

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

FINAL Key Outcomes¹

Friday, May 18, 2012

Casa Las Palmas, 323 E. Cabrillo Blvd · Santa Barbara, CA

Note: Upon approval by the advisory council, 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: Fifteen seats were present at roll call. At peak, 18 of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Six seats were absent for the day: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, California Resources Agency, and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from 8-10 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Draft key outcomes for the March 16, 2012 meeting were adopted by the council, with one clarifying edit.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Chris Mobley congratulated Bob Warner on his recent retirement from UCSB. Chris also introduced Amber McEldowney, a new sanctuary intern. Chris reported that construction has halted on the Ocean Science Education Building on the UCSB campus, but will be completed in a few months once work begins again. The Channel Islands Harbor Boating Center is ahead of schedule and should be completed soon. Chris reported a grant was recently awarded, involving council member Stephanie Mutz and UCSB scientists, to study and promote the direct marketing to consumers of locally caught seafood. Chris also shared that over 3000 pounds of trash was recently removed from the Santa Barbara harbor and over 177 pieces of lost fishing gear was recovered from the sanctuary by Kirsten Gilardi and her team through the California Lost Fishing Gear project. Chris also announced the recent acceptance by the UCSB Bren School of a graduate student project on socioeconomic studies ("MPAs and the Non-Market Value of Private Recreational Boating in the CINMS").

With regard to a petition NOAA received last year requesting that ship speed limits be regulated within the national marine sanctuaries in California, Sanctuary Resource Protection Coordinator Sean Hastings reported that NOAA's response was recently sent and that it indicated that NOAA denied the request to reduce ship speed. Sean also reported that the U.S. Coast Guard is proposing a shift in the Santa Barbara Channel shipping lanes that will be brought to the International Maritime Organization at a meeting in London in early July, 2012. The shift would decrease the existing separation zone from 2 nautical miles wide to 1 nautical mile, and move the southbound lane 1 nautical mile northward, further away from the islands.

Council Member Announcements

A variety of announcements were made by council members, including whale, shipping and fishing conditions in and around the sanctuary, various community events coming up, and agency planning processes. Audio recording files are available upon request.

¹ Approved and adopted as final by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council on July 20, 2012.

SAC Summit Webinar and Sanctuary System *Campaign of Engagement*

Council Chair Eric Kett explained that this year's national SAC summit was changed to a conference call because of budget constraints. Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley described the new "Campaign of Engagement" launched by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, which is aimed at engaging more people, more communities, and a broader audience in support of sanctuaries. Chris described some of the activities that other sanctuary sites have engaged in thus far to support the campaign, such as public television shows and outreach tied into the America's Cup sailing competition. Council discussion focused on further understanding what the campaign is, how it might engage the public, and who will be involved. General suggestions included: select members of Congress engaging larger groups within Congress; truly engaging the recreational fishing community, which includes a broad demographic group; and engaging members of the community who may not be sanctuary supporters; reaching people who visit harbors, and increasing the public visibility and business marketability of the sanctuary. Interest was expressed in continuing these sorts of discussions.

Sanctuary Classic Recreational Fishing Tournament

Chris introduced Tom Raftican with the Sportfishing Conservancy. Tom announced the Sanctuary Classic fishing and photo contest, which he said is consistent with the ONMS Campaign of the Engagement and is funded through an Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Trust Fund grant provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Tom explained that while tournaments are usually about the most fish or largest fish caught, the Sanctuary Classic is not like that, but rather it is about going fishing with your family and taking a photo. The national kick-off at four national marine sanctuaries (Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Florida Keys, and Gray's Reef) will be on Saturday June 9th, and the tournament will run for 12 weeks. There is no entry fee, but register at sanctuayclassic.org. There will be prizes given away: \$100 gift certificates each week. Pictures that get the most "likes" online will win the weekly prize. All entrants are asked to comply with all fishing regulations, and comply with an ethical angling code of best practices. At the end, the four best pictures portraying the overall values will win \$1,000 youth scholarships. Tom also mentioned that in addition to the charter fishing vessel Stardust out of Santa Barbara, about six other fishing charters out of Channel Islands Harbor will also participate. Captain David Bacon is also supporting the tournament by providing fishing kits, and said he'd like to include some sanctuary information in his kits.

Aerial Whale Survey Project

John Ugoretz presented information about a collaborative aerial whale survey project being conducted by U.S. Navy and sanctuary staff in waters south of the northern Channel Islands. John explained that the survey was begun in response to concerns about our limited knowledge of the distribution of whales south of the northern Channel Islands, particularly raised when many ships began shifting their route from the Santa Barbara Channel to the south side of the islands and through the Navy's Point Mugu Sea Range. John shared some images of the Sea Range location and where common Navy activities take place, and showed where the aerial transects were conducted to survey for marine mammals. John reported that because of weather, availability of aircraft, and availability of the Sea Range, only seven surveys have been conducted. John showed the location of the marine mammals that were sighted, and the ship tracks of shipping traffic on those days. John described the analysis of the data as being limited because of the low number of surveys, and mentioned he would like to continue efforts if funding can be found, perhaps toward the end of the year. Council discussion with John focused on questions about changing shipping patterns, and how the Navy uses pre-activity surveys to reduce the potential for training exercises to affect marine mammals.

Ocean Acidification Updates and New Public Service Announcement

Kristi Birney with the Environmental Defense Center explained how they received a grant from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to produce a 30-second Public Service Announcement (PSA)

video on ocean acidification, how they will be working on getting the video into broad distribution, and how they are looking for ideas and help with that. The council viewed the new PSA, which is available at acidocean.org.

Sanctuary Education Coordinator Laura Francis explained how education staff on the west coast had reviewed the education and outreach section of the Ocean Acidification Action Plan for West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries and had identified a workshop as the highest priority to tackle first. Laura and colleagues applied for and received funding from the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program to host a 1.5 day educational workshop in Monterey directly following a September 2012 international symposium called “The Ocean in a High CO2 World”. Laura mentioned that the workshop is now advertised on the conference web site, is almost full, and will be attended by a variety of people, from educators to fishermen to aquarium representatives, restaurant owners, and more. To kick off the workshop, Laura explained, the group will learn from staff at Edge Communications about recent public surveys on this topic.

Bruce Steele explained that he doesn't really know how best to talk to kids about this issue. He explained that humans have now put 500 gigatons of CO2 in the atmosphere so far, and that we're looking at 10 gigatons this year. He went on to mention that new technologies may now add another 5 gigatons of carbon into the atmosphere (fracking, tar sands, etc.). Bruce also noted that beyond a hundred years from now, where most of the models stop, the outlook is really scary. He described the situation as unlike anything that has ever happened on our planet, and emphasized that if we are going to keep burning carbon like this, and considering our global population growth, we are stuck. Bruce posed the question: will we keep up our modern lifestyle or will we change? He concluded with pointing out that this is threatening all life on the planet, and yet we are doing absolutely nothing slow down CO2 emissions. Luhui Isha Ward thanked Bruce for his honesty and candor, and shared the story of an elder from Greenland that recently told her about the loss from melting of their glaciers and sacred sites. On the positive side, Eric Kett acknowledged that in the last 30 years air quality in California has improved by 95%.

Incentives to Reduce Ship Speeds to Reduce Green House Gas Emissions and Protect Whales

Following an introduction to this item by Sean Hastings, Brian Shafritz with the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District addressed the advisory council and spoke about a conceptual idea that his agency is planning to recommend to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and that sanctuary staff were also interested in: the investment of state cap-and-trade auction proceeds to create an incentive-based program for slowing ships. Reduced ship speeds, Brian explained, would lower greenhouse gas emissions off the coast of California and provide other air quality improvements, and could enhance protections to whales. Council members expressed interest and support for the idea given their history of working on the issue of whale ship strikes, and their past recommendations to the sanctuary that incentive-based approaches be investigated. Dick McKenna mentioned that while he's happy to endorse the idea, the shipping industry would need to consider the cost of labor at the ports in comparison with whatever financial incentives could be offered through such a program. By a vote of 17 to 1, the council adopted a motion made by Linda Krop (seconded by Luhui Isha) asking that the council's Executive Committee draft a letter asking CARB to consider allocating some of the auction proceeds to an incentive program designed to reduce the speed of ships, and further asking that the council's support be voiced at a CARB public meeting next week in Sacramento, California.

Presentation: “Monitoring Giant Kelp Forests with Long-Term Satellite Imagery”

Sanctuary Research Specialist Dani Lipski introduced this agenda item by first explaining the line-up of experts that have responded favorably to the Executive Committee's invitations for information sharing at

council meetings through a science speaker series. She then introduced Kyle Cavanaugh from the University of California Santa Barbara's Earth Research Institute, who presented on the use of satellite imagery to monitor kelp forests off our coast. Kyle described the dynamic nature of kelp beds as highly productive and resilient forests that differ from less productive terrestrial forests, and highlighted the importance of kelp, including its role in providing shelter for marine life and as a potential biofuel source. Kyle then showed existing data on kelp forest distribution and noted the limitations of methods used. Kyle presented kelp distribution data which he had produced by processing Landsat satellite imagery. Kyle explained that there is a seasonal cycle of high levels of kelp in the summer and low levels of kelp in the winter, but noted that this cycle is highly variable and that the seasonal cycle is superimposed on an 8-11 year cycle as well. Kyle reported that wave height is strongly correlated with reductions in kelp biomass whereas nutrient levels are weakly correlated with the recovery of kelp biomass. Kyle compared Net Primary Production (NPP) from Central California and Southern California and reported that NPP by giant kelp was twice as high and twice as variable in Southern California compared with Central California. Kyle discussed the implications of increasing storm intensity and frequency in regards to kelp abundance. Discussion focused on further research that could be done to examine variables that influence kelp abundance such as light levels, turbidity, and pH. Long term trends in giant kelp NPP were also discussed.

Public Comment

Commercial fisherman Jim Marshall commented on just returning from Tasmania where he participated in an abalone conference. He was glad to see that with the Landsat kelp data now becoming available, there can be a better kelp data set to apply to the issue of a San Miguel Island red abalone fishery. Maybe by next year, Jim said, he and others would be willing to present information to the advisory council on the red abalone fishery proposal.

Paul Petrich recalled areas off Palos Verdes Peninsula losing kelp a long time ago, before the Landsat data coverage existed. As such, Paul cautioned, people need to point that out when if using the Landsat data to point out or talk about areas that used to have kelp beds.

Funding Support Letter for NOAA's Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) Program

Carrying over this issue from the last council meeting, Maria Petueli introduced a revised proposed B-WET funding support letter for council consideration. Maria pointed out a change that was made to express appreciation for the California B-WET program funding that was partially restored for this fiscal year, as well as additional details added to the letter to highlight the benefits brought to the community by past B-WET funded projects. A motion to approve and send the proposed council letter was made, seconded and then received a unanimous vote of approval (15-0) from the council.

Working Group Reports

Channel Islands Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Enforcement

Bill Struble, Special Agent with NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement, announced that the group's quarterly meeting was held yesterday. Bill reported there have been three groundings at the islands, and a few violations involving recreational fishing in marine reserves. Bill also mentioned that the Channel Islands National Park recently took delivery of a new patrol boat. The panga boat issue, Bill reported, is still an ongoing concern and he reminded the council to keep eyes and ears open and report anything that is suspicious.

Chumash Community Working Group

Luhui Isha Ward reported that each year they host about 7,000 visitors at the Chumash Discovery Village in Malibu, most being students. Luhui reported that many Native American youth live in urban

communities, not on reservations, and are very poor, receiving no casino proceeds. She described that their Tribal Wave Youth Camp program successfully reaches these youth, bringing them to the village, and with sponsorship from Quiksilver and Wyland. It is good to connect these kids to the ocean, or in some cases re-connect them to the sea after they and their families have been separated from it. The next camp is from August 6-11, and volunteer help is welcomed. Luhui also mentioned that on May 27th at 9:00 am a new tomol will be launched at Ledbetter Beach in Santa Barbara. The tomol is not yet named, but that will take place at the ceremony.

Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

Maria Petueli reported on the SET meeting that was held on May 15. The SET has been working with the Oxnard High School youth group and their teacher Kevin Flint, discussing some of the activities that the students will take on. Over the summer the students will get their materials ready (power point, display board, and a video), and in the fall they would like to have the SET train them on how to communicate about MPAs since it is a controversial topic. They will also try to line up presentations at their school and their district's feeder schools, and plan to work at a table and display boards they'll set up each month at the Channel Islands Harbor farmers market. She would like the group to report to the council at a future meeting, and mentioned that they expect to be able to attend council meetings held in Ventura county. Maria also reported that four SET members were at an Ocean Communicators Alliance workshop focused on communicating about the new southern California MPAs. Commenting on the workshop, Maria explained, SET members felt that they would have preferred to have better representation from the fishing community, and more messages about the positive economic impact of ocean conservation and MPAs.

Commercial Fishing Working Group

Bruce Steele commented on forage fishery management issues happening now, with environmental groups suing the state. He explained that data show that state forage fisheries use only 2% of this resource, and that a review study by Hilborn and Worm found that in California we don't have overfishing. Bruce expressed frustration about these fisheries being sued so much and that he feels the lawsuits should be targeted at other folks that are really messing up the environment.

Conservation Working Group

Linda Krop reported that the Conservation Working Group met on May 16th and discussed whale ship strikes. This included: discussion about an upcoming joint working group meeting of the advisory councils in central California and recommendations coming forward for addressing whale ship strikes; the shipping lane change proposal being submitted to the International Maritime Organization; and the opportunity to suggest to the California Air Resources Board that consideration be given to using cap-and-trade auction funds to create an incentive program to slow down ships. Linda also reported that six students from a UCSB Bren School graduate student group were present to discuss progress and plans for their sanctuary socioeconomic project. Other topics covered at the working group meeting included the new PSA on ocean acidification, upcoming events related to World Oceans Day, and other issues that were expected to be discussed at the next sanctuary advisory council meeting.

Future Meeting Schedule

- Friday July 20, 2012 (Ventura)
- Friday September 21, 2012 (Santa Barbara)
- Friday November 16, 2012 (Ventura)

Eric also announced that SAC chairs of the west coast sanctuaries may be getting together this year to discuss regional issues.

Meeting Attendance Roster, May 18, 2012:

Andrea Mills	Tourism	<i>Absent</i>
Matthew Curto	Tourism - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	<i>Present</i>
Nicole Peters	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	<i>Present</i>
Michael Gould	Business - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Linda Krop	Conservation	<i>Present</i>
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	<i>Present</i>
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	<i>Present</i>
Merit McCreia	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Maria Petueli	Education	<i>Present</i>
Amanda Hendrickson	Education - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	<i>Present</i>
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	<i>Present</i>
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	<i>Present</i>
<vacant>	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	---
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	<i>Present</i>
Venisse Miller-Forte	Chumash Community - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries	<i>Present</i>
Stephanie Koes	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	<i>Absent</i>
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
CDR Christina Davidson	US Coast Guard	<i>Present</i>
LCDR Elisa Garrity	US Coast Guard - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Ann Bull	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management - Alt	<i>Absent</i>
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	<i>Present</i>
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	<i>Present</i>
Kristine Barsky	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
<vacant>	CA Natural Resources Agency	---
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	<i>Present</i>
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	<i>Absent</i>
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	<i>Absent</i>
<vacant>	Ventura County - Alternate	---
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	<i>Present</i>
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>
Brian Johnson	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>