



# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## Maui's Volunteer Newsletter

### Kahekili Fifth Birthday Bash

by Flo Bahr

Our Sanctuary volunteers had two outreach tables at the “ Fifth Birthday Bash” for the Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area and the Celebration of Ridge to Reef. It was a perfect weather day and lots of organizations involved in protecting the environment and marine ecology had displays. Some of our volunteers participated in a reef tour led by Darla White of the Division of Aquatics and a fish survey by the Fish Identification Network. Our volunteers set up a table where children could make bookmarks using dried seaweed, do turtle and whale puzzles, learn from the question board, and talk with our volunteers. Robyn Walters, our citizen science lead person, set up a Water Quality demonstration table that we shared with Dana Reed of the Napili water quality group. The main activity was turbidity analysis of Kahekili water samples.

There was lots of good food, contests including the Seaweed Eating contest, a Culinary contest and the Keiki Art contest. Lots of prizes were given out and our own volunteer, Mike Rineer, won the grand prize. We learned some good information from the displays of others and shared our knowledge with many visitors.

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to this month's contributors



Dana Reed from Napili, Ka`au Abraham, Robyn Walters, Jeep Dunning, and Flo Bahr at our outreach table.

Photo by Liz Foote.

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## Japanese Marine Debris

by Flo Bahr

Curious about what is happening in Hawaii with the marine debris generated from the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan? We have a team from our Sanctuary Citizen Science group that is monitoring a Kihei beach. They haven't found much yet. Here is some information gleaned from a recent talk by Sonia Gorgula who is contracted by Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources to study the situation.

### **The good news:**

- Most of the debris sank near the shore of Japan, likely 70%. (But it is estimated that 5 million tons was generated, so much of it floated away!)
- Most of the debris found here and on the mainland was tested for radiation and harmful levels were **not** found.
- Lots of the debris contains Gooseneck Barnacles which are not thought to be invasive.
- Only sixteen, owner-confirmed, items were found in Hawaii. (Forty-one in the US)
- Many groups have formed an Interagency Coordinated effort to study this and make recommendations. In the summer of 2012 an invasive species workshop in Portland came up with protocols on what to do with the debris that is recovered. There is a plan on how and where to test it.
- The Federal lead is NOAA Marine Debris Program and our State lead is DLNR (Division of Land and Natural Resources).
- The program has a \$50K grant from NOAA and Japan gifted \$5 million! (With all their problems, they still gave!)

### **The questions:**

Will invasive species (biofouling) on debris such as mussels, barnacles, etc., establish colonies here? Are they harmful without natural predators? Did the debris come from Japan or somewhere else? Four large docks used to be in Japan. One washed up in Oregon in 2012. Where are the other three and what else might wash up?

### **What you can do:**

Report any unusual debris (not gooseneck barnacles) to DLNR (808) 587-0400 or [dlnr.marine.debris@hawaii.gov](mailto:dlnr.marine.debris@hawaii.gov) or [DisasterDebris@noaa.gov](mailto:DisasterDebris@noaa.gov).

Get more information at: [marinedebris.noaa.gov](http://marinedebris.noaa.gov)

This is the first piece of confirmed Japanese debris that arrived at Makai Pier on Oahu on September 18, 2012. It had Lepas (gooseneck barnacles) on it which are not considered invasive.



## Mana Kai Outreach

Our outreach team has been setting up a table every Wednesday from 9am to 1pm since January of 2014 on the north end of Keawakapu Beach in front of the Mana Kai Resort. This is a beautiful location to share our knowledge of marine life with both local residents and visitors. Kids enjoy whale and turtle puzzles while our volunteers engage adults with our "Are you smarter than..." question and answer board. We are taking a break for the months of September and October, planning to return to the beach with the return of the Humpback Whales. A big "Mahalo!" to the Mana Kai manager, Doug Rey and to Joe, Security Officer, for offering us storage and a friendly helping hand, as well as to our super volunteers, Mike Rineer, Larry Boysen, Jan Culbertson, Kathy Becklin, Meryl Cohen, Suzanne Langman and all the others who pitched in to fill in an open space when needed. We will let you know when our table at the Mana Kai Resort will return.

# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## The Reef Triggerfish, Humumunukunukuapua'a

by Meilani Nelson

This month's article is about a famous fish that is often found in many local children's books, and also the name of a restaurant here in Wailea. It is our state fish, the Humumunukunukuapua'a or Humu for short.

Hawaii is home to thirteen endemic species, but the Humu is not one of them; it calls several other ocean areas home. We can recognize him because of specific colors and markings, but our little fish is famous, partly because he is pretty cute.

The Humu was a good candidate to be our state fish because no-one eats it and it is not a popular game fish like the Ulua. The Humu has historical significance because it was used by early Hawaiians as fuel for their fires instead of as food because they are not tasty and are very bony.

Humuhumu means small triggerfish, nukunuku means small snout and apua'a is Hawaiian for pig. It's a great name because when he is caught and trapped in a net, he makes a grunting noise that sounds very much like an apua'a, or pig.

The Humu of Hawaii has a very specific look. His fat body looks like a flattened rectangle. He has a tiny mouth with blue teeth and puffy lips that appear to have a blue moustache. The eyes are set pretty far back and between them there are blue and black stripes. The pectoral fin has a red stripe and in front of the tail there is a black triangle outlined in yellow. The Humu of Hawaii even has orange and blue on his belly.

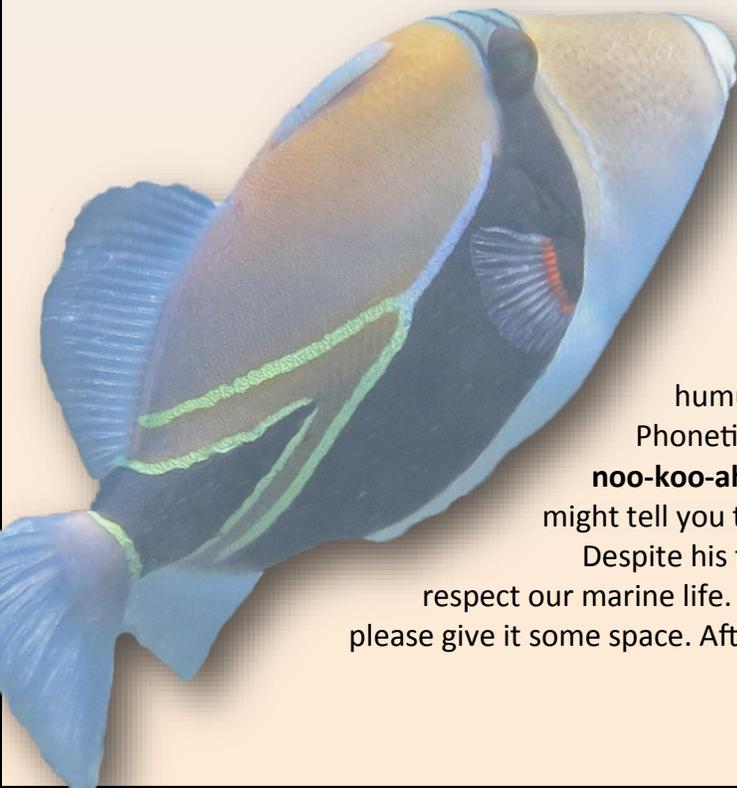


Reef triggerfish, *Rhinecanthus rectangulus* Humumunukunukuapua'a. Photo by Mike Rineer.

The Humu is not afraid of snorkelers but can be aggressive towards other triggerfish entering their territory. If the humu feels threatened, it dives into a nearby hole in the reef and raises its dorsal fin, also known as the trigger. This fin is actually very bony and prevents it from being pulled out. Humus feed by using their snout to shovel up a mouthful of sand and sorting through it in their mouths, then spitting out the indigestible portions.

I used to think that I'd never be able to pronounce humuhumunukunukuapua'a, but it's actually quite easy. Phonetically it goes like this: "**who-moo-who-moo-noo-koo-noo-koo-ah-pooah-ah**" Easy, as pie, right? Ask a local and they might tell you this trick: 2 Humus, 2 Nukus, and 1 Apua'a.

Despite his fame or how fun it is to say his name, please always respect our marine life. If you encounter a Humu while snorkeling in Hawaii, please give it some space. After all it was his home before it was our playground!



# SANCTUARY WHALE TALES

## Threats to Whales: Whale Entanglements

by Ed Lyman



The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary's Resource Protection Manager, Ed Lyman, spent nearly 2 months on detail with NOAA Fisheries this summer in Alaska. The Sanctuary has partnered with NOAA Fisheries for nearly a decade to help investigate and respond to life threatening entanglements and ship strike threats to large whales, like our humpback whales. Entanglement in fishing gear and marine debris, and vessel collisions are considered major anthropogenic threats that impact many marine animals worldwide.

The coastal waters of Alaska represent the major feeding ground for Hawaii's humpback whales (the central North Pacific stock). It is also

a productive fishing ground. Fishing gear, marine debris, and just about anything found in the water column contributes to entanglement threat. The sanctuary response team has documented or removed gear from humpback whales that has been carried more than 2500 nm from their Alaska feeding grounds to Hawaiian waters. Fishermen do not want to catch whales and Alaska's fishermen have taken the initiative to attach pingers that hopefully will alert the animals to the existence of the gear and thereby hopefully reduce the number of entanglements. The pingers provide a signal every second at 3000 Hz, which is at the midpoint of humpback whales' hearing. The sound however, is not detected by the fish and thus does not affect the catch. However, there are concerns that pingers may act more as a deterrent, rather than an alert. If so, they may prevent the whales from feeding in Alaska's productive waters. Research is ongoing to determine the efficacy of pingers in reducing entanglement threat for humpback whales.

*Stay tuned for next month's part two of **Threats to Whales: Ship Strikes***



*Photos by Ed Lyman.*

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## 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)*

## September 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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	1	2  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	3	4  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	5	6
7 Blue`Aina	8	9  Council Mtg 9:30 AM Kihei 45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	10	11  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	12	13
14	15	16  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	17  (No Volunteer Meeting)	18  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	19	20  *Banyan Tree Outreach
21 Blue`Aina	22	23  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	24	25  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	26	27
28	20	30  45 Ton Whale Talk 11 AM Kihei	<p><b>*Old Lahaina Event under the Banyon Tree on September 20th–</b> Jeep is looking for 4 volunteers for an outreach table. (email her at <a href="mailto:mauijeep@gmail.com">mauijeep@gmail.com</a>) Let her know if you can work morning or afternoon. We can carpool from the Sanctuary.</p>			