



# Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

## 81<sup>st</sup> MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, July 29, 2020 9:00 am – 11:30 am

Virtual meeting via GoToWebinar

### NON-GOVERNMENT (Voting)

Thorne Abbott  
*Business Commerce*

James Kelleher  
*Commercial Shipping*

Kawika Winter  
*Conservation*

Maya Walton  
*Education*

Vacant  
*Fishing*

Jayne LeFors  
*Hawai'i Island*

Maxx Phillips  
*O'ahu Island*

Barbara Maka'ala Ka'aumoana  
*Kaua'i Island*

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
*Lāna'i Island*

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*Moloka'i Island*

Roxane Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka  
*Native Hawaiian*

Chad Wiggins  
*Ocean Recreation*

Jens Currie  
*Research*

Greg Nielson  
*Tourism*

Jim Coon  
*Whale Watching*

Anabelle Padilla  
*Youth (non-voting)*

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Mary Alice Evans  
*DBEDT – Office of Planning*

Cameron Black  
*DBEDT Renewable Energy*

Jeannine Rossa  
*Division of Aquatic Resources*

Alec Wong  
*DOH*

Sandra Rossetter  
*DOT – Harbors*

Brad Wong  
*OHA (Voting)*

Athline Clark  
*Papahānaumokuākea MNM*

Brian Christy  
*NOAA OLE*

Jeff Walters  
*NOAA Fisheries PIRO*

Joshua DeMello  
*WESPAC (Voting)*

Linda Speerstra  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*

Maile Norman  
*US Coast Guard*

Janice Fukawa  
*US Navy*

### Attendance

**Primary SAC council members present:** Conservation – Kawika Winter, Education – Maya Walton, Hawai'i Island – Jayne Lefors, Kaua'i Island – Maka'ala Ka'aumoana, Lāna'i Island – Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Moloka'i Island – Malia Akutagawa, O'ahu Island – Maxx Phillips, Research – Jens Currie, Tourism – Greg Nielson, Youth Member – Anabelle Padilla, Energy Office – Cameron Black, Office of Planning – Justine Nihipali, DAR – Jeannine Rossa, NOAA OLE – Brian Christy, NOAA NMFS PIRO - Jeffrey Walters, U.S. Navy - Janice Fukawa, U.S. Coast Guard – Maile Norman, WESPAC – Joshua DeMello and HIHWNMS Sanctuary Superintendent – Allen Tom

**Alternate SAC council members present:** Business/Commerce – Kevin Kelly, Conservation – Hoku Cody, Education – Robyn Ehrlich, Hawai'i Island – Bob Gladden, Kaua'i Island – Nina Monasevitch, Ocean Recreation – Shoko Ogata and Whale Watching – Sherry LeMaster

**ONMS Staff:** Cindy Among-Serrao, Ed Lyman, Kristina Kekuewa, Jean Souza, Amy Eldredge, Sara Wood, Patty Miller, May Foster, Bill Carrier and Jennifer Crawford

**Members of the public:** Nicole Davis, Robin Baird, Zachary Yamada, William Anonsen, Michelle Paularena, Jenny Tomko and Russel S

### **\*\*\*Webinar Technology Check-in for SAC members**

### Council Business

- Council Chair, Sol Kaho'ohalahala called the meeting to order.
- Council officer elections were held for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. A call for nominations were accepted ahead of the meeting via e-mail in addition to during this time in the agenda. Prior to our vote there was an additional nomination for Chair-Kawika Winter but the nomination was withdrawn prior to the meeting by the nominee, Chad Wiggins. Final council officer nominations were as follows: Chair-Sol Kaho'ohalahala, Vice Chair-Maka'ala Ka'aumoana and Secretary-Kawika Winter. SAC members voted and all the nominations were accepted unanimously.
- Review and approval of July 14, 2020 Meeting Minutes
  - Moloka'i Island representative-Malia Akutagawa recommended to amend the meeting minutes to fix typo of "Sate Co-Manager Jeannine Rossa" to "State".
  - A motion by Tourism representative-Greg Nielson to approve the July 14 meeting minutes with the suggested amendment.

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- Education representative-Maya Walton, seconds the motion therefore approving the July 14 meeting minutes with suggested amendment. Second motions were also made by the following members: O'ahu Island representative-Maxx Phillips, and Moloka'i Island representative-Malia Akutagawa.
- Brief review and summary of previous issues, action items, and status (*Cindy Among-Serrao*)
  - In progress: Future meeting topics such as toxoplasmosis impacts, cultural integration with sanctuary activities and strandings, 5G drone project, Navy activity report, and more are in the works for future meetings.
  - Other future meeting topics were suggested by members such as:
    - Plastic and marine debris/micro plastic impacts on sanctuary waters by O'ahu Island representative-Maxx Phillips
    - Dialogue on biosecurity as a larger umbrella that would include toxoplasmosis, invasive species and etc by Conservation representative-Kawika Winter
    - In the Navy report, to include report about the special operations activity by Moloka'i Island representative-Malia Akutagawa
    - Given that vessel strikes are increasing, and are the number two cause of death for cetaceans can we include the discussion of speed limits in sanctuary waters by Kaua'i Island alternate representative-Nina Monasevitch

## Action Items (*Sol Kaho'ohalahala*)

- Resolutions were drafted and sent to all SAC members prior to the meeting in order to review and submit edits and/or comments on the drafts. SAC discussed the draft resolutions and took actions on each resolution.
- **Draft resolution supporting Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) proposed rulemaking for sanctuary expansion**
  - Chair Sol Kaho'ohalahala entertained for a motion to adopt the resolution. A motion by O'ahu representative-Maxx Phillips to adopt the resolution supporting FGBNMS proposed rulemaking for sanctuary expansion. Motions were also made by the following members: Tourism representative-Greg Nielson, Research representative-Jens Currie and Education representative-Maya Walton.

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- Moloka'i Island representative-Malia Akutagawa seconds the motion to adopt the resolution supporting FGBNMS proposed rulemaking for sanctuary expansion.
- The Chair then called for a vote and voting SAC members then took part in a roll call voting. Majority of the votes were ayes with one abstain, therefore, the resolution was adopted and will be forwarded to the appropriate contacts.
- **Draft resolution supporting Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary**
  - Chair Sol Kaho'ohalahala called for a motion to adopt the resolution. A motion by Kaua'i Island representative-Maka'ala Ka'aumoana to adopt the resolution supporting Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.
  - Whale Watching representative-Sherry LeMaster seconds the motion to adopt the resolution supporting Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. Second motions were also made by the following members: Tourism representative-Greg Nielson, Moloka'i Island representative-Malia Akutagawa and Education representative-Maya Walton.
  - A few questions were brought to attention asking “What is the process for moving forward with official designation of the Chumash NMS? What further steps are involved?” and “What criteria are considered as nominations are moved into the designation que?”
    - Superintendent, Allen Tom responded that the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is just a site nomination, one of many that have not moved forward yet. This resolution supports the Chumash people with hopes it will advance the nomination to move forward as a potential future sanctuary. A lot of different criteria that headquarters discuss especially with current west coast sanctuary superintendents in addition to looking at a variety of different factors including budget, political, interest and more. All those factors need to be accounted for prior to the sanctuary being moved forward from the nomination list.
  - The Chair then called for a vote and voting SAC members then took part in a roll call voting. Majority of the votes were ayes with one abstain, therefore, the resolution was adopted and will be forwarded to the appropriate contacts.
- **Draft resolution on Executive Order to Promote American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth**

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- Chair Sol Kaho'ohalahala called for a motion to adopt the resolution.
- The SAC discussed several potential motions in addition to title amendments for the proposed draft resolution. Below you will find the final amendments and motion.
- A motion by Kaua'i Island representative-Maka'ala Ka'aumoana to amend the resolution title to Resolution to Maintain the Status Quo for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Oppose Changes in Executive Order 13921 to Promote American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. A motion was also made by the following member: Tourism representative-Greg Nielson.
- Research representative-Jens Currie seconds the motion to amend the resolution title to Resolution to Maintain the Status Quo for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Oppose Changes in Executive Order 13921 to Promote American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth. Second motions were also made by the following member: Business Commerce representative-Kevin Kelly.
- The Chair then called for a vote and voting SAC members then took part in a roll call voting on amending the resolution title. All votes were ayes, therefore, the resolution title was amended to Resolution to Maintain the Status Quo for Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Oppose Changes in Executive Order 13921 to Promote American Seafood Competitiveness and Economic Growth.
- Question and comments were discussed on this resolution topic including:
  - Does the E.O. specifically call for changes to PMNM?
    - No, it does not. A separate letter has been sent by WESPAC specific to the monument under this EO. WESPAC representative-Joshua DeMello also commented that Section 4 of the EO requests the Fishery Management Councils to provide a list of regulations that could be changed to provide for relief for the American seafood industry.
- A motion by Tourism representative-Greg Nielson to adopt the resolution with amended title.

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- Education representative-Maya Walton seconds the motion to adopt the resolution with amended title. Second motions were also made by the following member: Research representative-Jens Currie.
- The Chair then called for a vote and voting SAC members then took part in a roll call voting. Majority of the votes were ayes with one nay, therefore, the resolution was adopted with amended title and will be forwarded to the appropriate contacts.

## Potential Action Items (*Kawika Winter*)

- Creation of a Native Hawaiian Culture Subcommittee was brought to the SACs attention at the previous meeting by fellow member Conservation representative-Kawika Winter in order to engage Hawaiian culture in all aspects of co-management in the sanctuary.
- Conservation representative-Kawika Winter motioned to create the subcommittee with added amendment to have the subcommittee create a more appropriate name.
- Moloka‘i Island representative-Malia Akutagawa seconds the motion to create the subcommittee with added amendment to have the subcommittee create a more appropriate name.
- Question asked: What will be its Terms of Reference, i.e. what will they do or be responsible for?
  - Conservation representative-Kawika Winter responded the responsibilities will be very broad at the terms it will be a form for discussion of any and all intersections of co-management of Hawaiian culture.
- The Chair then called for a vote to create the subcommittees. Unanimous decision, therefore, the Native Hawaiian Culture subcommittee with added amendment to have the subcommittee create a more appropriate name was approved.
- The Chair then opened up the floor for a volunteer to chair the subcommittee. Moloka‘i Island representative-Malia Akutagawa volunteered and was accepted to chair the subcommittee. The following members also volunteered to serve on the subcommittee: Conservation representative-Kawika Winter, Native Hawaiian representative, Roxane Keli‘ikipikāneokolohaka and Tourism representative-Greg Nielson.

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**Public Comment:** No comments given during the public comment time period. There was a comment emailed to staff earlier in the meeting from a Lisa Bishop, requesting that the impacts of chemical sunscreens in the NMS be a future topic of discussion by the Council.

## **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary 101** (*HIHW staff*)

- Cindy Among-Serrao, Ocean Count and SAC Coordinator, presented on the Sanctuary Ocean Count which is the sanctuary's signature education outreach and citizen science project that first started in 1996. The project serves to promote public awareness of humpback whales, the sanctuary and shore based whale watching opportunities. The counts are held annually on the last Saturday's of January, February and March which is considered the peak of whale season in Hawai'i. More details of the counts were explained in addition to a recap of the 2020 season. Were unable to host the March 2020 count due to the pandemic but January and February counts had over 1,000 volunteers and the site leader volunteers were able educate over 1,300 members of the public who might have stopped by their site for more information on what they were doing. The 2021 ocean counts are scheduled for January 30, February 27 and March 27 but it's a big uncertainty at this point if they will happen. Possible options are being discussed to still have our counts but ensure they are compliant with CDC and Hawai'i state guidelines and that site leader volunteers are comfortable with hosting the events at their site. A 2021 Ocean Count t-shirt design contest which is in the works and will be run by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation was also mentioned.
- LTJG/NOAA Sara Wood, Facility and Vessel Operations Coordinator presented on the NOAA corps and the sanctuary facilities and vessel operations. First was a brief overview of NOAA corps followed by sanctuary operations. The sanctuary vessel the R/V Koholā was presented mentioning all the operations such as vessel research done aboard. The vessel is also available for research partner charters, contact [Sara.Wood@noaa.gov](mailto:Sara.Wood@noaa.gov) for more info. All of HIHWNMS facilities were presented on and the current needs to continue running our operations and facilities smoothly.
- Patty Miller, Education Program Coordinator presented on the variety of education and outreach programs that the sanctuary does. Kamakai our life-sized inflatable whale, visitor center activities, lectures and meetings, outreach, student activities, family Saturday's and teacher workshops are all available with our sanctuary. The future and how things are evolving to be more virtual outreach opportunities with

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the current pandemic situations was talked upon. One example that the sanctuary has accomplished is the virtual Ocean Classroom which was a partnership with the Waikīkī Aquarium in an effort to provide educators and parents with meaningful and engaging content.

- Amy Eldredge, Volunteer Coordinator, presented on the sanctuary volunteer program. The presentation included yearly statistics on statewide volunteer involvement (135 recurring volunteers) and reach (57,000+ people), types of volunteer opportunities available (10+ programs), volunteer recruitment, training, retention and rewards, and program changes in light of COVID-19. Highlighted achievements include increase in volunteer numbers and involvement in programs. Over half of the volunteer group on Maui participated in a new program this past year. Volunteer hours also increased by 50%. Many programs showed an increase in outreach days and participation. Currently we are continuing to increase the ways volunteers can stay engaged and assist our efforts, remotely and virtually.
- Jean Souza, Kaua‘i Program Specialist provided a Kaua‘i Island update to the SAC. Presentation highlighted all the types of engagement that SAC members take part in on Kaua‘i such as: Featured speakers/lecturers; Grant partner for new education programs, reciprocal support; Advisory on program development and Kaua‘i Ocean Discovery; Hosting site visits for VIPs; Conducting ceremonies; Staffing activity stations; and Volunteering at Kaua‘i Ocean Discovery. Souza also presented on the Kaua‘i Ocean Discovery six month transformation from a blank canvas to fully functional center. The programmatic transformation was also highlighted that being an increase in programs, volunteers and partnerships since the opening of the center. Also discussed was the inspired adaptations that have derived from COVID including a new iMovie on the center, ocean learning grab kits and etc. The new Kaua‘i Ocean Discovery video was then played showcasing the new center.
- Copy of staff which in presentations can be found on our website once it’s uploaded <https://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>
- Questions for staff presentations:
  - Are there ways for individuals to get involved who do not reside in Hawai‘i?
    - Yes! We are working on developing these opportunities. Current opportunities include: collect scientific research articles on species of interest to be used by our volunteers to continue their education on marine

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species. Another opportunity involves creating closed captioning for videos we create to meet best practices before sharing on our website. If neither of these appeal to you but you still want to volunteer, please share what you are interested in and we will see if something along those lines are available.

- What we do with the Ocean Count data?
  - We have three data sheets (census, behavior and site map) and all data is returned to the sanctuary office. We use the census sheet data immediately after the count to get a press release out on the same day to all our media contacts. Other data sheets require more time for data analysis and is in progress. Ocean Count data compliments other research in addition to the potential of helping to monitor the numbers of humpback whales.

## Next Steps (*Sol Kaho 'ohalahala*)

- Proposed future meeting dates were updated since the last meeting to decrease the amount of schedule conflicts with members.
  - Tuesday, September 15, 2020
  - Wednesday, November 18, 2020
  - Tuesday, January 12, 2021
  - Tuesday, March 9, 2021
  - Tuesday, May 11, 2021
  - Wednesday, July 14, 2021
  - Thursday, September 9, 2021

## Additional Discussions/Questions

- Staff also mentioned about this year's virtual Get Into Your Sanctuary weekend is happening July 31 to August 2. Join us for a unique opportunity to experience NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System from wherever you are. From taking an ocean safari to virtually diving through shipwrecks to learning how to cook sustainably from a professional chef, there will be something for everyone to enjoy! Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary's 30 minute event will be featured on: Saturday, August 1 - 9 AM HST / 3 PM EDT.
  - Our virtual adventure includes:
    - A tour the visitor centers on Maui & Kaua'i
    - Accompanying a researcher out on the water
    - Learning how to disentangle a whale.

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*Ocean Recreation*

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*Research*

Greg Nielson  
*Tourism*

Jim Coon  
*Whale Watching*

Anabelle Padilla  
*Youth (non-voting)*

### GOVERNMENT (Non-Voting)

Mary Alice Evans  
*DBEDT – Office of Planning*

Cameron Black  
*DBEDT Renewable Energy*

Jeannine Rossa  
*Division of Aquatic Resources*

Alec Wong  
*DOH*

Sandra Rossetter  
*DOT – Harbors*

Brad Wong  
*OHA (Voting)*

Athline Clark  
*Papahānaumokuākea MNM*

Brian Christy  
*NOAA OLE*

Jeff Walters  
*NOAA Fisheries PIRO*

Joshua DeMello  
*WESPAC (Voting)*

Linda Speerstra  
*US Army Corps of Engineers*

Maile Norman  
*US Coast Guard*

Janice Fukawa  
*US Navy*

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# Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

- How to join all of the events will be available through Facebook Live and [Facebook Watch Party](#). To attend, visit [NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Facebook page](#).

## **11:38 am Meeting Adjourned**

### **NON-GOVERNMENT** (Voting)

Thorne Abbott  
*Business Commerce*

James Kelleher  
*Commercial Shipping*

Kawika Winter  
*Conservation*

Maya Walton  
*Education*

Vacant  
*Fishing*

Jayne LeFors  
*Hawai'i Island*

Maxx Phillips  
*O'ahu Island*

Barbara Maka'ala Ka'aumoana  
*Kaua'i Island*

Solomon Pili Kaho'ohalahala  
*Lāna'i Island*

Vacant  
*Maui Island*

Malia Akutagawa  
*Moloka'i Island*

Roxane Keli'ikipikāneokolohaka  
*Native Hawaiian*

Chad Wiggins  
*Ocean Recreation*

Jens Currie  
*Research*

Greg Nielson  
*Tourism*

Jim Coon  
*Whale Watching*

Anabelle Padilla  
*Youth (non-voting)*

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