

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

DRAFT Key Meeting Outcomes

Friday, July 17, 2015

Channel Islands Boating Center, Oxnard, CA

Note: Upon approval by the council (expected in September 2015), this document will be posted online at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/meeting_notes.html. Audio recordings of this meeting are available upon request to Michael.Murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, 13 of the council's 21 voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Eight seats were absent for the day: Non-Consumptive Recreation, Public At-Large #2, Chumash Community, NOAA Fisheries, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of Defense, California Coastal Commission, and Ventura County.

Administrative and Business and Announcements

The draft key outcomes document for the May 15, 2015 advisory council meeting was approved by the council as final (it will be posted at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/meeting_notes.html).

Council Membership Appointment Announcements

Sanctuary Advisory Council Chair Diane Black announced the following council member appointments:

- Michael Cohen, business member (incumbent)
- Captain Kip Louttit, business alternate (incumbent)
- Stephanie Mutz, commercial fishing member (previously alternate)
- John Hoadley, commercial fishing alternate
- Kristi Birney, conservation member (incumbent)
- Greg Helms, conservation alternate (incumbent)
- Phyllis Grifman, public at-large member (incumbent)
- Richard Block, public at-large member (previously alternate)
- Robert Warner, research member (incumbent)
- Mark Steele, research alternate (incumbent)
- Anne Almy, Santa Barbara County alternate

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley noted that there were many qualified applicants for the advisory council, and that interested community members who were not appointed to a seat during this recruitment cycle should continue to apply in the future.

Council Administrative Business

Morgan Visalli, sanctuary Resource Protection Specialist serving as Sanctuary Advisory Council coordinator, explained that Dianne Black's term as Chair of the Executive Committee is ending, but she is eligible for reelection. Dianne was nominated for a second term as Chair via email from SAC members. At the meeting, the council unanimously voted in favor of reelecting Dianne Black as Chair.

Council Member Announcements

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

Economic Impact of Recreational Fisheries in California's National Marine Sanctuaries

Dr. Vernon R. (Bob) Leeworthy, Chief Economist at the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, presented on a new report that evaluates the economic impact of recreational fisheries in California's National Marine Sanctuaries. Dr.

Leeworthy explained the approach for the analysis, which included using existing data about recreational fishing effort and expenditure profiles from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. Dr. Leeworthy and his team used this data to estimate how recreational fishing in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary impacts the counties of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Los Angeles economically. Dr. Leeworthy explained that recreational fishing in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary annually contributes about \$18.7 million of value-added goods and services and employs 244 people. Council members expressed interest in understanding the economic impact of other user groups, and evaluating the economic impact of recreational fishing in the context of many users. Dr. Leeworthy noted that there is interest in conducting a similar type of study for non-consumptive recreation in the future. He also said that a similar study has already been done for commercial fishing, and a summary factsheet is available here: http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/channelislands/pdfs/ci_economic.pdf. More information about the sanctuary's socioeconomic research and monitoring program can be found here: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/channelislands/>.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Shark Tagging in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Ryan Freedman, sanctuary Research Operations Specialist, gave a brief presentation on a new shark tagging research project in CINMS. He explained that the principal investigator for the project is Dr. Chris Lowe at California State University Long Beach, and the goal of the project is to fill data gaps about great white shark movement around the Channel Islands. Ryan stated that the sanctuary plays a role by providing a research permit for Dr. Lowe's team to tag great white sharks with 10 year acoustic transmitters in sanctuary waters. Sanctuary staff reached out to stakeholders such as fishermen and recreational divers to draft permit special conditions that are designed to ensure the safety of all sanctuary user groups as well as the sharks. For example, the use of attractants such as chum is not permitted within 1 nautical mile of any other ocean user.

Invasive Algae, *Sargassum horneri*, in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Lindsay Marks, graduate student and researcher at the University of California, Santa Barbara, provided an overview of her research on the invasive algae, *Sargassum horneri*, in the waters surrounding the Channel Islands. She explained that *Sargassum* was first detected in CINMS in 2009, and has now spread all the way to Baja California, Mexico. New recruits form a very dense blanket on the reef, making it difficult for other species requiring substrate to survive. Lindsay showed underwater footage of areas affected by *Sargassum* to show how effectively it can dominate areas of the sea floor with dense and expansive vegetation. She also showed a video of a new large vacuum tool her team is using to clear 60 m² areas of the invader much more rapidly than previously possible.

Council members commented on the informational flyer about the algae, suggesting that the emphasis on 'Asian' be removed and that the flyers be widely distributed among boaters. Other members noted that there are new legislative proposals to limit the transport of invasive species by ballast water that may help control the spread of *Sargassum*. The council was interested in how the invasive is currently being controlled, and Lindsay explained that there is little besides manual removal that can be done right now, but noted that the species is declining in Japan, its native home, due to coastal development causing increased sedimentation.

Refugio Oil Spill

Jordan Stout, Scientific Support Coordinator at NOAA Emergency Response Division, presented on the Refugio Oil Spill response. Jordan gave a brief overview of the incident, explaining that four oil platforms fed into the pipeline that burst near Refugio. The leak began at night during a 6+ ft high tide, which resulted in oil being stranded far onto beach by the following morning. There was not much subsurface oil at Refugio, with most of it being in the form of oil cobble. The response team moved cobbles from high to low tide areas to remove the oil faster naturally. Divers in the area reported some sunken oil which is a result of oil coming into contact with sand.

Jordan noted that all of Santa Barbara County has now met its cleanup goals except for some segments near Refugio that require continued monitoring. The impact of the oil spill on marine mammals was higher than normal,

likely because there was an unusual mortality event for California Sea Lions already in effect. The oil went under the highway and railroad so there were also some transportation issues.

Jordan explained that the state issued a fishery closure in response to the spill but it has now been lifted. 132 trained volunteers were used in the cleanup; Jordan and other councilmembers noted that having volunteers with HAZWOPER training at the ready was extremely helpful, but that it would be better to have more community members trained ahead of time. Public outreach during the response period was very effective: there was a community open house, NGO listening session, evening phone calls with elected officials, and a special meeting with board supervisors. Researchers were interested in accessing the site, and NOAA worked on allowing researchers access safely without hindering the response team; Jordan noted this balance is difficult but felt this effort went “okay”.

Chris Mobley explained that NOAA asked CINMS to provide staff time for the spill response, and they were able to provide useful local knowledge. Further, the coordination between Channel Islands National Park and the Sanctuary was very good.

Russell Galipeau, Channel Islands National Park superintendent, noted that there were unusual oil and tar occurrences at the islands following the spill. Samples were collected and should be analyzed to determine the source. CINP determined that bringing cleanup crews to the islands would cause more damage than letting it weather away naturally. However, they are still having samples analyzed to test them against trajectory models, and they are most interested in how the spill affected nursing sea lions and pelicans.

Rich Rozzelle, California State Parks, noted that Refugio Beach reopened the day of the SAC meeting (July 17th). There are still some oil deposits high on the bluffs because of the high tide at the time of the spill.

Dianne Black explained that in the last 6 weeks, Santa Barbara County has been very focused on a long-term monitoring plan. They are going to be participating in Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) and Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) going forward and will form a joint review panel with city of Goleta for restoration with plans to create an Environmental Impact Report (EIR). She noted that it is important to have more people (especially young people) trained in emergency response ahead of time, so that the community is better prepared.

Several council members agreed that relationships built through the Sanctuary Advisory Council were very helpful, because members felt comfortable calling each other during the spill response. However, there are still concerns that people who could have addressed or documented the immediate aftermath of the spill were not allowed to do so because of the “chain of command.” Council members also discussed how the pipeline that ruptured was the only pipeline in the county without automatic shutdown capability.

Council discussion also focused on the importance of informing the community that fishing and recreation industries were still operational following the spill. Council members felt that the media exaggerated the severity of the spill, making community members and visitors believe that local seafood was unsafe to eat and that recreational activities were unavailable. A few members had negative experiences dealing with media professionals covering the spill. Council members agreed that it is important to ask for journalists’ credentials before giving providing information.

Members involved in fishing felt that not enough fishermen from Santa Barbara were hired for the response team. Other suggestions included considering ongoing projects and operations when determining who gets access to emergency sites, as some researchers with ongoing experiments in the area found themselves last in line to get access permission.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Working Group Reports

Channel Islands Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) on Enforcement (Bill Struble, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement)

No updates.

Marine Shipping Working Group (Kristi Birney, Phyllis Grifman)

The third MSWG meeting was two weeks ago. Greg Silber presented on science and history of ship strikes. A Maersk representative discussed logistics related to shipping. Six proposal scenarios were presented including vessel speed reduction, seasonal/dynamic management areas, and alternative shipping lanes. A smaller group will assess each proposal on a stoplight scale for their various goals.

Research Activities Panel (Bob Warner or Mark Steele)

No updates.

Marketing Subcommittee (Michael Cohen)

No updates.

Sanctuary Education Team (Amanda Allen or Cliff Rodrigues)

The team is continuing to work on the youth art contest, and they hope to continue with student presentations. Two team members will join the National Council on Climate Change Interpretation.

Recreational Fishing Working Group (Capt. David Bacon)

Captain Bacon expressed concern that the marketing subcommittee is not adequately representing recreational fishing interests.

Commercial Fishing Working Group (Stephanie Mutz)

No updates.

Conservation Working Group (Kristi Birney)

Greg Helms ran the last conservation working group meeting on July 14th. Notes are available.

Chumash Community Working Group (Luhui Isha Ward, Mati Waiya)

No updates.

Future Meeting Schedule

- September 18: Santa Barbara
- November 20: Ventura

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster (July 17, 2015)

Andrea Mills	Tourism	<i>Present</i>
Garrett Kababik	Tourism - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
<i>vacant</i>	Non-Consumptive Recreation	
Stuart Wilson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Michael Cohen	Business	<i>Present</i>
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Kristi Birney	Conservation	<i>Present</i>
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	<i>Present</i>
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	<i>Present</i>
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Amanda Allen	Education	<i>Present</i>
Cliff Rodrigues	Education - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Phyllis Grifman	Public At Large #1	<i>Present</i>
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Richard Block	Public At Large #2	<i>Absent</i>
<i>vacant</i>	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	
Luhui Isha Waiya	Chumash Community	<i>Absent</i>
Mati Waiya	Chumash Community - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
<i>vacant</i>	NOAA Fisheries	
Shelby Mendez	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	<i>Present</i>
<i>vacant</i>	National Park Service - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
CDR Casey Hehr	US Coast Guard	<i>Present</i>
LT CMDR Joseph Giammanco	US Coast Guard - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEM - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	<i>Absent</i>
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Craig Schulman	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	<i>Absent</i>
Julia Coates	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Rich Rozzelle	CA Natural Resources Agency	<i>Present</i>
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	<i>Absent</i>
<i>vacant</i>	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	<i>Present</i>
Anne Almy	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	<i>Present</i>
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	<i>Absent</i>
<i>vacant</i>	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>