

Prepared for:



# DRAFT Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement Appendices A-L

Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions

August 2011

*Appendix A*  
*Agency Correspondence*

This page intentionally left blank.

*Initial Agency Letters to I G K G  
and State of Hawai'i DLNR  
Inviting Them to Cooperate*

This page intentionally left blank.



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700  
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

SEP 14 2010

Loyal Mehrhoff, Ph.D.  
Field Supervisor  
Pacific Islands Ecological Field Service Office  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 3-122  
Honolulu, HI 96850-0056

Dear Dr. Mehroff:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is planning to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) regarding implementation of various research and enhancement activities designed to improve survival of Hawaiian monk seals (HMS) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). As you are aware, the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) are responsible for HMS recovery and research under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1531 et seq.) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

The PEIS, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), will evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of implementing a range of research and enhancement activities stipulated in the HMS Recovery Plan (2007) to address low juvenile seal survival in the NWHI. As you know, low survival to reproductive age in the NWHI has been identified as a main factor driving the current steep HMS population decline.

Given the jurisdiction of USFWS within the proposed project area (the NWHI) and your agency's technical expertise regarding much of the subject matter to be covered in the PEIS, we are inviting your agency to participate as a cooperating agency on the proposed action pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6).

Should USFWS decide to work with NMFS as a cooperating agency, we suggest that we meet to discuss developing an MOU to delineate our respective roles and responsibilities. Should you decide not to serve as a cooperating agency, please know that we will include USFWS in all of the public information gathering processes undertaken during the PEIS preparation. Regardless of your decision regarding this invitation, we look forward to continuing our coordination with USFWS on HMS recovery and research activities in the NWHI as co-trustees of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.



We would appreciate being notified of your decision regarding this invitation on or before October 8, 2010. If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss this request, please contact Jeff Walters, our Hawaiian monk seal recovery coordinator, at (808) 944-2235, or via email at [jeff.walters@noaa.gov](mailto:jeff.walters@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. d. to", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael D. Tosatto  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Barry Stieglitz, USFWS, Hawaiian and Pacific Islands NWR Complex



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700  
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

**SEP 14 2010**

Barry Stieglitz  
Project leader  
Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231  
Honolulu, HI 96850-0056

Dear Mr. Stieglitz:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is planning to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) regarding implementation of various research and enhancement activities designed to improve survival of Hawaiian monk seals (HMS) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). As you are aware, the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) are responsible for HMS recovery and research under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1531 et seq.) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

The PEIS, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), will evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of implementing a range of research and enhancement activities stipulated in the HMS Recovery Plan (2007) to address low juvenile seal survival in the NWHI. As you know, low survival to reproductive age in the NWHI has been identified as a main factor driving the current steep HMS population decline.

Given the jurisdiction of USFWS within the proposed project area (the NWHI) and your agency's technical expertise regarding much of the subject matter to be covered in the PEIS, we are inviting your agency to participate as a cooperating agency on the proposed action pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6).

Should USFWS decide to work with NMFS as a cooperating agency, we suggest that we meet to discuss developing an MOU to delineate our respective roles and responsibilities. Should you decide not to serve as a cooperating agency, please know that we will include USFWS in all of the public information gathering processes undertaken during the PEIS preparation. Regardless of your decision regarding this invitation, we look forward to continuing our coordination with USFWS on HMS recovery and research activities in the NWHI as co-trustees of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.





We would appreciate being notified of your decision regarding this invitation on or before October 8, 2010. If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss this request, please contact Jeff Walters, our Hawaiian monk seal recovery coordinator, at (808) 944-2235, or via email at [jeff.walters@noaa.gov](mailto:jeff.walters@noaa.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. d. tosatto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "m" being the most prominent.

Michael D. Tosatto  
Acting Regional Administrator

cc: Loyal Mehrhoff, USFWS, Pacific Islands Ecological Services



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration**  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700  
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

**SEP 14 2010**

Ms. Laura H. Thielen  
Chairperson  
Department of Land and Natural Resources  
1151 Punchbowl St.  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Ms. Thielen:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is planning to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) regarding implementation of various research and enhancement activities designed to improve survival of Hawaiian monk seals (HMS) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). As you are aware, the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) are responsible for HMS recovery and research under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1531 et seq.) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

The PEIS, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), will evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of implementing a range of research and enhancement activities stipulated in the HMS Recovery Plan (2007) to address low juvenile seal survival in the NWHI. As you know, low survival to reproductive age in the NWHI has been identified as a main factor driving the current steep HMS population decline.

Given the jurisdiction of DLNR within the proposed project area (the NWHI) and your agency's technical expertise regarding much of the subject matter to be covered in the PEIS, we are inviting your agency to participate as a cooperating agency on the proposed action pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6).

Should DLNR decide to work with NMFS as a cooperating agency, we suggest that we meet to discuss developing an MOU to delineate our respective roles and responsibilities. Should you decide not to serve as a cooperating agency, please know that we will include DLNR in all of the public information gathering processes undertaken during the PEIS preparation. Regardless of your decision regarding this invitation, we look forward to continuing our coordination with DLNR on HMS recovery and research activities in the NWHI as co-trustees of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.



We would appreciate being notified of your decision regarding this invitation on or before October 8, 2010. If you have any questions or would like to meet to discuss this request, please contact Jeff Walters, our Hawaiian monk seal recovery coordinator, at (808) 944-2235, or via email at [jeff.walters@noaa.gov](mailto:jeff.walters@noaa.gov).

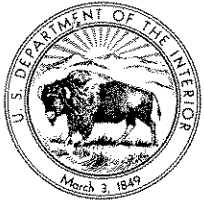
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "m. d. to", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Michael D. Tosatto  
Acting Regional Administrator

*Response by USFWS*

This page intentionally left blank.



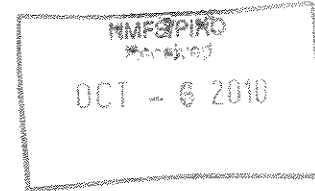
# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-231  
Box 50167  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850



October 5, 2010



Michael D. Tosatto  
Acting Regional Administrator  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700

Dear Mr. Tosatto:

Thank you for your letter dated September 14, 2010, regarding an invitation to participate as a cooperating agency on the preparation of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) to improve the survivability of the Hawaiian monk seal (HMS). The Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex recognizes the importance of this National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) action to evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of implementing a range of research and enhancement activities identified in the HMS Recovery Plan (2007) to address low juvenile seal survival in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. On behalf of the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), we accept your invitation to participate in the preparation of this PEIS as a cooperating agency in accordance with NEPA regulations and procedures.

Based on FWS legally mandated management responsibilities and technical expertise associated with protecting, conserving, and, where appropriate, restoring fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats within the Hawaiian Islands and Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuges, we look forward to working together with you on this PEIS. We also support your suggestion to develop a Memorandum of Understanding to delineate our respective roles and responsibilities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you to Mr. Thomas R. Edgerton, who will be arriving in Honolulu on November 8, 2010, to fill the currently vacant FWS Superintendent position for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Tom will be your point of contact for this cooperative effort and will also be replacing Ms. Susan White as the Fish and Wildlife Service member of the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Team.

If you have additional questions or need assistance prior to Tom's arrival, please contact Ray Born, our Acting Superintendent, at 808.742.9488 or via email at [Ray\\_Born@fws.gov](mailto:Ray_Born@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

*Barry W. Stieglitz*

Barry W. Stieglitz  
Project Leader

Cc: Loyal Mehrhoff, USFWS, Pacific Islands Ecological Services



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700  
(808) 944-2200 • Fax (808) 973-2941

SEP 14 2010

Barry Stieglitz  
Project leader  
Hawaiian and Pacific Islands National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
300 Ala Moana Blvd., Room 5-231

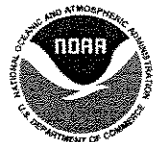
Dear Mr. Stieglitz:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is planning to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) regarding implementation of various research and enhancement activities designed to improve survival of Hawaiian monk seals (HMS) in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). As you are aware, the NMFS Pacific Islands Regional Office (PIRO) and NMFS Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center (PIFSC) are responsible for HMS recovery and research under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (16 United States Code [U.S.C.] 1531 et seq.) and the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.).

The PEIS, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), will evaluate potential environmental, social, and economic impacts of implementing a range of research and enhancement activities stipulated in the HMS Recovery Plan (2007) to address low juvenile seal survival in the NWHI. As you know, low survival to reproductive age in the NWHI has been identified as a main factor driving the current steep HMS population decline.

Given the jurisdiction of USFWS within the proposed project area (the NWHI) and your agency's technical expertise regarding much of the subject matter to be covered in the PEIS, we are inviting your agency to participate as a cooperating agency on the proposed action pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR 1501.6).

Should USFWS decide to work with NMFS as a cooperating agency, we suggest that we meet to discuss developing an MOU to delineate our respective roles and responsibilities. Should you decide not to serve as a cooperating agency, please know that we will include USFWS in all of the public information gathering processes undertaken during the PEIS preparation. Regardless of your decision regarding this invitation, we look forward to continuing our coordination with USFWS on HMS recovery and research activities in the NWHI as co-trustees of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.



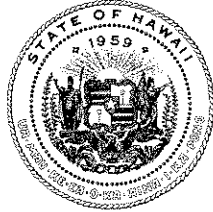
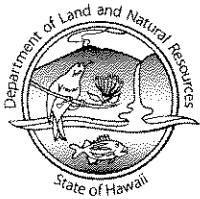


This page intentionally left blank.

*Response by State of Hawai'i*  
DLNR

This page intentionally left blank.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

April 19, 2011

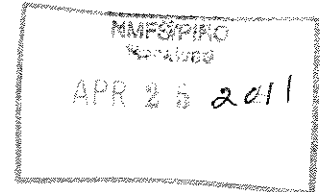
**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**GUY H. KAULUKUKUI**  
FIRST DEPUTY

**WILLIAM M. TAM**  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Mr. Michael D. Tosatto  
Regional Administrator  
Pacific Islands Regional Office  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Suite 1110  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-4700



Dear Mr. Tosatto:

Thank you for your letter dated March 8, 2011, inviting the Department of Land & Natural Resources to participate in preparing the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Hawaii monk seal recovery actions. We regret that we must decline your invitation to participate as a state cooperating agency in preparation of the PEIS. Our decision is based on severe staffing and budgetary constraints that our Department is presently facing. Unfortunately, we foresee further reduction in our workforce, considering the state of our State budget.

We will continue to be in close coordination with your staff during the development of the PEIS for Hawaiian monk seal recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William J. Aila, Jr.".

**WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.**  
Chairperson

This page intentionally left blank.