

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

**FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes  
May 20, 2011  
Casa Las Palmas, Santa Barbara, 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](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov).*

**Attendance:** At peak, sixteen of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Five seats were absent for the day: California Natural Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, NOAA Fisheries, Chumash Community, and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from 5 to 10 people.

**Administrative Business and Announcements**

The draft key outcomes report from the March 18, 2011 meeting were adopted as final (and will be posted on the CINMS web site).

The council welcomed new member Nicole Peters, non-consumptive recreation alternate, and thanked outgoing Coast Guard member CDR Jason Collins. Chris Mobley presented Jason with a photo plaque as a parting gift and thanked him for bringing Advisory Council issues to the attention of Coast Guard leadership.

***Superintendent's Report***

Superintendent Chris Mobley provided a verbal report and highlighted recent activities and accomplishments such as construction progress on the new UCSB building, recent sanctuary leadership visits to Congressional offices, a recent NOAA *Okeanos Explorer* research cruise within the sanctuary, and the new *Winfield Scott* exhibit at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Sean Hastings, CINMS Resource Protection Coordinator, gave an update on ship-strike related work such as a recently posted speed advisory for the Santa Barbara Channel in a Coast Guard-issued Notice to Mariners; whale sightings and modeling data provided by CINMS, NMFS, and Cascadia Research to the Coast Guard for the Port Access Route Study; new GPS devices on whale watch boats; recent whale survey flights; and a small amount of funding to come from the International Fund for Animal Welfare to support additional survey flights.

***Council Member Announcements***

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

**Ocean Acidification Action Plan for West Coast Sanctuaries**

Council member Linda Krop and sanctuary education coordinator Laura Francis provided a joint presentation on the draft West Coast Sanctuaries Ocean Acidification Action Plan, including the development and contents of the plan. Representatives from each sanctuary program area and each sanctuary on the west coast were involved in the plan's development, which drew on the advisory council's ocean acidification report adopted in 2008 and which is responsive to the subsequent resolutions passed at all west coast advisory councils. The plan includes strategies for monitoring, research, education, mitigation, policy, leadership, and coordination. Linda and Laura discussed activities recommended for each strategy, and council members provided comments and feedback that will be shared with regional office staff. Once finalized, the report will be available from west coast sanctuary web sites.

## **SAC Summit Meeting**

Mike Murray summarized the agenda, participants, and setting for the annual SAC summit held May 3-4, 2011 in Savannah, Georgia, including a presentation he gave on "Sustaining our Sanctuary Communities". Eric Kett then summarized his impressions and experience of the meeting. Eric highlighted the several topics of discussion at the meeting: partnership development, sentinel sites, funding, youth seats for advisory councils, and a list of requests for new sanctuary sites. A discussion followed about the benefits and non-market values of sanctuaries, and noting that CINMS should be on any list of sites where community interest has been expressed for boundary expansion.

## **Public comment**

Michael Sheehy from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper spoke about the issue of plastic bags as marine debris and asked if the SAC could discuss this on a future agenda with the possibility of passing a resolution similar to the one the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recently approved. Michael said that Channelkeeper would be willing to help provide relevant information to the SAC.

## **Offshore Wind and Wave Energy: Progress report from Conservation Working Group**

Linda Krop introduced this item and explained the process the Conservation Working Group (CWG) uses to investigate issues, bring information to the SAC, and develop reports. As a progress report on the CWG's efforts to develop a comprehensive report on offshore wind and wave energy and how it might affect the sanctuary, CWG member Kristi Birney provided a presentation on some of the group's initial research into the topic. Kristi summarized some of the potential technologies that exist or are in development, and explained that the group will be researching these technologies further as well as their potential environmental impacts and associated policies. Looking ahead, the CWG will propose a panel of experts to speak at a future advisory council meeting. The council asked questions about mooring technologies, marine spatial planning, transmission lines, and monitoring. If interested in the presentation provided, contact [kristi@edcnet.org](mailto:kristi@edcnet.org).

## **Ocean for Life**

ONMS West Coast Education Liaison Claire Fackler gave a presentation about this program, which brings together high school students from the Middle East and North America for cultural understanding and marine science education. CINMS will host the program from July 14-26, 2011 to include stays at UCSB and Santa Cruz Island. Students will learn about climate change, ship strikes, Chumash community, local marine ecosystems, and they will create film or still photography projects about their experiences. Claire invited the SAC to participate in one of the trips to Anacapa Island with the students on July 20<sup>th</sup>. Contact [Claire.Fackler@noaa.gov](mailto:Claire.Fackler@noaa.gov) for more information or visit [oceanforlife.org](http://oceanforlife.org).

## **San Miguel Island Red Abalone (Chris Voss, President, California Abalone Association)**

Chris Mobley introduced this informational item and explained up front that any final decision about a red abalone fishery at San Miguel Island would rest with the California Fish and Game Commission, and that the sanctuary's interest in this issue is due to the fact that the animals and the proposed fishery are within CINMS. Chris Voss then began with some big picture remarks about our collective responsibility to stop the trend of marine habitat destruction. He explained the basic tenants of a California Abalone Association proposal for an experimental abalone fishery at San Miguel Island. He highlighted that: research would be paid for by a tax levied on the fishery and imposed upon itself before the closure; the efforts that have been made to assess red abalone populations at San Miguel island (including weaknesses in the methodology); a Marine Stewardship Council recommendation that an experimental fishery be used to inform about the resource and its resilience; a UCSB Bren School masters thesis group project that found that the planned fishery co-op design was economically viable; the role of Dr. Jeremy Prince in helping to develop the proposal; the need to understand the biology of the organism and manage on an appropriate scale for the organism; and how animals would be weighted, measured, tagged, and tracked. Council questions and discussion followed, touching on issues such as what the appropriate density should be above which a fishery could be safely started, and what methodology was or should be used to calculate average density across the range of the animal (with specific discussion

concerning whether or not actual abalone habitat should be the base survey area, or a larger surrounding area of kelp canopy); studies related to abalone reaggregating into clumps of animals after legal sized animals are removed; the fine-scale localized nature of the proposed management; comparisons and characterization of central and northern California red abalone populations, predators and fishing; the idea of translocation of abalone for recovery purposes as a fishery objective; Chris Voss' interest in holding an abalone festival that could provide important pieces of information about this and help with the overall politics. He expressed that he hoped council members would support the CAA experimental fishery proposal and maybe integrate activities with the CAA.

### **Public comment**

Paul Petrich asked about the decline and recovery of black abalone at San Nicolas Island. Chris Voss responded that withering foot disease was a major contributor but they are now rebounding.

### **Working Group Reports**

Bill Struble, Special Agent with the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, reported that the Technical Advisory Committee on enforcement at the Channel Islands has had high participation and is expanding communications to extend beyond the borders of the sanctuary. Bill discussed plans for summer and holiday enforcement activities to correspond with various fishery opening seasons. Also, Bill reported that they are working on vessel groundings cooperatively among agencies.

Marie Petueli, chair of the Sanctuary Education Team, reported on the SETs successful ocean acidification outreach event on May 4th at UCSB: "Your Changing Ocean." Maria explained that they changed the format of the presentations to work for a public open house, and recognized USC Sea Grant's involvement in the planning, participation at the event by staff, and sharing of materials.

Linda Krop reported that the Conservation Working Group met and discussed whales and shipping, the Coast Guard's Port Access Route Study, workshops on whales and shipping, and their interest in ensuring all boaters are following proper whale watching etiquette. Linda said that ideas to help educate on this issue are appreciated. Linda mentioned that they also discussed the MBNMS resolution on plastic bag ban, and requested that the council consider taking a similar action at an upcoming meeting. Finally, Linda announced that the National Ocean Council will broadcast a workshop on Marine Spatial Planning on June 21.

### **Future Schedule of Council Meetings and Events**

- Saturday, July 9: Council field trip
- Friday, July 22, SAC meeting, Ventura
- Friday, September 23, SAC meeting, Santa Barbara
- Friday, November 18, SAC meeting, Ventura

**Meeting Attendance Roster (May 20, 2011):**

Andrea Mills	Tourism	Absent
Matthew Curto	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Nicole Peters	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Absent
<i>Michael Gould</i>	Business - Alternate	Present
Linda Krop	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Absent
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Present
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
Amanda Hendrickson	Education - Alternate	Absent
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	Present
Marilyn Kelly	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Luhui Isha	Chumash Community	Absent
Venisse Miller-Forte	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Absent
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Absent
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Absent
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	Present
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present
LTJG Steve Arnwine	US Coast Guard - Alternate	Present
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement	Present
Dr. Ann Bull	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Absent
Kristine Barsky	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	Present
Brian Baird	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Barbara Carey	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	Present
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	Absent
Marilyn Miller	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
Brian Johnson	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent