

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**Final Meeting Notes**

**March 14, 2008**

**Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center Auditorium,  
Channel Islands National Park Headquarters  
1901 Spinnaker Drive Ventura Harbor, CA**

*Note: Audio tape recordings of this Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting are available upon request; contact the SAC Coordinator at 805-884-1464.*

**Attending:**

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>National Park Service</u> Alternate      Kate Faulkner	<u>Tourism</u> Member          Lauri Baker Alternate        Andrea Moe
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Alternate        Scott Young	<u>Non-Consumptive Recreation</u> Member          Scott Dunn Alternate        Carolyn Greene
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Member          Dr. Fred Piltz	<u>Business</u> Member          Bill Spicer
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u> Alternate        John Ugoretz	<u>Conservation</u> Alternate        Greg Helms
<u>Santa Barbara County</u> Member          Dianne Black	<u>Commercial Fishing</u> Alternate        Bruce Steele
<u>Department of Defense</u> Member          Steven Schwartz Alternate        Walt Schobel	<u>Recreational Fishing</u> Member          David Bacon Alternate        Merit McCrea
<u>Ventura County</u> Alternate        Marilyn Miller	<u>Education</u> Alternate        Dan Powell
<u>NOAA Fisheries</u> Member          Melissa Neuman	<u>Research</u> Member          Bob Warner
	<u>Public-At-Large</u> Member          Phyllis Grifman Member          Eric Kett

**Absent:**

<u>Government Representatives:</u>	<u>Community Representatives:</u>
<u>US Coast Guard</u> Member Ronald Fien	<u>Commercial Fishing</u> Member Jim Marshall
<u>Minerals Management Service</u> Alternate Donna Schroeder	<u>Chumash Community</u> Member Paulette Cabugos Alternate Reggie Pagaling
<u>CA Resources Agency</u> Member Brian Baird Alternate Amy Boone	<u>Conservation</u> Member Linda Krop
<u>Ventura County</u> Member Lyn Krieger	<u>Business</u> Alternate Capt. Manny Aschemeyer
<u>National Park Service</u> Member Russell Galipeau	<u>Research</u> Alternate Bernardo Broitman
<u>CA Coastal Commission</u> Alternate Steve Hudson Member Barbara Carey	
<u>CA Department of Fish and Game</u> Member Marija Vojkovich	
<u>NOAA Fisheries</u> Alternate Elizabeth Petras	
<u>Santa Barbara County</u> Alternate Michelle Gibbs	

Thirteen of the Council’s twenty-one voting seats were present at roll call, increasing to a high of sixteen voting seats. The total number of Council representatives (members and alternates) ranged from sixteen at roll call to twenty-two at the peak. Two seats were absent for the day: California Resources Agency and California Coastal Commission. Public attendance varied from 2 to 6 people.

**Administrative Business and Announcements**

**Meeting Notes**

The January 25, 2008 draft meeting notes were unanimously adopted as final, with minor corrections.

**Council Member Announcements**

- a. Greg Helms attended the symposium on Marine Reserves at the Channel Islands on February 7 and 8<sup>th</sup> and found it outstanding, but also long. Fortunately, Greg and COMPASS videoed the symposium and made a DVD of highlights. He will give a DVD to every council member. There is a cover letter and set of notes that goes along to explain what sections were included and what was left out.

- b. John Ugoretz announced that the Pacific Fisheries Management Council is evaluating salmon, pacific whiting, and canary rockfish stocks for the upcoming seasons. The outlook for this year's salmon season does not look good.
- c. Kate Faulkner announced that Channel Islands National Park will be hiring a boat captain with a 100 ton license and boat maintenance skills. Call Denise Domian at 805-658-5705 if you are interested in applying.
- d. Eric Kett announced that he was at the islands last weekend and the rains have turned the islands green, the plants are blooming, and there are fresh water springs and water falls visible. The kelp is abundant and visibility has been very good. Eric encourages everyone to get out to the islands if you can.
- e. Scott Young announced that the Marine Safety Detachment Santa Barbara will continue to attend meetings while the Coast Guard makes a decision on who will be the permanent representative. Scott says that he is happy to serve but that the Coast Guard believes the Council could be better served by a higher ranking representative from Sector LA-LB or Eleventh District.
- f. Steve Schwartz announced that the Navy signed an agreement with the Coastal National Monument to be the stewards of the rocks around San Nicholas. The Navy does not own the rocks but they are close to the island and indeed the Navy has been including them in their management. The Navy has funded Dr. Glenn VanBlaricom to continue working on black abalone, including working up his past 30 years of data. There is interest in the San Nicholas population because there is some preliminary evidence that they may be resistant to withering syndrome.
- g. Capt David Bacon announced that rockfish season opened on March 1 and it is this season when the recreational fishers really miss the closed areas. However, other areas have been found to be very productive. They did catch a lot of lingcod, although they had to throw them back because they are not in season, and it was good to see them in such abundance. Capt. David added that the lingcod release well because they have no air bladders so the pressure difference doesn't bother them.
- h. Carolyn Greene stated that the Superintendent's report has a lot education and outreach reports in it and encourages members to read it. The whale season has been productive and they have been seeing activity on the whale watching trips.
- i. Marilyn Miller announced that Channel Islands Harbor has a parks and public improvement plan and they hope to use the Channel Islands to tell the story of the local area. They plan to use interpretive signs. She thinks the SAC could have a lot of good input on the plan and she would like to take advantage of the knowledge that the Advisory Council members have about the islands. Marilyn would like some help with how to get the document to the Council.
- j. Bruce Steele announced that they are still looking for funding for the brush studies that he has talked about to the council in the past. They have 19 years of data. David Kushner also uses brush studies but also samples Artificial Recruitment Modules (ARMs), and they can track the pulses of settlement seen on the brushes in the recruitment to the ARMs.
- k. Merit McCrea announced that he was at the western groundfish conference and missed the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Symposium. At the groundfish

conference, he saw a great array of research techniques, some of which were cutting edge, including acoustic videography.

### **Superintendent's Report:**

Chris Mobley highlighted several items in the Superintendent's Report (provided to all SAC members and the attending public and available at <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/super.html>).

### **Progress Report from Subcommittee on Large Cetaceans and Shipping**

- Staff update – Sean Hastings announced that staff updated the blue whale proposal and it will be available on the web. Staff set up a conference call with Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS) staff and the subcommittee last week. There was a powerpoint presentation and the call was detailed and lasted about 2 hours. Staff have a summary of the call that will be made available.
- Bob added that SBNMS had an incredible amount of data and that Bob had thought it would be a simple process but if CINMS wants to do this it could be more complicated than he thought.
- Sean agreed and added that SBNMS has been at this for 10 years, where we are just getting started.
- Marilyn asked if SBNMS has been successful in reducing ship strikes
- Sean answered that they think they have because they moved the shipping lanes and they have an elaborate set of arrays to detect the presence of whales and to alert ships to slow down, which has been shown to reduce mortality in whale ship strikes.
- Sean said that staff will ask subcommittee members to document in detail what occurred last fall, in the response to ship strikes. This will be evaluated and serve as the basis of a response plan. Subcommittee members will review the process and make recommendations on improving it for the following year, and over many years.

### **Update on UCSB Bren School Project Proposal**

- Sean reminded the council of the Bren School project that was proposed to study Blue Whales, the SAC wrote a letter of support, and the sanctuary wrote a letter of support.
- Leslie Abramson (Bren School) announced that the proposal was not selected as a project and thanked the SAC for their support. Leslie hopes to remain involved in the topic, and hopes that this could be a Bren School project in the future.
- Dianne and Melissa asked how projects are selected and if reviews were received.
- Leslie said she had a brief 2 sentence review saying that they did not believe that the methods proposed could be used to analyze the blue whale issue and also that the relationship between the Bren School students and the SAC was unclear. Leslie said she had intentionally left that unclear because there are several ways how that relationship could develop.

- Sean said they will follow up with the Bren School to become more clear on the selection.
- Bob Warner suggested that the students could run the proposals by Steve Katz and himself for some suggestions.
- Eric Kett asked if the proposal would have been viewed more favorable if it had a corporate sponsor.
- Chris Mobley suggested that perhaps they could ask Manny Aschemeyer if the Marine Exchange of Southern California could be a corporate sponsor.
- Phyllis Grifman added that Sea Grant has small development grants that could be used to help with this, although it wouldn't help with the thesis project, but as long as you have a faculty sponsor, this money could be used.

**Update on Research Proposals:** Steve Katz reported on the progress of research proposals. Steve made the following points about the Sanctuary plan for research on Large Cetaceans in the sanctuary and Santa Barbara Channel:

The goals of the plan are:

- Continuation of SAMSAP flights as budget allows
- Maintain and update the marine mammal database within CINMS
- Continue broad band acoustics monitoring in the Sanctuary in collaboration with the Hildebrand Lab from Scripps
- Continue work with AIS, gaining access to new antennas.
- Continue to collaborate with interested parties
- Have planned visual assessment of marine mammals and seabird abundance
- Acoustically monitor krill distributions along transects
- Validate acoustics with plankton tows
- Upgrade sensors aboard Shearwater to monitor Chlorophyll, nitrate, and domoic acid
- Coordinate with remote sense data and circulation modeling.

The SAC engaged in the following discussion:

- Bob Warner asked for clarification on the two acoustics projects that Steve mentioned. Steve responded that the current Scripps project is passive listening but they hope to do some tagging.
- Bob Warner asked if the HARPs are picking up whale noise. Steve responds yes, they can pick up whale noise, but some calls are masked by ship noise.
- Bruce Steele commented on krill research, asking if you can look back in time at long data sets on krill abundance, and noting that he has seen a lot of fluctuation in whale abundance. Steve responded that there are some data sets that can be looked at.
- Bruce Steele said that he doesn't remember seeing the same distribution of krill in the channel that they are now seeing.
- Eric Kett said that you can see Chlorophyll from remote sense data, and asked if that is the same data you are looking for by installing new sensors. Steve responded that the sensor data will be groundtruthing the satellite images.

- Scott Dunn stated that according to the Hildebrand lecture that he saw on Wednesday, there are a lot of whales in the Channel. Scott is concerned that other whales may be getting struck that we don't see because grey whales sink when they die, for example. Steve responded that those data sets are excellent and that in the cruises that we have planned, we will be looking at all species.
- Phyllis Grifman asked how much it would cost and who would do domoic acid testing and analysis. Steve responded that we are working with Michelle Berman on this. Phyllis suggested that a lab at USC is already funded and set up to do this.
- Greg Helms asked how this information feeds into management actions. Steve responds that yes, that is part of the overall plan.
- Bob Warner suggested that the RAP could help with review of the research plan.
- Merit McCrea suggested that whale watch operators could be good sources of information. Steve responded that this is some of the idea behind using the marine mammal sightings database.
- In response to Merit's question about the SeaKeepers system, Steve says he hopes to make that data accessible and real time.
- Bob Warner asked what parts of research proposal could be real time, and what is the long term plan for that, or is the goal to use data as a predictive model. Steve responded that the goal is to use the data for a predictive model.
- Chris Mobley talked about funding streams that could be used for these activities and how the sanctuary is recruiting these funds.
- Carolyn Greene asked about the shipping community reaction. Sean responds that Manny is our shipping contact and he is in close contact with the shipping industry.
- Dianne Black closes the item by saying that the next meeting will have the short term recommendations by the council.

### **Public Comment**

- Leslie Purcell asked if there is any consideration of the LNG terminal by this council. Dianne Black responded that they have in the past and they will in the future when the project moves forward.
- Sean Hastings added that the sanctuary will work with the Coast Guard on the review of the next permit application on formal consultation.
- Melissa Neuman provided an update on the NMFS consultation.

### **Report on Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas Special Symposium**

John Ugoretz provided the following information in his presentation:

- List of participants
- List of key questions addressed by the researchers
- Biological monitoring results include:
  - Habitats vary throughout islands
  - Fish movement patterns show they can be protected by MPAs of this size
  - State marine reserves have more species and higher biomass than outside.
- PISCO results
  - Numbers and size of fish greater in MPAs

- Unfished species closer to equal
- Sheephead and kelp bass more abundant near MPA centers than edges
- Socioeconomic results:
  - Commercial fisheries highly variable
  - Commercial vessels observed in the west and recreational vessels in the east
  - Commercial fisheries – 4 increased, 3 decreased
  - Lobster trapping success declined, though value increased,
  - Potential other causes include regulations, environment, and market
  - Recreational fishing:
    - Party boat trips increased slightly annually
    - Effort has shifted to other areas
    - Regulations and other factors influenced effort
- Summary:
  - Trends consistent with expected outcomes
  - Fisheries generally not experiencing estimated negative impacts (individual impacts are variable)
  - Monitoring programs can answer questions
  - Future areas will benefit from coordinated monitoring
  - Early planning plus early monitoring plus long term equals questions answered.
  - One pagers available on the web

Council member questions and discussion:

- Bruce Steele asked about how the juvenile of species will be affected when predators are more abundant. John responded that a study in a tropical location found this to not be the case (that the groupers did not decrease the herbivorous parrot fish)
- David Bacon stated that he was disappointed in the presentation that showed a decrease in the CPFV industry but did not have an explanation. He wished to go on record to say that he saw a decline in his business because of the perception of the closed areas that was presented in the media. John responded that the explanation was given and it was because at that same time, stricter rockfish regulations went into place. David responds that those are two separate issues in his mind, and they both had an affect. David also expresses disappointed that the project he was involved in to tag and recapture kelp bass was not part of the symposium and he requests that it be included in the report to the Commission.
- Eric Kett stated that the Protecting Your Channel Islands Brochure that John referred to was created by the SAC. Eric also suggested that the increase in violations being seen now may be a result of people wanting to see how well the reserves are working. Eric asked about the abundance data that John presented and John clarified that the data he presented is density and biomass.
- There was a discussion about the uncertainty inherent in the research results and how statistics are used to analyze data.
- Steve Katz added that a Smith Fellow was funded to look at some of these ecosystem level questions.
- Phyllis Grifman asked how transferrable these results will be to other areas because it was so expensive to do and involved so many people and effort. John responded that it is some what transferrable and that the first few years of monitoring are key. Bob Warner

added that he doesn't think that one can say that because you know what is happening in one area, you will know what will happen in another area.

- Chris Mobley asked about how collaborative efforts can be incorporated and asked about the California Marine Life Enterprise. John says this group is meeting April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Eric Kett said that monitoring the health of the fish population is really important and that three years of data is not sufficient to answer these questions.
- Bruce Steele said that urchins behave differently whether they are well fed or not. When there is detrital kelp, they remain sessile and feed on the kelp that is available, when kelp is scarce they form a front and march towards the kelp.
- Melissa Neuman added that Anne Saloman's talk on resilience would be relevant to this discussion and her study pointed out that after perturbation inside and outside MPAs took the same amount of time but that the perturbation was of lower magnitude to begin with in the MPAs.

### **California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Southern California Process**

John Ugoretz provided a presentation on this topic and reviewed the MLPA mandate, the six goals, and the requirements of the act. He made the following points:

- Design components include leadership, public-private partnerships, policy advice, and stakeholder input, scientific advice
- Key planning tasks of the stakeholder group will be to evaluate existing state MPAs (including adjustment of existing MPAs)
- The players: MLPA institutional partners, MLPA initiative groups and partners, blue ribbon task force, stateside interests group, regional stakeholder group, scientific advisory team, contractors
- Stakeholders include: Ocean industries, recreation, conservation groups, etc. (similar to make up of SAC)
- Detailed flow chart of process is available in the MLPA master plan
- Planning structure includes guidance, proposal development and others
- The creation of proposals is an iterative process to create multiple versions of alternative proposals.
- Future planning: The process for the South coast will begin in summer 2008.
- The study region is Pt. Conception to the border and includes many MPAs already in place.
- Informative early workshops will be in early summer and will include a sub regional approach, there will be development of a regional profile and outreach and education.
- FAQs: Closed areas are not permanent, they can be changed; there will be as much enforcement as the DFG can afford; MPAs are required by the act to improve conditions; the schedule for each area is being developed;
- There is no minimum area in each study region that needs to be set aside, the SAT does not draw the lines rather they evaluate proposals.
- The public can go to meetings, watch archived meetings on the web, send comments, add yourself to mailing list, comment on draft public documents, and visit the website.

Council discussion and questions:

- Capt. David Bacon asked why the cowcod conservation area is not included on map of existing MPAs. John replied that the area is a fisheries management area and is not an MPA.
- Merit McCrea said that the presentation was very clear, balanced, and forthcoming, and thanked John.
- Bruce Steele asked to what degree the process will revisit the Channel Islands to bring the percentage of protected area closer the percentage in the central coast (25% vs. 40%). John responded that there are some areas in the central coast that are high, but on a larger scale the percentage is not that high. The process requires that all existing MPAs are on the table, including the Channel Islands. John does not expect a lot to change at the Channel Islands.
- Greg Helms asked about the subregional approach. John responded that they are scientific breaks.
- Eric Kett requested hard copies of the presentation
- Chris Mobley asked how the SAC or other local people can get involved and John said that you will be hearing more about it and the process is based on a lessons learned approach.

### **Presentation and Comment Opportunity on Proposed Black Abalone Endangered Species Act Listing**

Melissa Neuman from NMFS provided a presentation on the “Status of Black Abalone Populations at the Southern California Islands: Implications for Long-term viability throughout the range of species”, in which she presented the following information:

- In 1986, black abalone at SCI were abundant (shows picture with dozens of black abalone)
- Trends in Commercial Landings: fishing did have an effect on the populations before withering syndrome (WS) hit. After WS hit, the population declined dramatically. Once the abalone were gone, the substrate changed making the habitat unsuitable to new abalone that might settle. Transmission of the disease was thought to be accelerated with El Nino.
- Seven major studies were used as fishery independent data to be used in the status review, including data from 101 sites. Melissa focuses on a few sites at the Channel Islands. All sites have seen declines to zero.
- At Santa Cruz Island, local extinction occurred by 2001.
- At San Nicolas Island, there are a few individuals hanging on but density is extremely low (data shown is through 2006)
- Low density of abalone may cause recruitment failure, this is a critical issue for broadcast fertilizers.
  - They require aggregations for efficient fertilization and local recruitment may be important
  - Babcock and Keesling (1999) showed recruitment failure below a certain density
- Individuals less than 20mm (juveniles) are found in lower densities than adults
- Dispersal of larvae appears to be local and not to the other islands or mainland, low gene flow between populations
- Risk Assessment included risk categories: Abundance, growth and productivity, diversity, and spatial structure and connectivity. All of these categories were at risk.

- Modeled the extinction risk based on the probability that the disease would spread quickly or would not spread. Even with these two possibilities, the risk of extinction is still at 0.957, meaning a 95% chance of extinction in the next 30 years.
- Summary:
  - Densities have declined 90% throughout most locations in the Channel Islands
  - Natural recovery unlikely because minimum density thresholds have been breached and spatial limitations on larval dispersal
  - Unknowns: aggregative behavior, disease progression/resistance dynamics?
  - A small population of black abalone at San Nicholas Island appear to possibly have some disease resistance.
- Now is the time the recovery team is looking for public comments on the petition to list the species: are there studies they missed? Also, small scale habitat requirements needs to be understood in the case that critical habitat would be designated

Council discussion and questions:

- John Ugoretz asked about the densities in Central California and how those densities are affected by Sea Otter predation or poaching. Melissa responded that Pete Raimondi, who samples the area, is now seeing withering syndrome in that area. The historic range is Crescent City CA at the Oregon Border down through Baja and now the northern range limit is Central California.
- Melissa clarified that the extinction model does not use data but uses assigned probabilities of disease spreading or not spreading. Discussion of this model ensued.
- Bruce Steele stated that he has a lot of knowledge of where abalone used to be and he is more than willing to share his knowledge.
- Chris Mobley added that the Red Abalone Advisory Group is also looking at the issue of how the population will fare in an El Nino. Chris also commented that a member of the review team thought that there was a lot of data available for this species relative to other status reviews she has been involved in.
- Kate Faulkner asked how the team considered the effects of otters. Melissa responded that is included in the status review.
- Bruce Steele asked if the disease resistance at SNI is based on lab studies and if they still test positive for the bacterium. Melissa responded that they were tested in a lab and that they are not carrying the bacterium. Discussion followed on methods used in studying the populations.
- Melissa stated that the comment period is closing in a week or two and there is material that was provided for the meeting that lists the weblink. The group could still submit comments after the deadline.
- Discussion ensued on what the goals of the group would be if comments are submitted.
- A motion was forwarded and seconded to form a subcommittee to write a comment letter to NMFS. Before voting on this, the group discussed what the tenor of such a letter would be.
- At this point, Bob suggests that the RAP could comment on the technical aspects of the report and that other Advisory Council members could comment independently.
- The Advisory Council agrees with this amended motion and a unanimous vote supports a review by the RAP of the technical aspects of the report.

## **SAC Greening Subcommittee Proposal: *A Carbon Budget for the CINMS***

### **Overview of the Greening Subcommittee's proposal for the Sanctuary Program's Blue Seas, Green Communities initiative**

- Steve Katz provided an update of the Greening Subcommittee. The subcommittee decided to create a carbon budget for the sanctuary and Steve highlighted the benefits of such a project.
- Steve reported that this item was not funded at the National Marine Sanctuary Program level.
- Bruce Steele talked about the benefits of this program and he thought it would be a good way to get SAC members really engaged in the issue of global warming. This is a definable area with a lot of data already available. Bruce would like to move forward on this project even if the funding isn't available. Steve agreed that they should look to move forward.
- In response to Bruce's question, Steve explained that there are techniques to analyze signatures of plant uptakes.
- Chris Mobley asked Kate Faulkner about the Park's carbon budget. Kate explains that they are currently looking at the park's infrastructure and then they hope to look at concessionaires.
- Chris Mobley stated that the National Marine Sanctuary Program has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Energy to do a carbon study of the infrastructure of each sanctuary site.
- John Ugoretz said that would be a good start, followed by adding in some of the readily available data.
- Eric Kett described how they could at least begin to look at gross numbers that are readily available on the web without understanding the individual expenditures.
- Steve Katz added that he would like the RAP to work on this and that he hopes that this is a product that could be used in an Integrated Ecosystem Assessment.
- Bob Warner asked for examples of research projects that would be involved in this effort. Steve responded that people who are studying carbon subsidies and metabolic rates are interested in this issue.
- Scott Dunn commented that he was discouraged to hear that they didn't get the money to support this not because of the amount of money but of what not getting the money meant in terms of support from the Program.
- Dianne Black suggested the subcommittee come back to the SAC at the next meeting with a list of research questions that the group can proceed with.
- The Advisory Council unanimously supported this action.

### **Public Comment**

Shiva Polefka made a public statement for support of the blue whale subcommittee work. His statement is summarized here: The work at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary can be useful to CINMS and Shiva encourages members to not be discouraged by the amount of time that site has put into their effort. Stellwagen's work shows their efforts have reduced ship strikes in contrast to the voluntary efforts in the Santa Barbara Channel which were not

effective in reducing speeds. Shiva acknowledges that more research is needed but current information suggests immediate precautionary efforts can protect whales.

Leslie Purcell agreed and supported Shiva's comments. She also raised the issue of trash impacts and runoff into the water and asked what this group can do to support this. She said she hears a lot about this issue and picks up plastic on the beach, and she is also concerned about agriculture as well. Sean Hastings responded that the sanctuary has been involved in this to a certain extent including debris clean up at the islands and support of research projects to study water quality in the channel. Bruce Steele added that we have had some presenters speak about water quality, including Karen Worcester from the state's Regional Water Quality Control Board. He pointed out that there are notes available from her talk.

### **Weather Buoy Update**

Eric Boldt from the Oxnard Office of the National Weather Service announced that there are two weather buoys that are planned to be removed: West Santa Barbara Channel and Point Arguello. There is no money to maintain or repair the buoys. Eric discussed the timeline for removal (see handout).

Council questions, discussion and action:

- Dianne Black asked about how much money would be needed.
- Scott Dunn asked how similar the data collected by the adjacent buoys are. Eric stated that the types of data collected is similar but the conditions at each buoy are very different.
- Bill Spicer stated that he was one of the authors of the original letter when this topic came up earlier and he recently talked to some of his friends in Santa Barbara harbor and they expressed a lot of support for the buoys.
- Bruce Steele agrees that the loss of buoys is a safety issue and the west channel buoy is the most reliable for the wind conditions.
- Kate Faulkner stated that there are a lot of good ideas and perhaps the council should consider writing a letter.
- Bill Spicer and Eric Kett volunteered to work as a subcommittee to draft a letter.
- John Ugoretz suggested that perhaps there could be an opportunity for a public/private partnership.
- Eric Kett made a motion to form a subcommittee, Bruce Steele seconded the motion. The council unanimously approved.

### **Council Work Plan Ratification**

- Dianne Black explained how the Executive Committee uses the work plan to create agendas
- Dianne asked for a motion to adopt.
- Bob Warner made a motion, and John Ugoretz seconds it. The council unanimously adopts the work plan.

### **Working Group Reports**

- Conservation Working Group did not meet
- Recreational Fishing Working Group did not meet

- Commercial Fishing Working Group did not meet
- Research Activities Panel (RAP) did not meet, but will meet soon, as they do have a lot to discuss now
- Chumash Community Working Group did not meet

### **Future SAC Meeting Schedule and Agenda Topics**

There is a lot left over from this meeting that will be carried over onto the next meeting including an update from the Blue Whale Subcommittee, a letter on the weather buoys, possibly rescheduling the ocean acidification items, review from the RAP on the black abalone status review and petition to list, a review of the large cetacean research activities, and rollout of the SDEIS.

### **Future SAC meeting schedule and agenda topics**

#### *Schedule for future SAC meetings & events:*

- May 13-15, 2008: SAC Chairs Meeting, Newport News, Virginia (SAC Chair attending)
- Friday, **May 30**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- Friday, **July 18**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Ventura
- Friday, **September 19**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Santa Barbara
- Friday, **November 14**, 2008: SAC Meeting, Ventura

*Meeting notes respectfully submitted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff:*

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