

From Joel Miyashiro <joelmiyashiro@yahoo.com>  
Sent Friday, October 15, 2010 11:52 pm  
To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov  
Subject Fw:



--- On Sat, 10/16/10, Alia Miyashiro <alia\_maliana69@yahoo.com> wrote:

From: Alia Miyashiro <alia\_maliana69@yahoo.com>  
Subject:  
To: "joel miyashiro" <joelmiyashiro@yahoo.com>  
Date: Saturday, October 16, 2010, 7:54 AM

To: Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)

Regarding: Expansion of the Humpback Whale Sanctuary

Name: Joel Puuwai Miyashiro Sr.

Contact information: [REDACTED]  
E-mail: joelmiyashiro@yahoo.com

Date: 15, October, 2010

Island: Kauai

I am part Hawaiian and was born and reared on the island of Kauai. I use our ocean as my ancestors have done for generations. I fish for sustenance, surf for therapy and recreation and paddle canoe for recreation and sport.

I feel if the proposed whale sanctuary expansion is allowed, it would take away my ancestral right to use the ocean as my ancestors have done. It may not happen immediately, but slowly by slowly NOAA will add on further restrictions, and eventually, access to our beloved ocean will be none existent, except with permits by NOAA or another government agency like maybe DAR or the DLNR. We (the locals) are the true stewards of our shorelines, reefs, oceans and fisheries and appreciate NOAA trying to "help" us locals with our fisheries and certain specific chosen species, but when we see a need for outside assistance, we will call for an "open" and "well advertised" public forum to get the most information from our local stewards and probably invite other entities like NOAA, DAR, DLNR, commercial fishermen and even commercial ocean users.

The whales have shown a 6% yearly increase in population since the existing sanctuary began. Through education and policing of the sanctuary (mainly from commercial and recreational fishermen and touring companies) accidents involving whales is very minimal. In fact when compared to the amount of tours conducted for tourists and the usage by commercial and recreational fishermen annually, Accidents are practically non-existent.

The green sea turtle is also thriving since the ban was put into effect years ago. To the point that they pose a threat to human life. Sharks feed on turtles are there is an abundance of turtles near the shoreline encompassing the entire island. I know this for a fact because I fish along the shores of all accessible shorelines and see turtles of all sizes, too numerous to count, on every shore, be it sandy or rocky, calm or rough. The boaters tell me of the many turtles seen in unaccessible shores. In fact it would probably be wise to lift the ban and place a bag limit or size limitation or something like that to alleviate the hazard of possible shark attack on humans.

The hawaiian monk seal is not indemnic to Hawaii and play a vital part in our eco system. It is proven that they eat a lot of the species that are supposedly becoming less in population. The hawaiian monk seal is an introduced species and if protected by including it in the proposed expansion of the whale sanctuary, there will surely be an imbalance to our fisheries in the future.

Our coral reefs are being damaged by improper grubbing and grading of coastal lands, run off of non regulated pollutants and by introduced species of invasive seaweed and fishes. Less than 1% is due to direct contact by local recreation fishermen using nets, fishing lines or diving, surfing, body surfing or any other means of recreation or sustenance gathering. The issue regarding our reef and coral system and species is directly related to coastal property owners. Be it private or commercial properties that are not being policed by NOAA, DLNR, DAR or any other governmental agency, be it on the county, state or federal level. There should be an annual or at least bi-annual study done on coastal properties and their affects on our reefs and coral species.

Dolphins in our immediate waters surrounding Hawaii, are thriving in numbers according to commercial and recreation fishermen as well as recreational kayakers.

The speed of an ocean vessel will do, in my opinion, nothing to avoid an encounter with a whale. Whales breach the ocean surface when they need to breath, and that moment is very unpredictable. The equipment installed on vessels are extremely high tech very sensitive to movement around the vessels and an actual impact is highly unlikely.

An international ban on commercial whaling is the only way to ensure protection for ALL species of whales. An expansion for the whale sanctuary in Hawaii is far from the answer to the existence of whales in general.

Our local waters are a vital part of our Hawaiian culture and a major part of our very existence, and if the proposed whale expansion sanctuary is allowed, we WILL lose our "ancestral rite" to enjoy our local waters for sustenance and recreation.

I propose the existing sanctuary be maintained and adhered to in its present form. There is no realistic need for any addition or expansion of the sanctuary.

Mahalo in advance for making the "right" decision, to drop the thought of or proposition to, and pursuit towards the expansion for the whale sanctuary.

Joel Puuwai Miyashiro Sr.

Kauai, Hawaii