

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
3/19/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC & SAC Conservation Seat), Debra Herring (SAC Recreation Non-Consumptive Seat), Jenna Driscoll (SBCK), Stewart Wilson (SAC Recreation Non-Consumptive Alternate), Vic Cox (SAC Public At-Large Alternate), Greg Helms (OC & SAC Conservation Alternate), and KK Holland (Hannah-Beth Jackson staff)

Staff: Sean Heron

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch and has plans to expand MPA efforts for education and youth outreach. They are planning several boat trips for at-risk youth and the Chumash community. SBCK mentioned an interest in securing support for an MPA awareness day that could fall on the same day as World Oceans Day.

The Gray Whale Count (Michael Smith and volunteers) continue surveying Campus Point MPA as part of their daily gray whale count efforts. Data and reports can be found at Gray Whale Count website.

- b. **SAC Presentation Calla Allison:** Kristi reported that Calla Allison, Director of Community Partnerships, MPA Collaborative Implementation Project, will be presenting at the Friday SAC meeting about her involvement in helping organize local collaboratives. At the SAC meeting Kristi will share information about the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area Collaborative implementation project.

The SB Channel MPA Collaborative implementation project involves a series of events scheduled in conjunction with World Oceans Day on June 7th or 8th, 2014. The purpose of this project is to: 1) connect this narrative to Santa Barbara Channel's new coastal MPAs to generate public awareness, stewardship and community engagement around these special places; 2) 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; and 3) communicate the status and findings of continued biological monitoring of the Channel Islands MPAs and highlight these areas as sentinels of ocean health.

- c. **SAC Presentation Jenn Caselle:** This Friday at the SAC meeting, Jenn will present some of her biological findings from monitoring the Santa Barbara Channel MPAs.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Marine Shipping Working Group Update: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting about the funding situation for the Safe Passage Project (still looking to secure 50K) and providing a list of specific working group members and technical experts. Contact Kristi Birney with any questions (kbirney@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org).

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Marketing Subcommittee Report & Recommendations: Michael Cohen will report out on the marketing subcommittee recommendations at the SAC meeting on Friday. These recommendations include suggestions for continued social media presence, increased sales of Sanctuary products (i.e. t-shirts, water bottles), increased coordination with Visit SB, and presentation in conjunction with other groups and organizations.
- B. MERITO: Rocio will provide an update at the Friday SAC meeting about the status of the MERITO program.
- C. Advisory Council Charter Renewal: Channel Islands SAC Charter will be renewed in June 2014. We discussed revisions that will be made to the charter with respect to the term limits for non-governmental members. The change will result in a limit on members serving only three consecutive terms (terms are two years each) for a total of six years in any given seat. This change will not be retroactive. Many other Sanctuary Advisory Councils Charters already have term limits, and this policy is now being implemented Sanctuary wide.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

Ocean Acidification:

- Sanctuary staff have taken the lead on developing a series of webinars for ocean educators called Sharing Ocean Acidification Resources for Communicators and Educators (SOARCE). More information about the series can be found at the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program website ([here](#)). The first webinar titled: From Science to Communication was hosted Wed March 19th. Resources and information from that webinar will be shared via web and sent to participants in the next several weeks.
- It was mentioned that Lydia Kapsenberg from the Hoffman OA lab will be providing some OA training to the Naturalist Corps members.

- SBCK received some additional funding to install a new SeaFet OA monitoring device at Naples Reef. This new station will add one more site to Lydia Kapsenberg's current monitoring network.

SAC Recruitment: The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for appointments to the Advisory Council. Deadline is March 31, 2014 more info [here](#).

Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity Presentation: A discussion at the SB Maritime Museum, March 26, 7:00-8:30. Call to RSVP.

Cruise Ships: SBCK continues to meet cruise ships as they enter the SB region to welcome them and remind them that they have entered a no dumping area. Twenty-nine cruise ships are expected over the next year.

Fukushima Radiation: SBCK is involved in two collaborative monitoring efforts to determine if radiation from the Fukushima event has reached the Santa Barbara coast. One effort is to monitor water samples from the area. According to results, these samples show zero isotopes for radiation indicating that at this time the radiation plume has not reached Santa Barbara. In addition, SBCK is participating in another project called "Kelp Watch 2014." This collaboration (with over 40 research institutions/groups) involves sampling kelp from local area and sending it off to be analyzed for radiation. There will be three sampling periods for this effort. Jenna noted that Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is taking a leadership role on the radiation issues and has a very informative website found [here](#).

Debra shared information about the 1st California Adaptation Forum. Organizers are currently seeking proposals and the deadline for submitting them is March 20th. The Symposium will be hosted in Sacramento on August 19-20th (more info [here](#)).

Debra and Sean provide copies of the new and updated brochures "Protecting Your Channel Islands." If you have an interest in getting brochures to hand out contact Sanctuary staff.

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