

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL**

FINAL MEETING NOTES

Friday, January 23, 2004

9:30 am – 4:00 pm

Casa Las Palmas

323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. · Santa Barbara, CA

NOTE: Audio tape recordings of the SAC meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alternate Gary Davis

US COAST GUARD

Substitute Daniel Hager

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Joan Barminski

Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Marija Vojkovich

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Alternate Jackie Campbell

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member Jeanette Webber [SAC Secretary]

Alternate Monica Baker

CONSERVATION

Alternate Greg Helms

BUSINESS

Member Michael Hanrahan

FISHING

Alternate2 Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Member Craig Taylor

Alternate Barbara LaCorte

RESEARCH

Member Dr. Robert Warner

Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Robert Duncan

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn [SAC Chair]

Alternate (seat vacant)

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley, Manager

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Member Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent

Absent:GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:**NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE**

Alternate Craig Heberer

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member Russell Galipeau

US COAST GUARD

Member J. Wade Russell

Alternate John Luzader

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird

Alternate Melissa Miller-Henson

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Alternate John Ugoretz

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger

Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:**RECREATION**

Member Jim Brye

Alternate Eric Kett

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop

BUSINESS

Alternate Darren Caesar

FISHING

Member Harry Liqournik

Alternate¹ Eric Hooper**PUBLIC AT-LARGE**

Alternate Avie Guerra

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**

Alternate Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown, Acting Manager

Attendance

At roll call 9 of 20 voting member seats were represented, with 10 of 20 present in the afternoon. Voting seats absent for the day were Recreation, California Resources Agency, and County of Ventura. A total of 22 SAC representatives were in attendance for the day (10 members, 10 alternates, 2 non-voting). Recreational Fishing and Chumash seats did not yet have representatives. Public attendance peaked at seven individuals.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Chris Mobley announced that Mike Murray was absent from the SAC meeting and has been on family leave since his wife Jill gave birth to their son Trevor on January 2.

Introductions and Acknowledgements

- Chris Mobley introduced Jen Lechuga, a former NOAA employee who now works as the US Fish and Wildlife Service Habitat Conservation Plan Coordinator in that agency's Ventura office. Jen has been volunteering her time to assist with management plan review and Advisory Council activities.
- Matt Cahn introduced new Council representative Joan Barminski (Minerals Management Service member) her provided fellow council members with information on her background.
- Matt Cahn acknowledged outgoing Council members who were/will be presented with plaques commemorating the sanctuary's appreciation of their service:
 - Drew Mayerson – Minerals Management Service seat member from 1998-2003;
 - Christina Fahy – NOAA Fisheries seat alternate from 2000-2003;
 - Jeanette Webber – this was Jeanette's last meeting as the Tourism seat member, a seat she held from 2001-2004. Since Jeanette also served as SAC Secretary the SAC will need to hold elections for a new Secretary at the March 19 meeting.

Vacant Council Seats

- Chris Mobley indicated that he is currently reviewing the applications for the open Public at-Large alternate seat, and the Recreational Fishing member and alternate seats.

November 14, 2003 Meeting Notes

- Staff have not yet distributed meeting notes from the November 14 SAC meeting to SAC members for review and approval. These meeting notes may be approved at the March 19 meeting following their distribution in advance of that meeting.

2003 Advisory Council Draft Annual Report

- Sarah MacWilliams explained that the 2003 Draft Annual Report on the SAC follows the content and formatting requirements of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. SAC members may wish to review the draft report and add additional information to it, for example information on working group activities and accomplishments may be added to the report for SAC member purposes. Sarah asked SAC members to contact her if they wish to suggest any changes to the Draft Annual Report. If any changes are offered Sarah will circulate a new draft for review in advance of the March 19 SAC meeting.

Sanctuary Manager's Report

- Chris Mobley highlighted several items from the Sanctuary Manager's report, including the National Marine Sanctuary Program Leadership Team meeting held in Santa Barbara from January 14-16, the LT Meeting reception held by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to thank the SAC and community members for their hard work, a new aerial photo poster of the sanctuary by Bill Dewey, and the new Protecting Your Channel Islands brochure, as well as activities planned for the 15 local Channel Islands Argonauts selected for 2004.

Council Member Announcements

- Marija Vojkovich announced that the California Department of Fish and Game has a new Director as of Monday of this week, Ryan Broddrick who was an ex-enforcement officer with the Department. He was a Deputy Director of the Department prior to taking his with Ducks Unlimited for the last three years. Marija also announced that the California Fish and Game Commission will consider listing the Xantus's Murrelet on the California Threatened and Endangered Species List at its February 5 meeting in Long Beach.
- Bob Warner announced that John Ugoretz has been working very hard on developing a monitoring plan for the reserve areas in the Sanctuary, and provided a draft to both Bob and Dan Brumbaugh for scientific review.
- Sean Hastings mentioned that at the last SAC meeting we acknowledged Robert Duncan, Jim Brye and Eric Kett for their hard in developing the *Protecting Your Channel Islands* brochure. Sean mentioned that members of the ad-hoc group on enforcement would be receiving sanctuary mugs depicting the R/V *Shearwater* as a token of thanks.
- Bill Douros announced that the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary released its web site for the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) in October 2003. The site serves as a web portal with science and education links related to various components of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Visit the site at: <http://mbnms-simon.org/>.
- Gary Davis announced that the National Park Service recently was granted clearance for its Ocean Park Stewardship Plan. The plan will include evaluating the performance of marine reserves at the Channel Islands, Florida Keys and U.S. Virgin Islands. The plan also calls for extending park vegetation maps into park waters.

- Fred Piltz informed SAC members of the Multi-Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINe) web site sponsored by the Minerals Management Service. MARINe is a consortium of researchers with independent intertidal projects, and includes the Minerals Management Service, CINMS, the National Park Service, CA Department of Fish and Game, PISCO, the U.S. Navy, Santa Barbara County, and numerous other entities. A goal of MARINe is to enable these various researchers to more readily share data using a common data set. View the site at: <http://www.marine.gov/>.

Working Group and Ad-Hoc Group Reports

Fishing Working Group

- Merit McCrea, and members of the public Chris Miller and Tom Raftican each commented on the January 8 Fishing Working Group Meeting. The meeting saw broad representation from the fishing community, with representatives of the National Marine Fisheries Service present as well.
- The January 8 meeting focused on developing marine reserves within the sanctuary beyond the three-mile state boundary line.
- Chris Miller indicated that the Fishing Working Group had three specific recommendations for the Federal marine reserves process: 1) create a working group dedicated to the NEPA process on marine reserves, 2) analyze the alternatives developed by fishermen and presented to the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) and Sanctuary Manager Chris Mobley, 3) define the specific roles and expertise of the National Ocean Service and National Marine Fisheries Service before the process is brought to PFMC. Chris explained that the fishermen-designed alternatives are currently in GIS format and will be delivered to the sanctuary upon their completion.

Sanctuary Education Team

- Craig Taylor presented information on the January 14 Sanctuary Education Team (SET) meeting. The meeting focused on setting an agenda for the year, re-energizing members, and recruiting new members.
- A short-term goal of this group is to hold two or more events to recognize the one year anniversary of the establishment of State marine protected areas (MPAs) within the sanctuary.

Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group

- Bob Duncan noted that he and Sean Hastings plan to meet soon to set an agenda for the Ad-Hoc Enforcement Group. The group has not been active since the release of the *Protecting Your Channel Islands* Brochure.

Business Working Group

- Michael Hanrahan announced that the Business Working Group is planning a business mixer for Santa Barbara Channel businesses.

Update Marine Reserves

State Marine Protected Areas at Channel Islands

- Due to John Ugoretz's absence Sean Hastings provided an update on State marine protected areas (MPAs). John plans to present a draft MPA monitoring plan to the California Fish and Game Commission on February 5.
- Sean explained that monitoring is occurring in absence of a finalized monitoring plan, but added that the plan will enable integrated monitoring to occur.

Federal Process to Consider Channel Islands MPAs

- Sean Hastings explained that the March Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) meeting is the first opportunity for the sanctuary to provide draft environmental review documents to PFMC members for technical and policy review.

- Sean stated that draft documents will be made available for a preliminary review by the SAC, working groups and constituents.
- The SAC discussed the importance of making it clear to the public that: the sanctuary is the lead agency in the environmental review process; the preliminary review phase is not an opportunity for public scoping (which was conducted earlier); the preliminary review is an extra step the sanctuary is taking to get early input in an effort to develop a strong, well supported draft document, and is not required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- Several SAC members were concerned that a preliminary review will require a great deal of effective communication to reinforce the above points with the public.
- Tom Raftican, of the public, summed up the discussion as a need to weigh "Clear and Transparent" with "Letting the genie out of the bottle."
- A formal 45 day public comment period will follow the official public release of the DEIS.
- May 2004 is the earliest time at which the DEIS could be released, pending the length of the internal clearance process.
- SAC members expressed an interest in discussing this further at the March 19 SAC meeting.
- Based on SAC discussions Sean agreed to provide by late February: a preliminary draft document with explicit tasks and review expectations, an explanation of the sanctuary's current status in the NEPA process, and a 3-4 page explanation of what the NEPA process is. The SAC may then task individuals and working groups with reviewing specific components of the DEIS.
- Sean presented SAC members with a list of possible tag lines (such as "just do it" or "got milk" for popular commercial products) to accompany a poster that will be released to commemorate the one-year anniversary of State MPA implementation in April. SAC members were asked to rank their top three choices, or suggest additional tag lines.

Presentation on Marine Wildlife Viewing Workshop

- Shauna Bingham provided information on the Feb. 10, 2004 Marine Wildlife Viewing Workshop to be held in Santa Barbara.
- The first workshop was held in 2003 and consisted exclusively of informational presentations.
- Based on feedback from 2003 workshop participants this year's workshop will have roundtable sessions in which small groups can discuss wildlife-viewing issues.
- The purpose of the workshop is to discuss compliance with applicable regulations, safety of wildlife and wildlife viewers.
- This year similar workshops will be held at all four of the California sanctuaries.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps: Annual Report and Recognition

- Shauna Bingham introduced several volunteers from the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps and the SAC recognized and offered thanks to corps volunteers.
- Shauna provided highlights from the 2003 volunteers season, including the merging of the Sanctuary Naturalist Corps with the Channel Islands National Park volunteer naturalists program. Now select volunteers are trained to provide interpretation about both marine and terrestrial resources of the Channel Islands, as well as the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Park. In 2003 volunteers from this program provided over 10,000 hours of service.

Large Vessel Traffic: Management Recommendations for CINMS from the Conservation Working Group

- Greg Helms of the Conservation Working Group reminded the SAC of that working group's prior recommendations on large vessel traffic: to advise the sanctuary to look at vessel traffic data, to enhance VTS systems, to consider oil tankers and their presence in the channel, to look at data on ship strikes of marine mammals and consider re-routing vessel traffic.
- Greg explained that the SAC showed interest solely in the recommendation to support VTS systems.

- Greg shared background information on proposed VTS systems over the SAC list-serv in advance of the January 23 SAC meeting, and asked that the SAC recommend supporting enhancement of vessel traffic monitoring around Port Hueneme and in the Channel Islands.
- The SAC discussed the costs and potential future requirements for vessels to participate in such systems.
- Greg presented a draft letter of support to be sent to the Marine Exchange, the proponents of the proposed VTS projects.
- With an amendment to the letter indicating that the SAC supports such a system applied to vessels in excess of 300 gross tons, SAC members present voted to support the recommendation and send the letter as amended. One SAC member abstained.

SAC Goals for 2004

A Review of 2003 SAC Goals and Accomplishments

- Sarah MacWilliams provided a recap of the 2003 SAC work plan to revisit which past goals the SAC had reached, to what end, and which goals remained.

Staff Requests for Assistance in 2004/Determining Issues and Goals for 2004

- Chris Mobley introduced SAC members to sanctuary staff requests for assistance from the SAC in 2004.
- The SAC made a few modifications to the list of staff requests for assistance and subsequently adopted it as a 2004 work plan. Modifications included adding a list of "Other Tasks and Priorities": work on enhancing partnerships (e.g. between the sanctuary and park); consider need for and value of establishing a permanent Research Advisory Panel (incorporate membership from diverse scientific disciplines; assist with review of project proposals and general scientific review); develop mentor program for new SAC members
- The 2004 work plan covers tasks pertaining to: the environmental review processes for the management plan and marine reserves, water quality, marine acoustics, large vessel traffic (task completed at January 23 meeting), liquefied natural gas, multicultural education, a research advisory panel, strengthening partnerships, and providing training and mentoring for new SAC members.
- The 2004 work plan as adopted will be provided to SAC members in advance of the March 19 SAC meeting.

Progress Report: A Biogeographic Assessment of The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

- John Christensen of the NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science provided a progress report on the study: A Biogeographic Assessment of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The study will be used in the sanctuary's upcoming environmental review process to consider redefining the sanctuary's boundaries.
- John explained that researchers in the area have been very willing to share data.
- The biogeography team has completed data gathering and initial analysis, and has been working with the National Marine Sanctuary Program and CINMS to determine which analyses to use, and how to package the results of those analyses.
- John also explained that spatial analyses focused on the raw number of individuals will indicate that larger areas are favorable, while analyses focused on density will tend to indicate that smaller areas are favorable. While the biogeography team's assessment will contain both of these types of analyses for comparison, the assessment will also contain a third type of analysis that accounts for both of these factors. Analyses will be performed on many data sets, though some data sets are not sufficient spatially for community level analyses and will instead be analyzed by looking at single species. NCCOS and the sanctuary are still working to finalize the list of species to be included in the report.

- John stated that the deliverables produced from this assessment will include a report and data (some of which may be summarized depending on the requirements of the given data source), including GIS layers with FGDC files.
- John requested input from the SAC on the draft chapter, and asked SAC members to suggest a list of reviewers outside of their group. SAC members are to send suggestions for reviewers to Sarah MacWilliams (sarah.macwilliams@noaa.gov).
- The biogeography team is on schedule to deliver their report in May 2004. For more information on the study please visit: http://biogeo.nos.noaa.gov/projects/assess/ca_nms/cinms/.

Future SAC Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics

- Future SAC meetings:
 - Friday, March 19, 2004
 - Friday, May 21, 2004
 - Friday, July 23, 2004
 - Friday, September 24, 2004
 - Friday, November 19, 2004
- Matt Cahn reminded SAC members to consider nominations for the Secretary as elections will be at the March 19 meeting. He also reminded SAC members that at the next meeting there will be a new Public At-Large Representative, and we will have representatives for the new Recreational Fishing seats.

If you have questions about these draft meeting notes contact Sarah MacWilliams at 805-884-1469 or sarah.macwilliams@noaa.gov.