

APPENDIX E: WATER QUALITY PROTECTION RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Recommendations excerpted from: A Water Quality Needs Assessment for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (2005)⁵³

8.1 Water Quality Action Planning Approach

Pursue management activities that maintain and improve water quality conditions that support the Sanctuary's natural and cultural resources, as well as recreational uses in the Sanctuary.

8.2 Research and Monitoring Recommendations (General)

Determine the issues that will drive Sanctuary water quality action planning, and frame research and monitoring questions with the purpose of better understanding how water quality factors affect these key issues.

8.2.1 Existing Data

Compile and characterize existing available water quality-related data (identified in this report) from various long-term research efforts in the SBC region.

8.2.2 Monitoring within Sanctuary Waters

Identify water quality monitoring needs and develop monitoring plan for Sanctuary waters based on the framed research and monitoring questions and the priorities described in this recommendation.

8.2.3 Processing of Existing Samples

Analyze existing samples from the Bight '03 survey and the Pac Baroness exploration and report/store results in a format and location that are compatible with future monitoring outputs.

8.2.4 Monitoring Anchorages at the Islands

Continue a monitoring program at popular Island anchorages beyond the current pilot phase, and adapt the monitoring protocol based on the results of this pilot project.

8.2.5 Anthropogenic Marine Debris

Coordinate with other organizations to form an umbrella partnership that will fulfill the components of an anthropogenic marine debris research and monitoring program, including beach debris monitoring, a trawling study, boater surveys, pelagic plastics sampling study, and photo-documentation.

8.2.6 Storm Water Plume Research

Develop research partnership to better understand the impact of stormwater plumes from Santa Clara and Ventura Rivers on Sanctuary water quality

8.2.7 Large Vessel Traffic Monitoring

Continue to coordinate with the National Marine Sanctuaries Program to pilot an Automated Information System data stream interface and associated installation of a base station on Santa Cruz Island to track and log vessel traffic information to a public database. Pursue opportunities to coordinate with research projects (identified in this report) on Island fog to incorporate sampling for diesel-specific air pollutants

⁵³ Available on line at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/pdf/10-17-05.pdf>.

and facilitate predictive modeling of Sanctuary and Channel-wide chronic deposition.

8.3.1 Sewage Discharge Prevention

Draft a single, unambiguous policy to eliminate untreated human waste discharges from near-shore National Park and Sanctuary users (e.g. kayakers, surfers, and hikers) that will be implemented with consistency throughout both jurisdictions. Consider policy options (identified in this recommendation) to specifically minimize and eliminate sewage discharges from small vessels.

8.3.2 Strategic Planning and Stakeholder Coordination for Cruise Ship Visitation

Participate in planning by the City of Santa Barbara and other stakeholders for cruise ship visits and get a clear picture of the City's objectives in terms of attracting and accommodating cruise ships to the SBC region. Additionally, make sure that the Sanctuary has a clear goal for policy towards cruise ships in the SBC (outside of Sanctuary waters) and that this policy is presented to the City of Santa Barbara, and review the Voluntary Agreement that ship captains sign before bringing tenders to the Santa Barbara Harbor.

8.3.3 Discharges Outside Sanctuary Boundaries

Consider establishing regulatory authority to protect against pollution that enters Sanctuary waters after being discharged into the ocean outside of CINMS boundaries (such as that maintained by Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary).

8.3.4 Interagency Water Quality Stakeholder Alliance

Enhance cooperative relations with State and County agencies, and expanded participation and support for existing multi-agency initiatives.

8.3.5 Water Quality Working Group

Establish a working group to the Advisory Council that focuses on water quality management for the Sanctuary.

8.3.6 Pollution Prevention from Large Vessel Traffic

Through partnerships with representatives from other Sanctuaries subject to shipping impacts (such as Stellwagen Bank, Monterey Bay, and Olympic Coast), encourage federal decision makers to take advantage of existing policy opportunities to reduce pollution impacts from ships in SBC waters, and throughout the world ocean (e.g. Congressional ratification of Annexes IV and VI of the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships [MARPOL]).

8.4 Public Education and Outreach Recommendations

Articulate the interconnections between water, water pollution and the choices and actions of the region's community members. Convey this information to all communities, so that individuals are empowered to help protect and improve water quality from the mainland to the Islands.

8.4.1 CINMS Education and Outreach Initiatives

CINMS should consider organizing a "Snapshot Day" modeled after that conducted annually by MBNMS, in order to build public awareness of—and sensitivity to—the Sanctuary, as well as to gather water quality data and build constructive partnerships with organizations and agencies.

8.4.2 CINMS Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

The SET should incorporate Sanctuary water quality information and messages into its existing campaigns, and consider and plan a range of new outreach initiatives to foster public education on Channel and Sanctuary water quality. The SET should be involved in water quality action planning in

order to help formalize its education and outreach initiatives as components of a CINMS water quality plan.

8.4.3 Channel Islands Naturalist Corps

Sanctuary staff and stakeholders should help prepare talking points on Channel and Sanctuary water quality for the volunteer Naturalists, who also serve on the “front lines” of public education on Sanctuary water quality. The Naturalists should also coordinate these talking points with concessionaire vessel crews.

8.4.4 CINMS and National Park Visitor Education

Develop and advertise (at their websites, visitor centers and the Islands) a specific, consistent and well-advertised human waste disposal policy, and make sure that visitors are enabled to follow the policy (bathrooms or alternative means of disposal are made available).

8.4.5 Boater Education and Outreach

In the short term, offer assistance to harbors (that express an interest and have available resources) for developing new and more effective signs to inform boaters about water quality and clean boating practices. Longer term, coordinate an ongoing program for boater education and outreach involving on-the-water and harbor-based training.

8.4.6 Signs in the Harbors and Near Creeks

Coordinate with local agencies, harbors and other organizations to develop and post more effective signs in both English and Spanish — with messages that convey the connection between individuals’ actions and impacts to Channel and Sanctuary water quality.

8.4.7 Anthropogenic Marine Debris

Look for opportunities to partner with other organizations (*e.g.* NOAA Weather Service and Santa Barbara Creeks Division) to develop public service announcements (PSAs) to encourage good trash management practices (particularly prior to storms).

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