), Take Tomson, Alex Sheftic, Rachel Sprague, Teri Leicher, Micki Ream, Joe Paulin, Jon Martinez, Elia Herman, Malia Chow, Jean Souza

Public: Heide Weber

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I. Meeting opening, role call

Elia Herman introduced as new State Co-Manager

II. Topic Area Report Out

1. Public Comments – Alex

Alex reviewed 1,360 comments and continued analysis under categories interns developed: Perceived Threats, Species to Protect, Species not to Protect, Feedback, and Solutions.

- Threats – pollution and run-off (e.g. golf course) most frequently mentioned
- Species to Protect – comments asked that all species be protected, ecosystem comments most common, ~30% supported ecosystem.
- Species Not to Protect – Species listed as not to protect same as the species identified in the to protect category, there was a greatly reduced number asking for all species not to be protected. Strong sentiment for protecting all species
- Feedback – included comments concerning boundary expansion, opposing adding new species and suggesting a plan to reduce the size and scope as species delisted
- Proposed Solutions – research on the status of species, ecosystem health, education and outreach frequently cited as solutions, especially target local community and fishermen, integrate them in to the process,



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enforce regulations, speed limits, comments were for and against no take zones, support for and support against boundary expansion  
General feeling is strong that we need to protect everything

Take asked clarification on statement that comments support ecosystem protection, but comments also say to not protect species which contradicts going ecosystem-based

Alex has broken down total comments by frequency 412 to protect species, 13 not to protect species

Joe reminded group that comments are not a popularity contest

Alex understands, but referenced numbers that had dramatic difference

Jack reminded group to apply this analysis to 3 alternative management approaches, with rough percentages of support for each alternative  
Alex agreed and in considering the 3 alternatives, status quo, piecemeal addition of species approach and ecosystem-based approach, the overwhelming feeling from public is protect all of it (ecosystem-based)

#### 2. Hawaii Marine Ecosystem Protections at Present Time – Take

Take reviewed Federal laws and State laws currently protecting different marine species. Down column lists laws, across row lists species protected, who implements the law. Not a complete list, does not include water quality, but could expand further. Notes at bottom discuss upcoming regulations (e.g. monk seal critical habitat, translocation, False Killer Whale rules, listing corals on ESA, proposed dolphin time/area closures)

Adam commented spinner dolphins trigger for the dolphin MPAs

Elia noted other groups have been asking for info on State regulations and would like to discuss Take's state law research later

Teri commented proposed rule will conflict with recreational use and some impacts have not been thought through

Rachel recommends reading draft rule to make sure assess socioeconomic impacts and provide comment to NOAA if feel assessment is lacking

#### 3. Existing Documents Considering Adding Species – Adam/Jon

Reviewed 2007 Assessment Report that covers 4 cetaceans that are nearshore, 20 offshore cetacean, monk seals, 5 sea turtle species. Next step is to gather current information (since 2007) on research and proposed regulations to update the assessment. If consider all species that are feeding in Hawaiian waters it naturally leads to ecosystem protection because must consider food chain impact and protect the animals' habitat and prey.

Jon reviewed the 2007 report and found it pertinent to Alternative 2 management strategy to add specific species. Updated biological information



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would be helpful, but even more so would be a spatial distribution of the animals. He agrees with the food chain consideration being a clear link to ecosystem protection.

Adam agreed with the spatial analysis comment. Need to map where species are relative to current Sanctuary boundaries

Jack noted policy needs should be reviewed in addition to biological needs. We should be considering species that do not have protections and would benefit from protection under the Sanctuary model. Reviewing the policy may be more important than biology. Are there any species on 2007 list that are in need of protection?

Adam responded that all species in the 2007 report already protected at some level

Take added they are protected by State and Federal regulations

Jack commented that as an ocean user he would not see value added by the Sanctuary expanding its focus. Maybe it could come from education and outreach. While evaluating management alternatives need information to address Sanctuary's value added under each alternative

Adam stated that there are different penalties under different laws. Major outreach and education and research are key Sanctuary roles that would add value.

Take pointed out that the penalties do have range, but most sentences do not come anywhere close to the upper limit of the penalty schedule

4. Traditional Practices and Models – Adam  
Reached out to chairs of Native Hawaiian group. Tomorrow's WG Chair meeting will be good chance to further define how to incorporate each other's working groups
5. Other Sanctuaries and Marine Protected Areas as Models – Adam/Jack  
Collin Crecco's matrix is Sanctuary system focused, need to expand to other MPAs, Jack would like to see GBR added. Example 4 regions identified in GBR and team formed regionally analogous in HI to islands (Kauai, Oahu, Maui nui complex, Hawaii Island)  
Adam thought regional context lends itself to community-based management  
Malia thought the eco-regions were a really good idea  
Jack felt the regional plans could be nested within a larger, archipelagic plan
6. Establishing ecological and social principles – Jack  
Jack synthesized 4 key principles from Foley document: maintaining native species, maintain habitat diversity and heterogeneity, maintain connectivity, maintain populations of key species



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There are 2 overarching considerations: context and uncertainty (e.g. how the system will change through time)

Develop in the CA system, so need to adapt to HI context. In HI land-sea connections are important, physical disturbance events can alter reefs, seasonal changes, decadal (e.g. Pacific Decadal Oscillation), ecology of marine environments

Social Principles (Human Dimensions) – Jack attended a reef ecosystem workshop on human dimensions and the lessons can be applied to other ecosystems. Human dimensions are defined as the ways through which individuals, groups and societies interact with the marine environment, there is an important reciprocal relationship, it goes both ways, there are ecosystem services that Pacific Island cultures/user groups get from the environment and there are impacts by humans on the environment

How do you address human dimensions? Human-use mapping (e.g. CA MLPA)  
Next steps for this topic: A coarse-level guide for process, workshop with invited experts

Malia had a request regarding maintaining populations of key species, can this WG offer criteria for how to accomplish this

Jack responded it differs depending on the habitat type. In GBR they looked at each habitat type and said they would protect 20% of the area in each habitat. In HI you would likely address functional groups not species. Key functional groups are more important than key species for reef ecosystem, but the first step is to reach out to experts to get maps of habitat types. A connectivity expert definitely should be in the room for workshop.

Adam noted this is a good example why a workshop will help, so we can gather expertise from beyond this group

### III. Discuss Synthesis Workshop

Malia explained that this WG issue quite complex, so bringing in outside expertise to host workshop will help sort through the layers.

David Mattila is on detail and his replacement Sarah Mesnick, Research Director, just came on board. She has experience organizing these types of workshops. Concept is to have 2-day workshop, agenda developed by WG, outside experts will be invited

Jack thought it would be nice to have an expert from GBR brief on their process

Poll WG to move forward with workshop idea:

Jack – Aye, in planning need to be careful with topics, should limit talks/presentations to maximize discussion time

Take – Aye

Alex – Aye

Rachel - Aye



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Adam presented EPWG support to Malia.  
Host it in Sept to expend year end funds  
Sep 13-14 tentatively, noted that monk seal PEIS public hearings taking place in the evenings

- IV. Review Working Group Update slides  
Elia and Jon are support staff, Jon is with Monument and Sanctuary  
Lou resigned WG to focus on HW  
Topics need description and update for each
- V. Public Comment (TBD)  
One public member, Heide Weber. No comments.
- VI. Agenda items for next call  
Plan September Workshop (agenda, invite list, information needs) – experts will book fast  
Topic updates

ACTION ITEM: Continue working on topic research/reports; brainstorm workshop topics and participants

**Next meeting:** Tentatively 08/17/2011 at 2:00pm