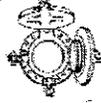
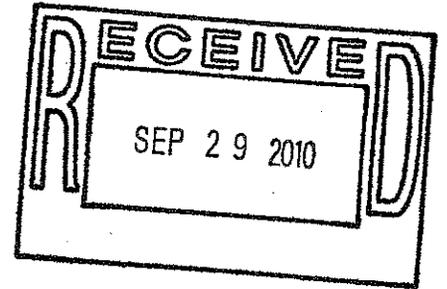


SANDWICH ISLAND



SHIPWRECK MUSEUM



MARITIME RESEARCH FOR THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
P.O. BOX 727, HALEIWA, HAWAII, 96712

Aloha,

August 29, 2010

The letter of comment I submitted on the 27th, expressed concerns of the expansion of N.O.A.A.'s authority in Hawaiian waters. What it failed to do was acknowledge the good work already being done by N.O.A.A. staff in this area.

The most daunting task, of conducting archaeological investigations on the more remote reefs of the Northwest Hawaiian Islands and sharing that information with the general public, has been admirable. With limited budgets and space aboard research vessels, Drs. Gleason and Van Tillberg with their colleagues have managed to locate, map, and extract a few diagnostic artifacts from previously un-recorded shipwreck sites. More importantly they have used television and print media, posters, and many public venues to share the wealth of information they are gathering.

My solitary complaint, in this area, remains the fact that there is no set of procedures in place for "civilians" to access the Papahānaumokuākea Marine Sanctuary. An analogy might be to say that the finest film maker can never express the grandeur felt when one visits our National Parks in person.

N.O.A.A.'s support of the University of Hawaii's Marine Option Program's summer field school's courses in maritime archaeological techniques has not only provided training in this field, but again has helped develop interest in our maritime history amongst the general public. The same can be said for N.O.A.A.'s coordination with the annual MAHHI Conferences on Maritime Archaeology and History in the Hawaiian Islands (and elsewhere).

One sentence in my previous letter may be misinterpreted to indicate that N.O.A.A.'s researchers relied on others' research rather than their own. This is not at all the case. They have indeed sought information from many sources, but have always acknowledged donors, usually after augmenting the information and sharing it with all interested parties...at least in Hawaii.

Successful Marine Sanctuaries such as that at Thunder Bay may serve as models for the type of rule-making and use of submerged sites in our waters as well. Engaging the diving community will certainly be more beneficial than excluding them from sites as has been the policy in some places.

While I applaud N.O.A.A.'s current effort to gather comments from the general public, I remain leery of government expansion in Hawaiian Waters.

Sincerely,

Captain Richard W. Rogers
President and Chief Investigator
Sandwich Island Shipwreck Museum