

PACIFIC SCIENTIFIC REVIEW GROUP

A Regional Advisory Group to the National Marine Fisheries Service

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21 October 2013

Samuel Rauch
Assistant Administrator for Fisheries
National Marine Fisheries Service
1335 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Mr. Rauch,

We would like to provide you with the minutes and recommendations from the most recent meeting of the Pacific Scientific Review Group held 2-4 April 2013.

The SRG continues to strongly urge that the NMFS give higher priority for shiptime to conduct surveys of marine mammal populations. The PBR management scheme requires regular estimates of abundance to function properly and many of our recommendations focus on the need for more-current surveys and abundance estimates. The SRG is particularly concerned about the lack of abundance estimates for harbor seals off Washington and Oregon, for harbor porpoises in inland Washington waters, the cutback in shiptime to support monitoring and mitigation and research on the endangered Hawaiian monk seal, and the cancellation of the ORCAWALE surveys which is the main source of abundance information for most West Coast cetacean stocks.

When PBRs cannot be calculated for lack of current abundance estimates, the lack of data puts both marine mammal populations and fisheries at risk. Negligible impact determination cannot be made for ESA-listed species and managed fisheries cannot achieve required MMPA standards, placing an inappropriate burden on these fisheries. A multi-year allocation of ship time for marine mammal surveys should be rapidly developed, and funding to conduct abundance surveys and other research required to calculate appropriate PBRs should be identified and allocated.

In a letter to the Chair of the Pacific SRG (10 Jan 2013), Dr. Jane Lubchenco stated that the NMFS will conduct a review of Pacific SRG membership, particularly in regards to the Pacific Islands region. The SRG would like to provide both a summary of SRG members' experience in research and management of marine mammals in the Pacific Islands and a history of its efforts to supplement its expertise in this region.


Most of the Pacific members have either longline fishery expertise or research and management experience in the Pacific Islands region beyond their many years of involvement on the SRG. Chuck Janisse has worked with and directed

longline fisherman associations in the Atlantic and Pacific, participated in formulating management plans, and served on advisory panels to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Doyle Hanan has conducted oversight of and research on California-based longliners fishing off Hawaii, and also served as an advisory panel member of the PFMC. Kathy Ralls has conducted research on monk seals and Pacific Islands cetaceans, and served as a Monk Seal Recovery Team member and as a Scientific Advisor of the Marine Mammal Commission. John Calambokidis and Jim Harvey have conducted research programs on humpback whales, Michael Scott has conducted research on Hawaiian and ETP spotted and spinner dolphins and tuna-dolphin associations, and Mark Fraker has consulted on the Hawaii Superferry potential for whale strikes. Hannah Bernard has conducted research on humpback whales and cetacean life history, created several community-based management programs in Hawaii, served on the Hawaii Longline Fishery Take Reduction Team and State advisory panels, and fostered local marine education. A more-detailed listing of the general expertise of the Pacific SRG members is attached. One important thing to note is that the expertise of each of our members is not limited to just one species or just one state or just one fishery. If that were so, then it would take a membership many times our current size to cover all the species, all the regions, and all the fisheries that we have to cover.

One member with Hawaii fishery expertise was originally appointed to the Pacific SRG, but that member resigned prior to the first meeting. At its 2nd meeting in 1994, the SRG provided NMFS a list of possible new members that included both fisheries experts and academics from Hawaii (including a representative from the WPFMC), but no potential members with interest in the SRG were advanced. The SRG then began inviting experts to participate in its meeting to supplement the SRG's expertise. These invited experts have included several commercial fishermen and scientists conducting research on Hawaiian species. A representative from the Hawaii Dept. of Land and Natural Resources with interest in joining the SRG attended in 1998, but the State terminated its marine mammal program soon thereafter. Various academic possibilities have been suggested, but none displayed enough interest to attend meetings. For the 17th meeting, a representative from the Hawaii Longline Association was invited to attend and non-fishermen representatives have attended since; however, Chuck Janisse approached longline fishermen such as John LaGrange and others to attend the SRG meetings as well, but no one came forward at that time. In 2011, a reinvigorated DLNR program requested that a State representative join the SRG and representatives have actively participated since that time as invited experts. In 2012, the WPFMC requested NMFS to appoint two of its representatives to the SRG and these representatives attended our 2013 meeting.

Once again, the SRG compliments your NMFS staff for their excellent presentations, outstanding research, and support of the SRG.

Sincerely,



Michael Scott
Chairman, Pacific Scientific Review Group

cc: Shannon Bettridge

**Pacific SRG Member Expertise
Emphasizing Specific Expertise on Longline Fisheries, Hawaii Fisheries,
and Hawaiian Marine Mammals**

Doyle Hanan

- Conducted oversight, as a senior marine biologist supervisor at California Dept. of Fish & Game, of the longline vessels fishing off Hawaii and landing in California as well as the drift gillnet and purse seine fisheries
- Conducted analysis of Hawaiian longline observer logs on sampling size and precision vs. cost for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (Hanan & Campbell 2005).
- Surveyed Hawaiian charter vessel operators regarding marine mammal depredation for potential mitigation measures;
- Served on the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Highly Migratory Species Advisory Panel.
- Served on the Congressional ecosystem principles advisory panel

General expertise: Pinnipeds, fisheries, fishery-marine mammal interactions and mitigation measures, abundance and distribution of Pacific harbor seals, impacts of California sea lions and harbor seals on salmonids and coastal ecosystems; aerial surveys of harbor porpoise and pelagic fish; photographic, lidar, and hydroacoustic surveys of fish; tagging and movement studies fish and marine mammals

Chuck Janisse

Involvement since 1985 with domestic pelagic longline fishery issues includes:

- Collaborated with Bluewater Fisherman's Association (Atlantic pelagic longline fisherman's group) to argue for NMFS taking over swordfish management in the Atlantic and the creating the Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan.
- Collaborated with a fishery member of the Atlantic Offshore Cetacean Take Reduction Team in the development of a TRP for Atlantic swordfish fisheries which included pelagic longline.
- Advocated the development of a pelagic longline fishery for swordfish as an alternative to drift gillnet as part of the Pacific Cetacean Take Reduction Team's TRP.
- Developed a regulatory alternative for a west coast Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan for the pelagic longline fishery for swordfish within the EEZ.
- Developed a proposal to establish an Exempted Fishery Permit for pelagic longline within the west coast EEZ.
- Multi-year involvement in a host of pelagic longline fishery regulatory issues (especially regarding protected resources), and an extensive familiarity with the development and regulatory history of U.S. pelagic longline fisheries in the Pacific (Hawaii, Samoa, and the West Coast)
- Collaborated with the Pacific Fishery Management Council in opposition to the WPFMC's proposal to be the sole authority for all U.S. HMS fisheries in the Pacific.
- Executive director of the Federation of Independent Seafood Harvesters, which included Hawaii, Samoa, and West Coast permitted longline fishermen members.
- Member of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's HMS Advisory sub panel which includes pelagic longline.

- Involvement since 1998 with international Pacific HMS fishery issues include:
- U.S. industry advisor to the Standing Committee on Tuna and Billfish's "Workshop on Precautionary Limit Reference Points for HMS Stocks in the Western and Central Pacific" (1998).
- U.S. advisor representing the Pacific Fishery Management Council to the Interim Scientific Committee for HMS in the North Pacific (1998).
- U.S. industry advisor to the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission (1998-2000).
- U.S. industry advisor to the Multilateral High Level Conference on the Conservation and Management of HMS stocks in the Central and Western Pacific (1999-2000).

General expertise: Fisheries, marine mammal-fisheries interactions, sea turtle-fishery interactions (Janisse et al. 2005), MMPA

Katherine Ralls

- Marine Mammal Commission Committee of Scientific Advisors (1979-1982); MMC Hawaiian monk seal program review (1996)
- Monk seal Recovery Team (1997-2001) National Academy of Sciences, National Research Council: Committee on Describing Biologically Significant Marine Mammal Behavior (2003-2004)
- Co-authored two papers on Hawaiian monk seals (Ralls & Starfield 1995; Starfield et al. 1995), one review paper on monk seal conservation (Ralls 2001), and one on melon-headed whales in Hawaii and Palmyra (Brownell et al. 2009).
- With Bob Brownell, compiled all known records of cetacean species (sightings and strandings) within each US Pacific EEZ (other than the main Hawaii islands) to aid the SRG in deciding which new SARs needed to be created for these US waters.
- Co-authored draft of the SAR for the humpback whale stock at American Samoa Carretta et al. 2010; 2011; 2012).

General expertise: Genetics (Ralls 1992; Hoelzel et al. 1993), stock structure, behavioral ecology (Ralls & Mesnick 2002; 2008; Mesnick & Ralls 2002; 2008), conservation biology Ralls & Taylor 2000; Ralls et al. 2002; Frankham et al. 2011; 2012; Ralls et al. 2013) sea otters

John Calambokidis

- Co-chair of the SPLASH project which included a heavy emphasis on humpbacks in Hawaii.
- Authored a number of papers on humpback populations structure that includes Hawaii.

General expertise: Large whales, ship strikes, mark-recapture estimates

Mark Fraker

- Consulted with the Hawaii Super Ferry group regarding potential whale impacts.

General expertise: Marine mammal ecology and management, pinnipeds, large whales, killer whales, oil spill effects.

Michael Scott

- Studied spotted and spinner dolphins and other cetaceans in the eastern and central tropical Pacific (1979-present)
- Conducted tracking studies of spotted dolphins off Hawaii. (Scott and Wussow 1983)
- Photogrammetric calibration study for dolphins.
- Assisted various Ken Norris field teams in Hawaii: aerial surveys for cetaceans, behavioral and tracking studies, artisanal gear research on spinner dolphins.
- Taxonomy, distribution, and tagging studies that included HI spinner and spotted forms (Perrin et al. 1983; 1985).
- Co-authored seminal paper on tuna-dolphin associations, including the central and western Pacific (Scott et al. 2012)

General expertise: Small cetaceans, tagging, tracking, life history, behavioral ecology, eastern tropical Pacific tuna purse-seine fishery

Hannah Bernard

- Expert witness in Hawaii Superferry Court Case regarding marine mammal and marine ecosystem impacts.
- Co-Founder of Makai Watch, a community-based marine management program, a model that was successfully adopted by the Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources. This program included community organizing and preparation of draft policies for communities, senior management and Board member consideration; studies on the impact of legislation and regulations on a community, program and/or resource; recommendation of new approaches to address current or anticipated problems; and development of state and national guidelines.
- Convener of the More Fish in the Sea Festival (2009, 2010), which involved participants from all over the state and included elected officials, state and federal agency managers, conservationists, fishers, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, residents and visitors in a multi-media event to devise strategies for marine resource recovery.
- Community-Managed Marine Areas Leadership Trainer to assist communities in Hawai'i in assessing the appropriateness and then establishing marine managed areas (in collaboration with HI Nature Conservancy and Community Conservation Network Training).
- Council Member, Maui Nui Marine Resources, a community-based marine management advisory council group composed of fishers, community members, Hawaiian cultural practitioners, educators, conservationists and others, formed to assist in the recovery of Maui County's nearshore waters.
- Keoneoio Advisory Group Member, an organization that provides advice and consultation for a marine managed area to the HI Department of Land and Natural Resources, community groups, and other non-governmental organizations.
- Co-founder and Facilitator of the Maui Reef Fund, a collaboration between educators, conservationists, fishers and marine tourism industry to establish sustainable conservation fund and recover marine resource health through mooring pin installation and marine debris recovery. Conducted coral reef assessment (Berg & Bernard 1995).

- Marine Naturalist Training Instructor, University of Hawai'i, Maui College, and Hawai'i Community College.
- Pacific Cetacean Offshore Gillnet Fishery Take Reduction Team Member.
- Hawai'i Longline Fishery False Killer Whale Take Reduction Team Member.
- Research Representative (Alternate) to the Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (2011-2013).
- Maui County Representative and Chairperson, Sanctuary Advisory Council, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (1996-2001).
- Founded the Maui Monk Seal Watch, a group that monitored and protected monk seals hauled out on beaches (1996-2007).
- Given the Environmental Hero Award by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in 1999 for organizing community support for the National Marine Sanctuaries Program.
- Conducted research on Humpback Whales in collaboration with Sally Mizroch, NMFS (1994-1995). Co-authored a humpback whale field guide (Bernard & Morris 1993).

General expertise: Cetacean life history (Bernard & Hohn 1989; Bernard et al. 1992), tuna life history (Fiedler & Bernard 1985; Bernard et al. 1985), conservation and management, conflict resolution and consensus building, public education

Robin Brown

General expertise: Pinnipeds, behavior, ecology, population trends and abundance, life history

Steve Jeffries

General expertise: Pinnipeds, behavior, ecology, population trends and abundance, life history

Terry Wright

General expertise: Tribal fishing rights and fisheries, fishery-marine mammal interactions

Jim Harvey

- Research conducted in collaboration with graduate students include a study of the effects of sound on humpback whales (Norris 1995) and differences in song patterns among populations (Cerchio 1993; Norris et al. 2000) off the Hawaiian Islands.
- Currently graduate student studying the movements and foraging ecology of monk seals off Nihoa Island.

General expertise: Ecology, marine mammal-fisheries interactions, effects of contaminants, oceanographic effects on marine mammal abundance and distribution