

WEST HAWAI'I FISHERY COUNCIL

<http://westhawaiiifisherycouncil.org>

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL WEST HAWAI'I 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."

DRAFT Minutes for Thursday, January 19, 2017
West Hawaii Civic Center Liquor Control Commission conference Room
(2nd Floor of Building B, farthest mauka
building) Presiding: Chad Wiggins

Call to Order: 5:30pm by Chad Wiggins

- Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement – Read by Alohi Nakachi
- Reiteration by the Chair of the meeting protocols from WHFC Policies and Operational
- Guidelines and posted at meeting.
 - o All questions from Council members must be recognized by the Chair
 - o All questions/statements will be limited to topic-oriented statements.
 - o Note that a short time has been added after each agenda item to discuss each item.
 - o 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.
- Introduction of Visitors
 - o Dee Fulten (scuba diver from West Virginia), Leila Atkins (diver), Laurie Hillyard, Lisa Vollbrecht (Marine Biologist), Bruce Anderson (DAR), Eric Conklin.
 - o Chad – emphasized on open enrollment for applications for membership of fishery council
 - o Member's attendance:
 - Chad Wiggins, Dale Sarver, Donna Goodale, Healani Cahill, Charles Young, Alohi Nakachi, Bill Walsh, Malia Kipapa.
- Approval of Agenda – Dale motion to approve the agenda, second by Donna Goodale; motion carried and approved.
- Approval of Minutes
 - o November & December Minutes

- Charlie Young – December minutes please complete my comment as “issue forward” (open ended)
- Dale Sarver – add, “We do not want fish farms” next to the community comment on the first page after Dales comment about fish farms.
 - Charlie Young made a motion to accept minutes as they are amended, second by Dale Sarver – motion carried and approved.

“Presentation: Dr. Eric Conklin, Hawai‘i Marine Science Director, The Nature Conservancy, shares an update on the resilience of coral reefs in South Kohala and North Kona based on surveys conducted by NOAA, UH, and TNC researchers in 2015 and 2016.

- What is resilience?
 - How well can you cope with change and how the world is changing around you.
 - Managing reefs in the face of global change looking at a best case scenario
- How do you manage reefs for a changing climate?
 - Reduce greenhouse emissions
 - Active restoration
 - Reduce Local Stressors
 - The things we do on small scale can have a tremendous impact to the ability for the reef to respond to global changes.
 - Where?
 - Being thoughtful of what you do knowing resources are limited
 - Which Stressors?
 - Depending on what we need to understand in order to make the adjustments.
- Goals:
 - Resilience assessments
 - Identify area that are most likely to resist and recover from impacts from climate change
 - Areas to prioritize for management action
 - Resilience assessment method – NOAA and DAR – Oct 2015, 20 locations selected, 40 shallow and deep sites.
 - Go out and measure the characteristic of the reef – how the reef functions and how would it be resilient to changes. Ecological factors that are measurable; e.g. resistant coral species, temperature variability.
 - Two Categories to organize data collection for assessments:
 - Field surveys – resistant coral species, coral diversity, coral recruitment, hard coral cover, herbivore biomass, herbivore diversity, coral disease, macro algae, crustose coralline algae, Topographic complexity.
 - Modeling/Remote Data – Temperature variability, nutrients, sedimentations, fishing pressure.
 - Data Analysis
 - Independent assessments are collected, which is then compiled to get resilient scores and a ranking is shown after totals are added up from independent assessments for each monitored sites – green color is good and red is not good.
 - Most influenced variables
 - Bleaching resistant corals, coral recruitment, macro algal cover
 - Southern sites generally scored higher
 - Highly variable
 - Looking at data points to see which area of the assessment, did the site score the highest on by going site by site; Make better

- management decisions.
 - 2015 Bleaching Event
 - 38%-92% of all coral colonies partially or fully bleached
 - Average bleaching severity across all colonies was similar in shallow and deep reef zones
 - Survey sites in the South Kohala had worse bleaching than those in the North Kona
 - 50-60% of the two most abundant species (*Porites lobate* & *Porites compressa*) partially and fully bleached.
 - Report available on NOAA's website: <https://www.coris.noaa.gov/>
- General Conclusion
 - Resilience assessments can be used to identify priority areas and management actions
 - Preserve or restore resilience
 - Relative resilience is highly variable along the West Hawai'i coastline
 - Management recommendations will be site-specific
- Next Steps for West Hawai'i Resilience Assessments
 - Anthropogenic stressors
 - Data from ocean Tipping Points
 - Management recommendations
 - Work with State, NOAA, community groups
 - Year 2
 - Community presentations
 - Policy Brief
 - Workshop with managers and scientists
 - Resurvey sites to track recovery from bleaching event – DONE in October 2016
- Reef Resilience Model
 - TNC Resilience Model = Resilience
 - Representation and Replication
 - Habitat Types Multiples
 - Risk Spreading
 - Critical Areas
 - Connectivity
 - Effective management

Q & A/ Discussion to Follow"

- Donna – do you have any of the assessments that were what you folks thought it would be in through using the resilience assessment?
 - Eric – a lot of the results showed what we thought it would because of the 2015 bleaching; we saw substantial mortality which makes reef more vulnerable to disease and other bleaching – what's there after all of the bleaching impact seem to look fairly well.
- Betsy (Guest) – is your study showing that it can be addressed at a political level?
 - Eric – drawing the link between the land impacts (nutrient inputs) and the coral bleaching, we want this information to be used in a way in which it can help to inform start discussions. In hope to briefly, develop this process to build political weight.
 - Betsy – how long would it take to address (timeline)
 - Eric – may be over the next few months.
- Charlie Young – I would like to ask if he can come back to provide and update on data in a few months. In addition, do you think you have enough data?
 - Eric – committed; critical piece is we are not waiting to show everything we are refining, collecting and seeking which we would like to have feedback from groups like these to help improve how we collect and share out the data.

- Healani Cahill – curious for those of us that live in the South (Kona) is there difference between N. Kona and S. Kona. Does it make sense to look at the rest of the Island and see how these other sites have been resilient?
 - o Eric – absolutely, we are looking in areas where particularly more people are interested, good information already exists so looking at it from this lens can generate good discussions, I need to look for resources.
- DAR Update on Coral Reef Recovery Plan – Bill Walsh
 - o After DAR reviewed impact on reef from 2015 bleaching – query global community and had a 50% response from survey (February 2016) – summarized in April 2016, then information was disseminated to local communities to see what would make sense for Hawai'i, another component which is on-going was to review other reports to see different impacts and summarize that information. After all, of these efforts DAR will make a decision on next steps. For natural resources 30 by 30 plan by Governor Ige (relatively new) effectively manage 30% nearshore water and land resources by 2030.
 - Bruce Anderson – relatively new idea and still trying to define effective management in a robust way; these are marine enforcement and monitoring efforts that we are trying to focus on; looking at high priority areas of interest. The idea would be to link areas of interest together and optimize those areas to complement each other , we do have some funding for this effort; coral bleaching is a priority issue and actively move on this, hope to be effective and help with recovery and not waiting on. Coral bleaching recovery plan and get feedback from your group so we can move accordingly. Lots of moving parts but looking to develop 30 by 30 plan.
 - Chad – we as a council do have a good relationship with DAR and we look forward to working with you folks.
 - Donna Goodale – are you still interested in topics you previously mentioned about like parrotfish still the same?
 - Bruce Anderson - I do want to look at statewide rules for parrot fish and gill nets both want it to be restricted or banned. Hopeful in the next year or so to have public meetings; would love to have some feedback from you folks. I think this group will be helpful, there is a State legislature happening soon and hope that proposals come out this summer.
 - Dale Sarver – do we have
 - Bruce Anderson – Senator Rose and Gabbard – they look like supportive candidates; only one bill proposed by Bert Kobayashi – eliminate the Natatorium in Waikiki to diamond head lamp; in discussion in legislature right now is creating a fund for restoring coral reef (this bill will move forward in the next session).
 - Chad Wiggins – if there is a list that we can be aware of we can stay updated on this.

- Update from WHFC December 2016 Outstation Community Meeting
 - o Chad – facilitation done by Charlie Young
 - Charlie Young – I think the board did a good job some questions were addressed to the council and looking at community questions. Thanks to Healani for donating the food for the meeting, biggest highlight. The issues that came up; they look at the WHFC as decision makers and problem solvers, but I reiterated that we just take information that is shared by the community as an organized collective then the WHFC can assist with that.
 - Donna Goodale – I think it would be good to have a brief to the point example; people have come to us with their problem and tell us we want you to fix it, we can resolve it.
 - Dale Sarver – it was communicated to them from the council but not sure if they would receive the information we delivered, not sure how to get around it.
 - Donna Goodale – step-by-step information to have it as a visual example.
 - Charlie Young – I think that we will get better at it as we do more of them; not sure if this is disappointing but I thought that what Dr. Bill shared about coral reef but not sure, if they thought.
 - Healani Cahill – we did touch upon what we at the council want to accomplish so they can understand that we are not there to fix everything but we can be a sounding board. I would like to highlight what they mentioned as issues and that we follow up with it.
 - Dale Sarver – do we have another meeting?
 - Alohi Nakachi – I think it went well, if they have an issue and they are passionate about it how can we help them to provide some resources for them, we have to do more to help assist the community with their issues.
 - Charlie Young – DOBOR was there and none of them went to Dan who was there from DOBOR about the mooring.
- Update on funding and budget
 - o Chad – first set of discretionary funds was awarded from two requirements for this funding from Councilman Willie to get Youth involved and to have a meeting in South Kohala
 - o Charlie – Councilman David and Eoff provided contingency funding and it needs to be spent down by June 2016; I will see if we can have an extension. I think if we can use some of the funds to make copies.
 - o Dale – could use the money now but print out things later
 - o Charlie – Castle Foundation, Chad initiated the conversation.
 - o Chad – seems like uncertainty for spending down the source of funding we have now, can we agree to look at a source-spending plan at the next meeting?
 - o Dale – maybe we can look at the county funding and separate it from the castle foundation both separate approaches, Caroline has a better approach on the council.
 - o Charlie – council is telling us that we need to spend money on specific things

- Chad – keep everyone apprised on this and discuss at our next month.
- Healani – I think we need to inundate the schools and have presentations done by Bill Walsh.
- Chad – Let us look at community outreach at next meeting.
- Bruce – I think we look at nice issues here and have a good association
- Dale – that is what we were planning to do is go into the communities and share what DAR is doing in means of addressing coral bleaching problem.
- Malia – recommend having on the agenda outcomes from the County council meeting January 5th meeting and also add DOCARE on next agenda.

Announcements:

- Next meeting February 16, 2017 at Liquor Control Commission Conference Room

Adjourn at 7:30pm – motion made by Dale Sarver second by Donna Goodale motion carried and approved.