

**NORTHWESTEREN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE
ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR
PAPAHĀNAUMOKUĀKEA MARINE NATIONAL MONUMENT'S LEADERSHIP
ROLE IN *BIG OCEAN: A NETWORK OF THE WORLD'S LARGE SCALE MARINE
MANAGED AREAS***

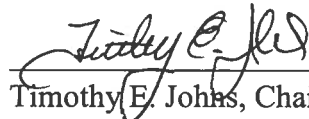
July 26, 2013

The Reserve Advisory Council notes the following:

1. The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve is part of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), which is co-managed by the Department of Commerce, Department of Interior, and the State of Hawai'i.
2. In less than two years Big Ocean has propelled Papahānaumokuākea, the first remote, large-scale Marine Protected Area (MPA), to the forefront of large-scale marine management and is leveraging PMNM's decade of experience to positively affect marine conservation and global ocean governance for the long term.
3. At the November 2011 Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) meeting, the Council endorsed Big Ocean and acknowledged the substantive accomplishments of its first year through a letter to the NOAA Superintendent.
4. Big Ocean has, in its second year, and in conjunction with PMNM leadership, published the first ever Shared Research Agenda for Large-Scale Marine Managed Areas; developed an outline for the first Guidelines for the Design and Management of Large-Scale MPAs; developed new international partnerships with leading conservation organizations such as the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Commission on Protected Areas Marine Division; presented a Workshop and Knowledge Café at the prestigious 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress; supported the first joint research cruise between the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) and PMNM; and, with the addition of the Cook Islands Marine Park, expanded the network to seven of the largest MPAs on Earth.
5. Big Ocean continues to fulfill its commitment to provide peer learning and support to managers of large-scale MPAs by informally meeting in conjunction with significant international conferences; four successful business meetings have been held to date, and the fifth is scheduled in conjunction with the 3rd International Marine Protected Areas Conference to be held in Marseille, France in October 2013.
6. The continued development of large-scale MPAs across the globe firmly establishes Papahānaumokuākea as an elder in this growing field of marine management, as well as underscoring the need for continued leadership by PMNM within Big Ocean, which is currently the only means by which PMNM's experience can be disseminated to the global community of large-scale MPAs.

The Council Recommends that:

1. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries reaffirm its commitment to *Big Ocean* and its support of PMNM's leadership role in the network through: continued in kind support and, where possible, fiscal sponsorship of network administration and activities; supporting staff contributions to academic literature as they write and co-author products that share PMNM's expertise and lessons learned; ongoing capacity building of staff and colleagues to facilitate increased learning and advancement of expertise; increased regional and international activities as a part of Papahānaumokuākea's 15-year management plan; and
2. Papahānaumokuākea provide regular updates on network activities at future RAC meetings, as well as future opportunities to share Council members' views with Papahānaumokuākea for consideration by *Big Ocean* as others in the field of large-scale MPA management universally value citizen input and advice.



Timothy E. Johns, Chair