

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

Solomon Kaho'ohalahala
Native Hawaiian Elder

Pelika Andrade
Native Hawaiian

Rick Gaffney
Recreational Fishing

Bill Gilmartin
Research

Geoffrey Walker
Commercial Fishing

Gail Grabowsky
Education

Tammy Harp
Native Hawaiian

Cindy Hunter
Research

Richard Lee
Ocean-Related Tourism

Don Schug
Research

Vacant
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

Matt Brown
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Hoku Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima
NOAA Fisheries PIRO

Meeting May 4, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NOAA Inouye Regional Center

1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 175, Honolulu, HI 96818

Ko'olau Conference Room (1564)

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members Present: Gail Grabowsky (Education); Cindy Hunter (Research); Tim Johns (State of Hawai'i, Chair); Linda Paul (Conservation, Vice-Chair); Don Schug (Research) by phone; Jessica Wooley (Conservation); Rick Gaffney (Recreational Fishing); Kem Lowry (Citizen-at-Large, Secretary); Carol Wilcox (Conservation Alternate for Vacant Seat); Tammy Harp (Native Hawaiian).

Voting Members Absent: Bill Gilmartin (Research); Pelika Andrade (Native Hawaiian); Richard Lee (Ocean-Related Tourism) Solomon Kaho'ohalahala (Native Hawaiian Elder); Geoffrey Walker (Commercial Fishing).

Non-Voting Members Present: Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard [USCG]); Eric Kingma (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council [WPFMC]); Athline Clark (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries [ONMS]/Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument [PMNM]); Hoku Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]); Matt Brown (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS] National Wildlife Refuge System, Pacific Marine National Monuments); Cory Scott (Department of Defense); David Laist (Marine Mammal Commission) by phone.

Non-Voting Members Absent: Michael Lesser (National Science Foundation); Malia Chow (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary [HIHWNMS]).

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Staff: David Swatland, Alyssa Miller, Nicole Evans, Kalani Quiocho (ONMS-PMNM).

Members of the Public, Other Agency Members, and Presenters: Brandon JimOn (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement); Maria Carnevale (State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR] Division of Aquatic Resources); Keola Lindsey (Office of Hawaiian Affairs [OHA]); Teresa Dawson (Environment Hawaii); Nakoa Goo (Native Hawaiian Alternate); Judith Cucco (Conservation Alternate); Angela Amlin (NMFS); Amanda Bradford (NMFS); Kate Toniolo, Mike Marxen (FWS National Wildlife Refuge System, Pacific Marine National Monuments); Dan Polhemus ([FWS Ecological Services [ES]).

I. CALL TO ORDER (Johns)

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

II. NEW RAC MEMBERS (Swatland)

Nakoa Goo (Native Hawaiian Alternate for Harp) was introduced and was present at the meeting. Other new members not present include Geoffrey Walker (Commercial Fishing); Philip Fernandez (Commercial Fishing Alternate); Solomon Kaho'ohalahala (Native Hawaiian Elder); and Shad Kane (Native Hawaiian Elder Alternate). The new member orientation was not conducted before this meeting. It will occur before the July 13, 2017 meeting.

The site received four applications for the Conservation Primary seat. Currently recruiting for the Research alternate seat. The new Charter states a subcommittee should be established for seat selection. More discussion regarding seat selection later in the meeting.

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

There were no changes to the published agenda. The council approved the meeting minutes from the February 2, 2017 meeting.

IV. BRIEF REVIEW & SUMMARY PREVIOUS ISSUES, ACTION ITEMS AND STATUS

1. RAC Seat Updates (Clark/Swatland): This was mentioned previously in the New RAC Members section.

2. RAC Charter (Charter sub-committee, Swatland): The Charter has been reviewed by headquarters. More regarding the Charter later in the meeting.

3. ONMS Strategic Plan (Clark): Athline Clark will review more of the ONMS Strategic Plan later in the meeting.

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

1. NOAA-NMFS report (Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima): No report. NMFS is ready to respond to any questions or specific requests for info.

2. State of Hawai'i (Carnevale): DAR and DOFAW written report was distributed to RAC members and available online. DAR is ready to respond to any questions or specific requests for info.

3. Testimony Submission to House Committee on Natural Resources (Gaffney): Mr. Gaffney submitted personal testimony to the House Committee on Natural Resources oversight hearing: *Examining the Creation and Management of Marine Monuments and Sanctuaries*. Mr. Gaffney highlighted the use of public process in establishing PMNM and how PMNM has been protected under Presidents since 1909. The testimony is posted on the PMNM website.

Two Executive Orders (EO) were issued by President Trump. One requests the Department of Interior to review National Monuments over 100,000 square miles in size and established in the last 21 years. The second EO requests Department of Commerce to explore energy security by

examining recently expanded marine national monuments and national marine sanctuaries. Mr. Johns requests the RAC consider submitting a public comment addressing these EOs.

4. NOAA-ONMS report (Clark): Highlights include Hawaiian monk seal population on the rise: Year of the Monk Seal declared, PMNM dive team recognized for safe advancements in deep technical CCR diving and marine debris cruise and media event supported by funds from State of Hawaii; which was a multi-agency initiative. The PowerPoint version of the ONMS presentation, and the full written report, are available on the PMNM website.

PMNM Staff Action Item: Add PVS – Mālama Honua events to calendar posted to the RAC and distribute via email.

5. FWS Pacific Islands Region (Brown): Matt Brown informed the Council that in 2017 there have been two successful cruises in the Monument including; one to collect marine debris previously mentioned in ONMS report which stopped at Kure and Midway and one cruise for a film project, which stopped at Nihoa, Turn, Laysan, and Midway. FWS is prepping for non-bird season on Midway including working with the Navy to continue to repair the seawall on the southside of Midway and work with the FAA to repair the runway seawall. The mouse eradication is scheduled for Fall 2018 and pre-work has started. A solicitation was published for the environmental compliance work.

Mr. Brown introduced the RAC to Ms. Kate Toniolo, Deputy Superintendent for Monuments, Pacific Islands Region Office. Ms. Toniolo transferred from the Region V office.

Council members asked FWS regarding the status and possibility of reinstating Midway as a military missile site. FWS responded that there have been no inquiries. There are a few in-water stations at Midway Atoll which listen for nuclear activity.

6. FWS Ecological Services report (Polhemus): Dan Polhemus provided an update on Midway projects. The seawall repair project is underway and Mr. Polhemus provided the RAC with some pictures of the repair work. There is an application being processed by the Army Corps of Engineers for an in-water work permit. This permit requires a mitigation plan. The mitigation plan includes the FWS conservation team and Refuges will establish coral relocation sites for the seawall in July 2017.

Mr. Polhemus also provided a presentation on climate change. Early 2017 continues to build on the heating trend from 2016. There is a 90-100% chance of some degree of thermal stress to PMNM reefs through Aug. Sea level continues to rise at 3-5 mm per year.

Council members requested an update on the coral at Johnston Atoll.

PMNM Staff Action Item: Update on corals at Johnston Atoll.

Council member questions included inquiries on if different species of corals in the NWHI experience climate change impacts differently. Ms. Clark responded that monitoring is conducted on a macro-level and does not document impacts to all areas and all species due to the

size of the Monument. FWS and ONMS will follow-up. The PowerPoint version of the FWS ES presentation, and the full written report, are available on the PMNM website.

PMNM Staff Action Item: Inform the RAC of climate change impacts on different species of corals in the NWHI.

7. OHA report: No report. Kalani Quioco (ONMS) informs the RAC that there will be a Cultural Working Group meeting on May 26 at the OHA offices.

7. Update on enforcement activities (Roberts, JimOn): No reports on violations. USCG had a Samoa Ship Rider ride along on the patrol boats. She did a patrol of the NWHI over a weeklong period. USCG addressed the RAC's questions regarding new patrol boats expected late fall/early winter 2017 and early next year; USCG budget is anticipated to remain steady with the new administration; aerial surveillance has become reactive and is no longer regularly scheduled. Additional concerns were addressed regarding satellite tags on vessels in order to track vessels that come in the EEZ boundaries. Mr. Roberts responded that properly registered vessels do have these tags and USCG is informed when the vessel is within 300 miles of the EEZ.

Mr. Kingma (WPFMC) informed the RAC that third party satellite information reveals there are foreign vessels around the EEZ boundaries.

VI. BRIEFINGS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS

1. ONMS Strategic Plan (Clark): Ms Clark provided an overview of the Plan's vision, mission, core values, five major goals and objectives. One new objective (under Goal 2) is to implement the designation processes for new areas, including PMNM. The comment period for the Strategy Plan is now closed. The Council Chair and Vice Chair provided comments to ONMS. It is expected that the Strategic Plan will be finalized this year.

Ms. Paul recommended the Strategic Plan not be finalized and go to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and U.S. Congress for feedback regarding the Sanctuary program. Ms. Clark will take this recommendation back to leadership, however since the comment period is closed it is unknown what will happen.

2. RAC Charter (Swatland): The new charter was circulated to HQ and returned with comments. The revised draft includes the new vision, mission, and goals from new ONMS Strategic Plan. Language about soliciting input from groups (e.g. CWG, science community) on potential applicants to RAC was also added. The Council will have two weeks to review and provide feedback. After the comment period, the new Charter will be submitted to ONMS Director John Armor for signature. A summary of changes to the Charter and a draft of the new Charter are available on the PMNM website.

As stipulated in the new Charter, a subcommittee will be formed to select new members of the Council. Additionally, the subcommittee will assist with elections.

RAC Action: RAC members have two weeks (May 19, 2017) to review and respond with comments regarding the new Charter.

3. Monument Management Planning and Sanctuary Designation (Clark): Ms. Clark provided the Council with an update on the Monument Management Planning and Sanctuary Designation. The Monument Management Board (MMB) has scheduled a series of preplanning workshops this summer. There will be six total workshops. Initial public scoping is tentatively planned for early November 2017. There will be an opportunity for the RAC to participate in the process. Ms. Clark will update the Council at the July 13, 2017 meeting on decisions made by the MMB regarding management planning.

The new MOA calls for the Interagency Coordinating Committee (ICC) to meet at least twice per year. The ICC will provide input during the management plan process.

Additionally, Ms. Clark discussed the recently signed EOs. These EOs were mentioned earlier in the meeting. There will likely be a call for public comment during this process. The Council will be notified of when the public comment period opens. If the RAC decides they wish to respond to the public comment opportunity; a conference call that is publically noticed will be required before anything is finalized and submitted.

The second EO addressed to Department of Commerce affects sanctuary designation. The key components of this EO include: an analysis of the acreage affected, the budgetary costs of management of National Monuments and Marine Sanctuaries, budgetary impacts of expansions, adequacy of federal, state, and tribal consultation as part of the designation process, and the opportunity costs of potential energy and mineral exploration on the outer continental shelf. This EO affects marine sanctuaries that were created or expanded in the last ten years. Therefore, the only area of PMNM affected is the expansion.

There are overlaying protections with CRER, FWS Refuges, state protected areas, and fishing regulations, all of which would still be in place, and are not considered in this review.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

VIII. BRIEFINGS AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS (CONTINUED)

RAC Action: RAC votes unanimously to establish a sub-committee for selection of new RAC members. The purpose is to provide support and feedback to ONMS regarding selection of new members and leadership seats.

RAC Action Item: RAC votes unanimously to draft letter on both new EOs. Testimony to ONMS to be forwarded to Secretary of Commerce and submitted via public comment on the Department of Interior website.

IX. PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

1. Year of the Monk Seal (Amlin, NMFS)

Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Coordinator Angela Amlin presented the RAC with a presentation on The Year of the Monk Sea. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

2. Sanctuary Visitor Centers (Swatland)

Mr. Swatland reached out to ONMS sanctuary visitor centers for information and has not received any responses. ONMS HQ recognized the lack of information and is taking action to gather data.

PMNM Staff Action Item: Mr. Swatland will update the RAC at the July 13, 2017 meeting on any new information regarding sanctuary visitor centers.

3. HICEAS Cruise (Bradford, NMFS)

Cetacean Research Program Research Ecologist Amanda L. Bradford, Ph.D. presented the RAC with a presentation on the Hawaiian Islands Cetacean and Ecosystem Assessment Survey 2017. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

4. Update on Midway 75th Anniversary Celebration (Brown, FWS)

Matt Brown informed the Council of the upcoming Battle of Midway 75th Commemoration. The dates of the events will be included in an email to the RAC. Information on the Commemoration can be found at Midway75.org Events include:

- Tuesday, May 30th 7:00pm “After Dark in the Park” Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Battle of Midway – Volcano National Park, Kīlauea Visitor Center Auditorium. More information here: https://www.nps.gov/havo/planyourvisit/upload/20170530_after_dark.pdf
- Wednesday, May 31st and Thursday, June 1st 9:00am-4:00pm Battle of Midway Symposium – Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island. Registration required: <http://72.52.178.209/machform/view.php?id=47365>
- Wednesday, May 31st 5:00-7:00pm Battle of Midway Reception – Pacific Aviation Museum, Ford Island. Registration required: <http://72.52.178.209/machform/view.php?id=50259>
- Monday, June 5th Battle of Midway 75th Commemoration. Events start at 7:15am. Live stream from Midway Atoll begins at 8:00am. Mokuapāpapa Discovery Center, Hilo and Arizona Memorial, Honolulu
- Tuesday, June 6th Battle of Midway 75th Commemoration Youth Day – Pacific Aviation Museum and Inouye Regional Center, Oahu. Registration required: <http://72.52.178.209/machform/view.php?id=47639>

5. Kem Lowry recognized as PMNM Volunteer of the Year.

Mr. Lowry has served as a member of the RAC since 2003 as Citizen-at-Large and Secretary of the RAC. He has also collaborated with PMNM staff on writing the Native Hawaiian Plan. All National Marine Sanctuary volunteers of the year will be recognized during Capitol Hill Ocean Week in Washington DC.

6. Next RAC Meeting: July 13th at Mokuapāpapa Discovery Center in Hilo, HI

RAC Coordinator Nicole Evans will contact Council members with logistics of the meeting. Plan on flying in/out of Hilo the same day. The normal quarterly meeting will be followed by an evening reception.

7. Council Members draft bulletpoints for EO testimony.

The RAC drafted a list of bulletpoints for the EO testimony. The bulletpoints will be distributed to the RAC for comments and feedback.

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.