

the ‘opihi whisper a mournful hum
as the elders
slowly disappear.
with them follows practice, follows ola
as shadow to light.

Cellana spp. limpets

life, well-being, health

Aging leaves turn dust to settle within
the scarred and resting pohaku,
the heiau hidden but not yet
forgotten,
their dreams soar over waves to horizon edge.
The pohaku stir uneasy as their people
become severed from land and sea and spirit,
the forest roots press deeper
to carry the kaumaha
ever growing.

stones

stone platform

grief, sadness

Tentative, quavery
mouth to tail aligned
and stubborn with grace
the girl sings.
And hānai aunt strips,
quickly strips,
the thorns and ribs from sea-dried lauhala,
weaving moena,
weaving coast,
through mango-scented dusk,
and her stories murmur
to the heavy resting keiki heads.

adopted

Pandanus leaves

children

And tutu wahine
scrapes the poi surface
with cowry shell before feeding guests,
and sometimes she smiles
a private, closed smile
as she listens to the singing girl.

grandmother or older woman

dish made from taro

The young mullets find their way to tidepool home;
dart amongst smooth lava walls
of light and air, of the tumbling blue
and hear her voice.

The sprats start
to sing
mouth to tail, full spine
as our song lives.

This poem is written in honor of and conversation with Peter Blue Cloud. It is my hope that this poem presents a way of knowing sea, of knowing coast, that is embodied, that prevails despite loss of land and way of life through practice and as family.





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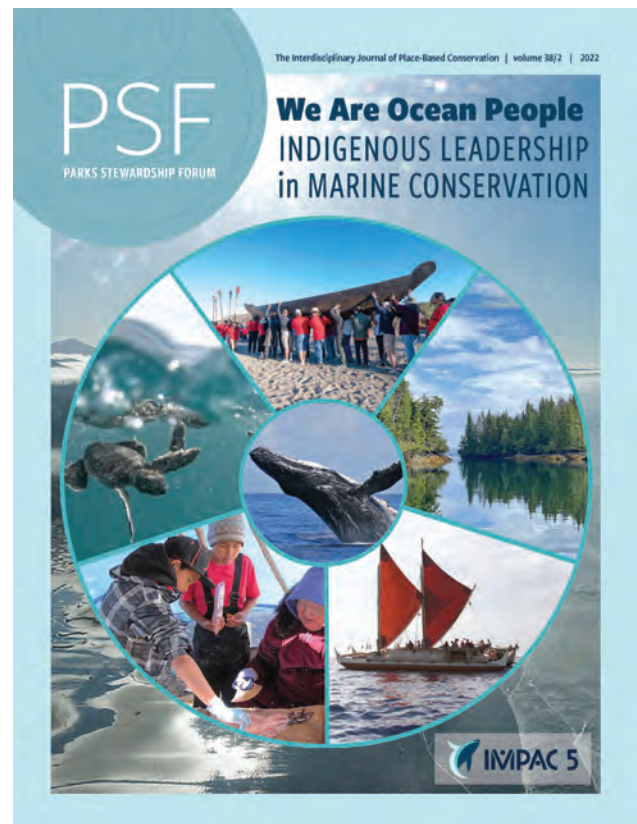
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On the cover of this issue

CIRCLE DESIGN, clockwise from top:

- Northern Chumash ceremony | [ROBERT SCHWEMMER](#)
- Haida Gwaii | [CINDY BOYKO](#)
- The Polynesian Voyaging Society's voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a | [NOAA](#)
- Elder teaching youths, northern Alaska | [US FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE](#)
- Baby Honu (sea turtles), Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | [NOAA](#)
- Center: Humpback whale, Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument | [NOAA](#)

Background: Pacific Rim National Park Reserve | [PARKS CANADA](#)