

From Frank Farm <farm@htchawaii.com>



Sent Thursday, October 14, 2010 2:47 pm
To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov
Subject Against expansion HHHWNMS and inclusion of other species within sanctuary.

To whom it may concern:

I am against any boundary expansion to the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary. The Humpback whale has enjoyed evident recovery in population, etc. over the years with the existing boundaries and other restrictions related to whaling. There is no real need for any further expansion to sanctuary boundaries other than to further restrict mariners, fishers, etc. and will in turn provide 'priority arenas' for more human activity such as whale watching, research dollars/projects and these may not necessarily be beneficial to the whales per se.

The HHHWNMS was created specifically for the Humpback whale and should NOT be utilized to further increase activity within the sanctuary by adding other species that has potential of more restrictions in the future. It does not make realistic sense to just include other species in an area specifically designated for Humpbacks. Again, this appears to be an effort to reserve large areas for future select endeavors without specific considerations and benefits to the species and to the possible detriment of fishers and other mariners. If anything, consideration should be given to possibly reduce or eliminate the current sanctuary or its boundaries as relates to the Humpbacks. The designation may have outlived its true value and the Humpbacks will continue to benefit due to the restrictions on whaling and the education of mariners, all without boundaries that the whales do not recognize.

Sincerely,
Frank Farm Jr.

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October 14, 2010