



## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

### 95th MEETING AGENDA

**Thursday, May 25, 2023 10:00 am – 2:30 pm**

**Public comment at 2:00 pm**

#### ATTENDANCE

**Primary SAC council members present:** Business/Commerce – Thorne Abbott, Education – Maya Walton, Hawai‘i Island – Jayne Lefors, Kaua‘i Island – Maka‘ala Ka‘aumoana, Lāna‘i Island – Kolomona Kaho‘ohalahala, Native Hawaiian – Roxane Keli‘ikipikāneokolohaka, Ocean Recreation - Chad Wiggins, Ocean Recreation (alternate) – Shoko Ogata, Research – Jens Currie, Research (alternate) – Robin Baird, Whale Watching – James Coon, Whale Watching (alternate) – Sherry LeMaster, HSEO – Cameron Black, DLNR/DAR – Jeannine Rossa, NOAA NMFS – Jeff Walters, WESPAC - Josh DeMello, Superintendent – Kim Hum.

**Alternate SAC council members present:** Kaua‘i Island – Nina Monasevitch, Whale Watching – Sherry LeMaster. Maui Island – Vernon Kalanikau, Education – Robyn Ehrlich.

**ONMS Staff:** Catherine Takata, Cindy Among-Serrao, Patty Miller, Madeline Keck, Eden Zang, Maria Harvey, Ed Lyman, Marc Lammers, Bill Carrier, Ka‘au Abraham (volunteer), Kalani Quiocho (PIR).

**Members of the public:** Adam Frankel, Ka‘au Abraham, Bridget Winkler, Colleen Soares, John Gelert, Zoe, Dym, Joe Olson, Anke Kuegler, Elisabeth Kubin, Shelly Rofrits, Hank Janpol, Shannon Barber-Meyer, Shannon Barber-Meyer, Beverly Beebe, Brittany Dolan, Lauren De Maio, Amy Gollenberg, Michael Richlen, Andrew Aggergaard, Tammy Harp, JC Turner, Adam Pack, Suzy Roebing, Beverly Beebe.

#### Welcome & Council Business

- Chair – Kolomona (Sol) Kaho‘ohalahala called the meeting to order and invited Jim Coon to open up with the oli. Recognized Jim Coon’s last meeting and his contributions to the SAC over the years.
  - Jim Coon gave a background of the sanctuary’s history and the role that the local community has played in it, urged SAC members to weigh in on national and international issues and encouraged State and Federal leaders to take a stand on environmental matters.
- Lei given to Catherine Takata, who will be moving on to help with regional plans.
- Roll call was completed by the SAC coordinator.
- Review & approval of May 25, 2023 agenda



- o Motion: To approve agenda
- o Motioned by: Whale Watching – James Coon
- o Seconded by: Conservation - Thorne Abbott
- o Additional details: No objections were made therefore the meeting agenda was unanimously approved.
- Review & approval of February 8, 2023 Meeting Minutes
  - o Motion: To approve February 8, 2023 meeting minutes
  - o Motioned by: Research - Jens Currie
  - o Seconded by: Ocean Recreation - Chad Wiggins
  - o Additional details: Amendments made and approved by consensus:
    - Jens Currie: Change wording - offshoring
    - Maya Walton: Move PMNM resolution to August agenda
    - Roxy: Pg. 7 last bullet, pointed out that it says it is optional but is in fact not.

### **FY 23-25 SAC Work Plan Development**

- Introduction (Kim Hum)
  - o Explained the goals for the remainder of the meeting: draft the SAC work plan through 2025. The full Council (including those attending virtually) broke up into 4 breakout groups and met for one hour to discuss topics including specific themes through the community regarding sanctuary management. Members of the public listened in on breakout sessions but their comments were held until the public comment section of the meeting.
- Breakout Groups rejoined as a full council to summarize potential work plan actions:
  - o Conservation Group
    - Addressing setting vessel speed limits during whale season
      - Stated that more needs to be considered than just speeds; should consider stakeholders, user standpoint, profit standpoint. Role of the sanctuary may be to disseminate information through education and outreach and recommended behavior changes. While many boat captains do inform their guests why their speeds are slow around whales, more could be done to educate. There is a need for more science and data regarding effect of vessel speed on whale behavior and collision risk.
      - Questions:
        - o Superintendent - Kim Hum: Was your finding that the speed is already being controlled and doesn't need more compliance? How



can SAC members and the community build compliance? No answer recorded.

- o Chair - Sol Kaho‘ohalahala: Do the guidelines reduce strikes? Answer (Whale Watching - Sherry LeMaster): data needs to be collected.
- o Vice Chair - Maka‘ala Ka‘aumoana: Do we keep track of what gets hit? Answer: yes but we only know what gets reported, there may be more collisions happening that we are unaware of.
- Offshore turbines and deep sea mining
  - Data needs to be collected and sanctuary leadership could play a role.
- Hawaiian Culture
  - o Roxane Keli‘ikipikāneokolohaka: Referred to pages 23-25 of the HIHWNMS Management Plan. 3 primary topics were addressed: cultural training, protocols for meeting opening, and renaming process. There is an opportunity to correct the names of spaces within the sanctuary. A plan was laid out for the naming of fissure 8, but needs to be followed up on. Members unsure of whether or not there is a set of rules for renaming, whose guidelines to use, and approximate timeline and plan for developing the naming process.
    - Request for a cultural training similar to the one given by Roxane Keli‘ikipikāneokolohaka in November 2021.
  - o General questions offered to the superintendent and the full Council:
    - Would this be an optional training or required? What group is doing this? Who do we service? Is there a need for specialized training? What are possibilities of being able to contract experts? Is there funding to have another SAC meeting or cultural training? What training would be sustainable? Would we benefit from a meeting opening that orients the group to the present space and time (eg an oli)?
- Research
  - o State Co Manager - Jeannine Rossa: Questions brought forth to the SAC:
    - How could we improve the relationship between the research team and the SAC? It is the research team’s job to advise sanctuary on research efforts; how the sanctuary supports, what resources it has, what are priorities relevant to funding? What staffing is needed? The SAC is willing to help with more social media, bringing researchers together from Alaska, but what does that look like? When disseminating research - what is the best way to deliver that? Who is the audience? How can we work to connect research and education more?
- Education

- Ocean Recreation - Chad Wiggins: There should be more focus on inreach, making local community the targeted audience rather than just visitors. Partnerships would be good for expansion, local events, gatherings, maximize staff - should work to find people who already do this.
  - Comment from Chair - Sol Kaho'ohalahala: How do we transform our educational paradigm to bring in Hawaiian culture and values? (listed values). Students can be ambassadors for educating visitors. Think about the significance of the koholā.
  - Comment from HIHWNMS Staff - Patty Miller: There is funding to work on a poster. Diversity and inclusion grant allows us the resources to work on combining language and culture. The focus audience is all of the immersion classrooms in Hawaii within the Department of Education.
  - Comment from Superintendent - Kim Hum: We should start thinking in a way that starts with Hawaiian values first then translating into English.
  - Comment from Kaua'i Island Representative - Maka'ala Ka'aumoana: If there is an opportunity for immersion students to contribute to the poster, we should take advantage of that. Utilize the Kaiapuni program.
- Education - Maya Walton: Shared about Voice of the Sea videos and their impact. Their weekly viewership is 24,000, it could be an opportunity to share values.
  - Comment from Hawai'i Island Representative - Jayne Lefors: A QR code should be placed on the poster to link to an educational video.

### Public Comment

- No online pre-registered comments
- Chair – Sol Kaho'ohalahala discussed the importance of using the kumulipo as a foundation for expressing human connection to the ocean. The high seas require protection as well and a decision regarding deep sea mining must be made by July. Currently, language does not exist that connects culture to the high seas or maritime history. The United States should have a place in the ISA. Instead of thinking about the sanctuary with a single species focus, rethink the koholā as a symbol for the whole ecosystem.
- Tammy Harp (Member of the public) - discussed the importance of being part of the deep sea mining issue. Everything is connected - the tuna, the whales, the fishermen, and community members.
- Vice Chair - Maka'ala Ka'aumoana asked if scientific literature existed regarding deep sea mining's impacts on Hawaiian marine communities. Answer (Robin Baird): no, not to his knowledge.



- Joe Olson (Member of the public) offered that Jupiter Research could assist with outreach and publicity on this issue. They deploy hydrophones that can detect dredging vessels and used in real time for education. Hydrophones exist throughout the Sanctuary waters and are deployed by HIHWNMS too.
- Native Hawaiian – Roxane Keli‘ikipikāneokolohaka mentioned that the naming process is a realistic goal and listed several examples of sites that could be addressed. A protocol should be created.

### Proposed Pacific Remote Islands Sanctuary Designation Update (Cat Takata)

- Kalani Quicho (PIR Staff): NOAA has identified goals and objectives of the Pacific Remote Islands Sanctuary Designation. Many meetings were held, including two virtual meetings from Micronesia, Marshall Islands. There is a desire to connect with other nation states and identify education opportunities.
- Question from Superintendent - Kim Hum: Is there an opportunity to add comments after June 2nd? Answer: Yes, but the federal notice is published and the desire is to have the process complete by the turn of the executive administration.
- Question from Whale Watching Seat - Sherry LeMaster: When will this process happen? Answer: March 2024.
- Question from Education Seat - Maya Walton: You mentioned Marshall Islands, Palau; is the expectation you'll reach them through the additional virtual meetings? And how are the public scoping meetings structured? Answer: That was the intention, it has worked with lots of different people. This structure is through a presentation followed by a Q&A; people are giving ideas of what it should look like, and then public comment. The meetings are well attended (including the mayor for one) and tend to run over the scheduled time.

### Closing

- **Next Meeting Discussion** (*Solomon Kaho‘ohalahala*)
  - o Proposed virtual: Wednesday, August 9, 2023
- **Chair Kolomona (Sol) Kaho‘ohalahala Adjourned meeting at 2:40 pm.**
- Following the meeting, SAC members enjoyed a tour of the recently renovated Kihei Visitor’s Center.