

From Phil Fernandez <phil@philfernandez.com> ▶  
Sent Thursday, September 16, 2010 3:36 pm  
To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov  
Subject Comments for the management plan review

I provide the following comments as a recreational fisherman, a commercial fisherman, and a shoreline user of the Big Island.

- 1) The name of the sanctuary should be changed to Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and the reference to Humpback Whales should be dropped.
- 2) Before any additional species are added to the sanctuary's mission, the sanctuary should assure the public that duplicative effort is not being made, i.e. if monk seals are already protected by State of Hawaii agencies, then let the state do its job, do not duplicate effort.
- 3) If the boundaries of the sanctuary has been a success factor in the increase in number and health of humpback whales, then there is no need for change. If it ain't broke, don't fit it.
- 4) There is no need for additional regulations if the current regulations are not being enforced. However, new federal powers may be necessary to expand the sanctuary's powers to prevent discharge of pollutants into sanctuary waters from sources outside of the sanctuary. Budget and manpower for enforcement should be a priority, not an afterthought.
- 5) Outreach to user groups and stakeholders should be custom tailored to each user group or stakeholder. Pick the top 5 user groups/stakeholders and generate newsletters that address specific concerns of those stakeholders. If the sanctuary generates 2 newsletters per year for 5 stakeholder groups, that is 10 newsletters. That is not much to ask for. Example one each targeted newsletter for (1) fishermen, (2) ocean recreation, (3) Native Hawaiian culture, (4) education, (5) tourism.
- 6) The sanctuary should take a lead role in addressing aquaculture, energy projects, and any new uses of the ocean floor, shoreline, and waters within its boundaries. In addressing new uses, the sanctuary should not restrict traditional uses (i.e. fishing, boating, and other traditional ocean activities) in favor of new uses.
- 7) Whenever possible the management plan should delineate qualitative and quantitative metrics for each management plan goal that is set, so that failure or success can be measured against the goal metrics.

Phil Fernandez  
