

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 March 17, 2016 6:30-8:30 PM
County Council CONFERENCE room, Building A
West Hawai'i Civic Center

Facilitator: Chad Wiggins

Call to Order: 6:30PM

Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement
Introduction of Visitors and Guests – one guest

Attendance: Donna Goodale, Charlie Young, Chad Wiggins, Dave Dart (Proxy for Tina Owens and Linda Preskitt), Dale Sarver, Bob Hajek, JR Rosario, Malia Kipapa.

Approval of Agenda – motion to approve made by Dale Sarver and 2nd motion by Donna Goodale, motion carried and approved.

Approval of Minutes – motion to approve by Malia Kipapa, 2nd motion by JR Rosario, motion carried and approved.

Dr. Bruce Anderson – Director of DAR

- Kaupulehu management area, still gathering information and comments; estimate about 2 months before we can make recommendations to the board. Last step before we go to the government. I spent 2 days at a Westpac meeting; I was told that the designated fishing area (100 fathoms) goes into federal waters. People were concerned about bottom fishing because it's one of the best areas for fishing, where proposed site is.
 - o Chad Wiggins – how much testimony did you folks receive?
 - o Bruce - Last count we had about 70 oral testimonies, another 70 written before closing, some were repeat, did both oral and written testimony.
- The issue that I wanted to bring up, fishing management area that extends from Mauna Lani to Wailea, Robbie Robinson and Bill White approached me to ask about extending the management area in Wailea. Not clear to me on classification, joining Puako (Fish Replenishment area) and Wailea (Not sure on this designation, Bill Walsh may be able to clarify). There is also an interest (Puako community) extend southward to Mauna Lani, open line fishing with additional restrictions may be a possibility. Night diving I believe has had an impact on the fishery.
 - o Dale Sarver – it would be good that this group comes to us and let us know what they would like us to help them with so we know how we can help.

- Bruce – That’s good advice I’ll let them know to come to the council.
- Donna Goodale – you should talk to Tina about information she might be able to share some of her findings.
- Mike Nakachi – I think that there was a swap/trade?
- Dave Dart – They were worried about all the divers coming to one area all one time.
- Chad Wiggins – I think they are using a Markson Analysis funded by the Moore foundation, a process they used in California.
- Along with spacial planning as we just discussed we need to conduct monitoring. After years at Ha‘ena they still don’t have a monitoring plan. We should be measuring effectiveness.

Presentation:

How Science Stole My Dream Job: The effect of the introduced predatory grouper, roi, on coral reef fishes at Puakō, South Kohala, Hawai‘i Island. Chad Wiggins will share five years of research into the effect of roi following a targeted removal project, highlighting the feasibility, cost, and impact of roi removal on native fish populations (20 min.)

- Jonatha Giddens did a good job leading this project.
- 1956 introduced, then reintroduced 1961, 1980 present on all main islands, 2007 dominant reef piscivore, 2010 spread to French frigate shoals in NWH Islands (originally from Moorea)
- Feasibility – monitoring started in 2010, baseline surveying using UVS belt transects
 - Study Site – Puako
 - Reason
 - Puako community supported this study
 - Roi abundance, engage community – needed to find out their effect on the area
 - Method
 - Tag, record, remove roi
 - Depletion experiment – catch per unit – fishery model to determine how difficult it is to catch roi.
 - Immigration rete – scouting the reef regularly, keeping the reef clean – one roi every 4-6 weeks.
- It is feasible to catch roi on the reef!
- Cost – take 77 personnel hours (cost per acre) - ~\$1000-\$8,082 (scale dependent)
 - Terrestrial vs. marine – cost effective \$5000 vs. \$1000
- Based on 5 years of data
 - We can see indication of effect during high and low densities but have low ecological impacts it’s something else.
- Michael Morriss’s family donated money for this project to be carried out.

Q & A:

- Bob Hajek – do you know what might be effecting/ impacting the area if it’s not the roi?
 - Chad Wiggins – a lot of our reef species are long live, adult sizes most roi can’t consume it, replicating this study in a different more where you don’t have sedimentation and injection wells impacting the site.
- Roi ciguatoxicity – from fishing tournaments 2009-2011 based on analysis by the lab of Dr. Paul Beinfang – showed interesting findings for sites on Hawaii Island both on the East and the West side of the Island.

New Business:

Revisit 2016 Timeline (if Needed)

Skype options

- Dale Sarver – I thought that this was a good consensus if we can have this as an option for meeting attendance. What do people think about this?
 - o Chad – I think that this would be good like for those commuting like Kaimi; it would be good so he can attend.
 - o JR – can we control the meetings using it
 - o Rob – How does the County Control this kind of meetings discussion?
 - o Dale – if there is a way to restrict just to members than that would be a good starting point?
 - JR – if there is an issue and people all want to come in, may not be able to control the meeting.
 - Dale – if there is one-person hosts a site they will control the meeting from their remote site.
 - o Mike - I think that if you set an agenda and you have a few remote meetings, I think you need to have clarity and transparency with the community; the role of the council needs to be clear. I think that you can sense a need for folks having concerns about their resources.
 - Chad – we need to start first and find out how it works before we go forward with this. More research is needed.
 - Mike – Dr. Anderson from top down people are expressing concerns in their community.
- Added in per request of Tina Owens
 - o I would like to make our people aware that David Tarnas, the author of our Act 306, will be running for office again this year. He will be running for Cindy Evans' seat. It is easy to see how and why David is dedicated to the WHFC and having him in office, as a House Representative would make our lives a good deal easier. I personally would like to encourage everyone to support him and ask others to support him. I like Cindy very much but from what I see, she's been Snorkel Bobbed, and does not look on the WHFC or Dr. Bill with any benevolence any more.

Business:

Legislative Update – shared on behalf of Tina by Chad (taken from her email)

- None of the bills we were tracking made the crossover except the cooler inspection bill because it crossed over last year. The only other one, the mitigation bank bill that Dr. Anderson told us about, is also still alive. We need to push the referral committees to hear the cooler inspection bill. We did previously vote to contact Nicole Lowen, but unfortunately that has not happened as yet.

Membership Matrix Redux

- Tina's response per her email - Just my two cents: If we clean out the membership list of those who have stopped coming or missed too many meetings, which will mean that we will have NO aquarium collectors. Dave Dart is actually representing small charter boat businesses and small boat fishers. Perhaps we should issue a warning to those about to be cut.
 - o Chad – we need to recruit someone in the hotel industry and someone maybe from Ka'u
 - o Dale – there was an article about NOAA protecting porpoises again – has anyone heard anything about that? They are also talking about people swimming with them not necessarily chasing them with a boat.
 - Donna – it has been said that 10a-2p is usually their resting time
 - Dave – they should have resting areas for them, just as we have FRA's for fish it should be simple.
 - Guest - Kasey Cho - was Cited by DLNR for interacting with porpoises (standard dolphin charter) he was fined \$2500, currently contesting the case, occurred a month ago.

- Dale – I think the State needs to be clearer about restrictions pertaining to dolphins.
- Charlie – in Ho‘okena we have had problems with the dolphins being aggravated with shoreline access from the public, activity stresses the dolphins.
- Dale – observation monitoring from the shoreline showed that the dolphins gathered more tightly together in a larger group of dolphins in high traffic areas.
- Donna & Charlie – dolphins are site specific and they behave differently depending on where they are from, Julian Tynes study.
- Chad – can you ask (Charlie) Gene if she or someone can come and share about this subject.

Fishery Council Community Presentation Discussion

- Subcommittee will work on two different presentations one, on the West Hawaii Fishery council and two, protected areas.
 - o Malia will work on getting photos of all members on the council and collect their information

Next Meeting Topic and Location (Chad Wiggins)

- Dr. Anderson will present
- A presentation from subcommittee on WHF council
- We will use the same room (Building A) for our meeting next month

Funding Proposal Status (Shared on behalf of Tina Owens by Chad Wiggins)

- As of this morning, Malama Kai Foundation submitted a preliminary request for funds for us from the Castle Foundation. According to Terry George (Eric Co is out of town), requests under \$25,000 can be expedited by being approved by two board members instead of the entire board. We put in a request for \$8,000/year for two years from Castle and matched by \$2,000/year for two years from the Big Island Reef Fund, for a total of \$10,000/year.
- BIRF: It was started a decade or more ago to allow people at various outlets like dive shops, etc. to donate money to keep the reef healthy. However, somewhere along the line, people lost interest and there was no one to keep it going.
- Carolyn Stewart, of the Malama Kai Foundation, met with former BIRF board members about how to proceed with revitalizing the fund. Teri Leicher offered to donate one dollar from every customer they have at Jack's Diving Locker. The idea is to encourage other shops to do so as well. Also, Lindsey Kramer, who is helping us with the BIRF, is working on a Facebook page for the Malama Kai Foundation as well as a GoFundMe effort. Keep in mind that the BIRF money would not all be dedicated to WHFC; it goes to a number of different projects including mooring buoys etc.

Decision-Making (if appropriate)

Adjourn: 8:30pm - Chad wiggins made a motion to adjourn, Donna 2nd motion, motion carried and adjourned.