

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
Superintendent Report to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem
Reserve Advisory Council
April – June 2009

Agency: NOAA/NOS/Office of National Marine Sanctuaries/ Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Presented by: T. ‘Aulani Wilhelm

Date: 9 June 2009

Agency Accomplishments & Recent Activities (alphabetical order):

Constituency Building & Outreach:

Papahānaumokuākea Site Brochure (CBO 2.2, 2.3) – The long-awaited PMNM site brochure has been printed and is available to you today.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Andy Collins

Earth Day Events (CBO 3.1) – Papahānaumokuākea staff participated in Molokai Earth Day—an annual celebration hosted by The Nature Conservancy for the community of Molokai. This year’s event held on April 17th included a session for elementary students where the students participated in an “albatross count” and an evening session for the community. Staff and volunteers from Mokupāpapa Discovery Center participated in the first annual KTA Superstores Earth Day event held on April 22nd near Hilo. Local conservation organizations were invited to set up information booths along the stores sidewalks to hand out educational material to the public. On Oahu, staff spent Earth Day in downtown Honolulu for the first Green Market, hosted by the Honolulu Weekly. The market featured conservation organizations, green businesses, and local musicians. The daytime event was a new opportunity to interact with many business people passing by and people that are not the “usual crowd.”

ONMS Staff point of contact: Stephanie Lachance

Education:

Mokupāpapa Discovery Center Wet Lab Blessing and Grand Opening (OEL 1.6)—Mokupāpapa Discovery Center staff opened and blessed the center’s newest feature on April 8th—a newly designed wet laboratory. The “wet lab” allows students and groups to experience hands-on, inquiry-based lessons on marine research and conservation. The new laboratory space contains several aquariums with live specimens, microscopes connected to large monitors, internet connection for video conferencing to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, and space to be used in a classroom setting.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Yumi Yasutake

Navigating Change Students Teach East Honolulu Community (OEL 1.1) – Over the last school year, classes in East Honolulu have been participating in the Navigating Change Education Program promoting outdoor site-based learning and stewardship along Maunalua Bay on O`ahu. To celebrate their work, the group held a community outreach event on May 9th

where students became the teachers for the community. Students discussed environmental issues facing Maunalua Bay in East Honolulu such as water quality, wetland restoration, invasive algae, and history of the community's fishponds and other historic sites. The event was designed around introducing Papahānaumokuākea to the community, while focusing the community restoration efforts in their own environment. Guest speakers from partner organizations will include Alyssa Miller (from Malama Maunalua), Russel Amimoto (from Polynesian Voyaging Society), and students involved with this year's efforts.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Matt Limtiaco

Papahānaumokuākea 'Ahahui Alaka'i (OEL 1.7)—Participants selected for this 10-day experiential leadership program on O'ahu and Midway Atoll in June have been selected and will begin the program tomorrow. This workshop is bringing together a broad range of interests and knowledge to ultimately inspire active stewardship of natural and cultural resources by participants within their home communities. The participants for this program are:

- Jeff Manker, Gilroy High School, Corralitos, California
- Darius Kalvaitis, University of Hawaii – Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii
- Teresa Reveira, University of Hawaii – Hilo, Hilo, Hawaii
- Trevor Atkins, Halau Ku Mana Public Charter School, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Anne Rosa, University of Hawaii Sea Grant – Hanauma Bay, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Carlie Wiener, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Honolulu, Hawaii
- Sunny Rebekah Seal-LaPlante, Kalaniana'aole Elementary School, Pepeekeo, Hawaii
- Meghan E. Marrero, US Satellite Laboratory, New Rochelle, New York
- Miriam Sutton, Carteret County Schools, Beaufort, North Carolina
- Karen Matsumoto, Seattle Aquarium, Bainbridge Island, Washington
- Ron Hirschi, author, Hadlock, Washington
- Kathy Knoeppel, Mayville School District, Hartland, Wisconsin

ONMS Staff point of contact: Linda Schubert

Native Hawaiian:

Pacific Indigenous Network for Customary Issues Surrounding Protection of Marine Mammals (NHCI-3.1) - As an immediate result the First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (hosted by the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, March 30 – April 3, 2009), an informal on-line network of indigenous managers, scientists and advocates was initiated focused on MMPAs and marine mammals. Staff from ONMS and HIHWNMS will assist in developing a tool to keep connected and will actively participate in the network. A next step from the group will be to develop a more comprehensive workshop report, detailing discussions and fleshing out the recommendations made by the group as part of the final conference report. PMNM will continue to take the lead on this product.

ONMS Staff point of contact: `Aulani Wilhelm

Indigenous Peoples' Global Forum on Climate Change, April 2009 (CBO 3.3, NHCI 3.2, NHCI 3.2, NHCI 1,3) – Papahānaumokuākea staff attended the Indigenous People's Global Summit on Climate Change held in Anchorage, Alaska April 20-24. Hosted by the Inuit Circumpolar Council, the summit brought together indigenous delegates and observers from all regions of the globe. Participants from Africa, Western Europe, Russia, the Pacific, and South

America shared their knowledge and experience in adapting to the impacts of climate change and worked as a collective to develop key messages and recommendations to be articulated at the Conference of Parties (COP) during the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Copenhagen, Denmark in December 2009. The summit also saw presentations by inspiring speakers, such as UN General Assembly President Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann and past Chair of the Inuit Circumpolar Council (ICC) Sheila Watt-Cloutier. A formal Declaration and Action Plan were developed over the course of the summit, and Monument staff supported the Pacific region delegates during the discussions that helped finalize both documents. Staff were able to use their background in marine conservation, and their developing experience in the integration of community and traditional knowledge into management, to strengthen the Pacific delegation's message that caring for the ocean is vital to the future of humanity this call was affirmed in the final Declaration.

ONMS Staff point of contact: `Aulani Wilhelm or Nai`a Watson

Hawaii Conservation Conference 2009: The Role of Indigenous Knowledge in Climate Change, July 2009 (CBO 3.3, NHCH 3.4, AC 3.2) – A forum sponsored by PMNM/ONMS will be held as part of HCC 2009 to discuss the profound and disproportionate effects climate change is already having on indigenous communities worldwide. In all, the UN estimates that there will be 50 million climate change refugees world wide by the end of 2010. Focused largely on Pacific communities, the discussion will focus on human rights issues related to climate change alongside response strategies that need to be developed to for communities to adapt to these profound changes within the conservation management domain which will rely heavily on predictive tools available through both western contemporary science and indigenous community knowledge. It is the goal that the discussion will provide practical approaches and methods for bringing together tools and data from both knowledge systems. Speakers at the forum will include representatives from New Zealand's Institute for Water and Atmosphere; Ben Namakin, Pacific Chair of the Indigenous Peoples' Global Forum on Climate Change, Paul Jokieli from HIMB, and Tukabu Teraroko, Executive Director of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area. The intent of this forum is to seek strategies for to better address management predictive, monitoring, response and adaptation strategies by working in partnership with other Pacific communities with facing similar challenges.

ONMS Staff point of contact: `Aulani Wilhelm

Permits:

Applications Received (P-1.1)—For the May 1st deadline, 6 permit applications were received of which 5 were renewal permits and 1 was new. (A short update on the permits will be provided to the RAC on 9 June 2009.)

ONMS Staff point of contact: Justin Rivera

Policy & Planning:

International Marine Conservation Congress/International Marine Protected Area Conference-2

Papahānaumokuākea co-superintendents and staff ('Aulani Wilhelm, Athline Clark, Randy Kosaki, Kaylene Keller, & Janna Shackeroff) attended the International Marine Conservation

Congress/International Marine Protected Area Conference-2 in Fairfax, Virginia. Nearly 1200 marine managers, scientists and practitioners convened at this international conference, held May 18-24, 2009. The participants saw presentations by Sylvia Earle, Dan Laffoley, Daniel Pauley, among other notable marine conservation practitioners, as well as a symposium at the Smithsonian Ocean Hall exploring success stories in marine conservation. Staff held productive meetings looking at international collaborations with the French Marine Protected Area Agency, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and Conservation International representatives. PMNM staff gave a presentation on PMNM's efforts to incorporate the local community and traditional knowledge into PMNM management, and staff participated on a symposium entitled, "Connecting people and places to advance ecosystem-based management for the oceans". Monument staff participated in a variety of meetings throughout the conference, surrounding World Heritage in marine protected areas and the Pacific; capacity-building and knowledge sharing with the French Marine Protected Areas Agency's work in French Polynesia; among many others. Monument staff will continue working with partners to further World Heritage and marine protections in the Pacific.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Janna

World Heritage Nomination (AC-3.3)—In January, Papahānaumokuākea, along with Mount Vernon, was nominated by the United States as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Before a decision is made in July 2010, UNESCO's review agencies—the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)—will review the application. Monument staff has begun planning for their joint field mission where evaluators from each agency will together assess management effectiveness and integrity. Further details will be provided to the RAC tomorrow during the session on World Heritage.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Aulani Wilhelm

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Research:

NWHI Marine Biogeographic Assessment (Reserve Operations Plan) — The long-awaited “A Marine Biogeographic Assessment of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands” initiated in 2003 was released in May. The document examines spatial and temporal distributions of organisms and their associated habitats within the NWHI. The document was developed by NOAA's Center for Coastal Monitoring and Assessment Biogeographic Branch in cooperation with NOAA ONMS Monument staff. The report is available online at

<http://ccma.nos.noaa.gov/ecosystems/sanctuaries/nwhi.html> and a limited number will be available in print.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Kaylene Keller

ONMS Site Condition Report (ONMS Requirement) —In April, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries released this peer-reviewed report for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands designed to provide a summary of the status and trends of Monument marine resources, including water quality, living resources, and archaeological sites. Such reports have become standard across NOAA's sanctuary system. The report indicates that due to the remote location and the long history of protection of the natural resources of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands are overall in

a good state. The report also highlights the need to address potential impacts of key habitats, degrading conditions of some living resources (Hawaiian Monk seals, resident seabirds and migratory shorebirds), a general need to increase knowledge of regional biodiversity, and enhanced research and discovery of marine archaeological resources. Condition reports will be updated every five years. The release of the report lead to widespread national and local media coverage including an article in the New York Times.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Randy Kosaki

Resurvey of Sites for the Assessment of the Impact of Derelict Fishing Nets on the Coral Reef Habitats of Midway Atoll (MD-2.1) –A third trip to Midway Atoll to resurvey marine debris study sites is planned for June 19th. The surveys have been conducted and led by staff from the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, along with partners NMFS, PIFSC, Coral Reef Ecosystem Division (CRED). The study looks at the long term impact of derelict fishing nets on coral reef habitats by tracking health and survival of coral colonies associated with the nets. The photographs will be analyzed to determine the extent of damage and rate of any recovery. More information on the marine debris study can be found at http://marinedebris.noaa.gov/projects/nwhi_coral.html.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Elizabeth Keenan

ONMS-led Research Cruises (MCS 1.1, 1.2) – Pending final permit approval, ONMS is leading three ship-based research missions to PMNM throughout the summer field season. The first mission (leaving June 9) focuses on the biogeography of the Monument including maritime archeology, top predator habitat mapping, coral reef characterization, and deep-water species inventories. A second expedition (planned for August) will focus on deep-reef characterization and monitoring utilizing technical diving, as well as invasive species surveys and opportunities to create outreach materials through underwater photography. A third mission is the annual RAMP cruise planned for September. This will also include coralline algae research and traditional knowledge projects.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Randy Kosaki

Strategic Initiatives:

Papahānaumokuākea World Heritage Book Series (CBO 2.2 & 2.3, AC 3.3) – Two years ago, PNMN ONMS staff began to consider publishing a “coffee table” book on Papahānaumokuākea to honor photographer Jim Watt after his passing. This initial item was put on hold due to focusing on several other priorities. Recently, however, interest in developing a coffee table book was rekindled both by suggestions from people who worked on the World Heritage application and with the understanding that it is a common practice that World Heritage applicants produce special products to mark and celebrate the hopeful inscription of their sites on the World Heritage List. The book will likely be launched at a special event tied to World Heritage inscription next summer.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Nai`a Watson

Staff Additions:

- Scott Godwin – Resource Protection Specialist – Scott comes to Papahānaumokuākea from the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology where he worked as a research specialist, focusing on marine invertebrate research. In his new capacity, Scott will be working on coordinating alien species and hull inspections and continue development of the Monument’s emergency response, marine debris, and alien species programs. Scott has also worked for the Smithsonian Institute, and at Bishop Museum.
- Chanel Takahashi – Administrative Assistant –Chanel will be assisting in clerical and administrative duties for the Monument. Chanel has also worked in the retail sector and as a receptionist. She has been hired on as a temporary hire. The full recruitment and advertisement will go out through RCUH shortly.

Recruitment Actions:

The following contract positions are in the process of being recruiting:

- *Policy and Permit Specialist*
- *Field Mapping Specialist*
- *Project Outreach Coordinator*