

**Sanctuary Advisory Council**  
*Forty-eighth Meeting*  
Wednesday, April 18, 2007  
10:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
National Marine Sanctuary Office  
Hawaii Kai Conference Room

**FINAL MINUTES**

**Attendance**

*Primary Council Members Present:*

Bob Bruck, Jim Coon, Liz Corbin, Bill Friedl, Lou Herman, David Hoffman, Becky Hommon, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Teri Leicher, Marnie Meyer, Terry O'Halloran, Jerry Norris, Dale Sarver, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Cheryl Sterling, Mark Young

*Alternate Council Members Present:*

Joy Anamizu (for Cindy Barger) Keeley Belva (for `Aulani Wilhelm), Duane Erway (for Sara Peck), Liz Kumabe (for Jeanne Russell), Barbara Nowak, Adam Pack (for Marc Lammers), Lisa Van Atta (for Chris Yates)

*Excused:*

John Barylsky, Athline Clark, Bill Kiene, Jerry Norris, Don Thornburg

*Others Present:*

HIHWNMS: Mary Grady, Ed Lyman, Naomi McIntosh, Jeff Walters, and Paul Wong

NMSP: Ted Lillestolen, Allen Tom, Hans van Tilberg

**Distributed Materials**

- Meeting Agenda
- Table of Contents
- Draft Meeting Minutes (1/17/07)
- Action Item Report
- Sanctuary Manager's Report
- Hawai'i County Report
- Honolulu County Report
- Maui County Report
- Education Committee Report
- Maritime Heritage Resources Background Document – HIHWNMS Additional Resources Review
- Draft Phase I Timeline – 5 Year Management Plan/Regulatory Review
- Council Letter to Linda Lingle, Governor, State of Hawaii
- Council Letter to Dan Basta, Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program
- HIHWNMS Accomplishments 2006-2007

- Sanctuary Watch – Winter 2007
- National Marine Sanctuary Program – Accomplishments Report 2006-2007

### **Call to Order**

*The purpose of this meeting is to introduce new members to the Council and continue planning efforts for the year.*

Council Vice Chair Jim Coon called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.  
Teri Leicher took role.

Welcome introductions and acknowledgements were given for new Council Members:

Marnie Meyer – new representative Hawaii Coastal Zone Management Program  
State of Hawaii Office of Planning

Douglas Tom, Manager of Coastal Zone Management Program

Lisa Van Atta – representative for NOAA PIRO

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A motion to approve the minutes from the Council's January 17, 2007 meeting was made. Dale Sarver raised a question in regards to the wording of a statement made by Marc Lammers. The statement in question referenced council recommendations to site new aquaculture ventures outside sanctuary waters. Mary Grady, Council Coordinator, clarified that it was in reference to Marc Lammers' presentation on Aquaculture Research priorities and were documented in her notes. Naomi referred the group to Attachment 8. Bill motioned to approve the balance of the meeting minutes with the exception of New Business Section. The minutes (except for the New Business section) were approved by the Council. Mary will verify the statement with Marc Lammers who is away on travel before the next meeting.

### **Public Forum**

There were no public comments at this time.

### **Presentations**

#### **National Marine Sanctuary Program Facilities—Ted Lillestolen, Deputy Director, NMSP**

Ted Lillestolen gave an update on the National Marine Sanctuary Program Facilities. Ted let the Council know that the Kihei Facility Project remains a priority for funding. He emphasized the hard work of Naomi and the rest of the staff for putting together funding requests and justification for completing the infrastructure.

#### **National Marine Sanctuary Program Support—Allen Tom, Director, NMS Pacific Region**

Allen Tom gave an overview of the Pacific Island Region's offices, sanctuary sites in the region, and sanctuary management plan activities that are underway at these sites. He spoke about the Management Plan Review process for HIHWNMS, Fagatele Bay NMS, and Papahānaumokuākea Monument. Allen also provided information on Preserve America communities and the Year of the Reef initiatives. In addition, Allen notified the Council that Kimokeo Kapahuēla will be the plenary

speaker for the Coastal Zone Management Conference in Portland, Oregon. In closing, he provided an update on the status of the Monument.

**Maritime Heritage Resources—Hans van Tilberg, Maritime Heritage Coordinator, NMS Pacific Region**

Dr. Van Tilberg introduced the maritime heritage document that will be a section in the additional resources review for the sanctuary. He provided an overview of the information contained in the document and covered the various topics on the definition, occurrence, threats, management, and conservation needs for Maritime Heritage Resources. He also discussed the benefits that the sanctuary could provide if these resources are added to the sanctuary.

Terry arrived at 11:15 am and commenced as Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**Management Plan Review Update—Naomi McIntosh, HIHWNMS**

Naomi provided an update to the Council on the Management Plan Review process. The Executive Committee has been following up on action items from the retreat, which included drafting a letter to the Governor in support of the sanctuary and the management plan review process and drafting a letter to Dan Basta to request funding. She also provided the Council with a power point and draft copies of the Accomplishments Report for the Governor. The Executive Committee reviewed the comments the Council submitted at the retreat and through e-mail and made recommendations for the report based off these comments at the Executive Committee meeting. Mary will incorporate the recommendations into the report.

**Disentanglement Update, Ed Lyman, Marine Mammal Response Manager, HIHWNMS**

Ed provided the Council with updates on the sanctuary's disentanglement efforts. He gave an overview of this whale season's responses. He noted that three pieces of gear appear to have originated from either king cod or Alaskan crab fisheries in Kodiak, Alaska. Adam Pack stated that the sanctuary is a model for how a community can protect its resources and how the sanctuary has acted to galvanize the community through not acting alone but bringing everyone together to allow participation in the response efforts. Terry O'Halloran asked if there was any outreach programs going on in Alaska. Ed stated that he will be going up to Alaska again this year to give talks, speak with fishermen about possible solutions and response for large whales, and provide disentanglement training. These efforts are being coordinated and supported in partnership with NOAA's Protected Resources and Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Program. Ed also notified the Council that there is now a website for disentanglement.

**Reports and Updates**

**Chair's Report:**

Mr. O'Halloran asked the Council members to review the Action Item Report (see attachment 1). Terry indicated that the Action Item report needs to be reviewed and

outdated items should be removed. The Council agreed for the Executive Committee to review the Action Items and remove outdated items.

**Sanctuary Manager:**

Naomi McIntosh submitted a written report (see attachment 2). Naomi informed the Council that the sanctuary recently received its FY07 budget. Funding for the program has continued to decrease. She informed the Council that funding impacts may have serious effects for a number of the sanctuary's programs, including SPLASH, rescue and response, and education and outreach programs.

The Council discussed ideas on how they could help the sanctuary continue to conduct its programs and the value of these programs for both the whales and the community. Mike Stanton raised the idea of contacting the media to notify the community about the sanctuary's funding situation and help keep the sanctuary's programs going.

The Council decided they would like to help the sanctuary by forming a Fundraising Working Group. Teri Leicher, Dave Hoffman, Kimokeo Kapahuella, Liz Kumabe, Cheryl Sterling, and Barbara Nowak volunteered to be part of the Fundraising Working Group. The Executive Committee will follow up on fundraising as well. The Council would like to know how people can contribute through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Mary will send information to Council members about the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Council members recommended for sanctuary staff to create a priority list for programs and would like to know the precise funds needed for each sanctuary program (i.e. rescue, education outreach). Naomi stated that she will have the staff put this information together.

**Sanctuary Co-Manager:**

No report was submitted. Sanctuary Co-Manager Dr. Jeffrey Walters welcomed Douglas Tom and Marnie Meyer to the Council. Jeff gave an update on the six known whale collisions this season. All are under investigation by NOAA OLE.

Jeff also gave an update on the bills in the State Legislature this year that included the following: the request for DLNR to review speed guidelines with reference to collisions; the House concurrent resolution, HCR 58, requesting all branches of the U.S. Government to prohibit dumping of vessel sewage in federal waters in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary; and the removal of a sailboat wreck in Lahaina.

**Hawai'i County:**

Duane Erway, Hawai'i County Alternate Representative, submitted a written report (see attachment 3).

**Honolulu County:**

Bill Friedl, Honolulu County Representative, submitted a written report (see attachment 4).

**Kaua`i County:**

No report was submitted.

**Maui County:**

Cheryl Sterling submitted a written report (see attachment 5).

**Conservation Committee:**

Lou Herman, Conservation Committee Chair, did not have anything to report.

**Education Committee:**

Jeanne Russell submitted a written report (see attachment 6).

**Research Committee:**

Adam Pack, Research Committee Chair, did not have a written report but discussed the finished report on real time mapping. Dr. Pack presented on real time mapping at the September 2006 Council meeting. A real time map of whale locations is transmitted to a vessel, which enables the captain to plot a safe course to avoid whales. The study looked at two main objectives: 1) To examine how the density, distribution, pod type, behaviors, and movements of whales in the slot (an area of the Au'au Channel area off Maui) vary diurnally and seasonally and 2) Feasibility of a shore-based alert system. A copy of the report (Pack, A. A., & Herman, L. M. 2007. *Using electronic maps of real-time whale locations to mitigate vessel collisions with whales*. Final Report to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Washington, D.C. 78p.) was provided to the HIHWNMS and copies could be provided to the Council if requested.

**Aquaculture Working Group:**

Aquaculture Working Group Chair, Mike Stanton, did not have a written report. Mike updated the Council on Kona Blue's proposal for expansion and notified the Council about Cates plan for expansion. Kona Blue got approval for 2 new cages, 2 mooring lines, and a feedbar for their existing site and are working on the final agreement. Dale Sarver put forward a letter to Mike requesting that the aquaculture working group and the aquaculture industry improve communication. It was decided that Dale will send the letter to industry contacts from himself as a member of the working group to invite more industry members to participate in Council discussions on this topic.

**Unfinished Business**

At the SAC Retreat Meeting in January, the Council requested that the Executive Committee draft a letter to the Governor to document the Council's support of the Sanctuary and to highlight the benefits of the Sanctuary to the State of Hawaii. The Council discussed the status of the draft letter to the Governor and suggested that the letter be further edited to more precisely request what the Council would like the Governor to do to strengthen the sanctuary.

The Council also discussed the letter to Dan Basta, Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program, to request increased funding support for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The Council recommended that the

letter be more direct about the funding needs of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. A motion to provide permission to the Council Executive Committee to finalize the letter by incorporating the Council suggestions and send the letter was unanimously approved.

**New Business**

There was no new business at this time.

**Public Forum**

Duane Erway submitted information on the Superferry (see Attachment 7).

**Announcements**

There were no announcements at this time.

**Presentation**

Naomi presented a slideshow of NOAA's Sunset on the Beach Celebration event in celebration of NOAA's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The weekend was a great success because of agency collaboration, outreach activities, music, movies, and community support.

**Adjournment**

Council Chair, Terry O'Halloran, adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Sanctuary Advisory Council  
**2007 Action Item Report**

**Action Items from 1/17/07 SAC Meeting**

**ACTION: The Aquaculture Working Group and Research Committee will further evaluate research priorities on aquaculture. (1/17/07)—PENDING**

**ACTION: The Executive Committee will evaluate the composition of the council. (1/17/07)—PENDING**

**ACTION: Terry encouraged the Aquaculture Working Group and other Committees to evaluate the proposed expansion of Kona Blue and provide recommendations to management. (1/17/07)—PENDING**

**Previous Action Items**

**ACTION: Mike Stanton asked the Council for Aquaculture Working Group liaison volunteers on the islands of Oahu, Maui, and Kauai. (9/6/06)**

Status: Bob Bruck has volunteered for the island of Maui. Mary has sent out an additional e-mail inquiring about volunteer liaisons on 9/8/06.—PENDING

**ACTION: Mike Stanton also asked if the Aquaculture Working Group could share strategies with the Channel Islands Council. (9/6/06)**

Status: Naomi will contact Bill Douros, West Coast Regional Superintendent, regarding the Sanctuary's efforts to address aquaculture in other west coast sanctuary sites.—PENDING

**ACTION: The Research Committee will hold a meeting on constituent recommendations regarding the Superferry. (9/6/06)**

Status: The Research Committee held a meeting with FarSounder on 11/27/06 to obtain information on forward-looking sonar.—Ongoing

**ACTION: The Council will provide a historic record of SAC's exchange with Hawaii Superferry. (9/6/06)**

Status: Mary will review the Sanctuary's files and draft a record of exchange. The Conservation and Research Committees will work on this record. A record of exchange was compiled in October and November of 2006. Mary will provide this record to the Conservation and Research Committees to review—PENDING

**ACTION: The Conservation Committee will address concerns about the lack of pump-out facilities in small boat harbors. (3/16/06)**

Status: Council Coordinator will email the Conservation Committee the letter that was written by the Council regarding pump out stations. Naomi will provide the committee with an update from the Sanctuary. The committee will develop a response to Pump Don't Dump. (4/7/06)—PENDING

**ACTION: The Council Chair will send a letter to government agencies reminding them to send a representative or an alternate to the Council meetings. (3/16/06)**

Status: Council Coordinator will work to draft a letter for Terry to send out. (4/7/06)  
Jeff Walters stated that he will follow up through discussions with state representatives (1/17/07).—PENDING

**ACTION: The SAC Chair asked to establish a fundraising working group. (1/12/06)**

Status: A call with the director of NMSF, the SAC Chair, and Sanctuary staff was held on 27 February 2006. Naomi will provide the Council with an update on fundraiser opportunities. (9/6/06)—PENDING

**ACTION: It was requested to invite a representative from NOAA General Council to a future meeting to give a presentation regarding information on vessel strikes. (1/12/06)**

Status: Paul Ortiz, NOAA General Council representative, was invited to attend the May 18<sup>th</sup> and September 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, but could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. He will be invited to a Council meeting in the future. (8/31/06)—PENDING

## Attachment 2

### Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Manager's Report April 18, 2007

#### *Council Updates*

In February, Sanctuary staff participated in an education committee conference call with members of the Sanctuary Advisory Council to discuss additional creative ways to reach the boating community and to provide updates on other projects that are underway.

In March, Olympic Coast NMS Sanctuary Advisory Council member Bob Morse, Citizen-at-Large, visited the Kauai sanctuary office and Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza. A meeting was held to discuss the role of the Citizen-at-Large position and the island/county representatives used in the HIHWNMS SAC. Comparisons between the SACs of both sanctuaries were discussed.

In February, March, and April the Executive Committee of the Sanctuary Advisory Council held follow-up conference calls to discuss the Council's input and recommendations at the retreat for the Management Plan Review process. Facilitator, Kathy Bryant, led one of these calls to assist the Committee in identifying priorities of Council members and followed up by drafting a letter to the governor that highlighted these ideas. The Executive Committee also drafted a letter requesting additional funding for the sanctuary and set the agenda for the forty-eighth council meeting.

## Education and Outreach

### **January 2007**

The Sanctuary kicked off the annual Ocean Count! This year's Ocean Count dates were scheduled on January 27, February 24, and March 31. Each year approximately 1500 volunteers participate in this fun, shore-based whale census. The sanctuary has hosted two volunteer trainings in January on the island of Hawai'i and one on the island of Oahu. The trainings were conducted for the volunteers that are serving as site leaders for this year's project. Approximately 100 people took part and learned about the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, humpback whales, and the Sanctuary Ocean Count Project (data collection procedures, volunteer management, etc.). Sanctuary Ocean Count and Oahu Programs Coordinator Christine Brammer and Assistants Connie Brown and Breena Martin conducted the training session. On January 31, more than 600 volunteers gathered data from the shores of Oahu, Kaua'i, the Big Island, and Kaho'olawe for Saturday's annual Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Count. Participants tallied humpback whale sightings and documented the animals' surface behavior during the survey. Volunteers collected data from 59 sites statewide. The day's clear conditions were perfect for spotting

humpback whales. The following are the average numbers of whales sighted per 15-minute count period on each of the islands: O‘ahu – 4 whales, Kaua‘i – 5 whales, Big Island – 5 whales, and Kaho‘olawe – 23 whales. Many new volunteers took part in this month’s count.

The Sanctuary continued to host 45-Ton talks at the HIIHW Maui Education Center. During whale season, the talks occur twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Approximately 30 people attended the talks in January.

The sanctuary’s Safe Boating and Ocean Etiquette campaign kickoff at the beginning of the season was a big success. The goal of the campaign is to warn ocean users to be cautious on the water during whale season. This campaign is an important part of the sanctuary’s efforts to cut down on the number of vessel-whale collisions in Hawaii. Workshops teaching boaters how to be safe on the water during whale season while obeying pertinent regulations have been held around the state and a variety of new outreach materials that support the goals of the campaign have been developed. In addition, public service announcements and ads are being distributed through a variety of media outlets and are being made available via the sanctuary’s website.

The sanctuary partnered with Marine Debris Outreach Coordinator Carey Morishige of the NOAA Marine Debris Program to host a series of lectures on the Big Island about protecting Hawaii’s ocean from marine debris. Marine debris threatens the environment, animals, and safe navigation worldwide and many of its effects can be seen on Hawaii’s beaches. The lectures included information on the problem, the current efforts that are underway, and how to get involved.

Christine Brammer met with staff from the NOAA Fisheries Protected Species Division to discuss the idea of hosting a monk seal count that is similar to the sanctuary’s whale count project. The sanctuary will help support the effort by sharing volunteers as well as project management information and other information that may be useful.

The sanctuary is in the finishing stages of completing a large wayside signage program that began last year. The wayside signs are now in the process of being fabricated. When completed they will be installed at various locations on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui. In total, twelve signs will be installed. The signs feature educational messages regarding the sanctuary, humpback whales, and other marine protected species, with the primary focus being on responsible wildlife viewing.

The sanctuary is in the final stages of developing a web-based humpback whale migration game that will educate game players about the current threats to humpback whales. When completed, the game, which is being programmed using Flash software, will be hosted on the national marine sanctuary program website.

Sanctuary education staff introduced high school students from Kihei Charter School to methods for beach profiling. The 40 students will be returning on subsequent days to monitor erosion and accretion in and outside the fishpond.

In preparation for their tide pool field trip Education specialists Alastair Hebard ran an outreach series Tuesday morning at the Haiku school to three classes of 5th graders, totaling

70 students. The students were introduced to basic invertebrate taxonomy and ran mock transects on the school lawn. On Friday the education team consisting of Alastair Hebard, Jerry Stowell and a handful of volunteers partnered with 'Ao'ao O Nā Loko I'a O Maui (Maui Fishpond Association) in educating 40 students on the adjacent fishpond. The students were taught about Primary Productivity through lessons on limu and plankton as well as having a hands-on cultural experience guided by the fishpond association president Kimokeo Kapahulehua.

The Maui Office participated in the island's Community Work Day clean up. Ten volunteers led by volunteer Coordinator Emily Carlson removed many bags of trash at Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve.

Hawaiian Islands Voyaging Canoe Society's presented a photographic journey of their trip through the main and NW Hawaiian Islands at the Maui Education Center. Over 75 members of the public attended the presentation, and heard from members of the canoe team led by Kimokeo Kapahulehua, president of the club.

The sanctuary developed a new one-page publication that was distributed to tour boat operators around the state. In the past, some operations have offered to distribute information for the sanctuary and this publication was developed with that in mind. Interested operators will print the publication on their own and distribute during whale season. The publication offers information on whale behavior, the sanctuary, and supporting the sanctuary through the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Sanctuary staff took part in the U.S. Coast Guard's Maritime Industry Day which was held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village in Honolulu, Hawaii. The sanctuary hosted a booth that focused on threats to humpback whales including vessel collisions and entanglement in marine debris. The event was attended by commercial boat operators and others in the ocean industry.

### **February 2007**

Maui office volunteers were treated to a Trivia Challenge Night as part of a regular potluck and activity evening. 25 volunteers – tested their ocean knowledge in categories such as NMS program, Whales, Hawaiian culture, endemic species and sea birds.

Maui Marketplace Borders hosted the first of three Keiki Storytimes presented by staff and volunteers on Saturdays at the store during February, the sanctuary's Whale Awareness Month. Nancy Daschbach and three lovely ladies (volunteers Gloria, Diana and Sheila) read stories and did arts and crafts with over 15 youngsters who were visiting the store with their parents. Moms and Dads received sanctuary brochures. A talk by Ann Fielding a local biologist who has published several books on Hawaii's coral reefs was also part of the sanctuary partnership effort with Borders.

Rescue Coordinator Ed Lyman, along with co-manager Jeff Walters and NOLE's Sherrie Myers conducted a safe boaters' workshop in Lahaina. The meeting was better attended than on held early in January, and approximately 12 guests, most of them boat captains, attended. There was also a stringer from Hawaii Public Radio who recorded the talk and interviewed Walters.

The Sanctuary education and outreach staff worked hard to promote February as Humpback Whale Awareness Month. A variety of fun events took place around the state including lunchtime whale watches at scenic lookouts, lectures, and other special events. In addition, materials were distributed at Starbucks locations throughout the state and exhibits are on display in the windows of Oahu and Maui Border's locations. Public libraries around the state also have information on Humpback Whale Awareness Month available for all library visitors.

Christine Brammer gave a presentation to the Hawaii Ocean Safety Team (H.O.S.T.) at their membership meeting. The presentation was given to update the boating community on vessel collisions and entanglements that have occurred this whale season in Hawaii. H.O.S.T. has become a strong partner with the sanctuary and they play an important role in helping the sanctuary reach the boating community.

The sanctuary worked with NOAA Fisheries to distribute a special letter to boat operators around the state pertaining to the threat of ship strikes to humpback whales. The letter emphasized the regulations that are in place in Hawaii and asked boaters to slow down during whale season when traveling in areas where whale density is high. The letter also gave some history on the issue of vessel collisions in Hawaii since 1975. This effort was part of the sanctuary's Safe Boating & Ocean Etiquette campaign.

Sanctuary staff co-sponsored a teacher workshop with the University of Hawaii's Math Department on Saturday, Feb 10, 2007. The University is offering a great program for teachers. The workshop focused on building underwater AUV's out of legos. The University group has developed an in-depth curriculum that teaches the students the principals of underwater science and the building and programming of AUV's. The AUV's were evaluated for their creative appearance and their ability to maneuver in the water. The UH Math department will loan the kits to the participating teachers for classroom use, and University of Hawaii graduate and undergraduate students will be assigned to help the classroom teachers with the AUV project. This is a great new partnership with the UH. They are planning on working with the Sanctuary staff to expanding the program to Maui, Kua'i and the Big Island.

In February, the sanctuary's Ocean Etiquette Campaign developed two types of signs that were placed at 11 state boating facilities. One sign warned boaters of the collision risk with humpback whales and the other advised boaters of the federal 100-yard approach rule, which prohibits any ocean user from approaching within 100 yards of any humpback whale (except with special authorization from NOAA).

Education programs were in full swing at the Maui office. Visits in February included:

- 20 Head Start pre-K students
- 70 first graders from Haiku Elementary
- 16 Kamehameha middle schoolers who participated in the B-Wet program
- 24 Kahului Head Start pre-schoolers

Sanctuary staff and volunteers participated in the Malama Kai, Think Island festival held at the Maui Community College. Sponsored by local environmental non-profit organization, the festival featured information and activity booths, speakers and films.

Emily Carlson and Administrative Specialist Tracy Burke set up an information station on the boardwalk by the beach at the Westin Ka'anapali Resort. They talked to an estimated 40 + people, viewed whales, put tattoo's and whale hats on kids, and passed out sanctuary information. We will start doing a station every Wednesday beginning in March in this evolving partnership with the hotel.

Maui office co-hosted an advanced REEF fish id course with our partner Project Sea Link. There was an estimated 15 people who attended the course. The Sanctuary is a REEF node and partners with Project Sea Link to conduct reef surveys throughout Maui. The sanctuary hosts a reef survey the first Saturday of every month at Maluaka down in Wailea.

The Maui office hosted Seabury High School's Sea Academy for the week, offering interactive educational lessons on the marine environment. Some of the week's activities included kayaking to view coral fish species, and piloting B-Wet boats to observe the adjacent fishpond.

Ed Lyman and Tracy Burke participated in a children's workshop during the first day of Whale Quest, an annual whale awareness event sponsored by several whale research organizations. Their activity featured the rescue and disentanglement gear, and over 200 children enjoyed the learning experience. In addition, Alastair Hebard and Jerry Stowell were invited to attend a whale educators' workshop, another event during Whale Quest.

The sanctuary worked with Outrigger Hotels and Resorts and the Girl Scouts of Hawaii to sponsor a special ocean day entitled "Keiki O Ke Kai" at the Waikiki Aquarium. Over 200 girl scouts attended this special event that featured hands-on education and outreach activities from other NOAA agencies and sanctuary partners in Hawaii. In addition, 30 girl scouts took part in a hands-on workshop to learn about the sanctuary, humpback whales, marine debris, weather, and more. The workshop participants will use the knowledge they have gained to support the Sunset on the Beach NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> Celebration event in the Pacific which will be held on March 24 and 25, 2007.

The HIHWNMS is developing a marine curriculum for the State of Hawaii Department of Education. During February, a 24 member teacher advisory group met on Maui to review materials. The group comprised teachers from all over the state, Department of Education Administrators, and personnel from PREL the contracting agent for the project. The group critiqued a variety of curriculum units for appropriate content and teaching activities. Their comments and reviews are extremely valuable as we move forward with the project. It is the second time the group has convened. The teachers were rewarded at the end of the day with an exciting whale watch cruise.

Whale season continues to keep sanctuary staff and volunteers busy and education and outreach staff continue to work hard to promote February as Humpback Whale Awareness Month. A variety of lectures and lunchtime whale watches at scenic lookouts were held this week. Materials continue to be displayed at Starbucks locations and at public libraries and on Oahu the sanctuary is preparing to move its educational exhibit at Border's to the next location at Ward Center.

Christine Brammer gave a presentation on the sanctuary and humpback whales at the Iolani Palace as part of the lecture series that is being sponsored by the University of Hawaii and the Historic Preservation Society. The presentation included information on the cultural history of whales in Hawaii as well as current threats to humpback whales.

More than 600 volunteers gathered data from the shores of Oahu, Kaua'i, the Big Island, and Kaho'olawe for February's annual Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Ocean Count. Volunteers collected data from 59 sites statewide. The following are the average numbers of whales sighted per 15-minute count period on each of the islands: O'ahu – 3 whales, Kaua'i – 4 whales, Big Island – 4 whales, and Kaho'olawe – 9 whales.

Christine Brammer gave a presentation on marine protected species in Hawaii as part of the quarterly volunteer training that is held at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve. The sanctuary partners with Hanauma Bay on a variety of events and often shares volunteers.

Christine Brammer attended the special Marine Educator's Evening at the Waikiki Aquarium Evening and showcased the sanctuary's education and outreach material to local teachers in attendance. This special event was held to highlight NOAA's Ocean Explorer's curricula but representatives from a variety of other organizations were also able to highlight their programs by setting up a display. The workshop was supported by funding from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in cooperation with the Oceania Chapter of the National Marine Educator's Association.

Renowned marine photographer Flip Nicklin "talked story" at Maui Marketplace Borders bookstore as part of the sanctuary's Whale Awareness Month. Borders is a partner with the sanctuary for this outreach effort. Approximately 20 people enjoyed the evening.

The final Keiki (kids) Storytime was held at Maui Marketplace Borders Bookstore, another facet of the Whale Awareness Month partnership. Borders has indicated that they would like to continue the storytimes, and we will be evaluating the effort to determine whether this is a good use of our volunteer and staff resources.

Jerry Stowell and Alastair Hebard, and numerous volunteers hosted approximately 140 second graders from Kihei Elementary School for education activities at the Education Center. In addition, 40 Kihei Charter High School students participated in a beach profiling project.

30 Elderhostel participants visited the Maui Education Center as part of their Hawaii adventure, and were treated to a whale talk, and taught the art of Gyo-tako, or fish-printing.

## **March 2007**

The Maui office hosted five visitors from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, including Volunteer Coordinator Janet Lamont. Volunteers on Maui hosted visiting OCNMS volunteers for a week of education and activities. The Volunteer Exchange pilot program is designed to encourage cross-fertilization of ideas between seemingly disparate sanctuary sites. Both Maui and Olympic Coast volunteers participated in the following activities:

- \* Canoe Culture and Paddling Experience with Kimokeo Kapahulehua
- \* Cultural Fishpond Activity
- \* Tidepooling interactive lab with students
- \* Limu & Plankton Lab
- \* Volunteer Appreciation Whale Watch
- \* Kayak Reef Survey at Ulua Reef
- \* Trip to the Maui Ocean Center
- \* Ranger led hike through the anchiline ponds and cultural sites at Ahihi Kinau Natural Area Reserve and snorkel.

OCNMS volunteers and staff member also gave back with a presentation at a site volunteer meeting. Plans are for Maui volunteers to travel to Port Angeles in August to further the exchange program.

The Maui office continues to host school groups every week, and last week was no exception. Four days saw over 200 students, from first grade to high school, who were led through a variety of educational activities.

Maui Office honored their volunteer corps with a Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. Sanctuary staff prepared and served a delicious meal to over 65 volunteers. Each volunteer received a special lei for each program they assisted (Programs Director Patty Miller designed leis and Patty, Volunteer Coordinator Emily Carlson, and whomever they could arm twist into helping made over 150 leis.). Some of the more versatile volunteers could not see over the tops of their leis!

NOAA celebrated its 200th Anniversary on March 24 and 25 at two different full day events in Waikiki that attracted thousands of people. In addition to the effort from NOAA staff and volunteers, the support and praise NOAA received from City and County Mayor of Honolulu Mufi Hannemann, event sponsors, DJs and entertainers, all helped to promote NOAA during the programming. During the day and evening there was live music entertainment, hula, food, movies (Sharks Tale and Little Mermaid) and NOAA booths that had information about the projects and services of NOAA in the Pacific. Girl Scouts that were trained ahead of time by sanctuary staff helped kids to learn about the ocean through fun activities.

Volunteers with the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary received recognition on stage from NOAA Rear Admiral Debow, Honolulu Mayor Mufi Hannemann, and Sanctuary Superintendent Naomi McIntosh. The volunteers who help out with many activities including being site leaders during Ocean Count were Robert and Barbara Billand, Hank Thoene, and June Kawamata. Sanctuary staff including Christine Brammer, Naomi McIntosh, Patty Miller, and NOAA Pacific Region Marine Debris Coordinator Carey Morishige, played a big role in helping organize the event along with the NOAA Pacific Region Outreach Group.

Over the spring break, 50 students enrolled in the inter-session program called “Ka`amaina

Kids” spent two mornings in the Education Center learning about whales, turtles and their island environment.

### **April 2007**

Nancy Daschbach, along with three volunteers, participated in the Celebration of the Arts at the Kapalua Ritz-Carlton. They manned a booth and talked about the program to many of the visitors to the festival.

Several Maui staff members (Tracy Burke, Amanda Cummins and Nancy Daschbach) attended a monk seal count training held by the National Marine Fisheries Service. They plan to conduct a state-wide monk seal count, modeled on the sanctuary’s Ocean Count, later this month. This will be the first coordinated monk seal count held in Hawaii state-wide, and many of the sanctuary’s volunteers (and staff) plan to participate.

Approximately 40 charming kindergartners from Kamehemeha School on Maui, spent the morning learning about turtles, whales and coral reefs in the sanctuary’s Education Center.

The Sanctuary hosted it’s monthly REEF survey at Maluaka Beach on Maui. Regulars showed up to take part in the snorkel. The Sanctuaries Citizen Scientist Program enables volunteers to use survey methods and collect and report information on marine fish populations and invasive limu growth rates. The data collected during REEF survey’s is housed in a publicly accessible database on REEF's Website. These data can be used by resource agencies and affect management decisions.

Two Ocean Awareness Trainings are scheduled to begin later this month at two Maui locations, Kihei and Lahaina. Over 70 people have already signed up for this popular naturalist course that confers upon graduates a certification card, the Care of Our Culture, Ocean Reef and Animal Life (CORAL). Leaders of the course, including the sanctuary program, are working to legitimize the CORAL card as a requirement for ocean tour operations staff.

Jean Souza observed and provided suggestions to Jeff Walters about the on-beach response to the presence of as many as six endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals at popular Poipu Beach Park, Kauai. The presence of so many seals in such close proximity to large numbers of spring break vacationers has provided a management challenge in preventing injuries to visitors and minimizing disturbances to the seals, without closing off the beach.

## *Science and Rescue*

### *Rescue Response*

Late in January, Ed Lyman and David Mattila responded to a report of an entangled humpback. Coincidentally, they were already on the water doing rescue drills in preparation for the ongoing season. They were able to locate the whale, and were joined by HHHW staff Alastair Hebard and Dano Phippen, who manned the support boat. After several hours of assessing the situation and attempting to approach the whale, they were able to cut off part of the gear, a long line of rope, but were unable to completely disentangle the animal. The whale was in poor condition physically. Immediately after the disentanglement attempt, Ed Lyman conducted a disentanglement workshop for prospective volunteers. Approximately 20 people attended the 2.5 hour seminar.

Sanctuary research and rescue staff partnered with the National Marine Fisheries Service's Marine Mammal program, the Office of Law Enforcement and the state of Hawaii co-management to present information to Maui humpback whale researchers. 15 researchers attended the February meeting.

David Mattila and Ed Lyman assisted University of Hawaii Allison Stimpert in her research project where she was tagging humpback whales with temporary suction cup tags. The tags provided information on depth, pitch and roll of the animal, acoustics (what the whale is hearing). During the week, four tags were placed, and one stayed on the animal for over 3.5 hours.

In February, the third whale disentanglement response of the season was successfully led by David Mattila and Ed Lyman. A sub-adult humpback whale was sighted early in the morning off the island of Lana'i. A prompt response that included State of Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources staff, concluded in the team freeing the whale of approximately 400 ft of line and two floats that had been tightly wrapped around the tail stock. The whale, who was in good physical condition, swam off safely after the team made the final cuts and the debris fell away from the animal. The gear was collected and will be analyzed to determine its origin.

In March, David Mattila and Naomi McIntosh participated in a series of meetings centering on a review for reauthorization of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme's Whale and Dolphin Action Plan held in Apia, Samoa. Additional meeting topics included the Convention of Migratory Species, and an Australian government hosted meeting on whale and dolphin fisheries interactions. Mattila gave a presentation on large whale entanglements.

Filmmaker Feo Pitcairn and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation board member Dr. Sylvia Earle spent time on Maui in March to work on a film that Pitcairn is completing. David Mattila and Ed Lyman hosted the visitors during research cruises on the sanctuary's SEACAT.

## **Miscellaneous**

### **January 2007**

Nancy Daschbach participated in a meeting of local tour operators, representatives of environmental NGOs and state government to develop a steering committee for a larger group who will be developing a code of conduct for private sector ocean activity vendors. A HIHW staff member will be on the steering committee.

Two members of Senator Daniel J. Inouye's office visited the Maui office. Jennifer Ross and Laurissa Kojak, both detailees from NOAA to the senator's office, spent the morning on the water with Naomi McIntosh, David Mattila and Ed Lyman.

Staff member Alastair Hebard participated as a judge in the local High school science fair.

HIHWNMS Island Coordinators Jean Souza and Justin Viezbicke, Christine Brammer and Emily Carlson met at the Maui office for an all island meeting to discuss and plan the site's volunteer program.

Paul Wong and Mary Grady, Sanctuary Advisory Council and Management Plan Coordinator represented the sanctuary at the International Pacific Marine Educators Conference in Honolulu. The conference was recently moved to Honolulu due to the political situation in its original location of Fiji. In addition to presentations by educators throughout the Pacific there were ones done by various Hawaii-based organizations

### **February 2007**

On January 29 to February 1, a Chinese delegation connected with the UNDP Biodiversity Management Project visited Oahu and was hosted by Anne Walton, International MPA Coordinator and Paul Wong. This was the last section of their trip after stopovers in Silver Spring, Florida, and Los Angeles. During their three day stay, the delegation toured a number of locations around Oahu including the areas of the sanctuary on the North Shore and Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve.

In a wonderful confluence of serendipity and volunteerism, the Kihei Facilities Project received its first coat of primer on interior walls in an effort to protect the new drywall from the Maui humidity. Former volunteer of the year Kimokeo Kapahulehua demonstrated his ability to marshal the private sector and procured paint and supplies donations from Home Depot, Ace Hardware and Sherman Williams, and persuaded a local contractor to do the painting gratis. Staff and volunteers from the sanctuary and the Kihei Canoe Club, led by Maui Office's Dano Phippen, prepped the building over the weekend and two coats of primer were applied on all the drywall before the Super Bowl started!

Sanctuary staff involved with volunteer coordination took part in a conference call with National Marine Sanctuary Program headquarters to hear updates on the volunteer net database that has been developed.

On Friday, February 23, Chris Brammer was recognized at an awards luncheon for RCUH 2005 - 2006 Outstanding Employee of the Year nominee. Chris's notable accomplishments

included the creation of humpback whale awareness month. The project was a tremendous success and helped to increase public awareness of Hawaii's humpback whales.

### **March 2007**

The Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) conducted an External Program Review on March 6-8, where they presented all its programs and infrastructure to panel members and stakeholders. The panel members included directors from other science centers and research organizations to provide direct feedback on the PIFSC programs and research efforts. Paul Wong represented the sanctuary, one of a number of stakeholders that were part of the External Program Review. The sanctuary currently coordinates with the science center in a number of areas including research, disentanglement, and outreach.

All NOAA offices in the Pacific Islands region were represented at the NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> media event that was held in partnership with Outrigger Hotels. The event was attended by 15 media representatives that were invited to a sit down breakfast and to talk with staff at information tables with emphasis on particular NOAA program topics. Christine Brammer and Paul Wong provided information on SPLASH humpback whale research and the marine education curriculum that is being developed in coordination with the Hawai'i Department of Education.

Nancy Daschbach reviewed eight applications for the Hollings Scholarship awarded to college students this summer. Successful applicants will receive a stipend and travel to a NOAA office or laboratory to develop and work on a project during the summer.

### **Attachment 3**

## **Hawaii County Report 18 April 2007 Duane Erway, Alternate Representative**

### **Accomplishments:**

#### ReefTalks:

Two ReefTalks by Ziggy Livnant including his "Reef Etiquette" short sequence to caution visitors and residents not to step on live coral, feed fish, touch or hassle turtles and litter.

A new 45 minute special reef sequences was shown at the Aloha Theater with Snorkel Bob and Ziggy contributing background information.

#### Tsunami and Hurricane Disaster Seminars:

Two Tsunami and Hurricane Disaster seminars were offered, one each in Kona and Hilo, featuring Dr. Garad Fryer of the Pacific Tsunami Center, Oahu, and Troy Kindred, Hawaii Island Civil Defense Director.

#### Reef Watchers and Teachers:

15 new ReefTeachers were trained to teach swimmers and snorkelers at Kahalu'u Bay, Kailua-Kona. The Kohala Center has partnered with U.H. Sea Grant College Program to build this education/outreach program at Kahalu'u. Data collected since 2003 on numbers of visitors to the beach have climbed alarmingly from 300-500 people during observation hours 10:30am to 1:30pm to 800-1,100 people. The higher numbers appear to occur on days when cruise ships visit Kailua-Kona. DLNR funded a multi-stakeholder review of this bay and other high use areas and this report can be read on the DLNR website at [www.hawaii.gov/dlnr](http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr). (Scroll down to the bottom of the page, where you will see the heading "Reports." Click on the small "new" symbol highlighted in yellow.)

#### Marine Educator Certificate Program:

A marine educator's comprehensive class is underway. It is a year-long certificate program composed of two courses. The first semester course will address key concepts in marine science and marine conservation. The second semester will focus on effective communication of key marine science and conservation concepts.

The program has been developed by the Kula Nai'a Foundation in partnership with the Hawaii Community College, and scientists from the University of Hawaii and the State of Hawaii Department of Aquatic Resources. The Hawaii Tourism Authority has provided matching funds for support of this program. The Big Island Reef Fund and the Community Conservation Network have also provided additional Scholarship funds as has Workforce Development Division.

### **Events Attended:**

See Above

**Hot Topics:**

Earth Day  
Super Ferry

**Announcements:**REEF monitoring workshop:

April 20th, Liz Foote and Donna Green will provide a REEF monitoring workshop in Kona

Coral Reef Awareness Day

April 21st the 7th Annual Coral Reef Awareness and Earth Day Fair will take place at Kahalu'u Bay and the Keauhou Outrigger hotel in Kona 10 AM to 2 PM. Family fun and learning.

ReefWatcher/ReefTeacher Contact:

Sara Peck, UH Sea Grant College Program, 329-2861 or [peck@hawaii.edu](mailto:peck@hawaii.edu)

**Attachment 4**

09 April 2007

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Bill Friedl, Honolulu County Council Representative

Subject: County Representative Report

My Council-related activities are summarized below:

- On January 18<sup>th</sup>, I attended the SAC retreat on Ford Island.
- On January 27<sup>th</sup>, I participated in the O'ahu Ocean Count at the Lanikai Lookout site.
- On February 24<sup>th</sup>, I participated in the O'ahu Ocean Count at the Lanikai Lookout site. (Unfortunately, I was unable to complete the trifecta at the Lanikai Lookout site in March)

## Attachment 5

### Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Maui County Report to the Sanctuary Advisory Council

April 9, 2007

#### Events Attended:

March 20 - DLNR held a meeting to present the proposed improvements to Ma`alaea Harbor to accommodate the Lana`i and Moloka`i ferries, which will enable the state to concurrently install basic pump out facilities. It is noted that the new system was planned with limited input from the boat users – with only 18 of 96 slip holders responding to the state’s survey that had no response deadline indicated. The current plan is to install two main hookups along the north and south sides of the harbor, with the latter only being accessible to the public when the ferry is not docked. An additional 17 hookups are proposed to serve boaters along the southern slips. The entire system is gravity fed and thus dependent upon all boaters spending \$2,000 or more to retrofit as well as provide their own pumps to use it. Several meeting attendees raised concerns about adding this system to the already failing infrastructure around the harbor. Still there was a willingness on the part of the boaters to provide constructive feedback that would lead to some type of pump facility being installed. The consultant’s time frame is for construction to be completed approximately June of 2010, due to the timeline on Federal funds being tapped for the project. The existing level of assistance funding for truck pump out is projected to be expended in approximately 12-15 months at current usage, by June of 2008.

A number of Pump Don’t Dump representatives were present and lobbied for support of HCR 58 –seeking the US government’s prohibition of dumping vessel sewage in the Sanctuary waters. This bill passed the House with an amendment and was transmitted to the state Senate on April 4.

#### Other Activities:

March 16 - members of the Hawaii Ocean Noise Coalition held a sign waving rally in Kahului, and also gathered in front of the Kihei Sanctuary to protest the Navy’s use of high intensity active sonar in Hawaiian waters which they state can harm marine mammals. This was followed by a March 22 public lecture on the topic by Dr. Marsha Green at Maui Ocean Center (not attended).

March 30 – A meeting was held with Sanctuary Director Nancy Daschbach to preview the new education facility and discuss funding support for A/V needs and a lecture series to be hosted there. The projected figure of \$50K was indicated as the amount being sought to purchase an A/V system.

Feedback was given on a draft proposal as well as possible sources of corporate support.

**Attachment 6**

SAC Education Committee  
12 March 2007  
Jeanne Russell, Chair

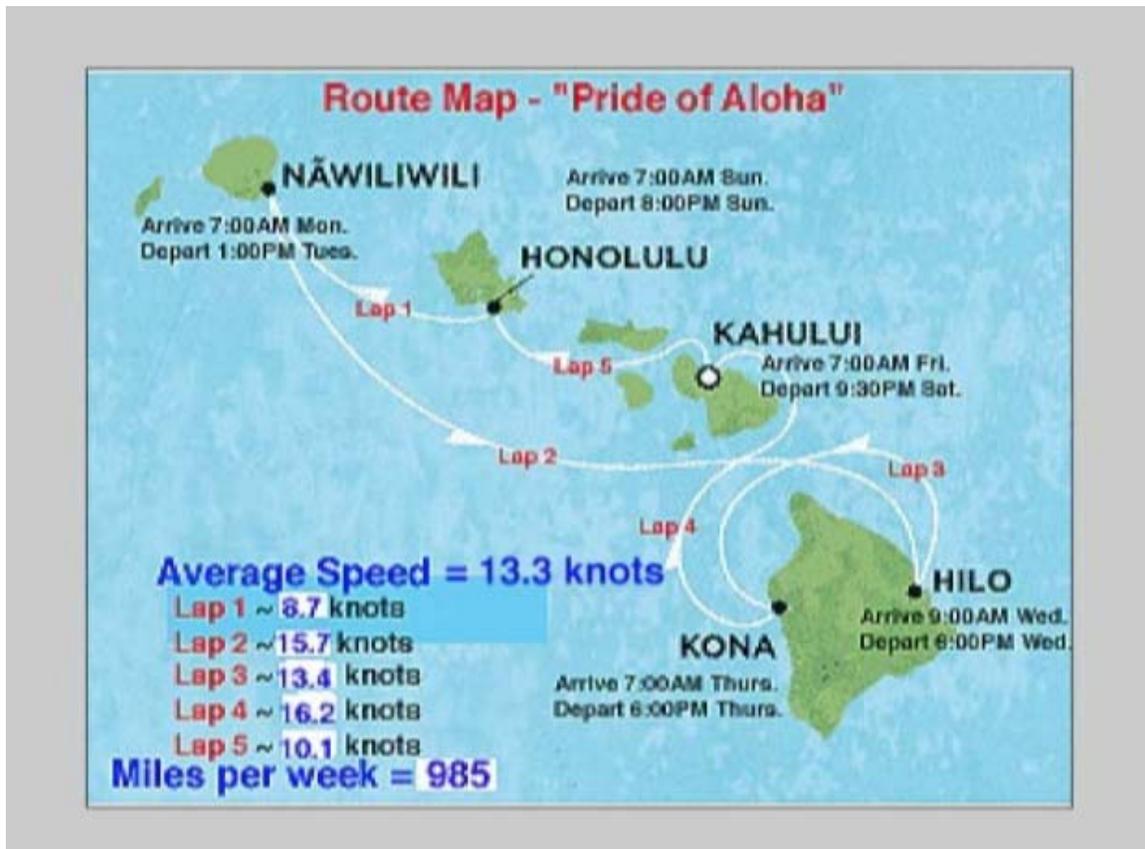
On February 15, 2007, the Education Committee held a conference call. Attending the meeting was Jeanne Russell, Mary Grady, Jean Souza, and Chris Brammer.

Boater Outreach was discussed. Ship strike letter was discussed. It was decided that sanctuary staff would see if they could go to the harbors to distribute flyers. Chris Brammer did so on Oahu with success.

We talked about sanctuary accomplishments and finding a way to tell the public- possibly contacting radio stations, etc. More discussion is needed.

**Attachment 7**

New Data on the Superferry:



Dr Tepley solved the mystery of why cruise ships in Hawaii don't hit whales: because they need not go above 12 knots in shallow water to meet their schedules. Twelve knots is a speed where humpbacks can sense ships and swim away.

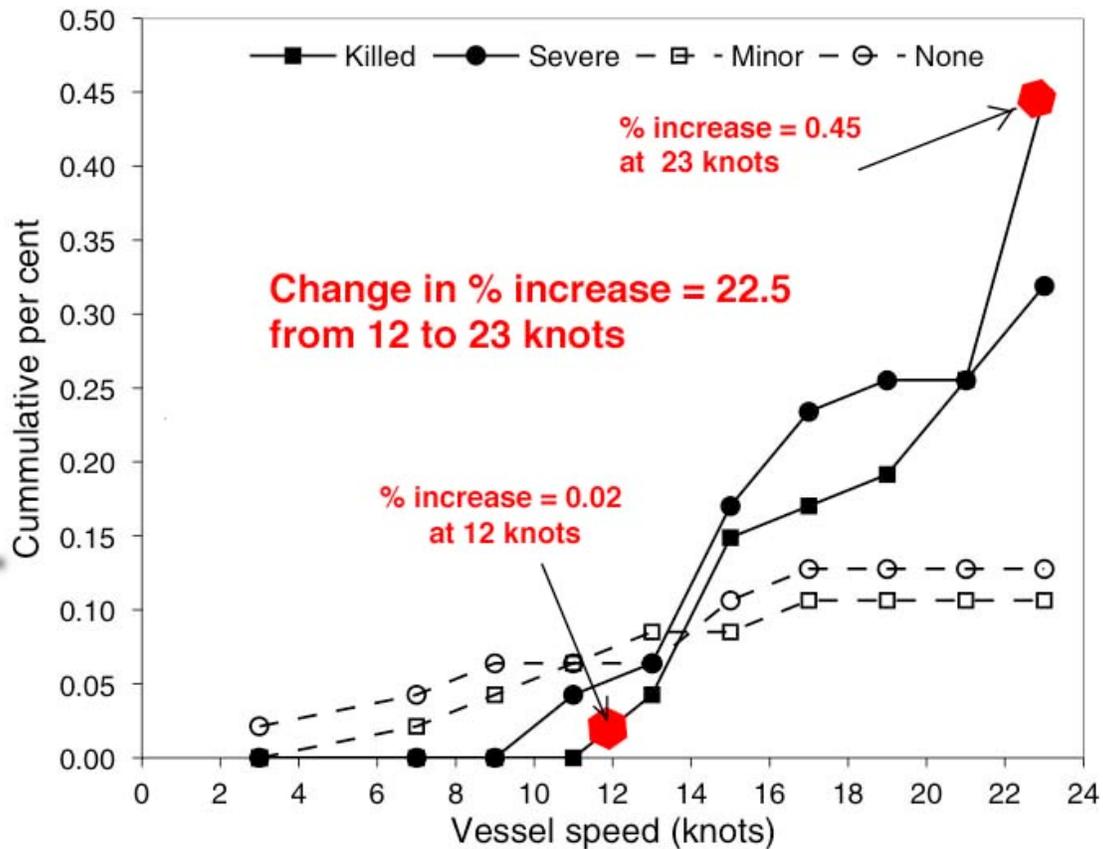


Figure 2. Cumulative per cent increase in each of four whale-injury classes as a function of the midpoint of the two-knot vessel-speed classes illustrating how the killed and severe injury classes increase similarly and in parallel, as do the minor and none apparent injury classes.

A new paper published in Marine Mammal Science shows the probability of injury or death increases by a factor of going from 12 knots to 23 knots.

Based on this new data, it is Duane Erway’s opinion that Superferry would be well advised to reduce their speed to 10 to 12 knots in shallow water year around (to minimize impact on the 50 to 200 highly endangered monk seals here as well as humpbacks, sperm whales and other marine mammals) and reduce their speed in deep water to something appropriate for the technologies they launch with.