

## **WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL**

<http://westhawaiiFisheryCouncil.org>

*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 FISHERIES COUNCIL**

**Agenda for Thursday, September 18, 2014 6:30-8:30 PM**

**Location: Building G at Kona Civic Center**

Presiding: Chad Wiggins

#### **Call to Order: 6:28PM by Chad Wiggins**

Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement

- Read by Linda Preskitt – it is to mandate a community involvement in our resource management and involve all of our west Hawaii community with management rules.

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

- o All questions from Council members<sup>1</sup> must be recognized by the Chair
- o All questions/statements will be limited to agenda items. Note that a short time has been added after each agenda item to discuss that item.

Roll Call – take out of agenda

Introductions

**Council Members** – Patrick Cunningham, Charlie Young, Malia Kipapa, Donna Goodale, Dale Sarver, Tina Owens, Chad Wiggins, Bill Walsh (Ex-Officio), Linda Preskitt, David Dart, JR Rosalio.

**Visitors** – Bob Rogers (Retired professor), Lee Fauseck (oceanographer), Mary Donovan (Manoa), Ewa Schemmel. (Manoa)

Approval of Agenda – Pat suggested adding site of meeting (added on) Approved as amended Tina Owens, Dale 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried, agenda approved.

Approval of Minutes – Tina motion to approve, Donna 2<sup>nd</sup> motion, and motion carried minutes approved.

#### **Guest Speakers: Introduced by Chad Wiggins.**

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Mary Donovan** presents the results of a study from the Caribbean titled *Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs: 1970-2012*. The study's highlights include the importance of a historical perspective for understanding change in coral reef environments, and the implications for protecting herbivorous fishes in preventing declines in coral cover.

**Notes:**

- Main work is in Hawaii and I live here in Hawaii. Apply work done in Caribbean here in Hawaii. Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network (GCRMN) and ICRI (international coral reef initiative)
- Status and Trends of Caribbean Coral Reefs (306 pages of details of coral reef)
  - o <http://www.icriforum.org/caribbeanreport>
  - o In today's New York Times
- **Objectives:**
  - o Understand why some reefs are much healthier than others
  - o Identify what kinds of actions have been particularly beneficial or harmful
  - o Communicate results to foster more effective conservation and management.
- Change over time
  - o Coral cover has declined on average by 50%
  - o Macro algal abundance has increased several folds.
  - o This phase shift developed after the mass.
- Huge variability
  - o Fall into three patterns of decline after the Diadema died back
- Multiple stressors
  - o Over fishing
  - o Traps (bycatch and reef damage)
  - o Global change
  - o Diadema dieback
  - o Development
- Major Drivers of change
  - o Too many people
  - o Overfishing
  - o Coastal pollution
  - o Ocean warming
  - o Invasive species
- Parrotfish Biomass
  - o Comparing the three types of sites show that the green sites have higher numbers. So there showed a correlation with human population (higher the population low counts of parrot fish, and vice versa)
- Major Conclusions
  - o Historical context matters for understanding overall
  - o Low coral abundance except where strong governance runs
- Recommendations for management
  - o Adopt robust conservation and fisheries management strategies
  - o Simplify and standardize monitoring
  - o Foster communication and exchange of information
  - o Increase government involvement with regulations and laws

- What does this mean in Hawaii?
  - o What are the major drivers of reefs in Hawaii?
  - o Do multiple drivers interact?
  - o What role does herbivores fish play in relation to the reef?
- Example of a successful project in Maui – Kahekili Herbivore Fisheries Management Area
- Ocean Tipping Points
  - o Research Questions
    - What are the tipping points for Hawaii Reefs?
    - What are the drives of these tipping points?
    - How do drivers interact?
    - What management levers can influence drivers?
    - What options reduce conflict and increase
- Sponsors & Collaborators
- Contact
  - o [mdono@hawaii.edu](mailto:mdono@hawaii.edu); [oceantippingpoints.org](http://oceantippingpoints.org); [icriforum.org/caribbeanreport](http://icriforum.org/caribbeanreport)

### **Comments and Questions:**

- Tina – Can we ask for support on bills or rules that we may propose from the council?
  - o Mary - Yes I can support, this is from an international level.
- Charlie – you mentioned governance; would you say community influences governance?
  - o Mary – we take anything as action; tiny little nations so it varies; we ranked them and highlighted effective action for fishing through governance; e.g. Florida – no space left, tons of people, and cesspools, affluent areas. Jamaica – a lot of people
  - o Mary – local drivers – functioning at a high international level – smaller island scale community approach will work but larger areas would be to approach leadership with a mechanism.
- Linda – we are familiar marine protected areas – specially protected areas were used what’s the difference?
  - o Mary – Yes, has the similar meaning – tried to catch
- David - Blue fin tuna in Iceland; do we have any coral moving north;
  - o Mary – I don’t really know; I guess the mechanisms used to fathom these concerns would help, not too sure
- Bill – why did you bring up the trapped fishery as parrotfish, and why the parrotfish?
  - o Mary – By catch – not on purpose they just get stuck/trapped in the net because they are large.

**Eva Schemmel** presents the Hawaiian Moon Calendar Project. The project emphasizes community fisheries monitoring and stewardship through training communities and fishermen to record information on fishing effort, catch, and spawning seasons of harvested reef fishes.

### **Notes:**

- Local Moon Calendars
  - o Example: Mo’omomi, Molokai with Mac Poepoe
    - Monitor cues
    - Manage resources

- Importance of Local stewardship and Management
  - Moon
  - Seasonal cues
  - Tidal cues
- Project:
  - Helping the community to monitor fish biology and spawning seasons
  - Determine lunar patterns of spawning
  - Moon calendars just tools to use in communities
- Work with different communities and partners
- Process Starts by
  - Gathering Information
    - Local knowledge and customary practices
    - Structured survey
      - Targeted species, local and pono practices, what people already know?
  - Combining local and scientific knowledge
  - Community Monitoring
    - Training workshops
    - Fisherman logbooks
    - Collect biological information and gonad samples for scientific assessment.
  - Assessment
    - Milting or Eggs Released?
    - GSI – Gonad Somatic Index – spawning season assessment
    - Histology – Oocyte development, size of maturity
    - Sex Steroid Analysis – lunar spawning frequency
  - Community Driven Science
    - 2100 fish from over 50 species
    - 35 public events reaching 1000s of fishermen and community participants
    - Moon calendars developed with community shared results
- Size at Maturity Depends on Location
  - All Locations
    - Maunalua, Hanalei, West Hawaii
- Temporal Differences in Maturity schedules
  - Findings
    - Longer spawning seasons, warmer waters
  - Comparing Across Locations
    - Smaller peaks in west Hawaii
- Major Findings
  - Working with communities is beneficial for determining population life history and understanding pono harvest practices
- Incorporating Information into management
  - Minimum size limits
  - Closed seasons
  - Gear restrictions
  - Important habitats

- Area closures
- Future of Hawaii Moon Calendar Project (happening in the next year and hoping to expand)
  - Community based Monitoring
  - Scientific support
  - Tablet technology and online cloud

### **Comments and Questions:**

- We established monitoring program here and in april, may, and June showed spawning not usual why do you think this happened?
  - Eva – unpredictable patterns and all part of nature. I would love to add that kind of information to the calendar.
- Bill – if you have this inherent variability and you want to set size and bag limits; how much is enough
  - Eva - Community based management helps because its community driven and they are the ones actually gathering the resource.
  - Bill – instead of protecting the small sizes may be better to protect larger ones.
  - Mary – variability question – at least we will be able to see the scale over a longer period of time and large sample size.
  - Eva – it’s a long term haul and I’m here
- I like the idea of working with real time data. How can community-based management grapple with enforcement?
  - Eva – moon calendar will show in a means of a sign at the site or have people from the community monitor.
  - – Fishing licenses will help?

### **Business:**

Co-chair Tina Owens will present some of the Council products (flyers, etc.) she has been working on since last meeting. Vote to approve/disapprove anticipated.

- Tina – rule package just recently passed we determined that a lot of people are not aware of. We suggested to maybe post at dive shops, where folks that fill their dive tanks are:
  - No spearing on Scuba (a little direct)
  - Pat – its hard to enforce, how will we do that
  - Tina – the only thing we can do right now is inform and educate the community; I did some research on cost and looked up a list of ocean activity related shops (49 found); I spoke to John Kahiapo and he said that it would be good for us to make copies of informative flyers and post them and share. We can give copies of flyers to people filling up their tanks.
    - All signs (2) would be printed and laminated and given to the shops (one set each)
      - 70 copies - \$300 for all copies laminated
        - Charlie - Are these UV protected? It will fade if not.
      - \$80 for WHF council recruiting flyer
      - Can I get an okay for this to be accepted by council?
        - David – I think we should add in the points of jurisdiction

- Dale motion to approve; Donna & Charlie 2<sup>nd</sup>; motioned carried and approved.

Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4pm at Kalaemano Ku'u lei Keakealani, Leinaala Keakealani, Keoki Apokolani Carter, Lehua Alapai, Pelika Andrade, Wilds Brawner, Yvonne Carter will share about the work they are doing at Ka'ūpūlehu Dryland forest. Email to RSVP

[lightner@kukio.com](mailto:lightner@kukio.com)

Charlie – DAR will be holding a meeting October 3, 2014 in Ha'ena pertaining to the designation for Community based subsistence fishing to discuss rule making - may be on the DAR site, they will be posting notice for testimony (chapter 91 rule).

- Charlie – make a motion that the council writes a letter in support for the October 3<sup>rd</sup> hearing.
  - o Tina suggested adding scuba fishing?
  - o The motion was 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna
  - o Tina – Volunteered to draft the letter and the link with the Ha'ena Rules and send it to Malia and she will distribute out to the council.

Announcement – Pat – KCCEF have a formal relationship with HawCC West Hawaii in relation to the marine program - \$50,000 endowment was granted to go towards use for marine studies.

**Motion to adjourn meeting by Chad, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna – meeting adjourned at 8:30pm**