

**NORTHWESTERN HAWAIIAN ISLANDS
CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEM RESERVE ADVISORY COUNCIL**

January 26, 2006

Ms. T 'Aulani Wilhelm
Acting Reserve Coordinator, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 300
Honolulu, HI 96825

Dear 'Aulani:

At the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council ("RAC") meeting on January 25-26, 2006, the RAC approved the attached letter that includes recommendations which differ in some ways from our June 2005 resolution.

If you should have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Linda Paul
Vice-Chair,
Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve Advisory Council

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Linda Paul", written in a cursive style.

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Acting Reserve Coordinator, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands
Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 300
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Dear 'Aulani:

At our January 25-26, 2006 meeting, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) considered carefully the described DEIS for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI). After a thorough discussion we wish to amend the substance of our June 2005 resolution and make the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1: In choosing among DEIS alternatives, the RAC recommends that the preferred alternative is one that:

- a) Recognizes that the resources of the NWHI are held as a public trust;
- b) Permanently phases out all fishing and other extractive uses (except Native Hawaiian subsistence and permitted research) within 1-5 years;
- c) Allows access of Native Hawaiians for traditional practices;
- d) Is consistent with the vision, mission, management principles, and goals 1-6 developed for the sanctuary by the RAC and NOAA;
- e) Supports the management goals of the 2005 State of Hawaii NWHI marine refuge rules;
- f) Allows only research consistent with the need for conservation, protection and preservation of the region and a Sanctuary-approved research plan;
- g) Authorizes access and other uses only to the extent that they are consistent with the primary purpose of resource protection and applicable law;
- h) Has the greatest potential for encouraging effective interagency collaboration; and
- i) Supports the State's recommendation that any regulations for the Sanctuary be promulgated under the NMSA.

Recommendation 2: In addition to the five currently proposed alternatives and in order to represent a more complete range of management alternatives, the RAC also recommends that NOAA include a fully analyzed alternative that would immediately or within one year of designation close all fisheries, extractive uses (excluding appropriate research), and commercial activities except subsistence Native Hawaiian use.

We hope NOAA will give these recommendations full consideration because we believe they will help further the long-term goals and objectives of the proposed NWHI Sanctuary.

Sincerely,

Linda Paul
RAC Vice-Chair

