

From John Stern <jstern1028@gmail.com>
Sent Saturday, October 16, 2010 10:08 am
To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov
Subject My comments



October 16, 2010

Management Plan Review Coordinator
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

To Whom it May Concern:

The following are my personal comments and desires on the MPR:

1. Take a strong stand against commercial factory fishing
2. Coordinate a statewide ban against aquarium fish extraction
3. **NEED TO RE-ORGANIZE AND RE-DIRECT PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES:** Based on the responsibilities stated in the Mission Statement, and the tasks described above, the Sanctuary Management Plan must also address re-organization and re-direction of personnel and resources to create an operational management structure that can fulfill its duties for all the Hawaiian Island sanctuaries.
4. The Sanctuary should fund water quality monitoring and strict laws to stop sewage dumping, pesticide and chemical runoff.
5. The Sanctuary should work on strong laws to have all nets identifiable and hold fishers' liable for derelict nets, and a reward for boaters who collect stray nets.
6. Other sanctuaries have speed limits so now is the time for this sanctuary to change this by establishing laws for a speed limit of 13 knots during whale season. These laws should include strict enforcement for vessels hitting whales or going over the speed limit.
7. The Sanctuary should limit all sonar activity during whale season and to comply with NOAA noise policies to prevent or mitigate acoustic impacts to whales
8. Have thesanctuary expand the boundaries to include all whale habitat areas especially around Kauai and Ni'ihou and help pass **strong laws for enforcement of existing and future laws.**

9. Marine reserves have proven to be highly effective in re-establishing healthy fish populations. The conservation areas in Hawaii amount to less than 1 % of entire coastline.

These protected areas have been proven worldwide to re-establish healthy fish populations and reef habitat. It involves TEMPORARY "no take" of specific areas, which in a matter of 18 months BENEFIT fishermen and all marine life. There are no Marine Conservation Areas on Kauai. The sanctuary should help protect reef habitat and establish "No Take" Marine Conservation Areas on Kauai.

10. The Sanctuary should also investigate measures necessary to protect whales in the Northwest Hawai'ian Islands National Monument (NHINM). The management plan should include research on this topic and result in recommendations and a way forward for protecting humpback whales and associated species in Papahanaumokua'kea.
11. In regards to the proposal to expand the sanctuary to include dolphins, sea turtles, etc.: Before doing this, show a successful track record with the whales. The numbers *do not* show that this is the case. Whales are a focal point for the ocean as a whole because they are so visible in so many ways - we don't need other focal points at this time. Once this (success with whales) is accomplished, or some other measure of success is met, then and only then would it be appropriate to discuss expansion.

Thank you ,
John Stern
Kapaa, Hawaii