

Public Comment Overview

for the Natural Resources Science Plan for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands

Public Scoping Period

November 15 - 30, 2007

Comments being sought by:

Managers of the Papahānaumokuākea
Marine National Monument

Purpose:

This comment period is to obtain input on the framework for the Monument Natural Resources Science Plan—a plan that seeks to identify management needs, highlight priority thematic areas designed to meet these needs, and describe the current and proposed research projects housed under each theme of the framework. Following this scoping process on the framework, a draft Natural Resources Science Plan will be developed by Monument staff and released for public review and comment in early 2008. The plan will serve as a guide for conducting scientific research in the Monument over the next 5 years and will supplement the Monument’s management plan, which is also slated for release in 2008.

Current Research Themes:

Theme 1: Ecological Processes and Connectivity

This theme may include research related to oceanographic processes (physical and chemical); passive transport of nutrients and living resources; active transport and movement of living resources; population dynamics and genetic structure; resilience and recovery from impacts.

How to provide comment:

- If you are commenting at the scoping meeting, please make sure your comments for a given “research theme” are made on its corresponding comment card. Each section has its own color card with the theme title at the top.
- If you are commenting via fax or e-mail, please be sure to clearly note what research theme you are commenting on or note that you are providing a comment on the organizational framework of the plan as a whole.
- If you are submitting handwritten comments, please be sure to print legibly and use a pen to ensure that all content is readable.

How to use this sheet:

- This one page overview will provide you with the current research themes (five total) and briefly explain the kinds of research that might fall under each theme.
- If you need additional information to assist you in understanding the research themes or desire additional reference materials, you can visit our web site (URL listed below). By clicking on the “Public Comment” link on our main page you will be provided with a selection of materials, including information provided at the meeting.

Our contact information:

- Website: <http://www.hawaiiireef.noaa.gov>
- Fax: 808-397-2662
- E-mail: nwhicommments@noaa.gov



Examples of research projects related to this theme may include:

- Reef fish population genetics
- Movement of top predators
- Genetic relatedness of reef building corals

Theme 2: Biodiversity and Habitats

This theme may include research related to habitats; native species; protected species; and species health and disease.

Examples of research projects related to this theme may include :

- Laysan Duck reintroduction and habitat restoration
- Census of Marine Life, biodiversity of cryptic and understudied species
- Monk Seal foraging and diet studies

Theme 3: Human Impacts

This theme may include research related to human activities; invasive species; and climate change.

Examples of research projects related to this theme may include:

- Control of invasive species
- Marine debris research
- Quantifying impacts of human activities

Theme 4: Indicators and Monitoring of Ecosystem Change

This theme may include research related to ecosystem and ecological process metrics and monitoring; biodiversity and habitat metrics and monitoring; human impact metrics and monitoring.

Examples of research projects related to this theme may include:

- Monitoring of lobster populations
- Banding and monitoring of seabird populations
- RAMP (Rapid Assessment and Monitoring Program): Rapid Ecological Assessment, towboard and oceanography methods

Theme 5: Modeling and Forecasting Ecosystem Change

This theme may include research related to modeling the ecosystem and ecological processes; modeling biodiversity and habitats; modeling human impacts and management

Examples of research projects related to this theme may include:

- Incorporating geospatial technologies for data management and modeling
- Predicting amount and location of future marine debris accumulation
- Forecasting effects of climate change

