

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

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

Presented by: T. ‘Aulani Wilhelm

Date: 2 September 2009

Agency Accomplishments & Recent Activities (alphabetical order):

Constituency Building & Outreach:

Capitol Hill Oceans Week and NMSF Leadership Award Dinner (CBO 3.4) – Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Monument) education coordinator and Monument Volunteer of the Year, Kamala Anthony, attended Capitol Hill Ocean Week and met with Hawaii's Congressional delegation last week. Kamala Anthony was honored at a gala leadership awards dinner hosted by the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation for her exceptional volunteer efforts at the Monument's Mokupapapa Discovery Center in Hilo, Hawaii. Kamala and Andy also attended various talks on the Capitol for Ocean's week, and the Annual NOAA Fish Fry.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Andy Collins

Monument Alliance (CBO-3.5) – The Monument agency representatives met to begin developing MMB recommendations for the purpose, composition, structure, and operations of the Monument Alliance. The group reviewed the schedule for development of the Alliance, MMP language for establishment of an Alliance as well as the RAC and FOMA recommendations. A presentation with further information will be given at the September 2, 2009 RAC meeting.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Andy Collins

Education:

Navigating Change Program Expanding to the Big Island (OEL 1.1) – The Navigating Change Education Program has partnered with Three Mountain Alliance on the Island of Hawaii to plan and prepare extensive restoration projects for students from around the island. During the 2009-2010 school year, students from ten classrooms in six schools will learn concepts of land to sea watershed restoration, and apply what they learn from the Navigating Change Guide to restoration in their own back yard. Students will help restore a mixture of forest species including Ohia, Olapa, Naio, Pilo, Kawau and Koa. The Koa tree is especially significant to the Navigating Change Program as it was the primary resource used to build hulls for Hawaiian sailing canoes. Koa trees of this size no longer exist in Hawaii, so our Navigating Change Students fill an important role in restoration of the environment as well as native tradition.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Matt Limtiaco

Native Hawaiian:

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Permits:

Applications Received (P-1.1)—Since the last RAC meeting 5 permit applications have been received, which included 1 renewal (Education) and 4 new (3 special ocean use and 1 research). The next permit application deadline will be on Sept. 1. (A short update on the permits will be provided to the RAC on 2 September 2009.)

ONMS Staff point of contact: Justin Rivera

Policy & Planning:

World Heritage Nomination (AC-3.3)—World Heritage evaluators spent over three weeks in Hawaii this August to assess Papahānaumokuākea's nomination for World Heritage Site status. Nominated by the United States in January 2009, PMNM is undergoing an 18-month review process standard for all World Heritage nominated sites. From August 2 - 24, 2009, Jerker Tamelander of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and Dr. Ian Lilley of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) met with managers, scientists and stakeholders of Papahānaumokuākea to assess management effectiveness, local and stakeholder support, threats to conservation, and field operations effectiveness. Their experience will feed into the decision whether or not Papahānaumokuākea will be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. Joining Tamelander and Lilley for the evaluation was Jonathan Putnam of the National Parks Service-Office of International Affairs, who observed the site visit to learn how to conduct World Heritage site visits elsewhere in the US. More information will be provided in a presentation to the RAC on September 2, 2009.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Janna Shackeroff

Evaluation Strategy Update (EV-1.1) – The process to develop an evaluation strategy for the Monument management plan has been initiated. The initial evaluation strategy workshop was held July 6 and 7, 2009 at the NOAA PMNM office. Representatives from the State, FWS and NOAA participated in the two day training workshop to introduce and apply a technique called Results Chains. Kaylene Keller will be presenting more information on the strategy development at the September 2 RAC meeting.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Kaylene Keller

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Research:

PMNM Natural Resources Science Plan (MCS-2.1) – The Natural Resources Science Plan (NRSP) draft was released in June. A notification was submitted to the Federal Register indicating timelines for the public comment review period and announcements have gone out to media and listserves. The release and review of the plan did not include an environmental

assessment. Two public meetings, one in Honolulu on July 21st and one Hilo on July 23rd, were held to solicit comments from stakeholders. The comment period ended on August 10th and the final science plan is anticipated to be released in this fall.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Randy Kosaki

Strategic Initiatives:

Papahānaumokuākea World Heritage Book Series (CBO 2.2 & 2.3, AC 3.3) –The World Heritage book project has progressed past the need to find a publisher and into full production of the written content and image selection. Kamehameha Publishing has accepted our submission and will assist in both the production of the book from writing to layout, as well as its printing, and distribution. The biggest challenge right now is to continue to facilitate the submission process. Many people, from field researchers and cultural practitioners to managers, have expressed interest in offering images and text but this process is taking longer than anticipated. Current delays could make achieving the June 2010 deadline difficult but work is continuing at a very intense pace. Work on the layout will begin once the majority of content is in the final stages so as to mitigate a lengthy editing phase and expensive layout revisions. The book will receive a batch of amazing imagery upon the return of the current research cruise, as professional photographer Wayne Levin is aboard. Wayne has already said that the Monument will be able to use an amazing number of his images in the book.

ONMS Staff point of contact: Nai`a Watson

Staff Additions:

- Lasha Salbosa—Policy & Permit Specialist—Lasha will be working with the permit team to review and process permits. She also will be working on policy initiatives. Lasha began working in June.
- Janice Uga—Office Assistant—Janice will be the Monument's receptionist, answering phones, and scheduling meetings. Janice began working in August.
- Chris Mew – Media Specialist – Chris will provide graphic design for brochures, flyers and other print publications. He will provide web development services and create and implement web content and tools. Chris began working in July.
- Joey Lecky – GIS Intern – Joey will provide basic GIS support for web page updates, outreach materials, and the data integration team. He will develop, maintain and update spatial databases of natural resource and boundary information for PMNM. Joey began working in August.
- Dan Dennison – Constituent Outreach and Development Associate– Dan will work with various stakeholder groups and serve as a community/constituent liaison. He will conduct speaking opportunities for the Monument at schools, community events and other venues. Dan began working in August.