Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Advisory Council

DRAFT Key Meeting Outcomes

March 19, 2010

Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center Auditorium, Channel Islands National Park Headquarters

1901 Spinnaker Drive · Ventura Harbor, CA

Note: This document will be posted on line at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html. Audio recordings of this and other Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, fifteen of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Six seats were absent for the day: California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, Tourism, Chumash Community, California Department of Fish and Game, and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from 6 to 20 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

The draft key outcomes from the January 19, 2010 meeting were adopted as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley highlighted several items in the Superintendent's Report (provided to all SAC members and the attending public, and available at http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html). Also, Deputy Superintendent Todd Jacobs provided an update on recently stranded fin whale on Santa Cruz Island and recent strike of a sea lion by the research vessel *Shearwater*.

Council Member Announcements

Advisory Council Representatives introduced themselves and stated the seat they represent for the benefit of visitors Dan Basta, Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, and Coast Guard guests. The members provide short updates.

Report from the Director

Dan Basta expressed appreciation for the council's work on ocean acidification. He reported on the efforts to develop a cross cut team for the Advisory Council and Council Chairs to elevate their concerns. He encouraged the Advisory Council to maintain focus on big issues. Dan reported that climate is a very important issue and is overshadowing and enveloping other issues. Dan reported that marine spatial planning is also a big issue, with which sanctuaries have experience.

Dan answered questions and provided comments on the role of Advisory Councils in marine spatial planning on a national scale, the effects of marine spatial planning on recreational charter businesses, expectations for inclusion of various types of activities in marine spatial planning, the potential value of artificial reefs, and continuation of long term data sets that inform ocean acidification.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

Rocio presented some of the activities and successes of the program. She reported that there are 900 students in the program this year and they learn about earth and ocean science and participate in coastal restoration projects and education field trips. Fourth grade students from Ventura County schools presented posters to the Advisory Council on kelp, overfishing, sea otters, ocean pollution, and watersheds

Dan commented on why we have trouble finding sustainable continuous funding for MERITO and stated that they are hoping to see a partner emerge. Dan discussed other cultural programs, such as Oceans for Life, which engages Middle Eastern students and a program to engage African American students in the Northeast and in the Florida Keys. Dan reported that students in the Florida Keys were successful in influencing the implementation of marine reserves and therefore the youth are valuable constituents.

Public comment

Kristi Birney Rieman reported that Bruce and Diane Steele helped secure funding for copies of the film Acid Test that will be used in MERITO curriculum. Kristi reported that the next CWG report will be on offshore ocean energy.

Leslie Purcell said that she appreciated the MERITO students who spoke about the tragedy of the commons. Leslie reported that she recently read about sea lions with cancer and also another report that was about sea lion pups washing up on beaches. Leslie stated that she has been going to the watershed coalition meetings in Ventura.

Changes in Shipping Traffic near the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Mike Van Houten provided a presentation on the Port Access Route Study that USCG is beginning on the Santa Barbara Channel. Mike reported that the study will examine density of traffic and alternative routing measures and there will be an opportunity for public comment. Mike announced that he expected notice of the study to appear on May 1 2010 and the study will be conducted May – October. The study is expected to be released in November. Issues that will be studied include Pacific Missile Test Range, marine mammal data and will include ESA consultation. If the study recommends a change in traffic patterns that will be a separate process. Discussion focused on the scope of the study.

Dick McKenna provided a presentation on proposed new traffic lanes by the Navigation Safety Committee to the Harbor Safety Committee. Dick explained the evolution of the traffic pattern change through the air resources control board rule on low sulfur fuel within 24 miles of the coast. Dick reported that before July 2009, 7% of traffic, mostly tankers from Honolulu, was coming south side of the islands. There has been an increase to 45-50% of all types of ships. At that time, Dick explained, Marine Exchange set up provisional traffic lanes. Since then, they have been working to continue to improve usage of lanes and they have worked closely with other parties. Discussion focused on other potential regulations such as the 200 mile clean air rule and how that would affect traffic, and how the PARS study should be broad enough to include many scenarios that may be yet unknown. Other topics of discussion included AIS and the variety of vessels in the channel that could hit whales, not just large ships.

John Ugoretz provided a presentation on the Navy's activities on the Point Mugu Sea Range and their involvement in recent regulatory discussions. John presented information on how Navy operations had been affected by recent traffic changes. John discussed how they communicate with vessels and he expressed that they are monitoring the impacts to their operations. There was a discussion about the impacts of Navy activities to marine mammals.

Update on Acoustics

- **Informational presentation by Megan McKenna**, Ph.D. candidate from the Scripps Institution of Oceanography, on her current work with acoustics in and around the CINMS region.

  Megan presented information from her graduate studies. Her work has focused on characterizing noise from ships, spatial and temporal patterns in noise from ships, and baleen whale calls, estimating the impact on communication ranges for baleen whales, comparison of the behavior of whales around large commercial vessels, and other issues. Megan presented information from recording equipment deployed on the seafloor in the Santa Barbara region.

During the course of her work, Megan focused on the question, "What does noise means for animals?" Megan has tracked whale behavior with J. Calambokidis and they can track location, depth, acoustics, pitch and roll. In 2008-2009 they had 10 approaches to ships, 5 of them were close approaches (<1000m). Megan reported that close approach data shows in some cases the animals have a longer surface interval following a ship passing nearby.

- **Status report on recommendations received from the Advisory Council concerning acoustics**
  Steve Katz, CINMS Research Coordinator, reviewed the recommendations presented in the Advisory Council acoustic report. Steve reviewed how research on acoustics fits into our research priorities and explained that it fits into the prioritization scheme in only a few places and he discussed how CINMS has been involved in collaborative ongoing work. Steve reviewed a proposal that he developed with Leila Hatch from SBNMS by Dan Basta's request. Steve concluded by saying that some projects or proposed projects are not continuing.

  Discussion focused on what we know about ship traffic in relation to whale movement and whale ecology. There was also further discussion about the proposal that Steve mentioned earlier.

  Linda stated that she is disappointed that the work on acoustics in Channel Islands is now decreasing, rather than increasing and she finds it alarming. Linda stated that she would like to hear at the next SAC meeting how they can continue the work.

Public comment

Sarah Greene introduced herself as a UCSB Bren student and is part of a group that will be working on a project that looks at ship strikes and whales. This project was jointly proposed by CINMS and Marine Exchange.

Jackie Dragon stated that she attends the sanctuary Advisory Council meetings up and down the coast and that they look to CINMS as a model for much of their work. Jackie stated that she is also disappointed to learn of the decrease in acoustic research activity. She states that she is willing to do whatever she can to support this type of work.

Leslie Purcell asked how do energy projects factor into acoustics research – could they be a funding resource? Leslie expressed her concern to John Ugoretz about Navy activity such as potentially toxic debris falling into the water. John responds that the EIS accounts for all those activities and that none of the materials are toxic.

Working Group Reports

- **CINMS Interagency Enforcement Working Group**

Dayna introduced Bill Struble, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement Special Agent, who was in attendance. Dayna reported on the Enforcement Working Group meeting yesterday and how impressed he has been with their progress and productivity. One topic of discussion was the apprehension of a drug smuggling vessel at Santa Rosa Island. Dayna reported that the group discussed the twin otter and scheduling this spring. Dayna appealed to Dan Basta for more time on the twin otter. They could use the twin otter full time on the west coast. Brittany Steward is working to get air support from air station Sacramento for missions in the Sanctuary. Dayna reported that they have identified 4 training dates for summary settlements. The training is for enforcement personnel and will be open to sanctuary staff. Dayna reported that they have developed a vessel patrol guide and that it is now complete. Sean Hastings added that the patrol guide was developed from an aircraft patrol guide. This is designed to provide continuity in the mission while there is a high rate of turnover. Sean stated that it was a cooperative effort among the working group and the group has determined that it will be useful for all enforcement groups, not just USCG.

- **Sanctuary Education Team**

Maria Petueli updated the council on the Sanctuary Education Team's effort to provide education on ocean acidification. They are working to develop a workshop in the fall for educators.

Maria updated the council on efforts to educate the shipping. They have a one-page information sheet and some other materials to distribute to vessels during a dockwalk.

- **Commercial Fishing Working Group**

Bruce Steele reported that their group did not meet but he commented that he has spent a lot of time in the channel and that they used to not see whales, now he sees them a lot because they are feeding here. Bruce cautioned that conditions may change and whales may go away so we should be careful about broad brush comments about sound or other issues affecting whales.

- **Conservation Working Group**

Linda Krop reported that they had a working group meeting on Wednesday and that they covered ….everything! Acidification, ocean energy, acoustics, termination of Clearwater LNG permit application terminated. See CWG report for more details.

- **Chumash Community Working Group**

In Jacy Ontivero's absence, Mike reported that because Jacy will not be seeking reappointment she held a meeting with her community and received some interest from new applicants.

Plans for 2010 Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit

Council members provided input to Eric Kett for his representation of the council at the 2010 annual SAC Summit in Washington State, May 11-14. Requests were made to ask for more funding, encourage enforcement personnel (such as USCG) to be engaged with SACs, and to involve Sea Grant in Advisory Councils, possibly with a specific Sea Grant seat on the council.

Future Meeting Schedule

- Friday May 15, 2009 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Friday July 17, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
- Friday September 18, 2009 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Friday November 20, 2009 (SAC meeting, Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster:

Kathleen Fitzgerald	Tourism	Absent
Andrea Moe	Tourism - Alternate	Absent
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Perry Ferguson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Present
Vacant	Business - Alternate	---
Linda Krop	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present
Vacant	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	---
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
Vacant	Education - Alternate	-----
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Present
Amy Spandrio	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Absent
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	Present
Dan Powell	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Jacy Ontiveros	Chumash Community	Absent
Vacant	Chumash Community - Alternate	---
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Absent
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Present
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
Vacant	National Park Service - Alternate	---
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present
LTJG Brittany Steward	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Present
Donna Schroeder	Minerals Management Service	Present
Dr. Ann Bull	Minerals Management Service - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Absent
Kristine Barsky	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	Absent
Brian Baird	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent
Amy Boone	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Barbara Carey	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne M. Black	Santa Barbara County	Present
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	Absent
Marilyn Miller	Ventura County - Alternate	Absent
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent
Maria Brown	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Brian Johnson	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent