

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE
RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Non-Government (Voting)

Timothy E. Johns (Chair)
State of Hawai'i

Linda Paul (Vice Chair)
Conservation

Kem Lowry (Secretary)
Citizen-at-Large

Vacant
Native Hawaiian Elder

Pelika Andrade
Native Hawaiian

Rick Gaffney
Recreational Fishing

Bill Gilmartin
Research

Vacant
Commercial Fishing

Gail Grabowsky
Education

Tammy Harp
Native Hawaiian

Cindy Hunter
Research

Richard Lee
Ocean-Related Tourism

Don Schug
Research

Laura Thompson
Conservation

Jessica Wooley
Conservation

Government (Non-Voting)

Athline Clark
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Malia Chow
HIHW National Marine Sanctuary

David W. Laist
Marine Mammal Commission

Michael Lesser
National Science Foundation

Eric Roberts
U.S. Coast Guard

Janice Fukawa
U.S. Department of Defense

Kitty Simonds
WESPAC

Barry Stieglitz
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Samantha Brooke
NOAA Fisheries PIRO

Meeting July 28, 2016

9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

*1525 Rycroft Street, Honolulu, HI
Pagoda International Ballroom*

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members: Gail Grabowsky (Education); Tammy Harp (Native Hawaiian); Cindy Hunter (Research); Tim Johns (State of Hawai'i, Chair); Linda Paul (Conservation, Vice-Chair); Don Schug (Research, morning, by phone); Jessica Wooley (Conservation); Carol Wilcox (Conservation); Rick Gaffney (Recreational Fishing)

Non-Voting Members: Judith Cucco (Conservation); Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard [USCG]); Joshua DeMello (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council [WPFMC]); Janice Fukawa (Department of Defense); Athline Clark (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries [ONMS]/Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve [CRER]); Samantha Brooke (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]); Malia Chow (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary [HIHWNMS], part day); Amanda Boyd (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS])

Absent: Bill Gilmartin (Research); Richard Lee (Ocean-Related Tourism); Pelika Andrade (Native Hawaiian); Kem Lowry (Citizen-at-Large, Secretary)

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Staff: Maria Carnevale, Alton Miyasaka, and Cynthia Vanderlip (State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR]); David Swatland, Alyssa Miller, Kalani Quiocho, Justin Rivera, Andy Collins, Allison Ikeda (ONMS/CRER)

Members of the Public, Other Agency Members, and Presenters: Shannon Ruseborn (HIHWNMS); Sarah Marquis, Matt Stout, Allen Tom (ONMS); A.M. Galighness (USCG); Ann Bell, Dan Polhemus (FWS); Susan Pultz (NMFS); Haley Kennard (NOAA); Emily Fong, McKenna Makizuru, Maria Armendariz, Mark Uekawa, Kaitlin Crawford, Chelsea Camello, Kaleen Terayama (Chaminade University); Nākoa Goo, Kanoe Steward, Bert Weeks (The Nature Conservancy); Ha Va

I. CALL TO ORDER (Johns)

Chair Tim Johns called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Johns)

There were no changes to the published agenda.

Mr. Joshua DeMello spoke on behalf of Mr. Eric Kingma, the WPFMC representative at the June 8, 2016 RAC meeting, and said that Mr. Kingma felt the June 8 meeting minutes did not adequately reflect what he and others said at the meeting. Ms. Linda Paul responded that RAC leadership had requested that the minutes be very brief summaries only, but the meetings are recorded, so what Mr. Kingma and others said is not lost. There were no changes to the June 8 nor the May 12, 2016 meeting minutes, and the minutes were approved.

III. REVIEW OF ACTION ITEMS AND STATUS (Johns)

Mr. Johns recalled that at the May 12 meeting, the RAC had agreed to send a letter to ONMS Acting Director John Armor requesting clarification on the sanctuary designation process as it applies to the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM or Monument) in particular. A copy of the letter was included in the packet of materials for this meeting, as well as a copy of Acting Director Armor's response, but discussion of the matter was deferred to the next meeting.

Mr. Johns also recalled that the RAC had convened in an ad hoc meeting on June 8 to discuss the proposal to expand the Monument. The RAC voted on particular topics related to the proposed expansion, and a letter reflecting their decisions dated July 12, 2016 was sent to Acting Director Armor and posted on the PMNM website (<http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/council/meeting.html>). A copy of that letter was included in the meeting packet.

Mr. Johns announced that there would be public listening sessions regarding the proposed expansion on August 1 and 2, 2016. Ms. Athline Clark informed the RAC that the O'ahu meeting would be at the Filipino Community Center in Waipahu on August 1 and at Kaua'i Community College on August 2. In addition to the meetings, three locations would accept drop-off written comments.

Ms. Paul reminded the RAC that at the May 12 meeting, they had postponed discussion of revising the RAC charter. Steps to revise the charter will be discussed in the afternoon.

Ms. Clark stated that the application process for seats on the RAC would begin August 1 and end August 31, 2016. Seats currently open include: Native Hawaiian Elder (primary & alternate), Native Hawaiian (alternate), Research (alternate), Conservation (primary), and Commercial Fishing (primary & alternate). Applications will be available on the PMNM website.

IV. MONUMENT CO-TRUSTEE/MANAGEMENT AGENCY UPDATE/HIGHLIGHTS

1. NOAA/ONMS report (Clark): The PowerPoint version of the ONMS report, and the full written report, are available on the PMNM website. As a follow-up to Ms. Clark's description of the upcoming PMNM exhibit at the Bishop Museum, Mr. Johns noted that the "Journeys" exhibit is featured in an article in the most recent Bishop Museum magazine.

2. State of Hawai'i report (Carnevale, Vanderlip): Ms. Maria Carnevale highlighted the Governor's June 15, 2016 proclamation making it Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Day. She also noted that the State worked with Ms. Pelika Andrade (Native Hawaiian

representative on the RAC) and the SeaGrant program on a seasonal calendar for Kure Atoll; she can send out a link to the draft calendar. Over 500 students submitted entries for the My Hawai'i story writing contest, and the awards will be announced at the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN's) World Conservation Congress (WCC) "Listening to Young Voices" segment. And as part of the PMNM permitting process, the State is working on best management practices regarding the collection of coral during bleaching months to ensure that management choices are made with a better understanding of what's best for the coral in times of stress.

Ms. Cynthia Vanderlip noted that the team up at the Kure Atoll continues to count sea birds and work on invasive plant eradication. The Laysan ducks are doing well, now in their second year of successful breeding. Samples from the adult Laysan ducks that died in February and March came back positive for terrestrial botulism. The Kure team is preparing for the first stage of the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG's) PCB remediation work, set to begin in August.

3. USFWS report (Polhemus, Boyd, Bell): Dr. Dan Polhemus presented the work of the PMNM Climate Change Working Group on the latest climate change indicators. The PowerPoint version of this report is available on the PMNM website. Ms. Paul asked to whom the RAC could direct a letter about funding for the seawall program and Henderson Airfield. Ms. Amanda Boyd indicated that the RAC could work with the Friends of Midway Atoll (FOMA) to find out more about their efforts on that; Ms. Ann Bell indicated she could provide the RAC with the contact information of FOMA's chair.

4. OHA report – None

5. Update on enforcement activities (Roberts): Mr. Eric Roberts provided a written report from the USCG, which is available on the PMNM website. As a follow-up to Mr. Roberts' review of monk seal rescues, Dr. Gail Grabowsky asked about the location and condition of the two seals with fish hooks in their mouths. Mr. Roberts explained that both were found on Kaua'i with fishing lines trailing out of their mouths. The operations to remove the hooks were performed on O'ahu and the seals were returned to Kaua'i.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

VI. PRESENTATIONS, UPDATES, AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS

Because the agency updates took less time than anticipated, the RAC agreed to move a few of the afternoon presentations up in the schedule.

1. Resolution to honor Laura Thompson: Mr. Johns noted that Laura Thompson has resigned from the RAC, and in honor of her long and outstanding service to the RAC and the larger conservation community, a resolution was drafted, which was included in the meeting packet. Ms. Carol Wilcox motioned to adopt the resolution, and Mr. Rick Gaffney seconded the motion. All were in favor. Mr. DeMello noted a typo that should be corrected in the final signed version.

2. RAC charter: Ms. Paul motioned and Mr. Gaffney seconded, and all were in favor of forming a subcommittee to review the current RAC charter and amendments to see if it should be updated. The subcommittee will be chaired by Ms. Paul and will include Ms. Tammy Harp, Mr. Gaffney, Dr. Don Schug, and Dr. Grabowsky. The subcommittee's meeting will be the day after the general RAC meeting in November.

The RAC discussed what tentatively will be on the agenda of the November meeting, and how long that meeting might be. Both are dependent on whether or not an announcement about the Monument expansion is made.

In broad terms, if an expansion announcement is made, the meeting in November will include:

1. an overview of what the announcement means/changes,
2. a presentation on seamounts in general and Middle Bank in particular,
3. management plan review, and probably
4. charter revision (after the general meeting), and possibly
5. sanctuary designation.

If nothing happens, the agenda will include:

1. charter revision (after the general meeting),
2. a presentation on seamounts in general and Middle Bank in particular, and probably
3. sanctuary designation.

Given what might be covered in either event, the meeting likely will be one day if there is no announcement and two days if there is an announcement.

3. Update on management plan evaluation (Swatland): Mr. David Swatland provided an update on the evaluation process for the Monument's 15-year management plan. Periodic evaluations are an ONMS requirement. The evaluation process itself is a full plan, with four main components:

1. An evaluation strategy that the RAC helped Ms. Alyssa Miller to develop in 2012 and is still being used;
2. Annual action plan evaluation reports - data has been gathered over the past 18 months but there is not yet a report;
3. A comprehensive evaluation every five years, including a State of the Monument Assessment, feeding into component #4; and
4. Monument management plan review and possible updates.

When a management plan review is done, depending on the level of change necessary to update the plan, the update might involve a public process, including going through a full NEPA review. Mr. Gaffney requested just a basic bullet point list of big changes since the management plan was created, and Mr. Swatland agreed to provide this at the next meeting.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Judith Cucco noted that in this month's National Geographic, there is a short piece about nominating sanctuaries.

VIII. LUNCH

Minutes of the meeting of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council held on July 28, 2016 at the Pagoda International Ballroom

IX. PRESENTATIONS, UPDATES, AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

4. Summary presentation of the 2015 Permitted Activities Report (Swatland, Rivera): The 2015 Permitted Activities Report is available on the PMNM website, in the Permitting section. A copy of the PowerPoint for the presentation is available on the PMNM website with other presentations for the meeting. Ms. Harp asked if any mining is allowed in the Monument's boundaries currently, and Mr. Swatland replied in the negative. Dr. Cindy Hunter asked if there are published papers based on the outcomes of previous permitted activities, and Mr. Swatland responded that all permittees are required to submit reports but not all lead to published documents.

5. Protected species update (Pultz): Ms. Susan Pultz presented a protected species update focused on humpback whales and spinner dolphins. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation is available on the PMNM website.

Regarding the humpback whales, Mr. Johns asked about the differences in State and federal protections. Mr. Alton Miyasaka explained that if a species is on the federal endangered species list, it automatically is on the State list of protected species, too. However, even if a species is taken off the federal list, it still may be on the State list. Humpback whales still are on the State list. Regarding the proposed additional protections for spinner dolphins, Ms. Cucco asked if a prohibition on "leapfrogging" (when people place themselves or their vessels in the path of a marine mammal so that technically the mammal approaches the person/vessel) is included in current protections, and Ms. Pultz responded that it is one of the proposed protective rules.

6. Items for the next meeting and next meeting date: The next meeting will be in November, exact date to be determined. The potential topics for the next meeting are discussed in VI(2) of these minutes.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.