

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Humpback Whale Protections Working Group  
Workshop Summary

**Where:**

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Office  
6600 Kalaniana'ole Hwy, Honolulu

**When:**

September 8-9, 2011

**Purpose:** To develop management recommendations related to humpback whale protections for submission to the full sanctuary advisory council.

**Background Information:** The Humpback Whale Protections working group was created by the Sanctuary Advisory Council (council) in December 2010 to develop management recommendations to present to the full council at an open public meeting with opportunities for public comment. The full council will review and approve the recommendations of the working group prior to submission to sanctuary management. Advisory council working groups represent constituent groups from around Hawai'i and include people with technical expertise and place-based knowledge. This workshop provided an opportunity for working group members to discuss issues relating to the management of humpback whales and develop recommendations on possible future sanctuary management activities. The workshop was also open to any interested members of the public.

**Working Group Members Present:**

**Chair:** Jim Coon (Trilogy Excursions, Sanctuary Advisory Council Whale Watching Seat)

**Staff lead:** Edward Lyman (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHW))

Hannah Bernard (Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, Sanctuary Advisory Council Research Alternate)

Phil Fernandez (Sanctuary Advisory Council Fishing Seat)

Marsha Green (Ocean Mammal Institute)

Lou Herman (University of Hawai'i emeritus professor)

Maka'ala Ka'aumoana (Hanalei Watershed Hui, Sanctuary Advisory Council Conservation Seat)

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala (Sanctuary Advisory Council Lana'i Island Representative)

Eric Kingma (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council representative on Sanctuary Advisory Council)

Elizabeth Kumabe (Sea Grant Hawaii, Sanctuary Advisory Council Education Seat)

Gordon LaBedz (Sanctuary Advisory Council Ocean Recreation Alternate)

Marc Lammers (Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology)

Bobby Lu'uwai (Maui county fisherman)

Daniela Maldini (Pacific Whale Foundation)

Kevin Millet (Holo Holo Charters)

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Nina Monasevitch (Kohola Mana 'Ohana)

Adam Pack (University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Sanctuary Advisory Council Research Seat)

Sharon Pomroy (Sanctuary Advisory Council Kaua'i County Representative)

Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard representative on Sanctuary Advisory Council)

Tetsuzan Benny Ron (University of Hawai'i Aquaculture Program, Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Business/Commerce Seat)

Alex Sheftic (Sanctuary Advisory Council Hawai'i County Representative)

**Resource experts:**

Alexa Cole (NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation)

Take Tomson (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement representative on Sanctuary Advisory  
Council)

David Mattila (HIHW on detail to International Whaling Commission)

Sarah Mesnick (HIHW on detail from NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center)

Frank Parrish (NOAA Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center)

David Schofield (NOAA Fisheries Service, Protected Resources)

**Other Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary staff in attendance:**

Brenda Asuncion

Malia Chow

Sarah Courbis

Elia Herman

Fiona Langenberger

Joseph Paulin

Micki Ream

Jean Souza

Justin Viezbicke

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**Thursday, September 8, 2011**

**OPENING / INTRODUCTIONS**

Jim Coon (working group chair), Ed Lyman (working group staff lead), and Malia Chow (sanctuary superintendent) provided welcoming remarks and an introduction to the workshop, including context for the sanctuary's management plan review process.

**REVIEW OBJECTIVES FOR THE WORKSHOP**

The working group was reminded of the objective for the workshop, which was to develop management recommendations to submit to the full sanctuary advisory council for review.

## **REVIEW HUMPBACK WHALE BIOLOGY AND POTENTIAL THREATS/ CONCERNS**

Selected presentations were made to provide workshop participants with background information on humpback whale biology and perspectives on potential threats and concerns to humpback whales. Presentations are available on the sanctuary website.

### **PRESENTATIONS:**

General background of humpback whales in Hawai‘i and beyond – David Mattila (International Whaling Commission)

North Pacific Humpback Whaling – Lou Herman (University of Hawai‘i emeritus professor)

Intentional approach / enforcement – Elia Herman (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary)

Whale-vessel contact (ship strikes) – Adam Pack (University of Hawai‘i at Hilo)

Anthropogenic noise (e.g. SONAR, vessel traffic) – Marc Lammers (Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology)

Entanglement – Ed Lyman (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary)

Competition for habitat/ space (e.g. offshore development) – Phil Fernandez (Sanctuary Advisory Council Fishing Seat)

Water quality – Joseph Paulin (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary) with Sarah Mesnick (Resource expert on detail from NOAA Southwest Fisheries Science Center)

Enforcement - Take Tomson (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement), Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard), Alexa Cole (NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation)

Presenters were asked to use the following general format:

- *Background on threat/ concern (incl. biological, cultural, socioeconomic)*
- *Potential impacts on:*
  - Population level (e.g. magnitude of threat, trend, high-risk areas)*
  - Individual whales*
  - Cultural/ socioeconomic aspects*
- *Potential sources or causes*
- *Existing authorities*
- *Current mitigations (incl. effects upon Hawaiian culture, socioeconomic aspects)*
  - Broad scope (global)*
  - Local (partner agencies - grass-root)*

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- *Possible recommendations (i.e. examples)*
- *Questions/ discussion*

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Members of the public in attendance were given opportunity to provide comments. No comment provided.

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**Friday, September 9, 2011**

**OPENING**

Sol Kaho'ohalahala offered foundational cultural perspectives on the working group's efforts, emphasizing that an effective way forward can be found by looking to the past: I ka wa ma mua, ka wa ma hope.

**DEVELOPMENT OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Small breakout groups were formed with a facilitator to develop recommendations on general topics identified during scoping: Anthropogenic Noise, Whale-vessel contacts, Entanglement and Competition for habitat, Intentional Approach, Other. Participants were given the option to stay at one group for the duration of the activity (which lasted approximately 2.5 hours) or move around among the groups.

Topics and their facilitators were as follows:

- Anthropogenic noise – Sarah Mesnick
- Whale-vessel contacts – Joseph Paulin
- Entanglement and Competition for habitat – Justin Viezbicke
- Intentional approach – Ed Lyman
- Other (including water quality and research) – Jean Souza

**SHARING / DISCUSSION OF DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Draft recommendations from each of the five breakout groups were collectively reviewed and discussed by all workshop participants. This discussion included any recommendations which were included from presentations given on the first day of the workshop. Representatives from each topic breakout group provided short overviews of their group's discussion, as well as explanations for draft recommendations which they provided to the larger group. Participants were given the opportunity to pose questions to each other and discuss the recommendations.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Members of the public in attendance were given an opportunity to provide comments. No comment provided.

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**EVALUATION OF SUPPORT FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

After collectively discussing the recommendations from each of the five breakout groups, workshop participants were given the opportunity to select their top 10 recommendations. Each participant received a hard copy of all recommendations which were discussed earlier in the day, in addition to 10 stickers by which they could indicate their support. They were also encouraged to indicate disagreement and accompanying explanation for any recommendation by writing directly on their hard copy.

All the recommendations developed throughout the workshop, as well as the results of the prioritization exercise, will be included in a recommendations report of the Humpback Whale Protections working group. This report will be provided to the full sanctuary advisory council, and it can be found on the sanctuary website at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>. The full council will review and approve the recommendations of the working group prior to submission to sanctuary management.