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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM
RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD
October 12, 2017 IN HONOLULU**

The Reserve Advisory Council for NOAA's Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (now part of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument) will meet on Thursday, October 12, 2017. The Reserve Advisory Council will discuss and receive updates on Monument activities and hear briefings on related efforts, including agency updates. The meeting will be held on O'ahu and is open to the public.

- WHAT:** NWHI Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council Meeting
- WHEN:** Thursday, October 12, 2017 9:00am – 3:45pm
- WHERE:** NOAA Fisheries, 1139 N. Nimitz Highway, Honolulu (near Uncle's, through a separate entrance, on the second floor) Suite 220, Conference Room
Free parking is available in the large lot adjacent to Nimitz Highway
- WHO:** Twenty-five Advisory Council members representing broad stakeholder constituencies, including Native Hawaiian, research, conservation, commercial and recreational fishing, ocean-related tourism, education, and state and federal agencies. The Reserve Advisory Council is an advisory body to NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Members of the public are welcome to attend.

The meeting room is accessible by the public. Free parking is available in the large lot adjacent to Nimitz Highway. A copy of the meeting agenda will be available before the meeting at http://www.papahanaumokuakea.gov/council/meetings/2017/rac_mtgs2017.html or by calling Nicole Evans at 808-725-5818.

Established in 2000, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council provides advice and recommendations on managing and protecting the reserve. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the council members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the general public.

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is the single largest fully-protected, permanent marine conservation area in the world. It encompasses 582,570 square miles of the Pacific Ocean (1,508,849 square kilometers) – an area nearly the size of the Gulf of Mexico. Visit us at www.papahanaumokuakea.gov or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Papahanaumokuakea.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Visit us at <http://www.noaa.gov> or on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/usnoaagov>.

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