

International Marine Debris Conference

On Derelict Fishing Gear and the Ocean Environment

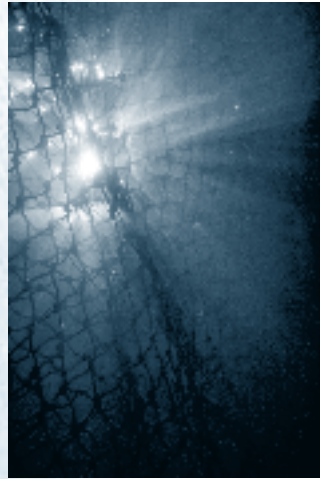
August 6-11, 2000
Hawai'i Convention Center
Honolulu, Hawai'i



P R O G R A M

INTRODUCTION

More than a quarter of a century ago, the United Nations, in response to growing international concern about the problem of marine debris, adopted the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from ships at sea (MARPOL). In the ensuing years, five annexes have been added to the treaty. Annex V specifically prohibits the disposal of plastics anywhere in the world's oceans. As of 30 April 2000, 96 nations have ratified MARPOL, Annex V.



In 1984, the United States National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), at the recommendation of the United States Marine Mammal Commission, held the First International Marine Debris Conference in Honolulu, Hawai'i. The Second and Third International Marine Debris Conferences were held in 1989 and 1994. These conferences identified a number of solutions to the problem of persistent plastics in the marine environment.

In 1999, the United States Congress, in response to growing concerns over the large amounts of derelict fishing gear washing ashore on remote beaches and coral reefs of the Hawaiian Islands, charged the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National

Marine Sanctuary with the organization of an International Marine Debris Conference to focus on derelict fishing gear and the ocean environment. The goal of the conference is to bring together members of the private and public sectors to assess the problem of derelict fishing gear and recommend solutions.

This conference represents the continuation of the efforts of numerous organizations and agencies that have been addressing this issue. In 1987, the North Pacific Rim Fishermen's Conference on Marine Debris brought together fishing industry representatives from throughout the Pacific region to discuss the problem of derelict fishing gear and identify ways to address this problem.

In 1996, NMFS began assessing the magnitude of this problem in the waters surrounding the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Since 1998, NMFS, in cooperation with United States Coast Guard, has led a multi-agency task force investigating the problem. These efforts have provided a wealth of information about the amount, types and impacts of derelict fishing gear. The removal of debris has been a significant component of these efforts. In addition, the use of oceanographic modeling has helped provide a better understanding of the movements of debris and holds promise as a possible means to help identify and reduce debris sources in the future.

While the magnitude of this problem is daunting, there is cause for optimism. Since the passage of MARPOL, there is some indication that the rate of plastic disposal at sea may

indeed have begun to decrease in some areas. While the reported entanglement rates for some species of marine mammals (e.g., Hawaiian monk seal, Antarctic fur seal) have increased, the reported rates have declined for others (e.g., northern fur seal).

While representing only a small percentage of the total amount of marine debris in our oceans, derelict fishing gear is of great concern due to its potential impacts on the marine environment. The solution to the problem of derelict fishing gear lies beyond the capabilities or resources of any one nation, agency, organization or sector. It is a complex and difficult challenge that must be faced cooperatively if the goal of maintaining clean and healthy oceans is to be achieved.

Toward this goal, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary is proud to welcome you to the International Marine Debris Conference on Derelict Fishing Gear and the Ocean Environment. This conference will address the Pacific-wide nature of derelict fishing gear and its impacts on the marine environment, including protected and endangered species and habitat. The goal of this Conference is to develop specific recommendations and strategies for action.

A 'ohe hana nui ke alu 'ia

"No task is too great when done together"

CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- Review sources and impacts of derelict fishing gear
- Assess and identify new technology for mitigation and prevention
- Establish international and national partnerships
- Increase international and national public awareness
- Provide recommendations for future actions



The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and its partners acknowledge and thank Senator Daniel K. Inouye for his vision and support of the conference.

PROGRAM

SUNDAY, AUGUST 6

2:00-6:00 PM **EARLY CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** Room 317A

MONDAY, AUGUST 7

7:30 AM **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** Room 317A

8:30 **CONFERENCE CONVENES** Room 313

Welcome

Allen Tom, Sanctuary Manager, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, Hawai'i

Kitty M. Simonds, Executive Director, Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Hawai'i

Opening Remarks

Honorable Jeremy Harris, Mayor, City and County of Honolulu, Hawai'i

Jim Cook, Chairman, Western Pacific Fishery Management Council, Hawai'i

Review of Past Marine Debris Workshops

James M. Coe, Acting Science & Research Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Washington

THE SCOPE OF THE DERELICT FISHING GEAR PROBLEM

Origins, Types, Distribution and Magnitude of Derelict Fishing Gear

Commander Russell Brainard, Ph.D., Science Program Coordinator and Oceanographer, National Marine Fisheries Service and NOAA Corps, Hawai'i

DISCUSSION

10:15 **BREAK**

10:35 **The Ecological Impacts of Derelict Gear**

Dr. Charles W. Fowler, Program Leader for the Systemic Management Studies Program, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, National Marine Mammal Laboratory, Washington

The Economic Costs of Derelict Gear

Samuel G. Pooley, Chief, Fishery Management and Performance Investigation, National Marine Fisheries Service, Hawai'i

Navigational Hazards and Public Safety

LT Lane Johnson, Port Operations, Waterways Management, Marine Response/Prevention, United States Coast Guard, 14th District, Hawai'i

DISCUSSION

12:00 PM **LUNCH & KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

Society's Role and Obligations as Stewards of the Ocean Environment

Honorable Daniel K. Inouye, United States Senator, Hawai'i

1:30 **Student Views of the Marine Debris Problem**

CURRENT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS DERELICT FISHING GEAR

International and Domestic Initiatives: Implementation, Enforcement and Compliance (MARPOL Annex V)

Commander Paula Carroll, Chief, Marine Response Branch, United States Coast Guard, 14th District, Hawai'i

Removal/Mitigation Efforts

Dr. Mary Donohue, Marine Debris Coordinator, Joint Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research and National Marine Fisheries Service, Hawai'i

DISCUSSION

3:10 **BREAK**

3:30 **Monitoring and Data Collection Activities**

W. James Ingraham, Jr., Oceanographer, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Washington

Charles G. Barr, Program Manager, Center for Marine Conservation, Washington, DC

Technological Advancements

Rear Admiral Larry C. Baucom, United States Navy Director, Environmental Protection, Safety and Occupational Health Division, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, United States Navy, Virginia

Dr. Anthony Andraday, Program Manager & Senior Research Scientist, Research Triangle Institute, North Carolina

DISCUSSION

5:00 **ADJOURN**

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

7:30 AM **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION** Room 317A

8:00 **CALL TO ORDER** Room 313

Welcoming Remarks

Honorable Daniel K. Akaka, United States Senator, Hawai'i (via video)

CURRENT EFFORTS TO ADDRESS DERELICT FISHING GEAR

Industry Actions/Considerations

Dr. Dayton "Lee" Alverson, Chairman of the Board, Natural Resources Consultants, Washington

Education/Outreach

Seba Sheavly, Director, Marine Debris Prevention Program, Center for Marine Conservation, Virginia

MCPO Linda Reid, Director, Sea Partners Campaign, United States Coast Guard, Washington, DC

Cooperative Partnerships

Gary Dunlin, Gera Technologist, Seafish Authority, United Kingdom

Captain Terry Rice, Chief, Marine Safety Division, United States Coast Guard, 14th District, Hawai'i

Dr. George "Bud" Antonelis, Chief, Protected Species Investigation, National Marine Fisheries Service, Hawai'i

DISCUSSION

Planning As Ocean Stewards

Daniel J. Basta, Acting Director, NOAA/National Ocean Services, Marine Sanctuaries Program, Maryland

10:00 **BREAK**

10:15 **WORKING GROUP PANEL PRESENTATIONS**

Group A: Prevention and Legal Issues Rooms 316A and 316B/C

Chairs: James M. Coe, Acting Science & Research Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Fisheries Science Center, Washington

Commander Paula Carroll, Chief, Marine Response Branch, United States Coast Guard, 14th District, Hawai'i

Panelists:

Margaret Cummisky, Senior Legislative Assistant, Office of Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Washington, DC

Michael Julian, Chairman, Marine Environment Protection Committee, International Maritime Organization and Executive Manager, International Relations, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, Australia

Holly Koehler, Foreign Affairs Officer, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, United States Department of State, Washington, DC

Brent Stewart, Ph.D., Senior Research Biologist, Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute, California and Marine Science & Foreign Affairs Officer Diplomacy Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science, Office of Marine Conservation, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, United States Department of State, Washington, DC

CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM

Pete Allen

Co-Chair - Exhibitor/Poster Committee

Kellie Araki

Co-Chair - Exhibitor/Poster Committee

Bud Antonelis

Executive Committee

Priscilla Billig

Chair - Communications Committee

Russell Brainard

Claire Cappelle

Co-Chair - Education and Student Outreach Committee

Carol Carey

Paula Carroll

Kelvin Char

Executive Committee

Athline Clark

Delores Clark

Co-Chair - Communications Committee

Kathy Cousins

Chair - Exhibitor/Poster Committee

Tom Cullinton

Mary Donohue

Executive Committee

Karen Earwaker

Tim Goodspeed

Kathy Hurld

Todd Jacobs

David Johnson

Lane Johnson

Chair - Registration Committee

Tom LaPointe

Naomi McIntosh

Conference Organizer

Christine Meller

Patty Miller

Chair - Education and Student Outreach Committee

Mark Minton

Chair - Program Committee

Mark Mitsuyasu

Emily Morgan

Vicki Paris

Linda Paul

David Remer

Terry Rice

Bob Rock

Dave Santos

Kitty Simonds

Executive Committee/

Chair - Logistics Committee

Liza Simon

Jean Souza

Sylvia Spalding

Allen Tom

Executive Committee

Chris Woolaway

Aulani Wilhelm

Nina Young

Conference Planning and Management Services by Maui Pacific Center

Conference Logo by Eric Woo Design, Inc.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Registration Office

Participants may register and pick up their conference materials in Room 317A.

- Sunday, August 6, 2:00-6:00 PM
- Monday and Tuesday, August 7 & 8, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM
- Wednesday and Thursday, August 9 & 10, 8:00 AM-5:00 PM
- Friday, August 11, 8:00-10:00 AM

Orders for conference proceedings may be placed in this office.



Name Badges

Please wear your name badge to all conference activities. Your badge will identify you as a paid participant.

Cell Phones and Pagers

Please do not disturb other participants. You are asked to make phone calls outside of the meeting rooms and set pagers and phones so that they cannot be heard.

Message Boards

Please check the Conference Message Board outside Room 313, where plenary sessions are held, for any program changes or announcements. A second board will be available for attendee messages.

Governor's Reception

The Governor's Reception will take place at the Governor's Mansion, One Washington Place, on Tuesday, August 8, 6:00-8:00 PM. Aloha attire is suggested. Transportation will be provided from the Hawai'i Convention Center to the reception. Details on the transportation schedule to and from the reception will be provided. Parking will be available at the Department of Health Building, 1250 Punchbowl Street (by Beretania Street).

Exhibits and Posters

Room 311. Exhibits and posters will be displayed throughout the week of the conference. Participants are invited to a special Exhibitor and Poster Reception on Wednesday, August 9, 4:00-7:00 PM in the exhibit room.

Conference Office

Room 317B. Open daily from 7:30 AM-5:00 PM.

- Computers, printers and Internet connection will be available for use by conference participants during regular office hours.
- Lost and Found is located here.

Speaker Preparation and Slide Preview

Room 328. The Chairman's Room will be available for speaker preparation and slide previews during the following times:

- Monday, August 7 and Tuesday, August 8, 7:30 AM-5:00 PM
- Wednesday, August 9 and Thursday, August 10, 8:00 AM-4:00 PM
- Friday, August 11, 8:00-10:00 AM

Trash Busters - A Student Learning Project

Selected students from the Pacific (Palau; Yap; American Samoa; Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; Marshall Islands; St. Paul Islands, Alaska; and Hawai'i) will participate and share their islands' findings and concerns about marine debris at the conference. In preparation for the conference, students and teachers worked together to collect information about marine debris on their island, determined the major problems and formulated possible solutions. Project directors will help the students prepare for their presentations at the conference. Students will share their presentations and participate as a student focus group in a forum with other conference attendees. This project is coordinated by KidScience, an interactive long distance learning program.

ISSUE PAPER AUTHORS

Sincere thanks to the following authors for providing valuable background information on the topics discussed at this conference.

Legal Instruments for the Prevention and Management of Disposal and Loss of Fishing Gear at Sea

Holly R. Koehler • Brent S. Stewart • Paula Carroll • Terry Rice

Impacts of Marine Debris: Research and Management Needs

David W. Laist • Michael Liffman

Source Identification of Derelict Fishing Gear: Issues and Concerns

John Henderson • Rick Steiner

Industry Considerations and Actions

Mark Minton

Mitigation of Environmental Impacts of Derelict Fishing Gear Through Debris Removal and Environmental Monitoring

Mary Donohue • Russell Brainard • Michael Parke • David Foley

Education and Outreach Approaches to Reduce At-Sea Disposal of Fishing Gear

Emily Morgan • Seba Sheavly

Conference Sponsor

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary, National Ocean Service,
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration,
U.S. Department of Commerce

Contributors

Center for Marine Conservation
City and County of Honolulu
Hawai'i Audubon Society
Hawai'i Coastal Zone Management Program
Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources
National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Island
Area Office
Southwest Fisheries Science Center Honolulu Laboratory
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Pacific Fishery Management Council
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U.S. Navy

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Photo: Lane Johnson, USCG

**Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale
National Marine Sanctuary**

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