

ummer is over, and with it, another successful Ke Kani o Ke Kai concert series. This year, the five concerts were attended by 3,333 guests. Given that the last concert took place in the face of an incoming typhoon, when attendance was lower than usual, this total speaks highly of the immense popularity of this event. Thanks to the staff, volunteers, the sponsors and the various musicians, caterers, emcees and sound crew who together helped make it happen. The proceeds from this year's series will be allocated towards the upcoming Ocean Discovery Center, which is planned to be open late next year.

And prior to that, most likely before the end of this current year, we should have a new animal holding area, which will serve the Edge of the Reef touch pools and provide holding space for animals due to go on display and for research, and a completely renovated public bathrooms at the Aquarium. An additional project relating to the monk seal display is mentioned elsewhere in this issue.

In May we held the first of four scheduled presentations in our Distinguished Lecture Series, featuring Dr Chip Fletcher, who spoke about global climate change, its effects on the oceans and the implications of these changes for Hawaii in particular. Over 350 400 people attended the presentation, and I think all who were there learned from hearing a fascinating and complex topic explained in clear terms by one of the experts in this field. The next lecture in this series is by Dr David Karl and takes place on the 25th September. Details can be found elsewhere in this issue, or on our website. We hope to see you there.

Those of you who visit the Aquarium recently may have noticed several examples of coral bleaching, both in our indoor exhibits and in the Edge of the Reef. Our

award-winning musician Mark Yamanaka and Aquarium volunteer Debbie LASTNAME at Ke Kani O Ke Kai on July 10, 2014.

coral specialist, Mr Mark Dimzon, has consulted with professional coral researchers on island and elsewhere, to diagnose this problem. It seems that the UV index is especially high at this time of year, and that this has caused some bleaching in exhibits exposed to direct sunlight and where the water surface is not turbulent enough to break up the sun's rays as they enter the water. NOAA has informed us that an exceptionally high UV index is predicted for the coming month, and so we have placed shade cloth over many of our exhibits, and also adjusted water flow so as to ripple the water surface. Just like people, corals need some protection from the harsh, direct rays of the sun!

And a heads up! The New Year issue will be a jumbo 20-page edition. Along with the standard array of interesting articles, this special edition will highlight the plans the Aquarium has going into the future. At 110 years old, the Aquarium acknowledges our past achievement with pride, but are now planning for an even more exciting future that involves changes throughout the exhibit galleries and behind the scenes, all while staying true to our education, research and conservation mission. Stay tuned!

2014 JUL | AUG | SEP

Dr. Andrew Rossiter

Kilo i'a is published quarterly by the to increasing the community's knowledge of the Waikīkī Aquarium

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MANA'O

Traditionally, the kilo i'a was an expert of fish and marine life. He studied the behaviors and movements of i'a. The kilo stood at a high point of land overlooking the ocean to watch for an expected school of fish and steered the fishermen in the school's direction. The success of surrounding the school was entirely up to the kilo.



EDITOR

ART DIRECTOR

PRINTING

University of Hawai'i and the Friends of Waikīkī Aquarium and is dedicated and Hawai'i's marine life.

Honolulu, HI 96815-4027

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To complement Kapiolani Community College's 2014-2015 Service Learning Program, the Waikīkī Aquarium has created student volunteer programs. Each 20-25 hour Service Learning module incorporates active learning through a combination of training and hands-on experience throughout the semester. It is the goal

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Expansion of the Pacific Remote

resident Obama's recent

Islands Marine National

Monument (PRIMNM)

proposed expansion

in the southwestern Pacific

the Antiquities Act of 1906,

Ocean would be a historical win

for ocean conservation. Citing

the same act former President

George W. Bush used to create

four marine monuments in his

second term, Obama declared

presidential authority "to pro-

tect some of our nation's most

precious marine landscapes,"

something that has been done

since the time of Teddy Roos-

evelt for special areas of land,

but only in recent decades for

GIVE ALOHA CAMPAIGN

SERVICE LEARNING

SEPTEMBER 1-30

that he was going to use his

of the Pacific Remote

Islands Marine National Monument

marine areas.

The expansion of the

existing protected area would

marine protected areas in the

world combined. The proposed

plan would increase the Pacific

Remote Islands National Monu-

ment's current size from around

87,000 square miles to approx-

imately 782,000 square miles.

The new protected area would

also include the Exclusive Eco-

nomic Zones (EEZ) of several

territories, encompassing 200

nautical miles from the shore-

line around those uninhabited

Currently, less than two

percent of our global ocean

is protected. The expanded

islands.

more than double the area of all

SUMMER SERVICE

This summer's volunteers have generously donated their time and talents to help the Aquarium pull off new and old traditions. Did you know that Aguarium volunteers donate over 1,000 hours

Monument of the North West Hawaiian Islands, but no official comments were made of how or when that would be done. From a global perspective, the expansion of the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument is a step in the right direction for the preservation and maintenance of one of our planet's most valuable resources. As part of its galleries renovation project, the Aquarium plans to install several new exhibits highlighting the marine reefs of some PRIMNM islands and atolls. More on this in our New

current Papahānaumokuākea

Marine National Marine

of Waikīkī Aquarium to strengthen the partnerships between community institutions and organizations and this program does just that.

monument would protect over

two-hundred and forty under-

a plethora of diverse marine

life. Scientific expeditions to

the area, notably by Nation-

al Geographic's Enric Sala,

have reported that at least

twenty-two species of marine

turtles frequent the waters of

the proposed monument area.

the State Department's Our

mammals and five species of sea

The plan was delivered at

Ocean Conference on June 17th

down on the global black market

fish trade and on seafood fraud.

looking to expand the area of the

There was also a mention of

with the news that the federal

government plans to crack

water sea mounts teeming with

volunteer events included Algae and Beach Clean-ups, Members night, and the Amazing Adaptations exhibit opening. As back to school shopping begins, we look forward to welcoming new and returning Docents in September.

Year issue.

iust for Ke Kani O Ke Kai! Other summer

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES: "SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND SUSTAINABILITY" WITH DR. DAVID KARL

SEPTEMBER 25, 2014, 7:00 P.M.

Dr. David Karl, internationally renowned oceanographer will present on September 25th at 7pm, Mamiya Theatre. This presentation will outline some of Dr. Karl's findings that have revolutionized our understanding of oceans. Mahalo to Matson Navigation; McCabe, Hamilton and Rennie; and Honolulu Star Advertiser for their support of this series. Tickets are \$10. Visit our website for more information.

Director, Waikīkī Aquarium

KILO I'A 3 2 JUL-SEP 2014

Marine Plastic **Pollution**

Plastic products have made their way into nearly every aspect of everyday life, from food storage and toys, to medical equipment. The inexpensive and durable nature of plastics has resulted in their use skyrocketing, with approximately 300 million tons of plastics being produced each year. Of the plastics that are discarded, only about 10% are recycled. A significant portion of the remaining 90% ends up in the ocean, where it can degrade and fragment into persistent microplastic debris.

Plastic pollution is one of the most serious threats to the ocean. Plastic debris enters the marine environment through illegal dumping from recreational fishing and boats, litter transported by rivers and public drainage systems, and improperly disposed of garbage. It impacts marine life in many ways, including through ingestion, entrapment, and exposure to harmful chemicals released from plastic debris. Plastic pollution is a global problem, with plastics even being found in remote areas of the open ocean, and the Arctic and Antarctic.

Ingestion of plastics by marine animals can cause intestinal blockages, decreased gastric secretions, lowered steroid hormone levels, and reproductive issues, and given that plastics absorb other pollutants from seawater, this further increases the hazard of ingestion. As plastic debris in the ocean ranges from large pieces to small pieces of microplastic debris, a wide range of marine animals, including fishes, birds, marine mammals, turtles, plankton and filter-feeding animals ingest plastics. In some species, plastic ingestion is found at alarming rates. For example, a study of Laysan albatross chicks in the Hawaiian Islands found that



90% of surveyed chicks had plastic debris in their upper gastrointestinal tract. Entanglement can cause animals to be strangled by plastic rings, and affect their ability to catch food or avoid. Discarded fishing gear is an especially significant hazard, with abandoned nets continuing to catch and kill animals after

sinking or being lost on the seabed

In addition to damaging marine life, plastic pollution also directly impacts human communities by contaminating food sources, decreasing the aesthetic value of beaches and producing navigation hazards.

What can you do to reduce plastic pollution?

Reduce plastic use

Choose reusable products when possible and look for alternatives, such as bringing your own bags to the grocery store, using reusable water bottles instead of buying bottled water, and buying a set of silverware for your workplace instead of using plastic utensils.

Attend a beach cleanup

Our next beach clean-up is scheduled for Saturday, September 20th. Contact the Waikīkī Aguarium Volunteer Office at volunteer@waquarium.org

Recycle

Many plastics can be recycled. Recycling products can reduce the amount of potential plastic debris entering the ocean.

Support Honolulu City Council Bill 40

This bill requires restaurants and food take-out businesses to use compostable containers and bans the use of expanding polystyrene containers. Expanded polystyrene products are rarely recycled and break down into microplastic contaminants. Contact your local Honolulu City Council members to express your support for the passage of Bill 40.

Return of Hōʻailona



Visitors to the Aquarium this summer will have noticed that Hōʻailona, one of our two Hawaiian monk seals, was not on exhibit for a few months. Many have enquired as to his whereabouts. In late May, Aquarium monk seal biologist Jesse Ciletti and her crew noticed that Hō'ailona had become inattentive and easily distracted during their interaction sessions with him, and that he had gone off

his food. At this time of year, when the annual molt takes place, short-term anorexia is a common occurrence in both our seals. But Hōʻailona was not yet in molt. As is routine whenever anything out of the ordinary takes place with our seals, we called in the University veterinarian to examine the seal. He saw nothing obvious, but as a precautionary measure, recommended that we sedate and X-ray the seal in order to check for issues in his alimentary tract and to allow for injection of medications and appetite stimulants.

And so a carefully orchestrated operation went into effect. Plans were put in place to drain the exhibit the next day, and to notify visitors that this was being done. Jesse and her crew, and a few live exhibits staff were briefed on what to do. The NOAA 'seal wranglers' were contacted. This group of individuals conduct monk seal research in the Northwestern Hawaiian

Islands that involves them restraining wild monk seals to take measurements and check their body condition. An acquired art! The University veterinary team was contacted, both the primary vet responsible for our monk seals and another with expertise and equipment for X-raying.

With the pool drained, the wranglers restrained a sedated Hōʻailona, he was examined thoroughly, the X-ray photos and a blood sample were taken, and his medications administered. The team retreated and the pool was refilled, a process that takes six hours, under the continuous watch of the monk seal crew. Although nothing abnormal was detected in the X-rays, two days later he still had not eaten, and so Plan B went into effect. Hōʻailona was coaxed into a specially designed cage, which was then forklifted into the behind the scenes holding area, and then lifted by crane into the holding pool. Fifteen people were involved in this process, which was run with almost military precision.

The following day, Hōʻailona ate a few pieces of herring, and

promptly vomited them, along with two small pieces of plastic. We surmise that a plastic object had dropped into his exhibit and that he had ingested it. The object was not visible in the X-rays of his alimentary canal, and so may have been lodged in his esophagus. Thankfully, the object seems to have been dislodged completely, as thereafter his appetite returned to its usual ravenous level, his attention recovered, and he became the personable, energetic monk seal we all know him to be. As a precautionary measure we retained him in the holding tank for observation, until he was given the all clear by the veterinarian. Hōʻailona went back on display in late July, none the worse for his gastronomic mishap.

On a more serious note, this incident has underlined the dangers imposed by foreign objects falling into the monk seal exhibit. Despite ample signage requesting visitors to not lean over the exhibit, and to take care with

sunglasses, hats, audio wands and cameras, the emergency retrieval of such objects from the pool before the monk seals can chew upon or eat them is a not a rare occurrence. For the continued wellbeing of the animals we have therefore decided to revamp the viewing area, increasing the height of the acrylic viewing panels such that it is not possible to lean over the exhibit, and also to add an awning over the deck area so that visitors can view the animals, sheltered from the rain or hot sun.

Fundraising for this project is just started, and if you are interested in supporting this, please contact Marylou Foley at 440-9027. Thank you!

or (808) 440-9020 for more info.

WALL of FAME

APRIL 2014 TO JUNE 2014

The beautiful exhibits at the Waikīkī Aquarium and the valuable research and conservation efforts that go on behind the scenes are the result of the work of many. Mahalo to all those who support us through their generous donations.

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KILO I'A 4 JUL-SEP 2014

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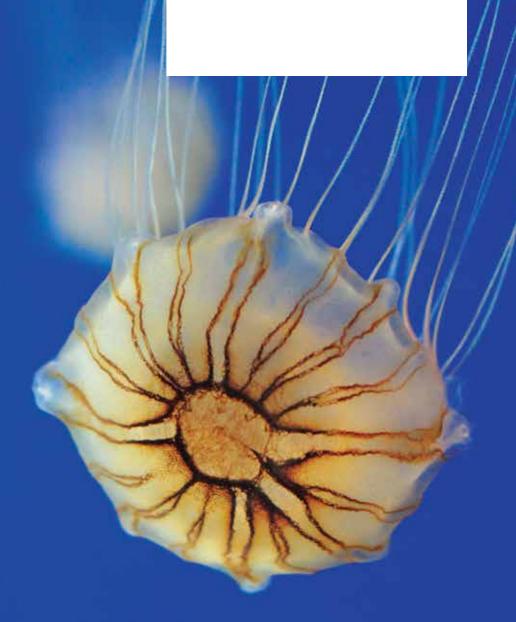
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To inspire and promote understanding, appreciation and conservation of Pacific marine life.