

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

Final Key Meeting Outcomes

July 16, 2010

**Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center Auditorium,
Channel Islands National Park Headquarters
1901 Spinnaker Drive · Ventura Harbor, 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, 17 of the Council's twenty-one voting seats were present (see attached attendance roster). Four seats were absent for the day: Chumash Community, California Resources Agency, California Coastal Commission, and Ventura County. Public attendance varied from 5 to 14 people.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Welcoming New and Returning Advisory Council Members

Eric Kett introduced the new and reappointed representatives:

- Capt. David Bacon, Recreational Fishing seat member (reappointed).
- Victor Cox, Public At Large seat alternate (new). Independent journalist; science writer.
- Capt. Mat Curto, Tourism seat alternate (new). Captain of whale watch vessel – Condor Cruises.
- Michael Gould, Business seat alternate (new). Construction business owner; experienced freediver.
- Marilyn Kelly, Public At Large seat alternate (new). Experienced Channel Islands sailor; charter business partner; artist.
- Merit McCrea, Recreational Fishing seat alternate (reappointed).
- Andrea Mills, Tourism seat member (former alternate)
- Maria Petuelli, Education seat member (reappointed)

New representatives said a few words about their interest and background.

Adoption of May 21, 2010 Draft Key Outcomes

The draft key outcomes report from the May 21, 2010 meeting was adopted as final.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent 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>).

Council Member Announcements

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

Nomination and Election of Council Vice Chair and Secretary

Bruce Steele and Phyllis Grifman accepted nominations and were unanimously reappointed as Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively.

Capitol Hill Oceans Week

Eric Kett attended the event, along with Linda Krop, and they summarized some of the events and shared their impressions. Eric reported that there were representatives from alternative ocean energy technologies and a series of talks and panels to discuss these issues. Eric noted that he was impressed by government officials listening to constituents. Linda reported that the conference was fascinating and that the theme this year was

quite relevant even though the topic of clean energy was chosen long before the BP oil spill. Linda was struck by how focused all aspects of government were on the spill. Linda reported that speakers talked about offshore wind energy projects, the need for marine and coastal planning, White House legislation on a national endowment for oceans, oil operations and oil spill response, and plans to issue the final NOAA report on ocean policy. The event featured science discussions on climate change and ocean acidification, including discussions about how fisheries would be affected, and many presentations on alternative ocean energy. At a dinner event on Tuesday evening, Lois Capps received a leadership award, Julie Packard received a lifetime achievement award, and Staci Kaye-Carr was named CINMS volunteer of the year. Mike shared a few pictures of Staci at the event.

Whale Ship Strikes

Sean Hastings introduced this item. Mat Curto reported that on the Condor Express they are seeing humpbacks in fewer numbers (because of seasonal migration) and that blues are more abundant. Elizabeth Petras reported that the coast guard is transmitting the whale advisory on marine radio and Dick McKenna reported the Marine Exchange is also transmitting the message. There was a discussion on the wording and timing of the message.

Sarah Green, Bren graduate student and CINMS intern, announced that CINMS now has a new ability to process AIS data and she presented data that showed dense traffic on the south side of the islands. Sarah presented information on the proportion of types of ships and ship speed. Sarah stated that there appeared that there may be a cargo ship slowdown in the channel. Dick McKenna stated that if there is a slowdown it is more likely to be a result of the type of fuel and other logistics, and not because of the whale advisory. The presentation was followed by discussion about some of the ship tracks seen on the map shown.

Sean reported on aerial assets. Funding and availability of aircraft has been limited, although the USCG has been a great partner in providing flights. However, just recently the Navy provided funding for contract aircraft flights on the south side of the islands. Elizabeth reported that NMFS regional office will be providing some funds and that they are following up on some of the items from the previous workshop.

Public comment

Kristi Birney-Rieman, marine conservation analyst at Environmental Defense Center, introduced herself to new members and reported that their current project is renewable ocean energy and welcomes input on the report and involvement from council representatives.

Cheryl McCormick, Executive Director of the American Cetacean Society, introduced herself to the council.

Ocean Acidification

Bruce Steele reported on a recent ocean acidification workshop that brought together disparate groups involved in physical monitoring and research on the biological effects of acidification. Bruce described some of the baseline monitoring and stress testing that is going on. Phyllis Grifman was also at the workshop and expressed concern that many shellfish growers collecting data are not collaborating, which is a barrier to sharing information. Phyllis suggested that Sea Grant may be able to provide an avenue to make data sets more concordant. Bruce cited some studies that indicate pH stress in combination with other physical stressors can result in changes in growth and mortality and that these effects may be variable and site specific.

Linda Krop represents Advisory Councils on the West Coast Ocean Acidification Task Force, and she provided an update to the council. Linda reported the task force held a one-day meeting in April to begin developing an action plan. At the meeting, the task force brainstormed a goal statement and 7 strategy areas for sanctuaries to be most effective. Dick Feely's involvement is beneficial for determining how sanctuary action fits into NOAA's Ocean Acidification research plan. Linda noted that the next meeting is July 26, and she welcomes the comments and questions of council members.

Maria Petueli updated the council on the SET's upcoming October ocean acidification workshop (Oct 7 in Ventura, Oct 23 at UCSB). The speakers for the workshop will include a representative from the Aquarium of the Pacific who will discuss communicating controversial issues, as well as Carol Blanchette from the Hoffman lab. MERITO is putting together lesson plans for teachers, and Laura Francis is coordinating a "pretest" to be taken before the workshop.

To wrap up the ocean acidification discussion, Eric Kett showed the council a guide for policy makers on ocean acidification that he received from Dan Basta. Mike introduced two reports that were released: 1) Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuaries' report on climate change impacts, and 2) NOAA's Ocean Acidification Research Plan.

Oil Spill

USCG Captain Caplis (Sector LA/Long Beach) expressed his appreciation for the work and dedication of the council and iterated USCG's interest in environmental protection. Caplis summarized the USCG response to the spill, highlighting statistics on the response and noting that NOAA's ERMA website provides good views of the spill area and trajectory. Caplis announced the latest news on the spill which indicates some success in containment. Caplis discussed the impact of the spill on California's preparedness, noting that the major impact is the deployment of two of California's spill response vessels to the Gulf. Caplis discussed the toxicity of oil and dispersants, and Bruce Steele raised the issue of the impacts of bacterial decomposition of the oil.

Mike briefly discussed the impact of the spill on every part of NOAA. He passed around a summary of the roles NOAA offices have been playing in the response.

Donna Schroeder discussed the new Department of the Interior report, *Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the Outer Continental Shelf*, and Notices to Lessees (NTLs). The report contains a series of recommendations for improvement of operations and regulations and includes a good explanation of well technology. Donna introduced two recent NTLs: *Increased Safety Measures for Energy Development on the OCS* (NTL No. 2010-N05) and *Information Requirements for Exploration Plans, Development and Production Plans, and Development Operations Coordination Documents on the OCS* (NTL No. 2010-N06). She also introduced the FAQs associated with the NTLs. Donna responded to questions from the council, including questions about the frequency of inspections, demonstrated effectiveness of blowout preventers, baseline biological studies, the role of inspectors, and the future of the local MMS office. Donna also referred the council to www.deepwaterhorizonresponse.com for more information on the spill response. She also welcomed council members to send technical questions to her so she could forward them to other BOEMRE employees for clarification.

LCDR Scott Peabody, USCG Chief of Contingency Planning, led a discussion on the upcoming oil spill drill planned for 2011. Scott emphasized the importance of testing the plans regularly. The schedule has been bumped up one year, and the drill will be held in September 2011. Between now and the end of the year, USCG will work to get industry partners involved. A nine-month planning process will begin in January. Scott and Captain Caplis responded to questions, noting that the spill drill is a combination of planning, training, and drill activities, and discussing logistics considerations, including lessons to be learned from the Gulf spill. Linda commented that it has been frustrating that OCS permits and safety plan approvals have been granted over the years before spill drills are conducted.

Reauthorization of National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA)

Mike introduced this item and introduced Rachel Kondor from the office of Lois Capps who attended to listen to comments on the proposed bill. She introduced herself and gave contact information for herself (rachel.kondor@mail.house.gov) and Heather Havens from the D.C. office (heather.havens@mail.house.gov). John Armor gave some background on the history of the Act and explained the general purpose of the current Act, as well as the purpose of each section.

John stated that discussions about reauthorization have been going on since 2004, and the current act has been due for reauthorization since 2005. However, similar to many laws, appropriations are still made annually. John explained that the administration has not put forward any proposed legislation. John and the council discussed the process of introducing legislation and the ability of the public to see the proposed changes and provide input. John also clarified that the proposed discussion draft bill is not from NOAA, but rather from Capps.

The council discussed the Capps draft bill, including concerns over the potential impacts to commercial and recreational fishing, the implications of the language in the bill on allowed uses of sanctuary resources, and the limited distribution of the bill. Discussion also included the positive aspects of the bill, as well as concerns over the proposed advisory council member term limit and the proposed marine ecosystem based management review board.

The council acknowledged that no immediate action is required, but that the bill is very relevant to the group. Members discussed the way that the Advisory Council could comment on the bill, which may be introduced by the end of the year. The council can provide comments to NOAA, but not to Congress. Chris clarified that even though the letter could go only to NOAA it could be shared on the hill and could be very effective. Rachel recommended that anybody who is interested can contact Capps' office and talk to Heather Havens. The Council agreed that could consider further group action when/if a bill is introduced in Congress.

Working Group Reports

- **CINMS Interagency Enforcement Working Group**

Dayna Matthews reported that the Enforcement working group met June 15, 2010. The group welcomed David Ashe, new Chief Ranger at CINP, and a new CDFG warden. In addition, CDFG has a new class coming through that will add 5 new wardens. The group reported on the white sea bass enforcement, and upcoming urchin and swordfish fisheries. The group also reported on investigations into a dolphin that may have been entangled and a marine mammal that was shot by a spear at near Prisoner's Harbor, Santa Cruz Island. A sailboat was completely burned and sunk at Anacapa Island. USCG reported out that after completing sea bass operations their next activity will be for lobster and squid. USCG has been very responsive to the whale issues and traffic advisories. Domoic acid outbreak is occurring along with red tide. One dolphin and one sea lion have been identified as killed by domoic acid. Dayna explained that vessel monitoring systems are now a requirement for fishers engaged in rockfish fishing activity and enforcement agencies are monitoring this activity. Illegal activity is suspected and is being investigated.

- **Sanctuary Education Team**

Maria reported on SET work during the ocean acidification updates.

- **Recreational Fishing Working Group**

Capt. David Bacon reported that an impromptu meeting was held after he attended the lecture by Bill Douros on climate change. Capt. Bacon reported that Bill gave a "sales pitch" on MPAs and said that the socioeconomic impacts have been studied at the Channel Islands, but Capt. Bacon expressed continuing concern that they have not been sufficiently studied, particularly with respect to impacts that occurred prior to designation. Capt. Bacon stated that he had spoken to Dr. Lubchenco and she agreed that it was an important issue.

- **Conservation Working Group**

Linda reported that they held a meeting on July 15, 2010, and the notes were available in the meeting packet.

Linda highlighted that the water quality characterization report by Channelkeeper is complete and will be on the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper website.

Future Meeting Schedule

- Friday September 24, 2010 (SAC meeting, Santa Barbara)
- Thursday evening October 21, 2010 (members invited to annual CINP/CINMS volunteer recognition event)
- Friday November 19, 2010 (SAC meeting, Ventura)

Meeting Attendance Roster (July 16, 2010):

Andrea Mills	Tourism	Present
Mat Curto	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Perry Ferguson	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Present
Michael Wm Gould	Business - Alternate	Present
Linda Krop	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Bruce Steele	Commercial Fishing	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	
David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Maria Petueli	Education	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Education - Alternate	
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Absent
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman	Public At Large #1	Present
Vic Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Eric Kett	Public At Large #2	Present
Marilyn Kelly	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Present
Jacy Ontiveros	Chumash Community	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	Chumash Community - Alternate	
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Absent
Elizabeth Petras	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Present
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
David Ashe	National Park Service - Alternate	Present
Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Present
Steve Arnwine	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	BOEMRE	Present
Ann Bull	BOEMRE - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Absent
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Marija Vojkavich	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	Absent
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