

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**  
**11/19/14 REPORT**  
**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,**  
**906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

**Present:** Kristi Birney (EDC, SAC Conservation Seat.), Debra Herring (SAC Non-Consumptive Seat), Michelle Berman Kowalewski (Channel Island Cetacean Research Unit), Aliya Rubinstein (UCSB Bren student), Kira Redmond (SBCK), Stewart Willison (SAC Non Consumptive Alternate), Michael Smith (Gray Whale Count), John Ugoretz (Navy, SAC Department of Defense (DOD) Seat), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy, SAC Conservation Alternate), Debra Herring (SAC Non-Consumptive Seat); Vic Cox (SAC Public At-large Alternate)

**Via Phone:** Walt Schobel (Air Force, SAC DOD Alternate)

**CINMS Staff:** Via phone: Michael Murray, and Sean Herron (Sea Grant Fellow).

**I. INTRODUCTION**

**II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative continues to work on its MPA Awareness Campaign. Recently completed trips include: Dive Trips with Truth Aquatics & SBCK; SBCK's "SPLASH" Paddle Out, Two excursions with Seafaring Opportunities for Those in Need (SOFTIN) with Capt. Bacon and EDC. SBCK and Truth Aquatics have planned a dive trip (weather dependent) this Saturday Nov 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- b. SBCK is finalizing a new brochure they developed, "Explore Santa Barbara's Marine Protected Areas," listing business and vendors serving local MPAs. Funding to print the brochures will be shared between SBCK and the Collaborative. Brochures will be distributed to tourist centers, hotels, and businesses serving our region. SBCK is also designing a new website that provides qr codes linking MPA access maps, public access points, MPA highlights and recreational opportunities.
- c. Greg mentioned that he has been able to get new MPA signs up Devereux and Campus Point to replace ones that had been removed.
- d. Debra mentioned a video that has gone viral showed divers chumming for hammerhead sharks has raised some concern. She asked if the divers were chumming in an MPA. Sanctuary staff looked at the footage to determine where the incident took place. While difficult to be certain, staff reported that the incident did not appear to take place in an MPA but on the backside of Anacapa Island. NOAA enforcement department is aware of the incident.
- e. John mentioned that there is another viral video of the same diver releasing lobster in MPA after harvesting it, taking it home, and then giving it to the Sea

Center. John noted that releasing the lobster into the wild after it had been placed in an aquarium setting (the Sea Center) is illegal.

- f. There was some conversation acknowledging that the diver had potentially overlooked some rules even though his intent seems well intended at least in the case of the lobster release. The group suggested communicating with him would be worthwhile as he is an active source of info and imagery and in the public spot light for now.

### **III. WHALES & SHIPPING**

- A. VSR Trial Update: Sean Herron will provide a wrap up of the VSR Trial.
  - a. Michael reported that there have been a large number of whales near shipping lanes and was interested to know if there have been any notices. Sean Herron mentioned that the USCG has a whale advisory that is currently going out advising mariners that whales are present in the area. Broadcast of this notice has been extended beyond the typical season as whales are still in the channel.
- B. Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and brief update at Friday's SAC meeting on the funding status for the Working Group.
  - a. Funding: EDC and partners (CINMS and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District) return in early November to the Santa Barbara Foundation and interview for an additional \$100K for the Safe Passage Project. We are pleased to announce that we secured the \$100K. Unfortunately, we were notified that the additional \$36K could not be guaranteed at this time. This funding would be used to covers EDC's participation in the working group. We will continue to move forward as planned with the Working Group and anticipate starting the Working Group early next year. EDC is actively seeking funding and will continue to have conversations with our funding partners and our hopeful that we can fill this gap. If we cannot secure funding we will have to revise our level of engagement in the Working Group.

### **IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS**

- A. Optional Mock-Council Discussion: At the SAC meet this week there will be a SAC agenda Mock-Council Discussion item. This is made up exercise to give UCSB Bren School Master's students the opportunity to experience what it is like to be in a real world policy forum. CINMS staff have emphasized that this is just a mock-exercise and no proposal is before staff requesting cruise ship visitation to the Sanctuary. SAC members are encouraged to attend and participate as members of the public.
- B. Marine Mammal Standing Response: There will be several presentations about Marine Mammals this Friday. Michelle will be presenting her research looking at whales and dolphins over the last 10 years.

### **VI. OTHER ISSUES**

- A. Santa Barbara City- Desalination Plant

- There was a robust discussion regarding the City’s plan to re-start the City of Santa Barbara’s Desalination plant. Discussion centered on the different technologies that are used for water delivery into the desalination facility and the range of effects different types of intake technologies could have on the marine environment. Debra and Ben have been talking about this issue and its relevance to the Sanctuary and SAC. SBCK brought forward a resolution to start as a template for conversation. The resolution encourages the Cities of Santa Barbara and Montecito to consider the feasibility of a subsurface intake versus an open ocean intakes (as currently proposed by the City of SB) should they decide to move forward with a desalination plant. SBCK has been lobbying the City to consider the feasibility of a subsurface option.
- John suggested that the appropriate procedural path forward would be to introduce the topic at the upcoming SAC meeting Friday during the CWG Report with a request that SBCK have an opportunity to return to the SAC in January for a more robust presentation and discussion about this topic and a possible conversation about a draft proposed resolution.
- There was general consensus and the CWG is supportive of this approach. At this time the CWG request that at the Executive Committee consider including this topic as an Agenda item at the next SAC meeting in January. SBCK would provide a presentation with an opportunity for input and discussion on the draft template resolution.
- Walt shared the link to a white paper titled “Overview of Desalination Plant Intake Alternatives.” This paper can be accessed at:  
[http://www.watereuse.org/sites/default/files/u8/Intake\\_White\\_Paper.pdf](http://www.watereuse.org/sites/default/files/u8/Intake_White_Paper.pdf)

**ADJOURN**