

**USFWS & NOAA Pacific Green Sea Turtle – Pacific Island DPS  
Virtual Public Meeting Transcript  
August 10, 2023**

00:00:09.390 --> 00:00:19.839

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Hello, everyone! I'd like to welcome you all to the joint US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries public informational meeting and hearing

00:00:19.900 --> 00:00:29.160

EMPSi - Megan Stone: focused on the proposed terrestrial and marine critical habitat designations for the Green Sea Turtle in the Central North Pacific

00:00:29.170 --> 00:00:33.610

EMPSi - Megan Stone: within and surrounding the Hawaiian Archipelago.

00:00:33.880 --> 00:00:37.450

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We're going to give folks a few minutes here to join the meeting

00:00:37.460 --> 00:00:42.670

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and then we'll begin the PowerPoint presentation shortly. So please stay tuned.

00:00:42.790 --> 00:00:55.530

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I do want to note that close captioning is available by selecting the closed caption icon at the bottom of your zoom screen. If you're using the Zoom web portal or Zoom app on your computer.

00:01:31.910 --> 00:01:45.969

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Welcome everyone to tonight's meeting. My name is Megan Stone, with Environmental Management and Planning Solutions Inc. A contractor for the Service. And I'm going to be your meeting facilitator tonight.

00:01:46.160 --> 00:01:54.089

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We're going to give folks a few more minutes here to join the meeting. So please stay tuned, and we will start the presentation shortly.

00:01:54.260 --> 00:02:04.510

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Again, I do want to note that close captioning is available by selecting the closed caption icon at the bottom of your Zoom screen. If you're using the Zoom app

00:02:04.840 --> 00:02:07.730

EMPSi - Megan Stone: or Zoom web portal on your computer

00:02:38.790 --> 00:02:40.299

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Next slide, please.

00:02:43.830 --> 00:02:54.620

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Again, welcome everyone to tonight's meeting. My name is Megan Stone, and we'd like to welcome you to the joint US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries

00:02:54.660 --> 00:03:06.679

EMPSi - Megan Stone: public informational meeting and hearing focus on the proposed terrestrial and marine critical habitat designations for the Green Sea Turtle in the Central North Pacific

00:03:06.720 --> 00:03:10.309

EMPSi - Megan Stone: within and surrounding the Hawaiian Archipelago.

00:03:10.550 --> 00:03:15.979

EMPSi - Megan Stone: At this time, I'd like to turn it over to Lasha to provide some introductions.

00:03:17.850 --> 00:03:18.989

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you, Megan

00:03:19.430 --> 00:03:28.900

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Aloha, and welcome to tonight's public meeting for the proposed critical habitat designations for the Green Sea Turtle in the Hawaiian Islands.

00:03:29.150 --> 00:03:33.449

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: My name is Lasha Lynn Salbosa, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

00:03:33.850 --> 00:03:39.569

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Tonight's meeting is jointly hosted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries,

00:03:40.390 --> 00:03:46.870

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: because we have shared jurisdiction for the recovery and conservation of threatened and endangered Sea Turtles.

00:03:47.220 --> 00:03:51.469

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: We lead the conservation and recovery of Sea Turtles on nesting beaches

00:03:51.490 --> 00:03:57.339

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and NOAA Fisheries has the lead for the conservation and recovery of these animals in the marine environment.

00:03:57.870 --> 00:04:03.719

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: At this time, I'd like to introduce to you the rest of the Fish and Wildlife Service team. Here tonight

00:04:04.270 --> 00:04:08.750

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: we have Heidi Crowell site species assessment team project manager,

00:04:10.120 --> 00:04:13.050

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Jordan Akiyama, public affairs specialist.

00:04:13.640 --> 00:04:23.340

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Joy Browning, Fish and Wildlife biologist, and Keelan Barcina, Fish and Wildlife biologist. Thank you all for joining us tonight.

00:04:23.560 --> 00:04:26.509

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Now I would like to turn it over to Dawn Golden,

00:04:26.600 --> 00:04:31.230

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: NOAA Fisheries Assistant Regional Administrator, for her opening remarks.

00:04:34.240 --> 00:04:47.649

NOAA - Dawn Golden: Aloha, and welcome to the public hearing for proposed critical habitat for Green Sea Turtles in Hawaii. My name is Dawn Golden, and I was NOAA Fisheries Pacific Islands Regional office in Honolulu, where I'm the chief of the Protective Resources Division.

00:04:47.760 --> 00:05:00.149

NOAA - Dawn Golden: First, I want to thank you all so much for taking time out of your busy lives to join us here this evening. We really appreciate your interest and welcome your input into this process. Our main goal tonight is to hear from all of you

00:05:00.320 --> 00:05:17.300

NOAA - Dawn Golden: to answer as many of your questions as we can and hear your comments on your proposal to get us started. I'd like to introduce my colleagues and staff that will be on our panel tonight. Jennifer Shultz, who is the lead biologist on the proposed marine Green Sea Turtle critical habitat designation from NOAA Fisheries headquarters

00:05:17.630 --> 00:05:23.560

NOAA - Dawn Golden: and from my staff we have Chelsey Young chief of protective resources conservation planning rule-making branch.

00:05:23.620 --> 00:05:27.630

NOAA - Dawn Golden: Irene Kelly, Pacific Islands Regency Turtle Recovery Coordinator

00:05:27.900 --> 00:05:32.420

NOAA - Dawn Golden: and Ron Dean, Chief of the Protective Resources Interagency Cooperation Branch.

00:05:32.520 --> 00:05:37.329

NOAA - Dawn Golden: Thank you again for being here, and I'll turn it back over to our facilitator, Aloha.

00:05:38.420 --> 00:05:42.930

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Dawn, and thank you, Lasha. Next slide, please.

00:05:44.920 --> 00:05:49.570

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We do have the expected agenda on screen for tonight's meeting.

00:05:49.660 --> 00:06:04.760

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We'll go over ground rules, then have an information presentation which should last around 45 min. We'll then have a 15 min question answer session, followed by 60 min public comment session.

00:06:05.000 --> 00:06:19.829

EMPSi - Megan Stone: The meeting will then end at 8 PM, Hawaii time. Before we get started with the presentation, I'm going to go over some ground rules for the meeting. First, this meeting is being recorded as part of the project record.

00:06:19.860 --> 00:06:30.640

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and a recording will be posted to the US Fish and Wildlife Service website. Second, your microphones and videos will be turned off for the duration of the meeting tonight.

00:06:30.790 --> 00:06:38.740

EMPSi - Megan Stone: You will only be unmuted if and when I unmute you during the question-and-answer session. If you're a phone caller

00:06:38.800 --> 00:06:50.300

EMPSi - Megan Stone: or during the verbal public comment portion of the meeting, if you're commenting. Questions will be addressed during the question-and-answer session. After the PowerPoint presentations.

00:06:50.440 --> 00:07:07.619

EMPSi - Megan Stone: we will do our best to address the questions in the order they come in to allow everyone an opportunity to voice their questions. Instructions for how to submit questions electronically during the session will be provided after the Service's presentation.

00:07:08.070 --> 00:07:18.830

EMPSi - Megan Stone: But we encourage anyone to submit questions throughout these presentations. We will allow those joining by computer to submit questions electronically

00:07:18.870 --> 00:07:28.140

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and those joining by phone to submit questions verbally, as they do not have access to the chat feature to submit questions electronically.

00:07:28.550 --> 00:07:33.599

EMPSi - Megan Stone: we do ask that you keep any questions related to the scope of the presentation.

00:07:34.630 --> 00:07:47.549

EMPSi - Megan Stone: After the question-and-answer session. We will then move on to the virtual public hearing portion of the meeting. During which we will accept verbal public comments from participants who have joined tonight's meeting

00:07:47.970 --> 00:07:56.260

EMPSi - Megan Stone: if you registered before the start time of tonight's meeting and indicated that you may want to offer a verbal public comment tonight

00:07:56.360 --> 00:08:02.909

EMPSi - Megan Stone: you are on our list of preregistered commenters and will be called on during the public comment portion.

00:08:03.160 --> 00:08:12.970

EMPSi - Megan Stone: If you registered after the meeting started, we will do our best to reserve time for you to have an opportunity to offer your verbal public comment tonight.

00:08:13.280 --> 00:08:25.900

EMPSi - Megan Stone: If we have time remaining after that. we will then open up the meeting and have a verbal public comment portion and allow anyone who would like to offer a verbal public comment tonight

00:08:26.130 --> 00:08:34.630

EMPSi - Megan Stone: the opportunity to do so, regardless of whether you selected yes or no to commenting when you registered for today's meeting.

00:08:35.240 --> 00:08:45.559

EMPSi - Megan Stone: If you do not get the opportunity to offer your verbal public comment tonight. Written public comments can be submitted electronically at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov)

00:08:45.600 --> 00:08:58.940

EMPSi - Megan Stone: or via hard copy. Both the website and mailing addresses will be given during this evening's presentation and are available in the chat. The comment period will be open

00:08:59.210 --> 00:09:04.680

EMPSi - Megan Stone: through October 2023, and we'll get more information on that later.

00:09:05.240 --> 00:09:15.810

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And finally, if you experience any technical issues with zoom, please use the chat box to message host and panelists, and a member of our team will reach out to you

00:09:16.350 --> 00:09:17.820

EMPSi - Megan Stone: next slide, please.

00:09:20.310 --> 00:09:31.539

EMPSi - Megan Stone: As we mentioned earlier this evening, we'll have both the Service and NOAA provide presentations. At any point during these presentations you may chat us questions.

00:09:31.610 --> 00:09:38.850

EMPSi - Megan Stone: questions will be logged, and responses will be provided during the question-and-answer portion of the meeting

00:09:38.890 --> 00:09:41.830

EMPSi - Megan Stone: that will begin after the presentations.

00:09:41.880 --> 00:09:50.839

EMPSi - Megan Stone: With that I'll turn it over to Lasha-Lynn Salbosa and she's going to lead us through the Fish and Wildlife Service's PowerPoint presentation

00:09:54.200 --> 00:09:57.139

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: next slide, please. Thank you. Thank you so much, Megan.

00:09:57.380 --> 00:10:01.689

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Again. My name is Lasha Lynn Salbosa, with the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

00:10:02.000 --> 00:10:13.570

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Before I begin my presentation. I wanted to take a short moment to acknowledge the devastating situation facing our Lahaina community on Maui and other areas ravaged by recent fires.

00:10:13.760 --> 00:10:16.779

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and take a moment to send our love to these areas.

00:10:19.680 --> 00:10:20.610

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you.

00:10:21.530 --> 00:10:29.950

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Tonight, I'll be providing an overview of the proposed terrestrial critical habitat for Honu in the Hawaiian Islands. Next slide, please.

00:10:33.810 --> 00:10:40.679

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Tonight's overview is part of a larger effort of the Fish and Wildlife Service to propose critical habitat on land

00:10:40.740 --> 00:10:49.689

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: for 5 distinct population segments of the Green Sea Turtle spanning the Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico to here in the Pacific Islands.

00:10:50.530 --> 00:10:55.420

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: For those joining us on Zoom, our meeting facilitators have pasted into the Zoom chat

00:10:55.480 --> 00:11:04.759

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: information of all 5 meetings that are being held to provide a full overview of the proposed designation and seek public comments.

00:11:05.330 --> 00:11:11.969

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Tonight's meeting will focus on the Hawaiian Islands, where we are proposing 31 critical habitat units.

00:11:12.100 --> 00:11:15.780

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: totaling 2,233 acres

00:11:16.340 --> 00:11:17.619

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: next slide, please.

00:11:20.580 --> 00:11:25.610

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Tonight, I'll be summarizing a bit about the Honu's listing status and biology

00:11:25.750 --> 00:11:31.030

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: defining critical habitat and our process that we undertook to develop the proposed units.

00:11:31.390 --> 00:11:34.509

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: I'll provide overview maps of the proposed units.

00:11:34.690 --> 00:11:40.990

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and then conclude with a highlight of the types of comments we are seeking and ways to provide your comments.

00:11:41.560 --> 00:11:42.799

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:11:45.740 --> 00:11:52.409

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: As mentioned earlier, the Fish and Wildlife Service's lead for conservation and recovery of Green Turtles on nesting beaches

00:11:52.470 --> 00:12:00.380

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and NOAA Fisheries is lead for Green Turtles in the marine environment. Honu were first listed under the ESA in 1978,

00:12:00.710 --> 00:12:08.160

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and later in 2016 the agencies identified and listed 11 distinct population segments worldwide

00:12:09.240 --> 00:12:12.750

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: globally, 8 DPSs are listed as threatened,

00:12:13.020 --> 00:12:19.030

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and 3 DPSs are listed as endangered. And I'll get to a map of those in just a moment.

00:12:19.980 --> 00:12:25.400

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: The whole new of the Central North Pacific DPSs in the Hawaiian Archipelago is listed as threatened.

00:12:26.430 --> 00:12:31.930

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: The inset box on the blue, there, provides a definition of our terminology of endangered and threatened.

00:12:35.470 --> 00:12:36.699

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:12:39.540 --> 00:12:45.149

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Within US jurisdiction, there are 6 Green Turtle distinct population segments

00:12:45.730 --> 00:12:48.379

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: delineated by the white lines on the map.

00:12:49.350 --> 00:12:55.639

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and 5 of these DPSs nest within the US, indicated by a yellow star on the map.

00:12:57.280 --> 00:12:58.350

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Highlighting

00:12:58.740 --> 00:13:04.549

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: there in yellow, is the central North Pacific DPS, or the Hawaiian archipelago, which is the focus of tonight's meeting.

00:13:08.200 --> 00:13:09.430

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:13:12.980 --> 00:13:23.109

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: before defining critical habitat in our process, here are some brief points on Green Turtle biology. In the Hawaiian Islands, nesting season is typically made through September.

00:13:23.420 --> 00:13:34.459

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: A single female will typically nest once every 2 to 4 years. Honu have relatively long lifespans similar to humans and reach reproductive maturity about 30 years of age.

00:13:35.000 --> 00:13:42.060

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Basking is a behavior unique to the Hawaiian Archipelago, and does not occur in other portions of the Green Turtle's range

00:13:42.630 --> 00:13:50.080

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: basking specifically refers to a turtle resting or sleeping on a beach or low-lying rocks that are close to the water's edge.

00:13:52.010 --> 00:13:53.199

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please

00:13:56.790 --> 00:14:02.020

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: switching gears, now. We're going to move into talking about critical habitat, and then I'll talk about our process.

00:14:02.250 --> 00:14:10.219

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Critical habitat is defined as specific areas that are essential for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species.

00:14:10.900 --> 00:14:22.600

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: These areas contain certain physical or biological features that support the life history needs of the species. And these features may need special management considerations or protections.

00:14:25.390 --> 00:14:26.609

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:14:31.180 --> 00:14:44.329

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: The listing of the green turtle DPS, or distinct population segment in 2016 triggered the ESA requirement to propose critical habitat to the maximum extent prudent and determinable. Within one year.

00:14:47.230 --> 00:14:48.459

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:14:52.870 --> 00:15:05.579

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: The regulatory significance of critical habitat is that federal agencies must consult on their actions that may affect critical habitat, to ensure that such actions do not destroy or adversely modify critical habitat.

00:15:06.220 --> 00:15:17.319



USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: In doing so, critical habitat helps to guide cooperation within the Federal Government. The proposed and final designation will not impose a regulatory requirement on most people.

00:15:17.820 --> 00:15:25.179

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: If a person or private entity is not funded or permitted by a federal agency, then critical habitat will not affect them.

00:15:26.280 --> 00:15:36.160

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: A critical habitat designation does not create reserves or protective areas. Likewise, a critical habitat designation does not restrict further development.

00:15:36.650 --> 00:15:46.620

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: It is a reminder to Federal agencies of their responsibility to protect the important characteristics of these areas when implementing a federally funded activity.

00:15:48.660 --> 00:15:49.889

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:15:53.000 --> 00:16:03.399

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Our Fish and Wildlife... Our Fish and Wildlife Service process, excuse me, for developing terrestrial critical habitat units can be broken down into 3 general steps, listed here on the screen.

00:16:04.350 --> 00:16:09.350

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: To determine the most important areas, we first identified nesting beaches,

00:16:09.360 --> 00:16:14.849

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: which are areas from the mean high-water line to beaches deepest extent inland.

00:16:15.620 --> 00:16:22.550

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Terrestrial habitats include some vegetation where present, because turtles frequently encounter and nest within it.

00:16:23.340 --> 00:16:32.530

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: We consider dry and wet sand leading back to the ocean to support hatchling transit to the sea, in addition to allowing for post nesting

00:16:32.540 --> 00:16:34.890

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and basking turtles to return to the ocean.

00:16:36.510 --> 00:16:43.359

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: When drawing boundary lines, we relied heavily on species expert knowledge of the most important nesting beaches,

00:16:43.430 --> 00:16:46.560

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: as well as feedback from reports and inquiries.

00:16:48.050 --> 00:16:59.439

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: In the absence of available nesting surveys in some of the Pacific areas where nesting is geographically widespread at low levels of abundance, mostly in remote, low-lying oceanic atolls,

00:16:59.650 --> 00:17:05.939

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: beaches were selected using the best available nesting records over a fifteen-year period

00:17:06.000 --> 00:17:09.709

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: between 2005 to 2020

00:17:11.880 --> 00:17:13.099

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: next slide, please.

00:17:16.140 --> 00:17:26.270

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: We identify the following physical or biological features for nesting and basking. The PBFs are focused on sand characteristics in the terrestrial areas

00:17:26.319 --> 00:17:29.229

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: where nesting incubation, hatching.

00:17:29.350 --> 00:17:32.030

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: hatchling emergence, beach transit

00:17:32.210 --> 00:17:40.129

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and basking activities occur the types of beach characteristics that Green Turtles need are extra tidal or dry, sandy beaches

00:17:40.200 --> 00:17:44.079

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: from the main high-water line to inland areas of the beach.

00:17:44.740 --> 00:17:50.180

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: These areas must include relatively unimpeded, wet, and dry sand near shore

00:17:50.210 --> 00:17:54.970

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: or near shore access areas from the ocean to the beach for nesting females

00:17:55.110 --> 00:18:00.179

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and from the beach to the ocean for both post-nest, nesting females and hatchlings.

00:18:01.440 --> 00:18:05.799

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Some drier sand areas are also necessary above the mean high-water line.

00:18:05.850 --> 00:18:09.489

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: to avoid being inundated frequently by high tides.

00:18:09.650 --> 00:18:15.610

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: typically extending inland to the atoll of the secondary dune of present or develop structures.

00:18:17.030 --> 00:18:29.720

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Sufficient darkness was also considered because it is important to Turtles. Basking areas in the Hawaiian Islands can be natural and artificial coastlines of gradually sloping beaches, sand spits,

00:18:29.780 --> 00:18:33.939

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and low shelving reef rocks with relatively unimpeded access.

00:18:36.320 --> 00:18:37.650

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:18:41.530 --> 00:18:53.380

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: We then considered sea level rise such that the areas proposed as critical habitat are not locations that are currently inundated or likely to become inundated within the immediate future

00:18:53.420 --> 00:18:57.439

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: as compared to areas that may be underwater decades from now.

00:18:57.980 --> 00:19:08.929

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: All of our proposed critical habitat areas are considered occupied at the time of listing. Meaning, these proposed areas are currently used by Honu for nesting or basking.

00:19:10.520 --> 00:19:11.730

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:19:15.460 --> 00:19:21.459

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and that's a good segue into our maps of the areas proposed as critical habitat in the Hawaiian Islands.

00:19:21.840 --> 00:19:25.139

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: This is an overview map of the Hawaiian Archipelago.

00:19:25.320 --> 00:19:37.019

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Inset boxes show the proposed critical habitat areas in yellow within the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. Here we have Holaniku starting at the up top and the left.

00:19:37.110 --> 00:19:44.420

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: or Kure Atoll, Kuainelani or Midway Atoll, Manawai or Pearl and Hermes Atoll.

00:19:45.300 --> 00:19:47.980

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Kapou or Lisianski Island,

00:19:48.880 --> 00:19:52.560

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Kamole or Laysan Island and finally

00:19:52.710 --> 00:20:00.849

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: at the bottom, right, Lalo, or French Frigate Shoals within the Northwestern Quine Islands, or Papa Hanal Kuoko Marine National Monument.

00:20:01.460 --> 00:20:09.139

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Again, the areas highlighted in yellow here show the proposed terrestrial critical habitat areas for the Green Sea Turtle.

00:20:11.840 --> 00:20:13.070

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:20:16.030 --> 00:20:22.110

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: moving into the main Hawaiian Islands. Here we have the islands of Kauai, Oahu,

00:20:22.310 --> 00:20:24.260

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Molokai, and Lanai.

00:20:24.690 --> 00:20:30.629

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Again, the proposed critical habitat nesting areas for the green sea turtle are shown in yellow.

00:20:34.750 --> 00:20:35.940

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:20:40.570 --> 00:20:44.080

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and last, we have Maui, Kahoolawe, and Hawaii Island.

00:20:44.470 --> 00:20:58.310

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: If you would like to download geographic information system shape files of these proposed terrestrial critical habitat areas, in order to get a closer look at these locations, please visit the website address and the Zoom chat

00:20:58.850 --> 00:21:08.819

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and click on the north, on the Central North Pacific file. If you have any problems accessing this information, a member from our team would be more than happy to assist you.

00:21:12.910 --> 00:21:14.170

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: next slide, please.

00:21:17.660 --> 00:21:21.900

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: I'd like to finish this presentation by reviewing the types of comments we are seeking.

00:21:22.100 --> 00:21:26.710

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: And in the next slide I'll remind folks how to submit public comments.

00:21:26.920 --> 00:21:32.799

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: In particular, we are looking for information on amount and distribution of Green Turtle nesting and basking habitat

00:21:33.250 --> 00:21:36.540

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: current or planned activities and proposed areas

00:21:36.710 --> 00:21:43.010

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and any information on land use designations or existing management activities within these proposed areas.

00:21:47.540 --> 00:21:48.710

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Next slide, please.

00:21:52.280 --> 00:22:02.290

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: I want to thank you all for attend, for your attention this evening. And please, I encourage you to submit public comments on this proposal. Here are the 3 ways that you can do so.

00:22:02.360 --> 00:22:15.290

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: We do consider all public comments received, and it's important to the Fish and Wildlife Service to reach a collaborative, informed decision at this time. I'd like to turn it back over to Jenny Schultz, of NOAA Fisheries for their presentation

00:22:18.280 --> 00:22:19.470

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: next slide, please.

00:22:26.680 --> 00:22:29.510

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: and you can go ahead and advance it to the next slide.

00:22:33.000 --> 00:22:39.790

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Thank you. Thank you, Lasha. Hi, everyone! My name is Jenny Schulz, and I'm here to speak on behalf of NOAA Fisheries.

00:22:40.140 --> 00:22:44.930

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: So NOAA Fisheries is proposing to designate marine critical habitat

00:22:45.020 --> 00:22:57.310

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: for the North Pacific DPS, the Green Sea Turtles for our homeland. We began our process by looking at the range of the DPS, which is shown here in the gray lines.

00:22:57.700 --> 00:23:11.270

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We then looked at the portion of the range that occurs within the US EEZ or US waters, and that is shown here in purple lines. It's a circle around the Hawaiian Archipelago. Next slide, please.

00:23:15.550 --> 00:23:21.200

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We then asked what marine features are essential to the conservation of the DPS.

00:23:23.600 --> 00:23:25.419

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Oh, you can go back one slide.

00:23:31.650 --> 00:23:44.200

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Thank you. Alright. So Honu need to reproduce, and mating occurs in the water. Females also need to enter nest, which means between nesting they need to rest

00:23:44.350 --> 00:23:57.990

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: and re-ovulate or create new eggs. They also need access to and from their nesting beaches and hatchlings need access off their nesting beaches so they can begin their swim frenzy.

00:23:59.180 --> 00:24:07.650

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: All of this requires unobstructed waters off nesting beaches from the mean-high water line to 20-meter depths.

00:24:09.050 --> 00:24:14.779

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Honu also need to rest and eat. Juveniles, sub adults, and adults

00:24:15.400 --> 00:24:17.249

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: forage on seagrass,

00:24:17.320 --> 00:24:19.840

macro algae, and invertebrates.

00:24:20.600 --> 00:24:33.450

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: After eating they rest and digest. As they do so, either using the basking beaches that Lasha talked about or in underwater refugia. Underwater refugia may include ledges,

00:24:33.620 --> 00:24:42.220

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: corals, or even man-made structures. And that's where they rest, digest, thermos-regulate, and they also hide from predators there.

00:24:43.250 --> 00:24:51.569

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: and, foraging and resting require sufficient foraging and resting habitat, which also occurs from the mean high waterlines to

00:24:51.600 --> 00:24:54.770

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: the 20 meters depth. Next slide, please.

00:24:59.580 --> 00:25:14.740

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Our next step in this process was to identify the areas containing the essential features. The reproductive feature occurs all nesting beaches proposed for designation by the US Fish and Wildlife.

00:25:15.760 --> 00:25:26.669

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Benthic and foraging features occur in all near shore waters throughout the Hawaiian Archipelago. So, we use data on the turtles density and they're abundance

00:25:26.830 --> 00:25:31.159

to identify high and low conservation value areas.

00:25:31.310 --> 00:25:34.600

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We then compared those high and low values

00:25:34.850 --> 00:25:40.380

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: which are the benefits of the species to the economic cost of the designation.

00:25:40.900 --> 00:25:42.009

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Next slide, please

00:25:45.660 --> 00:25:54.940

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument supports many nesting beaches and resting beaches. Those are shown in black on this map.

00:25:56.590 --> 00:26:02.960

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: and it also supports many reproductive marine areas, and those are shown in green on the map.

00:26:04.200 --> 00:26:14.020

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Those shown in and green are the many high density foraging in resting areas in the Northwestern Hawaiian Island

00:26:15.580 --> 00:26:27.470

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Nihola and Moko Mana support lower densities of foraging and resting turtles. So we are proposing to exclude the area, these areas because the economic impact

00:26:27.680 --> 00:26:32.250

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: outweigh the conservation benefits. Next slide, please.

00:26:35.050 --> 00:26:46.389

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: In the main Hawaiian Islands, we're proposing to designate marine critical habitats off of US Fish and Wildlife proposed nesting and basking beaches. Again, these are shown in black.

00:26:47.140 --> 00:26:53.649

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We are also proposing to designate marine critical habitat in high density foraging and resting areas.

00:26:54.150 --> 00:26:57.040

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: All of these areas are shown in green, on this map.

00:26:58.550 --> 00:27:09.089

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We are proposing to designate from the mean high-water line to 20-meter depth around each of the Main Hawaiian Islands. With the exception of one area.

00:27:09.230 --> 00:27:18.729

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: we are proposing to exclude the waters of the area because the economic impacts outweigh the conservation benefits of that designation for the DPS

00:27:19.340 --> 00:27:20.339

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: next slide, please.

00:27:31.240 --> 00:27:43.670

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: So, what does all of this proposed marine critical habitat mean to you. Well, critical habitat, as Lasha said, is not a closed area. You can still use these areas to fish,

00:27:43.820 --> 00:27:53.529

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: swim, boat, surf, or dive. Critical habitat creates a regulatory requirement for Federal agencies

00:27:53.590 --> 00:28:01.380

to ensure that the activities they permit, fund, or carry out is not likely to destroy or adversely

00:28:01.520 --> 00:28:13.649

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: modified critical habitat. And these federal agencies are already consulting with us on these activities to ensure that they do, that those activities do not jeopardize the species.

00:28:16.010 --> 00:28:31.630

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Designation of critical habitat is based on the best available science and after considering economic, national security, and other impacts. Public input, including the comments that you provide to us tonight is a very important part of this process.

00:28:32.190 --> 00:28:33.259

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Next slide, please.

00:28:38.520 --> 00:28:53.420

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: So here is the timeline for that process. We proposed our rules and published them on July nineteenth. We're asking for your comments tonight, with those comments due on October seventeenth.

00:28:54.900 --> 00:29:07.319

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: While it seems like we have a lot of time to work on this final rule, we actually have to turn in a draft of that final rule in March for a three-month interagency review.

00:29:08.210 --> 00:29:11.880

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: then we have a statutory deadline to

00:29:11.930 --> 00:29:18.999

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: publish those final rules in the Federal Register by July nineteenth, 2024.

00:29:19.270 --> 00:29:20.450

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Next slide, please.

00:29:25.560 --> 00:29:29.369

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: So, we encourage you to submit your comments. By October 17,

00:29:29.490 --> 00:29:35.859

As Lasha said, scientific data and traditional knowledge on the turtles and their use of their habitats

00:29:36.050 --> 00:29:41.910

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: are especially important to us. You can submit your comments here at this hearing tonight.

00:29:42.340 --> 00:29:52.580

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: You can submit your comments by mail to these addresses, which are also provided on our website. And you can also submit your comments online via [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov).

00:29:54.240 --> 00:29:57.030



NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Next slide, please. And Megan, I'm going to turn it over to you.

00:29:58.740 --> 00:30:02.970

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Jenny, and thank you, Lasha, for those presentations.

00:30:03.270 --> 00:30:11.719

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We are now going to begin the Q&A portion of this meeting, this Q&A portion will last approximately 15 min.

00:30:11.890 --> 00:30:24.389

EMPSi - Megan Stone: As a reminder, the intent of this Q&A session is to answer questions related to the affected species, general proposed, critical habitat, or the rule making process.

00:30:24.530 --> 00:30:33.499

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We ask that you keep any questions related to the presentation. We will do our best to answer questions in the order they are received.

00:30:33.630 --> 00:30:43.219

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I'll first go over instructions for how to submit a question using the chat function, if you're using the Zoom web platform or zoom app.

00:30:43.860 --> 00:30:45.370

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Next slide, please.

00:30:48.520 --> 00:30:59.560

EMPSi - Megan Stone: At this time, if you have a question and you are using the Zoom, web platform or Zoom app, please go ahead and click on the chat icon at the bottom of your zoom screen.

00:30:59.790 --> 00:31:11.090

EMPSi - Megan Stone: If you hover your mouse over the bottom of your Zoom screen. The chat icon should appear. You may need to exit your full screen view and zoom to see the chat icon.

00:31:11.280 --> 00:31:25.990

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I've included a graphic on the screen where you can find the icon. You can then type your question in the chat box and please send it to host and panelists. I'll then read the question aloud for all participants to hear

00:31:26.010 --> 00:31:37.379

EMPSi - Megan Stone: An FWS or NOAA staff member will respond to your question aloud. We will try and do our best to answer questions in the order they're received.

00:31:37.730 --> 00:31:51.400

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Please note, there may be a pause between you asking your question and a team member answering the question. If you're calling in through the phone, and you have a question, please press Star 9 to raise your hand

00:31:51.490 --> 00:32:03.390

EMPSi - Megan Stone: to let us know you have a question. When it's your turn, I'll identify you by the last 4 digits of your phone number. I will then unmute you so that you can ask your question.

00:32:03.620 --> 00:32:07.599

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Again, a team member will then respond to your question aloud.

00:32:07.850 --> 00:32:15.380

EMPSi - Megan Stone: You may be muted on your end. If that is the case, we will prompt you to unmute yourself by pressing Star 6,

00:32:17.440 --> 00:32:23.009

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we'll go ahead and leave this slide up so people can see how to submit a question.

00:32:23.860 --> 00:32:27.809

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we'll get started with our first question in the chat.

00:32:28.140 --> 00:32:38.009

EMPSi - Megan Stone: which is, will you be offering another hearing so that our Maui community will be able to attend. And we'll turn that over to Lasha.

00:32:39.810 --> 00:32:42.019

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you, Megan, and thank you for the question.

00:32:42.250 --> 00:32:47.069

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Yes, it's very important that we provide these opportunities for public comments.

00:32:47.140 --> 00:32:52.859

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: A recording of tonight's meeting will be available on our official Fish and Wildlife Service website

00:32:53.110 --> 00:33:00.999

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and our meeting facilitators will be able to put that into the put that address into the chat shortly, if it's not already there.

00:33:02.010 --> 00:33:05.270

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: At that time, individuals are

00:33:05.420 --> 00:33:10.380

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: able to provide comments through the ninety-day public comment period

00:33:10.500 --> 00:33:19.200

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: of October seventeenth. and I, we do hope that this length of time offers appropriate

00:33:20.480 --> 00:33:25.170

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: period for folks to respond and provide their comments, which are very important to us.

00:33:26.230 --> 00:33:27.070

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you.

00:33:30.740 --> 00:33:32.160

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Lasha.

00:33:33.260 --> 00:33:34.370

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

00:33:36.960 --> 00:33:52.010

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We'll go ahead and move on to our next question. which is, what does this designation mean for landowners along the proposed units, and we'll go ahead and turn that over to Heidi.

00:33:54.410 --> 00:34:06.759

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: Yeah, thank you. Only activities that involve a federal permit license for funding and are likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat will be effective.

00:34:07.110 --> 00:34:14.969

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: If this is the case, we will work with the Federal agency, and landowners, including applicants, to amend their projects

00:34:14.980 --> 00:34:38.930

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: to enable it to proceed as a no effect to critical habitat, not likely to adversely affect critical habitat, or not likely to destroy or adversely modify critical habitat. Most federal projects are likely to go forward, but some may be modified to minimize harm. Critical habitat designations primarily affect federal projects and

00:34:39.372 --> 00:35:04.610

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: projects that are federally funded or authorized and do not typically directly affect citizens engaged in recreational activities, such as boating and fishing, recreational boating, and fishing. Critical habitat designations do not set up a preserve or refuge. Therefore, access and general use of these areas does not change with the Federal designation of critical habitat.

00:35:08.350 --> 00:35:10.089

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Great. Thank you, Heidi.

00:35:10.630 --> 00:35:13.090

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright! We'll wait a moment

00:35:13.150 --> 00:35:17.040

EMPSi - Megan Stone: while we look for more questions in the chat

00:35:17.220 --> 00:35:23.190

EMPSi - Megan Stone: again, if you'd like to submit a question to us electronically, you can type it out.

00:35:23.340 --> 00:35:30.360

EMPSi - Megan Stone: put it in the chat box and send it to host and panelists, and we'll read that question aloud and get someone

00:35:31.020 --> 00:35:42.769

EMPSi - Megan Stone: to respond to that question. And then if you're a phone caller this evening, you can press Star 9 to raise your hand, and we'll get you unmuted so that you can ask your question.

00:35:43.840 --> 00:35:47.700

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We'll go ahead and monitor and see if we have any hands raised.

00:35:48.280 --> 00:35:50.399

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and then we will

00:35:50.590 --> 00:35:54.790

EMPSi - Megan Stone: keep an eye on the chat for any questions submitted there.

00:36:15.420 --> 00:36:20.889

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, everyone, for your patience, as we wait for those questions to load in the chat.

00:36:40.650 --> 00:36:53.180

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and while we're waiting for those questions to load, we'll go ahead and paste the link to the US Fish and Wildlife Service Sea Turtle page, and that's going to be where you can find this recording

00:36:53.480 --> 00:36:55.310

EMPSi - Megan Stone: once it gets posted

00:37:13.240 --> 00:37:17.270

EMPSi - Megan Stone: alright, we do have our first question in the chat.

00:37:18.020 --> 00:37:32.450

EMPSi - Megan Stone: The question is, will CZMA, Determinations under 15 CFR. Part 930 sub. Part C. Be issued from US Fish and Wildlife Service

00:37:32.690 --> 00:37:38.130

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and NMFS for all jurisdictions applicable to the ruling.

00:37:38.420 --> 00:37:48.810

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So far, the CNMI Coastal program received a negative determination only from NMFS and not USFWS.

00:37:48.990 --> 00:37:51.760

EMPSi - Megan Stone: so, we'll go ahead and turn that over to Jenny.

00:37:54.320 --> 00:38:03.729

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Yes, hi, Arthur, thank you for your question, and you're absolutely right The Coastal Zone Management Act is a very essential part of

00:38:04.050 --> 00:38:16.510

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: a lot of NOAA Fisheries actions. So, we do a review of that, and thank you for saying, yes, you received our letter. We did a thorough review, and we think

00:38:16.540 --> 00:38:21.700

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We are proposing a negative determination. So, we look forward to talking to you about that

00:38:21.850 --> 00:38:34.340

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: and we will work with you through the next year, and then come up with our final determination, and we will put that in our final rulemaking and, of course, is what's going to be published July nineteenth, 2024.

00:38:34.730 --> 00:38:40.249

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: I don't want to speak on behalf of Fish and Wildlife, but I think that they are going to follow up with you on that.

00:38:42.750 --> 00:38:46.490

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Jenny. Lisa, do you have anything to add there?

00:38:47.190 --> 00:38:56.370

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Yes, most certainly. We will follow up with this particular question, and we're actually working on that with several avenues and partners at this time.

00:38:56.500 --> 00:39:09.020

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: And because we have identified who the individuals who ask the questions within the Q&A session someone from our team will definitely follow up with you to get a response to your question. Thank you.

00:39:09.610 --> 00:39:22.059

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you both. Alright, our next question is, will critical habitat affect beach nourishment or erosion activities, and we'll turn that over to Heidi.

00:39:24.160 --> 00:39:49.770

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: Yeah, the Service has been working with agencies on these types of projects and will continue to provide existing project recommendations in those instances maintaining natural beach stretches. You know, addressing erosion and maintaining the beaches and other coastal habitats is extremely important for Green Sea Turtle, as well as other wildlife that depend on them.

00:39:50.260 --> 00:40:03.020

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: and the Service is committed to working with agencies, communities, and beach landowners to use the various Endangered Species Act tools and flexibilities to support coastal resiliency.

00:40:05.210 --> 00:40:06.459

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Heidi.

00:40:07.990 --> 00:40:17.149

EMPSi - Megan Stone: alright. Our next question is, will you be going out to any of the communities with other outreach efforts? Or is this it?

00:40:17.200 --> 00:40:19.259

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And we'll turn that over to Jenny?

00:40:21.500 --> 00:40:34.240

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Yeah, thank you for this question. We knew that outreach would be a very important part of our going out and asking for comments. So thank you for bringing that to our attention.

00:40:34.270 --> 00:40:50.319

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We are. We're going out to American Samoa next week. We will be having an in-person public hearing there on August sixteenth, going to be the same time as this one was here. 6 to 8 PM. We'll open doors

00:40:50.810 --> 00:41:12.510

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: at 5:30 pm at the Lee auditorium in Utulei. We're also going to Guam. We'll have an in-person public hearing there on August 20. First. That's going to be the Hilton in Guam again. Doors are going to open at 530, and then we'll have a similar format to the hearing that you guys are at now. Questions

00:41:12.560 --> 00:41:20.399

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: and presentations starting at 6:00, and at 7:00 we'll start with the public statements, public comments.

00:41:20.580 --> 00:41:31.799

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: And then we're also having an in-person public hearing in Saipan at the Crown Plaza of Saipan. And that is going to be on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

00:41:32.220 --> 00:41:38.470

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Same thing doors open 530. We start with our informational meeting at 6:00, and public hearing at 7:00.

00:41:38.520 --> 00:41:46.520

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We are also having some informal meetings with the Rhoda mayor's office. That's going to be on August 22nd.

00:41:46.930 --> 00:42:01.580

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We're also going to have an informal meeting hosted by Tinian's mayor's office, and that is going to be August 24th. We will be having 2 more virtual public hearings very similar to this one.

00:42:01.750 --> 00:42:11.930

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: The next one will be for the Atlantic, both the North Atlantic and the South Atlantic DPSs, Fish and Wildlife is hosting that one, and that's going to be on August 29th.

00:42:12.470 --> 00:42:28.679

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: very similar. We're going to start at 6 Pm. With the informational meeting, and then 7:00 for our public hearing, and then finally, NOAA Fisheries is hosting a virtual public hearing for California. That's the East Pacific DPS,

00:42:28.690 --> 00:42:46.280

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: and because that DPS does not nest in the United States, it nests in Mexico. That's going to be only NOAA Fisheries' only design only proposing to designate marine critical habitat, and that, too, will also virtual. That will start at 6 PM.

00:42:46.330 --> 00:42:50.339

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Informational meeting and 7:00, 7:00 public hearing.

00:42:53.100 --> 00:43:06.789

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Jenny. And after we get through this question and answer, we can repost that information in the chat with all those in-person meeting dates and the virtual ones as well.

00:43:09.710 --> 00:43:20.260

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright. So our next question in the chat is, what coordination with DLNR on locations of critical habitat areas.

00:43:20.580 --> 00:43:23.959

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We'll turn that over to Lasha. And then, Jenny.

00:43:24.890 --> 00:43:29.520

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: thank you, Megan. Yes, the Fish and Wildlife Service we have coordinated quite

00:43:29.560 --> 00:43:31.710

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: quite

00:43:32.090 --> 00:44:00.390

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: quite frequently with the Department of Land and Natural Resources Here in Hawaii, with regards to our nesting areas, we do coordinate with division of aquatic resources under DNR, with regard to nesting data within the Hawaiian Islands. And so we absolutely prioritize this level of coordination with our States and our Territories. Because there are partners on the ground and work very closely with them. So, thank you so much for your question.

00:44:03.190 --> 00:44:05.860

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Jenny. Did you have anything?

00:44:06.000 --> 00:44:16.000

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Go ahead, very similar. Yep. We met we met with you back in 2015 when we first started talking about critical habitat. It's been a long process by now.

00:44:16.020 --> 00:44:36.759

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: We had in person meeting back then, and then we had several virtual meetings on the phone. You sent us your data. So thank you very much. We at NOAA Fisheries do what's called a draft biological report. That's where we gather all of our scientific data. We sent that to DLNR

00:44:36.820 --> 00:44:54.249

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: for review in 2017 quite a while ago. Thank you for reviewing that and providing your comments. And then, you know, we continue to gather data, and you continue to provide us data which we very much appreciate. And so we sent you our updated

00:44:54.400 --> 00:45:16.140

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: draft biological report last year in 2022, and thank you for reviewing that as well. And we, if you have any additional data, we are always very happy to receive that. And we can schedule a call or but you can always send that by email or through the processes that we've talked about here. Mail

00:45:16.160 --> 00:45:18.399

online at regulations.gov.

00:45:18.870 --> 00:45:24.890

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: or whatever. But thank you. Thank you very much for your partnership with us and all the data that you've provided to us.

00:45:26.380 --> 00:45:31.560

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you both. We'll go to our next question in the chat.

00:45:32.170 --> 00:45:40.770

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Will critical habitat designation mean there will be additional support for an area such as Monia Kaya

00:45:40.830 --> 00:45:46.109

EMPSi - Megan Stone: each, which is major, concentrated, foraging/ basking area

00:45:46.180 --> 00:45:57.510

EMPSi - Megan Stone: for HGST Honu? Currently we are totally dependent upon volunteers to ensure that Honu are respected and to educate the public.

00:45:57.640 --> 00:46:00.239

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we'll turn this one over to Lasha.

00:46:00.840 --> 00:46:06.350

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you, Megan, and thank you for the question. Yes, one of the one of the important aspects of

00:46:06.370 --> 00:46:16.149

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: critical habitat designation is that it does raise awareness, amongst the public and our conservation partners with regard to where the central areas

00:46:16.220 --> 00:46:30.399

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: that species needs are, where these areas are located on the landscape. So it does raise that awareness. And it is a important educational tool. And on that front we have had other projects, other critical habitat designations

00:46:30.500 --> 00:46:40.229

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: that have resulted in pooling of partnerships, so that these areas that are identified on the landscape that are important, essential to the conservation of a species.

00:46:40.240 --> 00:46:57.249

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and designated as critical habitat. They do receive additional support, not necessarily as part of the designation itself, but as a means of raising awareness amongst our conservation partners, and that's something that's also a side benefit, if you will, of critical habitat designation.

00:46:58.380 --> 00:47:03.570

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Is there anything you'd like to add up to that as well? Our NOAA Fisheries, partners?

00:47:09.850 --> 00:47:11.259

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: No, thank you, Lasha.

00:47:19.370 --> 00:47:31.160

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, if we don't have anything to add for that question. We can move on to the next one. We're happy to revisit that at any point. Alright.



00:47:31.990 --> 00:47:34.990

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Our next question in the chat is,

00:47:36.740 --> 00:47:46.410

EMPSi - Megan Stone: let's see here. Locals across our islands talk about nesting and basking sites that are not currently included in the proposed rules.

00:47:46.470 --> 00:47:53.229

EMPSi - Megan Stone: How much weight is given to indigenous science, slash knowledge, and we'll turn that over to Lasha again.

00:47:53.740 --> 00:48:07.190

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you, Megan, and thank you so much for this question. This is a really important aspect within our Department of Interior, US Fish and Wildlife. To be frank, the weight is equal.

00:48:07.310 --> 00:48:15.770

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: different knowledge sources different schools of thought. but the weight is equal, and it's very important for the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office

00:48:15.780 --> 00:48:22.360

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: that we incorporate indigenous knowledge that these our communities across the pacific guidance holds.

00:48:22.380 --> 00:48:28.540

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and it's really important. And we really invite and welcome this this sharing of information.

00:48:28.560 --> 00:48:37.390

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: So that we, the Fish and Wildlife Service, can be better informed and have the best product with regard to critical habitat designation for our

00:48:37.750 --> 00:48:44.590

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: very important, natural, and cultural resource of our Green Sea Turtles. So yes, it is a very important and

00:48:44.680 --> 00:48:50.040

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: as equal to any other source of information that we would receive through the public comment process.

00:48:51.870 --> 00:48:53.130

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Lasha.

00:48:53.830 --> 00:49:05.150

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We've got another question coming up for you, which is, will critical habitat designation affect driving and camping on the MHI beaches?

00:49:07.280 --> 00:49:09.499

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you, Megan, and thank you for this question

00:49:09.630 --> 00:49:13.760

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: with regard to our proposed critical habitat areas,

00:49:13.800 --> 00:49:17.409

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: all of our proposed critical habitat units in the terrestrial

00:49:17.460 --> 00:49:26.049

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: environment, the nesting habitat, they're all, as you mentioned, and the presentation they are occupied. Meaning they are already present.

00:49:26.100 --> 00:49:29.750

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: And so any restrictions that

00:49:30.040 --> 00:49:34.220

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: are in place for these areas with regard to nesting and basking

00:49:34.290 --> 00:49:36.169

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: have are

00:49:36.360 --> 00:49:44.049

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: very much like we already in place with regard to restrictions. As far as enforcement is able to reach these areas.

00:49:44.160 --> 00:50:03.120

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: And so we do not expect that critical habitat designation would enforce or affect and produce any additional restrictions within our driving and camping areas in the mainline islands. Because, again, these areas that are proposes critical habitat are already occupied by Green Sea Turtles for nesting and basking.

00:50:05.200 --> 00:50:17.039

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Lasha. Alright! Thank you, everyone for your participation so far we have one more question in the chat, and then we'll move on to the public hearing portion.

00:50:17.960 --> 00:50:31.740

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and it looks like we got one more question in the chat, in addition. So I think we probably have time for those 2 before moving on. Our next question in the chat is a follow up on the community outreach question.

00:50:32.350 --> 00:50:48.280

EMPSi - Megan Stone: The question is, will USFWS and NMFWS be conducting additional public community outreach meetings in Hawaii, or is it a one shot deal in each jurisdiction? And we'll turn that over to

00:50:49.070 --> 00:50:52.769

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Jenny and then see if Lasha has anything to add.

00:50:57.020 --> 00:51:05.559

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: Okay, so I'll speak to the in-person hearings out in the Pacific Island territories. So there's no official need on that.

00:51:05.670 --> 00:51:09.990

Yes, those are our only scheduled hearings.

00:51:10.040 --> 00:51:13.429

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: One in person.

00:51:13.620 --> 00:51:20.539

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: formal hearing at each of the Territories too informal out into me and devoted as well.

00:51:20.640 --> 00:51:47.800

NOAA - Jenny Schultz: But we are recording each of the formal in-person hearings. So one in Utulei, Guam, and Saipan, we will make that available on our website as well as a transcript of that. And of course we do encourage people to use the many methods that we have to submit their comments, either through mail online or at one of those hearings. And then, Lasha, I'm going to turn that over to you for Hawaii.

00:51:49.020 --> 00:51:50.330

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you so much, Jenny.

00:51:50.370 --> 00:51:54.449

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Yes, and it looks like the question was was specific to

00:51:55.040 --> 00:52:03.610

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: additional public community outreach meetings in in Hawaii. And so yes, we do have obviously this this virtual public meeting here.

00:52:03.630 --> 00:52:13.389

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: And we do also for Fish and Wildlife Service, we often invite specific native Hawaiian organizations or meetings with

00:52:13.740 --> 00:52:32.010

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: state agencies and partners during the 90 day Public comment period as a means to further educate and provide outreach and solicit public comments from specific partners. So that is also an option. And we do we do schedule those as well when we receive those requests.

00:52:32.040 --> 00:52:37.000

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Again, public comments and engaging with our partners during this

00:52:37.030 --> 00:52:42.010

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: time of public comment period is very important to the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office.

00:52:42.120 --> 00:52:42.939

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you.

00:52:45.740 --> 00:52:49.390

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Lasha. And again, in a moment

00:52:49.620 --> 00:52:56.029

EMPSi - Megan Stone: we will post the information about those in person meetings in case anyone's interested.

00:52:58.180 --> 00:53:05.890

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright. Our next question, our final question before we move into the comment session is,

00:53:05.940 --> 00:53:16.820

EMPSi - Megan Stone: how is that first modification to critical habitat defined at what threshold this critical habitat impacts become adverse modification.

00:53:17.060 --> 00:53:19.750

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We'll turn that over to Ron first.

00:53:20.570 --> 00:53:29.149

NOAA - Ron Dean: Hi, yeah. So as for the Regs destruction or adverse modification means a direct or indirect alteration

00:53:29.420 --> 00:53:41.009

NOAA - Ron Dean: that appreciably diminishes the value of critical habitat as a whole for the conservation of a listed species. The important parts of that definition are

00:53:41.430 --> 00:53:53.299

NOAA - Ron Dean: appreciably diminish, and the critical habitat as a whole. So an activity, in order to cause destruction or adverse modification

00:53:53.350 --> 00:53:56.190

NOAA - Ron Dean: would need to appreciably affect

00:53:56.600 --> 00:54:03.110

NOAA - Ron Dean: the habitat or appreciably diminish the quality of the critical habitat- all of the critical habitat

00:54:03.290 --> 00:54:10.640

NOAA - Ron Dean: in order to reach the threshold of adverse modification or destruction. So a small activity

00:54:10.820 --> 00:54:13.430

and a localized area

00:54:13.610 --> 00:54:21.660

NOAA - Ron Dean: would be unlikely to cause adverse modification or destruction, whereas a large activity, such as

00:54:21.820 --> 00:54:34.359

NOAA - Ron Dean: hypothetically the Federal Government authorizing a pesticide that would destroy or affect foraging habitat throughout all of the islands

00:54:34.370 --> 00:54:39.040

NOAA - Ron Dean: would be more likely to cause adverse modification or destruction.

00:54:39.130 --> 00:54:49.149

NOAA - Ron Dean: So it's unlikely that small activities or minor activities would cause adverse modification or destruction and any activity that may affect

00:54:49.650 --> 00:54:58.449

NOAA - Ron Dean: an element of critical habitat would undergo consultation, and we would determine that.

00:55:03.410 --> 00:55:12.319

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Ron, for the answer to that one. I think we do have time for one last question that we just got in the chat.

00:55:12.360 --> 00:55:15.780

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we'll still have an hour for the public hearing portion.

00:55:16.670 --> 00:55:29.550

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Our next question in the chat is, with loss of critical nesting habitat due to climate change, do you plan to include new nesting areas? And we'll turn that over to Heidi.

00:55:39.970 --> 00:56:05.910

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: Yeah, we are looking at what the impacts are currently to critical habitat. We definitely took climate change into consideration that is described in the proposed rule. But we can't necessarily guess right now where Green Sea Turtles are going to be moving to as climate change continues to change the environment.

00:56:05.910 --> 00:56:27.020

USFWS - Heidi Crowell: So as we continue to monitor the species and look at conservation values into the future, we're able to get a better idea of where turtles may be moving to and potentially take additional consideration and recovery efforts, looking at those areas where the turtles may move to in the future.

00:56:29.850 --> 00:56:41.109

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you, Heidi, for that response that concludes our question and answer session for tonight. So we'll go ahead and move into the public hearing portion. Now

00:56:42.550 --> 00:56:44.010

EMPSi - Megan Stone: next slide, please

00:56:49.110 --> 00:56:57.449

EMPSi - Megan Stone: alright. So, as I mentioned, we're now going to officially start the verbal public hearing portion of tonight's meeting

00:56:57.540 --> 00:57:08.629

EMPSi - Megan Stone: to receive comments related to the proposed terrestrial and Marine critical Habitat designations for the Green Sea Turtle in the Central North Pacific

00:57:08.700 --> 00:57:17.690

EMPSi - Megan Stone: within and surrounding the Hawaiian Archipelago. It is currently 7 PM Hawaii time.

00:57:17.920 --> 00:57:26.809

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Again, this verbal public comment portion of the meeting, along with your comments, is being recorded as part of the official record

00:57:26.920 --> 00:57:33.030

EMPSi - Megan Stone: as a reminder, Your camera and mic control settings are restricted during this time.

00:57:33.430 --> 00:57:40.509

EMPSi - Megan Stone: You'll only be able to talk if and when you are unmuted, so please remember to speak when prompted.

00:57:40.950 --> 00:57:42.480

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Next slide, please.

00:57:47.800 --> 00:57:57.049

EMPSi - Megan Stone: The US Fish and Wildlife Service, and NOAA would like to hear from all members of the public who are interested in voicing their comments.

00:57:57.140 --> 00:58:00.469

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So we will be using the following guidelines today.

00:58:00.720 --> 00:58:09.479

EMPSi - Megan Stone: First, please be mindful of the length of your comment, so that everyone who wants to speak has an opportunity to do so.

00:58:09.820 --> 00:58:23.679

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We have around 14 pre-registered commenters this evening. and we will call on call on your name in order registration. Second, please be respectful of others in their viewpoints.

00:58:23.760 --> 00:58:34.310

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Third, please refrain from using profanity while passion is welcome in your comment, policy requires that we mute anyone who uses inappropriate language

00:58:34.350 --> 00:58:38.709

EMPSi - Megan Stone: because we are recording this meeting, and others may be live streaming.

00:58:38.820 --> 00:58:41.629

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So please avoid inappropriate language

00:58:41.780 --> 00:58:51.639

EMPSi - Megan Stone: if that does happen we'll provide a reminder before unmuting the person to try again, using words acceptable to all ages.

00:58:52.130 --> 00:58:53.539

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Next slide, please.

00:58:58.050 --> 00:59:07.560

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and on the screen here we have some graphic showing you where you can access the raise hand feature. But first we'll

00:59:07.660 --> 00:59:09.760

EMPSi - Megan Stone: go back a slide

00:59:13.780 --> 00:59:14.650

EMPSi - Megan Stone: alright.

00:59:16.040 --> 00:59:24.770

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Sorry about that, so I'll read through the instructions for those participants who indicated they wanted to offer verbal public comment

00:59:24.910 --> 00:59:39.400

EMPSi - Megan Stone: when they pre-registered for today's meeting. We have a list of these participants. Comments will be accepted in the order that people registered. Again, if you registered before the start time of tonight's meeting,

00:59:39.690 --> 00:59:51.920

EMPSi - Megan Stone: you are on a pre-registered commenter list. If you are on this list when it is your turn to provide your comment, we'll read your name aloud from the list and display your name.

00:59:53.810 --> 01:00:04.479

EMPSi - Megan Stone: You can access the raise hand feature by clicking on either the reactions icon or the participants list icon, which are both located at the bottom of your Zoom screen.

01:00:04.620 --> 01:00:17.180

EMPSi - Megan Stone: If you wave your mouse back and forth across the bottom of your Zoom screen. These icons should appear. You may need to exit out of your full screen view and zoom to see these icons.

01:00:17.410 --> 01:00:25.610

EMPSi - Megan Stone: You can then select the raise hand feature located either in the reactions icon or at the bottom of your participants list.

01:00:25.870 --> 01:00:38.759

EMPSi - Megan Stone: or if you're calling in through the phone, please press Star 9 to access the raise hand feature. Once you have raised your hand, you will then be unmuted so that you can provide your verbal public comment.

01:00:39.150 --> 01:00:53.720

EMPSi - Megan Stone: you may be double muted. If that is the case, we will prompt you to unmute yourself on your end, so that we can hear you. Please spell out your first and last name for the record before providing your verbal public comment.

01:00:54.130 --> 01:00:58.279

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And note if you are representing an organization or group.

01:00:59.990 --> 01:01:10.660

EMPSi - Megan Stone: After you've provided your comment, we will mute you and move to our next commenter. And once we've worked our way through the preregistered commenters list. If we have time,

01:01:10.840 --> 01:01:22.970

EMPSi - Megan Stone: we'll move on to those who registered after the start time of tonight's meeting who selected. They wanted to offer a comment. And if we have time remaining after we've worked our way through those participants,

01:01:23.070 --> 01:01:30.539

EMPSi - Megan Stone: we will open up the verbal public comment portion of tonight's meeting to anyone who would like to offer a comment today

01:01:30.590 --> 01:01:43.850

EMPSi - Megan Stone: who has not already done so. And we would like to remind folks that you are welcome to provide comments in the Hawaiian language. So with that, we'll move on to the next screen

01:01:45.230 --> 01:01:50.160

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and just give you guys a look at where you can find that, raise hand feature.

01:01:50.290 --> 01:01:55.430

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And then again, if you're on the phone, you can press Star 9 to raise your hand.

01:01:57.440 --> 01:02:01.879

EMPSi - Megan Stone: so we'll pause here, and then we'll go ahead and get started

01:02:03.520 --> 01:02:06.239

EMPSi - Megan Stone: so we can move to the next slide, please.

01:02:10.620 --> 01:02:11.530

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:02:12.310 --> 01:02:17.510

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Our first preregistered commenter tonight is Lauren Bullard

01:02:17.970 --> 01:02:24.490

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Lauren. If you're on with us and you'd like to provide a comment, still, please access the raise hand feature.

01:02:25.760 --> 01:02:29.830

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I don't see that we have Lauren in our list of

01:02:30.060 --> 01:02:34.420

EMPSi - Megan Stone: pre-registered or in our participants list.

01:02:34.620 --> 01:02:40.780

EMPSi - Megan Stone: so we'll give it a second here, and then we can always circle back if she joins late.

01:02:42.530 --> 01:02:47.849

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, our next pre-registered commenter is John Gorley.

01:02:48.940 --> 01:02:55.770

EMPSi - Megan Stone: John, if you'd like to provide a comment tonight, please raise your hand and we'll go ahead and get you unmuted.



01:03:01.010 --> 01:03:01.960

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:03:03.230 --> 01:03:14.190

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I see you in our list, but no hand raised, so feel free to chat us If you'd like to provide a comment and you're having trouble accessing that raise hand feature.

01:03:14.410 --> 01:03:22.420

EMPSi - Megan Stone: but if not, we'll go ahead and move on to our next pre-registered commenter, which is Evan Goldberg.

01:03:25.620 --> 01:03:28.119

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I don't see Evan on our list,

01:03:29.260 --> 01:03:31.260

EMPSi - Megan Stone: but we can circle back.

01:03:33.270 --> 01:03:34.310

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:03:36.320 --> 01:03:41.660

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Our next pre-registered commenter is Kevin Nishimura

01:03:42.300 --> 01:03:53.670

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And Kevin, if you'd like to provide a comment, you can access the raise hand feature. You can find that button in your participants list or near the reactions icon.

01:03:53.720 --> 01:03:55.629

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So we'll give it a second here.

01:04:06.120 --> 01:04:22.850

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, I don't see a hand raised from Kevin. So we'll move on to our next preregistered commenter. Who is Mimi Orri? Mimi if you'd like to provide a comment tonight, you can go ahead and access the raised hand feature.

01:04:23.570 --> 01:04:25.939

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And we'll just give you a moment here.

01:04:29.100 --> 01:04:36.380

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And if anyone is having trouble finding that raise hand feature, feel free to chat us, and we can go ahead and help you out.

01:04:38.340 --> 01:04:45.849

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, I don't see a hand raised from Mimi. So we'll go to Michael Foley.

01:04:47.010 --> 01:04:55.860

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I don't see Michael in our participants list, but we'll give it a second here, and then we can circle back to see if they can join later.

01:05:00.000 --> 01:05:01.370

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:05:02.980 --> 01:05:08.479

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Our next pre-registered commenter is Verna Sanheli

01:05:10.680 --> 01:05:17.440

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Verna. If you'd like to provide a comment, and you're here with us tonight, you can raise your hand.

01:05:20.280 --> 01:05:30.920

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, I don't see Verna on our participants list this evening. So, we will move to our next pre-registered commenter. Who is Corey Harden?

01:05:36.130 --> 01:05:46.700

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And I don't see any hands raised from Corey. So we will move on. Our next commenter is David O'Brien.

01:05:47.100 --> 01:05:52.900

EMPSi - Megan Stone: David, if you'd like to provide a comment tonight, you can access that raise hand feature

01:05:53.130 --> 01:05:54.999

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and let us know you're ready.

01:05:56.420 --> 01:05:58.099

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Give me a moment here.

01:06:02.650 --> 01:06:04.110

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:06:10.170 --> 01:06:14.339

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Okay, we will move on to our next pre-registered commenter.

01:06:14.440 --> 01:06:22.999

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Max Phillips. I see you in our list. If you would like to provide a comment tonight, please raise your hand.

01:06:25.820 --> 01:06:38.269

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And if folks would rather provide written comments, we have the information up on the screen of where you can provide those comments. You can do that electronically through

01:06:38.280 --> 01:06:42.649

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Federal register.gov and enter that docket number.

01:06:42.850 --> 01:06:46.259

EMPSi - Megan Stone: or you can submit them hard copy.

01:06:46.310 --> 01:06:56.570

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we have that mailing address. So you'll see that there's 2 different docket numbers in 2 different

01:06:58.370 --> 01:07:02.460

EMPSi - Megan Stone: mailing addresses, one for the Service and one for NOAA.

01:07:02.770 --> 01:07:06.370

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So be sure to give those a look.

01:07:07.870 --> 01:07:08.720

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:07:08.970 --> 01:07:17.619

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We have a few more people who indicated they might want to provide a comment. Our next pre-registered commenter is, Jim Howe.

01:07:19.530 --> 01:07:29.200

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Jim Okay, see your hand raised, Jim. I'll go ahead and unmute you. and then, if you can spell your first and last name for the record. That would be great.

01:07:30.730 --> 01:07:31.640

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Hi! There!

01:07:35.400 --> 01:07:39.799

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And I'll go ahead and oh, looks like you got unmuted. Hi, Jim!

01:07:39.860 --> 01:07:48.450

Jim Howe: Hello! Hi! I'm Jim! Hi my first name is JIM. Last name HOWE. And my comment.

01:07:48.460 --> 01:08:01.329

Jim Howe: I apologize. I missed the beginning of the presentation, so I may be redundant. But my concern is how this is going to be enforced.

01:08:01.430 --> 01:08:07.249

Jim Howe: and how there's going to be what is going to be the process to minimize

01:08:07.270 --> 01:08:13.839

Jim Howe: user conflicts on both in the water and at the beaches on, particularly on the island of Oahu.

01:08:14.330 --> 01:08:17.109

Jim Howe: With our very heavy beach usage.

01:08:17.420 --> 01:08:23.329

Jim Howe: And that's kind of goes to the heart of my comment and my question. I didn't see anything

01:08:23.950 --> 01:08:27.529

referencing that in any of the information that I looked through.

01:08:28.550 --> 01:08:29.430

Jim Howe: Thank you.

01:08:30.760 --> 01:08:40.500

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you for your comment, Jim. We appreciate it. We'll go ahead and place you back on Mute here and lower your hand.

01:08:44.910 --> 01:08:53.320

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we'll move on to our next person who indicated they might like to provide a comment. Who is Lynn Bowen?

01:08:54.600 --> 01:08:58.800

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I don't see we have Lynn in our participants lists.

01:08:59.069 --> 01:09:01.519

EMPSi - Megan Stone: but we'll give it a moment here and see.

01:09:02.700 --> 01:09:04.950

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Person has a comment.

01:09:12.220 --> 01:09:13.180

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:09:13.950 --> 01:09:21.060

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Our next person who indicated they might wanna provide a comment is Christina Shantay Tudella

01:09:21.359 --> 01:09:28.220

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Christina, if you'd like to provide a comment, please raise your hand. We'll give you a moment here.

01:09:37.660 --> 01:09:41.139

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, I don't see that they have their hand raised.

01:09:42.240 --> 01:09:51.279

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And we'll go ahead and do a quick check and see if anyone registered after the start time of the meeting and signed up to provide a comment.

01:09:55.660 --> 01:09:56.830

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright.

01:09:57.070 --> 01:10:01.329

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I'm not seeing anyone there, so we'll go ahead and open up the meeting.

01:10:01.390 --> 01:10:07.239

EMPSi - Megan Stone: At this time, if you'd like to provide a comment, please feel free to raise your hand.

01:10:08.270 --> 01:10:14.700

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, I see we have a hand raised from Lana Meyer. Go ahead and unmute you. Now.

01:10:17.280 --> 01:10:18.140

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Hi, there!

01:10:18.970 --> 01:10:25.369

Luanna Meyer: Hello! My name is Luanna Meyer, LUANNA MEYER.

01:10:25.430 --> 01:10:28.169

And I'm a resident of Oahu in Hawaii.

01:10:28.440 --> 01:10:36.489

Luanna Meyer: I've been a Mala Malama in Auna guardian for 10 years, and a Hawaiian marine animal response volunteer for 2 years.

01:10:36.650 --> 01:10:38.600

Luanna Meyer: That's monk seals.

01:10:38.850 --> 01:10:45.569

Luanna Meyer: I have no particular expertise in marine sciences or marine biology, but I'm a professor emeritus of education.

01:10:45.860 --> 01:10:50.859

Luanna Meyer: and I'm completely aware of the need for understanding of the public need for outreach.

01:10:51.380 --> 01:11:02.419

Luanna Meyer: that when we choose to recreate, operate commercially, or even live in the net set of wildlife, there needs to be respect for our responsibility to the animals.

01:11:02.830 --> 01:11:11.510

Luanna Meyer: The life cycle of a Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle requires feeding Limu offshore at shoreline breeding and nesting in safe areas.

01:11:11.760 --> 01:11:19.700

Luanna Meyer: underwater shoreline areas of reduced disturbance. All of this is in your very well crafted list of guidelines for the proposal.

01:11:19.910 --> 01:11:32.690

Luanna Meyer: Unrestricted corridors. You. Probably you know that the Hawaiian Green Sea Turtle travels 500 miles to the French Frigate Shoals to breed and nest, although they're increasingly nesting on Oahu

01:11:33.130 --> 01:11:42.729

Luanna Meyer: and those narrow, migratory corridors need to be protected with dark, unrestricted, unobstructed waters off nesting beaches.

01:11:43.020 --> 01:11:47.090

I'm particularly concerned about the Oahu North Shore

01:11:47.420 --> 01:11:53.640

Luanna Meyer: in the concentrated foraging, nesting area, resting area, basking area of Lania Kaya Beach.

01:11:54.140 --> 01:12:01.679

Luanna Meyer: which isn't officially a beach with amenities, and yet every 15 min busloads of fans and tourists are dropped off

01:12:01.810 --> 01:12:04.169

to see the Hawaiian Green Sea turtles.

01:12:04.410 --> 01:12:12.369

Luanna Meyer: It's an important basking beach for foraging, and it's been totally reliant on volunteers for almost 20 years now.

01:12:12.450 --> 01:12:17.739

Luanna Meyer: I'm just hoping that this designation as a protected as a habitat,

01:12:18.040 --> 01:12:21.849

Luanna Meyer: would result in some further considerations for management,

01:12:22.010 --> 01:12:27.949

Luanna Meyer: and possibly even protections. So public is generally respectful,

01:12:28.000 --> 01:12:33.720

Luanna Meyer: but not always, and volunteers can't do everything. Thank you.

01:12:36.090 --> 01:12:42.289

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Thank you for your comment. We'll go ahead and place you back on mute

01:12:42.350 --> 01:12:44.510

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and lower your hand.

01:12:46.730 --> 01:13:04.119

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And then I did hear that this evening we had one person who wasn't able to join for the beginning of the presentation, and that's totally okay. We just wanted to remind folks that you will be able to access recording of this presentation

01:13:04.140 --> 01:13:08.050

EMPSi - Megan Stone: later on, and I'll go ahead and post that link in the chat

01:13:08.450 --> 01:13:12.830

EMPSi - Megan Stone: again for everyone. So you can bookmark that and know where

01:13:12.890 --> 01:13:14.509

EMPSi - Megan Stone: the recording will go.

01:13:15.350 --> 01:13:21.500

EMPSi - Megan Stone: It does take a little bit of time to get those posted, but we hope to have that up as soon as possible.

01:13:22.570 --> 01:13:30.499

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And then just another brief reminder that if you'd like to provide a comment in Hawaiian this evening. You're welcome to do so.

01:13:31.940 --> 01:13:34.799

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And at this time we'll keep

01:13:35.420 --> 01:13:45.530

EMPSi - Megan Stone: an eye on our participants list and see if anyone raises their hand. We'll be accepting comments for the next 45 min.

01:13:45.880 --> 01:13:52.260

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And we have the information up on the left side of the screen for how you can raise your hand

01:13:52.410 --> 01:13:58.870

EMPSi - Megan Stone: to let us know you'd like to provide a comment. And then on the right, you can see that

01:13:59.020 --> 01:14:11.670

EMPSi - Megan Stone: commenting information. So comments can be submitted electronically, or by US mail as long as they're postmarked on or before. October seventeenth,

01:14:11.930 --> 01:14:19.090

EMPSi - Megan Stone: 2023, 11:59 PM Eastern time, 5:59 PM Hawaiian time.

01:14:19.710 --> 01:14:28.190

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And then we have those 2 different docket numbers, one for the service and one for Noah. and same goes for the mailing addresses.

01:14:28.490 --> 01:14:37.459

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We'll also get that posted in the chat, and then we are gonna go ahead and post as well the information about all the

01:14:37.730 --> 01:14:44.900

EMPSi - Megan Stone: other in person and virtual meetings that will be happening in case anyone is interested in attending those.

01:15:10.570 --> 01:15:14.540

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright looks like we have that information posted in the chat.

01:15:14.860 --> 01:15:26.099

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And for anyone who missed the beginning of the presentation, we'll be having virtual and in person meetings for specific geographic areas.

01:15:26.530 --> 01:15:30.079

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And we have those areas listed. There's a meeting,

01:15:30.430 --> 01:15:32.580

EMPSi - Megan Stone: a virtual meeting this evening.

01:15:32.630 --> 01:15:34.310

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We have another

01:15:34.530 --> 01:15:45.340

EMPSi - Megan Stone: meeting in Utulei, and that's August sixteenth, and that's in person. There's an in-person meeting in Guam on August twenty-first.

01:15:45.720 --> 01:15:49.910

EMPSi - Megan Stone: an in-person meeting in Saipan, August twenty-third.

01:15:50.550 --> 01:16:01.450

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And then we have a meeting that covers Florida and Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, and that's gonna be a virtual meeting on August twenty-ninth.

01:16:01.600 --> 01:16:04.320

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we'll have a Spanish translator there.

01:16:06.880 --> 01:16:17.220

EMPSi - Megan Stone: and we've also posted some links where you can just find the project websites, the NOAA Project website, and then the Service Project website.

01:16:18.540 --> 01:16:25.520

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So we'll go ahead and keep our eye on that participants list and see if anybody would like to provide a comment.

01:16:26.340 --> 01:16:37.149

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We highly encourage you to provide verbal comments tonight. But we understand if you'd like to provide written comments, and we highly encourage that as well.

01:16:37.310 --> 01:16:41.280

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So we look forward to hearing from everyone. Thank you.

01:21:53.560 --> 01:22:02.599

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Hello again, everyone. Just remind wanted to remind folks that we are still in the public hearing portion of tonight's meeting.

01:22:02.850 --> 01:22:15.049

EMPSi - Megan Stone: So, we'll be ready to listen to your comments until 8 pm. Hawaii time. If anyone would like to provide a comment. We have those instructions up on the screen.

01:22:15.330 --> 01:22:19.530

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And you can raise your hand to let us know you're ready.

01:27:32.050 --> 01:27:38.510

Hello, again everyone. Just a reminder that you're welcome to provide verbal public comments tonight.

01:27:38.690 --> 01:27:42.750

EMPSi - Megan Stone: We'll be here for another 30 min or so

01:27:42.860 --> 01:27:55.039

EMPSi - Megan Stone: ready to accept your comments, and then we'll provide some closing remarks. And if you'd like to provide a comment, we have those instructions up on the screen.

01:27:55.240 --> 01:27:58.390

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And then we also have information in the chat

01:27:58.720 --> 01:28:01.330

EMPSi - Megan Stone: with all of the

01:28:01.390 --> 01:28:04.379

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Web page information and the comment



01:28:04.620 --> 01:28:11.150

EMPSi - Megan Stone: mailing addresses and docket numbers for you guys as well. Thank you.

01:37:21.920 --> 01:37:32.790

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Hello, everyone. We have about 20 min left in our virtual public hearing tonight. So if you would like to provide a comment, please feel free to do so.

01:37:32.950 --> 01:37:43.569

EMPSi - Megan Stone: You have those instructions up on the screen. And we'll keep an eye on the attendee list and see if we have anyone new join us who might like to provide a comment.

01:37:43.620 --> 01:37:45.100

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Or if anyone

01:37:45.240 --> 01:37:48.650

EMPSi - Megan Stone: besides, they wanna comment, we will

01:37:49.020 --> 01:37:53.850

EMPSi - Megan Stone: check for those raised hands and then get you unmuted. Thank you.

01:52:40.520 --> 01:52:58.180

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright. Everyone looks like we have a little bit of time left until our public hearing portion ends at 8 pm Hawaii time. So, if anyone has any last minute comments they'd like to provide, please, access that raise hand feature.

01:52:58.760 --> 01:53:04.149

EMPSi - Megan Stone: And then after that we will move into some closing remarks.

01:59:45.270 --> 01:59:47.770

EMPSi - Megan Stone: Alright, everyone. We

01:59:47.880 --> 01:59:51.700

EMPSi - Megan Stone: reached the conclusion of a public hearing this evening.

01:59:51.780 --> 01:59:57.529

EMPSi - Megan Stone: I'm going to go ahead and turn it back over to Lasha for some closing remarks.

01:59:58.540 --> 02:00:02.049

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: Thank you so much, Megan and the rest of the EMPSi team.

02:00:02.100 --> 02:00:03.490

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: We really appreciate it

02:00:03.650 --> 02:00:14.110

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and thank you to everyone who joined us this evening. Thank you for sharing your space, time, and energy. We look forward to receiving your continued public comments through October seventeenth.

02:00:14.280 --> 02:00:21.959

USFWS - Lasha Lynn Salbosa: and on behalf of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries, we really want to thank you again and please be safe. Aloha.