

Nā‘ālehu Anthony

We are currently in the channel between Kaua‘i and O‘ahu and moving at a pretty steady clip. Huge thanks to the crew of the Imua for finding the most steady possible path back home as the swells have been pretty pronounced, especially in the channels. We were asked by our team lead, Kanoë, to write a short reflection as to our thoughts after this voyage and so I’m going to take the time to do that in this writing this evening as my last post of the voyage.

When I think about previous trips to Pāpahanāumokuakea I remember the sense of anticipation in going out into the unknown and feeling so lucky to have been chosen to go. But what I'm talking about is something different. The feeling I left with, the anticipation one, wasn't just about going into the unknown. It was more like- What if the fishing is reopened to the large fleets that have stripped some of the other rich fishing grounds across the Pacific? What if this is the last time I get to come to this place and see it like this? What if the things we have seen in the headlines in just the last 7 days reach these shores?

The pristine and wild places we visited this week up in Pāpahanāumokuakea renewed my sense of what the stakes are. And so coming back, after just a week, I am left with a sense of how incredibly hard we have to work to hold on to the fabric of what will give the next and the next and then those after that the instructions as to who we are and what we value and where to go next.

While Pāpahanāumokuakea is one of those places, so are the communities we live in, so is the work we advocate in and so is the reflection of all of you whom I write to every night. I come home with my body tired and my mind spinning from this epic journey, but when I close my eyes I am fueled by the images I saw in the last 7 days. Below are some of them that I hope inspire you in some way too.

