

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

**DRAFT Key Meeting Outcomes
November 15, 2013**

**Billie M. Connally Auditorium, Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitors Center
Channel Islands National Park Headquarters, Ventura, 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, nineteen of the council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Two seats were absent for the day: Ventura County and California Coastal Commission. Public attendance varied throughout the day around an average of 6 people. There were also 25 students in attendance from UCSB's Bren School.

Optional Pre-Meeting Session: Graduate Student Mock-Council Discussion Period

Prior to the start of the official Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting, graduate students enrolled in a Coast & Ocean Policy and Management course at the University of California Santa Barbara's Bren School of Environmental Science and Management conducted a mock council session. Students took on the roles of stakeholders and agency representatives in a discussion about offshore wind energy development. Many Sanctuary Advisory Council members attended and engaged with the students during the public comment period.

Administrative Business and Announcements

The draft key outcomes from the Sept. 20, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley announced the departure of Kristine Barsky from the Sanctuary Advisory Council and presented her with a framed gift. The sanctuary thanks Kristine for her 9 years of service as a SAC member representing the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. She is a recognized expert on marine invertebrates and wrote the book on California Lobster Diving. She has had a long distinguished career as a biologist. Kristine remarked that she has enjoyed her time with the sanctuary and gave her thanks and encouragement to the group to carry on with great work.

Chris Mobley announced that the CINMS office building, the Ocean Science Education Building (OSEB) on the campus of UCSB, has officially received a LEED Gold certification. We will use our building as an education tool to help further our mission. Chris also reported that a "Sea to Shining Sea" Award was recently presented to the sanctuary's Ocean for Life program. On the topic of maritime heritage, Bob Schwemmer was heavily involved in bringing the Point Conception Fresnel lens to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum and creating its exhibit. It is really something to see. Last but not least, the sanctuary is in a period of staff turnover, with Dani Lipski recently departing and Dr. Steve Katz to soon depart for a job at Washington State University. We are sad to see them go but wish them well in their future endeavors, and have a plan in motion to bring in new staff into the CINMS research department.

Council Member Announcements

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

Channel Islands National Park General Management Plan

Russell Galipeau, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent, provided an informational update on the newly released draft General Management Plan for the Channel Islands National Park. Russell stated that this isn't just a general management plan, it's also a Wilderness Study. The park wants effective and efficient park operations, which can be challenging in marine areas. They need facilities for the public. The ownership of the CINP has changed over the years and they now own Santa Rosa, half of Santa Cruz and part of Anacapa. Congress gave the NPS the duties to manage the park which is a very special place. The 18 million people who live near the park, all have different ideas of what the park means to them. Ecological restoration is important and there have been vast changes since the time of cattle ranching. Several new proposed ideas were discussed including the removal of unnecessary roads on the eastern half of Santa Cruz Island, rebuilding two houses on Anacapa Island, pier construction at Scorpion Anchorage, adding a primitive campground to Johnson's Lee on Santa Rosa Island, and refurbishing buildings on Santa Rosa Island. The CINP would like to move from commercial authorization system to a single-entity concessionaire service out of Scorpion Bay for kayaks and other watersport activities. Public meetings were held Dec. 3rd and 4th, 2013. There were comments on the apparent lack of plans or vision for Chumash heritage and contemporary use, structures for concessionaires, economic considerations of potential concessionaires, and human disturbance to wildlife from a possible increase in aircraft service to San Miguel Island.

Public comment

Jenna Driscoll from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper commented on MPAs and their benefits. She also highlighted Channelkeeper's outreach with local dive companies, and mentioned an upcoming "King Tides" program that can be used to explain potential impacts from sea level rise. Luke Fienberg commented on the current cost of getting out to the islands and asked if there was any consideration to making it more economically accessible. Jocelyn Christie commented on the unique and valuable interaction of the varying stakeholders that come together to help manage the sanctuary. Tyler Clavelle commented on the potential Wilderness Area designations within the Channel Islands National Park. Paul Petrich commented on how he felt the Chumash story was and is being told by members of the community, such as trained Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteers.

Federal Government Shutdown Effects

Chris Mobley characterized effects experienced at the sanctuary from the recent government shutdown and employee furlough, noting that several vessel cruises were cancelled and some proved difficult to reschedule. He also mentioned that planning for and recuperating from the shutdown took a lot of time. Russell Galipeau commented on the closure of the Channel Islands National Park and how the shutdown caused some initial confusion over what lands and waters were open or closed to public access and use. Those fishing within Park waters could remain, while other visitors were informed that the Park was closed. Christina Davidson with the US Coast Guard noted that for her agency there were some administrative impacts, but operational impacts were minimal because they were still working. With regard to fishing violations, during the shutdown period only observed violations were acted upon. John Ugoretz from the US Navy commented on the impact of loss of pay, and emphasized that a loss in military readiness represented a much larger impact. During the shutdown, John explained, activities like monitoring were put aside as non-essential. Michael Cohen suggested the need to address how to prevent this from happening again in the future and stated how the shutdown had a ripple effect on the local economy. Rich Block from the Santa Barbara Zoo stated how the shutdown caused a gap in a condor field program, and due to government partners not being available a proposal for an educational program on marine debris was not able to be submitted. Captain Kip Louttit added that shipping traffic into and out of the ports of LA and Long Beach remained safe, but there were costs from some ships being delayed and redirected. Amanda Allen said that with the Channel Islands National Park closed she had to direct people to other tourism locations, which took a lot of collaboration between agencies/organizations.

Ocean Acidification Updates (OA)

Bruce Steel spoke about various marine species and their ability to adapt to changing oceanic conditions brought on by ocean acidification. Sea urchins may prove to be more adaptive than mollusk species. In 30 years with the predicted pH levels, the red king crab fishery will be done. There will also be impacts on squid. Mike

Murray mentioned that Laura Francis from CINMS is leading a follow-up working group that formed as a result of the successful OA communications workshop in 2012. Mike also mentioned that talks between sanctuary staff and the Gretchen Hofmann lab at UCSB have been focused on how we can help each other, including with deployment and servicing of ocean acidification sensors within the sanctuary. Channelkeeper and Bruce Steele have also offered help in these efforts. Amanda Allen added that over the last six weeks there have been teacher workshops within the Oxnard School District that have included use of ocean acidification lessons that Maria Petueli developed as part of the MERITO program. This is helping to teach students about OA and what they can do to make a difference. Kip Louttit attended a conference in San Diego and ocean acidification was noted as a top three concern for the ocean.

Shipping and Whales

Kristi Birney characterized results from surveys and interviews she conducted with a variety of stakeholders and agencies concerning the idea of advancing discussions that could address marine shipping issues in the Santa Barbara Channel region. Kristi described how the SAC has accomplished a lot since 2009, but that there is still a lot to do and a need to keep the conversation moving forward. Kristi launched an interview process to determine the level of interest and participation in a possible new SAC working group. Kristi reached out to agencies, scientists, industry, etc., and there are exciting opportunities to work with a variety of stakeholders. Interviews focused on issues, information needs, issues for consideration, process, and proposed next steps. The issues are: whale strike, air emissions, underwater noise, oil spills, discharge, impacts to endangered species, safe vessel passage, navigational safety, conflicts with naval testing, and ship collisions. Kristi concludes that there is a high level of interest from potential stakeholders to commit to a working group. All stakeholders said that there was enough information to move forward, even with known data gaps. Kristi and partners are pursuing funding to help support such a process. Funding could help support a California Sea Grant fellow to help with working group administration and product development, use of Seasketch, and stipends to offset financial needs. Kristi is developing a project proposal and will circulate that with everyone interviewed, and then incorporate feedback and circulate it to the SAC. She would like to come back in January to show the full working group proposal. Mati Waiya commented on interviewing the captains of ships. Kristi stated that interviewing the shipping industry is actually challenging, and finding the right representatives for a working group progress is not easy. The Coast Guard and Marine Exchange are important for us to better understand their needs. John Ugoretz from the US Navy discussed how U.S. congressional representatives Lois Capps and Julia Brownley sent a letter requesting that the Navy work with the shipping industry to discuss shipping issues. If a SAC working group is developed, the Navy would be very interested. John added that the Navy has funded some whale surveys in our area and there may be interest to support additional surveys.

Working Group Reports

Marketing Subcommittee: Michael Cohen mentioned that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has been in discussions with companies like Citrix and Deckers about potential corporate involvement. He also commented on how CINMS Facebook activity is increasing, but additional participation needs to be encouraged.

Conservation Working Group (CWG): Kristi Birney mentioned that the CWG met on Wednesday Sept. 18th. One of the topics discussed at the meeting was a proposal by the Northern Chumash Tribal Council for a new national marine sanctuary designation off the coast of San Luis Obispo, something that CWG members would like to know more about. Meeting notes were distributed to SAC members and will become available on the sanctuary's web site.

Research Activities Panel: Dr. Bob Warner brought up the topic of the research department at the sanctuary, expressing concern about the recent departures of research staff (N. Senyk, D. Lipski, S. Katz). Chris Mobley acknowledged this and assured the group that high level conversations with ONMS leadership are in play that will lead to staffing solutions. The research enterprise at Channel Islands is very important, Chris continued. Partnering with UCSB will lead to more research opportunities. Steve Katz raised over \$60,000 last year in soft money and leadership recognizes the importance of that. We are looking at backfilling with temporary as well as long term replacements. Budget issues make this difficult, however, especially with a NOAA hiring freeze.

The importance of the Research Coordinator position is recognized by all, but given the NOAA hiring freeze we do not know when we will be able to hire. We want someone who is really good at partnering, and understands the intersection of science and policy. Research coordinators need to walk the line of management needs and science needs, and be good at finding funding. Hopefully, in 6 months the CINMS office will be fully staffed. Mike Murray added how important Steve's contributions have been for the sanctuary, and suggested that if anyone wants to be in touch with him he can still be reached at steve.katz@noaa.gov.

Recreational Fishing Group: Capt. David Bacon discussed a compaction problem due to closure of a great percentage of productive fishing areas. There is a small remaining percentage of area used, and they are seeing a difference where some of the areas can get overworked. He has joined in discussions about solutions. Bob Warner added that's why a lot of monitoring programs are looking inside and outside MPAs, and stressed the importance of monitoring.

Chumash Community Working Group: Luhui Isha Waiya and Mati Waiya commented on the Chumash Sanctuary proposal, information about which will be brought to a Chumash Community working group meeting in January. They are currently in the process of reviewing the proposal and there are some things missing that some groups would like to see in there. They want people to support it, but there is hesitation because there is a lack of education about the proposal.

Meeting Close-out

Dianne Black closed out the meeting, noting that upcoming SAC meetings in 2014 will be held on:

- Friday, January 24 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday, March 21 (Ventura)
- Friday, May 16 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday, July 18 (Oxnard)
- Friday, September 19 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday, November 21 (Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster (11/15/2013):

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