

From Tony Costa <tony@pop-hawaii.com>   
Sent Wednesday, October 13, 2010 7:39 am  
To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov  
Subject Testimony in OPPOSITION to the boundary expansion of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the inclusion of other species within this sanctuary.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Dear Management Plan Review Coordinator,

Please consider my following testimony in OPPOSITION to the boundary expansion of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the inclusion of other species within this sanctuary.

1. Sanctuary boundaries cordon off a specific area unrecognized by whales for purposes of highlighting the humpback whale and their protection. Only humans acknowledge these boundaries with zeal, fanfare and dollars. It should be noted that the whales survival and rebound was as a result of the cessation of commercial whaling and it should also be noted that the existence of the humpback whale sanctuary not only draw lines on maps but also draws attention, whale watching, and human impacts to whales not experienced before the sanctuaries were written and highlighted. From a whale protection standpoint, there is no need for the sanctuary boundary – as unrelenting ships/traffic still can pass through and cause strikes and propping injuries to whales.
2. The inclusion of other species to the sanctuary is similarly not needed. Adding other species that are already protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA) or the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and creating a sanctuary for them is duplicative & unnecessary.
3. Public education and outreach should however continue to further protect and conserve endangered species. I believe the public education and outreach can be realized without boundaries in the sand that may have un-intended consequences and or defacto prohibitions for fishermen, and other ocean users.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Tony Costa  
Hawaii Nearshore Fishermen  
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