

**Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
Agency Report to the Reserve Advisory Council
January 2015 - April 2016**

Agency: State of Hawaii, DLNR
Presented by: Carnevale, Miyasaka, Vanderlip
Date: May 2016

Agency Activities and Accomplishments

PMNM Kure Atoll Field Summary Update:



From left to right: “The Sooty Terns are back on Kure and have been seen kettling in large numbers.”, “Field camper Martha carefully digs out an albatross chick.”, and “Though an aerial of the island today would look drastically different than one taken from the Coast Guard era, a few of the structures we use still stand from that point in time. However, the brown wooden structure in the background is our “beach bungalow” bunkhouse built in 2011.” Photo Credit: Andrew Sullivan-Haskins

The Kure Field Team continues to have a year round presence at Green Island. Crew Leaders Matt Saunter and Naomi Worcester departed with five volunteers on March 23 via the M/V Kahana. Field camp leaders Eryn Opie and Andy Sullivan returned to Honolulu with four volunteers on April 14 via Kahana and USFWS chartered flight from Midway.

Wildlife Management:

- Brown and masked Boobies were monitored for nesting success.
- Weekly shorebird surveys were conducted in congruence with weekly Hawaiian monk seal surveys.
- Kure drought condition has continued.

Laysan Duck translocation population management

- Habitat maintenance continues near and around seeps, including weeding, removing algae and sediment, providing shade and cleaning and replenishing water sources.



*A Laysan Duck preens itself after taking a quick dip in one of Kure’s rain Guzzlers.
Photo Credit: Andrew Sullivan-Haskins*

Ant Eradication and Post Monitoring

- A full-island monitoring for ant presence was conducted on December 1-4. 944 monitoring stations were deployed. Big-headed ants were confirmed at 21 sites, mostly in the southwest region of Green Island. Follow up monitoring occurred in January 2016 at all 21 sites where Big Headed Ants were found in December. No ants were detected in February. The next full island survey will be in May.

Habitat Management and Conservation

- USCG, DOH, and DLNR staff continue coordination on soil remediation at Kure Atoll:
 - USCG has funding in place and is preparing detailed work plans to go in the field to complete the fourth major remedial action addressing remaining PCB-contaminated waste on Kure Atoll. The primary goal of the remediation is to minimize future potential PCB exposure pathways to both terrestrial and marine ecosystems surrounding the island through a combination of treatment and stabilization using activated carbon and confined on-island disposal. Under HDOH oversight, the agency will excavate all PCB-contaminated soils above the state action level of 1.1 mg/kg from the former Scrap Metal Dump (SMD) located on the southwest end of Green Island and move the soil to a higher elevation, confined disposal unit 2,500 feet inland of the SMD. This location is protected by the high west dunes. As part of the remedial action, USCG will use excavated clean material to build and vegetate additional dune protection for the site.
 - Implementation of the remedy will occur from August 13 to September 13, 2016
 - DLNR received funding from USCG to vegetate the PCB remediation and reburial sites to prevent erosion from wind, rain and storm surge. Naupaka propagation and water collection has already begun on Kure. The project will require the propagation of over 5000 native plants, installation of 4 water catchments systems and a new shadehouse.
- *Verbesina* eradication is targeted for 2020. The State received another grant (\$550K) through National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to fund 2 more years (2016-18) of these efforts.
- Kure personnel are on a repeating schedule to remove *Verbesina* and other invasive species that are destructive to seabird habitat. A full-island treatment is approximately 188 acres and takes 4-6 weeks to complete.
- Native plant propagation and outplanting continues.

Hawaiian Monk Seals

Weekly surveys were conducted on Green Island by DLNR staff to record survival factors, pregnant females, pupping and physical condition of young animals.

- Weekly reports are sent to NMFS.
- Four pups have been born and two have weaned this year.
- Juvenile survival has been excellent on Kure for two years.

Marine Debris

- Marine debris dangerous to wildlife was picked up and placed in collection areas or stored securely back at camp.
- Green turtle disentangled by team



*Hawaiian Green sea turtle entangled in fishing gear.
Photo Credit: Andrew Sullivan-Haskins*

Facilities Maintenance

- General maintenance was conducted on Kure's solar power systems, RO filtration system and living facilities.
- One of Kure's three solar electrical systems was struck by lightning in March. It took out a \$2000.00 inverter in the bunkhouse. The rest of the system seems to be working fine. The inverter was replaced in April.

- Repairs made to the cistern last November seem to be holding. The tank is slowly refilling.

Kure & Native Hawaiian Culture

- DLNR field staff continues to collect weekly observational data (over the past 4 years) and DLNR PMNM staff works towards the development of a season calendar specific to Kure Atoll with Pelika Andrade (UH Hilo, Na Maka Papahānaumokuākea).
- Collected feathers and bones for cultural use.

Implementation of DAR’s Penalty Schedule for PMNM

The DLNR will send a letter of notification for PMNM permit holders and will send a sample for the MMB.

State Historic Preservation Division

The SHPD reviewed all the 2016 PMNM permit applications for compliance with NHPA.

Enforcement

There were no State enforcement actions or investigations relating to PMNM this quarter.

CAPACITY, PARTNERSHIPS & CONSTITUENCY BUILDING AND OUTREACH



My Hawai'i Storytelling Contest 2016 -- 518 submissions received and currently being reviewed

The 2016 My Hawai'i creative writing contest is open to all middle school students (6-8th grade) in the state. Students are invited to submit their best story or poem that addresses the theme, "Planet at the crossroads"—to align with the 2016 International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress that will be held in Hawai'i. The top twenty-five stories will be published in the 2016 anthology.

The My Hawaii Storytelling contest will be featured as part of the *Workshop: Listen to Young Voices: Engaging Pacific Youth as Future Environmental and Cultural Leaders and Communicators through Creative Expression*, for the IUCN World Conservation Congress.



KUPU’s RISE Fellowship

DLNR’s PMNM program has been working with KUPU’s RISE program to develop a PMNM Fellowship. With grant support from the Marisla Foundation, we were able to make the Fellowship a reality. As a Kupu RISE Fellow, Janice Jenson will work with the State Department of Land and Natural Resources on management objectives for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by providing policy support, engaging with partner organizations, and promoting conservation initiatives through education and outreach.



Kure Atoll Conservancy Blog

Summer season will continue the Kure blog that is posted on the Kure Atoll Conservancy website, www.kureatollconservancy.org, and Facebook page. The stories (now monthly) relay the experiences of the crew members living on this small island to a broad public audience and showcase the resources and beautiful scenery

that the atoll has to offer. Updates and photos were posted weekly throughout the winter camp. Recommended reading for those particularly uninspiring days in the office!



Photos L-R: "Bare ground at the monument was outplanted with natives to outcompete incipient weeds and provide plant matter for nesting albatross. Here is a button sedge (*Fimbristylis cymosa*) or ma'u akiaki in Hawaiian, recruit thriving in the hard substrate along with Kawelu in the background. A similar future is in store at the Pu'umoli Guzzler." Photo Credit Andrew Sullivan-Haskins; "Newly hatched white tern chick clinging to the branch on which it hatched." Photo Credit: Ryan James Potter; "With a north wind in its feathers a Laysan Albatross poses in front of the State of Hawaii DLNR/DOFAW Field station on Kure Atoll." Photo Credit: Andrew Sullivan-Haskins

DLNR PMNM Staff Support Earth Day at James Campbell NWR



On April 21st, staff supported the native plant planting efforts of naio and naupaka at the refuge. Mahalo FWS for putting together a great event!

Think Tech Hawaii

Anukriti Hittle (far left), a visiting scholar at the East-West Center from Washington University in St. Louis, is producing a series of 30 minute discussions relating to the impacts and actions employed in the face of climate change. DOFAW staff, Jason Misaki and Cynthia Vanderlip, shown here with USFWS Beth Flint discussed wildlife challenges for this episode. The State Co Manager was also approached, and an episode specific to PMNM is in the works.



Episodes can be viewed here: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLQpkwcNJny6nP0079o6pm6pC2dDmgRKDN>

Funding

Funding remains a critical need for both the work occurring within PMNM by field teams (at Kure Atoll) and PMNM

program administration in Honolulu.

Current Kure funding (NFWF Grant) ends in 2016. While the team received a NFWF grant to continue their efforts (\$550K 2016-2018), supplemental sources are always being explored.

OHA was able to support Kure Atoll summer camp efforts with a grant! Mahalo.

DLNR and ONMS agreed to a new Memorandum of Agreement for the period from October 1, 2016 thru September 30, 2020 and PMNM Scope of Work (SOW) with funding for the next year, 2016-2017. The MOA is a joint document that combines the Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and the PMNM. The SOW agreement provides \$95K funding to DLNR for PMNM Co Management services- most of which are permitting related. 5K of this funding is specific to support Kure. The rest will be utilized by DLNR to pay for the Co-Manager who in turn leverages their salary to provide the pieces of permit processing support services outlined in the SOW. The MOA and SOW is currently under final review in DC.

The Administration has requested funding support for both PMNM administrative and Kure Atoll Field Support as part of the Governor's Budget Request. See Legislative Update section below.

Legislative Update

The Administration has requested funding support for both PMNM administrative and Kure Atoll Field support as part of the Governor's Budget Request. Bill Number HB1700 is currently being reviewed by the House and Senate conference committee.

Two bills relating to PMNM management did not meet their committee requirements, and therefore are no longer being considered HB629 and SB1165.



Four resolutions were introduced urging the President to deny any efforts to expand Papahānaumokuākea. These resolutions have also not met their committee requirements and are no longer being considered. HR84, HCR 131, SR 46 & SCR 75

Chapter 343 Departmental Exemption List

No updates this quarter.

Proposed Rules

There are no State proposed rules during this quarter that relate to PMNM.

Management Plans in development/review

MHI Coral Bleaching Plan

DAR announced the development of a coral reef bleaching plan on November 16, 2015 in response to the bleaching that occurred the past two years. The plan, while not yet written, will seek the advice of a variety of experts on corals, bleaching, and climate change, and what effective steps the State may take to prepare or mitigate for future bleaching events associated with thermal stress and climate change. There is no timetable developed yet for this plan but the hope is to begin discussions within the next three months.

Hawaii Climate Adaptation Initiative

The Hawai'i State Legislature has found that climate change is the paramount challenge of this century, posing both an urgent and long-term threat to the State's economy, sustainability, security, and way of life. In response, on June 9, 2014 the Hawai'i Climate Adaptation Initiative Act was signed into law as Act 83, SLH, 2014. The initial focus of the

Act is to address the impacts of SLR on Hawai'i and to support the ongoing climate change adaptation efforts of the State through the establishment of an Interagency Climate Adaptation Committee (ICAC). Pursuant to Act 83, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Office of Planning (OP) have been designated as the Co-Chairs of the ICAC.

On Thursday, Feb. 11, 2015 the ICAC brought together pre-eminent climate change experts, state and county leaders, and other interested people to learn about how Hawaii is going to be affected by rising seas and to explore adaptation strategies. In a keynote address, master navigator Nainoa Thompson of the Polynesian Voyaging Society called on the 250 workshop participants to begin creating the map that Hawaii and other coastal and island locations will need to navigate one of the most scientifically and technically challenging environmental issues the globe will face in coming decades. Other speakers included Chip Fletcher, Dr. Catherine Courtney of Tetra Tech, Inc., the consulting firm working with the ICAC and Anukriti Hittle, a visiting scholar at the East-West Center from Washington University in St. Louis. The second half of the workshop was titled, "Adaptation: Charting the Course." It involved small group discussion on people's various roles in sea level rise strategies and charting a new direction based on sea level rise projections.

Videos of all the presentations and workshop activities will be posted to the State's climate change website where you can also find information about sea level rise and its possible impacts on you and your family: <http://climateadaptation.hawaii.gov/>

Division of Aquatic Resources Reorganization

The DAR is planning and implementing a two-part reorganization. The first part while considered minor, affects the DLNR PMNM program. If approved, it will move the program organizationally into DAR, and out of the Chairperson's Office. (In 2013, the PMNM Program moved from DAR into the Chairperson's Office organizationally.) The second part of the DAR reorganization will better realign the organizational structure to its functions. DAR's current three Programs will be revised to combine the fisheries function, allowing DAR to institutionalize district offices statewide.

Staff Changes

DOFAW Administrator, David Smith. The DLNR is currently recruiting for Oahu Branch Chief in order to backfill his former role.

KUPU PMNM Fellow, Janice Jenson.