

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

**FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes
January 29, 2010
Casa Las Palmas, Santa Barbara, CA**

Note: After adoption by the Advisory Council, 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, 16 of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Five seats were absent for the day: California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, Chumash Community, Tourism, and Business. Public attendance varied from 4 to 9 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

The draft key outcomes report from the November 20, 2009 meeting were adopted as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley gave a verbal Superintendent's Report and announced that funding for the MERITO coordinator was made available in part due to the council's letter request to Dan Basta. He also reported on the CINMS budget, and announced that revised overflight regulations at CINMS and other sanctuaries are being clarified and strengthened for ease of enforcement. Chris thanked outgoing representatives Fred Piltz and Steve Schwartz and welcomed back John Ugoretz (Navy member) and Dr. Ann Bull (MMS alternate). Chris presented a 2009 Sanctuary Advisory Council Inspiration Award to Bruce Steele.

Council Member Announcements

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Marija Vojkovich provided extended announcements to serve as a report on activities with the Department of Fish and Game (development fishery management plans for lobster and herring; use of SAC's ocean acidification report in inform staff), the California Fish and Game Commission (Marine Resource Subcommittee to meet 2/16 in Santa Barbara to discuss red abalone; Commission chose to move forward with the Blue Ribbon Task Force's package of MPA options for southern California) and the Pacific Fishery Management Council (will meet in March to work on salmon issues; establishing a team for). Audio recordings of all Council member announcements are available upon request.

Report on UCSB Groundbreaking Event and Visit by NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco

Chris described the January 11th event, while a slide show of photos was presented. Chris stated that it was great to have the leader of NOAA at the ceremony and that the building will be good for our partnership with UCSB. Other SAC members who were there reflected on their impressions of the day. Bruce Steele mentioned that he attended an ocean acidification (OA) meeting with Dr. Lubchenco, and provided her with a partial tour of Santa Barbara Harbor. Capt. David Bacon described his meeting time with her, explaining that he spoke about adverse socioeconomic impacts of MPAs to recreational fishing, both after *and* before designation; artificial reefs as mitigation for MPA impacts ("reef for a reef" concept); the need for more funding for socioeconomic monitoring of MPA impacts; the need for non-lethal stock assessment approaches; and the importance of NOAA talking with knowledgeable local recreational fishermen (like SAC members), not just the usual representatives of organizations.

Work on Climate Change at the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Kelley Higgason provided a presentation about an initiative to understand, predict and manage climate change effects at the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. Her presentation is available upon request from Sanctuary staff. Kelley discussed how they have been involved in many workshops and have

formed various committees to develop an ocean climate initiative, containing a climate change site scenario document, and climate change adaptation training. Kelley shared details about the process of developing a climate change site scenario, which is expected to be finalized soon following the completion of peer reviews.

Council discussion included remarks about the significant amount of work that goes into the creation of a climate change scenario report, how fast the science is changing on this, the lack of information available at this point on some aspects of climate change, such as ocean acidification, and the importance of eastern pacific upwelling areas. Part of the discussion also focused on making the topic accessible and meaningful to the layperson, and how fishermen can be valuable spokespersons to connect with the public and lawmakers. Also, there was some discussion about the inevitability of ocean acidification happening, and if there are really actions that can be taken.

Mike Murray announced that an ocean acidification task force will be convened by the west coast regional office of national marine sanctuaries. One or two SAC members from west coast sites will be considered for membership, and Mike asked that interested Council members let him know.

Bruce Steele provided an update on his recent efforts, which included a personal trip to Washington DC to lobby six to eight politicians about ocean acidification, including providing them with the related SAC report. He is working on gathering support to convene a workshop on baseline monitoring of shellfish, in light of ocean acidification concerns and especially given shellfish recruitment failures in Oregon and Washington. It looks like this may come together in April at the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project in Orange County.

Public Comment

Patricia Wilmore from Pacific Gas and Electric described the Pacific Energy WaveConnect project, a proposed ocean energy project off the coast of Vandenberg Air Force Base. She provided a handout about the project and upcoming public hearings, and mentioned that a stakeholder group would be formed.

Whale Ship Strikes

A. Updates

CINMS Resource Protection Coordinator Sean Hastings provided an update on ship strike work. Sean began by showing a composite map of all whale sightings recorded over the 2009 summer/fall whale season in and around the Santa Barbara Channel region, and he mentioned that the seasonal Local Notice to Mariners requesting slower vessel speeds was concluded on December 1st. He also shared statistics from Dick McKenna (absent) on the extent of shipping traffic that has shifted outside the Santa Barbara Channel and is instead using routes south of the Channel Islands. Sean mentioned that efforts have been made to increase surveillance flights and to do some vessel cruises on the south side of the islands. Sean also reported that CINMS and NMFS have approached the Bren School to work on a graduate team project that would evaluate the feasibility of management alternatives for the ship strike issue. Sean presented a draft letter of support for the project to the Bren School. Following a motion by Marilyn Miller, the letter was approved by unanimous voice vote, to include two wording edits suggested by John Ugoretz.

Peter Fischel reported that NMFS has remain engaged with the LA/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee's consideration of new vessel traffic patterns. He explained that the NMFS Protected Resources Division is planning to hold a scientific workshop this Spring to bring together experts on whale distribution and related data sources/gaps. Peter also mentioned that NMFS will be doing some educational outreach concerning the risk of sailboat collisions with whales, noting that an article will come out soon in a sailing magazine.

In response to questions and inquiries, Commander Jason Collins offered to arrange for a speaker from the US Coast Guard to come talk about the shifted shipping traffic situation and a related routing study underway, and on that same point John Ugoretz offered to arrange for information from the Navy to also be brought to such a session.

B. Presentation by Students from Oak Park High School

An “Edison Challenge” project called: “*Whale Migration Patterns and Ship Strike Reduction Strategies in the Santa Barbara Channel Region and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*” was presented by Oak Park high school students Sam Hirsch, Jacob Wyner, Kayla Sadwick, Kathleen McKeegan, Justin Orens, and Rebecca Gordan. Their advisor Dr. Anthony W. Knight (Superintendent of Oak Park Unified School District) introduced the project and the team, and showed a student video related to the project. Also there to help was Debbie West, Oak Park High School Science Specialist. The students explained what they had learned about the ship strike issue, and presented their ideas for addressing it. They expect to have their presentation and video available on the web soon.

Recognition of Retiring California Fish and Game Wardens

Sean Hastings, Chris Mobley and Marija Vojkovich gave remarks, and a gift, to honor three retiring Wardens after a full career of helping to protect fish and wildlife in California, including the marine resources of the Sanctuary: Captain Roland Takayama, Lieutenant John Suchil (present), and Lieutenant Jorge Gross (present).

Sanctuary Advisory Council Priorities for 2010

Mike Murray reviewed a handout listing areas that the staff felt the Council could consider working on in 2010. Council members then discussed the list, and made additional suggestions for new topics, including: Currents and upwelling in our area; education on the national system of MPAs; information and opportunities to comment on National ocean policies (ocean issues and marine spatial planning); next steps toward evaluation of CINMS boundary change; review new policies being proposed on aquaculture; updates on invasive species such as *Sargassum horneri*, information on important indicator species; understanding CINMS research needs and helping communicate those needs.

Working Group and Subcommittee Reports

Research Activities Panel. Dani Lipski gave a summary of the RAP meeting held on November 23, 2009. John Ugoretz, who attended the meeting, added that it was striking to hear how some monitoring programs are dealing with very difficult budgets. Donna Schroeder responded, however, that for this year some programs have not been cut at all (e.g., the Channel Islands National Park’s kelp forest monitoring program). Notes from the RAP meeting are available on the web at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/wg_announce.html. Discussion followed about the importance of sustaining monitoring efforts, with Bruce Steele pointing out that more was expected coming out of the marine reserves working group process (in 1999-2001), and that while MPAs should not be sold as useful for fisheries management, they can be helpful for maintaining biomass for some species (e.g., urchins).

CINMS Interagency Enforcement Working Group. Dayna Matthews gave a report based on the group’s meeting of January 28, 2010. He described recent enforcement actions concerning the squid fleet. Dayna commented that the enforcement group has really matured, communication has improved, and good coordination of operations has become routine. Dayna reported that one challenge the group faces is the high turnover in the agencies, requiring constant training. Also, he noted that the California Department of Fish and Game is severely understaffed. The next meeting will address training rotations, curriculum development and summary settlement training. NOAA has developed a summary settlement schedule that will be implemented soon, and all local enforcement staff will be trained so that, essentially, “tickets” could be issued on the spot for certain violations. Dayna also reported that the group has been working on a nearly-completed vessel patrol guide, and he thanked CINMS intern Kristen Bor for her excellent work on that document.

Sanctuary Education Team. Maria Petueli announced that the SET will have a meeting on February 22. They plan to discuss ocean acidification and ship strike education planning and possibilities. They will also discuss the possibility of working with the Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) West group on professional development for climate change.

Commercial Fishing Working Group. Although there was not a working group meeting, Bruce Steele announced

that there is a workshop next week focused on Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQs) for federal fisheries. There are now 6 to 8 boats in Santa Barbara that are fishing a deep water complex fishery, targeting black cod. A state lobster bill that died may be coming back. State Fish and Game taxes on fisheries are still being considered for changes; sardines at \$13/ton are perhaps the highest taxed.

Conservation Working Group. Greg Helms provided a summary of their meeting on January 27, 2010. At that meeting, ocean acidification was discussed, including other SAC actions taken and the west coast task force being formed. Also discussed was: shipping traffic changes, Linda's recent chance to talk with Dr. Lubchenco, the MLPA process, pending federal aquaculture legislation, offshore renewable wave energy projects, and SAC priorities for 2010. Notes are available on the CINMS website at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/wg_announce.html.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit for 2010

Mike reviewed a draft abstract for a SAC case study focused on ship strikes as a marine spatial planning challenge. If accepted, Mike and Eric would provide a one-hour presentation on this at the SAC Summit. The Council provided a few editorial comments to strengthen the proposal.

Future SAC Meeting Schedule, Meeting Close-Out

Linda requested an information presentation from the Coast Guard on vessel routing.

Future Meeting Schedule

- Friday March 19, 2010 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
- May 11-14, 2010 (Annual National SAC Summit, Olympic Peninsula, Washington state [Chair attends])
- Friday May 21, 2010 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Friday July 16, 2010 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
- Friday September 24, 2010 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Friday November 19, 2010 (SAC meeting, Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster:

Kathleen Fitzgerald	Tourism	Absent
Andrea Moe	Tourism - Alternate	Absent
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Perry Ferguson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Absent
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Absent
Vacant	Business - Alternate	----
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	Absent
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
Vacant	Education - Alternate	----
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Absent
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Absent
Amy Spandrio	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	Present
Dan Powell	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Jacy Ontiveros	Chumash Community	Absent
Vacant	Chumash Community - Alternate	----
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Present
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Absent
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
Vacant	National Park Service - Alternate	----
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present
LTJG Brittany Steward	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Present
Dr. Ann Bull	Minerals Management Service	Absent
Donna Schroeder	Minerals Management Service - Alternate	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 Boone	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	Present
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Absent
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