



Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Thursday, November 29, 2018 1:00 -3:00 PM

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Working Group Members Present: Thorne Abbot, Nina Monasevitch, Jeff Walters (SAC); Linda Paul, William Aila (RAC); Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Rick Gaffney (RAC/SAC)

Working Group Members Absent: Judy Lemus, Maka'ala Kaaumoana, Maxx Philips, Annabelle Padilla (SAC); Tammy Harp (RAC)

Staff: Josh Jankot, Cindy Among-Serrao (HIHWNMS); Athline Clark, Nicole Evans (PMNM); Allen Tom (PIR); Tiare Holm (NMSF)

I. Welcome; Roll call; Introductions; review & approval of agenda (Kaho'ohalahala)

II. PMNM Symposium report (Gaffney): Very educational event. Urge other Council members to view the symposium abstracts and contact. Keynote speaker Rich Pyle did present and he did part of his TED talk. Great presenters with understandable content. Events like this are great for SAC/RAC members to get a better understanding of those issues and how to move forward with their Council business. Well organized.

III. Collaborative Programs for RAC/SAC Working Group (WG)

1. National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation (NMSF or Foundation)

- NMSF is here to support HIHWNMS and PMNM programs. For now, start Hui to provide guidance and feedback to Foundation. What are the priorities for both RAC/SAC and what would be the top priorities for NMSF to get positive collaboration and support?
- No foundation chapter needed for Hawai'i to support this type of WG
- Tiare is taking notes for Kris Sarri (Foundation President).
- Creation of joint WG was spurred by Kris Sarri two years ago. The goal is to bring the Councils together and look for opportunities to support funding for each site.
- How can the WG collaborate with NMSF to get support for program funding?
- Funding needs & possibly include sponsorships. Include what types of support Councils could receive from NMSF.

NMSF Action Item: Report to NMSF HQ (Kris Sarri) on outcome of this working group meeting. Invite Kris to a subsequent RAC/SAC WG meeting.

2. Establishing priorities. Both SAC/RAC need to make priorities list of their needs and how best they can support the sites. Especially in regards for funding. SAC would like to prioritize funding for education support. Joint area of desired support for both groups is a RAC/SAC discovery center on Oahu (not feasible with current site budgets). More activities with cultural understanding in tourism in regards to whales, place and people. Archipelagic education and collaboration especially with the whales.

3. Discovery Center: WG expresses desire for an educational discovery center on Oahu for joint efforts. Need to figure out funding, parking, citing and other factors. NMSF could potentially help raise funds. Need to identify stakeholders. Synergy with what stakeholders are envisioning and what RAC/SAC WG is envisioning that once the WG establishes a clear vision of partner collaboration, that perhaps NMSF will support a fundraising plan. Potential for discovery centers on other islands (Kona-area, Kauai).

ONMS held workshops and a two-year process for the needs of a Kauai discovery center, several years ago. Discovery Center on Kauai has been discussed with NMSF leadership. If there is a willing potential landowner there may be better option for this island. Strength in numbers regarding collaboration with



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RAC/SAC. The Foundation, through the now dissolved Hawaii chapter, helped raise funds for that center initially. Discussion is still in early stages with regards to visioning and planning for a new potential site.

IV. Next Steps

1. Go over both SAC and RAC work plans to see where WG can collaborate and where there are synergies. Strength in numbers to come up with collaborative ideas that will help with funding. Must decide on funding priorities.

Examples of how Councils can get involved:

- Florida Keys: issues after hurricane Irene. Dive ops brought issue and some brought up working collaborations with sanctuary program to do clean ups of the reefs.
- Greater Farallones: die off of kelp- their SAC put together a working group to make a plan to help with this issue and brought it back to their Council

2. Studies that could or are leading to HIHWNMS and PMNM collaborations.

- SURTAS study. ONMS is conducting a study on ocean soundscapes across several sanctuary sites. PMNM and HIHWNMS are both included in this study. The study uses passive acoustic sensors on hydrophones to identify cetacean species and other activities in each site. The goal of the study is to find common metrics to characterize what defines a soundscape.
- Climate change is a common study opportunity. Hawai'i should be a leader in education about greater impacts, culture, and science for future generations. Becoming leaders in changing lifestyles to show the way in positive change. Sierra club would be a good collaborative partner.

4. Refine WG Work Plan:

- Education curriculum
- Compare work plans between RAC/SAC for common themes
- Needs assessment
- Planning discussion
- What does the RAC/SAC want to do to facilitate projects?
- Discuss program that need to be funded in terms of short and long-term needs that benefit both PMNM and HIHWNMS.

Working Group Action Item: Develop purpose statement for Working Group

5. RAC/SAC group will come up with initiatives to pursue and come back to narrow down the top priorities.

- Look at humpback whale research meeting knowledge gaps/priorities to see how RAC/SAC can discuss synergies.
- Need to think about if our oceans are in danger not just the whales.
- Joint meeting with researchers to get potential research directions.

Working Group Action Item: Identify items sites have in common and that RAC/SAC Work plans have in common. Get list of current discovery centers and their funding mechanisms.

ONMS Action Item: Research video teleconference options

Next SAC meeting March 19. Next RAC meeting March 20. Will reconvene next RAC/SAC meeting after RAC meeting.