

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
9/21/11 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (Chair), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Michael Sheehy (SBCK), Debra Herring, Kristi Birney (EDC), Brianne Billups, Jean Holmes (LWV)

CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Kristen Hislop

- I. INTRODUCTIONS 3:00**
Celebrated Mike Murray's birthday!
- II. SHIPPING 3:05**
- A. PARS: USCG anticipates release of the Study by end of October. Mike also reported on status of SF PARS. USCG staff has pointed out that even if the PARS recommends a change, the decision is still up to the agency (and would require a full rule-making process).
 - B. Sanctuary ship speed petition: Mike reported that we can expect a response (from NOAA) by mid-October. In the meantime, the Sanctuaries are putting resources into studying the issue.
 - C. "Sharing the Ocean: Searching for Safe Passage for Whales & Ship" (EDC, Coastal Fund, Bren): Kristi described the upcoming public workshop on whales & shipping, which will take place at Bren on 9/28, 1:00-4:00 pm, and include representatives from the CINMS, NMFS, SBC APCD, Navy, USCG and EDC.
 - D. Dave Rastovich "Transparent Sea" event: Kristi announced a film event on 9/29, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Maritime Museum, featuring efforts to protect whales and including a chance to highlight the Sanctuary ship speed petition.
- III. CWG OFFSHORE ENERGY REPORT 3:25**
Kristi reported she has been reaching out to agencies, in the hopes that they could provide speakers for a panel presentation to the SAC. This effort has been stalled because there are no specific applications pending before the agencies and thus they do not have staff resources available to address our request. In the meantime, Kristi and her Bren interns continue with their research.
- IV. MLPA 3:35**
Fish & Game Commission hearing – 9/15/11: Greg reported that the Commission needs to submit further clarifications regarding the proposed regulations to the Office of Administrative Law. A further hearing is scheduled for October, 2011. The regulations will likely be effective on or by January 1, 2012.
- V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION 3:50**
- A. West Coast Action Plan: (New) Final Plan is publicly available and on the web [sanctuaries.noaa.gov> about your sanctuaries> west coast region> what's new]. The West Coast Education Coordinators participated in a

meeting to discuss the recommendations in the Plan and possible implementation strategies. The Research Coordinators are attempting to do something similar and have commenced informal discussions. Dani will provide a report at the SAC meeting.

- B. Dr. Feely completed another west coast cruise.
- C. Oceans for Life students were trained in ocean acidification and participated in workshops with scientists and Bruce Steele.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

4:00

- A. Oil Spill Exercise report: Chris Mobley will provide a preliminary report at the September SAC meeting, and a more comprehensive report will be provided by the USCG in November.
- B. Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation: Dennis Long of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation will announce plans to begin doing business at Channel Islands.

VII. OTHER ISSUES/REPORTS

- A. MBNMS Expansion: Someone from SLO may attend our SAC meeting to speak during public comment in support of expanding the MBNMS to the south. Linda reminded the CWG about the history of study of the CINMS boundary.
- B. Sea Otter Translocation: FWS has published a notice of intention to declare the translocation program a failure, thereby providing protection for otters south of Pt. Conception. Hearings are scheduled in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

ADJOURN

4:30