

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/22/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Jenna Driscoll (SBCK), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Stewart Wilson, Vic Cox, Gail Osherenko, Greg Helms (OC)

Staff: Andrea Dransfield, Sean Heron, Sean Hasting (phone)

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch. They will be conducting an MPA Watch Training on Feb 4th. Visit SBCK website to learn more.
- b. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area Collaborative has submitted a grant application to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for the 2013 Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Grant.

The grant proposal seeks funding in support of a collaborative project that will involve a series of events scheduled in conjunction with World Oceans Day on June 8, 2014. The purpose of this project is to: 1) communicate the status and findings of continued biological monitoring of the Channel Islands MPAs and highlight these areas as sentinels of ocean health; 2) connect this narrative to Santa Barbara Channel's new coastal MPAs to generate public awareness, stewardship and community engagement around these special places; and 3) showcase ocean activities that serve to improve health of and enjoyment in the Channel's ocean waters and share information about appropriate locations for non-consumptive and consumptive activities.

Since the initial meeting of the group in February 2013, the SB MPA Collaborative Group has been working to broaden its membership in order to reflect a representative cross-section of local ocean stakeholders. There has been an effort to actively engage with recreational and commercial fishermen and the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation to integrate their interests into the collaborative efforts.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Proposed Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting asking that the SAC approve a new working group that would develop recommendations to: reduce the risk of ship strikes on endangered whales; decrease air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; improve navigational safety and promote efficient maritime shipping throughout the region; and minimize interference of naval operations and conflicts with other ocean user. The Proposal specifically ask that SAC to approve: 1. a new Marine Shipping Working Group, 2. general membership (specific members and technical experts to be determined by March meeting), and 3. the project proposal. Contact Kristi Birney (kbirney@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org) for a copy of the proposal.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Ocean Acidification: SBCK will be presenting at the SAC how it will be contributing to monitoring array in the Santa Barbara Channel. There will also be presentations by Linda Kapsenberg of the Hoffman Lab and Laura Francis of the CINMS at the Friday SAC meeting.
- B. Prioritization of Council Work Topics: Debra suggested adding responsible wildlife watching (i.e. Ocean Etiquette) to the list of Work Topics.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- Andrea attended the Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammology. She presented on humpback whale habitat modeling. Leslie Abramson (Gulf of the Farallones) also attended the conference and discussed different ways to use cloud based data bases to assist with whale conservation. For more info contact Andrea Dransfield.
- Kristi reported that the Sanctuary Currents Symposium will be held on April 26, 2014. The theme is "Marine Debris: How do you pitch in?" A call for abstracts is taking place in January. For more info go to: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/symposium.html>
- Andrea reported that the SAC will have the following SAC seats open: Education, Rec Fishing, Public at Large, Tourism, Chumash. The deadline for applying for the open seats is March 1st. More info [here](#).
- Sean Hastings reported that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has released a recent series of reports on the economic impact of commercial fisheries on local county economies. The report about the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary can be found [here](#).
- Sean Heron mentioned the Sanctuary is starting to gather background information on the possible implication of fracking and other oil and gas well stimulating techniques in the Channel.

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