



Maritime Heritage Working Group

Meeting Agenda

Date: 07/11/11

Start Time: 03:00 PM

End Time: 04:00 PM

Meeting Method: Conference Call and go-to-meeting format – We welcome public participation, please contact Brenda Asuncion at Brenda.Asuncion@noaa.gov for more information.

Meeting Objective: Continue discussion of maritime heritage resources: review bullet-point summary of prior meeting minutes (below) for potential inventory and research, outreach and education, and resource protection draft recommendations.

Agenda

General:

- Partnerships can help identify resources and issues (HIRSA on other islands). Island-wide perspectives are important.
- Recognize the need to share information, be inclusive of other non-maritime heritage groups (such as fishermen)
- Identify how human remains (which may be encountered) are handled for underwater sites.

Inventory and Research:

- Defining the resource: emphasis is on multicultural approach, resources reflect submerged seafaring/marine/nautical activities. There can be some overlap with Native Hawaiian cultural resources, these areas must be identified and handled with sensitivity. When resources of cultural heritage significance are noted, communicate/work collaboratively with Native Hawaiian Working Group. Respect culture and history, and the variety of heritage information. Discuss broader resource heritage issues with NHWG.
- Do not limit resource to “50 years or older” (too arbitrary). Consider more recent resources of historical value as well. Vessels intentionally sunk (ie artificial reefs) may have a historical component too, should not be left out.



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- Current “baseline” information still needs to be completed. Gather all existing information on maritime heritage resources within boundaries (multiple sources such as NOAA fisheries, Hawaii Undersea Research Lab, Army Corps of Engineers, State Historic Preservation Division, Bishop Museum, NPS, Kepa Maly, others). ACOE has large interest in the cultural resource field. Document-based inventory will support prioritization/evaluation of resources. Some of this data will be sensitive, need to be protected (see “Resource Protection” below). Prioritization will indicate which sites warrant field assessment.
- Following field assessment of priority sites, periodic monitoring of these sites must be conducted to determine impacts or change over time. This may be a role for trained sport divers/clubs. (Sanctuary can provide Heritage Awareness Diving Course, Nautical Archaeology Society diving course.)
- The inventory and assessment of maritime heritage resource sites (some of which has begun opportunistically) should be formally supported. There should be support for this, however that support should not threaten or compete with priority conservation goals like Humpback whales. Cost-saving measures and partnerships should be pursued (ORISE, JPAC, etc).
- Also recognize the importance of maritime heritage sites to the scientific community, including biodiversity and ecosystem issues, impact and benthic surveys, etc.

Outreach and Education:

- Highlight the potential educational (youth groups) and socio-economic (recreational dive industry) benefits for maritime heritage resources in Hawaii. Note: “recreational” includes commercial sport diving operations.
- Assess the statewide contribution of maritime heritage diving sites to the recreational diving industry.
- Incorporate maritime heritage into existing sanctuary education and outreach efforts. Also create specific maritime heritage materials (brochures, posters, etc.).
- Increasing awareness of the resource by engaging sport diving community. This can be done via dive clubs, u/w photo clubs, “adopt-a-wreck” programs, NAS courses, heritage trails, etc
- Work awareness of heritage preservation laws and guidelines into the education and outreach efforts.



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Protection:

- Emphasize/endorse the existing state and federal heritage preservation laws. Maritime properties underwater should be giving the same level of protection as heritage properties on land.
- Increasing awareness of the resource is the best way to create protection for wrecks. Engage sport diving community to help protect wrecks (become stewards) a good method for protection of the resource.
- Need to identify and take steps to preserve historic shipwreck sites under Sanctuary's ownership or control. Examples of protection might be ways to stabilize and preserve historic shipwrecks in place, or recording and recovering sites when preservation in place is not possible.
- Consider the use of mooring sites at specific diving locations like those with existing high-use (protects resource from anchor damage). But, moorings can also have negative impacts as well due to increased visitation.
- NHPA sec304 provides a starting place for sanctuary policy protecting sensitive sites (prohibits release of information if such release would be damaging to the resource). Transparency and responsible public access to public resources is the ideal, but the sanctuary should not release sensitive information as per sec304. Federal agencies are under statutory regulation not to disclose locations of sensitive sites.
- Identify site sensitivity (ie sites that are publically known vs. sites that are relatively unknown; sites that are state property vs. sites that are naval/federal property). Publicly known sites are suitable for the public inventory; other sites may not be.
- Adopt a maritime heritage sanctuary regulation (as per example of the existing maritime heritage regulation throughout the sanctuary system, previously distributed) for the protection of heritage resources: ie prohibited or otherwise regulated activity... "moving, removing, injuring, or possessing a historical resource, or attempting to move, remove, injure, or possess a historical resource."