

WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL
<http://westhawaiifisherycouncil.org>
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, April 16, 2015

West Hawaii Civic Center Community Hale Meeting

(Building G at the far Makai end of the complex)

Presiding: Chad Wiggins

Call to Order: 6:30pm

Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement – Malia Kipapa

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

- Jennica Lowell, Todd Madsen, Mark Tagal, Gwen Ilaban, Doug Perrine, Solomon Alani, Glendora Kenison, Lydia smith
- David Dart, JR Rosario, Bill Walsh, Chad Wiggins (Proxy Tina Owens), Dale Sarver, Malia Kipapa (Proxy Linda Preskitt), Damien Kenison (Proxy Charlie Young) and Donna Goodale.

Approval of Agenda – motion to accept agenda by Dale Sarver, JR Rosario second.
Motioned carried.

Approval of Minutes with amendments and corrections – motioned made for approval
Dale Sarver, 2nd Dave Dart, motion carried.

New Business:

- Guest speaker Jennica Lowell will give a presentation on what the Blue Ocean fish farm is doing and their plans for the future. She is the Fish Health Specialist for the company but is also involved in the hatchery and other aspects of the farm.

Introductions:

- Jennica - Born and raised in Florida, marine biologist, studied fish. Raise marine ornamental in Florida. Love agriculture and want to share what we do at Blue Ocean.
- Mark – born in Massachusetts and moved to Oahu in 3rd grade, commercial fisherman; been here on Hawaii Island for one year, I'm the hatchery manager; then it goes to the off shore catches.

Notes:

- Introduction: Open Ocean Aquaculture in Hawaii
 - Support for the industry
 - State legislation to enable industry
 - Regulatory oversight working well
 - Proposed Action aligns with Federal goals
 - National Strategic Plan for Federal Aquaculture Research (June 2014)
 - 10 years of Lessons
 - Hawaii's Leadership Opportunity
- Company Overview
 - Blue Ocean Mariculture
 - Scope
 - 450 T in 2013 (about 160,000 harvested fish)
 - 24 full time employees (22 in West Hawaii)
 - Full Value Chain (except processing)
 - Markets
 - Hawaiian Kampachi, Hawaiian Threadfin
 - Round fish only
 - Hawaii (40%), California (40%) and other (20%)
 - Capital
 - Facilities
 - 2.5 acre hatchery at NELHA
 - 90 acre mariculture lease off Unualoha pt
 - 3 slips, 20,000 sf yard at Honokohau Harbor
 - Infrastructure
 - 5 net pens moored in anchored grid system
 - 4 major workboats
 - Primitival larval
 - Consumption (current)
 - 230,000 Kgal water consumed at NELHA
- Proposed action
 - Need for Action
 - Need to better utilize hatchery and fleet

- Need to advance on Federal, State goals
 - Need to achieve economic scale
 - Proposed Action
 - Max net pens = 8, max size=8,000 m³
 - Max capacity=64,000 m³ (from 24,000 m³)
 - Minor extension of grid system
 - What's not proposed
 - No change in mariculture lease
 - No change to approved net pen system
 - Production
 - High quality, Hawaii-branded products
 - Two species in the market (Kahala, Moi)
 - Infrastructure
 - No change in harbor infrastructure
 - No change in hatchery facility, just upgrades
 - No change in fleet, just upgrades
 - Consumption
 - Increase workers by 10-12
 - NPDES Monitoring Program
 - Test water quality and taking benthic sampling
 - Look at chemical and biological matter in samples
 - Send samples to UH - Look at microecology of water samples.
 - all sampling are done by 3rd party vendor
 - Benthic Chemistry
 - Macrofauna & Macroalgae
 - Micromollusc Environment
 - Diverse set of fauna
 - Nutrient Loading and Potential Benthic Impact
 - Structure
 - Mass-balance equation for N,P, C
 - Isolate impacts of uneaten food v. feces
 - Estimate dispersion fields based on hydrology
 - Assumptions
 - 1,100 T annual production
 - Academic research for amount of N, P, C retained in harvested fish and settling velocities
 - Preliminary Results
- No significant Environmental Impacts
 - Water Quality
 - Benthic
 - Wildlife
 - RTE Species
 - No change to lease area, less infrastructure than 5 years ago, proposed growing volume consumes less than 1/3
 - Scenic & Rec.

- No changes to location or shoreline sightlines, no change to recreational access.
 - Historical & Cultural
 - NO changes to location or lease area
- Summary
 - Email: Jennica.lowell@bofish.com
- Questions:
 - Damien Kenison - Do you folks plan to do aquaculture on other fish?
 - Jennica – No
 - Damien Kenison – What is the level of waste from fish?
 - Jennica – a lot of literature on this, how much can fall to the bottom and how will it affect; we will continue to monitor this and will make sure that if we notice something different we'll make an adjustment; we feed them a pelleted feed – pea protein, wheat oil etc.; we test our feed to make sure there are no mercury and pcb in the fish, no hormones in the food; we have treated fish with antibiotics but not since 2010. Using fresh fish is worse for the environment and messy (affluent). We did an environment assessment and there were no significant impacts.
 - Workers are mixed with local and imports
 - Gwen – when is development going to take place? Any permits needed for expansion?
 - Jennica – hopefully in 2017; we will work with Army corps of engineers and the Department of Health, DLNR permit as well.
 - Dave Dart – comment – I've dived off that coast and have not seen any problems when I've gone there.
 - Jennica – bofish.com or bluehawaiiagriculture.com will have information on all of our data for our studies we do on site.

Old Business:

- Update on legislative bills, government appointments, etc.
 - Chad – a recommendation for Suzanne Case (TNC director)
 - Grew up in Hilo, has been running TNC for 18 years
 - Honomalino, Ka'u, Kahuku (now National Park).
 - Governor's staff approached her she mentioned to them that her priority to keep in community based; she has a background in this area – diver, local girl, and from the conservation community
 - Dale – I haven't heard a problem
 - Chad – I think there are some people that are concerned
- Newspaper ad and recruitment of new members – Chad I don't have an update but I like seeing new faces and hope to get more of you folks to participate.
- More discussion on setup of South Kona meeting:

- Damien Kenison – we are working on our management plan and have been for years, we hope that this is a good step to bring it to the council, we could use the support in the sciences. I'm glad that Charlie bought this up, a good leader for us. Good at dealing with agencies like DLNR
 - Meeting will be held at Puka'ana Church, we need a head count from the council, we will try to get as much fisherman as we can – they don't say too much but may say something when everyone leaves. We haven't had a meeting down there and am glad that you folks will come out to Ho'okena
 - Chad – we had a strategic planning meeting and want to help with the outreach; we can help with food for the meeting.
 - Damien – we may need help with the projector, Charlie will have a PowerPoint presentation
 - Bill Walsh – do you think that you folks will want to talk about some of the details on the plan?
 - Damien – that is what I hope we can plan for, I want to get your folks feedback on this. Probably not what the community expects but we did the best we could do; takes a while for folks to accept.
 - Dale – if you folks have a draft it would be good for us to have
 - Chad – it would be good to know and have in advance, can check with Charlie.
 - Damien – a lot of statistics and bullet points
 - Chad - Volunteers to carpool, volunteers to pick up food, I can meet up, can fit 3 people in my car
 - JR and Dave will not be present out of State
 - Dale – We may be able to help significantly and how to maneuver through the process.
 - Bill – do you think I should get someone from DOBAR? DOCARE?
 - Damien – sure.
 - Bill – I'll try to round them up to attend
 - Soloman Alani – Charlie had some things and he'll share
 - Chad – you folks hosting E Alu Pu this year?
 - Soloman – yes, I think this will be a good stepping stone for us.
 - Bill – 17 years this group has been meeting (WHFC)
- Chad – any other new business?
 - Chad - Donna raised a possibility to move to June?
 - Damien – June is our E alu pu gathering and will have hundreds of folks there, so can't.
 - Chad – okay going to keep it in May
- Dale – any idea on the Governor's decision?
 - Bill – not sure, timelines etc

- Damien – how long will it take?
- Chad – probably 3 weeks, but if there is an uproar tomorrow it may take longer.

Announcements:

Next meeting site – Puka’ana Church in Ho’okena

Adjourn at 7:44pm – Dale made a motion to adjourn, Chad second motion, motion carried, meeting adjourned.