

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes  
September 23, 2011**

**Casa Las Palmas · Santa Barbara, 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](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov).*

**Attendance:** At peak, sixteen of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Five seats were absent for the day: U.S Coast Guard; California Natural Resources Agency; California Coastal Commission; California Department of Fish and Game; and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from 6 to 10 people.

**Administrative Business and Announcements**

The draft key outcomes for the July 22<sup>nd</sup> advisory council meeting were approved by the council.

***Superintendent's Report***

Superintendent Chris Mobley highlighted several items in his oral report, including:

- The announcement of LTJG Lyndsey Keen, the incoming Vessel Operations Officer at CINMS
- Rocio Lozano Knowlton received the National Ocean Service's Team Member of the Year award for her outstanding work with the MERITO program;
- A recent visit by four Knauss Sea Grant Fellows to CINMS;
- News that a groundbreaking ceremony will be held on October 14th to celebrate the start of construction on the Channel Islands Boating Center at the Channel Islands Harbor.

***Executive Committee Report***

Council Chair Eric Kett reported that the Executive Committee held a conference call recently to plan the agenda for the meeting, and invited Michael Gould (Council business seat alternate) to join part of the call to engage him in a discussion about how the Council approaches the crafting of resolutions, based on observations made with respect to the plastic bags resolution adopted at the last meeting. Eric explained that the call helped clarify a few issues and allowed the Executive Committee to come away with some ideas and reminders:

- As an advisory body, the Council has influence but not regulatory authority. As such, if the Council expresses a general view or opinion about a regulatory matter, such as within a resolution, it does not trigger a requirement that the Council conduct its own detailed studies or impact analyses. However, those requirements do fall to the regulatory agency considering taking action.
- At the same time, a sound scientific basis for Council opinions is important to the Council process. When studies conducted directly within the Sanctuary aren't available, we should be clear and transparent about that and use the best available science from other areas thoughtfully and accurately. There will be room for debate about the applicability of data and results from other areas, yet there simply isn't enough funding and time to scientifically test or conduct experiments on each issue within CINMS.
- A new idea suggested was that when Council resolutions are posted on the CINMS web site, perhaps we might also offer the public some links to the key references used and other related sources of information.
- Some issues originate beyond the boundaries of the sanctuary, from pollution sources to ocean acidification, and it was acknowledged that it is OK and in fact expected that the Council will take on some of these issues that link back to the health and use of the sanctuary, or that provide opportunities to enhance understanding of marine ecosystems and conservation beyond the sanctuary area.

***Council Member Announcements***

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Audio recordings

are available upon request.

### **Public comment**

Carol Georgi with the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, based out of San Luis Obispo county, commented on the unique and ecologically important the features off the San Luis Obispo coast (Santa Lucia Bank, Arguello Canyon, and other seamounts and bathymetric features), as well as the rich cultural history of the area. She explained that her group seeks to preserve the natural history of the area through an expansion of either the Monterey Bay of Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries, or designation of a national marine sanctuary along the San Luis Obispo coast. She also read an article provided by her organization advocating for a sanctuary in their area.

David Georgi, also with the Marine Sanctuary Alliance, talked about how in certain areas along the central coast researchers have discovered prehistoric Chumash astronomical observatories at locations that are now underwater.

Kristi Birney from the Environmental Defense Center responded to concerns about the council's plastic bag resolution by explaining that citations to the references in the resolution are provided in the footnotes, with weblinks provided where available. Kristi also stated that she always welcomes comments on any resolution that the Conservation Working Group brings forward, and that she tries to bring proposed materials to the council early so they have time to raise issues before meetings.

Michael Sheehy, building on an earlier comment from council member Mat Curto, stated that he would be happy to have Santa Barbara Channelkeeper investigate the feasibility of a program like Adopt-A-Beach for the Channel Islands.

**Guest Speaker: Dennis Long, Executive Director, Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation** Dennis Long provided a presentation [slides available upon request] and spoke about the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation's mission, work, and plans, including a recent move to also begin doing business as the Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation. Dennis explained that the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation was founded in 1995 as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) to support the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). In that capacity, they have focused on increasing awareness and understanding of MBNMS, and from 2002-2010 they supported science-based monitoring and reporting, water quality, education of underserved communities, and marine protected areas. From 2007 until now, Dennis explained, they have grown and now bring in about \$2.5 million per year, with fifteen staff (most on assignment to projects), and partnerships with ten federal and state agencies. Dennis stated that they like to take on issues where they have a high mission match, that are financially stable, and in which they can make a useful contribution. Dennis highlighted the current areas of focus: MBNMS, CINMS, California MPAs (education and outreach), science-based monitoring and reporting, water quality, and others that may arise. Dennis explained some of the reasons that drive successful foundation projects and his desire to build relationships and a strategy for CINMS. Explaining that the Foundation would now also be doing business under the name Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation, Dennis asked the council for input on how he might best begin work with the CINMS community. He would like to have a community liaison here in the CINMS area. He closed with a short video that was made for the Foundation about Elkhorn Slough. Discussion followed that focused on questions about how Dennis handles issues concerning the agendas of funders and board members, the relationship between the MBSF and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the state of their Foundation's expansion into the CINMS area, and the relationship between the Foundation and private businesses.

### **Updates on Ocean Acidification Work**

Julie Bursek, CINMS Team Lead for Education and Outreach, provided an update about progress on the recently completed ocean acidification action plan for national marine sanctuaries of the west coast. A meeting was recently held that convened west coast sanctuary education staff, and at which a strategy was developed for

implementing the education components of the action plan. At the meeting, they heard from science experts and learned about related projects around the region. It helped the group get off to a good start, and it will be an ongoing agenda item on their monthly calls. Laura Francis, CINMS Education Coordinator, explained that many of the Advisory Council's comments were incorporated into the final ocean acidification action plan. She also highlighted the fact that the ocean acidification education kits, which the Council's Sanctuary Education Team (SET) helped to build, have been shared with other sanctuary sites and that they are being used with many different audiences. They are now looking to expand and improve the kits. Laura also reported that the website [acidocean.org](http://acidocean.org), which was created last year in conjunction with the SET's workshops on ocean acidification, is receiving good traffic. Dani Lipski, CINMS Research Specialist, provided brief updates on various research activities related to ocean acidification. A west coast ocean acidification sampling cruise was recently completed by NOAA researcher Dr. Richard Feely and his colleagues, with results to be shared when they become available. Work continues on assessing the lab results that came back from water samples collected from deepwater areas within CINMS.

Bruce Steele spoke about recent activities of the California Current Acidification Network (CCAN), which is a group that started out of concerns over a lack of coordination among those managing shellfish. A lot of pH samples are collected, but different tools and monitors are being used and producing variable accuracy, which can make results useless. At the last CCAN meeting it was decided that measurements need to be more than just pH – need to get at the aragonite saturation horizon. The group feels that pH measurement data needs to be separated into those coming from instruments known to be highly accurate, and those from other equipment. Bruce spoke about how sensitive oysters are to pH changes, especially when combination effects come into play such as warm water or food shortages. The next CCAN meeting will focus on biological effects, which will be difficult. CCAN information is on the web at <http://c-can.msi.ucsb.edu/>.

Linda Krop reported that most of the SAC's comments were incorporated into the final ocean acidification action plan for west coast national marine sanctuaries. She also mentioned that the Environmental Defense Center received a Hollings grant from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to support them putting together a 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA). Work is in progress, and it could be done in about three months.

### **Report on Oil Spill Exercise**

A staff summary was provided of the US Coast Guard's National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) oil spill drill, which was conducted locally on September 13-15, 2011. Chris Mobley described the spill drill scenario, in which a tanker and cargo ship collide 12 nm south side of Santa Cruz Island. Chris generally described the Incident Command System and how well it actually worked to organize and direct the simulated response activities. He explained that the Command Unit was lead by the US Coast Guard and California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park were also invited to be part of the Command Unit, and other agencies also played important roles, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service. Chris described how a significant number of CINMS staff had been involved at the Incident Command Post, and that Todd Jacobs and CINMS vessel crew had been active in the field. Todd Jacobs provided a short presentation on the Unmanned Aerial Vehicle deployment that occurred during the exercise, showing how it was launched from the R/V *Shearwater*, was able to measure the size of the dye that was used to simulate the oil, the photographs the system was able to take and communicate to Incident Command in real time, and other highlights. Council members helped produce a list of questions that they hope the US Coast Guard can address when they provide a more detailed report on the exercise at the November 18<sup>th</sup> SAC meeting.

### **Working Group Reports**

*Channel Islands Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Enforcement.* Bill Struble with the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement reported that at the TAC meeting on September 22nd they had continued good participation from Coast Guard and other law enforcement agencies. They discussed enforcement events of the summer and looked ahead to the next few months. A recent USCG case at Santa Barbara Island this summer involving a

repeat offender was supported by CDFG and NOAA; Bill will report more on that at a later time that. Bill also mentioned that the ATF is starting to take more seriously the enforcement of regulations concerning the use of seal bombs. Bill also said there were reports of large ships transiting between islands, but Dick McKenna from the Marine Exchange of Southern California said that such a report must be incorrect. Bill said that it is still being looked into. Bill also reported that panga traffic is continuing in the area for both drug smuggling and human transport. Bill also mentioned that CDFG appears to be well staffed for the islands region at the moment.

*Chumash Community Working Group.* Although a working group meeting was not recently held, Luhui Isha Waiya used a series of photo slides to provide a report on several recent Chumash Community activities. Luhui first announced that they are establishing a women's wellness center and a paddle out event in honor of losing a dear friend to breast cancer recently. She also told the story of how when she and her husband Mati met the Pacific Voyagers in Hilo, Hawaii and learned that they would be traveling to the California coast in traditional sailing canoes, they invited them to visit the Chumash site village in Malibu. Luhui reported that they had an incredible welcoming ceremony at Paradise Cove in Malibu, followed by a meal and kava ceremony. Luhui also reported on the Chumash community's voyage to Swinomish, Washington where they accepted a long-standing invitation to take a tomol and join in the annual event called Tribal Journeys. With hundreds of other native peoples participating and paddling, it was very special for them to be there. More of this to come. Luhui also reported that at the Chumash village in Malibu they had Native American children from all over the country come and participate in a Tribal Wave Youth Camp during the summer. Kids got to meet Chumash Elders and do a lot of water activities. In October at the village, they will be hosting a summit of spiritual leaders from the Amazon, Polynesia, and North America. This will be open to those interested. Lastly, Luhui reported on the recent tomol crossing to Limuw (Santa Cruz Island) where they had two tomols this year! Vennise Miller-Forte also commented on the strength of movements and momentum she has seen and experienced building up around support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted in 2007 and which President Obama is supporting.

*Conservation Working Group.* Linda Krop reported that the Conservation Working Group met on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The group discussed shipping related issues, including the anticipated release of the US Coast Guard PARS findings, the legal petition filed asking NOAA to regulate ship speeds in California sanctuaries, an upcoming workshop at UCSB on September 28<sup>th</sup> called "Sharing the Ocean: Searching for Safe Passage for Whales & Ships", and an event on September 29<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum called "Transparent Sea" featuring Dave Rastovich of Surfers For Cetaceans and to include Kristi Birney talking about the local issue of whale ship strikes. The group also talked about the status of the draft offshore renewable energy report, noting that rounding up speakers for a panel presentation to the SAC has been challenging. The group also talked about the status of implementation of the MLPA's south coast MPAs and the expectation of the state regulations taking effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Ocean acidification was also discussed, including the availability of the just completed ocean acidification action plan for west coast national marine sanctuaries and progress already being made by sanctuary educators on plan implementation. Also discussed were the recent oil spill response exercise, the Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation, and upcoming hearings about discontinuance of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's sea otter translocation program.

### **Future Meeting Schedule**

Advisory Council members present voted unanimously to approve the following meeting schedule for 2012:

- Friday January 20, 2012 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday March 16, 2012 (Ventura)
- Friday May 18, 2012 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday July 20, 2012 (Ventura)
- Friday September 21, 2012 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday November 16, 2012 (Ventura)

**Meeting Attendance Roster (September 23, 2011):**

Andrea Mills	Tourism	Absent
Matthew Curto	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Nicole Peters	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Present
Michael Gould	Business - Alternate	Absent
Linda Krop	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Maria Petueli	Education	Absent
Amanda Hendrickson	Education - Alternate	Present
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Present
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Absent
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	Present
Marilyn Kelly	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Luhui Isha	Chumash Community	Present
Vennise Miller-Forte	Chumash Community - Alternate	Present
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Present
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Absent
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	Absent
CDR Christina Davidson	US Coast Guard	Absent
LCDR Elisa Garrity	US Coast Guard - Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	BOEMRE	Present
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEMRE - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Absent
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 Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Barbara Carey	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne 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