

Hawai'i Ocean Resources Management Plan Coordinated Working Group

Meeting Summary

March 1, 2018 - 9:00am – 12:00 pm
Office of Planning, 6th Floor Conference Room
235 S. Beretania Street, Honolulu, HI 96813

Present:

Name	Agency/Organization
Asuncion, Leo	OP
Balassiano, Katia	City and County of Honolulu Planning
Braxton, Rebecka	OP-CZM
Buika, Jim	Maui County Planning
Coon, Jim	MACZAC
Dunn, Natalie	DLNR-DAR
Eisen, Tom	OEQC
Fukawa, Janice	US Navy
Galinato, Jody	Kauai County Planning
Garber, Nikola (Kola)	HIHWNMS & Sea Grant
Gibbs, Ann (via phone)	USGS Santa Cruz Coastal Marine Geology Group
Godwin, Scott	DLNR-DAR
Harper, Doug	Malama Maunalua
Hekeia, Josh	OP-CZM
Li, Shichao	OP-CZM
Lander, Melanie	OP-CZM
Langenberger, Fiona	PacIOOS
Kennard, David (via phone)	Hi-EMA
Nihipali, Justine	OP
Rossetter, Sandra	DOT-Harbors
Sullivan, Kevin (via phone)	Hawai'i County
Webster, Lisa	OP-CZM
Presenters:	
Goldberg, Stuart	NOAA NMFS
Ruseborn, Shannon	NOAA NMFS

Welcome, Introductions

Justine Nihipali, Manager, Office of Planning (OP) Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Program, welcomed participants to the Coordinated Working Group (CWG) meeting.

Office of Planning Updates

There were no OP updates to share this month.

Coordinated Working Group Working Session

Justine shared the status of several current CZM initiatives:

- OP-CZM continues to track Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018 ORMP-related bills.
- Discussions have begun regarding the forthcoming Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) update. The update process will be supported by a consultant and graduate intern in capacities to be determined. The CWG will be called upon to provide feedback throughout the update process, which is anticipated to conclude in late 2019.
- OP-CZM continues to attend as a member of the [Hawai'i Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission](#) (Climate Commission). The last meeting took place on Tuesday, February 27, and focused on climate change mitigation efforts, including the state carbon budget. The Climate Commission has a new coordinator, Anu Hittle. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018.
- At the Federal level, CZM is planning for level funding from last year with contingencies for a decrease. CZM staff is traveling to Washington, DC in March for the Coastal States Organization (CSO) 2018 Winter Meeting and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) 2018 Coastal Zone Management and National Estuarine Research Reserve System Program Managers' Meeting. The trip will include Capitol Hill visits, where staff will discuss the [ORMP Dashboard](#), ORMP implementation projects, such as the symposium for the [Assessing the Feasibility and Implications of Managed Retreat Strategies for Vulnerable Coastal Areas in Hawai'i](#) project, and the ORMP update process with Hawaii's congressional officials and their representatives.

Melanie Lander announced the CWG's meeting focus, Management Priority #5: Coral Reef. She introduced the meeting's joint presenters, Shannon Lyday Ruseborn and Stuart Goldberg. Presentation: [NOAA Habitat Blueprint: West Hawai'i Habitat Focus Area](#)

Shannon works for the NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Division as the Habitat Blueprint Assistant Coordinator and conducts Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultations. Shannon's presentation provided background information on the Habitat Blueprint program and specifically concentrated on the West Hawaii Focus Area. She provided geographic and environmental context, as well as an overview of the many organizations coordinating to improve regional management in the focus area.

Stuart also conducts EFH consultations for all of the main Hawaiian Islands and also assists with Habitat Blueprint program coordination. Stuart's presentation provided information about research conducted within the focus area, including water quality and coral reef health surveys at Pauoa and Kukio Bays, coral reef resilience & vulnerability assessments, and benthic habitat mapping. Stuart also expanded on additional Habitat Blueprint efforts, such as the creation and tracking of performance measures, the development of a protected species public service announcement, and communication and outreach with the local community.

The NOAA Habitat Blueprint program is an excellent example of regional implementation, supporting many of the ORMP's goals. The program works to coordinate the efforts of many entities across the focus area, while simultaneously creating connections between landward restoration efforts and corresponding positive outcomes for nearshore ocean resources.

ORMP Agency Updates and Announcements

Sandra Rossetter, Department of Transportation (DOT)-Harbors, reported that the agency is in the final stages of the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process for the Hana Pier Removal, which has taken several years to complete. Responses have been drafted to all of the submitted comments and will soon be published as part of the final EIS. Sandra has also started to support part of the Honolulu Harbor Master Plan update, which will include climate adaptation components. DOT-Harbors is meeting with the Honolulu Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency in the near future to discuss resiliency initiatives in the county.

Fiona Langenberger, Pacific Islands Ocean Observing System (PacIOOS), attended a recent workshop on the flooding of island coasts with more than 30 experts from the Pacific Islands, Australia, Europe, Asia, and the United States. PacIOOS participated to learn about other ongoing efforts in the Pacific Islands region and to share PacIOOS' methodologies to provide [6-day high sea level forecasts](#) and [wave run-up forecasts](#).

Kola Garber, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS), reported that the Sanctuary is now open the last Saturday of every month to attract local residents. The HIHWNMS Management Plan is also in development. The search for a new executive director may be restarting. Over thirteen whales have required assistance so far this season with entanglements in marine debris.

Jim Buika, Maui County Planning, reported that Maui County is conducting a web-accessible update to their [Shoreline Access Inventory](#) with support from OP-CZM. The contract has been awarded and is moving forward. The county has updated their Special Management Area (SMA) rules, which has been a seven-year process. The updates have amended several emergency rules, including sandbag guidance, SMA boundaries for Lanai Island, and the addition of extreme tsunami zones and cultural areas. Maui County is engaging with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to explore the re-use of harbor sand for beach management. Maui County has issued a proclamation adopting the [Hawai'i Sea Level Rise Vulnerability and Adaptation Report](#), signed by the Mayor. Tara Owens (University of Hawai'i (UH) Sea Grant College Program) will be doing a Coastal Zone Manager training in Guam in March. Planning officials from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) will also travel to Maui in the future for a training opportunity. Maui County has been [featured on Hawai'i News Now](#) for erosion issues in Kahana Bay. Napili Bay is exploring erosion control options, including erosion control mattresses. A cost-share agreement has been established for ten condominiums in the Kahana Bay area for an EIS to address beach erosion. Maui County long range planners are working to incorporate resiliency into community plans through the project, [Guidelines for Integrating Coastal Resilience into Existing Planning Frameworks](#), which is co-led by UH Sea Grant and the Office of Planning with support from consultant Tetra Tech.

Jody Galinato, Kauai County Planning Department, anticipates that the [Draft Kauai General Plan](#) will be signed by the Mayor soon. The planning department is working on policy implementation and is currently working on several ordinance changes. The West Kauai community plan update has commenced.

Jim Coon, MACZAC, shared that anecdotally some feel that there have been fewer humpback whale sightings this year than last, though inclement weather may have played a role in the ability of accurate data to be collected. Jim suspects that changes in the availability of food sources in Alaska, Glacier Bay may have played a role in Hawaiian sightings.

Doug Harper, Mālama Maunalua, reported that a water quality sensor has been loaned to his organization as part of the [PacIOOS Water Quality Sensor Partnership Program](#) (WQSPP). The sensor will be located

next to Wailupe Stream.

Kevin Sullivan, Hawai'i County Planning Department, has begun planning the 2018 Hawai'i Congress of Planning Officials (HCPO) and is accepting recommendations for presentations. The conference will be held in Hilo from September 26-28, 2018.

David Kennard, Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HIEMA), is still in the process of updating the [State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan](#). HIEMA recently held a Hazard Mitigation Workshop on February 21-22, 2018.

Stuart Goldman, NOAA NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office Habitat Conservation Division, provided comments to Tetra Tech for the conservation of marine habitat and considerations for sea level rise planning, including the potential impact of hardened shoreline structures on essential fish habitat. These guidelines will be incorporated into the [Guidelines for Integrating Coastal Resilience into Existing Planning Frameworks](#) project.

Next Steps & Housekeeping

The next CWG meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 2018.

Adjourned at 12:00 pm.