

January 22, 2008

To: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: **CWG Report – January 22, 2008 Meeting**

CWG Members Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC); Greg Helms, Vice-Chair (Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (LWVSB); Shiva Polefka (EDC)

CINMS Staff Present: Mike Murray

Public Members Present: Chris Miller, Julia Forgie, Julia Ekstrom, Jenn Feinberg, Michael Smith, Bruce Steele, Jerome Betts, Betsy Cramer, Merit McCrea

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Julia Forgie, an EDC intern, reviewed her preliminary draft of a report on ocean acidification. We discussed the report and the need to develop recommendations pertaining to education, science, and policy. We would like to consult with the SET regarding ideas for education. Bruce has been offering great input on the science.

We expect to have a draft report to present to the SAC in March, along with a presentation by a scientist. Bruce suggested that we broach the idea of a workshop sponsored by the SAC.

Julia Ekstrom informed us that she is a Ph.D student researching ocean-related laws, jurisdictions, gaps, and relationships. She is interested in analyzing this issue as a case study.

III. SAC MEETING AGENDA FOR 1/25

A. Subcommittee on Large Cetaceans and Shipping – I reviewed the draft recommendations and our comments, focusing on the establishment of a working group, research, and interim strategies. Mike Murray responded to questions about the process and what transpired last year.

B. Artificial Reefs – I advised the group that the SAC will receive a presentation regarding NOAA artificial reef policies. I also reviewed Capt. Bacon's request for the SAC to endorse a letter supporting artificial reefs. We discussed the request. Merit provided some perspective in support of the request. Some participants expressed concerns about the process, comparing this request to previous items that have been

presented to the SAC, in which cases the SAC has first been presented with an issue and need for action, an opportunity for input, and a recommendation based on consensus. We do not understand the need for action, or problems with existing laws, policies, and regulations. Finally, we were concerned that the statement is so broad that it could be used to support projects that may cause harm to the environment (e.g. rigs-to-reefs).

C. Annual Work Plan – I reviewed the items in the draft Work Plan. We asked Mike about the schedule for re-evaluating the Sanctuary boundaries. He pointed out that the Management Plan process will likely not be completed until the end of this fiscal year, and so we will not get to this issue during that timeframe. We advised the group that the review process for the Clearwater Port LNG Project has been stalled due to the need for additional information. The Draft EIS/EIR may be released in late summer or early fall.

IV. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Greg announced that the next MPA Study Region will cover Southern California, from Pt. Conception to Mexico.
- B. Mike announced that the marine reserves gaps were filled on December 17, 2007, and handed out new maps.
- C. Greg announced that the Channel Islands Symposium will feature a program regarding the CINMS marine reserves on February 7 and 8.