

CINMS Advisory Council Conservation Working Group meeting minutes
January 22, 2009

Attendees:

Debra Herring new non-consumptive recreation seat on SAC
Jessie Altstatt SBCK
Michael Murray CINMS
Greg Helms, Ocean Conservancy, acting chair
Shiva Polefka EDC
Leslie Abramson, NOAA intern, Bren
Alicia Glassco, Bren
Capt. Dick McKenna, SoCal Marine Exchange, new SAC member
John Kuizenga, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps

- I. Final Management Plan released, presentation by Mike Murray
 1. Three documents finally released and distributed at the meeting: Final Management Plan, FEIS, Final Rule.
 2. The Final Rule has published in the FedReg, requires 45 days of Congress being in session to promulgate and come into effect. It is difficult to predict the schedule of recesses and other congressional actions, so CINMS is predicting late March or early April for the regs coming into effect.
 - i. Personal Watercraft Rule – Mike expressed some concern that folks associated with the PWC industry may come out against the Sanctuary’s new rule banning PWC within 1NM of shore as a new closure. The reality is that CINP has banned PWC in this zone since 2000; they request that CINMS overlay their regulation to offer greater enforcement and prosecutorial flexibility. Because the CWG explicitly commented in support of this rule, it was agreed that we would continue to advocate for this rule if need be.
- II. Ocean Acidification – update on current and next actions from SP
 1. CFWG member Bruce Steele secured ocean acidification as an explicit “implementation consideration” within the Regional Stakeholder Group process of the Marine Life Protection Act implementation by leveraging CWG member comments. CWG members will continue to push for the MLPA implementation that enhances ecosystem resilience in the face of climate and ocean chemistry changes.
 2. Steve Katz and Dave Siegel have created a potentially exciting aragonite mapping plan, for which we need to identify funding opportunities. According to Steve, this study could help establish a needed baseline upon which we could build future ocean acidification research and monitoring, as recommended in the CWG OA report.
 3. FOARAM Act (within S.22) update—waiting to clear the house and get sent to the President; CINMS should continue to position itself as potential target for the activities that will be facilitated by these funds.
 4. Mike Murray presented two additional ideas

- i. CWG should consider some form of recirculation of the CINMS Advisory Council recommendations on OA once NOAA chief-appointee Jane Lubchenco takes office; she may find the work of particular interest. It also may be relevant should FOARAM be signed into law and some form of FOARAM director appointed to direct the funds.
- ii. SAC Chairs meeting in Alpena MI; Mike has high confidence that OA will be selected as a case study for a one hour presentation; CWG will assist with presentation preparation.

III. Shipping

1. Case study efforts continue: Stellwagen Bank case study is largely complete but in the process of editing and clearance by NMFS. Once done this document will serve as the template for the case studies on the Hawaii Super Ferry and the Glacier Bay National Park.
 - i. Shiva reported that EDC will take on a fourth case study on the POLA/LB Green Flag program so that useful information on this regionally successful incentive program can be brought to the Council Subcommittee and the SAC. Target completion is end of March. Capt McKenna graciously offered to provide help for the CWG on this project.
2. Capt. McKenna reported that, based on AIS data analysis, the ship that entered LA/LB with a dead fin whale on its bow last fall actually slowed down significantly during its traverse of the Channel. He also reported that the Green Flag program expanded its range from 25 to 40 nautical miles on the new year, with wharfage fee discounts of 25% for ships that slow to ten knots at that range.
3. Discussion of SET ideas and objectives for outreach to mariners and agents of the Channel's "frequent fliers."

IV. MLPA

1. Greg Helms reported on the Fish and Game Commission's decision to advise the RSG to exclude the Channel Islands from consideration of Southern California Implementation.
2. He also reported on how quickly the process is moving—last week the RSG began its discussion of places of interest within the Southern California Region, and drawing boxes on the map. Three more RSG meetings are scheduled to actually draw the RSG's recommended map concepts, and then they will be forwarded to the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the Science Advisory Panel.

V. Adjourn.