

The Voice of OCEANIA



Look to the Source,
Look to the Sea

Website: www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania

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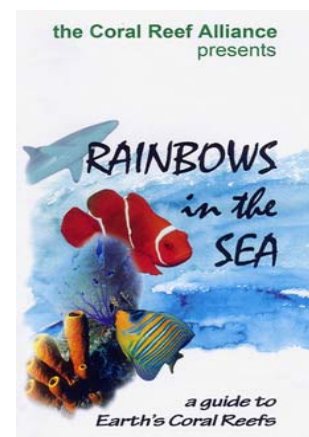
OCEANIA agrees on initiatives to activate group

OCEANIA met on April 14, 2007, at Hanalani Schools, Mililani, Oahu, in collaboration with the Hawaii Science Teachers Association spring conference. During the meeting, Petra MacGowan presented on the International Year of the Reef 2008 and Tammy Rach presented on the DolphinQuest teachers guides.

During the business portion of the meeting, OCEANIA members agreed to use the logo for the NMEA 2005 conference, held in Maui and hosted by OCEANIA, as the official OCEANIA logo. The group also voted to have an OCEANIA newsletter that

will be made assessable by email and on the OCEANIA website. Dr. Karolyn Braun of the American Samoa Community College volunteered to serve at the editor. The group also voted to meet more frequently and have some fun, ocean-related gatherings. It is hoped that through these efforts OCEANIA will become more active, provide more benefits to its members and increase its numbers.

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants were offered a variety of handouts, including posters on the *Rainbows in the Sea* video by Coral Reef Alliance and Earthwise Media as well as a



DVD and teacher's guide on building life-size, life-like anatomical models of fish provided by Jonathan Barron, a marine biology teacher in California.

Change in command at the UH Marine Option & Marine Biology Programs

Sherwood Maynard was unable to attend the April 14 OCEANIA meeting because he was attending the University of Hawaii (UH) at Manoa's Marine Option Program (MOP) Symposium. However, he sent a note to

OCEANIA to announce that beginning July 1, 2007, he will no longer be the director of MOP or of the UH at Manoa's Bachelor of Science in Marine Biology Program. Dr. Cindy Hunter will be replacing him in these two posi-

tions. He will continue to serve as director of the UH at Manoa's Biology Department and plans to retire at end of 2008.



OCEANIA membership update & survey results

Keeping track of current OCEANIA members has been challenging. Our official membership includes those residing in the U.S. flag and affiliated Pacific islands who join NMEA at the national level. A few problems have surfaced. First, unless these people register as an affiliate member belonging to the OCEANIA chapter, NMEA does not classify them as belonging to OCEANIA. Second, there currently is no system in place for NMEA national to inform OCEANIA when members from the U.S. Pacific islands join or are dropped from their register. Work is underway to rectify the situation by soliciting a

volunteer to be an OCEANIA membership officer and working to better coordinate record-keeping efforts with NMEA national.

As with other NMEA chapters, OCEANIA membership numbers swelled when we hosted the NMEA national conference. The reason is membership to NMEA is included as part of the conference fee. Therefore, in 2005, our membership jumped to 82 official members. A year later, the numbers plummeted as those who registered at the conference did not renew their NMEA membership. Our official number is now down to about a dozen, which is equal to the number of

regular participants we have at our OCEANIA meetings. However, these people are not necessarily the same, because not all of the educators who attend our meeting are official (i.e., paid) members. Recently, we've combined the list of persons from the OCEANIA geographical area from the current and 2005 NMEA database and added the lists of persons who have participated in OCEANIA meetings in recent years. Efforts are being made to encourage all 102 of the persons so listed to rejoin NMEA OCEANIA, and to join HaSTA as well. The Spring 2007 HaSTA newsletter, the *Catalyst*, sent to OCEANIA members have mailing

labels with the recipient's NMEA expiration date included, and they are being asked to check the date and renew if their membership is expired. We are also working to provide more benefits to members, including more activities and an OCEANIA newsletter.

NMEA recently asked its chapters to survey the composition of their membership. An email was sent to OCEANIA members, and 13 responses came back. Here are the results: 1 teacher (K-12); 1 nonformal science center; 1 nonformal aquarium; 5 University instructor/professor and 4 state / federal government. Clearly, we need to work on recruiting more K-12 teachers.

Efforts underway to prepare for the International Year of the Reef

The International Year of the Reef (IYOR) will be celebrated in 2008 to raise public awareness and protection of reefs. Efforts are already underway locally, nationally and internationally to make this coordinated but decentralized event a success.

Petra MacGowan of the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources (HDAR) is taking the lead to coordinate events

in Hawaii. MacGowan is the chair of the IYOR Committee of the Hawaii Coral Reef Outreach Network (CRON). The CRON website at www.hawaiiireef.org will be the clearing house for IYOR-related events in Hawaii.

Contact MacGowan at Petra.MacGowan@hawaii.gov.

OCEANIA is working to

organize a coral spawning event on July 16, 2007, in part to consider IYOR activities it might want to pursue to celebrate IYOR in 2008.

JoAnn Leong of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Dave Gulko of the Hawaii Department of Aquatic Resources, Mark Heckman of the Waikiki Aquarium and Dr. Cindy Hunter of the University of Hawaii have been helping OCEANIA representative Sylvia Spalding on planning the 2007 event.

On the national level, the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force's Outreach and Education Working Group has made IYOR the focus of its monthly meetings.

NMEA is considering dedicating one of its 2008 issues of *Current* to coral reefs, but it needs a sponsor.

On the international level, the International Coral Reef Initiative (ICRI) dedicated much of its meeting in April to IYOR. Alissa Barron of the NOAA Coral Reef Program stopped by Honolulu on her return from the ICRI meeting in Japan to present an update on IYOR. Her presentation at the NOAA Pacific Services Center's blue bag lunch on April 30 was well attended. Barron noted that during the ICRI meeting the IYOR 2008 logo had been selected. To view the logo, go to the IYOR official website www.iyor.org.



Alissa Barron presents on the upcoming International Year of the Reef

Highlights from the NMEA March 2007 Board Meeting

The National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) board met March 28, 2007, in St. Louis. The meeting was held in conjunction with the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) annual national conference. Sylvia Spalding represented the OCEANIA chapter at the meeting. Below are some of the major topics discussed. Spalding discussed the International Pacific Marine Educators Conference (IPMEC) held in Honolulu, January 15-18, 2007. Spalding had chaired the conference, which was hosted by the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Nearly 100 marine educators from 18 countries participated in this inaugural event, which has established a Pacific-wide network of marine educators. Several NMEA members attended. The conference can be viewed online at www.coexploration.org/ipmec. It was videotaped by Peter Tuddenham of the College of Exploration and chair of the NMEA International Committee. Ben Namakin,

environmental educator for the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and a new member of the NMEA OCEANIA chapter, was elected as the chair of the network. The next conference is being planned. Spalding, Tuddenham and Namakin will deliver a presentation on IPMEC at the upcoming NMEA conference July 23-27, 2007, in Portland, Maine. To join the Pacific network, please contact Namakin at bnmakin@yahoo.com.

As a follow on to the IPMEC, Spalding had proposed the creation of an NMEA Traditional Knowledge Committee. The NMEA Executive Committee considered the proposal in early 2007. They supported the concept and asked that Spalding organize a meeting of interested parties to flush out the proposal. The organizing meeting will be held in conjunction with the NMEA conference in Portland, Maine, in July. Interest has already been expressed from indigenous and traditional community representatives from the Northern

Mariana Islands, Hawaii, the Pacific Northwest and the Atlantic northeast. For more information, contact Spalding at Sylvia.spalding@noaa.gov.

Another outcome of IPMEC was a proposed extension of the Ocean Literacy (OL) Essential Principles and Concepts to include Pacific cultures. Craig Strang had presented on OL at IPMEC. Strang noted that there also had been interest at the Conference on Ocean Literacy (CoOL) conference to embellish some of the OL Essential Principles and Fundamental Concepts to enhance topics of interest to the Great Lakes. Strang said money was included in the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) West and California to work on convening meetings about OL with the Great Lakes and Pacific Island cultures. Other OL initiatives include the following:

- The NMEA Executive Committee has voted to financially support COSEE for an OL CD.



The children's CD by the Banana Slug Band focusing on OL should be available within a year. The music will also be a part of the concerts given by the group for years to come.

- The TERC report that analyzes Earth science standards and frameworks for all 50 states and the District of Columbia will be available at www.oesd.noaa.gov. Integrated into the report will be the OL Essential Principles and Concepts. It is hoped that state standards concerning ocean sciences will be changing as a result.

- The NMEA board will be sending a letter asking NSTA to endorse, support and promote the OL initiative.

To learn more about OL, view Strang's OL presentation given at IPMEC at www.coexploration.org/ipmec, the OL PowerPoint developed for use by NMEA members at www.marined.org and/or the OL Network site at www.coexploration.org/oceanliteracy.

NMEA Chapters Committee Update

NMEA chapters are being asked to provide information on their history to NMEA for posting on history section of the NMEA website. Fourteen of the 17 NMEA regional chapters currently have entries. OCEANIA currently is not included. If anyone can help provide information on the history of OCEANIA and/

or documentation on when OCEANIA became affiliated with NMEA, please send this information to sylvia.spalding@noaa.gov.

NMEA chapters are discussing the ability to receive 501.3C status and insurance through NMEA. OCEANIA

has 501.3C status through its affiliation with the Hawaii Science Teachers Association (HaSTA).

The Puerto Rico chapter is reorganizing to come back into NMEA.

To join the Pacific network, please contact Namakin at bnmakin@yahoo.com



IPMEC

Calendar of Events

NMEA 2007 Annual Conference



**Portland, ME
July 23-27, 2007**



The 2007 NMEA conference will be held July 23-27, in Portland, Maine. It is being hosted by the Gulf of Maine Marine Education Association. The conference theme is "Downeast2007: Ideas, Innovations and Inspirations." Early registration for the conference has been extended to May 30. For more information, go to <http://gommea.org/downeast2007/default.html>.

Other upcoming events:

June 24 to 27 The 20th Annual Pacific Congress on Marine Science & Technology (PACON International): "Ocean Observing Systems and Marine Environment." www.hawaii.edu/pacon

July 4 Turtle Independence Day, Maunalani Bay Resort, Big Island, Hawaii.

July 7 Teachers Workshop on Hawaii, Seafood Industry. Pier 38, Honolulu. Email: Jennifer Dang at JDANG@honolulu.gannett.com

July 9 to 12 Pacific Educational Conference (PEC): "Language Acquisition: Knowledge That Empowers." Honolulu. www.prel.org/pec2007/2007.asp

July 16 NMEA OCEANIA Coral Spawning Workshop (tentative). Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, Kaneohe, Oahu. Sylvia.spalding@noaa.gov

Aug. 20 to 23 The 18th U.S. Coral Reef Task Force Meeting - American Samoa. www.coralreef.gov

Oct. 19 to 20 SOEST Open House: "Ocean Depths to Outer Space." University of Hawaii at Manoa, Honolulu. Learn about volcanoes, tsunamis, El Nino, planetary exploration, hurricanes, coastal erosion, marine ecosystems and more. www.soest.hawaii.edu/openhouse or hickst@hawaii.edu

Oct. 20 Hawaii Science Teachers Association (HaSTA) spring conference. Farrington High School, Honolulu. www.hasta.us

A Date to remember:

October 20, 2007

**HaSTA Spring
Conference!**

JOIN OCEANIA

OCEANIA is the Marine Science Section of the Hawaii Science Teachers Association (HaSTA) and the regional chapter of the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) that includes American Samoa, Chuuk, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Yap and other Pacific island nations. OCEANIA brings together those interested in the study and enjoyment of the world of water--both fresh and salt. It includes professionals in education, science, business, government, museums, aquariums and marine research. For more information on joining OCEANIA, visit www.hawaii.edu/mcc/oceania.

If anyone has information for the next OCEANIA newsletter, please email

Karolyn Braun: K.braun@ascc.as or Sylvia Spalding: Sylvia.spalding@noaa.gov

OCEANIA at the NSTA Conference

OCEANIA was active at the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) annual national conference March 28 to April 1, 2007, in St. Louis. During the NMEA Share-A-Thon, the OCEANIA tables were staffed by Sylvia Spalding of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, Amy Gollenberg of DolphinQuest and Erin

Baumgartner and Kanesa Duncan of the Curriculum Research & Development Group (CRDG), University of Hawaii. Baumgartner and Duncan also gave a presentation on “Strategies for Ecological Study of Coastal Environments,” and CRDG had a booth in the main exhibit area.

NMEA is planning to have

another Share-A-Thon at the 2008 NSTA conference in Boston. If it does, OCEANIA plans to participate.



Kanessa Duncan, Erin Baumgartner, Sylvia and Sarah Spalding and Amy Gollenberg staff the OCEANIA table during the NMEA Share-a-thon at the NSTA 2007 national conference.

OCEANIA highlights from the HASTA Spring 2007 Conference

The Hawaii Science Teacher Association (HaSTA) annual spring conference this year focused on international education and featured the theme “Hawaii, the Bridge Where East Meets West.” The HaSTA board of directors kicked off the conference with a reception for guest speaker Mike Padilla on April 13, 2007, at the Honolulu Zoo. The National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) OCEANIA chapter/HaSTA marine science section was represented at the reception by OCEANIA representative Sylvia Spalding and OCEANIA member Dr. Karolyn Braun, an American Samoa Community College marine science instructor.

At the conference the next day, the OCEANIA exhibit table featured handouts from NMEA, the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council, DolphinQuest and the Coral Reef Alliance. Tammy Rach, education supervisor for

DolphinQuest, helped Braun and Spalding, media and education specialist for the Fishery Council, staff the table.

Padilla, a University of Georgia science education professor and National Science Teachers Association past president, and Elizabeth Corbin of the Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism provided the keynote talks.

Padilla discussed the important role that science teachers play in producing students who are not only science educated but who can become productive citizens in our ever changing society. “If we don’t get our workforce engaged intellectually, we’re going to be left behind,” Padilla stated.

Padilla also stressed the increasing number of students in the country who are English language learners (ELL). Hawaii ranked among the top five states in the nation with the highest

percentages of ELL students. Science teachers must also be teachers of the English language, Padilla commented.

Corbin shared Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Innovation in Education Initiative.

The remaining one-day affair was full of information, collaboration, and discussion with professionals representing all educational levels, various scientific disciplines and local science organizations. Patty Miller of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary introduced a new standards based marine science curriculum for Hawaii’s students, and Mari Taira of Farrington High School provided an overview of a marine science summer program on the Big Island that incorporates in-class instruction with hands-on field experiences in the

ocean.

The next HaSTA conference will be held on Saturday, October 20, 2007, at Farrington High School. When more information becomes available it will be posted at the HaSTA website at www.hasta.us

