



SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Maui's Volunteer Newsletter

Trip Advisor Gives the Visitor Center and the Fishpond High Rating

By Nancy Daschbach

The travel advice website, Trip Advisor, has some very nice reviews for both the Visitor Center, and for the fishpond folks (see the URL below). Note that most of the reviews credit the volunteers as being helpful and friendly. *Thanks* to all our knowledgeable docents for making the visitor center a top Maui attraction!!

Feel free to post your own photos on Trip Advisor—they need to have something newer on there than the one from the old Education Center!

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attraction_Review-g60632-d546433-Reviews-Hawaiian_Islands_Humpback_Whale_Sanctuary_Visitor_Center-Kihei_Maui_Hawaii.html



Larry Boysen, volunteer docent, working with two guests who are looking at the monk seal skeleton on display. *Photo by Flo Barr.*

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INFORMATION OF INTEREST

Just a note, in case you were not aware, there are websites that have lots of interesting information about organizations with which we are affiliated. Our Sanctuary has a website at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>. There is info about the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (<http://www.nmsfocean.org>) where you can find photos and videos about the recent gala and view Robyn's speech among other things. (It is also on [youtube](http://youtu.be/5PS3wFhIhTQ) at <http://youtu.be/5PS3wFhIhTQ>.) NOAA has a very informative website at <http://www.noaa.gov/>. Visit these sites and be informed!

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Draft Management Plan for Na Kai `Ewalu

(proposed new Sanctuary name)

Story and photos by Flo Bahr

Friday, October 24th was a busy afternoon as HIHWNMS staff members, Malia Chow, Superintendent, Ann Walton, Policy and Planning Advisor and Sarah Marquis, West Coast/Pacific Media Coordinator, flew to Maui to give an overview of the Draft Management Plan to a large group of volunteers. It included information on when we started this project, how it has progressed and where we are now. We are looking at the plan being released to the public within about a month. After it is released, there will be a public comment period, after which, the Final Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement could be out later in 2015.

In the proposed new plan, some changes from the existing plan include Ecosystem Based Management rather than just whales. Also, some boundary changes including Ni`ihau, and northern areas of Oahu and Kaua`i. There are no suggested boundary changes to Maui. There is cultural resource preservation, more water quality and habitat protection, and some enforcement added.

The purpose of this meeting was to familiarize the volunteers with some of the proposals in the plan so we will be able to answer questions from the public at outreach events. It was also a chance to learn about the plan prior to submitting comments. The public comment period, which will soon begin, is very important during which everyone with an interest is encouraged to send in a comment. After these comments are considered, the plan may be revised; then, after the final government review, it will be ready to be released to the public.



A large group of volunteers learned information about the Draft Management Plan. Malia Chow answers a question, while Sarah Marquis waits to resume her presentation.



Malia Chow, standing, addresses the volunteers. Ann Walton, seated at the far right, also addressed the group.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Sea Turtle Tumors Linked to Pollution

By Nancy Daschbach

We've all seen the often large and sometimes fatal tumors on Maui's sea turtles. These tumors are the result of a viral disease known as fibropapillomatosis. In fact, this disease is the leading cause of death in sea turtles according to Kyle Van Houtan from NOAA's Turtle Research Program with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

A recent paper in an open-access journal, *PeerJ*, links nitrogen, found in runoff that ends up in algae eaten by the turtles, with the tumor growth. Algae stores the nitrogen as an amino acid called arginine, which is found in high concentrations in those algae in polluted water—and turtle tumors—but not in clean water and tumor-free tissue.

To make the situation worse, arginine is very high in the invasive alien algae species *Hypnea musciformis*, which turtles seem to prefer (maybe simply because it is so abundant). *Hypnea* can make up to 90% of the algae eaten by turtles, and has half the calorie content of native species. So turtles have to eat more to gain the fuel they need—and by doing so, collect and store even more arginine.

Although it's not understood how or if arginine affects the tumor growth, it does provide a scientific smoking gun. If not a causal agent, it points a way to future research into the biology and biochemistry of this terrible disease.

If you would like to read the paper, it can be found at peerj.com, and the title of the article is "Eutrophication and the dietary promotion of sea turtle tumors". Authors include Van Houtan and former Maui resident Meghan Dailer.



A turtle suffering from tumors as well as being entangled, another issue we're commonly seeing.
Photo courtesy of Cheryl King.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Earth is Blue

By Alexandra Avila, NOAA Affiliate



November 21 was the 42nd anniversary of our National Marine Sanctuary System! To celebrate, we are very excited to kick off our new social media campaign *Earth is Blue*, including the launch of our brand-new Instagram account. Join us as we explore and share America's special underwater places with our picture-a-day and video-a-week highlighting the wonder and beauty of these special places. Please be sure to spread the word far and wide with your social networks! You can see the video at:

www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue

Outreach at Kenolio Recreation Complex

By Jeep Dunning

The annual Kihei Youth and Keiki Day event on October 11 from 3-8pm featured a variety of activities to attract and entertain local kids and their families. This is a very busy, fast-paced event that kept our volunteers hopping for their entire shift. Thanks to Larry Boysen, Pam Weaver, Konnie Fox, Mele and Mei Nelson, Suzanne Langman, and Melissa Freese for doing an amazing job engaging over 330 visitors in the fish rubbing activity, assembling puzzles, and "Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grade Humpback Whale?" quiz board. Other activities at the event included 2 bouncy castles, numerous craft projects sponsored by other nonprofit organizations, food booths, and a very popular wood craft project sponsored by Home Depot.



T-shirt from the Keiki event.
Photo by Suzanne Langman.



Larry Boysen helping a child with a fish rubbing at our outreach table.
Photo by Jeep Dunning.



Fish print activity at the Keiki Fair. This activity was very popular with the children.
Photo by Suzanne Langman.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Hawaii Reefs Going White

By Nancy Daschbach

Photos courtesy of Audrey Dack

A high coral bleaching alert for Hawaiian reefs has been issued by NOAA's Coral Reef Watch Program. Sea surface temperatures around the archipelago have been high enough to cause moderate to severe bleaching in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. A team comprising the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Aquatic Resource (DAR), The Nature Conservancy, and the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology found higher than normal bleaching on windward Oahu for this time of year.



Mounding corals in the near shore showing a loss of zooxanthellae in spots.

Here on Maui, bleaching has not been as evident, although if the higher water temperatures persist, it is likely that we will see more here, too. Predictions are that water temperatures will remain high, increasing the likelihood that we will see more bleaching on Maui.

The length of time that a coral remains bleached dictates whether or not it can survive. Bleaching itself is not disease. Corals have algal symbionts that live within their tissues, and stress such as high temperature can make those algae "leave". Because the algae assist in the metabolic processes that keep the coral healthy, if the coral remains bleached for too long, it will become susceptible to disease and may die.

If you are out in the ocean and see signs of bleaching, you can report it through the Eyes of the Reef Network, which can be found at <http://eorhawaii.org>. In addition, if you have photographs, you can email them to rrcpcordinator@gmail.com, which is the DAR Rapid Response Team email.



Antler corals showing bleaching at the tips.



Rice coral with bleaching.

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

Volunteer Opportunities

Visitor Center – The Visitor Center hours are 10:00-12:30 and 12:30-3:00. We have spots open for **all** shifts. Contact Tommy Cutt at tcutt@marinelife.org

Stranding Network – Openings, flexible schedule. Contact tcutt@marinelife.org

Outreach – Contact Jeep Dunning at mauijeep@gmail.com for all outreach opportunities. **Mana Kai** schedule needs 2 volunteers to cover the 11-1 shift on November 7, 14, and 21. Please see the boxed note on the calendar about the day of the week for Mana Kai. **MOC** schedule nearly filled. Could use 1 more volunteer for the 11-1 shift on November 3 and November 17.

Whalers Village Museum – Talks are Mon, Wed, Fri at 11 am.

If volunteers wish to become a sanctuary whale talker, please contact Jeep or Raul.

Whale Talks in Lahaina – Contact Raul Paiz at rep4908@yahoo.com

Whale Talks in Kihei – Contact Jeep Dunning at mauijeep@gmail.com

Holiday Bake/Craft Sale, December 13 – Hawaii National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Contact Lynette Poncin at lynetteponcin@mac.com

Mahalo to all who have signed up to help!

Bake Sale!!!

Our volunteers are baking up their specials, including.... holiday crafts, apple pies, brownies, cookies, holiday breads. Stock up for your parties! ***See you all there.***



Saturday, December 13, 2014
9am – 1pm

Hawaii National Marine Sanctuary Foundation
726 S Kihei Road
Kihei, Hawaii 96753

Outrigger canoe rides, films and more.

Raffle ticket given to each person who attends.
Drawings will be held hourly. Must be present to win.

Holiday Craft Sale!!!

Clever holiday gift items. Anyone wanting to donate items or arrange to sell their items, call 875-9325 or 879-2818 .

SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

South Maui

*Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary
726 South Kihei Road,
Kihei, HI 96753 (808) 879-2818*

West Maui

*Whalers Village Shopping Center
Whalers Museum
2435 Ka'anapali Pkwy
Lahaina, HI 96761 (661-4567)* *Old Lahaina Courthouse
Banyan Tree Park
Wharf Street
Lahaina, 96761 (661-3262)*

November 2014

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

*Mana Kai outreach schedule is very incomplete. We had planned to move the outreach day to Friday, starting November 7. The resort manager feels that we would be much more successful to run our outreach on Saturday. Please give me feedback whether you think this could work for you. Could you participate on Saturday? Email Jeep at mauijeep@gmail.com

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Blue`Aina	MOC Outreach 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Whalers Village Museum	45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei and Old Lahaina Cths	45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Whalers Village Museum	45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	*Mana Kai Outreach 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Whalers Village Museum		
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Blue`Aina	MOC Outreach 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Whalers Village Museum	45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei and Old Lahaina Cths	Volunteer Social 6 PM Kihei 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Whalers Village	45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	*Mana Kai 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Whalers Village Hana Limu Festival	Hana Limu Festival	
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