

***NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL***

February 26-27, 9am - 5pm

*ONMS Pacific Islands Region Conference room
Hawai'i Kai, O'ahu*

Meeting Minutes
February 26, 2013

ATTENDEES

Voting Members: Tim Johns (State of Hawai'i, Chair); Linda Paul (Conservation, Vice-Chair); Kem Lowry (Citizen-At-Large, Secretary); Rick Lee (Ocean-Related Tourism); Don Schug (Research); Bill Gilmartin (Research); Tammy Harp (Native Hawaiian); Louis "Buzzy" Agard (Native Hawaiian); Brian Bowen (Alt. for Bill Gilmartin); Jessica Wooley (Conservation); Gail Grabowsky (Education); Judith Cucco (Alt. for Jessica Wooley); Laura Thompson (Conservation); Bonnie Kahape'a-Tanner (Alt. for Bertelmann); Kanekoa Schultz (Alt. for Hunter); and (afternoon) Rick Gaffney (Recreational Fishing). Non-Voting Members (Afternoon): Douglas Staller (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)); Dennis Rowley (Department of Defense); Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard); Joshua DeMello (Western Pacific Fishery Management Council for Kitty Simonds); Malia Chow (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary); Don Palawski (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)); T. 'Aulani Wilhelm (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (NWHI CRER));

Absent: Bobby Gomes (Commercial Fishing); Philip Taylor (National Science Foundation); Take Tomson (NOAA – Office of Law Enforcement);

[All Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) Staff]: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS): Hoku Johnson, David Swatland, Katie Gentry, Andy Collins, Randy Kosaki, Nai'a Lewis, Tia Brown and Alyssa Miller.

[Members of the Public]: Amy Fonarow (Ocean Advocate)

PURPOSES OF THE MEETING:

- 1) Breakout sessions and discussion on Monument Management Plan review process
- 2) Receive briefings on conservation and management issues including Midway Atoll, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Wilderness Review and Designation Proposal, and Japan Tsunami marine debris
- 3) Set 2013 meeting schedule

I. CALL TO ORDER (JOHNS)

Council Chair Tim Johns called the meeting to order. Keoni Kuoha (PMNM) instructed RAC on the mele Puka Mai ka Lā i Kumukahi. All present then offered it. Introductions followed.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA (JOHNS)

Mr. Johns reviewed day's agenda.

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III. MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW WORKSHOP

Hoku Johnson (PMNM) presented a review of the Monument Management Plan (MMP) review process and indicated the outcome of the process would likely be an additional volume to supplement the existing volumes. Johnson reviewed the handouts RAC members received via email prior to the meeting, including the draft 2011 Management Effectiveness Reviews (MER) completed for each of the 22 action plans within the MMP. Johnson also addressed the timeline for the review process. At this time the final management plan review would be produced by late spring/early summer 2014. This allows for sufficient time to complete required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis and solicit public comment on the draft management plan document. Outcomes for today's breakout sessions are:

- Answer review questions for the assigned Action Plans
- Identify Subject Matter Experts
- Identify information gaps

Ms. Paul raised a concern regarding the budget as it applies to PMNM; she would like to see the PMNM budget and how the funds are allocated and the benefit generated for the amount spent, especially as it applies to the MMP. Ms. Wilhelm (PMNM) stated that because there are seven agencies operating under different (federal and state) fiscal years, many employees, and various contributions involved that the funds spent per action plan or activity are not necessarily obtainable at this time. Mr. Schug asked for clarification on tracking spending overall and how it ties to the completion and/or success of activities. Ms. Wilhelm clarified that some activities are more clearly assigned to specific agencies, but that individual agencies are tasked with certain activities and each agency independently determines what their priorities are and how they will fund those activities, based upon legal mandates. Certain agencies are legally bound to address certain mandates. Regulatory agencies may not have discretionary funds to contribute, but may contribute other resources. This subject may be something that could be presented to the agency's representatives who are not present at this time. Ms. Paul pointed out that during her group's pre-review of the Constituency Building and Outreach Action Plan (one of the handouts RAC members received via email) a goal was not accomplished and that the RAC group could not tell why. Ms. Wilhelm clarified that PMNM staff will be made available to answer questions that the RAC may have, especially pertaining to why goals were or were not accomplished. Ms. Harp raised concerns about the costs of certain projects and their priorities. Ms. Wilhelm noted that without an overarching management body such as the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (GRBMPA), co-management is more challenging in times of fiscal limitation and respective agencies tend to focus on managing their own budgets and priorities.

Following Johnson's review, RAC members broke into the following groups:

- Group A (Priority Management Needs 1 & 4) – Mokuli'i Makai
- Group B (Priority Management Needs 2 & 3) – PMNM Conference Room
- Group C (Priority Management Needs 5 & 6) – Mokuli'i Mauka

The attending public (one individual) joined group B.

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BREAKOUT SESSIONS: The three breakout sessions were convened, each session contained one facilitator and a recorder. Each breakout group focused on reviewing two of the six Priority Management Need (PMN) areas within the current MMP and the action plans contained within those PMNs.

LUNCH

IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (JOHNS)

MOTION to approve November 8, 2012 meeting minutes as circulated (Mr. Gilmartin). Motion seconded (Ms. Paul). MOTION PASSED.

V. ACTION ITEMS: RAC BIOS

Ms. Gentry (PMNM) provided an update on RAC biographies for the website; most are complete. She will send out an email to those members who have missing parts and encouraged members to complete them. Mr. Johns encouraged all members including alternates to submit biographies.

VI. MMP REVIEW REPORTS

Mr. Johns checked in with the groups to verify that they were ready to report out. Group A confirmed that they reviewed 4 of the 7 action plans, and are prepared to report out. Mr. Gaffney will provide more information when he arrives. Group B and C were also prepared to report out.

Group A's lead Mr. Lowry addressed Priority Management Needs 1 & 4: *Understanding and Interpreting the NWHI and Managing Human Uses*.

Mr. Lowry reported the following:

The three major goals were: to figure out what was working well and to highlight it; accountability; and learning from practice, that is, what management problems has the agency encountered and have adaptive management methods succeeded. The group found it difficult to address strategies and outcomes because the group did not always have outcome data; the group was presented with strategies and a list of accompanying activities. The RAC has outputs but not outcomes, nor do they have context within which things occur. These factors make evaluation difficult. Some of the group's comments apply to all seven. Overall, the group felt that the strategies in the action plans seem appropriate. Many of the activities performed seem highly appropriate to the planning area, though they may be very different from what was described. Quite a few of the activities that were carried out were different from the plan and the group would like to know where they came from; the group thinks the team is missing out on an opportunity by not knowing why. These issues (new opportunities, etc.) would be highly informative to not only PMNM, but to other groups as a management lesson for resource management. The group has shared some specific observations on individual plans with Ms. Miller (PMNM). The group wants to single out two of the action plans (Permitting and Marine

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Conservation) for a closer look. The group is particularly interested in how agency collaboration or lack of collaboration is impacting plans; this deserves a closer look. The group appreciates the permitting report and would like more information like that since permitting drives a great deal of what happens in so much of management. Ms. Paul noted that some gaps were identified in the data. A RAC representative asked Mr. Lowry if hearing more presenters would help. Mr. Lowry responded, yes, it would be useful to hear from both managers and to hear permittees' experiences. Mr. Lowry continued that the group noted that not much is happening in enforcement given the fiscal situation and the expense of even low-platform surveillance. That is a topic worth exploring, but the funding issues of surveillance always are problematic. The RAC then discussed the issue of strategy and activity alignment in 3.1. The Midway Visitor Services plan was not addressed in the group, but Mr. Gaffney would like to review it. Mr. Lowry wondered if the Native Hawaiian Working Group has been engaged in review of the Native Hawaiian Culture and History Action Plan and other appropriate sections. Ms. Johnson confirmed that the next meeting was occurring March 19 and that the plan review would be introduced then. Mr. Lowry noted that the Native Hawaiian Working Group should also be involved in the review of other appropriate plans. Mr. Lowry reminded folks that this is a 15 year MMP and that this review is a mid-term course correction and an opportunity to evaluate MMB-agency implementation of the MMP. Several RAC members noted that the plan needed to address climate change, especially because it is one of the Monument's top threats. Mr. Lowry continued and noted the group felt that in reviewing the activities the issue, problem, or change in information which resulted in choosing certain activities (or not) is not always apparent and that such information would be valuable in understanding why or why not certain activities occurred. There are often very good reasons, but that needs to be documented. The timespan of what was being reported and evaluated was raised as an issue, i.e. not having data from prior to 2011; Ms. Johnson clarified that the 2011 reports are often a rollup of activities that occurred in previous years, due to the nature of planning and long-duration implementation times. For example, the permitting review contains many rollup activities. Mr. Johns questioned the deviation from activities in addressing strategies: the management plan is both a management plan and an operational plan; perhaps it was not done the right way, or the implementation was not done correctly, or the reporting was not done correctly. Mr. Swatland noted that while some deviation is noted, some action plans have more deviation than others. Mr. Johns would like to see clear a indication of activity completion or lack of completion in the Management Effectiveness Reviews. Ms. Paul wondered if what was needed was a change at the strategy level or the activity level; clear justifications either for changes in priorities or lack of completing priorities are essential in making evaluations of the management plan. Mr. Swatland noted that different agencies approached the activities differently and that this will result in variation in implementation. Mr. Johns suggested that protocol should indicate completion and that assumptions should be eliminated when possible so that when the next plan is drafted the explanation of thinking is clear. Ms. Paul noted that the supplement will be an evaluative management plan, since the supplement will address changes and updates. The RAC asked for clarification of their role: the role is to evaluate whether the plan is still appropriate and if our progress toward the goals of the plan is satisfactory. Ms. Johnson confirmed this. Ms. Johnson also noted that many of the activities are very broadly defined and open to interpretation. Ms.

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Paul asked for clarification as to what the RAC's role in the supplement is; would PMNM appreciate strategy suggestions? Ms. Johnson stated that the RAC is an out-of-agency group possessing valuable knowledge and asking the hard questions; this provides a much needed "outside" viewpoint.

RAC members asked Ms. Wilhelm what she would change in the MMP if she could. Ms. Wilhelm responded that activities may or may not reflect funding or expertise at the time of drafting. Now, perhaps projecting capacity and understanding each agencies contribution would yield a more useful set of assigned activities—gaps could then be identified. RAC representatives asked what would then happen with that list, if it would be compared to current activities. Ms. Wilhelm responded that such an activity might not be the highest and best use of RAC's expertise, and that ONMS was not expecting the RAC to go through the MMP activity by activity. The RAC asked if the MMB measures itself against the activities, or if the plan is drafted incorrectly. Ms. Wilhelm noted that there are many methods employed to measure work. Ms. Johnson noted that she's observed that MMB-agency staff turnover affects how activities and strategies are reported; while she reports by activity, not all staff in all agencies are able to do so. RAC representatives discussed the importance of having the method of evaluation clearly established, especially given agency staff turnover and the multi-year application of the Monument Management Plan. Ms. Wilhelm noted that it was always the plan to have both quantitative and qualitative evaluation of the success of the plan—that some changes are best documented in one but not the other. Mr. Lowry advocated for keeping the activities in the management plan as a means of documenting the best thoughts of the time, which then become a record of thinking. Ms. Wilhelm emphasized that the five-year review does not remove the actions or activities, but can identify, emphasize, or clarify the current plan.

Mr. Schug reported out for Group B (Priority Management Needs 2 & 3). The group selected Marine Debris and Alien Species on which to focus and eliminated those that remained. The reasons for eliminating the others were because they were single-agency action plans or because the actions had clearly identified causes for completion or lack of completion. These two selected were ones in which the co-trustees work together. Regarding the Marine Debris action plan, the group felt that some of it was being well documented and activities were well aligned with the plan. The prevention part of the plan was ad hoc; overall the plan lacked the 5-year strategy. One cause of this may be a decrease in funding. Mr. Schug did note some gaps in information in the science plan with respect to Marine Debris; these were issues in the NEPA document. Perhaps RAC could ask someone from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to explain those gaps to the RAC and additional research activities could be incorporated. For example, microplastics are not mentioned in the MMP and they are a current issue. Considering both selected Action Plans, Mr. Schug noted that the group felt that they address many issues that are relevant. Funding for marine debris removal remains an issue. The need for removal is well documented. Options for prevention at source have been identified during the last five years. Gaps in the summary plan might be able to be addressed by EPA, and perhaps Randy [Kosaki] could be at the next meeting to answer questions. Regarding Alien Species, tsunami debris potentially brings alien species, and is also not typical of standard marine debris.

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Prevention is a priority for marine alien species, but tsunami undermines that strategy. Addressing the threat from tsunami debris is important in developing a new plan for alien species. Ms. Paul asked where native invasives is addressed in the plan. Mr. Schug asked where climate change is addressed in the plan. Ms. Johnson noted that climate change [and the impact it has on native invasives] is a notable gap in the Management Plan.

Ms. Gabrowsky presented for Group C. RAC Education Alternate Gail Clarke sent in comments and Barbara Mayer sent in comments. The three plans selected for review were the Constituency Outreach Action Plan, the Ocean Ecosystems Literacy Action Plan and the Evaluation Action Plan. Comments from the group addressed both the review process itself and the action plans. Ms. Grabowsky would mainly discuss the Constituency Outreach Action Plan, the Ocean Ecosystems Literacy Action Plan and the Evaluation Action Plan, but wanted to note that in reviewing the Agency Coordination Plan pieces emerged that may help the overall coordination plan for the Monument Management Plan. Having all agency partners together would be advantageous to determining why priorities are or are not completed, specifically in addressing Agency Coordination. Regarding Constituency Outreach, the first question was if the strategy is successful, and, second, how times have changed. Ms. Johnson noted that the Communications Strategy is almost completed, which is significant in regards to the Constituency Building and Outreach Action Plan. The group wondered if the activities were addressing over-arching goals. It was noted that several activities had been completed within that action plan, but some work completed did not clearly address activities. The group thought that determining if agencies were working together to prioritize activities would be key. As this is the Outreach Strategy the group wondered if there was a button on the PMNM.gov website for donating to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. The group also thought the concept of the Honolulu visitor's center should stay on the table. Regarding the Native Hawaiian Community Involvement (NHCI) action plan, the group asked Ms. Johnson for some historical context about the Native Hawaiian Working Group (NHWG). Ms. Johnson provided some of the background and that NHWG started as a RAC working group. When the Monument was formalized, the NHWG administrative support fell to OHA. Ms. Grabowsky continued, stating the group offered the suggestion that neighbor island Hawaiians be increasingly supported to participate, perhaps by video conferencing might be an excellent way to engage people from all islands. Regarding the Ocean Ecosystems Literacy action plan (OEL), Group C reported that while there were many excellent accomplishments listed in the handouts the RAC received via e-mail, they did not necessarily relate directly to the plan. Ms. Gabrowsky noted that one of the most valuable lessons to come from deviating from the plan was that the deviation was so successful and to share that out; the list of education activities is substantial. The group hoped for more education on the website. The group is aware of the science data that is being generated from research and believe the data might be available on the website. In reviewing activities, the group noted that Navigating Change has been very successful; the list of education activities was huge. Regarding the Information Management Action Plan, the permit process has resulted in a great deal of data. It would be ideal to have citations available; what is available is great, but the question remains as to its completeness. As part of the second strategy, there is a lot of data available. The maps are excellent, and so having more data available on the website would be

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very helpful to educators and such efforts should be continued. Transitioning to education and the accomplishments in education—are there enough accomplishments in ecosystems sciences? Scientific material appropriate for teachers would be wonderful on the website. Agency Coordination (3.5.1) is an extremely important action plan to improve; the agencies need to understand and define their overall priorities which would help the RAC or other reviewers understand why activities were accomplished. Regarding the Evaluation Action Plan, the interviews were good but could use some improvement in order to better understand activities that would improve strategy success. The group asked for continued effort to get the interviews to stay focused on the outcomes and if the activities were successful in meeting the goals of the Action Plans.

Following group C's presentation RAC members looked at all 22 action plans to identify those upon which to focus. Ms. Johnson clarified that the RAC can submit preliminary comments on any or all of the action plans which will be presented to the MMB. In addition to comments on specific action plans, the document can address strategies and suggestions for improving implementation.

In considering which action plans should be reviewed further, discussion began with the desired outcome of the Midway Atoll Visitor Services Action Plan, and the possibility that the outcome may need to be changed. There may not be enough funding to support the current program and the goal of accommodating 50 people per night may need to be addressed. Currently there are adequate facilities on Midway to accommodate fifty people each night of the season, and that capacity is not reached. The goal of the Action Plan is not about simply increasing the number of visitors, but is about generating a message about Midway and PMNM. Perhaps formal and informal educators who can “carry the message back” should have priority to visit Midway, because chances are good these educators would provide additional education and outreach opportunities about Midway and the NWHI and “bring the place to the people” which would meet multiple MMP goals. Maybe it is time to reconsider the kinds of visitors, journalists, educators, etc. The concept of tourists paying to volunteer was introduced. The cost per person to visit Midway is currently around \$5500. Mr. Lee noted that the current economic climate will impact a concessionaire's ability to operate Midway tour activities and that perspective needs to be considered when considering visitors and the fiscal options. Mr. Gaffney suggested that perhaps some visitors would be willing to donate significant funds to visit Midway; they would be subsidizing journalists and educators visits to Midway. Mr. Gaffney also suggested that perhaps the work produced on the NWHI would need to be given to PMNM in order to build a library. It was noted that Midway serves a valuable purpose in that it is a place for people to visit to tour the island, and it is important for research, ship stops, etc. The exact financial impact of visitors paying to visit Midway was discussed.

The RAC determined that the five year review would focus on the following 13 Action Plans:

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- 3.1.1 Marine Conservation Science
- 3.1.2 Native Hawaiian Culture and History
- 3.3.1 Marine Debris
- 3.3.2 Alien Species
- 3.4.1 Permitting
- 3.4.2 Enforcement
- 3.4.3 Midway Atoll Visitor Services
- 3.5.1 Agency Coordination
- 3.5.2 Constituency Building and Outreach
- 3.5.3 Native Hawaiian Community Involvement
- 3.5.4 Ocean Ecosystems Literacy
- 3.6.2 Information Management
- 3.6.4 Evaluation

The suggestion was made to further narrow down the list of 13 Action Plans based upon several factors including eliminating those that suffered from lack of funding to implement sections of the MMP. Ms. Johnson noted that in selecting the narrowed list there are no restrictions placed upon commenting on any or all of the action plans in the future. Mr. Schug asked if the 2011 information sheets are the final documents available. Ms. Johnson confirmed that 2011 is the first year that the Management Effectiveness Review templates were used in evaluation, although documentation for 2009 and 2010 accomplishments exist. Mr. Schug noted that a particular template design applied to each action plan would prove useful. The template could capture significant changes that occurred during implementation of each action plan, significance, and any modifications needed to improve effectiveness. Discussion clarified that ONMS would fill out the templates and the RAC would issue advice after reviewing the completed templates. The potential of bringing in experts to present on each of the selected action plans was addressed, as was the timeline for bringing them in to speak to the RAC. RAC members raised the possibility of speaking directly to the MMB. Ms. Johnson noted that many agencies have seats on the RAC currently. Mr. Schug noted that the goal of this evaluation process is annual review. Mr. Schug suggested that taking reviewing a few Action Plans in a pilot approach may be productive in achieving a complete evaluation review. The annual reviews form the foundation to a five year plan. It was suggested that PMNM staff present 10 minutes per action plan. Mr. Lee stated that many Action Plans have similar issues and would not take that long. It was suggested that RAC deliver a revised evaluation plan to the PMNM evaluation team to complete for the selected Action Plans. Ms. Johnson noted that it may be difficult to complete a revised form for each of the 13 selected action plans.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

One member of the public attended and was thankful for the opportunity to participate in Group B.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johns adjourned the meeting for the day.

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Absent: Bobby Gomes (Commercial Fishing); Philip Taylor (National Science Foundation); and Take Tomson (NOAA – Office of Law Enforcement).

[All Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) Staff]: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS): Hoku Johnson, David Swatland, Katie Gentry, Andy Collins, Randy Kosaki, Nai'a Lewis, Tia Brown and Alyssa Miller. Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR): Maria Carnevale.

I. CALL TO ORDER (PAUL)

Council Vice-Chair Paul called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA (PAUL)

Vice-Chair Paul reviewed day's agenda.

III. GROUP DISCUSSION RE: 5 Year Review

Mr. Schug and Mr. Lowry presented an Action Plan review template that was based upon the previous day's work. It identifies outcomes and strategies of the specific action plan, lists the accomplishments, and identifies the activities. The concept is to identify how the accomplishment plan fits into the larger management plan and how the progress takes us closer to the outcome for the strategy. Lessons learned are included; this provides a venue to capture activities that may not appear to tie directly to the activity. Staff interviews seem to be the ideal way to capture this information. The goal is to provide more documentation about how plan implementation is occurring as it is occurring and how that reshapes the plan as management continues.

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The issue of staff time required to complete the review was raised. Mr. Lowry suggested that a thorough review might occur every second or third year, which would mean that four or five Action Plans would receive in-depth review every year. Ms. Johnson noted that the suggested template is very similar to the existing Management Effectiveness Review templates currently being utilized; she reiterated that ONMS can only control what ONMS staff reports, that other agencies may not be able to provide as much data. Currently, it seems feasible to complete the reviews as presented. General discussion addressed how agencies set up objectives specific to PMNM management; agency representatives clarified that different agencies manage their offices and priorities differently. Ms. Johnson suggested that the template include activity level information to identify what was and was not done. Mr. Swatland noted that it would likely be ONMS team leads that would complete the ONMS templates, provided that ONMS was primarily responsible for that action plan strategy. Mr. Lowry clarified the importance of lessons learned and having one person tease out the answers (noted a book "Measures of Success").

The group discussed the estimated amount of staff time required to produce an annual report. ONMS staff noted that the Annual Permitted Activities Report took some time to produce in the first few years, but that now the process is established the staff hours required to produce the report are reasonable. Mr. Lee suggested that ONMS complete the report in the first quarter, and that it would be better to have most of the information in a timely manner than all of it at a much later date. Ms. Johnson noted that one of the four RAC agendas used to focus on presentations from staff on annual accomplishments. She noted that these annual accomplishment summary meetings used to occur in the first quarter of each new year and would discuss previous year's activities. In addition to hearing from staff, RAC members also requested to hear presentations from "third party" permittees (not ONMS or agency staff) that accessed the NWHI to hear about their respective accomplishments and lessons learned.

The group determined that they would focus on an annual evaluation of the following action plans in a pilot project of the template that Mr. Lowry and Mr. Schug provided earlier in the meeting:

- 3.1.1 Marine Conservation Science Action Plan *
- 3.3.1 Marine Debris Action Plan *
- 3.4.3 Midway Atoll Visitor Services Action Plan *
- 3.5.1 Agency Coordination Action Plan *
- 3.6.4 Evaluation Action Plan *

Mr. Lee emphasized that he saw these as executive summaries. Mr. Schug envisioned something between 7-10 pages, not at the activity level. The goal is that at the five year management plan review that managers will be able to look at each of the annual reviews and work from those. Reporting at the activity level was discussed. The benefits presented included documentation of the activity and its success or in-progress status. The con of reporting at the activity level is that it may shift focus away from accomplishment success to activity focus which may not be representative of the success within the strategy. Ms. Wilhelm wants to ensure that the product

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results in a document that advances the efforts and that it is not an effort that is not contributing to the over-all evaluation process. The scope and scale of completing the templates was discussed at length. The purpose of high-level vs. in-depth documents was discussed. Identifying changes is key, regardless. Mr. Lowry discussed the purpose of evaluation and the varied perceptions of what that should be; the goal of “are we doing what we are supposed to do” is primary, and so is communicating multi-agency management. Ms. Wilhelm agreed and added PMNM’s new role of large-scale ecosystems management and the need to document these pioneering efforts, as well as developing natural and cultural resource capacity; PMNM is required to do this while others are simply striving to do so. Ms. Wilhelm also noted that a key point is that it is a remote location and how that importance is communicated. Discussion of when to conduct robust reviews occurred. PMNM reiterated that this is the five-year review point. Ms. Wilhelm asked the RAC if the current annual review method (one strategy level document and one activity level document with dropdowns of completion) would be sufficient for review. Mr. Schug suggested that select RAC members and ONMS staff members work together to finalize a template to circulate to RAC members.

The group addressed bringing in subject matter experts. RAC would like to hear from both staff and outside experts on the five selected pilot action plans. Those suggested for input are:

Midway Visitors: Operators of Midway (Oceanic Society Expeditions), Friends of Midway Permitting (Though it was mentioned that this may not be a priority for review, the implications for Marine Conservation are noted.): Applicants (Dr. Bowen noted that current permit process does not encourage research), Carl Meyer, applicants with most permits
Marine Conservation Science: Randy Kosaki
Marine Debris: Kerry Morishige, someone who is an expert in microplastics (EPA?)
Agency Coordination: MMB (Maria Carnevale)
Evaluation: Academic? Kitty Courtney may be too close. Kamehameha Schools, and the Nature Conservancy were suggestions.

It was suggested to determine the questions that the RAC might want to consider what questions they would like to ask an outsider in order to gain insight.

RAC representatives confirmed that they would be obtaining Ms. Wilhelm’s approval for these guests.

The discussion regarding breakout session wrap-up was reopened. The finalization of the template will be conducted via email.

Ms. Paul asked for Ms. Wilhelm to provide an update on Big Ocean; Ms. Wilhelm did so. The seven sites are all large-scale marine protected areas. This organization is highlighting the value of deep-water ocean areas of around 100,000 square miles or larger. The network shares information and research efforts to improve management of these areas, as well as to bring the value of these places to the forefront of public awareness. The website and research agenda are

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available online. The lessons learned from PMNM and Hawai'i, along with that of the central Pacific show the balance between management and science that is so important to these areas.

LUNCH

IV. TOPIC B: Monument Co-Trustee/Management Agency Updates

- State of Hawai'i Report (Carnevale)

Ms. Carnevale reported that bird counts are overall stable. The first PMNM management DLNR meeting occurred. There is currently a legislative funding request for \$250,000 for Kure Atoll as part of the Governor's budget, plus an additional \$50,000 admin; this would be the first state funding. Paul Conry is retiring in April. Interviews for the Permits Coordinator position will occur in March. RAC members asked for clarification regarding supporting the DLNR budget bill which is currently moving through the legislature. The suggestion was made that the RAC offer support in the form of a resolution. Ms. Carnevale will send ONMS the House and Senate budget bill numbers to forward to RAC members.

- USFWS Report (Benally)

Mr. Staller was not able to attend the RAC meeting due to work with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on Midway. Mr. Benally reported that since November two field camp evacuations have occurred: one at Laysan and one at Tern Island, French Frigate Shoals. The latter evacuation was due to a severe storm event at Tern Island which resulted in significant facilities damage. USFWS is collaborating with the regional office to get the damaged facilities demolished and replaced. Mr. Staller is negotiating with the FAA for the next contract for the runway, as well refurbishing the sea wall. Three upcoming Kahana trips will occur in March to resupply the islands at both Tern and Laysan. There are many solar panels to replace at Tern. In June there are two proposed Kahana trips, one of which will remove asbestos material, so staff have received a hazardous materials training. Another resupply trip will take place late June / July that will resupply some of the islands and conduct bird monitoring activities. Bird reports are as follows: on Midway, botulism killed four ducks; the Laysan Albatross count was 479,526 pairs, black-footed Albatross count was 27,498 pairs, slightly lower than previous count due to the fact that field crews were not on the island. The 60-year old Laysan Albatross, Wisdom, hatched a chick on Superbowl Sunday and the hatchling made the national news. The runway at French Frigate Shoals is currently shutdown due to unsafe conditions.

- NOAA Report: (Wilhelm)

Ms. Wilhelm reports that the National Marine Fisheries Services (NMFS) representative has been on leave this month, so this report is largely ONMS-related. ONMS celebrated the 12 year anniversary of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve in December. ONMS participated in a "table-top" exercise sponsored by the NOAA Marine Debris Program and led by the U.S. Coast Guard. ONMS led a one-day permit workshop in December to examine permitting policy and procedures. Regarding constituency building, there is a small Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that reoccurs with Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park for an

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exchange of knowledge and outreach. Marine debris is a growing and evolving area of focus. Navigating Change continues to make big contributions to the community. Field operations are focusing on deep water dive training and a recent dive off the south shore of O'ahu found an *acropora* (table coral) never before seen on O'ahu reefs. Kekuewa Kikiloi, former ONMS Native Hawaiian Program Specialist and doctoral candidate in Anthropology at University of Hawaii Mānoa successfully defended his dissertation in October. This ethnohistoric and archaeological study focused on the settlement and use of Nihoa and Mokumanamana, the two islands in PMNM closest to Kaua'i and Ni'ihau. News outlets reported the discovery of a Brewster Buffalo plane wreck at Midway lost during World War II. Researchers documented nocturnal use of Mesophotic habitats by Galapagos sharks at Pearl and Hermes Atoll. Hawaiian cultural practitioners and PMNM co-managing agency staff participated in a place-and culture-based meeting on Midway Atoll in November. The purpose was to develop and refine inquiry and cultural practice methods, activities and measures to be incorporated into the Monument's Native Hawaiian Plan, one of the step-down plans required by the Management Plan. In January, the 2013 Umu Kai award was presented to Uncle Mac Poepoe for a lifetime of conservation and management along Molokai's northern coast. The Umu Kai Award, established by ONMS, is presented to a Native Hawaiian cultural practitioner who evokes the spirit of traditional fishing practices and management while adapting to modern fishing environments.

- Update on Enforcement Activities: (Roberts/Tschirgi/Tomson)

Mr. Roberts reported that Coast Guard operations in the PMNM last December 27th supported a flyover for FWS over Tern Island to examine the damage created by the microburst storm. The Coast Guard is currently looking to see what will occur after March, but are planning for a minimum of 25% reduction in services. Some efforts are programs which are exempt from the cuts so some programs could be impacted more than others. The Coast Guard now has the approval to enter into agreements which support fisheries enforcement through bilateral shiprider agreements and co-agency efforts and other high sea efforts. They are currently focusing a great deal on Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) efforts to keep foreign vessels out of domestic waters in hopes that protecting the outermost boundaries will protect inner boundaries. The Coast Guard is still working with the State on Kure remediation efforts. The potential use of drones in enforcement was discussed.

- Update on Permitted Activities: (Brown)

Ms. Brown (PMNM) reported in 2013 (starting in October) 18 applications, 6 withdrawn, 12 still active. February 2013, 5 applications received. Most are conservation management, research and special ocean use. There is a drop in number of permit applications received, which is likely due to the temporary closure of Midway Atoll and Tern island issues. There are currently about 40 active permits.

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V. ADVISORY COUNCIL SUMMIT REPORT AND VISITOR CENTER UPDATE
(PAUL)

Ms. Paul reported on attending the Advisory Council Summit held December 4-6, 2012 in Santa Cruz, California at the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Exploration Center. The theme of this Summit was part of an overall “Business Initiative” focus and the third in a series of meetings; the topic at this meeting was to further relationships between travel, tourism and recreational industries. This meeting occurred at the same time as the Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Federal Advisory Committee meeting and a joint meeting occurred in the course of the three days. One of the goals identified at the Summit was coalition building and building new coalition partners with the ultimate goal of expanding the Sanctuary system. There is an urge to promote the value of national marine sanctuaries with an emphasis in promoting that value within the business community. A tour of the new MBNMS Exploration Center was conducted and this center was built with the cooperation and financial assistance of the Santa Cruz community and many public and private partnerships went into the construction of this facility. Some of the topics emphasized at the meeting are not feasible for PMNM given the remote location, but some are if PMNM had a center such as the one located at Monterey. As the RAC is aware, in July 2011 the RAC’s Education Committee proposed and the RAC passed a resolution supporting an Oahu-based discovery and education center operated jointly with the Humpback Whale Sanctuary.

Ms. Paul noted that many of the efforts, from the Administration’s perspective, are aimed at gaining overall support for sanctuaries with an ultimate goal of getting the National Marine Sanctuaries Act reauthorized. The Business Initiative is thought to help in that regard.

Promoted concepts include:

- Collaboration with chambers of commerce, visitor bureaus, travel industry bureaus, trade associations, etc.
- Engage youth from elementary to post college
- Collaborate with other protected areas
- Diversify constituent base
- Increase positive interactions between recreational fisherman and communities
- Attract more visitors to sanctuaries

Ms. Paul shared suggestions that she developed as a result of meeting with Mr. Basta and other meetings that occurred during the Summit: RAC and SAC members could send a representative to the opposite meetings; ask Rick Lee how to connect with the tourism industry; network with other SAC chairs.

Ms. Paul stated that the final piece for PMNM is to complete the Sanctuary designation process. The two alternatives Ms. Paul presented are: one, to keep the Marine Monument with the three co-trustees and allow the Coral Reef Ecosystem to morph into the National Marine Sanctuary; or two, to allow the National Marine Sanctuary to manage the Monument.

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Ms. Wilhelm stated that the Sanctuary designation will be an administrative fix and a sub-category of the overall monument. Ms. Wilhelm noted that the land within the monument would still need the protection which Sanctuary status might not support. Ms. Wilhelm stated that Sanctuary designation would also allow generation of revenue from such activities as special ocean use permits and films; currently revenue generation is only allowed on Midway due to special regulation.

Ms. Paul asked for more information about the drawbacks of Ms. Wilhelm's scenario. Ms. Wilhelm stated: there is a perception that Sanctuary status adds another layer of bureaucracy; there is a belief that the system is working well now; there is also the perception that there will be greater restrictions; the completion of Sanctuary status would take more human and financial resources; the last efforts at obtaining Sanctuary status are over seven years old and would need considerable updating. DLNR representative Ms. Carnevale stated that she agreed that many things have changed since the initial application and that DLNR would need to reexamine what obtaining Sanctuary status would mean for DLNR, although Ms. Carnevale indicated that DLNR does have a current opinion on Sanctuary status. Ms. Wilhelm noted that the grounding of the ship "Grendel" off Kure's reef was an incident that required a great deal of negotiation and the wreckage was located there for years. Eventually cleanup was conducted through a Department of Defense training program. Neither DLNR nor ONMS could apply for the specific funds to conduct the cleanup. The wreckage was not in NFWS waters and they could not delegate the necessary time and personal resources to secure the funds and conduct cleanup. Ms. Wilhelm stated that this is exactly the type of situation that would directly benefit from Sanctuary status. Ms. Wilhelm clarified that the Management Plan would remain the same; the reserve name would be changed to Sanctuary. Ms. Wilhelm confirmed that should the Monument become a Sanctuary that it would need to keep the co-trustee organization as that is the explicit spirit and intent of the Monument. Ms. Wilhelm stated that ONMS is not actively seeking Sanctuary status, although the office believes that Sanctuary status would provide the most robust management regime possible—this has been the official and continued opinion of the ONMS. Ms. Wilhelm noted that would be the first time Sanctuary status had been added to a Monument.

Ms. Paul reiterated the benefits of a visitor center on Oahu and provided an update on the current efforts she has made: the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation 501(c)(3) is willing to discuss serving as a fiscal sponsor for a visitor center (a 12% overhead would be charged). In February Ms. Paul met with administrators of Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) who are moving forward with turning Aloha Tower Marketplace into part of their campus. HPU is currently unwilling to give PMNM the maritime center to convert into a visitor center; they would be willing to provide space on the first floor inner area at Aloha Tower and space at the Oceanic Institute in Waimanalo. Multiple conditions impact the Aloha Tower Marketplace location, but the Oceanic Institute has very few stipulations for use. It was noted that the Pacific Aviation Museum location at the airport might be of interest in the future.

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VII. TOPIC C: Review of 2012 Field Season

- 2012 Field Season Overview (Kosaki)

Dr. Randy Kosaki provided an overview of the 2012 research and field season. There were three cruises last year including the Reef Assessment and Monitoring Program (RAMP) cruise, which had multiple projects and scientists on board. RAMP consists of conducting stratified, random sampling of coral reefs. Another project on the RAMP cruise was retrieval of the Ecological Acoustic Recorders (EARs). The EARs record reef noises and the sounds will provide additional insight into biological processes on/near coral reefs. The last project on board the RAMP cruise was the Bioerosion project, which is the work of a PhD student based upon boring organisms; as seawater acidification continues and worsens it becomes easier and easier for these organisms to damage reefs. The RAMP monitoring program visited 139 sites at four reefs using standard transect techniques. Site section was random, which was part of the sampling design. Initial findings of Lisianski coral bleaching was that there was no increased bleaching beyond background levels, but there was a native algal bloom at Kure Atoll. This is a native species of green algae that has become invasive. The second cruise was the maritime heritage expedition that also included Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) scientists and others. The main purpose was to document the Two Brothers shipwreck site at French Frigate Shoals. Site documentation efforts continued at the S.S. Quartet located at Pearl and Hermes. This cruise was also able to conduct initial exploration of a Brewster Buffalo crash which was discovered by the Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED) marine debris team. HIMB coral researchers conducted disease assessments at select sites. The third cruise was the mesophotic research cruise consisting of the following projects: Hawaii Pacific University (HPU) carbonate chemistry research; Na'alehu Anthony and crew capturing new footage of island and atoll areas in part for the new Native Hawaiian cultural briefing video; and Mesophotic research. Surveys of the Mesophotic zone discovered juvenile reef fish nursery habitat and deep water algae beds. Algae samples were turned over to scientists who later identified 76 new species from the samples provided. In addition to the research activities conducted on the cruise, NOAA allowed the use of closed-circuit rebreathers this summer and diving on the Mesophotic cruise in 2013 will be conducted utilizing rebreather technology.

- Nihoa Millerbird Translocation Project (Dr. Chris Farmer--via telephone)

Dr. Farmer reported out on the Nihoa Millerbird translocation project. The Nihoa Millerbird is found only on Nihoa and is vulnerable to multiple risk factors; the population swings between 800 and 30 birds. By translocating a group to a nearby island (Laysan) it protects the species from many potential threats. A total of 50 birds were translocated over two years--2011 (n=24) & 2012 (n=26). Dr. Farmer described the physical process of transporting the birds by boat. Birds had transmitters and identifying bands placed. All birds were successfully relocated. Birds were seen carrying nesting material and the first fledgling was seen out on the 24th of March. Bird population has increased and there were high survival rates. High level reproduction was noted, occurring between February through October, and some pairs had 4 nests in the season. Twenty-nine individual juveniles were produced in that season resulting in 34% population growth rate.

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The goal of creating a 2nd self-sustaining population that would reduce the possibility of extinction appears to be a success.

- **Hawaiian Monk Seal Field Camps (Dr. Charles Littnan)**

Dr. Charles Littnan noted that 2012 experienced a 50-80% reduction in field camp duration. The overall seal count was down, which is what was expected as approximately 30 fewer pups were born in 2012 than in 2011. This is the lowest birthrate since 1980 when data was first recorded. Pup reduction is variable, so it may have just been a low year. Survival is one of the main items tracked; juvenile survival is critical for the Hawaiian monk seal. There are several stages of juvenile growth and survival which are measured. Six main subpopulations are examined. Survival counts can vary based upon many factors. Laysan variable has high survival rates. French Frigate Shoals (FFS) has extremely low survival rates from birth to weaning. Survival in other age classes has been doing well over the last three years. Presentation graphs were cited, topic focused on relatively high survival rates. Midway was identified as an area where many young animals are dying. Kure used to have high rights, then some low survival rates, then recovery, more recently an aggressive male has been at Kure and later at Midway. Following the relocation of that male from the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands to Oahu, the young seals that reside in that area were noted as experiencing only injuries (scrapes, etc.) typical for seals in their stage of development. Regarding monitoring, due to short camp tenure there were low numbers of disentanglement and vet intervention (usually abscess treatment). Regarding shark intervention, there were five (5) known predation incidents. Most shark predation occurs at Trig Island, French Frigate Shoals; a camera was located there but the technology failed. Fishing efforts were undertaken by NMFS, but no target sharks were taken. To prevent shark predation, monk seal pups are moved to Tern Island when they are located on Trig; ten (10) pups were moved. Due to the late and short season of field camp, the success and/or cause of death cannot always be identified. Five (5) out of 41 animals were impacted, but that may be underestimating shark impact, which is not specified unless it is clear that loss was due to shark. Deworming protocol has improved due to topical dewormer which is less invasive for the Monk Seals. Scat was also collected during the deworming study and results are pending. If the deworming study is successful, researches will return for continued permitting to deworm. Disentanglements have been conducted by a few agencies; this work is essential. Some of the field camps for the coming season will be volunteer camps which will help with financial impact. There is potential for installing cameras at Nihoa; due to unique geographic features there is a great potential to capture good data for the growing Nihoa population. Video cameras have been deployed on the backs of monk seals which are helping to engage community but also provide data about foraging. Pup weaning girth is a good indicator of survival rates. In the NWHI pup loss is largely ecological factors; in the main Hawaiian Islands it is largely human. The volunteer pool for this year is complete; the caliber of people who have applied is very high. Next year volunteer recruitment will be more widely advertised.

- **Top Predator Tagging and Tracking (Meyer)**

Mr. Meyer reported on shark tagging and tracking. Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology (HIMB) Telemetry devices are either internal or external. Some use receivers that are located on the sea

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floor. The questions initially researched were horizontal movements, if there were patterns, how far sharks migrated, etc. It is only sharks that move back and forth between islands and usually only Tiger sharks; most sharks are residents. Within those locations, they do have complex, rhythmic patterns. Some large Galapagos sharks (those who are prone to attack Monk seals) are prone to visit pupping sites at nights during the summer. During the winter months it was in a completely different area of that island. In 2012 a new quantitative analysis was developed. There is a breeding migration of mature tiger shark females wherein they come down to the main Hawaiian Islands. Main environmental factors can then be correlated with movement. Mature sharks are more likely to move interisland than juveniles. In 2010 the question was "how deep are sharks going?" This is a significant question in regards to Monk seal predation. The development of the "shark pill" is a new technology to allow researchers to examine digestive actions by measuring sea water and enzymes and acid production and recording the time of eating and digestion times. It was determined that there was a very tight relationship between digestion time and pounds eaten. Eventually the "shark pill" will be regurgitated and, in future, will float to the top and electronically transmit the data by satellite.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment was provided.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

Action: Pass resolution to the U.S. Department of Commerce expressing RAC's support of the State of Hawaii's request for funding for management on Kure and requesting the Department of Commerce's support when possible regarding this matter.

Ms. Thompson moves to action and Mr. Lowry seconds. The action passes unanimously by verbal vote.

Action: To use the template as presented by Dr. Schug and Dr. Lowry for pilot review of the following five Action Plans: Marine Conservation Science, Marine Debris, Midway Visitor Services, Agency Coordination, and Evaluation.

Ms. Paul moves the action and Dr. Schug seconds. The action passes unanimously by verbal vote.

Action: Resolution to express support of PMNM's coordinating role in Big Ocean and to urge PMNM to continue to support Big Ocean efforts.

Ms. Thompson moves to action and Mr. Lee seconds. The action passes unanimously by verbal vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Johns adjourned the meeting for the day.

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Dates set for 2013 RAC meetings:

May 1, 2013 (possible May 2)

July 26, 2013

October 30, 2013