

WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL

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.

WEST HAWAII FISHERY COUNCIL

Agenda for Thursday, May 19, 2016 6:30-8:30 PM West

Hawai'i Civic Center

County Council CONFERENCE room, Building A

Small room mauka of county council meeting room

Chair: Chad Wiggins

Call to Order: 6:30PM

Reading *and Interpretation* of WHFC Mission Statement – read by Healani Cahill

Introduction of Visitors and Guests –

Guests – Jane Rafferty, Bob Smith, Lydia, Jayne LeFors, George Robertson

Attendance – Malia Kipapa (Proxy for Bob Hajek), Donna Goodale (proxy for David Dart), Healani Cahill, Charles Young, Kaimi Kaupiko, JR Rosario, Chad Wiggins (proxy Dale Sarver), Ex Officio – Bill Walsh, Julia Rose, Bruce Anderson (DAR), Mike Nakachi (proxy for Alohi Nakachi)

Approval of Agenda – Motion Charles Young, Second Donna Goodale

Approval of Minutes – Motion Charles Young, Second JR Rosario

Approval of Agenda

- Motion made by Kaimi Kaupiko to approve agenda; council unanimously approved, motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

- Motion made by Charlie Young to approve the minutes from April meeting, second motion by JR Rosario, minutes approved.

Presentation:

Presentation 1: Enhancing Protections for Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins to Prevent Disturbance

Jayne LeFors, Ph.D. Protected Species Division, National Marine Fisheries Service, NOAA.

Background on the biology and behavior of Hawaiian spinner dolphins and the threats posed by increased human disturbance, as well as a summary of recent research undertaken on the Kona Coast.

Followed by a discussion of potential alternatives for proposed regulations to prevent disturbance to the dolphins.

Jayne LeFors has worked for the NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division in the Pacific Islands Region since 2005, and has been involved from the beginning in the effort to develop protections for Hawaiian spinner dolphins. Prior to this work, she served for 10 years as a Fisheries Biologist for the Bureau of Land Management in southern Oregon, protecting & restoring stream & riparian habitat for threatened salmon & steelhead.

Alternatives under Consideration:

1. No Action
2. No Swimming with Hawaiian Spinner Dolphins
3. Approach Rule – 50 yards or 100 yards
4. Approach Rule and Mandatory Time-Area Closures in Five selected essential resting habitats
5. Approach rule and voluntary time

Potential Time-Area Closures

1. Kealahou Bay
2. Honaunau Bay
3. Kauhako Bay
4. Makako Bay
5. La Perouse Bay (Maui)

Exceptions to prohibitions

- Vessels and swimmers that are approached by the spinner dolphins
- Emergency and government vessels

How can you help?

- Spread the word about these proposed rules and let us know if people would like for us to present this information to them.

For more info contact:

Jayne LeFors

Jayne.lefors@noaa.gov

808 322-2484 ext 104

Q & A Session:

- Donna – Peak Hours Julian Tyne – peak hours
- JR Rosario – I’m a commercial fisherman and I pass them when I’m in the water is that illegal
 - o Jayne – it’s not illegal it would be illegal if you chased them
- Kaimi Kaupiko – I know that these are the popular places they go to, what about places like where

I'm from in Miloli'i if we have them there?

- Jayne – we went through a selection process – because we are going for an approach rule; it would be illegal if it did become a problem, but don't believe you folks will have that problem because the commercial boats won't go that far south.
- Chad Wiggins – Biological impacts? Some of these studies are about 10 years old what is being done about updating the research?
 - Jayne – populations decline because the mothers are not able to get enough rest to hunt at night and to produce enough milk to nurse baby dolphins. Bottle nose dolphins get there fish and rest whenever. The sapphire research is the most recent, about 700 dolphins have been monitored, in 1970's some of the work done then the abundance counts were higher then what we are seeing today.
- Bill Walsh - Why do spinner dolphins seem to like areas with high source of activity?
 - Jayne - could be feeding behavior, sand bottom habitat, like these areas because they use less energy. They are not as disturbed by boats vs human swimmers.
- Malia Kipapa – are the potential area for closures in order of priority?
 - Jayne – no it's not, just listed as potential sites
- Chad Wiggins – would restrictions apply to spear fisherman? You wanted us to spread the word how do you want us to spread the word?
 - Jayne – no it doesn't affect those that go spear fishing; I would like for you folks to spread the word about awareness about this issue so people can realize that there is a problem so they know why we are asking
- Guest - is Kailua not an area of designation for a reason?
 - Jayne – designated as a state recreation area so hard to restrict dolphin activity
- Mike Nakachi – curious have you looked at Yans work? Cookie cutter shark bites, has there been any studies?
 - Jayne – yes he has written some reports for the agency and we've worked with him on research, it's significantly less. No not that I know!
- Guest – How do they know that if you're in the water swimming and not harassing the dolphins? Do you think there are other factors besides people impacting?
 - Jayne – won't be easy for law enforcement officers to distinguish will be a challenge; yes increase in noise, toxopragmosis from cat feces, did a necropsy on a spinner dolphin that passed and found that it died from toxopragmosis

Presentation 2: Update on 2015 West Hawai'i Coral Bleaching and... What's next?

William J. Walsh, Ph.D., Biologist and Coral Reef Manager, Kona Division of Aquatic Resources, DLNR.

West Hawaii's coral reefs suffered extensive and unprecedented thermally induced coral bleaching in 2015 - this event was especially severe along West Hawai'i and resulted in 50% average coral mortality on monitored reefs (30'-60' depths), with some sites and some coral species, suffering mortality exceeding 70%. Associated with the bleaching event was a widespread proliferation of filamentous algae which quickly covered bleached and dying corals. Many interesting and surprising ecosystem

responses were also observed in response to the bleaching.

Although coral bleaching will likely become increasingly more common in Hawaii, consensus on strategies to promote coral recovery following bleaching mortality are decidedly limited. In January of this year, the State of Hawaii's Division of Aquatic Resources (DAR) launched an initiative to survey the opinions of a global group of coral reef scientists and managers to identify applicable and effective management actions to promote recovery of the state's coral reefs. This expert feedback will hopefully provide a consensus on management actions for potential administrative rulemaking.

Key Points:

- Algal impacts on coral reef
- Makalawena – resistant, bleached then recovered - *Porites rus* – between October to February recovery showed success
- *Acropora gemmifera* – found this coral that was never reported before – found it and it was intact.
- *Drupella cornus* snails – were attacking the coral.
- Waters are warming so most likely we will see more bleaching this year
- Implement coral bleaching recovery survey as a form of documenting changes.
- Effective Efforts to prevent coral bleaching:
 - o Reduce sediment stress on coral reefs by implementing additional land based mitigation in adjacent watersheds
 - o Reduce nutrient/chemical stress on coral reefs by implementing additional land based mitigation in adjacent watersheds
 - o Establish a network of permanent, fully protected no take MPA's
 - o Enhance marine enforcement efforts to ensure the effectiveness of rules related to coral reef protection.
 - o Establish a network of permanent herbivore fishery management areas which fully protect herbivores.

Q & A Session:

- Donna Goodale – so it wasn't only due to El Nino? Have you noticed a reduction in coral eating butterfly fish
 - o Bill Walsh – correct it wasn't the only reason for coral bleaching; we haven't really seen too much, things will change in terms of diversity of the reef not a positive thing.
- Mike Nakachi – noticed that Maui central areas increased 2 degrees warmer and alanui haha decreased by 1 percent, so cooler.
- Chad Wiggins – impacts globally
 - o Bill Walsh – lobbying
 - o Coral bleaching is a concern given research; sea level rise, when it effects people it
- Bruce Anderson - What next?
 - o Bill Walsh – I'll defer to you

- Bruce Anderson - Have some kind of forum so we can look at management efforts to help inform next steps; regulations and rules, trying to prioritize what we can do in this process; putting together a network; restrict night spearing and uhu spearing (ban) eliminate this stress. Hope this will happen in the next month or two, would like to get a move on this problem soon.

Presentation 3: DRAFT WHFC Community meeting presentation

Presentation subcommittee Healani Cahill, Dale Sarver, Donna Goodale, et al *Linda Preskitt in absentia*

Background on the formation and work of the council for one or more forthcoming community-hosted meetings.

Chad Wiggins – let’s have a more defined presentation done at our next meeting from the subcommittee.

Business Meeting:

Fishery policy updates – Chad Wiggins – any updates?

- Bruce – there is a meeting to promulgate the rule as proposed on Friday, May 27, 2016 hearing at the DLNR Board Room 9am meeting starts; I think it’s a well-conceived rule we had about 170 testimonies and most of them were in favor of the rule; there was some talk to extend the rules to not only the take from current fish on list but also extend to the families of those same fish species. Maybe change the rule as time goes on to modify as time moves on and make proper adjustments. The board has the option to make some changes, based on public comment, maybe species that may have not been considered initially; the rule will then go to the governor, typically it takes about a month we plan to meet with him after the rule. If you have issues with the rule let that be known to the board. Recommendation from the government.
 - Another issue is the annual commercial fee -we were sued for charging non-resident more than resident, a significant issue, need a commercial license to sell your fish.
 - Charlie Young – I would like to ask about the comment you made about the rule may change, will we need to go through the chapter 91 process again?
 - Bruce – yes it will take time – easier to change a rule then go to legislature
- Donna Goodale – made a motion to have a letter of support; JR second the motion
 - Malia – I’ll read on behalf of council if am able to attend the meeting
 - Bruce – be brief on comment, stand and say your group you represent and support
 - Chad – Malia will stand in support at the meeting, will submit an electronic testimony before meeting; approved by entire council

Community meeting prospects

- Chad - Need to get moving on this.

Proposed adjustment to meeting start time 5:30

PM

- Chad – defer to next meeting

Funding for community meetings

- Chad – it's still up in the air right now

Adjourned: 8:28pm – Donna Goodale made a motion to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by JR Rosario