

## Draft PEIS Public Comment Process Overview Continued

### Reviewing the Draft PEIS

The Draft PEIS is available for review today at the open house and at the following locations:

- Project website: <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/permits/eis/hawaiianmonkseal.htm>
- Hawai'i State Library; 478 South King Street; Honolulu, O'ahu, HI; (808) 586-3617
- Moloka'i Public Library; 15 Ala Malama Avenue; Kaunakakai, Moloka'i, HI; (808) 553-1765
- Hilo Public Library; 300 Waiianuenue Avenue; Hilo, Hawai'i, HI; (808) 933-8888
- Kihei Public Library; 35 Waimahaihai St; Kihei, Maui, HI; (808) 875-6833
- Wailuku Public Library; 251 High Street; Wailuku, Maui, HI; (808) 243-5766
- Hana Council Office, 200 Ulaino Road, Hana, Maui, HI (808) 248-7513
- Hana Public & School Library, 4111 Hana Highway, Hana, Maui, HI (808) 248-4848
- Lihu'e Public Library; 4344 Hardy Street; Lihu'e, Kaua'i, HI; (808) 241-3222
- Princeville Public Library; 4343 Emmalani Drive; Princeville, Kaua'i, HI; (808) 826-4310

A limited number of complimentary USB flash drives are available today at the sign-in station. A limited number of paper copies are also available by request (please send requests to the same address as written comments).

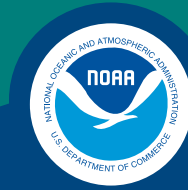
### Having Your Voice Heard - Comment Tips from "A Citizen's Guide to the NEPA"

- Comments that are solution oriented and provide specific examples will be more effective than those that simply oppose or support the proposed project. In addition, general comments that state an action will have "significant environmental effects" will not help an agency make a better decision unless the specific relevant causes and environmental effects are explained.
- Focus on the purpose and need of the proposed action, the proposed alternatives, the assessment of the environmental impacts of those alternatives, and the proposed mitigation.
- Commenting is not a form of "voting" on an alternative. Numerous comments that repeat the same basic message of support or opposition will typically be responded to collectively. Remember that in addition to public comments, the decisionmakers will also receive other information and data, such as operational and technical information, that are all incorporated into the final decision.

In addition to your chosen subject area of focus, it is helpful to NOAA Fisheries Service to hear your comments on the following:

- A particular alternative, impact assessment methodology, and/or draft mitigation.
- What you like about an alternative, in addition to what you do not like.
- Identify any incomplete or erroneous information.
- Specific examples of how the project or a particular alternative would affect you.

*Mahalo for your participation in this process!*



## NOAA FISHERIES SERVICE

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## Public Hearing Overview

### Public Hearing Purpose

The purpose of the public hearing is to provide a neutral and comfortable setting that allows the public to address NOAA NMFS about the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS). Decision makers will be present at the public hearing to hear and consider your comments.

Important points to remember about the public hearings:

- No decisions will be made today.
- No responses will be provided to your comments today – comments will be responded to in the Final PEIS.
- Testimony will be recorded and transcribed verbatim for the record by a court reporter.

### Public Hearing Sessions

Honolulu, O'ahu (Sept. 12), Central Union Church, 6:00 – 8:30 p.m.\*

Kaunakakai, Moloka'i (Sept. 13), Home Punehana, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.\*

Hilo, Big Island (Sept. 14), Mokupāpapa Discovery Center, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.\*

Kihei, Maui (Sept. 15), Kihei Community Recreation Center, 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.\*

Lihue, Kaua'i (Sept. 17), Wilcox Elementary School, 9:30 a.m. – noon\*

Lihue, Kaua'i (Sept. 17), Wilcox Elementary School, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.\*

\*At the scheduled end of the public hearing, if people present who have signed up have not had an opportunity to testify, the Hearing Officer will announce the plans for continuation of the hearing.

### General Ground Rules Guiding this Public Hearing

- Mutual respect, courtesy, and patience are the hearing's guiding concepts.
- Please help maintain an atmosphere where everyone feels comfortable and welcome, regardless of his or her position on the project.
- Please do not interrupt anyone while he or she is speaking.
- Please remain quiet so others and the court reporter can hear – please leave the room for side discussions.
- No displays, signs, or banners should be posted in the public hearing room. These materials can be placed on the table provided outside. This information must clearly note who prepared or provided the information.
- Please refrain from addressing the audience or asking for audience participation.
- Please turn off cell phones and pagers or set them to vibrate or silent.



## Public Hearing Guidelines

General guidelines for public hearing sign-in and participation are listed below. The Hearing Officer has the authority to deviate from these guidelines, if needed, to conduct the hearing.

- The hearing sign-in table will be the central contact point for those who want to testify or who have questions about the hearing process.
- All hearing attendees will be asked to sign in at the hearing sign-in table before entering, to check the appropriate box if they wish to testify, and to note the name of the group if they are testifying on behalf of a group.
- In accordance with the Notice of Public Hearing, attendees can sign in for each hearing session 30 minutes prior to and during that session.
- People wishing to testify must personally sign in.
- An individual, including a representative from a commercial enterprise, may testify once during the 6 days of hearing sessions, at only one of the locations.
- Testimony from individuals, including a representative from a commercial enterprise, will be limited to 3 minutes.
- Each group or agency (represented by only one individual) may testify once during the 6 days of hearing sessions, at only one of the locations.
- A group generally refers to an established non-profit club or association and not a commercial business.
- Testimony by a group or agency will be limited to 5 minutes.
- To allow equal opportunity for all, and to accommodate the number of people who may wish to speak, yielding time to another person will not be allowed. Attendees should check the box to testify only if they wish to speak.
- An individual or group representative who submit more detailed written comments for the hearing record or later provide written comment. Written and verbal comments have equal weight.
- During the hearing, sign-in sheets will be taken to the Hearing Officer and court reporter. Those who checked the box to testify will be called forward in the order they signed in to speak. Testimony will be voice recorded and transcribed for the record by a court reporter.
- At the end of each session, when all who indicated a desire to speak have been called, there will be a general call for anyone who has not yet testified. This would include, first, those who had signed up and might have missed their earlier call to testify and, second, any other person who had not previously testified.
- The hearing times vary by island and are listed on the other side of this handout. If people who have signed up to testify have not had an opportunity to do so at the scheduled end of the hearing, the Hearing Officer will announce the plan for continuation of the hearing. This could include holding another public hearing on another day.
- The hearing is held for the purpose of receiving testimony. The hearing is not a question and answer session.
- Federal Register Notice of Availability of Draft PEIS (sign-in packet)
- USB Flash Drives of the Draft PEIS (*complementary at the sign-in table*)
- Paper copy of the Draft PEIS, including Executive Summary (*on display for review*)

## Draft PEIS Public Comment Process Overview

### Public Review and Comment

The Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions PEIS evaluates the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts on the human environment of the proposed activities under the Hawaiian monk seal recovery program. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires this evaluation by federal agencies (such as NOAA Fisheries Service) before deciding to proceed with a proposed major federal action.

NEPA requires making the Draft PEIS publicly available for review and providing the public an opportunity to comment. The public review and comment period required by NEPA is 45 days. NOAA Fisheries has provided 60 days for the public to review and comment on the Hawaiian Monk Seal Recovery Actions PEIS. Before the PEIS is finalized, NOAA Fisheries will consider and respond to all substantive comments received between August 19 and October 17, 2011.

### How can I make comments?

All comments received are considered equally, regardless of how they are provided. Comments can be provided in the following ways:

#### Verbal:

- At the public hearing (*see Public Hearing Overview*)
- Provided to staff at the comment station (*see Open House Overview*)

#### In Writing:

- Submitted to staff at the sign-in station (*see Open House Overview*)
- Postal mail:
  - Protected Resources Division, NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional Office
  - 1601 Kapiolani Blvd., Ste. 1110
  - Honolulu, HI 96814
  - Email to monkseal@noaa.gov

**Written comments must be postmarked or electronically date stamped OCTOBER 17, 2011, which is the last day of the 60-day public review and comment period.**

