

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**  
**5/16/12 REPORT**  
**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,**  
**906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

**Present:** Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Sheehy (SBCK), Vic Cox, Mark Brody (SB Channelkeeper volunteer), Michael Cooper, Jenn Eckerly (NRDC), Mary Byrd (SBC APCD), Christine Ryerson (Jim Ryerson Environmental Fdn)

Bren School Group Project: Timothy Lin, Gavin McDonald, Nathaniel Ng, Daniel Viana, Christine Quigley, Kia Gornik

**Staff:** Sean Hastings, Mike Murray

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: the Bren students introduced themselves, their backgrounds, and their interest in studying the socioeconomic effects of MPAs with respect to private boaters. Some of the students come from other countries and are interested in learning about issues in our region and how they may take this information to other areas. Kia provided a background on the group project, which will analyze attributes that influence patterns of use and build a model using existing data. Gavin reviewed the process and milestones. An update will be provided to the CWG and SAC in the fall and winter. The final product will be completed next spring. Sean pointed out the value of this information to the CINMS' socioeconomic monitoring efforts. Michael Cooper suggested that the students look into Santa Catalina recreational boating information.
- B. Implementation: Greg reported that groups are working to post informational signs at all access points near the Campus Point SMR. In addition to reaching consumptive users they are also looking for ways to reach non-consumptive users to let them know how and where to visit and enjoy the MPAs.

**III. SHIPPING**

- A. PARS follow-up: the USCG submitted a proposal to the IMO Subcommittee on Navigation Safety to re-route the Channel TSS. The Subcommittee will consider the proposal in July. Full ratification could occur in the fall. The Coast Guard must also conduct its own rule-making process which will involve environmental review, public input, ESA consultation, and consultation with the CINMS.

- B. Sanctuary ship speed petition, NOAA response and other agency efforts: NOAA denied the petition, in part relying upon other pending efforts. The petitioners met with Sanctuary and NMFS staff and discussed next steps, including further outreach to the shipping industry, release of a report and recommendations by a working group from the Cordell Banks and Gulf of Farallones SACs, and development of a plan for the 2012 blue & humpback whale season. Sean reported on the meeting earlier this month with the shipping industry, USCG, SBC APCD, and John Calambokidis. CINMS staff raised the issue of lack of cooperation from the shipping industry with the advisories that have been sent out. John C. is tagging blue whales both in the approach to the Ports of LA/Long Beach (where ships are slowing down in response to the Green Flags program) and where ships are not slowing down. His work is intended to track whale behavior. NMFS reported that humpback stock is growing, while blues are staying flat. CINMS and NOAA are exploring the possibility of working with the shipping industry to provide whale sighting data. The Cordell Banks/Gulf of Farallones working group report and recommendations will be presented to the SACs in June.
  - C. Agency plans for 2012: Sean reported that notices to mariners will be transmitted again this summer. Potential changes include: modified language, inclusion of a visual chart, expansion of the advisory area, and focusing the recommended speed reductions to areas where whales are actually sighted (a more dynamic approach).
  - D. California Air Resources Board: CINMS and SBC APCD will participate in a CARB workshop next week regarding how to allocate funds from the cap-and-trade program, and will ask that funds be used to provide an incentive for ships to slow down (which will benefit air quality as well as reduce GHG emissions). Comments are due June 22; the SAC will be asked to support this proposal. This action would be consistent with the SAC's recommendation to pursue incentives to get ships to slow down.
  - E. Blue whale recovery plan update: NMFS announced plans to update the blue whale recovery plan. EDC and others will submit comments (due May 17) requesting formal revision of the recovery plan.
- IV. CWG OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT**
- A. Report status: We continue to work with an intern from UCSB on the policy/regulatory section.
- V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION**
- A. Information and updates: Several handouts were passed around including: (1) Information about the "Effective Practices for Ocean Acidification Communication and Education Workshop" to be hosted by West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries & Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in the Fall of 2012; (2) a report produced by the National Marine

Sanctuary Foundation titled “Federal Policy and Funding related to Ocean Acidification;” and (3) information about the SeaFET ocean pH Sensors that have been installed at two locations in the Sanctuary.

- B. EDC Public Service Announcement: Watch the new PSA on our [website](#) and [take the pledge](#) to demonstrate positive steps you can take to address OA. The PSA will also be available on the [acidocean.org](#) web site under the “Take the Pledge Page.” EDC will be reaching out to all thirteen National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils to see how they may assist with distribution of the PSA. We will be providing a toolbox to each interested group, institution, individual, etc. that will include: a DVD of the PSA, short description, tweets, and facebook postings for social media use; and EDC’s Distribution Plan.

## **VI. OTHER ISSUES**

- A. SAC agenda: Discussed the revised B-Wet letter. There was general support for the modified and more specific language in the revised letter. .
- B. SAC Work Plan: Discussion about trying to identify opportunities for collaboration with the other SAC members on implementing the SAC work plan. One suggestion was the possibility of asking individual SAC members if they would be willing to reach out to their counterparts at a different SAC to: (1) share the PSA and (2) see if there might be opportunities for helping with PSA distribution.
- C. World Oceans Day June 8. The Ty Warner Sea Center is holding a world ocean day festival on June 9<sup>th</sup>. The Theme is Dr. Seuss Style! Channel Islands Naturalist Corps will be tabling and working the event. The Sportfishing Conservancy is hosting a June 9<sup>th</sup> event at the Sea Landing to kickoff “The Sanctuaries Classic.” This summer long fishing and photo contest will award prizes for the person who submits the best photo. More info [here](#).
- D. Workshop on getting to know your “Campus Point SMR” will be held on May 30<sup>th</sup> at UCSB’s Bren School (Bren Hall 1414) 3:00-6:30 pm. This workshop will host speakers that will discuss the science, policy, regulations & enforcement for the Campus Point SMR. The target audience is UCSB students and larger IV and Santa Barbara community.
- E. Santa Barbara Channel buoy: The Sanctuary recently partnered with a school group that deployed a buoy to investigate and track local SB Channel ocean currents. The buoy was recovered by Sanctuary staff before running aground along the coast. It is expected to be deployed again in the near future.

**ADJOURN**