

**LAURA BUSH SAYS Papahānaumokuākea.** March 2, 2007. Laura Bush flies to visit Midway Atoll. She then travels to Washington Place, the prison home of Hawai'i's last reigning monarch, Queen Lili'uokalani. It is here that she Laura Bush proclaims Papahānaumokuākea, the new name of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands National Marine Monument. But is the creation of the world's largest kapu no-fishing-forever preserve a result of an out of state environmental e-mail blitz and an erroneous video created by Jean-Michel Cousteau?

Attending the naming ceremony were Uncle Buzzy Agard, Aunt Pua, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, Deputy Secretary of Commerce David Sampson, Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Jim Connaughton and Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources Director Peter Young and Lieutenant Governor, Governor Aiona.

**Who is Jim Connaughton?** At the naming ceremony Laura Bush referenced Jim Connaughton, the monument's key political advocate and the erroneous Cousteau video: "Jim Connaughton, the Chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality, who has worked so hard at the White House, I want you all to know that, that he's been working in Washington for literally years now since we first showed "Voyage to Kure," to make sure that this day would come."

Let's look at the timeline to no fishing's biggest prize Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument.

**25,000 Comments From Whom?** September 2005. A 3 year "public process ends with more than 25,000 public comments." It is these comments that preservationists and their politicians, like Governor Lingle, use as public mandate for no fishing forever. Though never released, the comments are called by fishing experts an e-mail daisy chain that pulls most of its support from outside of Hawaii.

Lingle establishes a State Marine Refuge in the NWHI that sets aside all State waters as a limited access, no-take marine protected area. The governor's office says

“This creates the largest marine conservation area in the history of the State, protecting 1,026 square miles of coral reefs from the shoreline to three miles offshore.”

But a three mile limit for no fishing is not enough. It eliminates lobstering but Federal waters from 3 miles and beyond are prime bottomfishing grounds. More disturbing to preservationists is that WESPAC, the Federal agency assigned the science of fishery management, wants to conserve and manage NWHI bottomfishing. Deeply disturbing to preservationists is that WESPAC's science has bottomfish stocks in the NWHI as healthy and sustainable.

December 2005. Governor Lingle, Jim Connaughton, Jean-Michel Cousteau, founder and president of Ocean Futures, and other federal and state officials visit the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands and Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge. Disowned by his father's foundation the Cousteau Society, real estate developer consultant Cousteau, riding on the name brand of his father Jacques-Yves becomes the poster boy for the preservation final solution.

**Fantastic Voyage to Kure.** March 2006. Governor Lingle hosts the world premiere of Jean-Michel Cousteau's "Voyage to Kure," a documentary film following the NWHI journey of Cousteau.

April 5, 2006. "Voyage to Kure" premieres on PBS stations nationwide. Relive the excitement of this expedition and see for yourself the lasting treasures of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. This program was produced by KQED Public Broadcasting and Ocean Futures Society.

Also April 2006. President and Mrs. Bush hold a screening of the documentary at the White House. According to reports a senior administration official says the film has a powerful effect on Mr. Bush and Laura Bush. Bush is inspired to action by viewing "Voyage to Kure."

June 2006. Bush uses of the 100-year old National Antiquities Act, which empowers the president to protect important cultural or geological resources. Fisheries science showing sustainable stocks are is doomed. Bush enacts preservation rules for the area, including a five-year phasing out of commercial and sport fishing. President Bush names the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as a national monument and the world's largest protected marine area.

**Bogus Film Making.** In the Jean-Michel Cousteau's so called "documentary" "Voyage to Kure," there is a scene filmed on the Cousteau ship's, the *Searcher*, bridge. Cousteau is looking through binos and says he sees a "longliner" inside the closed area. There is a quick shot of a vessel. (When analyzed frame by frame, it appears to be a sampan, not a longliner. It does not have longline gear on deck). Cousteau then supposedly radios the Coast Guard, who supposedly busts the vessel.

The film's next scene is Cousteau and others high-fiving, saying "one for the good guys". SPLASH has it on good authority from the CG that there was no illegal fishing into the closed area during Cousteau's "Voyage to Kure" trip. Cousteau's trip to Kure is a fantastic voyage.

**Commander Contradicts Cousteau.** Coast Guard Commander B.A. Compagnoni, Enforcement Branch of the Fourteenth Coast Guard District, contradicts Cousteau's "Voyage to Kure's" hollywood plot. According to his Coast Guard document: "A thorough review of Coast Guard Honolulu Enforcement Branch's case files revealed no documents to indicate the vessel in question was engaged in illegal fishing activity."

Compagnoni goes on that after checking documentation and activity: "NOAA subsequently indicated to the Coast Guard that the vessel was operating legally."

**President and Mrs. Duped?** Was President Bush inspired him to move forward with the world's largest no-fishing forever preserve by a faked film authored by a real estate developing environmentalist? When Cousteau was invited to the White House reception for monument did he confess the wrongs of his fraudulent film?

As a conservation expert and fisherman, who would only speak anonymously, says "This brings into question Cousteau's integrity. He willing to fabricate, state and deceive to manipulate the opinions of the uniformed.

How and when does Cousteau sign up with Hawaii mega developers to develop the Kau coastline?

**What Next Papahanaumokuakea?** April 2007. Papahanaumokuakea comes from ancient Hawaiian genealogy . Papahanaumoku (the earth) and Wakea (the expansive sky) were two Hawaiian demigods. Their union was the "birthing" of the Hawaiian chain.

Papahānaumokuākea is the largest marine protected area in the world. It is nearly 140,000 square miles – “more than 100 times larger than Yosemite National Park and larger than the collective land area of 46 states.” It is home to more than 7,000 marine species. It is nesting grounds for 14 million birds.

In a brazen ploy to act globally and have the federal government control locally, the Lingle-Aiona Administration is proactively pursuing the next phase. They want a designation of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a World Heritage Site. According to the governor’s office “Less than 150 sites on the planet have been granted this internationally significant designation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).”

Mrs Bush did not thank fishermen but she did say at the naming ceremony: “I want to thank all the preservationists, the conservationists, the researchers, the local officials, the state senators and representatives, the cultural leaders, and the distinguished guests who are here today that have made this occasion possible.”