

***NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL***

July 26, 9am - 5pm

*ONMS Pacific Islands Region Conference room
Hawai'i Kai, O'ahu*

Meeting Minutes
July 26, 2013

ATTENDEES

Voting Members: Tim Johns (State of Hawai'i, Chair); Linda Paul (Conservation, Vice-Chair); Kem Lowry (Citizen-At-Large, Secretary); Rick Lee (Ocean-Related Tourism); Don Schug (Research); Bill Gilmartin (Research); Tammy Harp (Native Hawaiian); Louis "Buzzy" Agard (Native Hawaiian); Jessica Wooley (Conservation); Laura Thompson (Conservation); and (afternoon) Gail Grabowsky (Education). Non-Voting Members: Eric Roberts (U.S. Coast Guard); Eric Kingma (Western Pacific Fishery Management Council for Kitty Simonds); Don Palawski (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)); Matt Saunter (State of Hawai'i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW)); Naomi Worchester (DLNR-DOFAW); Brandon Jim On (NOAA – Office of Law Enforcement); David Swatland (Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve (NWHICRER)); Samantha Brooke (NOAA – National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)); Dan Polhemus (FWS); and Michael Tosatto (NMFS).

Absent: Pelika Bertlemann (Native Hawaiian); Rick Gaffney (Recreational Fishing); Cindy Hunter (Research); Bobby Gomes (Commercial Fishing); David Laist (Marine Mammal Commission); and Michael Lesser (National Science Foundation).

[All Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) Staff]: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS): Hoku Johnson, Katie Gentry, Pua Borges-Smith and Alyssa Miller.

[Members of the Public]: Amy Fonarow (Ocean Advocate); Barb Mayer

PURPOSES OF THE MEETING:

- 1) Receive updates on ONMS initiatives and related efforts;
- 2) Address Monument Management Plan (MMP) Review Pilot Project; and
- 3) Potential Action Items: (1) Letters on sanctuary nomination process and NWHI sanctuary designation process; (2) Letter on proposed rule implementing Shark Conservation Act and Magnuson-Stevens Reauthorization; and (3) Letter nominating Dr. Isabella Abbott to the ONMS Nancy Foster Memorial Garden.

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I. CALL TO ORDER (JOHNS)

Council Chair Tim Johns called the meeting to order. Keoni Kuoha, Matt Limtiaco, Hoku Johnson, David Swatland, Blane Benevedes and Keali'i Sagum (All PMNM/ONMS) performed the mele Puka Mai ka Lā i Kumukahi. Introductions followed.

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

Mr. Johns reviewed the day's agenda. Minutes from February 26-27, 2013 were reviewed and the date of the February meeting was confirmed. Johns entertained a motion to accept the minutes as circulated. Lee approved the motion and Paul seconded. The motion was approved unanimously. The Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) discussed the length and format of the minutes. Lee noted that as these are available to the public they should be concise or clear in this form or another. Johns suggested that ONMS draft a proposal addressing the possibility of shortening the minutes.

III. Review of Action Items (Johns)

Johns reported that the Big Ocean Resolution was completed and signed and will be forwarded to ONMS Headquarters.

IV. MONUMENT CO-TRUSTEE/MANAGEMENT AGENCY UPDATES

• **State of Hawai'i Report (Saunter)**

Saunter reported that the State of Hawai'i, DLNR is not addressing the Ocean Plan released today; the RAC requested that DLNR prepare a briefing on potential impact on PMNM. Saunter, a Kure Atoll field camp leader, presented updates on work completed over the last winter. Saunter mentioned that seabird habitat management is one of the primary management objectives on Kure. Saunter then presented images from 2009 and 2012 depicting seabird habitat improvement over the last three years. To date, 116 acres on Kure have been improved with native plants, and currently up to 133 acres of native plants are being managed. On-site propagation reduces chances of non-native introduction by limiting exposure to non-native seeds. Efforts are focused on outplanting seven native plant species, and watering remains challenging in getting plants established. Saunter reported that the team conducted an island-wide nest census: 24,000 Laysan albatross nests, 3,400 Black-footed Albatross (BFA), and one failed Short-tailed Albatross (STA) nest. Two presumed female STA currently reside on Kure. 120 BFA and one masked booby chick were banded. A third year of study analyzed the flight patterns of Kure BFA. Monk seal counts for the season are ten pups born, one nursing, eight weaned and one died. One monk seal was disentangled. Approximately 3,469 lbs. of marine debris were removed. The next camp deploys in September 2013 and will return in March 2014.

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- **FWS Report (Polhemus)**

Polhemus reported that FWS refuges in general are experiencing difficulty due to the regional \$7 million shortfall. Former FWS-Refuges Superintendent Doug Staller's position will not be replaced until October 2014. Polhemus reported that Millerbirds are succeeding at Laysan. Midway's seawall is deteriorating due to rising sea level and the Japan Sendai tsunami; plans are underway to rebuild portions of it in partnership with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Climate change planning requires that FWS evaluate drivers and plan accordingly, as well as consider how much change is acceptable. The Monument Management Board (MMB) Climate Change Working Group meets on as needed basis. Basic tasks of the Climate Change Working Group are to determine significant threats to the Monument, provide recommendations for instrumentation of data, and to provide the MMB with the group's best assessment of scenarios impacting the Monument. Polhemus indicated that conversations are underway to address the deteriorating sea walls on Tern and Midway: Midway's sea wall will likely be maintained by multiple agencies or through different funding mechanisms due to its importance; Tern has multiple different issues.

- **NOAA Report (Swatland)**

Swatland reported that the remaining two vacant RAC alternate seats will be advertised in the Federal Register on August 15. Swatland recognized that it is the 5th Anniversary of the Monument's designation as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area. NOAA is currently producing a report of the traffic in those areas and it is under review by ONMS headquarters. Satellite data will be compared to what was reported for further analysis. In research news, NOAA's Research Specialist traveled to the Indian Ocean as part of the Big Ocean shared research plan. Additionally, last week, NOAA hosted a group from China interested in climate change and ocean and environment management issues. Many efforts were conducted that advance the mission of "bringing the Monument to the people." Navigating Change is continuing the efforts and is consistently successful, educating both children and educators. Regarding the NOAA office move, the official move date is January; however, this may change due to construction delays.

- **Update on Enforcement Activities (Roberts)**

Roberts reported on marine resources law enforcement activities in the Western and Central Pacific Region for the period of March 1, 2013 to June 30, 2013. Generally, enforcement activities have been shifting from local to regional efforts. During the month of March one of the cutters conducted one boarding of a Hawai'i-based long liner as well as a Samoa based vessel and also assisted with the boarding of two Kirabati vessels. Also in March smaller cutter assisted with three boardings within the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of Palau. From Mid-April to Mid-May, a Coast Guard Law Enforcement Detachment (LEDET) deployed on board the U.S. Navy asset in support of the inaugural Oceania Maritime Security Initiative phase II patrol. The LEDET completed eight boardings. This effort was the first of its type (a Coast Guard boarding team on a U.S. Navy asset) to be conducted in the Pacific. This is a proof of concept effort and was a success in joint efforts to conduct enforcement. 2014 efforts are

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dependent upon funding. Finally, Roberts provided an update on the Sapphire III (identified as long lining inside the Monument): a violation and fine were issued at approximately \$50,000. Any fine received will go to the general fund, not to the Monument.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Shark Removal Permit Update (Littnan)

Dr. Charles Littnan from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) reported on the shark removal permit activities occurring at French Frigate Shoals (FFS). The fishing methods used are handline, harpoon, drumline, bottomset, and surprise net; fishing areas is within 700 m of shore; these are responding to atypical behaviors; removal is focused around Galapagos sharks only; and take place only at Trig, Round and the Gins. The activities are no longer experimental and there is not the expectation that the efforts will be a “quick fix.” This is a very focused effort and does not impact other FFS activities. Littnan asserts that the time for attempting to deter shark behavior has passed and control measures are needed to decrease pup predation. The highest incidence of pup predation occurs immediately after weaning, meaning the pups are most vulnerable to shark attack for a limited duration of time. If the pups can successfully survive that life-stage without being subject to shark predation, their chances for survival increase significantly. With that in mind, efforts to remove sharks are targeted around pup weaning time. Littnan continued by reporting on the July 6 – Sept 27 Field Camp. The update is: 28 pups born so far, three shark wounds and subsequent deaths and two disappearances. During this time, Littnan reported 62 hours of fishing with tuna, and one tiger shark was caught and released. Littnan stated that there is a misconception that efficiency equals effectiveness in regards to removing predatory sharks; this is not so. Littnan further reported that the issue at hand currently is the use of frozen monk seal flesh as bait. Littnan stated that research is clear that using the bait a predator is seeking is optimal in attracting that predator. In this case, monk seal flesh is the ideal bait in attracting the sharks which are preying upon the pups. Littnan clarified that the monk seal flesh is from seals that perished due to some other cause and that seals are not killed for use as bait. The RAC asked for insight into the stumbling blocks for the permit process; Littnan reported that the issues vary from year to year. This year, miscommunication that occurred later in the process created difficulties in using monk seal flesh as bait for shark removal activities. Swatland responded that potentially the process will not be as complicated next year. Johns requested that in the future the RAC receive information about the permit application prior to informing the Land Board, so that the RAC may better respond to constituencies. Littnan informed the RAC of an upcoming event at the Doris Duke Theater presenting Monk Seal Crittercam efforts.

2. NMFS proposed rule implementing Shark Conservation Act (SCA) (Tosatto)

Tosatto presented on the current SCA rule proposal and salient activities and impacts. Tosatto noted that group should have in their possession a printed version of the proposed rule and the act to implement the proposed rule, as well as a letter signed by a group of United States Congresspersons. Tosatto recognized that the focus of the issue is in regards to the State's rule and its conflict with the federal rule. The core of the issue, Tosatto stated, was that when shark-finning began to increase significantly on a global level, different countries and jurisdictions

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dealt with it a variety of ways. In 2000, the U.S. Congress passed the original Shark Fin Prohibition Act which amended the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCA) and prohibited shark finning. This amendment is key as it prohibited shark finning: the act of cutting off the shark fin. In 2002, NMFS implemented the Shark Finning Prohibition Act; again, prohibiting the act of finning, but not the possession or use of fins. The Acts prohibited the act of cutting off the sharks fins at sea, throwing the carcass back and bringing the fins in to shore. In the original Shark Prohibition Act it was illegal to possess the shark fin without the carcass—the fin could be cut off if the fisherman had a corresponding carcass. The practice of cutting the fins from the carcass at sea meant that it became difficult to directly determine if the rule was in violation; as such, Congress created a standard whereby 5% by dressed weight of fins to carcass was a rebuttable presumption that the fisherman had a fin from every shark and was not “finning.” Going forward, enforcement of this rule proved problematic as fisherman would establish a 5% ratio at first, but would then cull bad or sub-par fins and throw carcasses back. Another significant flaw in the Shark Finning Prohibition Act was that while it addressed U.S. activities and activities in U.S. ports, it did not prevent the transfer of fins themselves. Therefore, at this point, it is not illegal for a U.S. vessel to take fins from a foreign vessel; the wording of the law required carcasses to be kept only if the individual was the actual fisherman, not a transporter. Tosatto continued: in 2010, Congress worked to close those loopholes. At the same time the State of Hawai'i, as well as a series of other states and territories, worked to establish rules addressing the possession of shark fins. Each of these rules is slightly different, but generally they approach the problem by addressing the possession of fins, as opposed to the practice of finning. It closed some of the loopholes (such as transporting the fins). When the law was passed, it arguably created a conflict. The MSFCA clearly states that federal resources and federal fisheries are managed by the federal management plan, except in certain circumstances where the federal government has handed management over to the State, or where there is no management of the issue (in this case, shark fishing). Tosatto stated that, in general, it is in the Federal government's best interest to make the best use of Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) resources and it becomes problematic if a single state or a series of states “gets in the way” of that management. An excellent example is the East coast tuna fishery. Each of the states along that coast had different rules and fishermen were faced with uncertainty in inconsistent laws and this began to do harm to commerce. It is a key tenant within our Constitution that for issues of Federal resources and federal jurisdiction that States can counter that authority. The Supremacy clause states that the Federal rules are supreme unless the Federal government does not speak to the issue, or if the state's laws are inconsistent. Tosatto stated that the current problem with the State of Hawai'i law is not with the SCA of 2010, it is with the State of Hawai'i law itself (that it is inconsistent). The prevailing rule for shark finning was established in 2000 and implemented in 2002. So what Hawai'i did in 2010 created the problem; the problem as it is now has been around for 2-3 years. NMFS is now proposing that Congress make changes in the 2010 law to the underlying issue of preemption or supremacy is the same. When changes were made in the SCA of 2010 positive outcomes did occur: the changes increased U.S. ability to address international shark finning; the change added provisions to allow the Secretary of Commerce to certify countries that are still finning and to take economic sanctions against those countries; the change closed the loophole on transfer of

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shark fins; and the change overcame the rebuttable presumption that 5% weight is correct by making sure that fins remain attached. These changes did not address the preemption issue. Tosatto then spoke to the proposed rule. The proposed rule contains key language that NMFS hopes will encourage conversation. NMFS is guided by federal law. Currently, NMFS is in the comment period and they are in conversations with the States. Tosatto stated that there is a logical flow of law as it is applied to each state. Tosatto stated that the MSFCA has a clear set of steps to follow to address the supremacy and preemption issue; or, that one of the first state-penalized persons might go to court (thereby addressing supremacy through legal action). Tosatto completed his review of the issue by acknowledging that the RAC might be most concerned with the preemption issue and the "stricter law standard," which Tosatto stated was not really the issue here, as this would only apply if the law was consistent. Under the MSFCA the law may be stricter, but must be consistent. An example is bottom-fish management within the SOH: federal management is by allowable catch and state management is through area management. NMFS has determined that though these are different, they are not inconsistent. Johns asked for insight into potential impact on the Monument resources, given that there is no fishing in the Monument. Tosatto stated that the shark culling acts addressed earlier in the day resulted in fins that were then "in possession," and actually would fall under that law. Johns stated that sharks do travel through Monument water. Schug noted that many species travel through Monument waters. Johns noted that some fishing is allowable by Native Hawaiians; Swatland clarified that all the resources caught under Native Hawaiian rules were consumed within the Monument boundaries. Johns reiterated the desire to know about direct impact to Monument resources. No direct answers were available. Tosatto noted that the comment period was extended to July 31. Paul noted that this is referring to section D and questioned the implementation authority and noted that the State of Hawai'i may interpret this differently. Paul continued that the state may interpret it from a trade perspective. Tosatto stated that the MSFCA can apply all the way to consumption, so while Paul may be correct generally, she may not be correct specific to this case. Paul reasserted that there is no authorization for the proposed rule in the MSFCA. Tosatto thanked Paul for the comment. Lee asked for Tosatto to address the U.S. Congress letter and the loophole that is mentioned in that letter (pertaining to difficulty in traceability of source or catch documentation so that legally caught fins may be used legally). Tosatto confirmed that possession is not prohibited and that while traceability is not in this proposed rule, catch documentation is applied holistically and should Congress require that, it could be applied. Wooley asked for clarification as to the underlying assumption that this rule is pertaining to the protection of the shark fishing industry. Tosatto stated that there is very little discretionary language between the rule and the law and that NMFS is implementing the law as instructed by Congress; the underlying premise of preemption is that sharks are caught as bycatch and a smaller number are harvested for their fins. Johns suggested the RAC send a letter (could be either general or specific) stating that the RAC believes in best protection for the Monument. Schug stated that the legal interpretation is not as clear-cut as NMFS has presented, as a California case's preliminary judgment has indicated. Tosatto noted that the California case is not decided at this time. Johns indicated that whatever action the agency takes does not directly impact Monument. Johns suggested that the RAC might draft a letter noting that the RAC believes in the best protection for the resources that are protected by the Monument. He

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noted that PMNM has taken a very high standard of protection, and the State of Hawai'i has also adopted a high standard of protection; if this federal law weakened those protections, the RAC would not support it, although the RAC recognizes that PMNM does not allow fishing in the Monument. Johns continued to note that regardless if there is a potential softening of state law, it should not impact PMNM resources. Johns also proposed that the RAC could remain silent. Paul suggested that drafting take place by email and Johns agreed.

3. Reauthorization of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Tosatto)

Tosatto stated that the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCA) has been in place since 1976 when EEZs were in place and the Federal government created a Federal management structure for marine fisheries in the United States. It was relatively unaltered for 20 years. Tosatto continued that the MSFCA was reauthorized in 1996 and 2006. The reauthorization in 1996 (known as the Sustainable Fisheries Act of 1996) included two changes, including harvest control rules, and adopted the promotion of essential fish habitat (bodies of water and substrate that are required for fish spanning, breeding, feeding and a place to grow to maturity). In 2006, the biggest change was the implementation of biologically determined annual catch limits which addressed the issue of overfishing. Other than those big reauthorizations, 18 smaller amendments have been made; Tosatto stated that the SCA would be considered one of those smaller changes. Leading up to the ten-year anniversary from the last amendment, Congress and NMFS has been considering what might need addressed going forward. Currently there are no active pieces of legislation specifically addressing MSFCA (neither a broad reauthorization nor minor amendments) in Congress, although committee hearings are occurring. The NMFS is unlikely to create an administration bill to offer to Congress; Congress has stated they will not need that, though Congress encouraged NMFS to submit ideas and to involve communities. Therefore, NMFS convened "Managing Our Nation's Fisheries 3: Advancing Sustainability." This conference brought together people from all over the country and identified and addressed three basic tenants: one, improving essentials; two, how does NMFS really "do" ecosystems based fisheries management; and three, looking into fishing communities. Tosatto stated that this information would help inform the next reauthorization, but that there is no official reauthorization at this time. Paul noted that there were suggested bills during the last Congressional session that concerned assigning management of fishing activities in a Sanctuary to the Fishery Management Council (FMC), which would clearly apply to PMNM. Paul asked what NMFS's opinion is on the application of the MSFCA to assign management of Sanctuary fishing to such a FMC. Tosatto stated that the MSFCA requires NMFS to comply with all applicable laws. One of those applicable laws is the National Marine Sanctuaries Act; that Act requires that FMC provide recommendations that are in line with the goals and processes of the Sanctuary. There is a system between NMS and NMFS to handle the applicable laws and resulting activities and advice by the FMC, which was worked out in the Channel Islands effort. Paul suggested that the RAC could submit a letter addressing the SCA. Johns sought the RAC opinion. Lee suggested that the Hawaiian perspective be included. It was agreed that it was important to note that the Monument does allow fishing in its waters. Johns confirmed that the representatives would work by email to draft a letter.

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Regarding the MSFCA, Paul suggested that the RAC wait until there was legislation in front of Congress prior to acting.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Barbara Mayer, a volunteer with FWS, spoke about an Education and Outreach activity that occurred over the summer of 2013. Briefly, on July 11, 2013, John Klavitter and Jessica Lopez were aboard the Sette and docked at Midway. They conducted three Google hangout sessions with classroom students. Students and scientists were well prepared for the session, having prepared questions in advance, and the experience resulted in a quality, enriching experience. Lopez brought the camera outdoors on the deck of the Sette and was able to show Midway Atoll shore and the albatross to the students. Students were also able to hear albatross in the background. Mayer stated this is the next best thing to taking children to Midway. The background lessons included monitoring albatross and monk seal, as well as analyzing monk seal scat. This was a collaborative effort and thank-you to FWS, especially Ann Bell and ONMS Andy Collins.

LUNCH

Tammy Harp shared a photo of a sky and cloud formation taken in the NWHI during marine debris removal.

VII. NEW BUSINESS (CONT.): DISCUSSION AND POTENTIAL ACTION ITEMS

- **MOKUPĀPAPA RELOCATION:** Swatland updated the RAC on the relocation of Mokupāpapa Discovery Center. The new location is much larger, will contain a theater, and will house all of the existing exhibits and much more. The Koehnen family is contributing over \$500,000 to bring the building up to ADA compliance and improve building safety. The center is currently scheduled to re-open in the fall of 2013. The RAC decided to draft a thank you letter to the Koehnen family (no formal motion was made).
- **ABBOTT NOMINATED FOR NEW ONMS MEMORIAL:** Swatland addressed ONMS's new Memorial Garden at the Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center in Key West, Florida. The memorial will be unveiled in September. PMNM / ONMS submitted Dr. Isabella Abbott's name, but she was not among the 10 selected. PMNN / ONMS will continue to submit Abbott's name for consideration. Paul distributed a draft nomination support letter recommending that Abbott be considered for this memorial.
- **SANCTUARY NOMINATION PROCESS:** Swatland reported that the Site Evaluation Process (SEP) has been redesigned and re-named the Sanctuary Nomination Process (SNP). The SEP was a top-down process and the SNP is designed to facilitate communities' recognition of locations they feel worthy of Sanctuary status. The

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proposed rule is open for comments now and closes August 27, 2013. Comments addressing the process are requested, i.e. how sanctuaries are nominated and what criteria should be considered. Information for comment submission is available on the ONMS website. Swatland noted that the site nomination process is completely separate from the site expansion process; there are currently site expansion efforts at several sites, including the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS here in Hawai'i. The group briefly discussed the potential negative financial impact that new sites would have on existing sites, given that the funding for sanctuary sites is a finite amount; the idea was also raised that increased visibility may result in increased funding at a later date. Paul noted that there is no sanctuary in Alaska, and that the Inland Passage is filled with both natural resources and outdoor recreation. Paul also noted that the RAC had experience in sanctuary nomination and designation with the NWHICRER's sanctuary designation process, which was top down; the RAC has limited experience with "bottom-up" designation, which may limit the RACs ability to comment on the process. Swatland stated that the RAC could comment on their previous experience, including how the sanctuary nomination process was derailed. The RAC briefly discussed potential additional sites for nomination as national marine sanctuaries. Roberts noted that the current process at hand is about the nomination process, and is not yet requesting specific site nominations. Johns confirmed this. Paul noted that the Florida Keys NMS was a bottom-up process and it took ten years to establish the sanctuary. Grabowsky asked for clarification about the criteria for sanctuaries, i.e. would there be biological and ecological criteria in the new SNP and could the RAC comment on that. Swatland confirmed that submitted comments could address specific criteria included in the proposal as well as address criteria that the RAC felt should be considered in the SNP. Johns requested a printed version of the proposed rule be distributed to the RAC. Johnson noted that some other Sanctuary Advisory Councils had submitted letters of support for the SNP. Swatland noted that, generally, those letters were submitted prior to the publication of the proposed rule and that they could only lend general support; now that the rule is published, the RAC has the opportunity to speak specifically to the rule as written. The RAC determined that they would like to continue the act of moving forward by email. Swatland confirmed that there is no active effort on the part of ONMS to pursue sanctuary status.

- **NWHI DESIGNATION STATUS:** Paul introduced the topic of the NWHICRER and briefly addressed President Bush's Presidential Proclamation which established PMNM. Paul inquired about the NWHICRER's status in the sanctuary designation process, specifically, although the NWHI was proclaimed a Monument under the Antiquities Act, the process that was in place to establish the area as a national marine sanctuary was neither negated nor completed. Paul raised the issue of moving forward with pursuing sanctuary status. Swatland stated that sanctuary status would not remove any existing protections currently in place. Johnson clarified that the Presidential Proclamation would remain in place with all of the protections and any additional status, such as sanctuary status, would not be able to violate the Proclamation. The RAC discussed various

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possible benefits to the Monument, as well as theorized about possible risks. In order to have a better understanding of the implications of reactivating the sanctuary designation process, the RAC requested a matrix addressing the options and risks in re-activating the NWHI's sanctuary status process, to be completed by ONMS.

- **ONMS FUNDING UPDATE:** Swatland reported that ONMS has significant funding reduction. There is a 50% reduction in sea time for NOAA vessels and ONMS visitor centers are subject to reduced operations and potential closures. The PMNM / ONMS site budget was cut 10% from 2012. Four positions in the PMNM office are currently vacant and will not be backfilled. Travel is cut significantly, impacting this site considerably. ONMS is no longer funding and supporting the 5-year Monument Management Plan review, resulting in a delay in MMP review. Dr. Randall Kosaki's cruise is funded; all other vessels cruise hours are cut 50%. ONMS is looking for new partnerships. ONMS invested \$50k in Schmitt Ocean Institute which will net one million dollars in ship time. The RAC suggested reactivating the Management Plan Review Working Group to address the 5-year review. The RAC suggested holding a RAC meeting in Hilo at Mokupāpapa in October. It was also suggested that the RAC reactive the MMP Working Group/Subcommittee to address the 5-year review needs.
- **RAC REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDANCE AT MMB MEETINGS:** The RAC discussed the possibility and implications of a RAC Representative attending MMB meetings. Swatland will discuss this request with ONMS Headquarters and the MMB and report back next RAC meeting.
- **ONMS BUSINESS ADVISORY COUNCIL FORMATION:** Swatland reported that the Sanctuaries office is starting a Business Advisory Council (BAC) at the national level, which is based in the Campaign of Engagement. The Campaign of Engagement is designed to help the Sanctuaries stay relevant in today's economy and help develop partnerships with private organizations and leverage financial assets. The BAC is a programmatically focused national council with members appointed and working closely with ONMS Director, Daniel Basta. They will be primarily focused on specific functions and programs (not site specific). This council will help the Director stay connected to the private business world and other non-traditional potential partners. The goal is to provide consensus advice to the Director and build strong economies in order to protect Sanctuary resources. The members will be appointed, not elected. RAC representatives discussed possible benefits and implications of the BAC. Swatland reported that there are no current implications and this report is mainly to keep the RAC apprised of the current status. ONMS will keep the RAC informed of the BAC and the Campaign of Engagement.

VIII. **PILOT PROJECT DISCUSSION AND WAY FORWARD ON MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW (Johnson)**

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Johnson opened by sharing the activity that has taken place since the last RAC meeting. The Pilot Project templates were completed by the subcommittee and are designed to look down to the Activity level; the level of detail in the template addresses the RAC's request to see reporting down to the Activity level. Following the workshop and breakout sessions in February, the RAC decided to focus on a smaller group of Action Plans to test the template. The Pilot Project documents were presented to the RAC; these addressed the five pilot project Action Plans including Marine Conservation Science, Marine Debris, Midway Visitor Services, Agency Coordination, and Evaluation. Johnson provided a very brief review of each of the Pilot Project Templates. Johnson presented some global comments: there is some inconsistency between different Action Plans; and that most of them contain "rollup" data as projects may have been started in years prior and completed in 2012. During review, some of the on-the-ground individuals presented suggested changes for the updated Action Plan (Marine Debris was referenced as a specific example of this). In response to RAC questioning, Johnson reported that completing the project was educational and that lessons learned was useful in that it forces evaluation and recognition of challenges. Completion of the templates can be dependent upon availability of staff; most of the five pilot Action Plans were led by ONMS staff which made it easier to access those individuals who were knowledgeable. The RAC and staff discussed options for continuing efforts, including a possible knowledge café and access to subject matter experts. In light of the time required to address the subject, the RAC determined to move the effort to the Management Plan Working Group and/or Evaluation Subcommittee. Membership can be reopened and meetings will be scheduled by email.

Action: Paul proposed the RAC draft a resolution to express support in honoring Dr. Isabella Aiona Abbott at NOAA's Dr. Nancy Foster Memorial Garden. The RAC agreed to sign it now and forward on to ONMS to resubmit when the nomination process reopens.

Ms. Paul moved to action and Mrs. Thompson seconded the motion. The action passed unanimously by verbal vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Johns adjourned the meeting for the day.

Next RAC meeting:
October 30, 2013