

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**  
**7/17/13 REPORT**  
**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,**  
**906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

**Present:** Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Jenn Feinberg Eckerle (NRDC), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy), Jenna Driscoll & Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Vic Cox, Brian Shafritz (SBCAPCD), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count)

**Staff:** Andrea Dransfield

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

- A. MPA implementation activities: a) Channelkeeper continues conducting MPA watch. They will also host some education/outreach MPA events that will involve kayakers and divers in the Fall. Michael reported that Gray Whale Count finished gray whale surveys for the years. He noted that Gray Whale Count has seven years of data that can be shared with other groups or management agencies.

**III. WHALES & SHIPPING**

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Kristi reported that she continues to work with CINMS staff to fact check a reference table. CINMS Sea Grant Fellow Andrea has taken the lead on the section of the report that will review and compare the CINMS Advisory Council report to the Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank Joint Working Group Ship Strike Reports. As next steps Kristi will evaluate the table, working group comparison, and follow up by reaching out to individual SAC members. Following these activities the CWG will begin to develop recommendations for more formal SAC consideration.
- B. Kristi mentioned an informative article by John Calambokidis in the most recent American Cetacean Society Newsletter (Spyhopper) discussing efforts along the West Coast to better protect whales. The article mentions efforts in San Francisco Bay and the Santa Barbara Channel to modify shipping lanes, work done by Jessica Redfern et. al., to model whale habitat and overlap with shipping activity in the Channel, the collaborative effort in the Central Coast by the Joint Working Group, and the need to still consider alternative shipping routes and ship speed for blue whale protection.
- C. Michael asked if any ships have ever reported whale sightings and/or collisions with whales. Andrea indicated she would look into the question. Andrea presented a copy of the new whale poster that is under development, and will be distributed to the shipping industry. It encourages shipping companies to report all whale sightings, and provides a number to make reports.

- D. USCG Rule-Making: Kristi reported that the IMO recommendation for changing the lanes in the SB Channel went into effect on June 1, 2013. It is our understanding that the USCG is working with NOAA to get the charts updated and developing a Notice to Mariners (NOTM) with graphics. Sanctuaries will assist with sharing the NOTM and educating the maritime industry about the change.
- E. Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Meeting:  
Kristi reported that the State Budget has absorbed all this year's Cap-and-Trade Auction revenue for the general fund. Efforts continue by SB County Air Pollution Control District, CINMS, and EDC to build support for the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Initiative and try to secure some funding (Cap-and-Trade or other funding) for the effort.

**V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION**

- A. Update: Andrea reported that a volunteer group from Citrix Online has updated the "Understanding Ocean Acidification" web site ([cisanctuary.org/acidocean](http://cisanctuary.org/acidocean)). More updates to come during the SAC meeting.

**VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES**

- A. Site Nomination Process for NMS: NOAA is re-establishing the sanctuary nomination process and seeking public comments on the criteria and process they should use to evaluate community based nominations (Docket NOAA-NOS-2013-0091). Public comment is accepted no later than August 27, 2013.

**ADJOURN**