

WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL  
PO BOX 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  
Agenda for Thursday, Thursday April 21, 2016 6:30-8:30 PM  
County Council CONFERENCE room, Building G West  
Hawai'i Civic Center

Facilitator: Dale Sarver

**Call to Order: 6:34PM**

- Dale Sarver - Tina's Resignation, she will be missed.
- Reading *and Interpretation* of WHFC Mission Statement
  - o Read by Linda Preskitt
- Introduction of Visitors and Guests
  - o Guests - Micah Stevenson, Jamison Gove
  - o Attendance – David Dart, Donna Goodale, Dale Sarver, Charlie Young, Linda Preskitt, Bill Walsh, JR Rosario, Malia Kipapa (proxy for Bob Hajek), Alohi Nakachi, Chad Wiggins, Healani Cahill.
- Approval of Agenda
  - o Chad Wiggins made a motion to approve agenda, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Donna Goodale, motion carried and agenda approved.
- Approval of Minutes
  - o David Dart - Attendance – I was a proxy for Linda Preskitt and Tina Owens
  - o Donna Goodale – page 2 – Rob needs to be changed to Bob Hajek
  - o Chad Wiggins - made a motion to approve minutes as amended, Donna Goodale 2<sup>nd</sup> approval. Motion carried minutes approved.
- Dale Sarver – need to discuss how we will go on with roles and responsibilities
  - o Chad Wiggins – it's in the Business section on the agenda should be hold off till after the presentation?
    - Dale – yes we can hold off till after the presentation.
- **Presentation:**
  - o **Jamison Gove**, Ph.D. Ecosystem and Oceanography Program, Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center.
    - *Using Indicators to Track the Status and Trends of West Hawai'i's Marine Ecosystem.* Informed by the outputs of a series of collaborative workshops and with current scientific understanding of sub-tropical marine ecosystems, the West Hawai'i Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) program compiled a set of ecosystem indicators suitable for tracking the trends and status in West Hawai'i's marine ecosystem. Ecosystem indicators spanned a wide range of ecosystem

components, from climatic and oceanographic drivers of ecosystem change, to the states of biological and human communities and associated activities. Indicators were recently synthesized and presented in an interdisciplinary ecosystem assessment report that will serve to elucidate linkages across the different components of West Hawai'i's marine ecosystem. This presentation will provide an overview of the West Hawai'i IEA indicator selection process, highlight key findings and discuss the potential for this information to support ecosystem-based management in the region.

- Presentation Notes:

- Planning to attend regularly to the West HI Fisheries Council meetings – been in this position for two years, fairly new.
- IEA – National program
- Regional Highlights in West Hawaii
  - Goal is to provide sound and relevance and address resource management concerns.
- Collaborative Effort – State, NOAA, University, NGO, community based organizations
- Management and Community Engagement
  - Symposium on Kona's Marine Ecosystem: Trends and Status
  - 2015 HCC Workshop
- Conceptual Ecosystem Models
  - Focused on West Hawai'i Ecosystems
    - Major outcomes
      - Helped determine major pressures and drivers influencing coral reef in the region.
        - Created a list of potential ecosystem indicators
          - Social Indicators – human population growth 320% increase growth
            - Number of visitors – tourism, water sports, beach use and ocean tourism.
            - On-Site Disposal Systems – Effluent Leakage/Nutrient Input
            - Total Number of OSDS – changes in the number of OSDS in WH served as a proxy for historical changes in sewage and other wastewater leakage into the nearshore ecosystem.
          - Coral Reef Ecosystem Indicators (worked directly with Dr. Bill Walsh for studies)
            - Hard Coral Cover
            - Macroalgal Cover
            - Calcified: Non –Calcified Ratio
          - Ecological Indicators
            - Total Fish Abundance
            - Mean Fish Length
            - Total Fish Biomass
              - Linda Preskitt – when looking at this results do you think it will affect the macro algae in the north.
              - Jami – may effect – looking at spacial variations and make it more focused on West Hawai'i. Want to look at it as it overlaps over other indicators and not looking at it singularly.
              - Linda Preskitt – think we can use this information for planning?
              - Jami – yes that's why looking at the thresholds are important, we are also digging into historical work too. Maybe looking at cover from the 80's.
          - Climate and Ocean Indicators
            - Rainfall – Annual average has dwindled down but the intensity of events have increased – can have a lot of ecological affects
            - Sea Level Rise – lead to drainage problems, chronic coastal erosion, and coastal flooding.
            - Mass Coral Bleaching in West Hawai'i
  - Ecosystem Assessment Report

- Q & A's

- Donna Goodale – Why West Hawai'i
  - Jami – unique ecosystem and also the West Hawai'i Fishery Council being here; overlap of

- sanctuaries.
- Chad Wiggins – seeing some trends in the upward model, have you seen any trends?
  - Jami – this year was a unique year, warming started in 2014, 2015 one of the strongest el-nino season – climate models helps but didn't really help these previous set of events; trying to look at future events – downscaled climate models and looked at it down to 4km, more relevant for ocean processes; spacial variation may influence future bleaching. Projected future coral bleaching in WH looking at possibly 2040.
- Jami – 97-98 major global warming event
- Bill Walsh – just looking at March this year, little warmer than last year do you think it has something to do with El-Nino
  - Jami – March, April and May is when El-Nino flopped. I think it may be residual warming from like September; when we get to June, July, August – you will see a change in temperature; can't predict that we will not have another really hot summer but the winds will pick up.
- Alohi Nakachi – do you think that the coral bleaching was not the El-Nino?
  - Bill Walsh – wasn't directly due to El-Nino, not the driver – was like a package of other indicators.
  - Jami – 2014 it was already warm and every September is the warmest all coincided and collective environmental activities added to the bleaching.
- Jami – may see two times per decade of bleaching
- David Dart – introduction of heat resistant coral?
  - Jami – I don't know where the discussion has gone with this, I think they may be doing it in the Caribbean, not sure if it's probable for here.
- Bill Walsh – coral nursery could incorporate in the future; in Kane'ohe bay still looking for survivors and propagating.

- Dr. Bruce Anderson – did not show

### **Business:**

- Resignation and Revised Roles and Responsibilities
  - Dale Sarver – what do you folks feel about the current status of the council?
    - Chad Wiggins – Tina was very instrumental with the council? She was the logistics Guru for us; all the behind the scenes work was done by Tina.
    - Linda and Donna – will discuss after the meeting with responsibilities
  - Budget – Chad Wiggins – letter of intent needs to be more compelling in which will show deliverables from work. I can write the letter but need to have the commitment from council.
    - Linda – I know what you mean, meeting with Carol and draft a letter, we need to set these goals.
    - Charlie – if the funding is not essential we may still be able to meet but won't have too much of an impact with our communities will we have without the money; we should go for the \$25,000 with Castle Foundation.
    - Dale – it was all laid out so we need to see what we need to do.
    - Charlie – I would like to make a recommendation to have the budget reflect travel budget for the chair's to attend meetings in Oahu.
    - Chad – submitted budget was for \$18,000
    - Dale – I know she broke down food, travel and other cost
    - Chad – want to make sure that the amount is adequate
    - Dale – please send the letter to Castle to everyone so we have it
    - Linda – will not be here for the next meeting
  - Charlie – can we assume that the two chairs can handle the responsibilities?
    - Dale – I think that we can make it work out
    - Chad – if anyone wants to step up as a chair please let us know; please send her our aloha to Tina if you folks see her, she did a lot for us.
- Ka'ūpulehu Rule update Coral
  - Chad – it was a complete success and now there are decisions that need to be made by State board.
  - Bill – fundamental issue, solicitation of testimonies, Jeff Rogers was sending emails out, he did not give a formal testimony during hearings, but for some reason the State felt that they needed to look into his thoughts and comments. I made a comment why are we so concerned about one

comment that was not a formal testimony and unlike the 1600 comments. David Sakoda – DAR Legal Fellow – made a suggestion of unlimited hook and lines – recommend changing the rule for what can be done in the largest section of the limited fishing area proposed.

- Chad – not only have they undermined their process they also undermined the community based management system and process; from what I’m seeing it’s not the rule.
- Linda – is what he suggest what they will follow?
  - Chad – it’s about what he said and some
  - Charlie – we are seeing what this process truly can yield and its disappointing; unless the other language is inserted in the bill. I argued with Susan Case about the good and bad, she sounded that she wanted to make sure that the process is followed and that everyone is able to say their thoughts. I think that the comment coming after the process of testimony that is not fair.
- Bill – what will I do is go back to them and say what is the rationale and why wasn’t I consulted as the Biologist for West Hawaii. Looking at the preferential options, and said that a couple of species from his argument was mentioned and now it’s open to all species. They are avoiding going to the board and DAR not really having a game plan. They want a defensible case.
- Charlie - DLNR shall conduct a comprehensive study as a stall tactic which will hold up the process for KMLAC to be approved.
- Dale – when would be an appropriate time for WHF council to say something
  - Bill – Now!
  - Dale – who do we address this too?
  - Bill – one person asking for the list to be modified
  - David – he didn’t put his fish on a marine catch report
  - Bill – due to confidentiality we can’t report his marine catch report
  - Charlie – did he go public about this on FB
  - Bill – yes
  - Charlie – well we should ask him for it
  - Dale – should we do individual letters to avoid the phone conference for a letter from the council?
  - Bill – if you folks can approve the effort and someone drafts the letter it needs to be done before the meeting with the board.
  - Charlie – does the bill allow for amendments even after approval?
  - Bill – probably not its adaptive management, you will need to go through the whole chapter 91 process; deputy AG determines what a substantive change is.
  - Linda – made a motion to have Charlie to write the letter with the help of Chad. JR seconds the draft of the letter. Motion carried and letter will be drafted.

Reef Recovery Plan Castle (did not get to this item – ran out of time)

Foundation engagement (did not get to this item – ran out of time)

**Adjourn: 8:37pm**