

WEST HAWAI'I FISHERY COUNCIL

<http://westhawaiiifisherycouncil.org>

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE COUNCIL WEST HAWAI'I FISHERY COUNCIL

"To provide for substantive involvement of the community in resource management decisions; encourage scientific research and monitoring of the nearshore resources and environment from Upolu Point to Ka Lae; to work toward and advise about the resolution of conflicts of use and the enhancement of nearshore resources; and to assist in the development and implementation of management plans for minimizing resource depletion; per legislative mandate to the Department of Land and Natural Resource."

Draft Minutes for Thursday, December 13, 2018

Ka'ūpūlehu Interpretive Center at Kalaemanō¹

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Presiding Chair: Chad Wiggins

Call to Order: 6:00 pm

- Food Blessing and Make Plates
- Council Members and Visitor Introductions
- Council Members: Charles Young, Chuck Leslie, Dale Sarver (Proxy: Donna Goodale), Julia Rose (Ex-Officio), Lisa Vollbrecht, Chad Wiggins, Chris Funada, Malia Kipapa.
- Visitors & Kama'aina: Attendance: Lei Lightner, Vern Yamanaka, Mike Nakachi, Krista Johnson, Nikki Sanderlin.
- Reading and Interpretation of WHFC Mission Statement
- Reiteration by the Chair of the meeting protocols from WHFC Policies and Operational Guidelines
 - o All questions from Council members must be recognized by the Chair
 - o All questions/statements will be limited to topic-oriented statements
 - o Discussion time available after each agenda item
 - o Proxies: Must be confirmed in writing prior to meeting.
- Approval of November 15, 2018 Meeting Minutes
 - o Lisa made a motion to approve and Dale 2nd the agenda approved minutes
- Approval of WHFC Meeting Agenda
 - o Move up KMLAC presentation up on the agenda
 - o Add membership to the agenda
 - o Dale moved and Chris 2nd motion agenda approved

Updates

Status of Ka'ūpūlehu Marine Reserve

Notes:

- Vern Yamanaka
 - o 16 years since we started these efforts for the Try Wait initiative, thanks to the WHFC for being a catalyst to get this moving.
 - o In the 2nd year of 10 year closure, I can definitely see the change since it closed. I use to camp with my family at the shoreline before the hotel was built. Within a span of less than a year when the hotel came in, the depletion started to happen, prior to that it was so rich and healthy. It got so bad that even my keiki didn't want to take any fish because of the

- depletion.
- I can attest that now I can see color on the reef; my grandson is 14 years old at Kamehameha and I took him and he said wow grandpa look have color when two years ago it didn't look like this.
- Rest. Replenish. Harvest. – looking for a way to have a sustainable harvest.
- Looking at implementing a Fish Path Program
- Two weeks ago – Kamehameha Foundation we were able to get funding \$50,000 for two years to fund the Fish Path Program
- The closure is just the beginning, now the study and programs over the next 8 years it will take money. We have OHA, TNC, Kamehameha Schools and community association to help fundraise to conduct survey.
- Aunty Lei Lightner
 - 2 years since July 2016 – creating an Action Plan from Ma Uka to Ma Kai start from up top to shoreline. This will make up how well our fishery will be, all-inclusive and impactful.
 - The Mano in the water ties us to the people, generations.
 - We picked (6) Priorities – Mano, Pa'akai, Fishery, Water.....(2) other
 - The next generation will need to come and carry out these plans and priorities.
 - We want the whole community to benefit from this
 - Law students from Richardson Law School have been challenged by their lead Kapua Sproat to figure out processes to help KMLAC community with management of closure.
 - For example Roi removal efforts and the permits that it entails in order to carry out and event like this. Our last Roi round up we had 16 divers and all kamaaina, for them to be able to step on opihi and jump into a school of Kole is amazing and shows how much this closure has helped with the replenishment of this fishery. They caught over 200 roi from this last Roi roundup.
 - KMLAC it's important that we collaborate with others, Kamehameha schools, OHA, TNC, Kai Kuleana network
- Chad Wiggins
 - The month before last before the two hurricanes, we did a 183 dives and saw a tremendous increase in fish; we did some baseline data, there are a statistical difference in opihi and fish counts. After 2 years the reserve is working, KMLAC wants the fishery council to know this update and wants to say thank you for helping with the political process. There is a big spillover effect from this closure. Kaupulehu is helping to replenish the entire fishery even outside of the reserve.
 - Been a positive effect from the neighbors as well
 - Fish Path is just a process that will be used to get good feedback and recommendations on how to manage our fishery.
 - A lot of my colleagues are growing interest from what's happening here and the knowledge everyone from here shares with them.

- Science – there is a report to NOAA that will have information on the update of reserve.
- Vern Yamanaka
 - It was nice to go to Palau with Kekaulike and David Chai and a lot of those communities supported closures and one of them
- Lei Lightner
 - Outreach – how the community is responding to this. The Roi roundup were really good the divers were not from here all outside, very few knew about the “Try Wait” campaign, they heard about it and was misinformed and it was good to be able to inform them, they all changed and could support it after hearing it from kamaaina of place. Great way to reach out that became so instrumental to help us. Not knowing what we getting into but knowing inside it is the right thing to do, just to close off fishing for myself it’s like wow but this is a traditional practice but we had forget the balance to just “try wait”.
 - Very important that the next generation is sitting at the table
- Vern Yamanaka
 - Important that my mo’opuna understand why we are doing this
- Chad Wiggins
 - Mike Nakachi does a lot to help educate people, Wayne Tanaka is another person that helps educate people about the try wait initiative. Cynthia Nazara shared about why we support try wait and why it’s important for us to work together to understand best sustainability efforts (makai watch program).
- Mike Nakachi
 - We have good waterman watching the shoreline - Kukio & Hualalai Resort (Outdoor pursuit); over 800 lbs of uhu was coming off of the reef in the 80s from night diving and was not feeding this community - ; not losing sense of place is important.
- Aunty Lei Lightner
 - Like Vern mentioned the Kapu system, when we talk about traditional fishing we need to make sure we define that system; sometimes man thinks they doing good and it’s not. So important the next generation come and participate in the water and on land; engage. You need to be in it.
- Vern Yamanaka
 - I remember in 1960 I remember asking the Leslie family to use the Napo’opo’o pier; we always ask permission. Maybe we can bring back that practice of asking permission.
- Mike Nakachi
 - About 17 years planning and dealing with the state arena process; what was prevalent was having law school students educating us about kingdom laws and legal ways.
- Charlie Young
 - I think that all the communities in West Hawaii working together is where

the strength will be from the communities.

- We are going to ask for OHA to provide funding to help us to sustain our opelu ko'a to allow it to be sustainable and have a commercial benefit for the community. OHA should be able to invest in our communities as a return – rather than calling it a grant call it an investment in to your community.
- I was on the council in 1998, came back in 2000, and now I'm back again. The work that you folks are doing I had no doubt it wouldn't work, but your right the young people need to come to the table.

Council letter re: US Navy Field Operations EIS

- Krista - January 10th deadline extended

Council letter re: Public Funding (DLNR)

- Charlie – according to Rick we won't get the PEW grant; I think we should write a letter to Susan and Dru – a small grant for \$10,000. I'll draft a letter. January 17th legislature usually meets.

Recreational Fishing License Meeting(s)

- Chris – it was cool I went to the Kona one. I was impressed on how the meeting was coordinated and how they set the meeting energy. They were able to share with the fishing community what they have found.
- Julia - I saw a lot of good discussions on the forum
- Charlie – I was surprised to see the young crowd
- Chad - I think we should add something like this to next month's meeting
- Lisa – I think there were a lot of good discussion

Other local and state fishery initiatives

- Charlie – I would like to host the February meeting, we'll have an update on the opelu project and some of our grants.

WHFC January Meeting Prep (discuss next year's council goals)

- Chad – annual planning meeting spend a bulk of our January meeting discussion updates.

Business

- Add Membership to the agenda
 - Chad – had an applicant and interview with Nikki Sanderlin
 - Nikki – I lived on Hawaii Island for 10 years, worked for 2 different dive shops before, now I work for DAR. I would like to be a part of the council.
 - Krista and Chuckie – we thought she was on the council
 - Dale – I fully endorse her
 - Chad – topic is membership – all in favor say “aye” – everyone agreed congratulations Nikki
- Funding for WHFC – follow up and new ideas
 - Dale - Castle has to wait for the year end not sure when that is
- Recognizing WHFC Members who went above and beyond in 2018
 - Chad – gave out makana to members and mahalo everyone

Discussion:

Preparation for January Strategic Planning Meeting

- Chad – prepare to share out
- Dale – as a council do we want to add a comment on the fishing license; I’m going to respond personally to this.
- Nikki – I’ll try to find out more information and get back to you folks
- Chad – there is some background as well, Castle foundation that provides funding to Conservation International
- Charlie – DAR may be looking at a contractor to make the recommendations to DAR interesting to find out how that decision was made.

Co-Chair Training and Support

- Chad - Thanks to Chris and Lisa for jumping in on the chair roles and I and Dale will draft up the roles and responsibilities for you folks to have.

Next Steps: - Next WHFC meeting January 17, 2019 at the West HI civic center.

Adjourn at 7:17