



NOAA FISHERIES

Pacific Islands Region

* THE PURPOSE OF THESE MEETINGS IS TO GATHER INPUT AND CONSULT WITH INTERESTED PARTIES FOR THE PREPARATION OF A CULTURAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (CIA) AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT SECTION 106 FOR THE HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

For further information or to request sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids, please contact Paul Cleghorn at cleghorn@pacificlegacy.com, (808) 263-4800 (phone), or (808) 263-4300 (fax). These meetings are accessible to people with disabilities.

COMMUNITY INPUT SOUGHT ON POTENTIAL CULTURAL IMPACTS AND EFFECTS ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES FROM NOAA'S PROPOSED HAWAIIAN MONK SEAL RECOVERY ACTIONS*

NOAA Fisheries is holding a series of community meetings seeking community input on proposed Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions. Specifically, we are seeking information on potential adverse effects to historic properties, including traditional cultural properties (e.g., archaeological sites), as well as information on potential impacts to cultural resources and practices (e.g., fish ponds and fish pond operation) that may result from implementation of actions proposed in the Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions. Examples of the proposed actions include capture, veterinary treatment, transportation, and release of monk seals on shorelines throughout the Hawaiian archipelago. None of the proposed actions entails alteration or destruction of any structure, land, shoreline, or seafloor substrate. Input from community meetings around the State will be incorporated into a revised Cultural Impact Assessment for the PEIS and will form an important component of NOAA's compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. The Draft PEIS is available for review at: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/hawaiianmonkseal.htm>

MEETING SCHEDULE

(all meetings to be held between 6:00 - 8:00 pm):

Moloka'i

Kaunakakai (29 October 2012)

Moloka'i High School

Lāna'i

Lāna'i City (30 October 2012)

Lāna'i High and Elementary School

Kaua'i

Waimea (7 November 2012)

Waimea High School

Kapa'a (8 November 2012)

Kapa'a Middle School

Maui

Hāna (14 November 2012)

Hāna High School

Lāhainā (15 November 2012)

Lāhaināluna High School

Hawai'i

Hilo (27 November 2012)

Hilo High School

Kona (28 November 2012)

Kealakehe Elementary

O'ahu

Wai'anae (11 December 2012)

Wai'anae High School

Waialua (12 December 2012)

Waialua High and Intermediate School

Waimānalo (13 December 2012)

Waimānalo Elementary and Intermediate School

Additional Information

What are these meetings about?

These meetings are not about monk seals or the monk seal recovery program in general, but are specifically focused on impacts to cultural practices and effects on historic properties that may result from the recovery actions proposed in the PEIS. Prior to conducting the monk seal recovery actions proposed in the PEIS, NOAA Fisheries will comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NEPA requires federal agencies to analyze and disclose the impacts of their actions on the human environment, including the social and cultural environment, and NHPA Section 106 requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties.

How are these meetings related to other ongoing monk seal issues?

These community meetings are specific to the actions proposed in the Monk Seal Recovery Actions PEIS and will not focus on proposed Hawaiian Monk Seal Critical Habitat, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review or other ongoing initiatives. These meetings are also not directly related to our Hawaiian Monk Seal Main Hawaiian Islands Management Plan. However, the information and input gathered may inform management strategies or other considerations related to MHI management, especially if the input is directly related to actions discussed in the PEIS. We will do our best to differentiate the purpose of these upcoming community meetings from the other ongoing monk seal-related initiatives in any outreach opportunities we have in the near future and in the presentation that will be given at the beginning of the community meetings.