

**NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE  
ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED DISTANCE  
LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE AT  
PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT**

October 31, 2014

**The Reserve Advisory Council notes the following:**

1. The desired outcomes of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument's (PMNM) Ocean Ecosystem Literacy Action Plan are to, "Cultivate an ocean ecosystems stewardship ethic, contribute to the nation's science and cultural literacy and create a new generation of conservation leaders through formal environmental education," (PMNM Monument Management Plan December 2008. Vol. I, p. 286).
2. The desired outcomes of PMNM's Constituency Building & Outreach Action Plan are to: "Cultivate an informed, involved constituency that supports and enhances conservation of the natural, cultural and historical resources of PMNM," (PMNM Monument Management Plan December 2008. Vol. I, p. 267).
3. No other U.S. marine protected area is as large, pristine, culturally and historically significant, globally recognized and remote as PMNM.
4. An education principle of PMNM is to "bring the place to the people," (PMNM Monument Management Plan December 2008. Vol. I, p. 271).
5. Although many educational activities pertaining to PMNM have been accomplished and are ongoing, including Navigating Change, the Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, the NWHI Science and Management Symposium and the creation of numerous education and media products, the majority of public and private school students have not experienced a PMNM interpretive distance-learning classroom visit.
6. Although over fourteen-hundred elementary through high school students have experienced a PMNM interpretive distance-learning classroom visit, most visits were brought to them by one very dedicated volunteer with the help of staff from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the Hawaiian Monk Seal Research Program and PMNM.
7. There is an opportunity for much more PMNM distance-learning classroom outreach to underserved students and a need for the personnel and equipment dedicated to this effort to further achieve the PMNM education-related Action Plans and the education principle of bringing the place to the people.

**The Reserve Advisory Council Recommends that:**

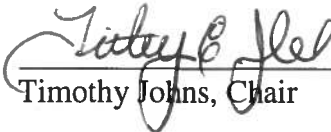
1. PMNM hire (through shared cost) a permanent educational interpreter, or provide equivalent staff or volunteer presence, to connect with youth audiences, to reside on Midway Atoll who will design interpretive programs, conduct video conferences, and act

in general as a communication liaison between scientists, staff, volunteers, etc. working within PMNM and educators on the main Hawaiian Islands;

2. PMNM develop a co-trustee-hosted training workshop to prepare youth educators, staff from PMNM co-managing agencies, volunteers, and representatives from ecotourism companies who have experience guiding visitors on Midway Atoll in the past, to conduct PMNM distance-learning classroom outreach in conjunction with the interpreter on Midway Atoll;
3. PMNM education and outreach staff assemble duplicate “suitcases” containing educational tools and materials to be used by the trained youth educators during classroom visits;
4. PMNM co-managers prioritize increasing the bandwidth to the Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Midway) and PMNM, in order to help build capacity, increase quality, and support a growing classroom distance-learning program;
5. PMNM co-managers increase their effort to investigate the installation of underwater video cameras in the waters of PMNM with the purpose of bringing the underwater place to the people, and more specifically, to classrooms everywhere.

The RAC would like to see a presentation that includes budget scenarios, funding shortfalls, and potential partnerships regarding the implementation of these recommendations by March of 2015.

ADOPTED by the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council at its regular meeting of October 31, 2014.

  
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Timothy Johns, Chair