

**WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL**  
**<http://westhawaiifisherycouncil.org>**  
**[WHFC@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:WHFC@hawaii.rr.com)**

*MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL*

*“To effectively manage fishery activities to ensure sustainability; enhance nearshore resources; develop and implement management plans for minimizing resource depletion and conflicts of use; per legislative mandate to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to provide for substantive involvement of the community in resource management decisions; and encourage scientific research and monitoring of the nearshore resources and environment from Upolu Point to Ka Lae.”*

**Minutes for Thursday, Oct. 15, 2015**

West Hawaii Civic Center Community Hale (Building G)

Presiding: Tina Owens

**Call to Order:** 6:30pm by Tina Owens

Tina Owens – a regularly scheduled monthly meeting now just waiting for our guest speaker. Usually we have someone read our mission statement; Charlie please read our mission statement.

Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement – Read by Charlie Young

Reiteration by the Chair of the meeting protocols from WHFC Policies and Operational

- Bruce Anderson – new DAR administrator – began work this week – here as a guest, not doing a presentation needs to leave by 8pm.

Guidelines and posted at meeting.

- \*All questions from Council members must be recognized by the Chair
- \*All questions/statements will be limited to topic oriented statements. Note that a short time has been added after each agenda item to discuss that item.
- \*Proxies: Each person asking someone to represent them by proxy will have to notify the administrator before the meeting as to who is going to represent them. There will be no call for proxies from the floor at the meeting.

Introductions of Visitors – we only have two hour

Signed in Visitors:

- Rick Wilson, Bob Smith, David Tarnas, Hannah K. Springer, Ivor Williams, Christopher Peters, Bruce Wacker, David Zimmerman, Dorothy and Jim Bowers, Kekaulike P. Tomich, Georgia and Jim Strohsafer, Doug Perrine, Steve Cotton, Rick Gaffney, Joan Prater, Patrice Heller, Joe Robinson, Megan Lamson, Mike Nakachi and Kathleen Auldant.

Approval of Agenda – motion to accept agenda by Dale Sarver, second by Donna

Goodale, motion carried, agenda approved.

#### Approval of Minutes

- Donna Goodale – Changes 1. Page 3 change rule to role; 2. Page 5 change their to there.

Dale Sarver made a motion to approve minutes, second by Dave Dart, motion carried and minutes approved with changes.

#### Member Attendance:

- Dale Sarver, Donna Goodale, Tina Owens, Bill Walsh, Dave Dart, Charlie Young, Pat Cunningham, JR Rosalio, Bob Hajeck, Chad Wiggins, Malia Kipapa.

#### **New Business:**

- 1) Dr. William Walsh will present a short status report on what the coral situation is at the present
  - a. Biology of what coral bleaching is all about
    - i. Temperature loggers – Ke’ei station as an example – highest water temperatures since 1999. September 6<sup>th</sup> temperature reading of 86.2 degrees
    - ii. The red color on the map shows that Hawaii has the highest rate for coral bleaching, thermal stress, cumulative heat is stressing coral.
    - iii. In 2014 Hawaii Island didn’t have too much stress, now in 2015 Hawaii Island has the highest rate of bleaching throughout the state.
    - iv. Bleaching event is due to El Nino.
    - v. The cauliflower coral species have been impacted the most, indications show mortality increase, some are white and some have a purple color; been resisting algal growth.
    - vi. Some of the larger colony of coral (mounding coral) has gone beyond bleaching and having algal and diatom growth growing on them.
      1. Fine filamentous algae
      2. Palatable algae – showing yellow tang eating algae
    - vii. Finger coral – going into full bleaching 50-60 feet deep and turning into brown algae colonies.
    - viii. Unprecedented rain over the summer here on Hawaii Island – high nutrient levels from runoff.
    - ix. Seeing a wide range of coral being affected – antler coral.
    - x. Cross between lobed and finger coral which is unique to Kona.
    - xi. Porcha coral unique to Kealakekua bay is being impacted from coral bleaching
    - xii. Good News
      1. Lobed coral looks fine and unaffected, important resiliency and recovery for some coral species.
      2. NOAA is saying that this El Nino Season will continue to

increase temperatures.

- a. Sea surface temperature, coral heat stress and coral bleaching alert

2) Dr. Eric Conklin Marine Science Director of The Nature Conservancy will give a presentation on the phenomenon of coral bleaching that has been occurring and how the community can build resiliency into the reef so for the future. Email: econklin@tnc.org

- a. Coral bleaching and reef resilience

- i. Coral bleaching – expel symbiosis – heat stress increases coral mortality. Bleached reef can recover but if the heat stress continues less likely for it to recover. We thought that because where Hawaii is located that it would slow the bleaching rate, but not the case today.

- 1. Managing reefs in the face of global change – what can we do to help with change

- a. Limit Greenhouse gases
      - b. Small changes we can make

- 2. Biological Resilience

- a. High diversity of coral
      - b. Low disease
      - c. High live coral cover
      - d. Broad size range
      - e. Strong recovery – recruitment
        - i. Good substrate
        - ii. Good water quality
        - iii. Many herbivores
      - f. Strong recovery – regrowth
        - i. Reorientation
        - ii. Repair and overgrowth
        - iii. Control of competitors
      - g. Factors
        - i. Ecological – herbivory and recruitment
        - ii. Biological – species differences and genetics
        - iii. Physical – cooling, shading, screening, stress tolerance

- 3. How do you manage reefs for resilience?

- a. Reefs can survive a changing climate if we well managed
      - b. Prioritize actions
      - c. Networks

- 4. Methods

- a. Representation and replication – habitat types/ multiples
      - b. Critical areas – refuges, spawning aggregations, secure sources of seed
      - c. Connectivity – transport, replenishment, maintain

connectivity

- d. Effective Management – threat abatement, adaptive strategies, strong recruitment, enhanced recovery, control threats – reduce stress – identify critical stressors and what solutions make sense to address issue.
  - i. Effective management
    - 1. Communication
    - 2. Evaluation of management effectiveness
    - 3. Adaptive Management
    - 4. Precautionary Approach
  - ii. Reef resilience surveys of North Kona and South Kohala
    - 1. Funded by NOAA
    - 2. Partnership NOAA, TNC, DAR, and reef resilience researchers
    - 3. Surveying 20 sites
    - 4. Resilience indicators
    - 5. Goals
      - a. Identify areas that are most likely to resist or recover from the impacts of climate change
      - b. Areas to prioritize management action
      - c. Identify stressors most degrading the resilience of individual sites.
      - d. Prioritize management areas

**\*Five Minute Break (7:23pm)**

- 3) A short question and answer period will follow as time permits
  - a. How does the El Nino Bleaching from the past compare to today's El Nino?
    - i. Bill – not as bad
    - ii. Eric – this is the worst in history
  - b. Will things change? Do you think that it will get worse?
    - i. Eric – next calendar year we hope for the temperatures to cool down, but won't be able to really predict it right now.
  - c. Can we manually assist with the recruitment of coral as we look at recovery?
    - i. Eric – what we can do is start by restoring natural systems; enhance recruitment outplanting coral where coral is declining Caribbean and some places in the pacific have been doing this.
  - d. What do we do about Algae Growth?

- i. Bill – we saw that sedimentation can exacerbate the growth – land use activity has a large impact on this affect. People need to get involved, on a personal what can I do – even if a reef dies there is still potential for recovery – important to maintain complexity of the coral reef; even impacted reefs have potential to recover, be careful where your anchoring – simplest thing you can do.
  - ii. Eric – nutrient rich and not as much algae eating fish; the combination of those two things, finding the balance between this two things.
- e. Lobed coral – I’m seeing a lot more algae on those coral, I don’t know why algae is picking the larger corals?
  - i. Bill – we’ve been thinking about that too – there is this movement of the smaller cauliflower blooms
- f. What are the tools that you can use to manage this issue?
  - i. Eric – nutrient, sediment and overharvesting of fish – it’s about knowing the place that you are in and what is affecting the place and addressing it site specific.
- g. Most of your sites are in North Kohala? How will it relate to the other west Hawaii region sites?
  - i. Eric – we are running out of money but what these surveys can show us is how these resilient assessments work and if it can be utilized at other sites.

### **Old Business:**

- 1) The Council will hear an update on the status of the Ka’upulehu rule proposal.
  - a. Hannah Springer – update on the rule proposal – and the history of how they have reached this point in time. Last October presented initiative to the land board to suggest a “Try Wait” program – 10 year moratorium. We see people come and go, so we wait and stand ready to go through the state process with the WHFC. We continue to do outreach and conservation action planning. We work with the E Alu Pu group and other support groups.
    - i. Dale Sarver – what is the next steps
      - 1. Hannah – we would go through the DAR process – organize and schedule a meeting time – political side that we still need to address
      - 2. Bruce Anderson - I applaud your efforts and have read your management plan – sound science; I’m new on the job but will be sharing with DOCARE and other DLNR branches – DAR is scheduled to be the lead on this decision – we need to have a hearing to look at this. You have made tremendous progress – looking at the science is good and working with Eric Conklin from TNC. I have a house here and use to work at Kukio and really are about this place and is important to me, hopefully we can help to make this

work.

- a. Hannah – at this stage over 15 years, we would like the thumbs up and or the thumbs down so we can move forward.
- 2) The Council will hear an update on Dr. Sarver's request to DAR to release giant grouper into the wild in West Hawaii.
  - a. Dale Sarver – we want to work with 10 fish first and just look over it. Concern from DAR is fish genetics – it's fallen flat – every animal in the work is different from the animal next to it. This is an iconic native species and has rarely seen in the wild, this fish isn't even protected; we want to protect and enhance population by giving them a chance not sending large amounts into the wild, but just have efforts to protect them.
    - i. Question: how much do you have now and how much do you intend to introduce?
      1. Dale - 4 large stocks
      - ii. Have you reached out to commercial divers boat
        1. Dale - Yes largest supporters
- 3) The Council will hear an update on the letter sent to DLNR chair Suzanne Case.
  - a. Chad Wiggins – she wanted to come out but had a double booking and couldn't make it. First contact was via email.
  - b. Tina Owens – she said she is anxious to see us and hopes to see us soon, and she encouraged Mr. Anderson to come out and he did attend, so it looks good.
- 4) The Council will take a vote to accept or refuse the latest budget estimates.
  - a. Tina Owens – we have been hacked by China according to our security analyst - \$300 to cleanse the system no we need a firewall protection \$190. We need a site security for sure. Charlie said that they use someone for their page. Total budget for the year \$11,060, estimate.
    - i. Tina – is this comprehensible enough and can we take a vote?
      1. Dale - I don't think that much changed and we already discussed it.
      2. Dale made a motion to accept budget, second by Charlie

#### **Announcements:**

- Made an announcement about the KS SMA Permit application update – and announced the date, time and asked for support for the Leeward Planning Commission Hearing.
  - o Malia – will send an email to WHF council members with information about SMA permit update.

**Adjourn at 8:30pm – Dale made a motion to adjourn and second by Donna Goodale, motion carried meeting adjourned at 8:18pm**