

NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE
RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Non-Government (Voting)

Timothy E. Johns (Chair)
State of Hawai'i

Linda Paul (Vice Chair)
Conservation

Kem Lowry (Secretary)
Citizen-at-Large

Vacant
Native Hawaiian Elder

Pelika Andrade
Native Hawaiian

Rick Gaffney
Recreational Fishing

Bill Gilmartin
Research

Vacant
Commercial Fishing

Gail Grabowsky
Education

Tammy Harp
Native Hawaiian

Cindy Hunter
Research

Richard Lee
Ocean-Related Tourism

Don Schug
Research

Vacant
Conservation

Jessica Wooley
Conservation

Government (Non-Voting)

Athline Clark
Papahānaumokuākea MNM

Malia Chow
HIHW National Marine Sanctuary

David W. Laist
Marine Mammal Commission

Michael Lesser
National Science Foundation

Eric Roberts
U.S. Coast Guard

Janice Fukawa
U.S. Department of Defense

Kitty Simonds
WESPAC

Matt Brown
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Hoku Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima
NOAA Fisheries PIRO

Meeting February 2, 2017

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

NOAA Inouye Regional Center

1845 Wasp Blvd., Bldg. 175, Honolulu, HI 96818

Ko'olau Conference Room (1564)

Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES:

Voting Members Present: Gail Grabowsky (Education); Tammy Harp (Native Hawaiian) by phone; Cindy Hunter (Research); Tim Johns (State of Hawai'i, Chair); Linda Paul (Conservation, Vice-Chair); Don Schug (Research) by phone; Jessica Wooley (Conservation); Rick Gaffney (Recreational Fishing); Richard Lee (Ocean-Related Tourism); Kem Lowry (Citizen-at-Large, Secretary); Carol Wilcox (Conservation Alternate for Vacant Seat).

Voting Members Absent: Bill Gilmartin (Research); Pelika Andrade (Native Hawaiian).

Non-Voting Members Present: Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard [USCG]); Joshua DeMello (Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council [WPFMC]); Janice Fukawa (Department of Defense); Athline Clark (Office of National Marine Sanctuaries [ONMS]/Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve [CRER]); Hoku Ka'aekuahiwi-Pousima (National Marine Fisheries Service [NMFS]); Mike Marxen (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS] National Wildlife Refuge System, Pacific Marine National Monuments); Dan Polhemus (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [FWS] Ecological Services), Brandon JimOn (NOAA Office of Law Enforcement); Alton Miyasaka (State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources [DLNR] Division of Aquatic Resources).

Non-Voting Members Absent: David Laist (Marine Mammal Commission); Michael Lesser (National Science Foundation); Malia Chow (Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary [HIHWNMS]); Keola Lindsey (Office of Hawaiian Affairs [OHA]).

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Staff: Matt Saunter (DLNR-DOFAW); David Swatland (ONMS-PMNM), Alyssa Miller (ONMS-PMNM), Nicole Evans (ONMS-PMNM), Tia Brown (ONMS-PMNM), Kalani Quiocho (ONMS-PMNM).

Members of the Public, Other Agency Members, and Presenters: John Burns (University of Hawai'i-Hilo); CAPT Vincent Johnson, Julie Rivers, Cory Scott, LCDR Barbara Kagle, Nicole Griffin, Kathy Isobe (Department of Defense

[DoD]); Kanoe Steward, Bert Weeks, Nakoa Goo (The Nature Conservancy); Barb Mayer (public); John Clutter (public); Jory McDonald (USCG); John Armor, Allen Tom (ONMS); Kris Sarri (National Marine Sanctuary Foundation [NMSF]).

I. CALL TO ORDER (Johns)

Chair Tim Johns called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

II. REVIEW OF AGENDA AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES (Johns)

There were no changes to the published agenda. The council approved the meeting minutes from the November 16, 2016 meeting.

III. BRIEF REVIEW & SUMMARY PREVIOUS ISSUES, ACTION ITEMS AND STATUS

1. Management Plan and Sanctuary Designation (Clark)

ONMS-PMNM Superintendent Athline Clark noted that the Monument Management Board (MMB) met in January to discuss the management plan and sanctuary designation. A core planning team was created and will report to the MMB. The core planning team includes Ms. Clark, Alyssa Miller, Nicole Evans, and FWS Ocean Conservation Planner Mike Marxen. The core planning team will present to the RAC once a timeline and a planning outline are established and discussed further with the MMB. The boundaries for a potential National Marine Sanctuary (NMS) have not yet been determined. If there were a sanctuary overlay, the MMB would need to come to agreement.

2. Letter to Secretary of Commerce re: joint management plan (Johns)

RAC Chair Tim Johns signed a letter to ONMS Director John Armor stating that the RAC supports the development of a single joint management plan for both the original Monument and the Monument Expansion Area (MEA). In addition, the RAC urges the Secretary to ensure the new joint management plan builds on the successes and learns from the challenges to implementing the current management plan. The letter will be sent to Mr. Armor c/o Ms. Clark. The letter is available to read on the RAC website.

3. RAC Seat Updates (Clark / Swatland)

Ms. Clark noted that selection of the Native Hawaiian Elder (primary and alternate), Native Hawaiian (alternate), and Commercial Fishing (primary and alternate) seats has occurred and are awaiting ONMS director approval. Conservation (primary) and Research (alternate) solicitation is currently in progress.

4. RAC Charter (Charter sub-committee, Swatland)

Discussion to follow later in the day.

IV. MONUMENT CO-TRUSTEE/MANAGEMENT AGENCY UPDATE/HIGHLIGHTS

1. NOAA-ONMS report (Clark): Highlights include new MOA for PMNM co-management and the naming of a newly discovered fish after President Obama. The PowerPoint version of the ONMS report, and the full written report, are available on the PMNM website.

2. NOAA-NMFS report (Ka‘aekuahiwi-Pousima): Ms. Samantha Brooke has left NMFS and Ms. Ka‘aekuahiwi-Pousima is the new RAC and MMB representative for NMFS. This year (2017) is designated the year of the monk seal. There has been a 3% increase in population over the past year with an estimated population of 1,400 monk seals with 1,100 seals in the NWHI.

3. State of Hawai‘i report (Miyasaka): No report. State of Hawai‘i ready to respond to any questions or specific requests for info.

3. FWS PIFWO report (Polhemus / Marxen): Dan Polhemus provided an update on threatened and endangered species and regulation. FWS Ecological Services, Refuges, and OHA are partnering to review the Nihoa miller birds at Laysan Island. The Midway Seawall Repair proposal was published. Awaiting FAA/Refuges Mitigation Plan before moving forward on Midway seawall repairs. Midway seawall material was originally sheet-pile; it is now being replaced with boulders.

Mr. Polhemus also provided a climate change update reporting 2016 was the hottest year ever (data going back to 1880) and 2016 was slightly drier than average. There were questions from the RAC on whether there is a high green turtle nesting vulnerability with sea level rise. Mr. Polhemus stated USGS modeling was done in 2012-13, there will likely be departure of turtles with sea level rise. In addition, albatross are faced with climate change issues, not only habitat loss but also higher temperatures. Mr. Swatland added that Tern Island and French Frigate Shoals have sheet-pile seawall; MMB working group to determine what happens with Tern (including sea level rise – related considerations). The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

FWS Action Item: Mr. Polhemus will follow-up with the RAC on status of Midway runway.

Mr. Marxen provided information on the planned Midway 75th anniversary celebration on June 5, 2017. He played a trailer for an accompanying movie. A link to the trailer is available on the PMNM website.

FWS has several new staff members in the Honolulu office working for Papahānaumokuākea, including:

Kate Toniolo, Deputy Superintendent PMNM

Mike Marxen, Conservation Planner for Pacific Marine National Monuments

Stephen Barclay, Deputy of Marine National Monuments

Kauaoa Fraiola, Ecologist, Pacific Marine National Monuments

Megan Nagel, Public Affairs Officer

With the recent change in administration, the RAC asked about Midway’s current funding status. FWS stated there is uncertainty with new administration, although DOI leadership is paying attention to Midway and FAA is supportive. In addition, the airport is critical emergency runway and FWS is re-visiting the idea of airlines paying a share of upkeep.

FWS Action Item: Mr. Marxen will update the RAC at the May 4, 2017 meeting on the Midway 75th anniversary celebration.

4. Update on enforcement activities (Roberts, JimOn): Mr. Eric Roberts provided a written report from the USCG, which summarized the USCG patrols in and around the Monument. USCG has a cooperative agreement with the US Navy to attempt to address capacity gaps. USCG surveillance is coordinated with satellite surveillance as much as possible. There are roughly a dozen commercial satellite systems being used for marine surveillance. Numerous projects occurring around the world where companies are attempting to market these systems globally for surveillance. The USCG report is available on the PMNM website. NOAA OLE had nothing to report.

V. BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION OF POTENTIAL ACTIONS

1. Update on military activity in the region (Fukawa):

CAPT Vincent Johnson and Julie Rivers from DoD presented to the Council on Navy activity in the Monument and the Pacific Fleet Natural Marine Resources Program. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

At the conclusion of the presentation, CAPT Johnson and Ms. Rivers addressed questions from the Council. Questions included extent of military support for Midway airfield and what is happening with operations, installation of cables in 'Au'au channel area. The DoD was unable to answer these questions at the time of the meeting and will get back to the Council.

DoD Action Item: Navy will research and get back to the Council.

There were additional questions from the Council concerning integrating information from the DoD in PMNM management planning. ONMS addressed the question and responded that yes, and ONMS is re-activating the Monument ICC advisory group to reconnect with DOD and other Agency advisors.

2. Sanctuaries designation updates (Swatland): Mr. Swatland presented information on the new sanctuary designations within the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Two new designations including Mallows Bay, Maryland and Lake Michigan, Wisconsin. In addition, there is an application currently being considered for CNMI to be added to the list of potential sanctuary sites. Mr. Swatland clarified that if proposed the CNMI sanctuary will likely protect the water column. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

3. RAC Charter discussion and potential action (Charter sub-committee, Swatland)

ONMS vetted a draft of the RAC charter. Summary of significant changes include: format revised to reflect ONMS standard advisory council charter format as it currently stands; language revised to reflect current reality: Monument established, Monument expanded, potential sanctuary; clarified the fact that EO 13178 established the RAC and its membership; revisions in members, alternates and officers selection; revisions in appointments section; and revisions for reimbursements for travel expenses at the discretion of the site superintendent. ONMS HQ did not accept a number of changes recommended by the Charter sub-committee; mostly due to lack of alignment with the ONMS Advisory Council Handbook and the ONMS model advisory council charter. These included member term limits, council participation in member selection, process for filling vacancies, and how quorum is determined. Councilmember Paul requested to have federal and executive committee added. A draft of the RAC Charter and a summary is available on the PMNM website.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Mayer requested an update on mouse eradication program at Midway. Marxen/Polhemus – programmatic EIS in progress. This is required prior to an eradication effort.

VII. 2017 MEETING DATES

2017 revised meeting dates are listed below:

Thursday, May 4, 2017

Thursday, July 13, 2017

Thursday, October 12, 2017

VIII. PRESENTATIONS, UPDATES, AND POTENTIAL ACTIONS

1. 2016 Season Coral Bleaching Update (Burns)

John Burns from the Gates Coral Lab at the University of Hawai'i Hilo presented the RAC with a presentation on coral bleaching in the Monument. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

2. WESPAC Update (DeMello)

Josh DeMello from WESPAC provides an update on the public scoping on drafting regulations for non-commercial fishing in the expansion area. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

3. Summary of Fishing Regulations in Other Monuments (Swatland)

Mr. Swatland provided the RAC with a presentation on fishing regulations in other monuments. This presentation provides the RAC with a point of reference during the process of developing new regulations in the expanded area. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

4. ONMS Recreational Fishing Summit (Gaffney)

Recreational Fishing Representative Rick Gaffney provided a report on the ONMS recreational fishing summit. Participants at the summit felt like the public incorrectly perceived recreational fishers as taking more from the community than they contributed. NOAA needs to address this misperception by communicating facts regarding values of recreational fishing, and by investing in monitoring and enhancement of recreational fishing. Each sanctuary is different, so it is challenging to make blanket recommendations regarding regulations and other management of recreational fishing. ONMS Recreational Fishing Summit summary and actions and ONMS Recreational Fishing Summit breakout group notes are available on the PMNM website.

5. ONMS Announcement (Clark)

Ms. Clark gave a report on the passing of PMNM family member Fred Koehnen. Mr. Koehnen was integral in the establishment of Mokupāpapa Discovery Center at its new location in Hilo, Hawai'i. Ms. Clark expressed a desire to memorialize Mr. Koehnen and have the RAC visit Mokupāpapa Discovery Center.

6. ONMS Strategy (Clark)

Ms. Clark gave a presentation on the revised ONMS Strategy including details on the mission, vision, core values, key initiatives and goals. The RAC will compare Strategy with the PMNM Management Plan. It is expected that the Strategy will be officially published by ONMS sometime in February 2017. Following publication is a 30-day comment period. Because of the timing of the RAC meetings, the RAC will meet again after the comment period. The Council makes a motion to confirm the Sub-committee will (if warranted) send a letter commenting on the new ONMS Strategy. The presentation is available on the PMNM website.

ONMS Action: ONMS will post draft when available for public comment on website, and inform RAC of posting. [Note: Draft ONMS Strategic Plan was released on March 31 and was forwarded to all RAC members. RAC members are welcome to submit comments to David Swatland by noon on Friday April 28 or directly to ONMS by 6:00 pm Sunday April 30.]

The discussion of ONMS Strategy lead to questions about Mokupāpapa Discovery Center and the cohesiveness of exhibits and activities. Councilmember Wooley addressed why the Discovery Center is exhibiting aquariums.

IX. Kris Sarri, Executive Director and CEO, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Ms. Sarri introduced herself to the RAC with a background on her career experience. She then provided an overview of the work done by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF). NMSF's current goals include collaborating with communities in/around National Marine Sanctuaries, public outreach, creating living laboratories, improved management, conservation, cultural engagement and fundraising. NMSF will participate in Capitol Hill Ocean Week June 13-15, 2017.

Ms. Sarri had an open discussion with the RAC members providing an opportunity to bring attention to concerns the RAC members may have. Topics include; partnerships with communities without sanctuaries, work specifically with the Hawai'i chapter, how to collaborate with the HIHWNMS, a possible discovery center on O'ahu, fiscal sponsors (example: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary), and how to increase the legislative pull of the Hawaiian Sanctuaries.

X. JOHN ARMOR, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

Mr. Armor provided the RAC members with an update on transition changes within Department of Commerce (DOC) under the new administration. New Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross is confirmed however, DOC Secretary is not intimately involved in day-to-day management of NOAA. New NOAA Head (Undersecretary) is to be determined. NOS Head Russell Calendar remains in place. NMFS Head is to be determined.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:15p.m.