

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
7/18/12 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Vic Cox, Christine Ryerson (Jim Ryerson Environmental Fdn), Jenna Driscoll, Kia Gornik (Bren School), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Dani Storz (Gray Whales Count), Caryn Bower (EDC law clerk), John Ugoretz (Navy), Mary Byrd (SB County APCD)

Staff: Sara Hutto, Mike Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: Kia provided a report on progress thus far. The group has spent the past month collecting existing data and integrating it into a database for the project. The group is developing a model that will identify statistically significant attributes for private boat use in the Sanctuary.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. PARS/IMO: the IMO Subcommittee on Navigation Safety recommended moving the SB Channel TSS; the Marine Safety Committee will make a final decision in November 2012. The CINMS helped prepare the US delegation to the IMO. The Coast Guard will initiate its own rule-making process after the final IMO vote. The Coast Guard process will involve environmental review, public input, ESA consultation, and consultation with the CINMS.

In a related matter, the IMO's Emission Control Area (ECA) will go into effect in August. The ECA will require ships to use cleaner fuel within the Economic Exclusive Zone. While the initial requirements are not as stringent as California's requirement, stricter requirements will phase in in 2015.

- B. Agency Plans for 2012: US Coast Guard is publishing a notice to mariners. The notice includes a Whale Advisory Zone that extends from just north of Pt. Conception to Dana Point, and within that a smaller "Slow Speed Zone" within the Channel. The CINMS is working with NMFS to reach out more to the shipping industry and to broadcast the notice through NOAA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The Sanctuary program has also posted more information on its website. John Ugoretz expressed concern that recommending slower speeds only within the Channel could encourage ships to travel outside the Islands. As such, it may be more effective to recommend a slower speed throughout the

Whale Advisory Zone. Other CWG members pointed out that the voluntary speed reduction recommendation has not been effective and thus there may not be a shift in response to the recommendation. Sara also reported that the shipping industry has stated that shippers will be more likely to comply with a recommended Slow Speed Zone if it is smaller. We all agreed that this year will provide a good opportunity to test this theory.

- C. Joint Working Group report: A report prepared by a working group in the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Banks NMS's was adopted by the two SACs and forwarded to the Sanctuary Superintendents. One of the recommendations is to develop a real time sighting system with industry, and to then identify Dynamic Management Areas which could be used to spatially separate the ships from the whales (note: there are 3 approaches to the SF Bay, thus allowing a shift of approach to avoid high concentrations of whales). The recommendation is to start with a voluntary system, and then consider mandatory measures if necessary. Linda pointed out the benefit of having specific recommendations and timeframes (with consequences) and asked how these concepts could be applied in the CINMS. Mike reported that all west coast Sanctuaries are being briefed on the recommendations. The real time sighting technology could potentially be used all along the west coast. The International Fund for Animal Welfare is working with NOAA on developing technology.
- D. California Air Resources Board: Mary reported that there were several comments in support of allocating funds from the cap-and-trade program to provide a financial incentive for ships to slow down offshore CA (which will benefit air quality as well as reduce GHG emissions). The first auction will occur in November; we are not sure how and when a decision will be made.

IV. SAC CAMPAIGN OF ENGAGEMENT

- A. Dan Basta, director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, has directed all Sanctuaries to take steps to increase awareness about the Sanctuary program and to engage in more partnerships. The CINMS has been asked to expand its relationship with industries that manufacture and use unmanned aerial vehicles. In Monterey there is a TV show about Sanctuaries; the show may be expanded to include segments on other Sanctuary sites. The CINMS Advisory Council will discuss ideas for enhancing public support for the Sanctuary. An initial step could be to form a SAC subcommittee. (A working group could follow.) Michael Smith pointed to the benefits of partnering with the CINP.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: the Education Coordinators are planning a workshop about how to communicate the issue of ocean acidification, based on a workshop at UCSB. The workshop will be

tacked onto a symposium on ocean acidification in September in Monterey.

Continued research is underway as well, in concert with NOAA and other researchers. The Hofmann Lab is installing more monitors in the Channel.

- B. EDC Public Service Announcement (PSA): The PSA is completed and starting to be distributed. We are asking all CINMS Advisory Council members to send an email to their counterparts on all other SACs asking them to help distribute the PSA in their communities. We recognize that not all SAC members will participate, but we wanted to make it easy for those that do. EDC is also soliciting other ideas and assistance with distribution.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. SAC agenda – Artificial Reefs: There will be a presentation about artificial reefs at the upcoming SAC meeting, including information about the proposed Fish Reef Project.
- B. SAC agenda – Informational presentation re predation on rocky reefs: There will also be a presentation by Ryan Jekinson (San Diego State) regarding predation on rocky reefs.

ADJOURN