

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
5/14/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, and Stewart Wilson,

Staff: Sean Heron, Sean Hasting (phone)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area Collaborative is kicking-off its MPA awareness campaign by participating in the Santa Barbara Ocean Festival June 7th and sponsoring a variety of subsidized or free ocean related activities that will get people out on the water to learn about local MPAs and how individuals can become Stewards of the Sea. Leading up to the Festival SBCK is partnering with Capt. Bacon and will be hosting a subsidized fishing trip. In addition, as separate activities SBCK will also host a dive trip to Naples Reef MPA and a kayak trip at Campus Point MPA. In the months following the Ocean Festival the Collaborative will sponsor additional activities include a Whale Watching Coastal Cruise aboard the Condor Express, a recreational fishing trip, boat trips for children with disabilities, and a youth art show. More details will be provided as these projects develop.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. CINMS Whales Update: Sean Herron reported that:
 - Whale Sighting Maps are being updated. There has been an increase in the number of humpback whale sightings in the Channel this month.
 - The new Whale Watch Spotting App will be rolled out within the next month. This App will be similar to Whale Spotter Pro App that has been used on the East Coast. The new App has some updates so it is more user friendly and there will be two versions of the App. One version will be available for the public to use.
 - An entangled Humpback whale was identified in Monterey. This whale was tagged and tracked down to the Santa Barbara Channel where the NMFS Entanglement Team was able to remove the fishing gear and free the whale.
- B. CINMS and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) staff will provide a VSR Pilot update at the SAC meeting.

- C. Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting outlining efforts to secure the remaining \$50K to support the new Working Group. The Safe Passage team (CINMS, EDC, and SBCAPCD) have applied for several grants and will receive notification about grant funding in the Fall. Should the grants be secured we anticipate the Working Group would convene and move forward in Fall 2014.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Ocean Acidification: Laura Francis from the Sanctuary will be providing information at the upcoming SAC meeting about the online webinars she has been hosting.
- B. Sanctuary Classic Fishing & Photography Tournament: Sanctuary Classic will be hosted again this year and will be similar to previous year's event including a Best Practices workshop date and time tbd. Debra mentioned that it would be great to incorporate for the Classic to host a Best Practices workshop before the event starts or somehow working it into a condition for participating in the event. She also mentioned it would be worthwhile to host workshops both in Ventura and Santa Barbara.
- C. Channel Islands Documentary Film: A member of the film crew will be at the SAC meeting to discuss this new documentary. This is the first full length feature documentary of the Channel Island. The film will be releasing on public television in 2015.
- D. Evaluating Offshore Wind Energy Feasibility: A Bren group will be presenting final results from the Master Thesis work this Friday on the evaluating offshore wind energy feasibility.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Sean Herron mentioned that the Ocean Defenders Alliance removed 600 lbs of net debris off Anacapa Island recently as part of their marine debris removal program.

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