

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Advisory Council

Final Key Meeting Outcomes

January 18, 2013

Casa Las Palmas, Santa Barbara, CA

*Note: This document will be posted on line at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>.
Audio recordings of Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.*

Attendance: At peak, seventeen of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Four seats were absent for the day: Research, California Coastal Commission, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Chumash Community. Maximum public attendance was 14 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Eric Kett opened the January 2013 SAC meeting and introduced two new SAC members; Rich Rozzelle from California State Parks representing the California Natural Resources Agency, and Gary Hirtensteiner, the Patrol Captain for Channel Islands Harbor representing the County of Ventura. The draft key outcomes for the November 16, 2012 meeting were unanimously approved and the report was adopted as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley highlighted several items, including: introducing new sanctuary intern Darrell Gregg; acknowledging and recognizing several individuals and groups that helped make possible the recent International Maritime Organization approval of shipping lane changes in the Santa Barbara Channel and near San Francisco Bay; updates on the new CINMS office building and outreach center (OCTOS) at UCSB; news that the Channel Islands Boating Center will be opening soon; a reminder that council members were invited to a January 22nd annual Park & Sanctuary volunteer recognition dinner; and an announcement that new sanctuary interpretive signs had just been installed by the City of Santa Barbara within Shoreline Park.

Acting Deputy Director's Report

William J. Douros, Acting Deputy Director and West Coast Regional Director for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), began by announcing that his tenure as Acting Deputy Director would be drawing to a close soon. Mr. Douros explained that he will be returning to Monterey to resume full-time duties as the West Coast Regional Director for sanctuaries, while John Armor will become the newly appointed ONMS Deputy Director, taking over in February. Mr. Douros commented on the unresolved federal budget situation, expressing an expectation that that a budget resolution for the year may not be reached until March or April. He also indicated that a budget cut to NOAA, should it occur, would be difficult to absorb and would affect sanctuaries, while also acknowledging the success of ONMS and CINMS at bringing in external resources. Mr. Douros also acknowledged good work that is continuing on many fronts, including construction progress on the Ocean Science Education Building at UCSB, recent expansion of the Fagatele Bay national marine sanctuary to become the largest sanctuary in the system (now called the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa), and recent approval to begin an 18 to 24 month public process to consider the expansion of the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries.

Council Member Announcements

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Audio recordings are available upon request.

2012 Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit: Highlights and Proposed Actions

Council Chairman Eric Kett showed some slides and described his participation at a recent national "SAC Summit" held in Santa Cruz, California from December 4–6, 2012. The meeting brought together council chairs with sanctuary leadership, and for one day also involved members of the MPA Center's Federal Advisory Committee. Eric provided a "tour" through photos of the meeting venue, the Sanctuary Exploration Center, and

summarized several themes discussed at the meeting, particularly noting the success of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary in engaging their Alpena, Michigan community. Eric also mentioned that while at the Summit he was able to: 1) point out that he'd like to see CINMS develop a presence on Facebook (and garner leadership support for this); 2) have a side discussion about artificial reefs; 3) pose suggestions for sanctuaries to improve their relationship with recreational fishing communities and supporting sustainable fishing in the sanctuaries; and 4) connect with the Advisory Council Chair from the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary about the idea of our Chumash community possibly being supported in future journeys up the coast to participate in Tribal Journeys. Eric focused on two proposed actions he left the Summit inspired to pursue: 1) engage representatives from local convention and visitor bureaus (CVBs) to learn how to improve marketing of the sanctuary; and 2) seek an advisory council support letter for the reactivation of the national marine sanctuary system's Site Evaluation List (SEL). Regarding the first proposed action, support was expressed by Rich Rozzelle and Michael Cohen, including a suggestion that the sanctuary become CVB members. A motion was passed unanimously that approved council engagement with local CVBs.

William Douros provided a presentation to further explain the Site Evaluation List (SEL) process (slides available upon request). He described what the SEL is and what it is not, the ONMS regulations related to the SEL, and how the SEL fits in with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Mr. Douros also explained the history of the SEL, highlighting that it has been 13 years since a sanctuary was designated, and he pointed out how the overall sanctuary system budget allocation has risen over time following the designation of new sanctuaries.

Council remarks followed, and several questions were offered and answered that involved discussion about: how the SEL would be used in the future; the difference between new site designations (SEL process) and boundary expansions (non-SEL); how the National Park Service handles an ongoing process for evaluating candidate park areas; and how an SEL letter from the council could lend a supporting voice to other communities seeking to evaluate the possibility of a national marine sanctuary designation. Linda Krop offered a motion (seconded by Debra Herring) to adopt a proposed letter that had been patterned from a recently-adopted letter sent by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (available upon request). Discussion on the motion revealed that some members (e.g., Dept. of Defense) desired additional time to consult with others within their organization. In addition, some members wanted additional time to develop and suggest specific edits to the letter, with Capt. David Bacon seeking to not vote for a letter that would be viewed by his constituency as a first move in attempts to limit recreational fishing, and Bruce Steele preferring some language that could address the issue of reduced overall energy use by the government in the context of climate change. Vic Cox offered a motion to table the first motion (seconded by John Ugoretz) until the next council meeting. That motion was passed with a vote of 10 yes (D. Bacon, D. Schroeder, G. Hirtensteiner, V. Cox, J. Ugoretz, R. Rozzelle, S. Curtis, M. Petueli, R. McKenna, E. Kett), 4 no (R. Galipeau, D. Herring, L. Krop, M. Curto), and 3 abstentions (E. Petras, C. Davidson, B. Steele).

Public Comment

Michael Sheehy, representing Santa Barbara Channel Keeper (SBCK), announced that SBCK will be supporting island clean-up efforts and encouraged others to assist. He also announced SBCK's support for the Ty Warner Sea Center's upcoming Underwater Parks Day event on January 19th. Additionally, Michael announced the EPA's comment period is now open regarding renewal of a discharge permit for underwater drilling in the Santa Barbara Channel.

Kristi Birney commented on the personal significance of her and her family's ability to visit state parks, national parks and national marine sanctuaries. She emphasized the importance of supporting other communities being able to consider having a park or sanctuary designated in their community. Kristi specifically mentioned the San Luis Obispo area and its interest in creating a sanctuary. Kristi asked that the council vote in favor of supporting reactivation of the SEL.

Update on Ocean Acidification

Bruce Steele and others provided a brief update on the issue of ocean acidification, the science involved and

education and outreach efforts including the California Current Acidification Network (CCAN). Bruce also announced that CCAN is currently seeking funding for future projects and is now headed by Steve Weisberg. A further discussion ensued on work being conducted by the Scripps institute on hypoxic waters. The update concluded with a discussion about the sensitive, high-end and carefully calibrated equipment needed for accurate and comparable data collection on ocean pH.

Presentation: Discovery of the *George E. Billings* Shipwreck

Robert Schwemmer, Maritime Heritage Coordinator for CINMS and the ONMS West Coast Region, provided a presentation on the search for, discovery, significance, announcement, and media coverage of the *George E. Billings* shipwreck within CINMS (slides available upon request). Schwemmer highlighted that the story generated between \$1.5 and \$5 million worth of publicity for the sanctuary and park based on the comparable advertising value of the extent of news print coverage given. He also explained that through this coverage contact had been made with the grandson of a former *Billings* captain. The shipwreck is now an integral part of the cultural heritage value of the sanctuary. The presentation concluded with a question and answer period during which various issues of the shipwreck site were discussed.

Identification and Prioritization of Council Work Topics for 2013

Chairman Eric Kett provided a general overview of a work topic prioritization worksheet. The worksheet contained a listing of topics that staff suggested could be helpful for the council to work on in 2013. Additional topics were suggested and written on the list for all to rank: Debra Herring suggested adding “responsible wildlife viewing”; Bruce Steele suggested adding “energy use by the sanctuary/federal government”; David Bacon suggested, with support from Merit McCrea, adding the Fish Reef Project; Russell Galipeau suggested learning about new lobster and squid fishery management plans; and John Ugoretz suggested adding a presentation on the panga issue. Council members individually ranked all activity suggestions. Staff will tabulate the results and go forward with a list that will help guide meeting agenda planning [to be posted at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html].

Public Comment

Kristi Birney from the council’s Conservation Working Group announced that she is working with CINMS staff members Julie Bursek and Laura Francis to help make progress on actions identified at the September 2012 workshop on best practices for communicating on ocean acidification.

Working Group Reports

Channel Islands Technical Advisory Committee

Mike Murray announced that Bill Struble would not be able to provide a TAC report, but that Mike, Sean Hastings and Darrell Gregg had been in touch with representatives from the Department of Homeland Security about the possibility of a future presentation to the advisory council on the panga issue.

Marketing Subcommittee

Michael Cohen commented on the recent subcommittee meeting, noting that the group had discussed the need to develop a new Facebook page for CINMS, and the support heard from CINMS superintendent Chris Mobley. Michael described some of the mechanics and value of creating a CINMS Facebook page, underscoring the focused staffing commitment needed to make it pay off. Michael concluded by discussing the importance of partnering with and joining local convention and visitor bureaus.

Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

Maria Petueli reported that a SET meeting is scheduled for the following week to follow-up on previous workshops with a focus on case studies, statistics, and messaging about MPAs. Maria also announced that the SET will be meeting with Ocean Steward Youth Council students from Oxnard High School helping them to prepare their final presentations, which will be shared at a future SAC meeting. Maria also commented that it had been a year since the formation of the Youth Council as a pilot project, which is now wrapping up, and so

she would like to revisit the experience and discuss options for continuing to involve youth with the SAC in the future. Unrelated to the SET, Maria also commented on the tragic death of U.S. Coast Guard officer Tyrone Horne III, and offered to look into ways that members, if interested, could donate to a foundation that has been set up to help the Horne family.

Conservation Working Group (CWG)

Linda Krop reported on a recent CWG meeting, noting that the group would like to see the UCSB Bren School's graduate student group present their project to the SAC on the non-use value of recreational boating in the sanctuary. Linda also explained that the CWG would like to review progress made by the sanctuary and others on the 2009 SAC recommendations on ways to reduce ship strike risk, and with consideration to more recent recommendations made by a working group advising the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuary advisory councils, come back to the SAC at some point with updated suggestions for making further progress.

Meeting Close-Out

Chairman Eric Kett closed out the meeting by announcing future meeting dates:

- March 15 (Ventura)
- May 17 (Santa Barbara)
- July 19 (Ventura)
- September 20 (Santa Barbara)
- November 15 (Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster (1/18/2013):

Andrea Mills	Tourism	Present
Capt. Mat Curto	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
vacant	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	----
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Present
Michael Cohen	Business - Alternate	Present
Linda Krop	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
Amanda Hendrickson	Education - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Absent
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Absent
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Absent
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	Present
Richard Block	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Present
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	Absent
Mati Waiya	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries	Absent
vacant	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	----
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	Absent
CDR Christina Davidson	US Coast Guard	Present
LCDR Brad Soule	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt (BOEM)	Present
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEM - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Paul Hamdorf	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Absent
Kristine Barsky	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	Absent
Rich Rozzelle	CA Natural Resources Agency	Present
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	Absent
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present
Gary Hirtensteiner	Ventura County	Present
Marilyn Miller	Ventura County - Alternate	Absent
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent
Maria Brown	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Brian Johnson	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent