

**WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL
POBOX 489 KAILUA KONA HI 96745**

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE WEST HAWAII FISHERIES 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
Minutes for Thursday, December 11, 2014 6:30-8:30 PM
West Hawai'i Civic Center – Liquor Commission Meeting Room
Presiding: Chad Wiggins**

Call to Order: 6:30PM by Chadd Wiggins

Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement Read by Charlie Young

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

- All questions from Council members¹ must be recognized by the Chair
- 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: Bob Hajeck, Donna Goodale, Dale Sarver, JR Rosario, Malia Kipapa, Linda Preskitt, Charles Young, Bill Walsh (ex officio), David Dart, Chadd Wiggins. Sierra Tobiason (ex-officio).

Introductions of Visitors – George Fry (Puko community), Mike Nakachi (Community member), Garth Yamanaka (Community), Wayne Tanaka (Honolulu), Vern Yamanaka (Ex-officio), Jackye Kalua'u (DLNR), Reggie Lee (Lineal Descendant), Paola Pagan (Puako), Hannah Springer, Kekaulike Springer, Reggie Lee.

Approval of Agenda

- Bob Hajeck – made a motion to add to the agenda amend to add in County Council Bill 318 for discussion.
- Unanimously agreed to approve agenda with additions

Approval of Minutes

- Reviewed minutes by council; Dale motion to accept JR second the motion, motion carried.

Presentation:

Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Life Advisory Committee. Representatives from the Ka'ūpūlehu community will present an update on the status of the administrative rule proposal to rest the reef from Kikaua Point to Kalaemanō for 10 years in order to return productive and sustainable fishing, highlighting the need, cultural context, scientific justification, and specific provisions proposed in their administrative rule package, last approved for submittal to DLNR by the WHFC at the August, 2013 meeting and approved by the Board of Land and Natural Resources for a public hearing in west Hawai'i at a recent hearing.

Introduction made by Chadd – oriented and updated every one of how its relative to WH fishery

¹ 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.

council.

Hannah Springer presents her mo'okū'auhau and shares some history about the area of Kona 'ākau. Shared about Paiaea fishpond and how it was filled by the lava flow that came from

- KS, OHA, Developers, Kona Hawaiian Civic club, community/families established a committee (16 years ago) which they noticed the impacts their fisheries were having and wanted to do something.
- Our goal: Return productive and sustainable subsistence fishing to our home.
- Cause of concern – local families and fisherman don't go holoholo anymore there because they've noticed and said there are no fish there anymore.
 - o These observations are not enough so did some research using archives looking at the decline in coral and fish.
 - Collected new information in the field by collecting some baseline data
 - Creel surveys in 2013-2014 were conducted.
 - Compared Ka'ūpūlehu to other different sites throughout the state and looked at target fish abundance
 - Looking at healthy reproductive ages for the different types of popular fish.
 - Average years are between 4-11 years.
 - Compared results to other islands outside of Hawaii (e.g. Apo island)
 - They saw good results after a 10 year closure on this Island
- Some proposed plans -
 - o Restore disciplined fisheries management to this ahupua'a
 - o Return abundance to this place by resting for 10 years
 - o Implement a subsistence fishing management plan
 - Fish Replenishment Area - Kikaua point (South) and Kalaemano Visitors Center;
 - Proposed area is within these boundaries (rest areas)
- Robert Punihaole – shares a profound quote about mahi'ai and holoholo lawai'a and how undisciplined take is not good.
- Efforts in informing our community about this proposal
 - o 16 year effort
 - o 352 meetings
 - o 2000 brochures printed out and shared with the general public
 - o 245 marine surveys
- Made some amendments per community input
 - o Boundary rest area along coast
 - o Management zones with different rules
 - o Depth at which certain species can be caught
- Where the proposal is now?
 - o Approval by BLNR for public Hearing
 - o Public Hearing (need approval)
 - o Final decision by DLNR (need approval)
 - o Update on meetings and how you can support?
 - Kona meeting first, followed by a BLNR meeting in Oahu.
 - Can support KMLAC by writing a testimony of support or speak at meetings.
 - o Email: thekmlac@gmail.com

- Help with observations by getting into the water and observing fish and benthic behavior to continue lawai'a practices.

Comments and Questions:

- David Dart – who did marine surveys for you folks Stender and Steve Doller in the early 90's
- Vern – many things have changed since community input, we would like to ask for WHF council to
- Charlie – governor signed letter not sure where we are at now in means of the meeting? Not sure if we will be able to make a motion to approve amended rule proposal. I would like to propose a motion to add this on to the next meeting, but revise our support; motion was made by Charlie and JR second motion.
- Chadd – August of 2012 is when WHF council approved
- Dale – how does the traditional gathering rights affect this?
 - Hannah – work with on the ground practitioners to help with this issue
 - Tanaka – customary gathering rights at Hawaiian, its narrower then we anticipate, bounded by looking back at what was going on during the kingdom time.
 - Hannah – another practice – malama and aloha – caring for, tending and protecting. Kapu, we inserted it in the rules but engage in face to face engagement.
 - Dale – this is when scientific work to support work
 - Charlie – have to accept how they practice depends on the region; gathering rights will need to be tended to by the region.
 - Chadd – 2013 the language changes?
- Dale made a motion to approve KMLAC proposal with amendments and we still support this. All unanimously agreed to accept.

Dr. Allison Green joins us from Australia to present on the recent publication she co-authored: *Larval dispersal and movement patterns of coral reef fishes, and implications for marine reserve network design*. An avid diver and experienced researcher, Dr. Green's wealth of experience researching, designing, and monitoring the effectiveness of marine management initiatives at multiple scales will be of interest in the West Hawai'i Regional Fishery Management Area's network of Fish Replenishment Areas.

Introduced by Chadd – this will be relevant with work the council is doing.

Notes:

- Marine reserves – focused on this because the most profound tool for today
 - Protect diversity
 - climate change adaptation
 - cultural heritage
 - tourism management
 - fisheries management
- Ecological Benefits of Marine reserves
 - Inside of the reserve - Increase in diversity, density, biomass, body size
 - Outside the reserve – spillover effect
 - Well known phenomenal (spillover effect)
 - Exporting of larvae for fish from reserve area and going outside of it.
 - Used Trout as the example, Great Barrier Reef Study

- In a couple of years 2x reproductive biomass within the reserve
- Although the coral reef was 28% supports 57% of juveniles
- Are not designed to use ecological data to design marine reserve.
 - Did a large literature review, and found a lot of advice on how to establish a reserve; produced information on how to set up marine reserves by adding in ecological data to help design.
 - Represent 20-40% of each habitat in marine reserves depends on situation
 - Use the % of the area as the proxy for the % of adult fish we are protecting
 - 20% of area protected / protecting 20% of adult fish population
 - Spread the risk: include at least 3 different areas and spread them out so if wiped out chances of all getting wiped out are less likely.
 - Ensure marine reserves include
 - Critical areas of fisheries management (spawning and nursery habitats)
 - Special & unique areas for biodiversity protection
 - Climate change adaptation
 - Coral bleaching
 - Loss of habitat
 - Heat tolerant
 - Sea level rise
 - Minimize local threats, prohibit destructive activities
 - Protect areas with lower levels of threat
- How large should you make your marine reserve?
 - How far does your fish your protecting travel.
 - A 4 year study was done
 - The life cycle of a coral reef fish (99% the larvae float around with planktonic stages from a day to a month)
 - Planktonic larval duration ----- juveniles ----- adults----- Larva
 - Size of the marine should be based on the protected species and their movement, protecting juveniles and adults. Want areas to be large enough for fish larva to travel and float around
 - Consider key species and how far they move
 - Methods of creating scale:
 - Satellite tags, imperial measurements, these studies were done in Hawaii
 - Include habitats used throughout life history
 - Example: Protect the estuaries that the larva inhabit
 - How do we apply this:
 - Fish larval dispersal
 - Biophysical models
 - Genetic tests
 - Separate marine reserves by less than 15 kms from each other
- How long the fishery should be closed?
 - Find out the less vulnerable (grow, reproduce, and recover faster) and more vulnerable fish species (grow, reproduce, and recover slower)
 - Recovery rates in marine reserves 40 year study in the Philippines show an increase.

- Need to follow ecological guidelines
- <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/ucmg20>

Business:

Final Approval on Signs – did not get to this item

Webpage Update – did not get to this item

Planning for January Meeting – did not get to this item

Adjourned at 8:30 pm by Charlie Young motion and 2nd by Linda Priskett.