

From Olayvars <Olayvar@earthlink.net>
Sent Tuesday, October 5, 2010 2:30 pm
To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov
Subject With Regards to a Proposed NOAA Fishing Ban

I have been a conservationist all my life, I am occasionally a recreational/subsistence fishermen and free diver. As a child my grandparents and parents educated me on the need to protect and preserve our sustainable resources. I believe in the need for this humpback whale sanctuary, I also believe in the need to protect other resources such as Sea Turtles and Monk Seals, coral reefs and other threatened aquatic resources, God knows nearly everything that lives in, on, over, and near the sea is threatened in some way shape or form. We must be proactive in preventing these threats to our resources.

With this said.

By prohibiting controlled and managed harvesting of resources from within these sanctuaries, and by selecting other shoreline and near-shore coastal areas as critical habitat thereby prohibiting recreational or subsistence or some commercial harvesting of aquatic resources I believe in my opinion: Prohibiting fishing or spear fishing here in Hawaii will create a scenario that will be extremely difficult if not dangerous for enforcement officers to manage and assure public compliance with any NEW statute created.

We have laws that currently exist such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act & Endangered Species Act that enforcement personnel have difficulty enforcing as it is and you want to create more statutes and restrictions. As I mentioned in the above paragraph I have been a fishermen and diver all my life, I am very familiar with the fishing community commercial, recreational and subsistence fishermen.

I have yet to have met a fishermen who's had an issue with Humpback Whales, from my personal observation and experience; recreational boaters, tour-boats, para-sailing vessels, jet skis & kayakers are the primary compromisers and violators of any statute associated with Humpback Whales or other Marine Mammals. The majority of entanglement material Humpback whales are exposed to are from the Northern Pacific Waters.

The last thing any fishermen here in Hawaii desires while fishing is to get near a Humpback Whale.....it doesn't add up?.

R/S
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