Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Malia Chow, PhD
NOAA Sanctuary Superintendent
Ocean Resources Management Plan, Coordinated Working Group
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What Are National Marine Sanctuaries?

“Areas of the marine environment with special conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, cultural, archeological, or esthetic qualities…”

National Marine Sanctuaries Act (Sec. 301)
“To facilitate all private and public uses to the extent compatible with the primary purpose of resource protection…”

National Marine Sanctuaries Act (Sec. 301)
National Marine Sanctuary System

Focused on single-species protections
Purpose and Mission of the Sanctuary
- Five separate protected areas
- From shoreline to depth of 100 fathoms (600 feet)
- 1,370 square miles of federal and state waters
- Federal/State co-management
Sanctuary Management Plan Review

- Determine the future direction and scope of the sanctuary
- Address current and emerging issues
- Consider additional protection for marine and cultural resources of national significance
Public Scoping

12,583 Comments

Overarching Considerations

- Socioeconomic – Fishing – Ocean Users – Livelihoods – Access
- Native Hawaiian Traditional Perspectives
- Environmental Impacts
- Community Engagement

Issues

- Water Quality
- Humpback Whale Protection
- Ecosystem Protection: Species and Habitats
- Enforcement
- Marine Animal Assessment & Response
- Ocean Literacy
- Native Hawaiian Culture
- Maritime Heritage
- Management Effectiveness
- Offshore Development
- Climate Change

Potential Management Solutions

- Research
- Outreach & Education
- Boundaries & Zones
- Regulations
Sanctuary Advisory Councils: Community-Based Advisors

- **Provide advice** on general management of the sanctuary

- **Serve as a liaison** between the sanctuary and its community, disseminating information about the sanctuary to the various constituencies of members and bringing the concerns of constituents and the public to sanctuary management.
In 2012 the Sanctuary Advisory Council submitted 9 Working Group Reports with 150 recommended actions for the Sanctuary Management Plan. A total of 153 subject matter experts participated in 64 meetings contributing over 2000 volunteers hours.
Transitioning Towards a New Management Framework

Single Species Management of Humpback Whales

Ecosystem Based Management of the Marine Environment
Draft Management Plan

Implementing Ecosystem Protection

Ensuring Management Effectiveness

Sanctuary Focus Areas

Perpetuating Cultural Heritage

Transitioning Towards Sustainability

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement

September 2014

http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov
Proposed Boundary Changes
Transitioning towards a new management framework...

Programmatic

- Special Sanctuary Management Areas

Regulatory

- Sanctuary Focus Areas

Programmatic
Discrete areas within the sanctuary with specific place-based management actions
Special Sanctuary Management Areas

Discrete areas within the sanctuary with targeted regulations
Targeted regulations are being considered for select areas ("Special Sanctuary Management Areas")

Places Where Regulatory Changes are Considered

- Maunalua Bay (state waters)
- Maui Nui Area (federal waters)
- Penguin Banks (federal waters)
Sanctuary Regulations
Current Sanctuary Regulations

- Approaching within 100 yds of a humpback whale
- Operating aircraft within 1,000 ft of a humpback whale
- Taking any humpback whale
- Possessing any humpback whale
- Discharging material or altering the seabed of the sanctuary that injures a humpback whale or humpback whale habitat if in violation of a permit or authorization
- Interfering with an investigation
Proposed Regulations

Address marine resource issues

- Historic/Cultural Resource Preservation
- Marine Resource Conservation
- Water Quality Protection
- Habitat Protection
- Enforcement
Special Sanctuary Management Areas
Sanctuary Management Areas

- Penguin Bank
- Maui Nui
- Maunalua Bay

Discrete areas within the sanctuary with targeted regulations
Application of Sanctuary Regulations to Special Management Areas

- Taking or possessing marine species in addition to humpback whales
- Discharging from within the sanctuary
- Discharging from outside the sanctuary anything that enters and injures a sanctuary resource;
- Altering submerged lands
- Using explosives
- Introducing non-native species
- Damaging or destroying signs
Targeted regulations are being considered for discrete areas within the sanctuary.

- Penguin Bank and Maui Nui Areas (outside 3 nautical miles)
- Maunalua Bay
Proposed Name Change
Proposed Name Change

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary - Nā Kai ʻEwalu
Next Phase of the Process
Next Steps

March, 2015
• Begin Public Comment Period

April-May, 2015
• Statewide Public Hearings

June 2015
• End Public Comment Period

Summer
• Brief Governors office

2016
• Release Final MP & EIS
Public Hearings

• Federal Register Notice published Friday, March 20:
  – Announced DMP/DEIS available
  – Opened 90-day public comment period until June 19, 2015

• Submit written Public Comments:
  – Online
  – E-mail
  – Fax
  – Phone
  – Letter

• Submit oral comments at public hearings.
• For more information: