

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
9/18/13 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), Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Jefferson Litten (CEC), Stewart Wilson, Mary Byrd (SBCAPCD)

Staff: Sean Hastings

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch. SBCK will be hosting a community event called “MPA Splash” targeted at educating the IV community (including UCSB students) about the campus point MPA. The event will take place on October 5th from 11-2 pm. The event is free, bring your own board or kayak for the paddle out. Event will take place at Devereux Slough. Stay for free food and a raffle after the paddle.
- b. Sean Hastings reported that California Fish and Wildlife has notified CINMS staff that all future education and outreach material will need to include “State” before the name of State Reserves. They are still determining whether this protocol will effect MPAs that share boundaries with Federal MPAs.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update for the upcoming SAC meeting. At this meeting she will go over each of the seven 2009 SAC recommendations¹ highlighting (1) progress, (2) status, and (3) work still to be done. She will also provide an update on her efforts to reach out to individual SAC members and other stakeholders to gauge interest, solicit experience, and seek input on the consideration of developing a formal SAC process such as a Marine Shipping working group. Please attend the Friday SAC meeting or e-mail Kristi for more project details.
- B. Michael mentioned some concerns surrounding the increased visitation by cruise ships to the SB Harbor and specifically that they are arriving and

¹ Recommendations included: research and monitoring, alteration of vessel behavior, alteration to traffic separation schemes, education and outreach, incentives and mandates for vessel speed reductions, adaptive management, and engaging industry, agencies, stakeholders.

transiting the area during gray whale migration season. There is concern about possible overlap of ship routes and migration routes. Sean suggested raising this concern with the SB City Harbor Safety Commission and/or City Council. Ben suggested that there might be ways to work with the city to take this into consideration under the list of measures the City requires for cruise ships that visit our area. There was a robust discussion about the transferability of measures that have been explored offshore (ship speeds and rerouting) and how they might be applied to this situation to reduce the risk of whale strikes close to shore.

V. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Sanctuary Classic Tournament: Debra participated in the best practices sustainable fishing workshop. She reported that it was educational especially as it related to rock fish and sea bird best management practices (BMPs).
- B. UCSB Bren CalWind Project: Jefferson provided background and information on the Bren School Group project titled CalWind. The group will present at the SAC meeting this Friday. CEC and Infinity Wind are co-clients on the project which aims to accomplish the following: 1. Design and carryout a stakeholder survey; 2. Evaluate regulatory permitting processes and pathways; and 3. Conduct spatial evaluation of possible areas for offshore wind. This project is not part of any specific project proposal but instead seeks to gather information about offshore wind for the local area. The student group has just launched the survey and they are soliciting participation [here](#).
- Debra mentioned a project on the Santa Cruz municipal wharf that is assessing wind turbine impact on birds. The project is called the Greenwharf Project and more info can be found [here](#).
- C. Ocean Acidification:
- Kristi reported that The Seattle Times is running a series of stories on Ocean Acidification. The first article called “SeaChange, the Pacific’s Perilous Turn” provides an overview of the issue highlighting case studies including coral recruitment, clown fish, and seafood (fish, oysters, and crabs). This is a great messaging and informational resource. Articles can be found [here](#).
 - Kristi reported that NOAA has appointed Jennifer Bennett to be the regional coordination, education, and outreach staff for NOAA’s Ocean Acidification Program. Jenn is working to re-engage the Ocean Acidification working groups that were established at the Effective Practices for Communicating Ocean Acidification Workshop (2012). EDC is taking the lead along with Julia Robertson (Ocean Conservancy) and Laura Francis (CINMS) on the messaging working group.

- SBCK will be working with Gretchen Hoffman Lab on local Channel based Ocean Acidification monitoring. SBCK will assist with field monitoring on a variety of data arrays and loggers within the Santa Barbara Channel. It is possible that efforts might expand to other mainland and island sites. CINMS staff offered to provide assistance either with permitting and/or collaboration should there be an interest in expanding the number and location of monitoring sites.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. NOAA: Status Review Humpback Whale North Pacific Population: Kristi reported that NOAA will be reviewing a petition from the Hawaii Fisherman's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition Inc., to consider identifying the North Pacific population of the humpback whale as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and delist the DPS under the ESA. NOAA is soliciting comments by October 28, 2012. More info [here](#).

ADJOURN