

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

Final Key Meeting Outcomes

May 21, 2010

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.

Attendance: At peak, 13 of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). 8 seats were absent for the day: Tourism, Business, Recreational Fishing, Chumash Community, California Department of Fish and Game, California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from 5 to 10 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

The draft key outcomes report from the March 19, 2010 meeting was adopted as final.

Acknowledging Outgoing and Incoming Council Members

The council bid farewell to LTJG Brittany Steward and Amy Spandrio and thanked them for their service. The council welcomed LT Steve Arnwine, US Coast Guard. Mike read a farewell note from Amy, and Chris expressed his gratitude for Brittany's contribution and presented her with a parting gift - a photo of the historic Coast Guard station at Anacapa Island. Brittany said farewell and left the council with a few words of wisdom.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley provided a few updates on the Deep Sea Coral Cruise, construction of the UCSB Ocean Science Education Building, the R/V *Shearwater* in the yard, the vessel Shark Cat recently acquired by CINMS, council recruitment, and the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

Council Member Announcements

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

Acoustics Science

- **Proposed Council Resolution**

Linda Krop introduced this item and asked for comments on the letter and resolution. A statement from Bob Warner (absent) was read by Mark Steele. Council discussion then focused on how acoustic research ranks in terms of other sanctuary needs, whether supporting this resolution would exclude other research priorities, and whether the council, CINMS, and ONMS agreed that this is a priority. There was a discussion to provide some edits to the letter. The authors of the letter described how they had strategically crafted the letter after comments from Dan Basta. Several members of the council stated that they could not support the resolution but could support an edited letter. The council moved to have John Ugoretz and Linda edit the letter and bring it back to the council in the afternoon.

- **Audience comments**

Jackie Dragon stated that she supports the letter and resolution and she acknowledged Linda's work on the issue. Jackie referred to Dan Basta's comments at the last meeting and stated that the letter and resolution are in line with his comments.

CINMS Research Coordinator Steve Katz stated that he supports Bob Warner's comments and that Steve has worked on prioritizing research needs. Acoustics is not high on the priorities list. However, it

has been identified by the group and could be pursued not to the exclusion of other priorities.

Kristi Birney-Rieman, who helped author the letter, stated that Dan Basta had asked for a resolution, so this was a strategic document.

After the public comment period, John Ugoretz and Linda Krop presented an edited letter. With a few additional edits, the letter was adopted as final with abstentions from Coast Guard and NMFS seats (Voting results: Yes-11, Abstain-2, No-0; see attached roster for details). (Copy of final letter available upon request).

- **SOCAL-10 Research Project**

John Ugoretz provided a presentation on this research project on behalf of the principal investigators. The project will be to understand the behavioral response of whales to noise. John described that it will involve tagging animals and playing sounds to see the animals' response. John stated that the investigators have the necessary permits or the permits are pending. John reported that the investigators want the public to know about this project and have offered to come speak to the council if it is requested.

Public comment

Robert Babbit introduced himself and explained that he became aware of the council recently through his involvement in the Ventura County Leadership Academy. He suggested that the council be involved in emergency response planning in the region.

Larisa from the Channel Islands National Park introduced herself and stated that her job will be to conduct MPA outreach and to talk to fishers and boaters about MPAs. She is new and would like to hear from people if they have suggestions about to whom she should talk to.

Peggy Murphy, who is with the Coast Guard District Staff with the Admiral, introduced herself and explained that she works on safety of commercial fishing vessels. They run a voluntary dockside program to make sure boaters are in compliance and discuss all aspects of vessel safety and incident follow-up.

Whale Ship Strikes

Natalie Senyk reported on the availability of aircraft, which is more limited than previous years. Natalie stated that CINMS is testing new whale observation flight transects to the south of the islands. She presented the latest large cetacean sightings map which showed one blue whale and a fair number of humpbacks have been sighted in the Santa Barbara Channel. Natalie reported that sanctuary staff has been working with Megan McKenna to develop CINMS in-house capability to receive and analyze Automated Information System (AIS) data from.

Elizabeth Petras reported on the ship strike planning workshop that was held this past week. She reported that there was a broad cross-section of participants and there was good collaboration and data sharing. Elizabeth reported on the following action items: a variety of relevant data sources will be compiled in a database for the first time, an effort to determine where conflict areas are present on the west coast, and a follow-up workshop.

There was a discussion about the sightings maps and the opportunistic sightings. There was a recommendation to be clear on the maps about the effort that went into sightings. There was a discussion about how the data will be collected this year and how the data will be shared. The council continued to discuss alternate data sources and resources.

US Coast Guard Port Access Route Study (PARS) for LA/Long Beach and the Santa Barbara Channel

Todd Jacobs discussed CINMS's cooperation with the USCG's PARS, noting that the PARS is a good opportunity to shed light on Sanctuary issues, including ship strikes to whales, vessel collision and other accident risks, oil spill response, etc. The Sanctuary has no preconceived preferred outcome regarding lane

placement or vessel speeds. Jason Collins expressed that the USCG supports NOAA's involvement in the PARS. In a brief note which was read to the council, Captain David Bacon expressed concern for pollution that could drift into the sanctuary from ship operations if traffic was rerouted to the south of the northern Channel Islands.

The council was presented with a comment letter developed by the Conservation Working Group to be submitted to USCG. The council reviewed the draft letter and approved a final letter (Voting results: Yes-8, Abstain-4, No-0; see attached roster for details). The final letter encouraged the Coast Guard to make the following considerations as part of the PARS:

- Consult with the CINMS staff to address potential concerns about impacts to Sanctuary resources;
- Confer with National Marine Fisheries Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service;
- Consult with other whale experts to examine all potential vessel approach options- both inside and outside the Santa Barbara Channel – and potential impacts to migrating whales;
- Address marine spatial planning concerns and potential conflicts with existing ocean uses;
- Consider potential conflicts between oil tankers and other shipping traffic to address safety issues;
- Consider the presence of oil platforms and risk of collisions;
- Examine the consequences of rule making in emission control areas that may generate potential changes in traffic behavior;
- Examine ship speeds to address concerns about whale and ship collisions;
- Examine the ability to respond to spills from vessel collisions in the study area;
- Consider the national security and Department of Defense activities in the region; and
- Examine the effect of ship speed on air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and noise.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit Report

Mike Murray and Eric Kett provided a summary of their trip to the Olympic Coast. Mike recapped the messages from Dan Basta and some of the highlights from the week including: learning about the local tribes and how they interact with their environment, invited guest speakers who presented on marine debris removal, climate change (from a NOAA level down to what can be done at a sanctuary level), field trip to Cape Flattery, the presentation that Mike and Eric gave about ship strikes, a session on recreational fishing, regional break out session, NMSA reauthorization, plans for celebrating Jacques Cousteau, and youth engagement.

Bruce stated that he thinks the distinction between recreational fishing and commercial fishing is misplaced, not helpful, and dismissive of some of the contributions that commercial fishing has made. A discussion followed about recreational fishing, how NOAA engages this community, how the recreational fishing community feels about this topic, and supporting sustainable fisheries.

Ocean Acidification Updates

Linda Krop provided an update on the regional Ocean Acidification Task Force. They had a meeting in San Francisco to discuss how to integrate Sanctuaries into NOAA's Ocean Acidification plan. They also discussed research, monitoring, education and other areas.

Maria Petueli provided an update on the SET's activities on ocean acidification. She reported that they have been having monthly conference calls to plan a workshop for interpreting difficult issues, including ocean acidification. Maria stated they will have several sessions in the fall to accommodate all the volunteers who will participate.

Bruce Steele stated that the recent article in the Santa Barbara Independent was interesting but had some dubious statements. Bruce reported that he and Phyllis are on a planning team with others to address west coast wide projects such as physical process (water chemistry), larval processes, etc. Bruce said one goal will be to bring together data sets in a central location.

Working Group Reports

- **CINMS Technical Advisory Committee on Enforcement**

Sean Hastings provided the following report. The enforcement committee met on May 6 and it was well attended. The group welcomed a new participant – the Border Patrol. There has been a lot of Border Patrol activity in the area and they are interested in coordinating with the group. On May 7th, there was a training session on summary settlements for the group. Jason Collins added that there was a recent interception of a Mexican panga. Sean added that the enforcement group recently distributed a vessel patrol enforcement guide that is a good tool for officers.

- **Commercial Fishing Working Group**

Bruce Steele announced that the Fish and Game Commission meeting will be in Santa Barbara in August.

- **Conservation Working Group**

Greg reported that the Conservation Working Group met on May 19 to discuss a number of topics, including: implementation plan for ocean acidification; letter and resolution on acoustics; US Coast Guard PARS study; NMFS science workshop on whale vessel strikes; MLPA updates; their renewable energy report; aquaculture (NOAA's policy and listening session), Lois Capps' proposed bill on aquaculture; rigs to reef; a marine mammal behavioral response study, NMSA reauthorization; and open seats on the advisory council.

- **Chumash Community Working Group**

Because the Chumash Community representatives were not present, Chris Mobley announced that several Chumash community members are being engaged in the Channel Islands Boating Center design.

Future Meeting Schedule

- Tuesday May 25, 2010 (optional potluck BBQ gathering with Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteers, Rincon Park, 5:00pm to sunset)
- Friday July 16, 2010 (SAC meeting, Ventura)
- Friday September 24, 2010 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Friday November 19, 2010 (SAC meeting, Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster and Voting Results:

Member/Alternate	Seat	Attendance	Acoustic Vote	PARS Vote
Kathleen Fitzgerald	Tourism	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
Andrea Mills	Tourism - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present	Yes	Yes
Perry Ferguson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
<i>Vacant</i>	Business - Alternate			
Linda Krop	Conservation	Present	Yes	Yes
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present		
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present	Yes	Yes
<i>Vacant</i>	Commercial Fishing - Alternate			
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Maria Petueli	Education	Present	Yes	Absent for vote
<i>Vacant</i>	Education - Alternate			
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present		
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present	Yes	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Public At Large #1	Present	Yes	Yes
Amy Spandrio	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Eric Kett	Public At Large #2	Present	Yes	Yes
Dan Powell	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Present		
Jacy Ontiveros	Chumash Community	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
<i>Vacant</i>	Chumash Community - Alternate			
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Present	Abstain	Abstain
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Present		
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present	Yes	Yes
<i>Vacant</i>	National Park Service - Alternate			
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present	Abstain	Abstain
LTJG Brittany Steward	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Present		
Donna Schroeder	Minerals Management Service	Present	Yes	Abstain
Ann Bull	Minerals Management Service - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Present	Yes	Abstain
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present		
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
Kristine Barsky	CA Dept. of Fish & Game - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Brian Baird	CA Natural Resources Agency	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
Barbara Carey	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Dianne M. Black	Santa Barbara County	Present	Yes	Yes
Susan Curtis	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present		
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	<i>Absent</i>	Absent for vote	Absent for vote
Marilyn Miller	Ventura County - Alternate	<i>Absent</i>		
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present		
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>		
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>		
Maria Brown	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>		
Brian Johnson	Gulf of the Farallones NMS [non-voting]	<i>Absent</i>		