

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/21/15 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC, SAC Conservation Seat), Stewart Willison (SAC Non Consumptive Alternate), Michael Smith (Gray Whale Count), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy, SAC Conservation Alternate), Debra Herring (SAC Non-Consumptive Seat); Vic Cox (SAC Public At-large Alternate), Jenna Driscoll (SBCK)

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

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

I. INTRODUCTIONS

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 activities include participation in Underwater Parks Day at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center. The event hosted fun activities for kids, displayed local school children art, a tide pool exhibit, and hosted special speakers.
 - i. Feedback from CWG members was that attendance felt light. There was a discussion about cost of admission for adults. It was suggested that the SB Channel MPA Collaborative could consider seeking grant funding to offset cost of admission for all participants. It was noted that this item has been placed on a short list of ideas for the Collaborative.
- b. Jenna mentioned that SBCK has sent a final draft of the MPA Excursion Brochure to the printer.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. VSR Trial Update: Sean Herron will provide a wrap up of the VSR Trial at the SAC Meeting, building on information he presented at the previous SAC meeting.
 - a. Bren School Proposed Project. Sanctuary staff discussed a new student UCSB Bren group thesis; “Economic Incentives for Vessel Speed Reduction in the Santa Barbara Channel.” The project will explore the value of the whale watching industry and value of whales to our region. This will be the first study of this scale to explore the financial benefit of whale conservation.

There will also be an evaluation of benefits associated with air emissions reductions.

- B. Marine Shipping Working Group: Sean Herron will report on the status of the new Working Group at Friday's SAC meeting. First Working Group meeting is scheduled in Santa Barbara, location tbd, Feb 25th, from 10-4. Staff and the SAC Executive Committee have been conducting planning meetings with facilitation team Kearns and West and Sea Sketch staff.
 - a. Co-Chairs: The SAC will be asked to consider approval of two co-chairs for the new Working Group. Co-Chairs must be members of both the SAC and the Working Group. Co-Chairs will serve in an administrative role for the Working Group and reporting role to the SAC. Currently, names under consideration include: Kristi Birney and Phyllis Grifman. The SAC will be asked to approve working group co-chairs.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. 2015 Council Work Topics: Mike is working with staff on a draft starter list for consideration on Friday. CWG members were in agreement that the new Working Group will be a priority. Kristi committed to reporting to the CWG about Working Group progress, alternatives. She will also be responsible for carrying any CWG concerns, issues, and suggestions back to the new Working Group.
 - a. Possible themes for work topics: Marketing Subcommittee, Marine Shipping Group, MPAs, OA, Navy Fiber Optic Cable project, RAP and research team engagement, SET MPA education outreach, and Desalination (as it relates to NPS possible small scale desal proposals).
- B. Desalinization: Educational Presentation & Discussion: Staff from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will present a guidance document that they use for approaching the topic of desalination.
- C. Ocean Acidification Update: This SAC meeting we will hear from Sanctuary staff about their work on OA. Jenna noted that SBCK has been partnering with the Hoffman Lab to install another OA sensor at Naples Reef. Jenna mentioned that SBCK collects the water sample and data, which are then transferred to the Hoffman Lab. Sanctuary staff is also working on scheduling a presentation by the UCSB Hoffman Lab for the May SAC meeting.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Debra mentioned that Antioch University is showing a documentary film tomorrow about factory farming. Movie is from 4-6 at Antioch University in downtown Santa Barbara.
- B. Vic mentioned the movie Breach will show during the Santa Barbara Film Festival. This movie is about whale watching and whaling in Iceland.
- C. Mike mentioned that SAC recruiting will take place for a variety of Seats. Announcements will be sent out soon.

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