

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
7/21/11 AGENDA
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, EDC (Chair); Greg Helms, Ocean Conservancy (Vice Chair); Kristi Birney, EDC; Michael Sheehy, SBCK; Debra Herring; Michael Smith, Gray Whales Count; Vic Cox; Mark Brody.

CINMS Staff: Kristen Hislop

I. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Linda announced that she and Kristi Birney attended the Ocean for Life boat trip yesterday. This is a program sponsored by the Sanctuary Program involving high school students around the U.S. and other countries (mainly the Middle East) to enhance their knowledge about the ocean and to develop cross-cultural relationships.
- B. Michael Sheehy announced that the SBCK is hosting a volunteer training as part of its MPA Watch Program on July 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the SBCK office.

II. SHIPPING

- A. Whale distribution data will be presented at the SAC meeting.
- B. Brandon Southall (SOCAL-11) will make a presentation to the SAC about research regarding biological and behavioral responses of marine mammals to noise in Southern California.
- C. PARS: The SF PARS, which was recently released, considered some of the recommendations from the Sanctuaries. The PARS for our area may be released in September.
- D. Sanctuary Ship Speed Petition: EDC and three other conservation groups submitted a petition to the four CA National Marine Sanctuaries, asking the Sanctuaries to pursue a rulemaking imposing a 10-knot speed limit for large vessels traveling through the Sanctuaries.

III. CWG OFFSHORE ENERGY REPORT

- A. Report status: focus thus far has been on technologies and impacts. Work to continue on impacts and other sections (e.g., policy framework).
- B. SAC panel presentation still planned for September.

IV. PLASTIC BAG BAN

- A. Request to SAC to adopt resolution: in response to the adoption of a resolution by the MBNMS advisory council supporting efforts to ban single-use plastic bags, the CWG voted to forward a resolution to the SAC that supports (1) legislative and regulatory efforts to ban the use and distribution of single-use plastic bags; (2) efforts of local businesses to transition away from single-use plastic bags; and (3) efforts to remove plastic bag litter from the shores and waters of the Sanctuary. The resolution focuses on plastic, not paper, bags because of our focus on the marine environment. The CWG referred to the recent report by

Environment California that identifies dozens of nations and local governments that have banned plastic bags. The CWG recommended a grammatical change to the fourth recital, such that it would read “Whereas, plastic bags never fully biodegrade, they are instead broken down by the sun through photodegradation into tiny pieces, which attract and accumulate various toxins that then enter the ocean food chain.”

V. WATER QUALITY

- A. Dani Lipski will provide a status report to the SAC regarding the Sanctuary’s follow up from the CWG Water Quality Report and SBCK assessment, and the work the Sanctuary is doing to address water quality.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Wildlife Protection Workshop: Michael Smith proposes a workshop to discuss how to protect marine wildlife when engaged in commercial and recreational activities on the water. He would like to hold the workshop at UCSB because of the proximity to the MPA, and invite all types of ocean users in the area to discuss the issue. The CWG recommended considering multiple workshops (at different locations) to engage various user groups.
- B. Aquaculture: NOAA finalized its aquaculture policy. Congresswoman Capps reintroduced her aquaculture legislation.
- C. Oil Spill Area Contingency Plan: Michael Sheehy attended the meeting yesterday. He mentioned the upcoming oil spill drill that is planned for our area, and questioned whether there will be a simulated natural resource damage assessment.

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