

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**Final Key Meeting Outcomes
January 21, 2011
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 this and other Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, 18 of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Three seats were absent for the day: NOAA Fisheries, California Resources Agency and California Coastal Commission. Public attendance varied from two to seven people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

The draft key outcomes report from the November 19, 2010 meeting was adopted as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley highlighted several items during his oral report:

- Introducing Kristen Hislop, a California Sea Grant Fellow that will be with CINMS in 2011;
- Introducing and hearing remarks from Carol Bernthal, Acting Regional Director for the ONMS West Coast Region;
- An update (from Mike Murray) on ONMS proposed modifications to the sanctuary overflight regulation;
- An announcement that the new CINMS documentary film, "*Beneath the Rainbow Bridge: A Journey Through the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*" will be screened at the Santa Barbara International Film Festival on February 4th and 5th; and
- A reminder from Mike Murray about several Council seats that are open for application until January 24th.

Council Member Announcements

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

Prioritization of Council Work Topics for 2011

Chris Mobley provided context for the level of planning for 2011 by reflecting on budget challenges facing the sanctuary, including severe limits on spending and looking to partnerships and collaborations to keep programs going. He announced that the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation is planning to start working locally as the Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation, and will provide a venue for donations and fundraising.

Mike Murray presented possible work topics from sanctuary staff, and the council added a few additional ideas such as: tribal MPAs, oxygen minimum zones, acoustic science, and the oil spill exercise. Council members were asked to rank the work topics and turn them in for compilation by staff. The resulting list of priorities will be posted at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html.

Whale Ship Strikes and Port Access Route Study

Mike Murray provided the following updates on ongoing ship strike activities: staff is conducting aerial surveys with the Navy to the south of the islands and recording whale and ship sightings; and, the Bren School group project is working on two models examining the change in risk to ship strikes based on management scenarios and costs analysis. The team will have their public presentation in April, and Council members and the public are invited to attend. Mike reported that the PARS study has held two public hearings. Comments are on the website at regulations.gov and the study should be released in June.

Dick McKenna informed the Council that NMFS is currently holding a symposium in Newport Beach on whale studies, part of which is dedicated to ship strikes. He also shared that the California Air Resources Board is discussing modification of the 24 mile limit to the use of low sulfur ship fuel so as to extend it seaward from around all islands in Southern California Bight. The expectation is that it would limit ship transit use through the Navy's missile range, and would coax ship use back into the Santa Barbara Channel. These regulations could possibly be implemented in July.

CDR Jason Collins announced that the Coast Guard is planning an oil spill exercise in September 2011. The scenario is still tentative, but is expected to simulate a collision and casualty of two ships on the south side of the islands. CDR Collins reported that the response scenario may include dispersants and booms, and volunteer coordination for wildlife response.

Public comment

Rachel Kondor, staffer for U.S. Congresswoman Lois Capps, reported that the Congresswoman is no longer able to sit on the House Natural Resources Committee because of recent reorganizations in Congress. Her dedication to the issues remains strong, but they have lost staff for the committee and thus new challenges have surfaced. Ms. Kondor also reported that Congresswoman Capps' office is still working on reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, but she did not have anything new to report.

Council Discussion: Term Limits, Meeting Structure, and Participation Options

Term limit policy for members

Mike Murray reminded the council of the discussion they had on this topic recently, and of the new ONMS policy, which is final. Mike explained that the policy essentially calls for a limit of three consecutive terms by either a public seat member or alternate, and provides a few waivers to deviate from that in special circumstances. The council discussed the details of the approval of council member appointments which wasn't clear in the language of the policy. Linda Krop commented that there is a good mix of representation of long term members and new voices on this council and that the Superintendent does have the ability to appoint new members without this particular policy. There was a discussion about the selection process and the transparency of the process.

Discussion on preferred structure of SAC meetings

Mike Murray reminded the council of how this topic came up at the last meeting, and discussed the current, typical meeting structure (Fridays, all day meetings). When asked about preferences for keeping the meeting days and length as is, or making some changes, council comments included a range of opinions, from keeping the status quo, a preference for all day meetings, a preference for quarterly meetings (noting that some material tends to be repeated from meeting to meeting), and even one request for more than six meetings. A few council members also expressed that the recent meetings that have been lighter in content are not typical for the history of the council, that the council has generally had very full meetings, and that the development for 2011 work plan will help develop a schedule for the year. Some members supported a hybrid system which would include quarterly meetings plus two optional remote access meetings. The council discussed agenda items that are informational verses critical. It was suggested that, for example, the Superintendent's report, member announcements and working group reports take up more agenda time than needed, and much of that content could be addressed in writing in advance.

Consideration of remote participation options

Mike Murray summarized a range of remote participation options potentially available, which were included in a handout to the council. The council discussed the pros and cons. Several council members noted that the options beyond status quo introduced more costs and, thus, did not seem practical at this time. Some council members expressed interest in enhancing public access to the meetings. Others expressed that the technology is still problematic and does not provide the same level of engagement as in-person meetings. Some council members expressed an interest in seeing the recorded meeting audio files posted on the website. With regarding

making major changes, the Chair's overall wrap-up indicated that most folks seemed supportive of the way meetings are run now, but that there is room to streamline some aspects of our meetings. As Merit McCrea stated: "never leave fish to find fish."

Working Group Reports

- A. CINMS Interagency Enforcement Working Group.** Bill Struble reported for Dayna Matthews that the group is now meeting quarterly, and has not met recently. Bill reported that there has been good attendance at their working group meetings including EPA and other agencies. He also reported that there have been enforcement activities at San Miguel Island concerning commercial fishing.
- B. Chumash Community Working Group.** Luhui Isha reported that the Chumash Community Working Group held their first meeting since Luhui and Vennise have been appointed on December 12, 2010, mostly to prepare for the Fish and Game Commission meeting on December 15th.
- C. Sanctuary Education Team (SET).** Maria Petueli reported that the SET recently held their first meeting of the year and decided to evaluate the work that has been done in the past year before taking on new activities. For example, sanctuary staff will be working on the evaluations that were done for the ocean acidification workshops. Looking ahead, the SET would like to schedule another ocean acidification workshop in May. Maria asked council members to let her know if there were other issues the SET should work on.
- D. Research Activities Panel (RAP).** Mark Steele reported (for Bob Warner) that the RAP will hold a meeting before the next SAC meeting to discuss research activities in the region.
- E. Recreational Fishing Working Group.** No report.
- F. Commercial Fishing Working Group.** Bruce Steele did not report on a working group meeting, but did suggest that with the 10-year mark of the Channel Islands MPAs coming up in 2013, he felt it might be valuable to arrange to get some people out to the MPAs, including fishermen, so they can dive and actually see for themselves what things look like in the reserves.
- G. Conservation Working Group** Greg Helms, for Linda Krop, reported on the working group's January 19th meeting. Notes were provided to council members. With respect to whale protection in the sanctuary and NOAA guidelines, Greg mentioned that the working group heard some concerns and questions about whale watching activities, and considered that maybe the council could look into this.

Future Meeting Schedule

- Friday, March 18, Ventura (SAC Meeting)
- May 3-4: Annual national SAC Summit, Savannah, Georgia (SAC Chair attends)
- Friday, May 20, Santa Barbara (SAC Meeting)
- Friday, July 22, Ventura (SAC Meeting)
- Friday, September 23, Santa Barbara (SAC Meeting)
- Friday, November 18, Ventura (SAC Meeting)

Meeting Attendance Roster ():

Andrea Mills	Tourism	Present
Mat Curto	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Perry Ferguson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Present
Michael W.M. Gould	Business - Alternate	Present
Linda Krop	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present
Vacant	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	----
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
Amanda Hendrickson	Education - Alternate	Present
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Absent
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
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
Marilyn Kelly	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Present
Luhui Isha	Chumash Community	Present
Vennise Miller-Forte	Chumash Community - Alternate	Present
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Absent
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Absent
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Absent
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	Present
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present
Steve Arnwine	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	BOEMRE	Absent
Ann Bull	BOEMRE	Present
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Present
Kristine Barsky	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	Absent
Brian Baird	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Barbara Carey	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne M. Black	Santa Barbara County	Absent
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	Absent
Marilyn Miller	Ventura County - Alternate	Present
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