

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thursday, September 7, 2000
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Honolulu International Airport
Interisland Terminal Conference Rooms, 7th Floor

Final Meeting Minutes

Attendance

SAC Members Present: Sallie Beavers, Hannah Bernard, Athline Clark, James Coon, Margaret Dupree, Bill Friedl, Eric Gilman, Isaac Harp, June Harrigan Lum, Lou Herman, Bill Lennan, Craig MacDonald, Charles Maxwell, Patty Miller, Dick Poirier, Carrie Robertson, Bob Schroeder, Glenn Soma, Mike Stanton, Mike Tosatto.

SAC Alternates Present: Lunakanawai Hauanio, David Hoffman, Wallace Patch, Jon Van Dyke, Reginald White.

Excused: Louis Agard, Walter Haas, Jeff Kalbach, Greg Kaufman, Jack Laufer, Teri Leicher, Paul Lucas, Paul Nachtigall, Claud Sutcliffe.

Others Present:

NOAA: Chris Brammer, Claire Cappelle, Kelvin Char, Naomi McIntosh, Jean Souza.

STATE OF HAWAII: Liza Simon, Jeff Walters.

PUBLIC: Ed Laws (UH Oceanography Dept.), Joe Mobley (NPAL Program), Wendy Wiltse (EPA).

Distributed Materials

- Meeting Agenda
- SAC Final Meeting Minutes (5/18/00)
- SAC Evaluation
- MPA Executive Order
- SSE Website pages
- International Marine Debris Conference Issue paper document
- International Marine Debris Conference Program
- Sanctuary website address sheet with list of available International Marine Debris Conference information
- Environmental Education in Hawai'i: Looking to the Future
- Sanctuary Lecture Series Brochure (Sept '00 – March '01)

Welcoming Remarks

SAC Chair Hannah Bernard called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Ms. Bernard welcomed everyone and announced changes to the agenda. She introduced Joe Mobley who was available to answer questions about the NPAL project.

Introduction of New SAC Members & Alternates

All meeting participants introduced themselves and identified their position on the SAC. Twelve people were excused from the meeting.

NPAL Program Discussion

Joe Mobley from the University of Hawaii – West Oahu was present to answer questions relating to the NPAL project (previously known as ATOC). The SAC Research and Conservation Committees have both provided comments on the ATOC project, which is presently in the process of being renewed. Ms. Bernard noted that these comments were made a year ago and should therefore be reviewed and updated. Lou Herman provided a review of the report for new members. Jon Van Dyke requested a copy of the report.

Jeff Walters mentioned that DLNR has reviewed the draft statement and continues to have concerns regarding the project's impact on marine resources. DLNR has encouraged stepping up the marine mammal monitoring program. As a result, there will now be 8 aerial surveys rather than the proposed 4. At this time, Dr. Walters noted, DLNR does not have an objection to the Letter of Authorization for the project. Bill Lennan mentioned that a new core permit is not required because no new equipment will be installed. Jim Coon made a motion to move this issue back to the Conservation Committee for review so comments can be made by the September 25th deadline. The motion was approved unanimously.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 5/18/00

Ms. Bernard called for the approval of meeting minutes from May 18, 2000. Lou Herman requested that he be added to the Research Committee list. The minutes were then approved unanimously.

SAC Chair Report

SAC Chair Hannah Bernard welcomed everyone and deeply thanked old members for their participation and many accomplishments. She mentioned that a lot of bridge building has happened, many ties have been made, and the sanctuary has been successful at building a variety of relationships. The SAC must now become more focused on getting the sanctuary functional to serve community needs and protect the whales. The sanctuary awarded certificates of appreciation to outgoing members for their participation on the SAC.

Acting Sanctuary Manager Report

Acting Sanctuary Manager Naomi McIntosh thanked everyone that participated in the International Marine Debris Conference that was hosted by the sanctuary in August. The conference was a success and Ms. McIntosh announced that conference participants'

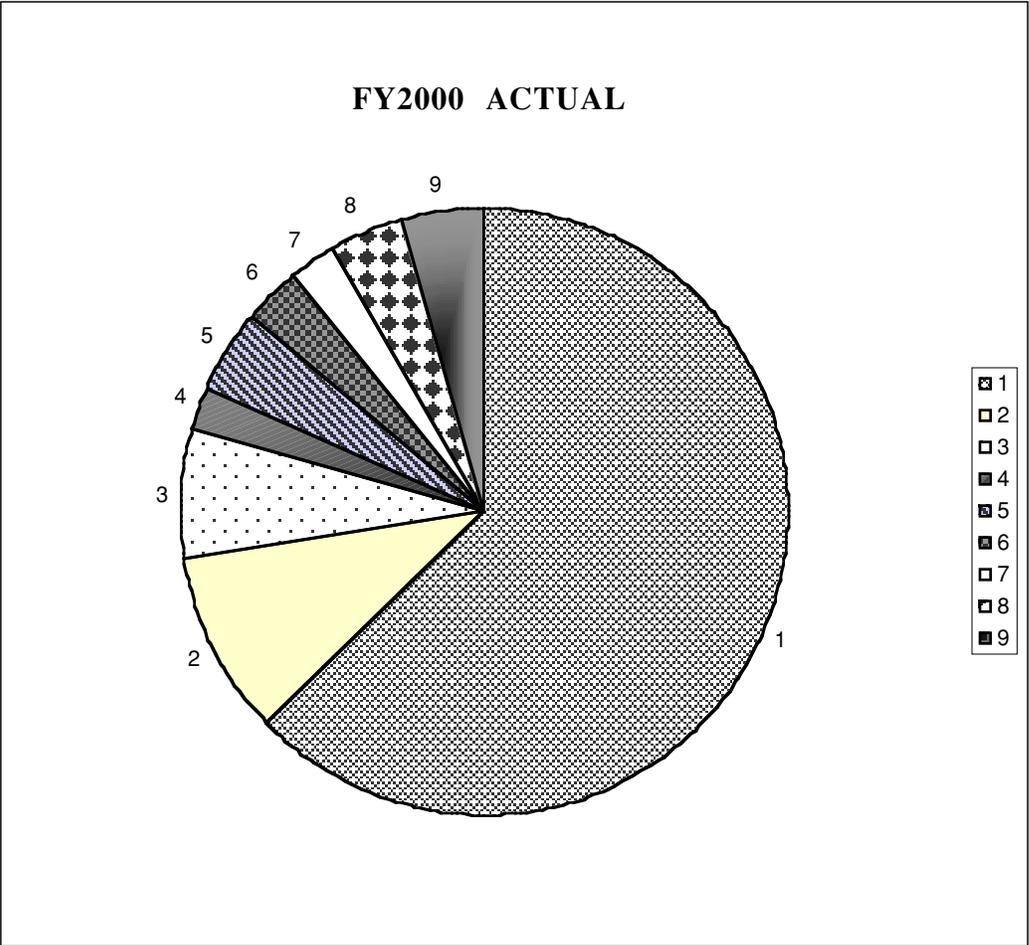
recommendations will soon be posted on the website. The staff is working on the proceedings and it should be completed in a few months.

Ms McIntosh reviewed a copy of the sanctuary's preliminary budget report for FY01. Members requested that they be given copies of the budget. Ms. Bernard also requested that Ms. McIntosh provide a budget comparison for previous years. Ms. McIntosh noted that she will include these figures with copies of the FY01 budget. For reference, actuals for the FY2000 sanctuary budget and proposed figures for the FY2001 budget are shown below.

HAWAII SANCTUARY ACTUALS

1 SUPPORT OPERATIONS	\$704	63%
2 STATE PARTNERSHIP	\$111	10%
3 RESEARCH	\$75	7%
4 ENFORCEMENT	\$26	2%
5 SAC	\$50	4%
6 HAWAIIAN CULTURE	\$36	3%
7 SUSTAINABLE SEAS	\$25	2%
8 EDUCATION & OUTREACH	\$44	4%
9 VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	\$51	5%
Total Base Budget:	<u>\$1,122</u>	

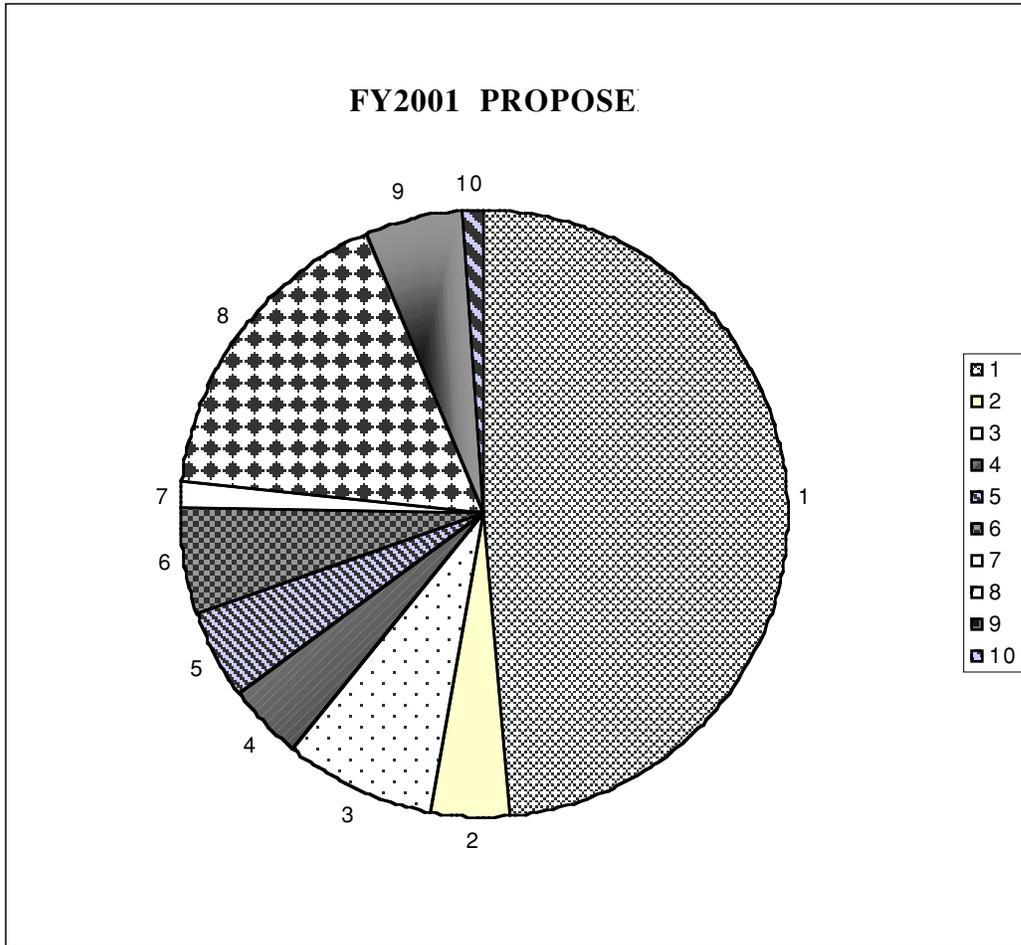
Amounts expressed in thousands



**HAWAII SANCTUARY
PROPOSED**

SUPPORT OPERATIONS	545	49%
STATE PARTNERSHIP	47	4%
RESEARCH	91	8%
ENFORCEMENT	46	4%
SAC	54	5%
HAWAIIAN CULTURE	61	5%
GIS	15	1%
EDUCATION & OUTREACH	191	17%
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM	61	5%
DAMAGE ASSESSMENT	11	1%
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Total Base Budget:	<u>\$1,122</u>	

Amounts expressed in thousands



Mr. Coon stated that the majority of money should be going to research and education and he requested that the SAC be allowed more involvement in the budget planning prior to finalization. Ms. McIntosh indicated that the new budget will be effective starting October 1, 2000. Bill Lennan stated that planning for FY 02 should begin January, 2000. Dr. Herman referred to the budget pie chart and noted that conservation was not identified in the budget. He stressed that conservation is primary to the function of the sanctuary. The issue was discussed further and Charles Maxwell made a motion that a budget line item be added for conservation. Motion carried. June Harrigan Lum made a motion that each committee provide an administrative budget proposal, including initiatives, for FY01. Motion carried.

Ms. McIntosh gave an update on the management plan review process and said that she and Dr. Walters will be attending a management plan review team meeting in Washington, DC later this month. They will receive an orientation on what the review entails and will also visit the Florida Keys Sanctuary and Channel Islands Sanctuary. She also informed the SAC that Dan Basta will be visiting Hawai'i to assist with the review. She mentioned the SAC members that have also agreed to help with the review process.

The Marine Protected Areas Executive Order for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands was discussed. She remarked that public visioning sessions have been held to discuss the fate of this area. One possibility is to turn it into a National Marine Sanctuary. The Department

of Commerce/NOAA and the Department of the Interior expect to provide a final recommendation to the President within one week.

Ms. McIntosh congratulated SAC member Craig MacDonald who was recently hired as the Superintendent of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary in Massachusetts. In other Sanctuary news, she mentioned that Margaret Davidson is now the Acting Administrative Assistant for the National Marine Sanctuaries Program. In addition, NOAA has been accepting applications for the Chief of the National Marine Sanctuaries Program position. Dan Basta, who has been serving as Acting Chief since January 2000, is an active candidate for the position. A selection is expected to be made by November. Ms. McIntosh also announced that the thirteenth National Marine Sanctuary was recently added to the program. The Thunder Bay Sanctuary in Michigan will be a co-managed sanctuary designated to protect shipwrecks.

Ms. McIntosh briefly discussed an upcoming meeting for SAC chairs and coordinators, to be held in Monterey, California. More information will be provided when received.

DOH Water Quality Project / TMDL Presentation

Ed Laws from the Oceanography Department at the University of Hawaii, presented findings from the 1997-1999 DOH Water Quality Project on Maui by Bernard and Mangel. He discussed the findings, implications and future actions. His final report is being drafted and copies will be submitted to the SAC for review and comment.

Mr. Maxwell made a motion that the SAC recommend continuation of the water quality (turbidity testing) studies. He further noted that the SAC should be concerned about what goes into the ocean and how it affects humpback whales. Motion carried.

State Co-Manager Report

Jeff Walters welcomed the new SAC members and alternates. He announced that Athline Clark will replace him as the voting member for DLNR. Dr. Walters will continue to attend meetings as the State Co-manager but will no longer be an official member of the SAC (just as the federal sanctuary manager is not an official member but is advised by them).

Dr. Walters discussed the International Marine Debris Conference and acknowledged Ms. McIntosh and the rest of the sanctuary staff for their hard work in planning and coordinating the conference.

Dr. Walters announced that he has been moving forward with his plans to acquire a sanctuary boat. Since the boat purchase was on the agenda as a separate item, he deferred further discussion. He also announced that the state has received two permit applications for humpback whale research.

Dr. Walters stated that he and DLNR Chairman Timothy Johns recently met with the Governor. In 2002 the Governor will have a chance to review and reauthorize the sanctuary program in state waters. He further noted that the Governor is presently inclined to support the sanctuary and views it as a way to focus marine research in Hawaii. At this time, the Governor is not considering a change to the boundaries, however, he is not opposed to making revisions that would make the sanctuary more effective.

SAC Roles and Responsibilities

Ms. McIntosh discussed the Sanctuary Advisory Council handbook that was given to all new members and alternates. The handbook includes background information on the sanctuary program and provides an explanation of SAC member roles and responsibilities. Ms. McIntosh indicated that she would like to see all members working closely with their alternates. She also stated that there are three standing committees (conservation, education and research). Anyone interested in participating in these committees should notify Christine Brammer at the O`ahu office. The SAC requested that an e-mail directory of members be made available.

SAC Research Committee Report

In Paul Nachtigall's absence, Ms. McIntosh described the role of the Research Committee, explaining that the group advises the Sanctuary Manager and the State Co-manager on research needs and activities. A list of permitted research studies in sanctuary waters was requested by the SAC.

Sanctuary Research Report

Claire Cappelle gave an overview of sanctuary research that was funded in the past year. Eight projects in all were funded at a total of approximately \$69,000. Ms. Cappelle also discussed the monthly lectures that are given at the Maui site's education center. She noted that this year, all researchers that were funded with sanctuary monies will be presenting a lecture at the education center. The lecture series schedule should be finalized in November. Some SAC members requested that lectures be given on other islands, particularly O`ahu.

State Administered Research Projects

Dr. Walters remarked that the state has approximately \$40,000 earmarked for research. At this time, the intention is to fund two or three projects directly related to the management plan. Bids will be accepted on the projects and proposals will be released after National Marine Fisheries Service has reviewed them.

Education Report

Patty Miller informed the SAC that she has been working on an evaluation of the educational projects and publications that have been done to date. She examined what has been done on each island and has formulated a plan for what still needs to be addressed. She further recommended that the SAC Education Committee draft a strategic plan for sanctuary education. Dr. Herman stated that what has been done so far is very impressive and Bill Lennan recognized that a tremendous amount of work has been done in the education area. He noted that there hasn't been a strategic plan in place to guide the way and to help identify who our target groups are.

Ms. Miller commended the sanctuary for the various projects it has initiated, but noted with frustration that the education committee has not been engaged in the decision-making. Ms. Bernard further noted that the sanctuary's educational products have not supported schools or boats with information on whales and suggested that an education coordinator should be

added to the sanctuary staff and a SAC Education Committee meeting should be convened. She supported Ms. Miller's sense of frustration with the lack of communication between the sanctuary staff and the SAC.

Conservation Report

Dr. Herman discussed the goals of the Conservation Committee and stated that the committee considers and makes recommendations on all matters within Sanctuary waters that may affect the health or well-being of the humpback whales, or that may impact or degrade their habitat. Dr. Herman discussed the issues that the Conservation Committee has prepared commentary on in the past year including the Hawaiian Shallow Water Testing Range, ATOC, LFA/SURTASS and CO2 sequestering. He discussed the fact that commentary was prepared expressing concern about the perceived shortcomings of the proposed CO2 experiment.

He noted that Walter Haas presented committee findings and information in Dr. Herman's absence at the last meeting, however, it was sent back to committee for further discussion. Dr. Herman expressed concern that the SAC has given insufficient attention and resources to conservation matters and it is his hope that this will be corrected and that a greatly increased portion of the SAC's attention will be directed toward conservation issues. Sallie Beavers stated that the deadline for comment on CO2 sequestering is September 8, 2000. Jim Coon made a motion that the SAC Chair send a letter about the SAC's reservations. Motion carried.

Maui County Report

Ms. Bernard and Maui County Sanctuary Liaison, Claire Cappelle, jointly presented the report on Maui activities. Ms. Bernard indicated that NPAL is currently the primary concern on Maui and she has heard from a number of constituents on this issue. She went on to note that she assisted the sanctuary with the marine debris conference and praised its success.

Ms. Cappelle stated that the next HEEA meeting will be held on Maui. She also announced that the Maui sanctuary site will be hosting an event with Maui Electric company to boost public awareness and provide information on the new solar energy system that has been installed at the Maui site. Ms. Cappelle also mentioned that a 10-year development plan is currently being considered for the buildings and grounds at the Maui site. At this time, only preliminary draft plans have been done, but copies can be provided to interested individuals.

Honolulu County Report

Bill Friedl reported on some of the Sanctuary activities taking place on O`ahu. Most recently, the International Marine Debris Conference took place at the Hawai`i Convention Center. Upcoming events include Careers on the Water as well as the Sanctuary User's Workshops. Mr. Friedl discussed the launching of the sanctuary website as well as the need for the SAC to become active in lobbying for budget increases.

Kaua`i County Report

Jean Souza gave the Kaua`i County report in Walter Haas' and Carl Berg's absence. Dr. Haas' provided a written report, which was handed out. The report commented on the recent monk seal pup births on Kaua`i. Ms. Souza also discussed Dr. Haas' idea to form smaller county SAC's and addressed his opinion that the SAC committees should meet more frequently.

Hawai`i County Report

Sallie Beavers announced that the West Hawai`i Fisheries Council is still working on gill netting rules. At this point, it is possible that gillnetting will be banned in all protected areas. Subsistence fishing may still be allowed in most places, but recommendations are still being finalized.

SAC Elections for Vice Chair & Secretary

Hannah Bernard announced the need to elect a new Vice Chair and Secretary due to Craig MacDonald leaving the SAC and recent changes in membership. Nominations for Vice Chair were opened and Charles Maxwell was nominated and elected. Nominations for Secretary were opened. Bill Friedl and Sallie Beavers were nominated. Mr. Friedl indicated that he was not interested in holding a seat. Nominations were closed and Sallie Beavers was unanimously elected as Secretary.

SAC Evaluation of Sanctuary Program

Ms. McIntosh distributed a SAC Evaluation form to current and past members. She stated that the questions on the evaluation were taken directly from the management plan and hoped that everyone would put a lot of thought into completing it. An email version will be made available. Ms. McIntosh stated that this is an internal document, but help may be available from headquarters if needed. Athline Clark recommended that a graduate level class assist in reading the evaluations. Lou Herman made a motion that an additional question be added to evaluate the conservation issues that the sanctuary has handled and its effectiveness in dealing with sanctuary issues. Motion carried.

Sanctuary Boat Update

Dr. Walters distributed a handout entitled *Sanctuary Vessel Cost Comparison – Renting vs. Buying*. The handout was revised according to requests from the previous SAC meeting. He reiterated that the Hawai`i sanctuary is one of the only sanctuaries without a vessel and that both NOAA and the sanctuary think that a vessel is important. Dr. Walters stated that the boat would be housed at the DAR facility on Maui and a vehicle would be available to transport and launch the boat. Michael Tosatto offered additional Coast Guard vessel support on Maui and members discussed the need for safety training and inspections. After further discussion, Mr. Friedl moved that the SAC approve the State Co-Manager's request to expend state sanctuary funds to maintain and operate a "Sanctuary Vessel" to support research, conservation and educational activities within the HIHWNMS. This approval shall be contingent upon the State Co-Manager's agreement to provide the SAC with written quarterly summaries of the monthly activities, results and expenses of the boat's Sanctuary-related operations. Motion carried. New SAC member and whale watch representative, Carrie Robertson, said she supports the purchase of the vessel and welcomes its presence in Maui waters.

SAC Meeting Schedule for 2001

Ms. McIntosh proposed that the next SAC meeting be held in November so that NMS Acting Chief, Dan Basta, can be present. After some discussion on dates, SAC members chose either Thursday, November 16, 2000 or Friday, November 17, 2000. Ms. Bernard recommended that committee meetings be held in October. Eric Gilman, new Conservation Seat Member and new chair of the Conservation Committee, selected September 22, 2000 for the next committee meeting. Patty Miller, Education Committee Chair, chose October 25, 2000. She will work on finding a place to hold the meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned. **The next SAC meeting will be held on November 17, 2000 at the State Office of Planning conference room.**