

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
3/14/12 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (OC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Sheehy (SBCK), Amanda Hendrickson (Sea Center), Brian Shafritz (Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, or SBC APCD)

Staff: Sean Hastings (by phone), Sara Hutto

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. SHIPPING

- A. PARS – the USCG plans to pursue the recommendations in the PARS by forwarding the recommendations to a US delegation and then the IMO. EDC sent a letter supporting both recommendations but asking that if there would be a delay regarding the southern Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), we would like the USCG to still proceed with the modification of the SB Channel TSS. Sean reported that NOAA is very involved in the process.
- B. Sanctuary ship speed petition: we expect to receive NOAA’s response soon.
- C. Brian reported that the SBC APCD is in favor of ship speed reductions because that will help the County achieve federal and state ozone standards. APCD invited Maersk to meet with the local community because the company has been proactive environmentally. The meeting was attended by some APCD board members, NOAA, CINMS, EDC and others. Maersk presented some of their initiatives, including slow speeding and “steady steaming.” Maersk has also worked with agencies to assist with monitoring and data collection. They may offer opportunities for collaboration. Recent data shows that approximately 50% of the ship traffic is back in the Channel, and ships are travelling at about 15-16 knots. Both Sean and Brian felt that the meeting with Maersk provided an excellent opening to dialogue. APCD is also reaching out to the CINMS to access data regarding ship patterns.
- D. Agency plans for 2012: the SAC will receive a report about agency actions to reduce ship strike issue. CINMS is talking to NMFS and other west coast Sanctuaries about the upcoming 2012 humpback and blue whale migration season. One topic under consideration is the “trigger” NMFS has used to determine when to send notices to mariners. The CWG expressed frustration with the data collection process, delays in sending notices, and lack of compliance. Sean pointed out that with less flight time, the agencies will be more reliant on other sighting data. Sara

reported that a joint working group at Gulf of Farallones & Cordell Bank is studying ship strikes and acoustics, and will provide a report with recommendations in June.

III. CWG OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

- A. Report status: Kristi sent the technology and impact sections to the RAP for feedback. We continue to work on the policy/regulatory section.
- B. Offshore Oil: Michael asked about the SAC's role in responding to offshore oil projects such as Carone and Paredon. We will check with the CINMS staff.

IV. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project proposal: we are waiting to hear if our proposal has been selected.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: there will be an educators' workshop in Monterey in September, following the ocean acidification conference.
- B. SAC presentation: Dr. Carol Blanchette and Lydia Kapsenberg, researchers for the UCSB Marine Science Institute's Hofmann lab, will provide a presentation regarding new developments and future plans for advancing scientific understanding of ocean acidification, including data collection around the Channel Islands.
- C. EDC Public Service Announcement: we hope to complete the PSA in time for the April 9 SAC Summit. The PSA is intended to raise awareness and directs viewers to the Sanctuary's acidocean website. We need help with distribution. Amanda offered to show the PSA at the Sea Center and connect us with other museums in California. We could ask other Sanctuaries to similarly partner with museums in their states. We will also coordinate with the Thank You Ocean campaign.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Research Activities Panel report and proposed letter of support for funding: the RAP reviewed the CINMS Research Division's prioritization of research needs and recommends that the Sanctuary allocate sufficient resources to address the high priority needs. Support for using the memo as a foundation for drafting a letter supporting the RAP's comments and concerns. Alternatively, CWG would support attaching memo to power point that Steve Katz presented to the RAP and forwarding entire package to Chris and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

- B. Sanctuary Education Team report and proposed letter of support for funding: the SET requests a SAC letter of support for funding for B-WET and MERITO. CWG supports approval of the proposed letter.

- C. Sara reminded us that SAC recruitment for a variety of positions will start on Friday March 16th and include the following seats: Recreational Fishing (member & alternative); Tourism (member & alternate); Education (member and alternate); Chumash (member & alternate); and Business (alternate)

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