



## University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

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September 15, 2010

Allen Tom, Acting Sanctuary Manager and Regional Director  
NOAA ONMS Pacific Islands Regional Office  
726 South Kihei Road  
Kihei, HI 96753

Dear Allen:

It has come to my attention that the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary will be reviewing its management plan in the near future. As part of this review we request that "maritime heritage resources" (specifically shipwrecks and sunken aircraft) be added to the management plan. As you know, the Hawaii Undersea Research Laboratory (HURL) has worked for many years documenting these resources with our submersibles in Hawaiian waters. Some of these resources are truly underwater treasures. Such resources benefit most from being included in archaeological inventories.

The sanctuary program has a clear mandate for ocean stewardship. Part of this stewardship must include, where appropriate, the responsible preservation and protection of submerged cultural resources of significant value. I think particularly of HURL's find in 2002 of the Japanese midget submarine that led the December 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor. This wreck is now the focus of a multi-agency preservation and management plan. However, there are many more maritime heritage resources. The sunken military wrecks off Hawaii have been the subject of two major television documentaries in the last year (National Geographic and Nova). These resources are of growing importance as we use them to document and understand our past. Many schooners and other wrecks from Hawaii's whaling past remain to be found. There are large numbers of sunken aircraft wrecks from many eras.

The Hawaii Undersea Research Lab remains committed to the documentation and investigation of cultural resources. We have the tools to continue this task and we look forward to working even more closely with the sanctuary to improve our contribution. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this important topic.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Wiltshire".

John C. Wiltshire, Ph.D.  
Director

Cc: Dr. John R. Smith, HURL