

Manta Operators Workshop
Hawaii Big Game and Fishing Club, Honokohau
Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Meeting Notes

Ike Kai

Can a Captain license still be used in place of the boater education course?

Coral damage is what? - *Threshold to begin investigation is 1/2 m²*

Kohalā

- If there is a whale that surfaces does engine stay on or does operator turn off? If the boat is off, do they start their engines?
- Are there any regulations with drones? Federal Aviation regulations are 400ft.

Nai'a

- Are there any regulations for leap frogging?
- Marine Mammal Protection Act – recommendation of 50ft?

DOCARE OIR

Testify in court but where? And how many days, what if we go to court and they reschedule...a couple times?

An offer for DOCARE to do a ride along. (Comment made whether operators really want DOCARE regulating? Whereas it would be simpler to get folks to adhere to standards)

What about “6 packing” (Zodiac drops off 6, goes back gets another 6, drops off, picks up the 6 in water take back, etc.)

Example Scenarios

Moorings-

- What is the measurement? Is it from the mooring to the anchor? Vessel?
- What if you anchor next to another anchor? Is there any distance regulations?

Clarification with dive flags and swimming with snorkel gear. If the swimmer decides to dive under the water, they need to have a dive flag.

For overcrowding, is there a difference with commercial and recreation?

An operator was cited for no TWIC (Transportation Worker Identification Card) in Honokohau Harbor by Coastguard.

The Transportation Worker Identification Credential, also known as TWIC[®], is required by the Maritime Transportation Security Act for workers who need access to secure areas of the nation's maritime facilities and vessels. TSA conducts a security threat assessment (background check) to determine a person's eligibility and issues the credential. U.S. citizens and immigrants in certain immigration categories may apply for the credential. Most mariners licensed by the U.S. Coast Guard also require a credential. (tsa.gov)

Reporting Mooring Damage-

Malama Kai provided some background on maintenance to date and how to report

- Depth
- Which Mooring (Name)
- Whats Wrong (Shackle missing, rope thin, pin broken, etc.)
- Email to Jacks' Diving Locker

Commercial Use Permit

- Commercial Use permit holders have an HA#1234 **CP**
- Do operators need to have the permit on their boat?

Comments

It's nice to know that our DOCARE and Diving community are actually using a forum to ask questions, share etiquette and rules

Very informative! Class was conducted well. I'm glad I have the correct phone # to call in reports. Held our attention and informed on stuff I don't usually think about.

Thought the MMPA distance of 50 yards was an enforceable law not a recommendation!

Really like the training. I think it would have been better with an actual power point in an indoor venue. The topic was well covered and information presented in a clear and engaging manner.

We should use Maunalua Bay as a case study for a way to get DOCARE involved. Would help to have a distinction between certified vessel and personnel vessel with commercial use permit.

Missing Direction. Is this supposed to be comprehensive? Nothing was very clear cut for specific regulations. Was this a pitch to get more DOCARE community volunteers? With noted limited funds, there are better uses than powerpoint printouts for random selected potential or in-place regulations that may or may not be enforced. I did learn that DOCARE is working to find solutions.

Training was good. Many extra questions were asked that would be good to add. Also more info on dolphin regs vs. recommendations such as laws regarding leap frogging, herding, etc.

The informal training seems to be productive. It allows potentially obtuse or detailed or culturally different legal scenarios to be absorbed by the local operators. Would be nice to have links or physical copies of the legal regulations.

Useful to know which divisions are responsible for different practices-reporting. Would be helpful to clarify gray areas?

Need more info specific to regulations at manta site. What about dolphin and whale activities.

Wanted to know more about human safety in regards to commercial boating operations, and the MMPA as it relates to commercial boating activities.

Learned about anchoring 100yds within mooring, environmental court, and the existence of a commercial use permit

Learned the # of DOCARE officers on island, how to report anchor damage, and what is considered damage. What's missing is how to deal with hostile people not wanting to be told they are wrong!

Question on whales with engine on or off? Dolphins and leap frogging/harassment. Training was good-clear and easy to understand. So many grey areas!