

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE  
**RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Non-Government (Voting)**

William Aila, Jr (Chair)  
*State of Hawai'i*

Linda Paul (Vice Chair)  
*Conservation*

Rick Gaffney (Secretary)  
*Recreational Fishing*

Pelika Andrade  
*Native Hawaiian*

Judith Cucco  
*Citizen-at-Large*

Gail Grabowsky  
*Education*

Tammy Harp  
*Native Hawaiian*

Cindy Hunter  
*Research*

Solomon Kaho'ohalahala  
*Native Hawaiian Elder*

Jean Kenyon  
*Research*

Richard Lee  
*Ocean-Related Tourism*

Don Schug  
*Research*

Phil Fernandez  
*Commercial Fishing (acting Primary)*

Carol Wilcox  
*Conservation*

Jessica Wooley  
*Conservation*

**Government (Non-Voting)**

Athline Clark  
*Papahānaumokuākea MNM*

Nancy Daschbach  
*HIHW National Marine Sanctuary*

Hoku Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima  
*NOAA Fisheries PIRO*

Janice Fukawa  
*U.S. Department of Defense*

Eric Roberts  
*U.S. Coast Guard*

Kitty Simonds  
*WESPAC*

Jared Underwood  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

Vacant  
*Marine Mammal Commission*

Vacant  
*National Science Foundation*

*Meeting June 6, 2019*

*9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*

*Inouye Regional Center, Ford Island*

*1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 175*

*Honolulu, HI 96818*

*Conference Room 1564*

**Meeting Minutes**

**ATTENDEES:**

RAC Voting Members Present: William Ailā Jr. (State of Hawai'i, Chair); Linda Paul (Conservation, Vice-Chair); Rick Gaffney (Recreational Fishing, Secretary); Tammy Harp (Native Hawaiian); Jean Kenyon (Research); Gail Grabowsky (Education); Richard Lee (Ocean-Related Tourism); Cindy Hunter (Research); Judith Cucco (Citizen-at-Large); Bob Leinau (Conservation, acting primary for Wilcox); Nakoā Goo (Native Hawaiian, acting primary for Andrade); and Phil Fernandez (Commercial Fishing, acting primary) and Don Schug (Research, by phone).

RAC Voting Members Absent: Solomon Kaho'ohalahala (Native Hawaiian Elder); Jessica Wooley (Conservation).

RAC Non-Voting Members Present: Rick Hoo (Recreational Fishing alternate); Jennifer Barrett (Citizen-at-Large alternate); Athline Clark (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries [ONMS] / Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument [PMNM]); Hoku Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS] Pacific Islands Region Office [PIRO]); Dan Polhemus (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS] Ecological Services); Janice Fukawa (Department of Defense, US Navy); and Zachary Yamada (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council [WPFMC], by phone).

RAC Non-Voting Members Absent: Nancy Daschbach (ONMS/Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary [HIHWNMS]); Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard [USCG]); and Jared Underwood (FWS Refuges).

ONMS Staff: Pua Borges, Terril Efird, Brian Hauk, Nicole Evans, Jon Martinez, Alyssa Miller, Alan Lum, Cindy Among-Serrao, Jennifer Crawford, and Marc Lammers (by phone).

Other Agency Staff: Tiare Holm (National Marine Sanctuary Foundation [NMSF]); Hoku Cody (State of Hawai'i Department of Fish and Wildlife [DOFAW]); Chris Kelley (University of Hawai'i)

Members of the Public: Barb Mayer

### I. CALL TO ORDER (Ailā Jr.)

Chair William Ailā Jr. called the meeting to order. Introductions followed. The Council welcomed new Councilmember Jennifer Barrett. Ms. Barrett will serve as the Citizen-at-Large alternate.

### II. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Ailā Jr.)

There were no changes to the published agenda. The council approved the meeting minutes from the March 20, 2019 meeting.

### III. BRIEF REVIEW & SUMMARY: PREVIOUS ISSUES, ACTION ITEMS AND STATUS

1. RAC/SAC Action: Letter to ONMS Director John Armor regarding Executive Orders 13792 and 13795 (Clark): Recommendations have been made to Department of Interior. No recommendations have been made to Department of Commerce. No action recommended currently.

2. ONMS Action: Sanctuary designation and monument management plan (Clark): No update. ONMS is not moving forward with the public process until the final recommendations of Executive Orders 13792 and 13795 are released.

3. State of Hawai'i action: Keep RAC informed on 30x30 Initiative throughout election year. Inform RAC if there is an opportunity for public input or comment. (Carnevale). DLNR was absent. Update from RAC Commercial Fishing representative Fernandez: DLNR is hiring a new 30x30 Initiative Coordinator.

4. ONMS Action: Keep RAC informed of NFWF funding and activities (Clark): No update.

5. NMFS Action: Keep RAC informed of any changes to the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima): No update

6. Spring 2019 Recruitment (Clark): The April 2019 recruitment has closed. ONMS received applications for all the advertised seats (Native Hawaiian primary, Commercial Fishing primary, Conservation alternate, and Research alternate). The review and selection process is underway.

### IV. PRESENTATIONS

*Nautilus* Cruise (Kelly/University of Hawai'i): Mr. Kelly presented a summary of the Fall 2018 *Nautilus* deep-water exploration of 10 previously unexplored and unmapped seamounts in PMNM. Rock samples were collected to conduct analysis of age and genesis of the seamounts. High-density coral and sponge communities were discovered at four of the seamounts. Many other types of animals and animal associations also were documented. At least 15 new or potentially new species were found. There are approximately 88 seamounts in the Monument Expansion Area. Many remain unexplored. Highlights of this presentation are available on the PMNM/RAC website.

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

1. NOAA-ONMS report (Clark): Ms. Clark presented a PowerPoint of ONMS highlights from the past few months. Features included: helping emerging Native Hawaiian maritime leaders chart their courses, participating in Bishop Museum's Discovery Day, Mokupāpapa Discovery Center Report, and PMNM scientists and interns publish paper on 3d modeling of coral reef habitats. The PowerPoint version of the ONMS presentation and the full written report are available on the PMNM/RAC website.

2. NOAA-NMFS report (Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima): Ms. Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima presented a written report to the Council. Highlights include: partnering to protect and study Monk Seals and sea turtles: 2019 NWHI field camps, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation marine debris video, and the 2019 NWHI Reef Assessment and Monitoring Cruise. The NOAA-NMFS report is available on the PMNM/RAC website.

3. State of Hawai'i DLNR-DOFAW report: A written report from DLNR-DOFAW was provided to the Council. The report is available on the PMNM/RAC website. No report was provided by DLNR-DAR.

#### VI. PRESENTATIONS (CONTINUED)

Access to the Monument for management operations and research (Efird/ONMS-PMNM):

Hi'ialakai Status:

Hi'ialakai is tied up in "lay up" status in Marine Operations Center – Pacific (Newport, OR). Not decommissioned, yet (tbd by Congress). If saved, the earliest she would be back is 2022

- 6 months of contracting

- 3 month bidding

- 12 months of work

- 5 months of sea trials and rebuilding the crew

OMAO is exploring options within the NOAA Fleet. Possibly use Rainier for 2019.

2020 plan unknown at this time. Planning meetings regarding RA in 2020 in progress. However it is unlikely that Hi'ialakai will be brought back into service.

OMAO has a fleet recapitalization plan which includes NAV (NOAA Variants). Agor and Neil Armstrong. Global Class vessels. 2023 – 2024 is earliest that one would be out of shipyard. These are not replacements for current research vessels. Missions are already identified. One might be homeported in Hawai'i. This would be another potential option for OMAO as a stop gap, but no guarantee.

Hi'ialakai replacement is many years out. 2 NAVs are already identified as a priority. Then replace HA, FA, RA

#### Suggestions for Ship Time

- Keep ship time requests coming in

- Use "any ship" option

ONMS work with NOS to ensure our projects rank high among line office priorities  
Platform adapts for the Mission, and the Mission adapts to the Platform

## VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

## VIII. PRESENTATIONS AND UPDATES

1. NWHI Humpback Whale Cruise Update (Lammers/HHWNMS): PIFSC-HICEAS cruise was rescheduled to 2020 due to government shutdown. PIFSC reprogrammed 12 sea days on NOAA ship Sette for acoustic gear testing and to look for humpback whales in PMNM. Six days at shallow water banks. Data targeted: sightings, fluke IDs, biopsy samples, recordings and satellite tagging. Encountered more whales than expected: 180 whales, including 13 calves. April is well past the peak of whale season. Surveyed Middle Bank to FFS. Whales clearly using the Monument for breeding. Could support redistribution hypothesis for low whale numbers in MHI. Still TBD: are PMNM and MHI whales part of the same contiguous breeding area? Where are hot spots? There are 4 Distinct Population Segments in the Pacific. Could Western DPS whales be breeding in the NWHI? A powerpoint presentation is available on the PMNM/RAC website.

2. US Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) Permit Update 2014-2018 (Cody/DOFAW): MBTA Permit issued for seabird salvage (gathering, collections and products). Components of the project that were developed included 1) pre-field orientations for practitioners, projections of annual collections pre-logistics/equipment acquisition; 2) development of field collection, preservation and documentation SOPs; 3) transit storage methodology and biosecurity compliance; 4) post field preparation for making products including collection assessment, preparation of specimens as appropriate for each product, instruction and support to permit holders; 5) Product-making annual workshops to inform use practices - for community led practices such as makahiki, voyaging; and for educational institutions. A powerpoint presentation is available on the PMNM/RAC website.

### 3. Update on Hurricane Walaka (Hauk/PMNM)

Mr. Hauk provided a presentation on data acquired post-Walaka. East Island, French Frigate Shoals is slowly reforming. A powerpoint presentation is available on the PMNM/RAC website.

### 4. USFWS (Refuges/ES) Manager updates (Polhemus)

Mr. Polhemus provided an update on climate predictions and coral bleaching projections. A powerpoint presentation is available on the PMNM/RAC website.

## IX. ACTION ITEMS

Navy request to extend marine mammal take period in HSST area:

NOAA Fisheries has received a request from the U.S. Navy (Navy) to extend the expiration date from December 2023 to December 2025 for Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) regulations authorizing the take of marine mammals incidental to Navy training and testing activities conducted in the Hawaii-Southern California Training and Testing (HSTT) Study Area. In August 2018, the MMPA was amended by the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2019 to allow for seven-year authorizations for military readiness activities, as compared to the previously allowed five years. The Navy's activities qualify as military readiness activities pursuant to the MMPA as amended by

the NDAA for Fiscal Year 2004. The Navy proposes no changes to their specified activities, the geographical region in which those activities would be conducted, mitigation measures, monitoring, or reporting over the longer seven-year period. Comment period for input to NMFS on the Navy's application runs through June 7, 2019. RAC leadership will compile relevant bullet points from the RAC's previous letter to the Navy into a comment letter on the current application.

#### X. RAC WORK PLANS-

A brief summary of work to date on the the Education and Outreach workplan was provided. Purpose: Support ONMS-PMNM to bring Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument & World Heritage Site to the people and inspire people to care for and protect its natural history, cultural and maritime heritage.

#### XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

#### XII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.