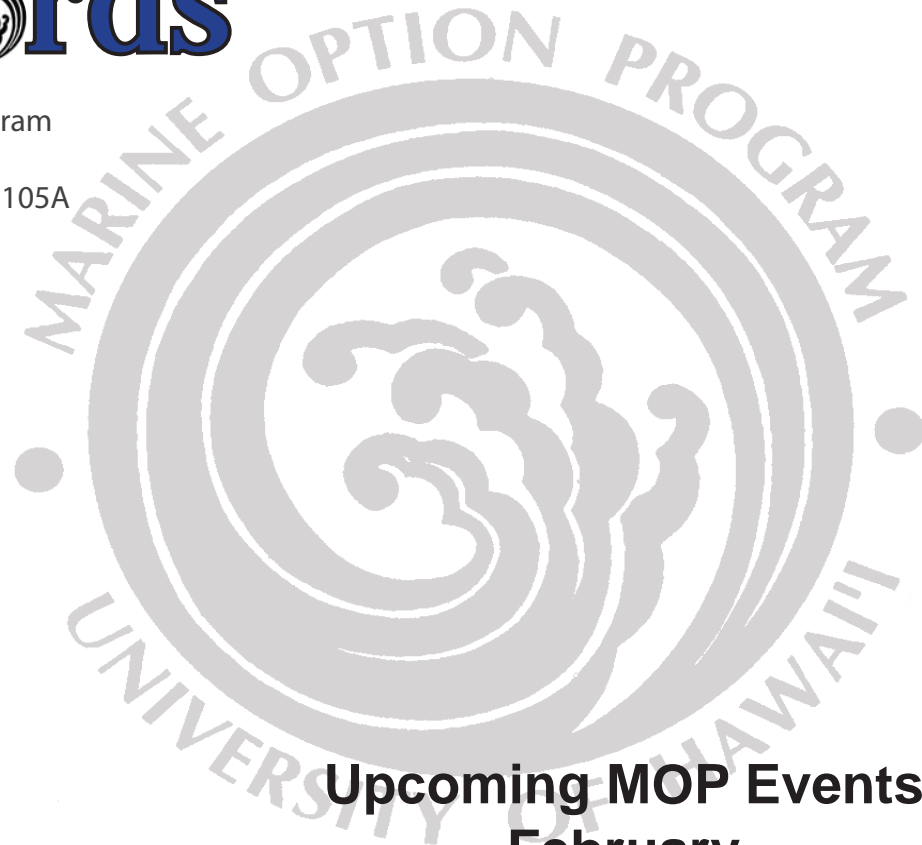


Seawords

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
 Seawords, Marine Option Program
 College of Natural Sciences
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Address Service Requested



February 2012

Upcoming MOP Events February

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- 9: Upcoming Events at Hanauma Bay
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- 4th Evening/ Night Snorkel Trip & Picnic
Time: 4:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m Location: TBA
- 18th-20th Maritime Archaeology Symposium
Time: 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m
Location: National Marine Sanctuary Conference Room
- 25th Whale Count
Time: 7:00 a.m.-12 p.m
Location: Makapuu Lighthouse

* For a complete schedule of events please visit Dean Hall 105 A

More resources are available on the MOP webpage:

<http://www.hawaii.edu/mop>

Past Issues and Color Versions of Seawords

<http://www.hawaii.edu/mop/seawords>

Seawords
 Volume XXVI, Number 2, February 2012

Editor: Cianna Beltran

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Dr. Cindy Hunter (éminence grise)

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Seawords is a monthly newsletter of the Marine Option Program at the University of Hawai'i. Opinions expressed herein are not necessarily those of the Marine Option Program or of the University of Hawai'i.

Suggestions and submissions are welcome. Submissions may include articles, photographs, art work, or anything that may be of interest to the marine community in Hawai'i and around the world.

Seawords

February 2012 • Volume XXVI • Number 2

Discoverer of Great Pacific Garbage Patch Speaks at UH Mānoa Event

By Naomi Lugo, Assistant Editor

Captain Charles Moore, known for his work on the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and ocean pollution, spoke as the keynote for the UH Mānoa “Semester of Sustainability Kick-Off” event on January 17th. Various environmental groups and school clubs informed the public of their efforts and future projects in the Campus Center Ballroom.

Captain Charles Moore founded Algalita Marine Research Foundation in 1994 with a focus on the health of the California coast lines. After a race to Hawai'i in 1997, the foundation shifted its focus to the problem Moore found in the North Pacific Subtropical Gyre. “If it’s calm it sort of looks like a giant salt shaker has sprinkled bits of plastic onto the surface of the ocean.” Moore said in an interview with NPR about what he has seen in the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch is now estimated to be twice the size of Texas and located about half way between California and Hawai'i.

“My goal here today is to start the plastic conversation,” Moore said to the crowd gathered at the event. Moore further advocated his message by wearing a large hat from Holland that was made from recycled



Captain Charles Moore
 Photo Courtesy of Jonathan Alcorn/Bloomberg News

plastic bags while speaking. Moore went on to speak about responsibility for the garbage mass “7 billion people are the bad guys.” Rather than putting blame on an unknown group or person, Moore emphasized the influence that each person needs to make. To NPR he said “As responsible as we like to think we can be, given the huge amount of plastic packaging we have to wade through every day, and the tiny little bits and edges and parts of plastic packages that we have to tear apart to get at our goods, it’s very difficult even

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Photos From Mānoa MOP's Bi-annual Back to School BBQ



Photos courtesy of Jeff Kuwabara

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for the most responsible consumer not to contribute to this ocean's plastic load.”

Moore continued by explaining the how Hawai‘i would have a strong economic basis for becoming zero-waste. Due to the size of the Islands, space is especially limited when it comes to storing waste. Moore advocated a way for this and other environmentally progressive ideas to become reality through efforts brought forth by groups like the clubs and organizations represented at the event. Moore then offered encouragement for the undertaking by saying “every incipient movement is marginalized and laughed at, at first.”

Moore and co-author Cassandra Phillips signed copies of the book *Plastic Ocean* after the talk and a Q&A.

For more information on the Algalita Research Foundation visit their website at www.algalita.org

For more information on the clubs & organizations at the event visit the event page www.hawaii.edu/calendar/manoa/2012/01/17/17251.html



Holaniku

A photographic exhibition of Kure Atoll and other Northwestern Hawaiian Islands by Ilana Nimz to benefit the Kure Atoll Conservancy

February 5-29, 2012
 at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden
 at the end of Luluku Road in Kaneohe
 Reception on February 12, 2012
 from 3-6 pm

All images are available by donation, benefiting restoration efforts
<http://kureatollconservancy.org/>

Submissions Welcome!

Any artists, poets, writers, photographers, or scientists out there with marine-related interests?

Share your talent with the marine community and get your work published in *Seawords*.

We accept any original work having to do with the ocean.
 All work should be submitted to your nearest MOP office for delivery to *Seawords*,
 or email us at seawords@hawaii.edu

Please be sure to include your full name and contact information so we can give you credit for your work.



23rd Annual Symposium on Maritime Archaeology and History of Hawai'i and the Pacific

“Diving into History Technical and Sport Exploration of Shipwrecks”

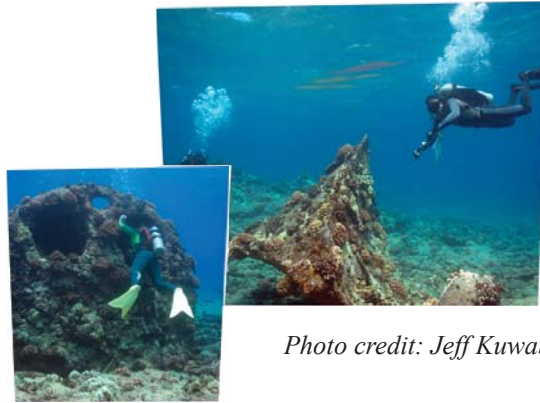


Photo credit: Jeff Kuwabara

February 17th-20th, 2011 (Presidents' Day weekend)

Located at the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sactuary Office
6600 Kalaniana'ole Highway, Suite 301
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96825

Registration begins at 8 a.m.

Conference: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*Student and Military Discounts available

Co-sponsored by the Marine Option Program, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, NOAA Office of
National Marine Sanctuaries and the Maritime Archaeology and History of the Hawaiian Islands
(MAHHI) Foundation

For more information please visit : <http://www.hawaii.edu/mop>



Maui College Fish Survey

By Amber Simon, Maui MOP Student

We all live in a... white submarine? On December 2, 2011, the University of Hawai'i Maui College Marine Option Program students took a trip down in the Atlantis Submarine to perform a fish survey around the North Reef and the *Carthaginian*. In December 2005, the Atlantis Submarine sunk the *Carthaginian*, a replica of an 1840's sailing ship. In doing this, it has created an artificial reef where otherwise would be a sandy bottom.

Fish surveys are done to monitor how a sunken ship impacts the reef. One fish survey is done at the North Reef and another is done around the *Carthaginian*. There were four important data sheets and one that was of lesser importance; almost every student was given one. The data sheets consisted of the schooling fishes such as goatfish, snappers, and soldierfish; another sheet contained food fishes like the surgeonfish and the parrotfish; the last data sheet included ornamental species such as the butterflyfish.

The students of UH Maui College Marine Option Program have done this survey at least once a semester for the past six years since the *Carthaginian* was sunk. One major difference that the students noticed was that there were more schooling fishes around the North Reef than around the *Carthaginian*. Conducting a submarine fish survey is a great way for students who are not SCUBA certified to get hands-on experience with underwater surveying techniques. Thank you to the crew at the Atlantis Submarine who made this trip possible.



UH Maui MOP students had the opportunity to conduct fish surveys of the North Reef and around the *Carthaginian* on the Atlantis Submarine.

Photo Courtesy of Amber Simon, Maui MOP student

Exploration of the *HMS Victoria*

By Jacob Vandor, Mānoa MOP Student

About a week ago I went into the MOP office and noticed a posting about the weekly Thursday Night Lecture Series at Hanauma Bay. This particular lecture was by a British tech-diver who would be discussing his exploratory dive of the *HMS Victoria*, a wreck found just off the Lebanese coast. I was stoked! As both a diver and maritime archaeology student this seemed like an opportunity to learn something interesting and different from the everyday. I couldn't help but think about when Jeff Kuwabara, Mānoa MOP coordinator always says to "not let school stand in the way of your education."

So I went to the lecture. A small group of ocean enthusiasts, that included Rich Pyle, Hans Van Tilburg, Dave Pence, Ray Boland, Tony Montgomery, Jason Leonard, and our very own Jeff Kuwabara to name a few, were gathered in the auditorium at Hanauma Bay. Mr. Mike Rowley the head of the Technical Diving Committee of the British Sub-Aqua Club delivered a fascinating and funny PowerPoint presentation. With a very entertaining presence Rowley told us about the history of the *HMS Victoria*. He talked about the fatal flaw in the ship's design, her last-minute additional 16 inch guns that would later terminally undermine the buoyancy of the ship.

Then Rowley began to explain the characteristics of the men that commanded the *Victoria*, particularly the Admiral in charge, Sir George Tryon. After commenting on the flaws of the ship's design Rowley began to examine the human error that ultimately led to disaster. While completing maneuvers a few miles off Lebanon, Sir Tryon had ordered the fleet to make a radical and dangerous course change that sent the *HMS Camperdown* and *HMS Victoria* hurtling towards each other's bows and into an inevitable collision. The poor *Victoria* fell away rammed and badly damaged, but as Rowley explained, it was her fatal design that sent her to the bottom.

Rowley finished his lecture by discussing the dives he and his crew made on the wreck. In an incredible twist of fate, Rowley surprised all by explaining that because of the extra weight on the bow of the ship from her 16 inch guns the ship now juts vertically from the bottom. That is, the ship is planted bow first into the substrate and rises up almost 150m like a grain silo.

Rowley then discussed the trials and travails of taking a full team of divers complete with tons of diving equipment into Lebanon to dive, and then only diving two days on the *HMS Victoria*. At which point he had

Continued on page 9...

Calendar of Events at UH Sea Grant's Hanauma Bay Education Program

Marine Science in East O`ahu

February 2, 2012

Capturing Economic Rents to Pay for Conservation of Sensitive Sites

By: John Dixon, Retired Lead Environmental Economist, World Bank Institute

February 9, 2012

Restoration of Two Impaired Hawaiian Streams Using Native Plants and its Effect on Coastal Systems

By: Carolyn Unser, Environmental Scientist, Sustainable Resources Group International Inc., and M.S. Graduate, Natural Resource and Environmental Management, UHM

February 16, 2012

Fishponds of Maunalua Bay

By: Joe Kennedy, UH School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

February 23, 2012

Mālama Honua: Protecting the Environment through Service Learning Projects that Bridge Science and Traditional Knowledge and its Impact on our Community

By: Michelle Kapana-Baird, Teacher, Kaiser High School

For more information or questions please contact:

Hanauma Bay Education Program

100 Hanauma Bay Rd. Honolulu, HI 96825

Phone: (808) 397-5840 Email: hanauma@hawaii.edu

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the entire audience sympathetically nodding their heads. No one envied the experiences of backroom bribes and local politics necessary to dive on the wreck. Then Rowley showed the room a short video of just one of his dives, and suddenly I found myself very envious. Needless to say I have vowed to one day dive that wreck because, simply put, it looked awesome. The point is, I'd like to encourage other MOP students to come by the MOP office, and you never know when something will be posted that just seems to have your name on it.

***This presentation was a part of UH Sea Grant Hanauma Bay Education Program entitled:

"Exploration of *HMS Victoria*, a Deep Wreck off Lebanon", by Mr. Mike Rowley, Head, Technical Diving Committee of the British Sub-Aqua Club

For more information or to see the upcoming events please visit: <http://hbep.seagrant.soest.hawaii.edu/>

A Day in Honolulu Harbor

By Cianna Beltran, Editor

Just a few days after the New Year a crew aboard the *Ocean Pearl* was making their way back to Honolulu Harbor when, much to their surprise, humpback whales began swimming alongside their boat. Together, the humpback whales and the *Ocean Pearl* continued the seven day, 400 mile journey back to the harbor.

The crew wondered if the whales would follow them into the harbor. When the boat reached the harbor the whales continued to swim side by side with the *Ocean Pearl*, even after the vessel docked; reported crew member Willy Winn. Winn shared his story with KHON2 news stating that the whales followed them into the harbor at around 7 a.m. on January 5th, 2012.

Chris Kojima was on Young Brothers' *Manu o Ke Kai* when he noticed the whales surface in the harbor. "They were so close to us I could touch them," said Kojima. For many the sight of humpback whales is common during whale season but seeing them so close to shore was a very different experience. "I've never seen anything like that before just so close the bumps, the wiggle of the fat fin, it was unreal," said Kojima.

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) received a call about the other humpback sightings in the harbor. "There have been reports of up to six animals actually in the harbor the additional four humpback whales were spotted near piers two and three," said Eric Roberts, USCG Marine Mammal Response Coordinator.

The authorities believed that four whales found their way out while two others stuck around for a swim. The USCG and the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Division of Conservation and Resource Enforcement (DOCARE) officers patrolled the waters and maintained a 100 yard security zone to ensure the



On January 5th, six whales made a surprising trip into Honolulu Harbor.
Photo courtesy of KHON2 News

animals' safety. The response boats kept an eye on the whales and notified the tower of whales' whereabouts. The information was then passed on to the vessels that were entering or exiting the harbor.

After seven memorable hours the whales finally made their way out to sea and regular activity continued in the harbor.

To see videos from this event please visit:
http://www.khon2.com/content/news/editorschoice/story/WATCH-Humpback-Whales-in-Honolulu-Harbor/PdkhCO9CkmedijF_5gHJA.csp

Generation Blue: Actions for the Ocean

By Naomi Lugo, Assistant Editor

The ocean spans over 70 percent of our world. It is responsible for regulating temperature, food production, sustaining numerous marine species, and is a source for inspiration among multiple other things. The ocean gives us so much and it is time for us to return the favor to take actions to make the ocean ecosystem healthy again. Almost every action that we take affects the ocean in some way. Our everyday choices can be tailored to sponsor a healthy ocean. Here are some examples of green acts that will keep the ocean blue!

If you have a suggestion for a green act, email us at seawords@hawaii.edu with subject line Generation Blue to submit your idea.



1) Avoid standing when swimming, snorkeling or diving around coral reefs. This can do major damage to the delicate ecosystem.

2) Decorate your desktop with images of the ocean. A colorful ocean scene on your laptop or desktop computer will serve as a daily reminder of what needs to be protected.

NOAA has ocean wallpapers at their website:

oceanservice.noaa.gov/wallpaper.html

Or for surf wallpaper check out: surfermag.com/wallpapers

3) Watch an ocean documentary with a friend. Informing people about ocean issues is a major step in ocean protection, and getting friends involved can make it fun!

4) Want to let someone you know you're thinking of them with zero paper waste? Send an ocean e-card! You will save money on postage when you send a card through e-mail.



Images of angel fish, whale sharks and other marine animals can be found here:
coral.org/what_you_can_do/spread_the_word/ecards

5) Minimize food waste. It takes energy to create food. Prepare only what you will eat since the stuff you throw away will also end up in a landfill and contribute to greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.



Who is Killing the Endangered Hawaiian Monk Seals?

By Cianna Beltran, Editor

In recent months a total of four Hawaiian monk seals were killed in Hawai'i. The first two deaths occurred on the island on Moloka'i. One was reported in mid-November and the second in December. In January, the third mysterious death occurred on Kaua'i. Since then a fourth death is currently under investigation on Moloka'i. Who is to blame and why would someone kill an endangered animal?

The deaths of these magnificent creatures come as a surprise to many, especially because the Hawaiian monk seal is loved by not only the Hawaiian people but local residents and tourists alike.



The Hawaiian monk seal population is estimated at only 1,100. If we fail to protect these animals we may lose them forever.
Photo courtesy of Charles Littnan, NOAA

The two deaths on the south shore of Moloka'i were deemed suspicious after necropsies were conducted on the animals. The deaths included an adult male and a young female. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) Chairperson, William Aila, Jr. reported to the media that he was sad to hear about the recent incidents. "Especially the loss of a young female who would have helped restore the diminished seal population," said Aila.

"Monk seals are an important part of the Hawaiian ecosystem and need to be respected as a valued part of our natural and cultural environment. The harm to one is a blow to Hawai'i," Aila said.

Act 165, was passed by state Legislature in June 2010, and is aimed at increasing the penalties for harassing or killing a monk seal. Failure to comply with these regulations will result in potential fines of \$50,000 or more. Since the crime is now classified as a Class C felony, the perpetrator(s) could serve up to 5 years of imprisonment. Hawaiian monk seals are also protected under federal laws such as the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 and the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The critically endangered Hawaiian monk seal population is estimated at only 1,100 seals with that being said, it is crucial that we protect these creatures before they go extinct.

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Majority of the population reside in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) and parts of NWHI have been designated a critical habitat since the 1980's. NOAA is proposing to expand the federally protected zones for the seals, which would include parts of the main Hawaiian Islands.

Some fishermen believe that these new regulations will affect their rights to fish. Some people also have this notion that the monk seals do not belong in Hawai'i because they are not native to the islands. However, archaeological digs have contradicted this belief. Monk seal bones have been found in a trash pit dating between the 15th and 18th century. The Hawaiian creation chant better known as the Kumulipo mentions a "rat running beside the wave." Scholars of Honua Consulting have teamed up with NOAA and created a project named Nā Mea Hulu and they believe that this reference might be describing a monk seal. However, the reference in the Kumulipo is still uncertain. Walter Ritte, a Moloka'i resident and activist reported to the media that, "this negative attitude towards the seals has overpowered the concern that is a species that's going to become extinct."

The concern should not revolve around fishing regulations or whether not this species is native. The fact of the matter is the monk seal lives in Hawai'i and is found nowhere else in the world so our focus should be on how we can help restore the monk seal populations before it is too late.

The Humane Society of the United States along with some conservation groups rounded up \$15,000 to offer as a reward and got an anonymous donor to match it. The \$30,000 will be split into three \$10,000 rewards for the first three suspected cases.

Anyone with information related to these deaths should call the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement hotline at 1-800-853-1974 or Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) at (808)643-DLNR (3567).

For more information please visit:

<http://mauinow.com/2011/12/23/moloka%E2%80%98i-monk-seal-deaths-under-investigation/>

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45911740/ns/us_news-environment/t/hawaiian-mystery-whos-killing-endangered-seals/

<http://www.khon2.com/news/local/story/Monk-seal-deaths-prompts-30-000-reward/QbuDqHesh0CCF-GC-mJ2HQ.csp>