

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

**FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes
July 19, 2013**

Channel Islands Boating Center, Oxnard, CA

Note: This document will be posted on line at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>. Audio recordings of this and other Council meetings are available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Attendance: At peak, seventeen of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Two seats were absent for the day: Department of Defense, and Commercial Fishing. Public attendance varied throughout the day around an average of 5 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Suzy Watkins from the Channel Islands Harbor welcomed the group to the Channel Islands Boating Center. Suzy explained the partnerships involved in the building, including NOAA/CINMS, Ventura County, California State University Channel Islands, California Department of Boating and Waterways, Channel Islands Harbor Foundation, California State Department of Parks and Recreation; and mentioned some of the environmental standards and features of the building.

The draft key outcomes from the May 17, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley provided a verbal report and began by expressing appreciation for the Channel Islands Boating Center. Chris mentioned the passing of Joe Wysocki and asked Russell Galipeau to say a few words. Russell said that Joe was a wonderful volunteer who gave much to the park. Russell said that there is a full accident investigation and said that even if there is something you've done many times it is important not to normalize risk. It is a reminder that safety is the most important thing.

Dianne announced that the executive committee has drafted a letter of condolence to the family of Joe Wysocki. The council adopted the letter unanimously. Dianne also reported that she will be on a national advisory council chairs call and there will be discussion of the possible formation of a Business Advisory Council to the national program.

Chris announced that we are now in our new building at UCSB and we are having an open house on August 15 and everyone is invited to stop by. On August 6th 10am-12pm there is a VIP event and ribbon cutting and everyone is invited to that as well. Chris mentioned that there is a strong history of partnerships between NOAA and universities and education center and we will benefit by being on campus while still maintaining our important partnerships with the rest of the community.

Council Member Announcements

A number of Council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Audio recordings are available upon request.

Briefing: Site Nomination Process for National Marine Sanctuaries

Mike provided a summary and presentation on the Site Nomination Process. Mike reminded the council that they had learned about the site designation process and provided a letter supporting reactivation of the site evaluation list at the May 17th meeting. Mike reported that the 12 letters from advisory councils around the country were influential in the development of a public process for a site nomination process. Mike said at this point the comment period is for the criteria that will be used to evaluate sites, not for the nomination of sites to become sanctuaries. Mike said that individuals can comment through the website: www.regulations.gov, search

for docket # “NOAA–NOS–2013-0091; through August 27, 2013. Mike showed a short video that described the process and pointed the council to the Federal Register notice, a copy of which each council member received as a handout at the meeting.

Scorpion Anchorage Pier, Santa Cruz Island

The pier at Scorpion Anchorage, which is actually constructed from a railroad car, is failing and it is situated at the most highly visited location in the park and is inside a reserve. This is a public safety issue. There are two proposed solutions: 1) rebuild at the present location, but lengthen the pier in order to provide access for authorized boats during low tide; or 2) change the location of the pier away from the headland toward the center of the bay. Option 1 would mean continued clearing of the road to the pier using bulldozers, and maintaining riprap. Option 2 moves the pier away from significant archeological burial sites but will then interfere with snorkeler access. Russell Galipeau informed the council that scoping is open to the 29th of this month and review, analysis, and planning will occur over the coming year. Anyone is invited to submit comments. Russell added that there will be an EIS and their intent is to provide safe access to a National Park.

Special Announcement

Chris paused to mention a special announcement: Dani Lipski, Research Specialist at CINMS for the past 8 years, is transferring to Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary to be the Research Coordinator. Chris said that it is a well-deserved promotion and we are very happy for her. Chris said that CINMS will focus on maintaining our key responsibilities in the face of reduced staff.

Dani thanked everyone for their warm congratulations and announced that it is her last Advisory Council meeting. Dani expressed appreciation for all that she has learned from the council said she will take her experience to her new location. Dani invited people to visit her up in the Point Reyes area.

Ocean Acidification

There were several updates on ocean acidification. Mike passed around a report on the C-CAN, that Bruce Steel is heavily involved in. C-CAN monitors ocean acidification in the marine environment. Mike reported that Citrix online had a volunteer service day where they took the web site that they helped build, ‘AcidOcean.org,’ and updated it. Phyllis gave an update for Bruce in his absence. There are recruitment problems in hatcheries and that’s what started C-CAN. Credit goes to Bruce and Dianne for this. Phyllis stated that people who run hatcheries are running de facto labs and there is a lot of science to be gained here. Mark Steele stated that we don’t understand the interactions well enough to predict how the ecosystem will change, that there will be change but it is a complicated issue and we don’t know the extent of how species will be able to adapt and if it will be too fast for evolution. For example, some species in the deep ocean are able to thrive in this type of environment.

Public comment

Paul Petrich reported that he attended Capitol Hill Oceans Week in Washington DC where the Channel Islands and others were spotlighted. Paul encouraged the council to read a recent article in Harper’s magazine about the decline of the marine environment in the Sea of Cortez. Paul stated that this is a prime example of what can happen without MPAs.

Luke Feinberg introduced himself as a graduate student at the Bren School at UCSB and working on a group project on the feasibility of offshore wind energy farms off the coast of California. Luke said he will be contacting some of the members of the council with a survey and looks forward to working with the council.

Ocean For Life Program

Claire Fackler presented highlights from the recent Ocean For Life field studies program conducted at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, which brought together 30 high-school students from Middle-Eastern countries and the United States. Oceans for Life was designed to bridge the cultural and knowledge gap between US and middle eastern students. Claire identified the many partners and sponsors required to make

this program happen. Claire described the curriculum which is focused on cultural understanding and marine science. Activities included: water sampling, touch tanks, meeting leaders in ocean science and education, sandy beach monitoring, visiting the Channel Islands Boating Center, kayaking, visiting the Wishtoyo Foundation Chumash Village and learning about native culture, intense learning about ocean issues such as ocean acidification, snorkeling, camping and visiting the islands, hiking, geocaching, photography, beach clean-up, mentoring young students, learning about teamwork and making lasting friendships. Claire shared one of the four videos the students created about the ocean and their experience.

Tour of the Channel Islands Boating Center

SAC representatives and public alike enjoyed a walking tour of the Channel Islands Boating Center with a highlight being the interactive exhibits on the first floor.

Shipping and Whales

Shauna first reminded the council that the Sanctuary Classic is going on now and is a photography contest to highlight fishing opportunities in sanctuaries. Shauna then reported that the Spotter App, an application for collecting marine mammal sightings, is now available in the iTunes app store. This app will be used by Naturalist Corps members on whale watching boats, and will also be used by other sanctuaries on the west coast. Shauna showed screen shots of the app which show all the data that is collected. Shauna passed around her iPad so the council could see the app. Shauna stated that many partners have been involved in funding and helping to develop the app. In addition, Shauna stated that Point Blue (formerly Point Reyes Bird Observatory) is working to make the data accessible to the public. Shauna also reported that there is a pilot project to assess the utility of using this app on board large ships.

Andrea Dransfield presented the newly developed poster to identify whales that is intended to be used on board cargo ships and have been distributed to the shipping community. Andrea offered to send anyone a pdf of the poster. Andrea then showed the latest data on whale sightings from May through July 5th which show that there have been abundant humpbacks and some blue whales this season.

Elizabeth Petras, NMFS, presented the whale advisory zone for 2013 and the management activities relevant to this zone. Elizabeth stated that there is a notice to mariners of the presence of large whales and a request to keep a sharp lookout. Elizabeth said they would like to move toward having real time information of the location of whales that can be useful to mariners. Mike Murray, on behalf of Sean Hastings who couldn't be at this meeting, reported that there have been two surveillance flights since the implementation of the new shipping lanes. Kristi Birney reported that she continues to make progress on the summary table of progress made on the recommendations to the sanctuary for actions on ship strikes.

Presentation: CINMS Deep Sea Coral Cruise Highlights

Dani Lipski provided a presentation of highlights from a deep sea coral and sponge research cruise in June 2013 on R/V *Shearwater*. Dani explained that there has been a three year effort from NOAA's Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program to characterize habitat on the west coast and this grant to Dr. Steve Katz was part of that effort. The research team identified 15 transects that are in areas that have not been explored and were able to survey 9 transects in 5 days using the Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE) ROV *Beagle*. Dani explained the research goals to identify species and habitats and analyze how communities change with environmental and physical variables. The video imagery will be post processed by Dr. James Lindholm's Lab at the Institute for Applied Marine Ecology. The majority of the presentation focused on imagery of organisms that were observed including corals, sponges, echinoderms, crustaceans, and fish. Dani added that compared to other habitats within the sanctuary the deep sea is an area we know relatively little about and not only is it important for science and management but has great educational potential as well.

Working Group Reports

Marketing Subcommittee: Michael Cohen shared his experience at CHOW in Washington, DC where he represented a small business operating in a national marine sanctuary. Michael felt he was able to share how

people experience and appreciate the Channel Islands. Michael said the event was well attended by government, including Lois Capps who stated in her remarks that CINMS is worth 2 million tourism dollars. Michael reported that the session was addressing many issues facing sanctuaries such as shipping and transit, climate change, and ocean acidification.

Sanctuary Education Team: Amanda Allen stated that the SET has pursued another student group project that will focus on sustainable design of facilities and would include the Boating Center and OSEB. The student group may be eligible for a grant from NOAA.

Conservation Working Group: Kristi Birney stated the CWG meeting notes were distributed to SAC members. Kristi recommended an article by Dr. Calambokidis in the American Cetacean Society's *Spyhopper* publication on the protection of large whales. Kristi will send this latest newsletter to Mike to pass on to the council.

Research Activities Panel: Mike Murray reminded the council that at the last meeting the RAP and SAC took action on a memo about the National Condition Report and we received a response from ONMS HQ that has been distributed. The memo has also been distributed to other RAPs as the SAC recommended.

Meeting Close-out

Dianne Black reminded everyone about the upcoming open houses on August 6th and 15th and closed out the meeting.

Meeting Attendance Roster (7/19/2013):

Andrea Mills	Tourism	Present
Matthew Curto	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Stuart Wilson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Absent
Michael Cohen	Business	Present
Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Absent
Kristi Birney	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Absent
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petuelli	Education	Absent
Amanda Allen	Education - Alternate	Present
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Absent
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman [Council Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Present
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Eric Kett [Council Chair]	Public At Large #2	Absent
Richard Block	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Present
Luhui Isha	Chumash Community	Present
Mati Waiya	Chumash Community - Alternate	Present
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries	Present
Shelby Mendez	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Absent
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	Absent
CDR Christina Davidson	US Coast Guard	Present
LT Cody Dunagan	US Coast Guard - Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt (BOEM)	Present
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEM - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Absent
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Absent
Craig Shuman	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Absent
Kristine Barsky	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	Present
Rich Rozzelle	CA Natural Resources Agency	Present
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	Present
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	Present
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present
Gary Hirtensteiner	Ventura County	Present
vacant	Ventura County - Alternate	Absent
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent
Maria Brown	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent