

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

September 10, 2015

Aloha Hoku,

On behalf of all current and former members of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council (RAC), I'd like to formally thank you for your superior service during your almost twelve years working for the National Marine Sanctuary system. In particular, I would like to recognize you for your unfailingly enthusiastic and dedicated support of the Advisory Council, both as the RAC Coordinator and the supervisor of the RAC Coordinator.

You have successfully held a variety of jobs during your tenure at first the Reserve and then Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Starting as the RAC Coordinator in 2004, your knowledge, work ethic and integrity soon became invaluable to the organization, and you played key roles in both the development of the 2008 Monument Management Plan and completion of the site's UNESCO World Heritage nomination, the latter earning the Monument inscription as the nation's only mixed natural and cultural heritage site. You then moved on to be the Permit Coordinator, where you were instrumental in the development and implementation of the Monument's multi-agency permitting system, a process that is truly the heart and soul of resource protection in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI), and has matured into a model for protected areas around the world. You were also one of the founders of the Monument's inter-tidal – or 'opihi – cruise, a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary annual mission to the NWHI that has become a shining example of how to integrate western science and indigenous culture. You then moved on to be the Planning and Evaluation Coordinator, where you cemented your well-earned reputation as the go-to person for all permitting, regulatory, and legislative issues; your vast trove of knowledge about the NWHI and the management of the place will be sorely missed. Finally, in the middle of your nearly two year stint as the Acting Deputy Superintendent for Policy and Programs, you again assumed responsibility as the RAC Coordinator, coming full circle.

Regardless of what your job title was, you always seemed to be somehow involved with supporting the RAC. It is obvious to all of us that we have always been a priority for you. Your role in helping to develop meeting agendas ensured the RAC was exposed to not just what it wanted to hear, but what the Monument needed it to hear. You helped recruit and train new Council members, and you always kept RAC members on task when needed. You engaged the RAC's knowledge and experience in conducting Management Plan reviews and in developing evaluation strategies. You assisted the RAC with providing sound guidance in their drafting of the proposed Sanctuary nomination package, providing critical input on management, science, and timing of the document. Finally, you always helped the RAC get to the meetings (even when the NOAA offices moved to Pearl Harbor) and kept us fed, tasks not as easy as they might sound. And you always did all this with a smile, ever the supremely competent, respectful professional.

You have always been willing to share your knowledge and passion with those fortunate enough to interact with you, and you have inspired numerous future leaders with your commitment to resource conservation and performance excellence. Your tremendous efforts and the success of your work have brought significant credit to Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and the National Marine Fisheries Service is extremely lucky to get such an outstanding employee. The NWHI are a better place because of your actions there; few of us are lucky enough to have had such a positive impact on such a special place. Know that you will always be considered a part of our family. Fair winds and following seas wherever your career takes you.

Sincerely,

*Signed by Chair Johns and  
presented to Ms. Johnson on 09/10/15*

Timothy Johns

Chair

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council