

# 2010

February

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
National Marine Sanctuary  
Management Plan Review Newsletter

# Au O Ka 'Ike

Currents of Knowledge

## The Sanctuary

*The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) protects humpback whales and their habitat in the main Hawaiian Islands. The sanctuary works to achieve this goal through scientific research, education, public outreach, and by facilitating observance of federal and state laws that prohibit disturbing these endangered marine mammals.*

*Congress established the sanctuary in 1992 via the Hawaiian Islands National Marine Sanctuary Act (HINMSA). Full designation of the sanctuary was completed when the sanctuary's completed its first management plan in June of 1997. The plan was later reviewed in 2002 through a process required by law that included public review and comment. The sanctuary has undertaken another management plan review (MPR) process to address current and emerging issues and to increase management effectiveness.*



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## Hawaii Conservation Conference

Pre-scoping constituency meetings began in the summer of 2009 with an open public workshop on the MPR process at the Hawaii Conservation Conference. The workshop provided attendees with detailed information on the current sanctuary MPR process. Topics included: a history of the sanctuary and programs; background on management plans; outcomes of the 2002 management plan review; information on existing/emerging issues and the role of the sanctuary; details on the public scoping process; current resource protection initiatives; the role of a biogeographic assessment in natural resource management; and engaging communities to discuss the possible future of sanctuary management activities.

***The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries recognizes the public as a key resource management partner and values their input in helping to shape and manage marine sanctuaries. The sanctuary is committed to keeping the public informed on its current MPR process and will provide additional opportunities for the public to learn about MPR. This newsletter is part of the sanctuary's commitment to keep the public informed on current events.***

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## MPR Updates

Sanctuary management, staff, and members of the Advisory Council have been invited to provide periodic updates on the MPR process at a variety of meetings that have been open to the public including, among others, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Reserve Advisory Council and the Marine Mammal Commission. Agency partners and other interested community organizations will be updated on a regular basis throughout the MPR process.



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## Maui Working Group Meeting

The Change Solutions Working Group of the Sanctuary Advisory Council is hosting a working group meeting on March 3-4, 2010 at the Maui sanctuary office to continue developing a strategy that will ensure a high level of community engagement during the upcoming public scoping process planned for this summer. The sanctuary and advisory council were excited to learn of public interest in this meeting and the MPR process. However, to be effective and productive, the council and staff can only work with a limited number of people at one time. The working group asked a limited number of participants, believed to represent a variety of community interests, to attend in an effort to help increase public participation in discussions regarding the possible future direction of marine resource management as it relates to the sanctuary.

An objective of the meeting is to seek participation of constituents that may not have been involved with sanctuary issues in the past. The hope is to identify ways to hear from more people about marine resource management and make the sanctuary relevant to more people throughout Hawai'i. For that reason, stakeholders who may have traditionally helped the sanctuary, and may be thought to be likely participants, may not have been asked to participate in this particular meeting. The intent is not meant to be exclusive, but rather to broaden perspectives and identify additional ways to better engage more community members and increase public participation in the upcoming scoping process planned for late summer 2010.



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## Upcoming Opportunities for Public Participation

Opportunities similar to the March 2010 working group meeting will be provided for interested members of the community to provide input on the management plan review process. Planning is currently underway for additional pre-scoping constituency meetings to take place on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Moloka'i, Lana'i, Maui, and the Island of Hawai'i in late March/early April 2010. Dates and locations will be posted at [hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov](http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov) when finalized.

Any recommendations that may result from any pre-scoping constituency meetings will be presented to the full Sanctuary Advisory Council for review and discussion at their next meeting tentatively scheduled for May 25-26, 2010 on O'ahu. At that meeting, interested members of the public are welcome to attend, provide comment to the council, and listen to the council discussions and any subsequent recommendations that may be made to the sanctuary

management regarding future opportunities to engage constituents during the public scoping process planned for late summer 2010.

Additionally, the sanctuary and advisory council are also exploring the possibility of a youth group meeting to engage students and learn more about youth perspectives on marine resource management. Stay tuned to our website for information as it becomes available.

## Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

**The May 2010 council meeting will be an opportunity for the council and interested members of the public to learn and provide comment on pre-scoping activities to date. Additionally, this will be an important step in advising the sanctuary with preparations for statewide public scoping meetings targeted for late summer 2010. Official information will be published in the Federal Register, released to local media, and posted on the sanctuary website at [hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov](http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov).**

# Contact Us

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