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Sent Saturday, October 16, 2010 11:47 am

To hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov

Cc Hans Van Tilburg <Hans.VanTilburg@noaa.gov>

Subject Hawaiian Humpback Sanctuary and Shipwrecks

hihwmanagementplan@noaa.gov,

After working with Dr. Hans Van Tilburg in Hawaii this summer, i have come to realize how important the hawaiian culture is to those who live throughout the pacific islands region. Being a strong supporter of what the sanctuary program does with our nations resources, I feel it is important to add another voice to those that would like to include shipwreck preservation to the sanctuary efforts. Not only do we learn about the history, the culture, and the societies that these shipwrecks have come from, we have a site which actively shows how little we really know. The shipwrecks that have been found, even those that have yet to be discovered should become an essential part of the hawaiian humpback sanctuary. We need to expand our base, expand our knowledge of the unknown, and continue to explore the cultural and historical references that shipwreck can provide. They are an important puzzle piece that should not be left out and would need to be preserved, if they are in fact, in danger. As a possible future NOAA employee, I can only see benefit in expanding our search and understanding of the history that currently surrounds the hawaiian islands, and suggest that we continue to develop the awareness that these amazing sites can provide. While looking at the humpback sanctuary, I feel that NOAA should add shipwrecks and expand the sanctuary for the protection of whales, but also our past.

I hope that this helps

Harrison Zimmer

NOAA Ernest F. Holling's Scholar 2009

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