NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program

**Project Progress Report**

1. Award Number: NA13NOS4820014
2. PO #: *C41574*
3. Amount of Award: $ 61,231
4. Recipient: Mike Hamnett and Kristine Davidson
5. Project Title: **Coral Fellow Project Implementation - Year II**
6. Award Period: (January 16,2014 - January 16, 2015)
7. Period Covered by this Report: April 1, 2015 – September 30, 2015
8. Summary of Progress and Expenditures to Date: *All objectives have been met through this project, a curriculum was developed for the Makai Watch program, Maui Conservation Action Plans were tracked, coordination was fulfilled for three major Rapid Response Contingency Plan events, assistance was given to coordinating the US Coral Task Force Meeting on Maui, and the support was provided for consolidating the NOAA grant.*

**Projects**:

1. **Project Title**: Coral Fellow Project Implementation - Year II
   * + 1. **Project Status** (please x): No activities to date \_\_\_\_ Planning \_\_\_\_

In progress \_\_\_\_ Completed \_\_x\_\_

* + - 1. **Summary of Project Accomplishments (by each objective):**

**1. Finalize and implement Awareness Raising and Outreach Curriculum for Makai Watch Program**

* Wrote questionnaire and implemented survey to DAR, DOCARE staff and field experts on the baseline ecological and marine resource management topics for Makai Watch volunteers
* Created content for ARO Curriculum guidelines document and supporting materials for MW community training focusing on identifying state-regulated marine species and explanation of DAR rules
* Implemented evaluation on effectiveness of the ARO Curriculum in three Makai Watch communities during Makai Watch trainings
* Wrote report on the final successes, lessons learned, and next steps for use of the ARO Curriculum with additional Makai Watch and other community groups, recommendation for DAR staff and DOCARE staff to take on future implementation of the curriculum

**2. Coordination of Molokini and Wahikuli-Honokowai Conservation Action Plans (CAPs)**

* Assessed progress of the Molokini and Wahikuli-Honokowai CAP implementation through development of work plans and operational plans for both teams
* Created 2-page summaries of Molokini and Wahikuli-Honokowai CAP progress
* Created website for Wahikuli-Honokowai CAP team
* Updated Miradi files for each site including task progress, major obstacles, and future task feasibility

**3. Facilitate the Rapid Response Contingency Plan (RRCP)**

* Updated *Rapid Response Contingency Plan* by adding DAR management rapid response protocols, and matrix of management options
* Wrote DAR RRCP Standard Operating Procedure, needs to be finalized by DAR
* Improved the response tracker, used the tracking tool during urchin, coral disease, and coral bleaching responses
* Improved and updated report database, latest update was 7/2015
* Real-time coordination of unusual event response, major events during the project period included an urchin disease, coral disease on Kauai, and the most severe coral bleaching event in the Main Hawaiian Islands.
  + - 1. **Deliverables and Outcomes** *(How did this project address critical management needs?)*

The objectives of this project met specific marine resource management capacity gaps and conservation needs in Hawaii and provided the Division of Aquatic Resources. Significant support and valuable materials were developed for the state's Makai Watch Program. Two Conservation Action Groups benefitted from project tracking and organization through this project. The state's ability to respond to events of coral disease, bleaching, and Crown-Of-Thorns-Starfish outbreaks has been significantly increased through revision of the response plan as well as timely coordination of monitoring and communication activities.

* + - 1. **Obstacles or Delays***:*

The Rapid Response Contingency Plan and Standard Operating Procedure needs final revision and approval by the Division of Aquatic Resources. Changes were made following each response so that lessons could be integrated to the framework. Final tasks would include a workshop with relevant DAR staff and approval by DAR Administrator when the position is filled.

* + - 1. **Future needs***:*

The ARO curriculum will need to be updated when new DAR rules are created. The Maui Conservation Action Plans were turned over to DAR staff for further coordination, the timeline for those action is the next 3-5 years. The Nature Conservancy could provide future support for revisions of those plans. See above for future needs for the Rapid Response Contingency Plan.

Progress Report Prepared by: Anne Rosinski

Signature of Point of Contact: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_