

WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL

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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.”

WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL

DRAFT Minutes for Thursday February 20, 2014

Presiding: Chad Wiggins

Location: Kona Community Cultural and Education Foundation meeting room, Keauhou Bay

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Mission Statement: Malia Kipapa read the Council’s Mission Statement

Members Present: Chad Wiggins (co-chair); Dale Sarver (co-chair); Tina Owens (co-chair), Pat Cunningham; Kim Koch, Malia Kipapa, JR Rosario; Donna Goodale; Dave Dart (proxy: Tina Owens); Dr. Bill Walsh (ex-officio)

Guests: Matt Connelly (Kohala Center); Charley Young; David Tarnas (private environmental planner)

Approval of Agenda: Dale Sarver called for approval; seconded by Jr Rosario; motion approved.

Approval of Minutes: Dale Sarver called for approval; seconded by Jr Rosario; motion approved.

Presentations:

- 1) The Council welcomed David Tarnas. Mr. Tarnas was a legislator in the Hawaii State House of Representatives in 1998 and was responsible for Act 306 which created the West Hawaii Regional Fishery Management Area and set the groundwork for the WHFC. Mr. Tarnas presented a fascinating powerpoint presentation (attached as PDF) about the background, reasoning and political hurdles that all influenced why and how the WHFC works and what its mandates are.

The presentation was followed by an in-depth discussion with members.

- 2) After an additional clarification on our mandates, one of which includes establishing within the WHRFMA areas where no anchoring is allowed, Dr. Walsh gave a brief presentation on an area of extremely rare corals recently found in our waters. These corals, *acropora gemmifera*, are not found anywhere else in the main Hawaiian Islands. He also showed photos of an area of extremely beautiful *porites rus* corals at Makalawena. He suggested that those two areas might be considered for no-anchoring zones.

This presentation was followed by a lively discussion about other possible candidate areas, including Ho'okena and Honaunau. Malia Kipapa mentioned that before we announce areas of beautiful coral, we should make sure we have mooring buoys in place because people will want to go to see those spots. If there are no moorings, people will anchor there before the rules are made and ruin the whole point of conserving them.

There was a brief discussion about DOBOR and jurisdictional issues with the mooring buoys. Who has jurisdiction: DOBOR/DLNR/us?

Malia mentioned that there are a lot of unregistered, and therefore illegal, buoys out there. She and Marni Herkes met with people from NOAA about this. NOAA mentioned they might be getting an intern to help.

Dr. Walsh noted that DOBOR had no one in their department who could write rules. They now have a rule-writer, but they are waiting for the DLNR to approve recently proposed coral damage rules.

David Tarns stated that DOBOR knows all the buoys, the good ones and the illegal ones, and they should all be written into the Hawaii Administrative Rules. He further noted that there is money in the DLNR collected as fines for damaging coral and that money could be used for this.

Pat Cunningham brought up that the moorings off the Sheraton Keauhou Bay Resort which are used for the manta ray night dive are not authorized. He reported them to DOBOR but got no action.

No motion regarding no-anchoring areas was made.

Additional Business and Discussion:

The issue of clerical work for the Council was brought up again. Since we do not yet have access to any funding, the chairs would like to call for volunteers to help with taking roll and minutes. Chad and Malia volunteered. Chad said he would take minutes for March and Malia would take minutes for April

The Council decided to invite Mr. Frazer McGilvray, the new DAR Administrator, to come to a meeting. We decided to give Mr. McGilvray a choice of months when he might possibly make it.

It was discussed whether to invite DOBOR and DOCARE to join WHFC as ex-officios. In the past DOCARE has occasionally had representation. David Tarnas noted that if we are going to be bringing up mooring buoys again, we should definitely invite DOBOR.

Dale suggested that at the March meeting we should go over our priorities for the upcoming year.

The cost of the website was brought up again. Tina had done research and found that \$300/year would be more than sufficient. However, since we don't have any money right now, we will wait until we do have money. Donna suggested that is what we should do.

Tina brought up about meeting places. The West Hawaii Civic Center has meeting rooms for free but you can only make reservations up to two months in advance, and even then you might not get the days/times you want. It was decided to try to get as many meetings at the Civic Center as possible, but when we can't get the days we want, we can fall back on the present venue, the Kona Community Cultural and Educational Foundation at Keauhou Bay.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Acronyms:

DLNR = Department of Land and Natural Resources

DAR = Division of Aquatic Resources

DOCARE = Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement

DOBOR = Division of Boating and Ocean Recreation