

**WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL**  
<http://westhawaiifisherycouncil.org>  
[WHFC@hawaii.rr.com](mailto: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, Sept. 17, 2015**

West Hawaii Civic Center Liquor Control Commission conference Room

(2<sup>nd</sup> Floor of Building B, farthest mauka building)

Presiding: Dale Sarver

**Call to Order:** 6:41pm

Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement by Dale Sarver

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

Guidelines:

- \*All questions from Council members must be recognized by the Chair
- \*All questions/statements will be limited to topic oriented statements.
- \*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.

**Attendance:** Robert Hajeck, Charles Young, Dale Sarver, Chad Wiggins, Tina Owens (proxy for David Dart and Donna Goodale), Linda Preskitt, Bill Walsh, Robert Hajek , Patrick Cunningham, Cirilo JR Rosario, and Malia Kipapa.

Introduction of Visitors – Zadoc Kekuewa

Approval of Agenda – approved

Approval of Minutes – reviewed and approved with amended changes motion made by Chad Wiggins and second by Tina Owens and JR Rosario.

**Continued Business:**

- 1) Discussion and planning for the most effective way to introduce the public to our mandate to create marine reserves. Topics to be discussed and decided include:
  - a. Dale - Call it fish reserves
  - b. Charlie – Pu’uhonua also called fish reserves
  - c. Dale – does it mean the same?
  - d. Charlie – yes, it does in general
  - e. Dale – need to stay with the legal term – it’s supposed to refer to everything doesn’t only mean fish, not just aquarium fish
  - f. Charlie – is a no take zone a nursery? Complete closure no entry?

- g. Bill – statue – to establish a portion of a no take zone into a fishery reserve, doesn't mean that's all it can be
- h. Dale – defined in the rule
- i. Tina – should we stick to marine reserve?
- j. Chad – marine reserve or pu'uhonua!
- k. Dale – Yager would like to get more information from us; this issue has not been addressed for a long time and he is interested
- l. Tina – in the last month I have had a number of phone calls from people about the coral bleaching and what can we the people on the ground do? a person called and said we have to do a band on all algae eaters, and Tina's response is algae eaters does not cause the coral bleaching.
  - i. Linda – this will be an opportunity for us to find pockets where are not getting effective as much from coral bleaching
  - ii. Chad – we are seeing everywhere we look
  - iii. Tina – keep in mind a portion of the FRA
  - iv. Chad – wouldn't it be good for us to address with DLNR; we can use language from the statute that we reach out to the new leadership
  - v. Bob Hajeck – is there anything we can do with this massive global event, climate change – is there much we can do?
  - vi. Bill – what's causing this event is the increase of temperature, through time they can recover, decades of bleaching throughout the world – recovery period. From 1998 then some of the reef started to recover, what's the difference between the non-recovery to recovery, so what they found in one study there are several things that they determined
    - 1. Depth – less light, cooler temperature
    - 2. Structure – lots of structure did better than those that got impacted or areas that were receiving damage, less resilient
    - 3. Biomass – how much fish are eating algae, parrot fishes is an example of those fish that scrap the reef. We are relatively isolated.
  - vii. Linda – think of the coral of having a healthy system – I live in Kohala and because of the run off the coral has been getting hit. What can we do? fertilizers
  - viii. Charlie – would this kind of decision just go up into the air? Maybe DLNR can help?
  - ix. Bill – we DAR need to assimilate information on how to increase recovery and resiliency, how do we translate this into something we can do. Example sea cucumber. Within DAR there is no leadership, hard to bring in value and decision making, waiting for a new administrator to be appointed, Susan Case there has been no response, I think it is the TMT issue. Right now does not seem like an opportune time, no one in DLNR will take the lead, will change. Everything can be planned out, we need to get DLNR involved.
  - x. Tina – occurs to me going to DAR in Oahu will result in nothing or worse than nothing. All marine decisions for this coastline need to be made by substantive public input.
  - xi. Chad – recommend that we make DLNR aware of this
  - xii. Charlie – the two mandates we are within the boundary of addressing coral reefs
  - xiii. Bob – with the DAR situation you would like to hope that it rectifies itself.

1. Dale – we need to educate legislatures; we need the community involved in this, if it does get into the public eye. Educating newspaper person, everyone that wants to get a call.
2. Tina – as I’m kind of putting this together in my head, we do have to approach DLNR, statute has been on for 17 years now, we need to have courtesy and let her know that this is not resolved. Do we wait six months for a response?
3. Dale – 5 days, with all the coral bleach issues the concerns is going to grow, we don’t need to say we have called reporters.
4. Linda – this will last 9-10 weeks a long time.....coral bleaching! People are saying we need to remove fish because they eating too much algae, can we do a letter to Susan Case and getting media case out, short term goals.
5. Pat – Question? Let’s say its five years from now, what do we have? And what would be a perfect way to solve it? What kind of result do you need, if we could have someone to follow.
6. Dale – start getting education initiatives integrate. Making the bridge more resilient.

- 2) Press Packet for Release to West Hawaii Today reporter Bret Yager. This item includes suggestions of resources, quotable quotes, scientist referrals, letters to the editor, photos, etc.
  - a. Tina – I handed out something for article; they do have problems in accuracy. If you see what can be added let me know
  - b. Bill – call to arms or call to actions – marine scientist we have problems and this is what we need to do, this is the weight of the scientific information
  - c. Dale – this is the scientific articles that we need to justify the
  - d. Bill – it’s not just West Hawaii, it’s just like the rest of state and what they are going through, touch base with Mike Fields and ask to use his information.
  - e. Tina – this is something that needs to be done.
  - f. Linda – this place has been a hotspot for research there should be a component to give back.
  - g. JR – once the letter goes out don’t you want the community to get involved
  - h. Dale - this is the second step, going to be on the level as aquarium fishery, need to make letter short
  - i. Bob – maybe the scientific community should be included to help with research.
  - j. Chad – people working on these things they don’t seem receptive to this;
  - k. Tina – so we got number one the letter, two call the action plan folks to help, media eyes
  - l. Dale – if we can prime them that would be good.
  - m. Bob – they need to be good on that.
  - n. Dale - We don’t want this to hold everyone back. They don’t want us to push fishing reserves.
  - o. Charlie - I think our role is to facilitate community discussion, if already a movement almost right our job is to integrate their proposal
  - p. Tina – technically we are an advisory council for DLNR.
  - q. Bob – need to act on this. Why are we so worried about castle?
  - r. Dale – they are funding us that’s why
  - s. Zadoc – how do you help me from the community
    - i. Dale – this is something that we need to figure out so we can help the communities.

- ii. Charlie – going into communities; we can't control coral bleaching but if fisherman are told no fishing they will ask why? Without engaging the community it won't work.
- iii. Chad – good question how do we get started? In Fiji it's a good example; Charlie is a good example of working with his community, needs to have a mechanism in order for it work.
- iv. Zadoc – look like you folks are looking for a model
- v. Tina – we have a lot of models. We had to do something to get people interested so we proposed “if anyone thinks it's good to have one in their community? From those candidates we will select
- vi. Chad – minority of community may say that it's a good thing to do, I think this is a shouting fest
- vii. Dale – not sure why you think it's a shouting fest?
- viii. Chad – it will concern the community.
- ix. Tina – will need to go to a public hearing, you never know
- x. Chad – why should we wait for a community to suggest; the science is not the determining factor.
- xi. Tina – I think that if people realize that this is a possibility they will do it
- xii. Chad – I think if you have a head fisherman that is for it, they can help
- xiii. Linda – do it as a network
- xiv. Dale – depends on DLNR if they think that's it's a good idea
- xv. Charlie – I'm trying to process this, okay so we are planning to send out a letter, we are suggesting that we will move forward with community outreach for coral bleaching and help communities understand this. This is the next steps, I suggest we have monthly meetings in all communities and I know leaders in this community will share information with their folks.
- xvi. Tina – just like the aquarium fishing, this is not only about fisherman it's about everyone and what they think. I don't know what we are defining as a community
- xvii. Charlie – we need to define that, just our conservationist definition
- xviii. Tina – all different pukas with stockholders, geographically and socially
- xix. Charlie – also demographically
- xx. Bill – Chad do you think this will jeopardize the Kaupulehu effort
  - 1. Chad – yes I think it will and also Ho'okena; if there is a public hearing about marine reserves they can come and support if you want them to come to a public hearing, need to convince them
  - 2. Tina – people has been calling me and others about bleaching
  - 3. Bob – I think that we need to separate the bleaching issue and the fish reserves, don't want to mix it up, there is one that needs to be fast tracked and addressed and the other will take more time. Needs to be pin point oriented, more of a government initiated, DAR and DLNR seems stagnate, need to address quickly or window of opportunity will close, time sensitive issues.
  - 4. Linda – coral bleaching and marine reserves is not separate, we knew this would come, now we are here. We need these reserves, look at it as nursery to help babies to recreate populations.
  - 5. Bob – will need to write off the coral bleaching issue
  - 6. Linda – about recovery not bleaching itself

7. Bob – fourth and fifth generation will say that we’ve seen this before; its biblical
- 3) "Call to Action", papers, articles, examples of communities that want reserves, any politicians, *kupuna*, that favor the idea.
  - Preparation for follow-up and how to handle negative responses.
- 4) Continue discussion of “our dream budget,” and further funding options.
  - a. Tina – Malama Kai handles our grant from Castle, but the end of the year we will have about \$6 left, this grant paid for Malia, Ho’okena meeting, newspaper ads, etc. when I spoke to Carolyn, she said that Castle does not like to be sole funder, like to have other sources which provide funding. Apparently, there is like \$10,000 left in the account, we are trying to see if we can get someone to collect funding from reef fund. Carolyn said to think of dream budget, I thought it might be....divided into certain categories. Coming up in April we will be 2 years in with our website/webpage. \$200 is a guess for a web master,
    - i. Charlie – our Kupa website our webmaster charges \$100 a month
    - ii. Chad – I was thinking a semi interactive website, maybe have a map for public to add information on, example bleaching sites, and have available online.
    - iii. Bill – eyes on the reef might be good to have a link.
    - iv. Linda – coral bleaching education section I’ll increase
    - v. Chad – having eyes of the reef as a link to go to would be good; NOAA has a program called sea sketch that would be good. Bleaching did not occur to me till this bleaching occurred recently.
  - b. Tina – community education
    - i. Chad – where is your time in this budget? You should think about adding that in this
    - ii. Tina – I don’t mind doing it for free but I’m tired of spending my own money.
    - iii. Charlie – funders don’t mind seeing administrative fees in there
    - iv. Linda – I agree with chad that funders don’t mind cutting things out.
    - v. Chad – think about how much hours a month you spend doing things for council
    - vi. Tina – about 10 hours a month
    - vii. Chad – look at that \$15 hours an hour and calculate it up for 10 hours
    - viii. Tina – worried about the State thinking we will be taking over, so worried about this.
    - ix. Chad – maybe even travel if you’re planning to go to Oahu, add it in. maybe about \$1000 for travel budget
    - x. Linda – are there flyers or educational material
    - xi. Tina – worried about DLNR worrying about this
    - xii. Linda – why would they worry about it
    - xiii. Tina – okay how much for supplies?
      1. Pat – I’ve heard DLNR flying back and forth, who is this person? Who is going to complain about this?
      2. Tina – we are looking at DAR first
      3. Chad – suggesting that we approach KUA and Castle about funding per last meeting minutes.
      4. Dale – I’m looking that it’s no less than \$10,000.

**New Business:**

- Chad – can we get an application for Zadoc to apply to be on council
- Tina – yes. Tina wrote down Zadoc Kekuewa’s email address and will send him an application.

**Announcements:** No announcements

Dale Sarver made a motion to adjourn and Tina Second motion **Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm.**