

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Forty-third Meeting
January 12, 2006
8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Honolulu International Airport
Inter-Island Conference Center

FINAL MINUTES

Attendance

Primary Council Members Present:

Cindy Barger, Jim Coon, Tom Friel, Dave Hoffman, Becky Hommon, Eric Kingma, Marc Lammers, Teri Leicher, Jerry Norris, Terry O'Halloran, Sara Peck, Dick Poirier, Jeanne Russell, Mike Stanton, Terry White, Bob Wilson.

Alternate Council Members Present:

Joy Anamizu, Duane Erway, Randall Farmer, Hank Janpol (for Lou Herman), Connie Ramsey, Cheryl Sterling (for Richard McCarty), Dean Watase (for Glenn Soma).

Excused:

Athline Clark, Liz Corbin, Nancy Daschbach, Bill Friedl, Lou Herman, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Harold Lao, Richard McCarty, Glenn Soma, Don Thornburg, `Aulani Wilhelm, Chris Yates, Michelle Yuen.

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Keeley Belva, Christine Brammer, David Mattila, Naomi McIntosh, Jeff Walters.

PUBLIC: Randy Cates, John Corbin, John Garibaldi, Dave Johnston.

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- Table of Contents
- Final Meeting Minutes (12/1/05)
- Meeting Action Items
- Sanctuary Manager's Report
- State Co-Manager's Report
- Education Committee Report
- Hawaii County Report
- Draft SAC Performance Measures
- Draft Resolution Supporting SPLASH Data Analysis

- SAC Retreat Report
- Marine Mammal Commission Annual Report, Pacific Region Chapter
- Final Letter Supporting Vessel Pump-out Stations
- Response Letter from The Secretary of Commerce
- Whale Month Calendar
- *Sanctuary Watch*, Fall 2005
- National Sanctuary Advisory Council Member Directory
- DLNR Letter Regarding NMSF Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
- Comments Regarding Previous SAC Minutes
- Research Priorities List

Call to Order

The purpose of this meeting is to focus the Council on the performance measures and objectives developed during the Council Retreat and to implement plans for the 2006 whale season.

Council Chair Terry O'Halloran called the meeting to order at 8:40 and Teri Leicher, Council Secretary, took role and determined that there was a quorum. Cindy Barger and Bob Wilson both introduced their alternates for their respective agencies. The members of the public were asked to introduced themselves.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the Council's December 1, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved (see Attachment 1).

Dick Poirier made a motion to amend the minutes from the Council meeting on March 17, 2005 to reflect a vote of 13 ayes and 3 abstentions on the matter requesting a whale avoidance policy from Hawaii Super Ferry, and to amend the minutes from the Council's May 12, 2005 meeting to reflect a vote of 15 ayes and 2 abstentions on the matter of accepting Hawaii Super Ferry's whale avoidance policy. Terry White seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. Neither of the amendments affected the passing of the motions.

Public Forum

There were no public comments at this time.

Presentations

- Dave Johnston, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center—Mr. Johnston gave a presentation on NOAA Fisheries Cetacean Research Program. He told the Council that PIFSC held a conference to bring together many cetacean researchers with expertise and experience in the Pacific region. During the conference, the group developed recommendations for the management of cetaceans around the Pacific and he mentioned that the report summarizing the findings from the conference would be available to the public shortly on their website at www.nmfs.hawaii.edu. Mr. Johnston also talked about some of the research projects that are taking place around the Pacific and plans for the next few years.

- Chris Yates, NOAA Fisheries – PIRO—Mr. Yates had to reschedule and will present at the next Council meeting. Jeff Walters announced that PIRO (Pacific Islands Regional Office) is currently working on an Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking involving spinner dolphins. The State DLNR had submitted comments (see attachment 1). Dr. Walters also stated that the process would likely allow for the SAC to have an opportunity to comment later in the process. **ACTION:** After some discussion, the group decided that Dr. Lammers would work with the Research and Conservation Committees to draft comments and present them to the Council at the March meeting.
- Tommy Friel, NOAA Fisheries Office of Law Enforcement—Mr. Friel provided the Council with an update on the enforcement issues for this whale season. He explained that due to the large area of the Pacific that is covered in their jurisdiction and the recent budget cuts, that their activities have been scaled back. He explained that OLE would however continue to station an agent on Maui throughout this whale season as they have done in the past. Ms. McIntosh further explained that because of the budget situation this fiscal year that the Sanctuary was unable to provide funding support to NOAA OLE for the Maui assignment. The Sanctuary has supported this effort since 1994 and this is the first time in over ten years that the Sanctuary did not provide financial support. She thanked NOAA OLE for recognizing the importance of maintaining an enforcement presence on Maui, and for stepping up to continue to support the effort. Mr. Friel added that there have been a few cases of whale-vessel interactions already this season (one of them was self-reported) and explained that typically reports of violations have come in from various sources. He also mentioned that OLE recently received a report of an elephant seal that was beached on Molokai. A SAC member then asked if there was data on how many incidents proceed to the prosecution stage. Mr. Friel said that was unsure, but that NOAA General Council may have that data and he went on to explain the enforcement process. **ACTION:** Dr. Walters suggested that a representative from NOAA General Council might be able to come to a future meeting to give a presentation. The Chair asked that information on vessel strikes go to the conservation committee. Mr. Friel added that since their agency took on “regional” status in the last few years, they had been hoping to add more positions in the near future, but for now those plans are on hold.
- Naomi McIntosh, Budget Update—Ms. McIntosh presented the Sanctuary’s latest budget information and gave the Council an overview of how the recent rescissions would impact the Sanctuary’s activities. **ACTION:** The Chair asked that Ms. McIntosh’s presentation be distributed to the Council.
- John Garibaldi, President and CEO of Hawaii Superferry, Inc.— Mr. Garibaldi, presented an update of Hawaii Superferry’s (HSF) pre-operational status to the council. The presentation included recent photos of HSF’s first vessel under construction in Mobile, AL, successful

completion in October 2005 of debt and equity financing needed for HSF's two vessels and start of operations, summary of terms of HSF's operating agreement with the State of Hawaii for use of harbor facilities, harbor layouts for HSF's operations in Honolulu and Kauai, and a timetable of events leading up to HSF's start of service in 2007. Mr. Garibaldi also reviewed HSF's proposed operating schedule in 2007 of daily round trip service between Honolulu and Kahului and Honolulu and Kauai with one vessel. The delivery of HSF's second vessel in 2009 will allow for a second round trip to Maui and service to Kawaihae.

Discussion on Reports and Updates

Chair's Report:

Council Chair Terry O'Halloran asked the Council members to review the Action Item Report (see attachment 2). Mr. O'Halloran also summarized items that were discussed at the retreat including that the whale Vessel Whale Interaction Working Group has completed its task and the conservation committee will address issues relating to vessel collisions in the future. In addition, the Sanctuary Change Committee has not had many tasks to address yet, so in the future the Executive Committee will address any issues relating to additional species. Mr. O'Halloran also reviewed the alignment of the committees with the Sanctuary Issues Document and clarified the SAC's letter writing policy.

ACTION: Jim Coon made a motion that the retreat summary be accepted, Terry White seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Sanctuary Manager:

Naomi McIntosh submitted a written report (see attachment 3). Ms. McIntosh updated the council on the Marine Science Curriculum project that will be developed by the Sanctuary. In addition, David Mattila, HIHWNMS Science and Rescue Coordinator, gave a presentation on recent research efforts, including the final season of SPLASH.

Sanctuary Co-Manager:

Sanctuary Co-Manager, Dr. Jeffrey Walters, submitted a written report (see attachment 4). Dr. Walters announced that Dan Polhemus is the new director of the Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR), and that he would like to come to one of the meetings in the future. He also announced that there was a joint press release from DLNR, NOAA, and US Coast Guard that went out announcing new safe boating signs. He also added that after his report was written, there was a monk seal that was seen near the Kona Blue Water fish cages.

Hawai'i County:

No report was submitted.

Conservation Committee:

No report was submitted.

Research Committee:

Marc Lammers, Research Committee Chair, reported that the committee did not meet, but said that he attended the marine mammal researchers biennial meeting and that he would try to get a list of abstracts from papers that were submitted there. Dr. Lammers also mentioned that he did a project for the Sanctuary where he and Dr. Whitlow Au gathered acoustic data during a period of pile driving during the construction process at the Maui site.

Education Committee:

Jeanne Russell, Education Committee Chair, submitted a written report (see attachment 5). She highlighted some of the education events that are taking place during whale season.

Hawaii County:

Sara Peck, Honolulu County Representative, submitted a written report (see attachment 6).

Honolulu County:

No report was submitted.

Kaua`i County:

No report was submitted.

Maui County:

No report was submitted.

Program Development Committee:

No report was submitted.

Unfinished Business

- Draft Position Statement on Aquaculture —Marc Lammers summarized the position paper that was developed jointly by the research and conservation committees stating their concerns with a proposal for an aquaculture facility to be sited near Olowalu, Maui. **ACTION:** Dr. Lammers called for a motion for the Council to accept the position paper; it was seconded by Jerry Norris. The motion passed with 13 ayes, 0 nays, and 2 abstentions by Bob Wilson and Eric Kingma. The chair stated that the Council will provide a letter to the applicant indicating the vote. Randy Cates, a member of the public, asked to make a statement to the Council; he was concerned that the SAC did not consult with him. As an aquaculture facility owner, he did not agree with the positions stated in the paper. Dr. Lammers explained that the position was created based on the

- focus of humpback whale behavior and their specific use of the habitat. Council members expressed interest in having Mr. Cates come to a meeting to present his views and Mr. O'Halloran clarified that the Council plans to assess proposed aquaculture sites on a case-by-case basis. John Corbin, manager of Hawaii's Aquaculture Development Program said that the program is working to establish sites that are pre-determined. Mike Stanton said that since the aquaculture industry is already a viable industry in Hawaii that it is important for the Council to have discussions with representatives from the industry. Becky Hommon suggested that the SAC might want to start an Aquaculture Working Group. The Chair agreed and asked Mr. Stanton to chair the working group. Discussions of how the group would be tasked ensued. **ACTION:** To form a working group to gather information on aquaculture, that would identify concerns, and develop recommendations. The group will give an initial report to the SAC by May. Terry White made the motion to this effect and Dave Hoffman seconded it and it passed unanimously. Working group members included Teri Leicher, Cindy Barger, Lou Herman, Marc Lammers, Becky Hommon, Sara Peck, Dave Hoffman, and Terry White.
- Pump-out Facilities—Jim Coon provided an update on the wastewater pump-out issues on Maui. Mr. Coon felt like the SAC should take a position on this topic and discussion followed. **ACTION:** The conservation committee should address these concerns regarding pump-out facilities.

New Business

- Resolution Supporting SPLASH Data Analysis: **ACTION:** The Council adopted the resolution with the following amendments: 1) add the word "humpback" before "Hawaii and the North Pacific" in the Be It Further Resolved paragraph; 2) transmit the resolution with the general SPLASH one pager as an attachment; 3) make changes to the Be It Further Resolved paragraph to be \$100,000 for FY06 and \$100,000 in FY07. The motion was called by Dick Poirier, seconded by Jerry Norris and carried unanimously.
- SAC Performance Measures—Jim Coon motioned to accept the SAC performance measures that were developed at the retreat. The motion carried unanimously.
- Legislative Agenda—Terry O'Halloran explained that the Hawaii State Legislature is in session and that during the retreat the group thought it was a good opportunity to write a letter to some legislatures reminding them about the important work conducted by the Sanctuary. **ACTION:** Jim Coon and Reg White were tasked with leading the ad-hoc committee in contacting the legislatures.
- Fundraising Needs—Terry O'Halloran asked the group to consider their contacts and what could be useful for the Sanctuary. **ACTION:** The SAC Chair established a Fundraising Working Group to identify potential fundraising recommendations.

- Thank you letter for HIMB —**ACTION:** The chair will write a letter to thank the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology for their graciousness in hosting the SAC Retreat.
- SAC Composition Committee—During the retreat the Council members asked to form a committee that would assess the effectiveness of the current membership structure of the Council. **ACTION:** This committee was formed and Dick Poirier was asked to chair; members included Terry O’Halloran, Sara Peck, Teri Leicher, Terry White, Mike Stanton, and Becky Hommon.

Public Forum

- Duane Erway, as a member of the public, asked Terry White questions about if Hawaii Super Ferry plans to use a forward looking sonar technology on their vessels, then submitted a paper to Mr. White outlining his questions. The Chair asked Mr. Erway to direct his comments to the Council.

Announcements

- SAC Selection—Keeley Belva announced that the selection process for new members was still pending and she hoped to have an update by the end of the month.

Adjournment

Council Chair, Terry O’Halloran, adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

Attachment 1

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Forty-second Meeting
 Thursday, December 1, 2005
 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
 Bay View Golf Park Restaurant
 Kaneohe, Oahu, Hawaii

FINAL MINUTES

Attendance

Primary Council Members Present:

Cindy Barger, Jim Coon, Liz Corbin, Bill Friedl, Tommy Friel, Dave Hoffman, Becky Hommon, Marc Lammers, Teri Leicher, Jerry Norris, Terry O’Halloran, Sara Peck, Dick Poirier, Jeanne Russell, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Don Thornburg, Terry White, Michelle Yuen.

Alternate Council Members Present:

Duane Erway, Hank Janpol (for Lou Herman), Maile Sakamoto (for Harold Lao), Cheryl Sterling (for Richard McCarty), Reg White.

Absent:

Athline Clark, Nancy Daschbach, Lou Herman, Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Eric Kingma, Harold Lao, Richard McCarty, `Aulani Wilhelm, Bob Wilson, Chris Yates.

Others Present:

HIHWNMS: Keeley Belva, Christine Brammer, Patty Miller, Naomi McIntosh, Jean Souza, Jeff Walters, and Paul Wong.

PUBLIC: Kathy Bryant, John Corbin, Melvin Fisher

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- Copy of Letter Supporting Education Cruises from the Education Committee
- Draft Letter to the Aquaculture Development Program

Call to Order

The purpose of this meeting is to follow up on actions since the previous meeting and prepare for 2006.

Council Chair Terry O'Halloran called the meeting to order at 5:00pm. Teri Leicher, secretary, then took role.

The members of the public who were attending and Maile Sakamoto, representing the State Department of Health, introduced themselves to the Council.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

The meeting minutes from the Council's May 12, 2005 and September 8, 2005 meetings were unanimously approved.

Public Forum

There were no comments at this time.

Discussion on Reports and Updates

There were no reports given during this meeting.

Unfinished Business

- Letter Supporting Sanctuary Education Cruises—Education Committee Chair, Jeanne Russell explained that a letter supporting NOAA education cruises was previously sent by the education committee, however they hoped that the entire council would approve it as well. **ACTION:** Liz Corbin made a motion to send the letter from the council to all appropriate recipients; Sara Peck seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved this motion.

New Business

- Function of the Executive Committee—The council wanted to empower the executive committee to be able to draft and send informational letters without the prior approval of the whole council. After discussion on what guidelines would be appropriate, there was a motion to allow committee chairs to draft letters of inquiry or appreciation on matters pertaining to committee business for the SAC. This motion passed unanimously. Marc Lammers made a second motion that the executive committee can send a letter based on a position that has been discussed at a SAC meeting prior to the next SAC meeting if it has been circulated for review and comment. Dick Poirier seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
- Charter Amendments—The council decided to discuss this at a future meeting.
- Proposed Letter regarding Aquaculture in the Sanctuary—Following a short discussion, Dick Poirier made a motion to send the draft letter (see attachment 1) with the following edits: 1) The second paragraph should

read, “In a proposed draft position statement issued by the Council’s research committee...” and 2) The third paragraph should read, “The members of the Council feel strongly....” **ACTION:** Jeanne Russell seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Public Forum

- There were no comments at this time.

Announcements

- There were no announcements.

Adjournment

Council Chair, Terry O’Halloran, adjourned the meeting at 5:35 p.m.

Attachment 1

1 December 2005

John Corbin, Manager
Aquaculture Development Program
1177 Alakea Street #400
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Aquaculture Activities in Sanctuary Waters

Aloha Mr. Corbin,

Thank you for participating in our discussion regarding open ocean aquaculture at our September 8, 2005, Council meeting. Considering the proposed and existing aquaculture facilities within the boundaries of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS), the Sanctuary Advisory Council’s Executive Committee (made up of officers and committee chairs) felt it was time to further address its concerns with these endeavors.

In a proposed draft position statement issued by the Council’s research and conservation committees relating to a proposed facility near Olowalu, Maui, specific concerns were addressed as possible threats including: loss of habitat, attraction by predators, collisions by competitive pods of whales, interaction by calves and juveniles, and acoustic pollution. Both committees agreed that more research is needed to evaluate the implications of these concerns, however they felt that it was ideal to do so, at least in Sanctuary waters, using existing ventures.

The members of the Council feel strongly that Sanctuary waters are important and sensitive habitat for the Hawaii's humpback whales. It would be helpful if the Aquaculture Development Program could provide the Council with a plan detailing future proposed aquaculture sites and activities within Sanctuary waters. In the absence of a plan, the committee recommends that the Council review proposals for future aquaculture activities on a case-by-case basis. Hopefully the Aquaculture Development Program and the private enterprises it serves will also thoroughly explore appropriate sites outside of Sanctuary waters.

We recognize the importance of aquaculture to Hawaii and the up-front costs incurred by private parties involved in suitable site selection. In order for the Council to properly advise Sanctuary management, we would appreciate notification of possible aquaculture activities and potential sites in Sanctuary waters at the earliest possible time in the process. This will allow us to provide Sanctuary management with appropriate advice in a timely manner.

We thank you for seeking the advice and involvement of the Council on these matters and greatly appreciate the time you have taken to educate our members through the frequent presentations and discussions at past meetings.

Sincerely,

Terry O'Halloran
Chair
HIHWNMS Advisory Council

cc: Naomi McIntosh, Manager, HIHWNMS
Jeff Walters, Co-Manager, HIHWNMS
Sandra Lee Kunimoto, Director, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture

Attachment 2

Sanctuary Advisory Council 2006 Action Item Report

Action: Letter Supporting Sanctuary Education Cruises—send the letter from the SAC to all appropriate recipients

Status: The letter was signed by the chair and will be distributed as soon as possible. (1/9/06)

Action: Letter Regarding Aquaculture in the Sanctuary—send the letter to the recipient.

Status: The letter was signed by the chair and will be distributed as soon as possible. (1/9/06)

Attachment 3

**Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine
Sanctuary Advisory Council
Manager's Report
January 12, 2006**

Council Updates

SAC Chairs Meeting Update

Due to the current budget situation, the NMSP has decided to modify plans for the upcoming SAC Chairs meeting to be held April 25-27, 2006 in Washington, DC. The NMSP has decided that only the chair (or his representative) will be able to attend the meeting. The agenda was also modified to reduce some of the costs (i.e. fewer receptions, breakfast on own, no field trip). Headquarters is looking for input from the SACs on topics relating to panel discussions: Fishing Regulations in NMSs, The idea of a "National Council", and Acoustics.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council's Education Committee held a meeting via conference call on Thursday, January 5, 2006. The call was to update the committee on planned Sanctuary activities for this whale season and to follow up on actions from the Council retreat that was held in December. The committee discussed the Sanctuary's plans for developing marine science curriculum.

Education and Outreach

Lecture series

On the evening of November 10, Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza presented a lecture on the sanctuary and humpback whales attended by 55 adults at the National Tropical Botanical Garden at Lawai Kai. Most of the attendees were volunteers with the Garden, which is an extensive landholding on the southside with beachfrontage, yet most have not previously been involved with the sanctuary's programs.

I. Education Center visitors

The Maui site hosted a reef monitoring session with high school students. The sanctuary staff was amazed that the students found organisms that we had never seen before. The Sanctuary is developing new monitoring programs for middle and high school students and are encouraged to see schools taking advantage of the programs.

The Sanctuary's Maui location hosted a variety of school groups in October including first graders who learned about humpback whales and sea turtles and middle school students who participated in a reef walk and tide pool monitoring project.

II. Sanctuary In-school Outreach

Justin Viezbicke, the Marine Conservation Coordinator gave an assembly presentation at Kalaniana'ole grade school in Hilo for 120 kids in grades K-4. The presentation was on Hawaiian monk seals and received a lot of interest from the kids due to the pupping event at Hakalau beach. Highlights included pictures of the seal pup and the kids getting to touch and smell the molt of a monk seal that was on loan from NOAA fisheries.

Alastair Hebard and Jerry Stowell attended the Maui private school conference to share information about the Sanctuary's school programs and how teachers could become involved.

III. Ocean Count

The sanctuary staff is gearing up for Ocean Count 2006. Volunteers from the community are calling to sign up and site leader trainings were recently conducted on January 7 & 8 (Hawaii), and is scheduled for January 14 (Oahu & Kauai).

Working with volunteers

The Sanctuary supported the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education program by providing training to its volunteers on marine protected species of Hawaii. The Sanctuary helps with the training approximately 4 times each year.

On Thursday, January 5th, Kauai Programs Coordinator Jean Souza trained over 40 volunteer naturalists from the Kilauea Point Natural Wildlife Refuge. Training focused on the sanctuary and humpback whales. Because the refuge is a gateway to the Kauai portion of the sanctuary, the sanctuary has formed strong partnership with the staff, volunteers, and associated non-governmental organization.

Science and Rescue

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) staff successfully completed the third season of its marine mammal survey of the waters around the Island of Tutuila, American Samoa. The survey is sponsored by Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and is conducted in partnership with the local Department of Marine and Wildlife Resources, NOAA Fisheries and the Center for Coastal Studies (US, NGO).

While working in Samoa David Mattila accompanied Nancy Daschbach, Fagatele Bay Sanctuary Manager met with the United Nations Director of the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, and his staff to discuss current and potential future projects of common interest, primarily with regard to marine mammals. Several areas of cooperation and actions were identified.

On Friday, October 21, 2005, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary staff on Maui responded to the report of a dead dolphin found offshore and brought to shore by local fishermen. The very young striped dolphin was iced and shipped to Oahu that evening for a necropsy performed by NOAA Fisheries authorized vets the next morning.

David Mattila gave a lecture to the Aquarium of the Pacific on Tuesday evening in Long Beach, CA. This was part of a monthly series on whales. The lecture covered humpback whales in the North and South Pacific, new discoveries and threats. It focused on the SPLASH project, new findings in American Samoa, and large whale entanglement and release.

Partnerships

A. Partnership works together to provide Naturalist Training on Maui

The Sanctuary participated with the Maui Ocean Center, Hawaii Wildlife Fund, and Project SeaLink to provide naturalist training certification for Maui community members. The six-session training course was scheduled throughout the month of October. The response was great and there were twice as many requests to attend than expected, therefore the organizers hope to plan a second training in the near future.

B. Weather and the Ocean

The Sanctuary partnered with the University of Hawaii's Sea Grant's Hanauma Bay Education Program and the City and County's Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve to offer an event to educate the public about the relationship between weather and the ocean. A variety of speakers from agencies including the National Weather Service spoke at the event, which was held on November 12, 2005 at the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve.

Sanctuary participates in annual Honolulu Harbor Festival

The Sanctuary participated in the annual Honolulu Harbor Festival event, which was held at the Aloha Tower Marketplace. The sanctuary partnered with the NOAA Pacific Services Center to offer a broad range of information on NOAA in Hawaii in addition to an educational activity for children. In addition to hosting a booth at this event, Christine Brammer, Oahu Programs Coordinator, also took part in lecture style presentations which were held at the Maritime Museum throughout the day by providing a 30-minute lecture on responsible viewing of Hawaii's wildlife. The timing for this type of talk was ideal since whale season is starting in Hawaii and it provided a venue for reminding boaters about the 100-yard approach regulation.

Sanctuary participates in Cultural Learning Event

On November 17th and November 18th, 2005 sanctuary staff participated in the Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park's Hawaiian Culture Festival for kids. This event featured a wide variety of educational hands on

activities for over 400 local 4th and 5th graders from the Big Island to help teach them about the marine environment and how the ancient Hawaiians respected, cared for and interacted with the environment in a healthy and sustainable manner.

Monk Seal washes ashore on Big Island

On December 10th, 2005, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Kona office staff partnered with NOAA protected species division to perform a necropsy on a Hawaiian monk seal that washed ashore on the north coast of the Big Island. No cause of death was determined, but samples will be analyzed for diseases and other pathogens.

Miscellaneous

C. World Water Monitoring Day

The Sanctuary coordinated community involvement in World Water Monitoring Day on the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, and Maui. A variety of other organizations including Hawaii Sea Grant helped the sanctuary prepare for this event and played an active role in conducting the tests with the public and with students.

D. Sanctuary featured in "Shortcuts"

The Sanctuary worked with the writer and illustrator of Shortcuts, an educational children's section featured on the back page of the newspaper comics to produce a section on the topic of humpback whales. The feature ran in November and was featured in more than 300 newspapers and more than 10 or 20 million people all across the U.S., Canada and several other countries around the world could read it.

Congressman Ed Case visits Sanctuary office on Maui

Sunday, October 16, Congressman Ed Case followed through on a promise to return to Ko'ie'ie Loko I'a in Kihei and lay stones with those rebuilding the ancient fishpond that borders the Sanctuary's Maui property. The restoration of the fishpond is a project to help keep Native Hawaiian culture and traditions alive. Representative Case pitched in with more than 10 other volunteers who spent the day carrying, stacking, and sorting through rocks to be added to the wall of the royal fishpond.

E. Sanctuary Staff participates in Small Boat Training

In preparation for the humpback whale season in Hawaii, several sanctuary staff members were involved in a Basic Small Boat Training that was presented by Chad Yoshinaga of NOAA Fisheries. This training provided practical working knowledge on operations of inflatables up to 20'. Safe Operations was the focus of this training and participants reviewed safety procedures and equipment, rescue, navigation and boat operations. Previously, a few other sanctuary staff members were involved in an Advanced Small Boat Training that focused on operations from large ships and operating

in surf. The sanctuary plans to hold a one-day boater safety training for all staff in the near future who haven't been involved in these small boat trainings.

IV. Construction begins at Maui Site

Construction for a new building at the Sanctuary's Maui site began on October 24th. In preparation the Maui Sanctuary staff spent a week moving everything out of the storage sheds, which were slated for demolition, and into storage containers. The job was made easier with the much-appreciated help from local members of US Coast Guard. This 10-month project is planned to be completed in August 2006 and will provide for an expanded facility for research and education programs that will enhance humpback whale protection in Hawai'i. The new Sanctuary Learning Center will also offer additional opportunities for education on the marine environment and provide a venue for community meetings. The first phase of the project, October through December, is complete and included the following activities: installation of a fence around the construction site for security and to reduce wind blown sand and dust, demolition of existing storage sheds, sand relocation, sand dune restoration, site grading, and pile driving. The sanctuary office will remain open during the majority of the construction period, though site access will be limited. The project is managed for NOAA by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), which is based in Honolulu. Construction of the facility has been contracted to Oceanic Companies, Inc. by NAVFAC.

A. New Marine Debris Outreach Coordinator at Sanctuary's Oahu Office

Carey Morishige, the new Marine Debris Outreach Coordinator with University of Hawai'i Sea Grant College Program is working from the Sanctuary's Oahu office. Her position was created by a partnership funded by NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration to promote greater understanding of marine debris and what NOAA and its partners are doing to reduce this pollution in Hawai'i.

Attachment 4

January 6, 2006

MEMORANDUM

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

From: Jeff Walters, Sanctuary Co-Manager, Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR)

Subject: HIHWNMS state office update for the period of September 8, 2005 through January 6, 2006 (Prepared for the January 12, 2006, Council meeting).

State Sanctuary Office Welcomes New DAR Administrator, Dan Polhemus, Ph.D.

The state office is happy to announce that Dr. Dan Polhemus started as the new Administrator for DLNR's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) on September 16, 2005.

Since 1983, Dan has conducted research on aquatic ecosystems in countries throughout the Pacific region, including Indonesia, Australia, East Timor, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, Fiji, and French Polynesia. He has received particular recognition for his work on the evolution and conservation of native Hawaiian damselflies. After working as a consultant to the Smithsonian Institution on an ecosystem-modeling project in the Everglades, he joined the staff of the Bishop Museum in 1990, where he served as manager of externally funded biological science programs, with a strong emphasis on Hawaiian limnology. In 1996, he accepted a research position with the Smithsonian Institution, where he worked for the past 10 years, including a term as Chairman of the Department of Entomology. Dr. Polhemus has published more than 130 peer-reviewed articles in scientific books and journals, and has been the recipient of more than 25 research grant and contract awards totaling over \$4 million. In the course of his research, he has described and named over 400 new species, including 63 from Hawaii. Dan received his B.S. (1980) in Entomology from Colorado State University and Ph.D. (1984) in Biology from the University of Utah. He is currently a member of the adjunct graduate faculty at both the University of Hawaii-Manoa and the University of Connecticut, and an Associate in Science at the Bishop Museum. In 2004, he served as a United States representative on freshwater ecosystems to the Global Invasive Species Program, chartered by the United Nations under the Convention for Biodiversity. He is currently involved with ongoing aquatic biodiversity research projects in Fiji, French Polynesia and the Solomon Islands, funded by both the National Science Foundation and Conservation International, and has also worked closely with the latter organization in the design of an integrated marine and freshwater conservation program in eastern Papua New Guinea. The sanctuary co-manager has met on numerous occasions with Dr. Polhemus since he came on board in September, and Dan has quickly become a strong supporter of the sanctuary and the related marine wildlife conservation activities undertaken by the state sanctuary program. Dan has expressed an interest to attend future SAC meetings and to provide a presentation to the Council on his vision for DAR and its various programs and activities.

State Sanctuary Office Welcomes New Staff at the Marine Mammal Branch, Protected Resources Division, Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO), National Marine Fisheries Service

The state office is happy to welcome two new staff members to PIRO's marine mammal branch, our partner with the National Marine Sanctuary Program and leader in marine mammal conservation as implemented via the ESA and MMPA. All the state staff are looking forward to working with these NMFS staff and their supervisor, Marine Mammal Branch Chief, Chris Yates, and the new Marine Mammal Response Coordinator, David Schofield (see previous report), toward our common vision of helping Hawaii become a world leader in marine protected species conservation and management.

Dr. Michelle Yuen started in late November as PIRO's new Marine Mammal Biologist. In this role Michelle will serve as a technical and scientific resource for ESA Section 7 reviews and other activities requiring an expert knowledge of marine mammal biology. Michelle just completed her Ph.D. in Zoology working under former Council member and research committee chair Dr. Paul Nachtigal with the Marine Mammal Research Program at the UH Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. The title of her dissertation was "Auditory perception of a false killer whale and a Risso's dolphin." Her research has allowed her to work in Portugal and Sweden and to present at international

conferences in the U.S., Canada, and France. Most recently her work has been published in the Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, the Journal of Experimental Biology and the Journal of Comparative Physiology. She has also served as the Council's Native Hawaiian Member, and as a volunteer with the Hawaiian Islands Stranding Response Group (HISRG) participating with the rescues, rehabilitations, and necropsies of stranded marine mammals. Michelle was born and raised in Hawaii.

Lisa VanAtta, Esq. started in early January as PIRO's new MMPA Specialist. Lisa's role includes providing legal advice and expertise in relation to PIRO's marine mammal conservation program efforts and consultations. Lisa joins PIRO from NOAA's Office of General Counsel Northwest in Seattle where she spent seven years working as an agency attorney involved in legal matters and litigation relating to marine resource protection and conservation statutes, particularly the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Given her interest in marine conservation issues, she recently went back to school, and in 2004 earned a degree in Aquatic and Fisheries Sciences (which focused on the conservation and management of aquatic resources) from the University of Washington. Lisa has also volunteered with the Seattle Aquarium's marine mammal division for the past five years where she has enjoyed the hands-on work with the Aquarium's marine animals, as well as speaking to the public about conservation issues. Lisa graduated from Seattle University School of Law in 1995 and from UCLA in 1991.

Education and Outreach

State staff continued to be active in a variety of education and outreach activities during the reporting period. For example, the West Hawaii coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, gave a presentation about Hawaii's marine wildlife to more than 120 students at Kalaniana'ole Elementary School in Hilo on September 23. In October, Viezbicke presented a series of 3 lectures to the West Hawaii Explorations Academy on the Hawaiian spinner dolphin. The lectures were designed to give the students information on the basic life history and management issues of spinner dolphins so that the students could see the complexity involved when dealing with the conservation of a single species. On November 9th and 10th, Viezbicke partnered with Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park to participate in their Hawaiian Culture Festival where over 300 students from the Big Island were able to learn more about conservation and the environment through various hands on activities. Viezbicke served as a science fair judge for the Waimea Hawaiian Immersion School science fair on November 13. Viezbicke also set up and facilitated a public lecture on whale disentanglement presented by sanctuary rescue manager Ed Lyman at the Outrigger Keauhou Resort on January 4. The state's NMFS-funded Kauai staff, Dr. Mimi Olry, held an information booth about Hawaiian monk seals for the Second Annual Clean Ocean Fest on October 15 and delivered a presentation on Hawaiian monk seals to seniors of the Kapa'a Na Kupuna Council on November 8. With NOAA Marine Mammal Stranding Response Coordinator, David Schofield, Olry also developed and presented a program for the staff of several Maui resorts about the biology, government policies and conservation of the Hawaiian monk seal.

Boater Outreach

A new “whale collision hazard” sign (below) was developed over the reporting period. The sign represents a totally new approach compared to the sign developed last year. This latest sign uses new DLNR and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standards for signage designed to warn the public of natural hazards. These signs will be installed at 15 key small boat harbors and boat ramps around the state by the end of January. A joint DLNR/NOAA/USCG press release will be issued in mid January to coincide with the sign installation. A full size example of the sign will be available for inspection at the Council meeting.



In addition to the new signage, state staff member, David Nichols, is working with a recently hired graphic artist to finalize the design of a sticker designed for placement on kayak paddle handle/shafts to advise kayakers of the 100-yard approach rule. Sanctuary staff will then work with kayak rental operators around the state to help them make their customers aware of appropriate whale watching behavior.

Also in the area of boater outreach, the sanctuary co-manager taped an interview with Mike Buck for his “Go Fish” radio show on KHVH, AM 830. The segment, which provided guidelines to fishermen about avoiding vessel-whale collisions and entanglements, aired in the 6 o’clock hour on Sunday, December 18, 2005.

Cetacean Stranding and Entanglement Response

On Sunday, October 23rd, 2005, West Hawaii coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, partnered with HISRG to organize and assist with the training of volunteers on a mock cetacean stranding. Viezbicke also worked with sanctuary rescue manager, Ed Lyman, in conducting a large whale disentanglement training for selected DLNR staff and local agency partners in Kona on January 4th and 5th, 2006.

In an effort to have complete disentanglement kits and response inflatables on all four major islands, Oahu-based marine conservation specialist, David Nichols,

completed procurement paperwork and acquisition of a variety of disentanglement-related gear using funding provided by NMFS PIRO.

Open Ocean Aquaculture Projects

Kona Blue Water Farms, Keahole Pt., Big Island – Humpback whale monitoring around the cages conducted by Viezbicke commenced for a second season in late December. As reported by the operator, on December 24, a single humpback whale surfaced directly over the submerged cages. The whale then submerged and remained idle above the cages for about 3 minutes before moving away from the area toward the East. No physical contact or other adverse interactions were observed. The operator also reported a monk seal milling around the surface pens on several occasions in mid November. It is believed the seal was attracted to the project area by “escapee” fish that were hovering near the pen after inadvertently being released when a shark opened a hole in the bottom of the pen to get at some dead fish lying on the pen bottom. A consultation with NMFS PIRO was immediately initiated and Viezbicke began regular on-scene monitoring of the area to determine if/when the seal was there and what it was doing. After the pen was repaired and the net and fish subsequently removed, the seal was no longer observed in the area. The state office is consulting with DLNR OCCL, NMFS PIRO, and the operator, Kona Blue Water Farms, to develop and install a predator net system designed to create a barrier between the fish pen and the shark(s) and seal(s) in hopes that the interactions with the pens will not reoccur.

Monk Seal Conservation – (conducted with funding and oversight from NMFS PIRO)

Kauai – After wrapping up a very successful seal pup monitoring, public education and relocation event at Kiahuna Beach, Poipu in September, Mimi Olry, DVM, Kauai state marine conservation coordinator, resumed her daily responses to monk seal haul outs around the island. Her responses to “healthy” haul outs have been augmented with more time consuming monitoring of several molting seals that need to remain undisturbed on the beach for approximately 2 weeks as they complete their annual “catastrophic” molting event. On December 22, a seal discovered with a small hook was searched for and found again a week later having dislodged the hook by itself. As of December 31, Olry is working with various ocean user community groups to locate a seal that has a fishing hook embedded in the upper portion of its mouth and is trailing a short length of plastic coated metal cable. If the seal is located and captured, Olry will offer assistance to NMFS PIRO staff and contract veterinarians to surgically remove the hook. Olry has also been monitoring and documenting several unfortunate incidents of seal harassment around Kauai involving people with trucks and ATV’s on the beach and those with aggressive dogs.

Big Island – In addition to the seal monitoring activities at the Kona Blue fish cage project (see above), West Hawaii coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, played an instrumental role in the tracking and eventual location of a reportedly entangled seal on December 30th and 31st along the Kohala Coast. The seal, which happened to have been previously fitted with a satellite-tracking device, was reported to be entangled by a local mariner. After several hours of trekking to remote shoreline areas, Viezbicke, found the seal, with no obvious signs of entanglement. The location was facilitated with on the water assistance from Marine Mammal Commission Science Committee Chair, Lloyd Lowry and his wife Kathy Frost aboard their fishing boat. In addition Viezbicke assisted, NMFS marine mammal response coordinator, David Schofield, in the location and necropsy of a dead monk seal on the North Kohala coast on December 9th and 10th,

2005. No obvious sign of death was determined, but various tissue samples of the relatively decomposed seal were taken for analysis.

Spinner Dolphin Conservation

An advanced notice of proposed rule making (ANPR) was published by NMFS PIRO in the federal register on December 12, 2005. The ANPR asks for public comment on a range of possible new regulations, including daytime closures of certain bays known to be important spinner resting habitats. The ANPR was developed after extensive consultation with DLNR staff and other government and non-government stakeholders. Comments are supposed to be received by NMFS no later than January 11, 2006. Comments can be emailed to the following address - 0648-AU02.NOA@noaa.gov.

Viezbicke assisted both Chris Yates and Jennifer Sepez (NOAA Anthropologist) in setting up scoping meetings related to the developing the ANPR, in October and November, with local ocean users who have a vested interest in swim with wild dolphin interactions.

SPLASH Research Assistance

State marine conservation specialist, David Nichols, is nearing completion of all the procurement paperwork for the last winter season of SPLASH research here in the MHI. Assuming all things go according to plan, seven teams will be contracted to conduct biopsy sampling and fluke ID photography around the state. This work is being conducted with technical oversight from David Mattila, sanctuary science and rescue coordinator, and administered by DLNR with NOAA NMSP contract funding.

Other Research Activities

Big Island coordinator, Justin Viezbicke, has been working with Kula Na`ia (a local NGO) and staff from Kaloko-Honokohau National Historical Park in recording ambient ocean sounds in the waters just off the park. The activity involves deploying a hydrophone recorder off the sanctuary's combat inflatable boat to document the existing "soundscape" of the area. This project is being conducted with funding from the National Park Service.

From September 16 through October 6, marine conservation specialist, David Nichols, served as scientific crew and web page cruise log reporter aboard the NOAA ship R/V Hi'ialakai on its' Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Program (RAMP) research cruise to assess and monitor marine life at numerous locations throughout the NWHI CRER. Check out David's interesting and often hilarious cruise log entries at: <http://www.hawaiianatolls.org/research/NWHIRAMP2005/index.php>.

US FWS Grant for State Aquatic Wildlife Conservation Strategy

The state's comprehensive wildlife conservation strategy was officially accepted by the US FWS in early December 2005. The state sanctuary office administered the development of the aquatic wildlife component of the strategy, which includes conservation strategies for marine mammals and sea turtles, as well as a wide variety of marine and freshwater vertebrates and invertebrates. The strategy can be viewed at the following URL: <http://www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/cwcs/index.html>

Other Activities, Meetings, Etc.

- 1) September 9 – Walters attended BLNR meeting and obtained board approval to extend USFWS-funded SWG project.

- 2) September 14 – Walters and Nichols attended meeting with Peter Young, State Deputy Attorney General and other staff re various legal issues facing the DAR and the state sanctuary program.
- 3) September 16 – Walters attended DOBOR-sponsored inter-agency meeting re Lahaina harbor improvements.
- 4) September 23 – Walters and Viezbicke attended BLNR meeting in Kona re proposed rules for Kealakekua Bay.
- 5) September 29 – Walters joined Naomi McIntosh, Allen Tom, Athline Clark and others in the Governor’s Chambers for the signing of the state’s new NWHI refuge rules.
- 6) September 30 – Walters briefed new DAR Administrator, Dr. Dan Polhemus, on the state’s HIHWNMS co-management program and other activities.
- 7) October 7 – Walters met with WESPAC staff and other fishery management plan team chairs re new fishery ecosystem management plans.
- 8) October 10 – 12 – Walters joined Paul Wong at NMSP workforce assessment focus group / workshop in San Francisco.
- 9) October 13 – Walters chaired joint fishery management plan team meeting re new WESPAC fishery ecosystem plans (FEP’s) for Hawaii and other US Pacific fisheries.
- 10) October 14 – Walters joined other DAR staff in meeting with Dan Polhemus re WESPAC FEP’s.
- 11) October 15 – Viezbicke completed the Ironman Triathlon.
- 12) October 17 – 21 – Viezbicke, Nichols, Walters and other sanctuary staff completed NOAA 40 hr basic boating and seamanship course.
- 13) October 26 – Viezbicke, Nichols, Olry and Walters met for a day-long “state sanctuary team” meeting.
- 14) October 31 – Nichols and Walters joined other sanctuary and NMFS staff in whale disentanglement preparation meeting.
- 15) November 1 – Walters met with other DAR staff and managers re improving travel procurement procedures.
- 16) November 3 – Walters and Olry met with NMFS staff re monk seal conservation activities on Kauai.
- 17) November 9 – Walters and Viezbicke attended sanctuary leadership team meeting re upcoming projects, budgets and other issues.
- 18) November 14 – Walters met with Dan Polhemus re status of USFWS-funded Hawaii comprehensive wildlife strategy.
- 19) November 28 – Walters joined other DAR staff in meeting with Peter Young re new proposed state gill/lay net rules.
- 20) November 30 – Walters joined other state and federal staff re human-sea turtle interaction issues at Laniakea, North Shore Oahu.
- 21) December 1-2 – Walters and Viezbicke attended SAC retreat.

cc: Peter T. Young, DLNR Chairperson
 Robert K. Masuda, DLNR Deputy Director
 Dan Polhemus, DLNR-DAR Administrator
 Allen Tom, NMSP Pacific Islands Regional Coordinator
 Naomi McIntosh, Sanctuary Manager

Attachment 5

Education Committee Report 5 January 2006 Jeanne Russell, Chair

On January 5, 2006, a conference call was held with Keeley Belva, Chris Brammer, Terry O'Halloran, Naomi McIntosh, Jean Souza, Jeanne Russell, Patty Miller, and Sara Peck.

Discussion Topics:

- Sanctuary activities update
 - Education Grant—Patty is working on a budget to allocate the funding from the grant and developing a work plan. She explained a little bit about the goals of the project and how she is working closely with the Department of Education (see attached).
 - Naturalist Training—12 sessions were completed in October. Maui is hoping to have another session during the spring and the Sanctuary is looking at implementing the program on all islands.
- Sanctuary Issues Plan—The staff explained that it is still a working document and is being fleshed out. Keeley added education and outreach activities into the education portion of the document.
- Evaluation of existing programs—This is still being considered but is budget dependent.
- The group discussed various fundraising activities. Jean Souza mentioned lecture series were especially hit hard on neighboring islands due to budget cuts. Chris obtained extra funding from tee-shirt sales for Ocean Count through donations made to the Foundation. More resources like this need to be explored.
- Other
 - Sara announced that Coral Reef Awareness Day would be held in Kona on April 22.

Action Items:

- Education Grant—Patty will send a summary to Keeley and Jeanne to add into the committee's report.
- Sanctuary Issues Plan—Provide an update at the January SAC meeting on how this document has progressed.
- A request was made to staff to compile a wish list and email it to Naomi and cc Jeanne.
- Each staff member was asked to present an update of the highlights and/or direction for the coming season.

Previous Action Items:

- Education Cruise Letter—The letter was approved by the SAC at the December meeting and will be distributed as soon as possible.
- Other Species Activities Matrix—COMPLETED
- Budget Presentation—The committee requested an update on what budget priorities (specifically relating to education) were proposed for FY06- more

specifically a list of activities, who are the leads, % of budget allocation and % of staff time.

- There will be a budget update at the January SAC meeting.

Next Meeting:

February 2, 9:30am via conference call.

Attachment 6

**Hawaii Island County Report
22 June 2006
Sara Peck, Representative**

Accomplishments:

1. Two ReefTalks was held in West Hawaii in Nov: Nov 10: Dr. Eric Grossman of USGS re water quality research in collaboration with Sallie Beavers of the NPS, Kaloko Honokohau National Historic Park. Nov 15: Keiko Bonk discussed designation of the NW Hawaiian Islands; the need therein.
2. Two Kawaihae Local Resource Council Meetings were held, one in Nov. one in Dec. Major topic of concern about the Super Ferry and increased commercial traffic generated by water bottling companies and population growth on the Big Island.
3. Held 2 ReefWatcher trainings in Hilo and updated for trained people..

Events Attended: All of the above listed under Accomplishments.

- >Two West Hawaii Fishery Council (WHFC) meetings, Nov and Dec..
- > Advisory Board Meetings for the Kona Soil and Water District, Kaupulehu Marine Advisory, Reef Fund, Chamber of Commerce Environmental Committee.
- > November 18th the Kona Kohala Chamber of Commerce Environment and Natural Resources Committee hosted an unexpectedly well attended Environment and Natural Resources Conference. Over 120 people attended representing a broad range of stakeholders. This surprise showing supports the notion that the public wants to take action to build communities and businesses that retain quality of life and environmental integrity.

Hot Topics:

WHFC: HAR Rule Package Follow-Up. Spear Fishing with SCUBA
Kawaihae LRC and Big Island West Side: Super Ferry, Kawaihae Harbor Plans
West Hawaii In General: Traffic, rapid development/expansion lacking infrastructure to support the fast-paced changes.

Announcements:

- > Sixth Annual Coral Reef Awareness Day on Earth Day, April 22, 2006 at Kahalu'u Beach Park 10am to 2pm. Fun and Games for Families.

Next Water Quality Group meeting in Hilo

January 12th from 6-8 PM in Hale Aloha. Dr. Bob Nishimoto with Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) will be giving a talk titled:

- > Hilo Harbor, Wailoa River and Waiakea Pond: A potpourri of fishery challenges.

>

The DAR recently published a draft document titled: "Getting involved in caring for Hawaii's coastal resources: a community guidebook." It is an excellent resource. It is on the DAR web site at

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<<http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/announce.htm#guidebook>><http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/announce.htm#guidebook>><http://www.hawaii.gov/dlnr/dar/announce.htm#guidebook>.

>

> DAR is seeking comments and input on this guidebook that provides individuals and communities with ideas, examples and resources on how to get involved in marine stewardship projects.

> Topics include: how to get your community organized, awareness/outreach projects, observation and voluntary compliance, monitoring, and other ways to get involved. Appendices include case study examples of other community projects in Hawai'i, funding, and other resources. Comments should be sent to Jill Komoto at <<mailto:jill.l.komoto@hawaii.gov>>jill.l.komoto@hawaii.gov.

> The posted deadline is December 31 but it is expected that DAR will accept comments after that date since it is in the middle of major holidays.