

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes

Friday, September 16, 2016

Discovery Pavilion, Santa Barbara Zoo, Santa Barbara, CA

Note: Upon approval by the council (expected in November 2016), this document will be posted online at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/meeting_notes.html. Audio recordings of this meeting are available upon request to Jessica.Morten@noaa.gov.

Administrative Business and Announcements

At peak, there were a total of 15 SAC representatives in attendance representing 10 voting seats (see attached attendance roster). Public attendance peaked at about 15 individuals.

July 15, 2016 Draft Key Outcomes

The council unanimously voted to approve the July 15, 2016 SAC meeting draft key outcomes. [Post meeting note: due to the meeting's low attendance, a quorum was not satisfied to allow for council action to take place; this action item will be revisited at the November 2016 meeting in Ventura].

Messages from the Chair

Council Vice Chair Phyllis Grifman started off the council meeting by welcoming everyone, thanking council member Rich Block and Santa Barbara Zoo staff for allowing the group to use their beautiful meeting space, and explaining that she would be filling in for Dianne as Chair for the day.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Superintendent Chris Mobley welcomed the group and highlighted some sanctuary activities and accomplishments from the July 2016 Superintendent's Report. He took time to welcome LT Kip Hutchinson from the United States Coast Guard District 10 office, provided an overview of some of the exciting findings from the Nautilus expeditions that took place in the sanctuary in July, and offered a glimpse into some upcoming sanctuary priorities, such as the Management Plan revision process, which is expected to begin sometime later in 2017.

Marine Shipping Working Group follow-up

Sea Grant Fellow Jess Morten provided a quick update on recent whale sightings in the area, noting that the region was still seeing a significant level of humpback and blue whale activity within the shipping lanes as well as throughout the Channel. She also updated the group on the midway status of the 2016 Vessel Speed Reduction Program, which will run through November 15. A formal overview of and final compliance results from the program will be shared with the council at the January 2017 meeting in Santa Barbara.

Council Member Announcements

A number of council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items).

Council member Bob Warner shared that UCSB had recently received a large amount of funding from the Benioff Institute to focus research efforts on better understanding and addressing marine defaunation, which he explained is an emerging topic of concern within the research community. Council member Russell Galipeau, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent, provided an update on the repairs of Scorpion Pier at Santa Cruz Island and shared that a gangway is now being fabricated to patch the broken pier. He commended Islands Packers on their impressive work completing over 8000 skiffings to get visitors safely to the islands over the past year and thanked them for their high level of professionalism and safety. He also provided a heads up to the group that the California Islands Symposium would be taking place in Ventura during the first week of October and encouraged anyone able

to attend to do so. Council member Eric Kett commented that diving has been good lately, but that visibility had been noticeably poor. He also reminded the group to pick up trash in the marine environment whenever possible and encouraged everyone to take extra steps to keep the sanctuary free of marine debris. Council member Ben Pitterle noted that Santa Barbara Channelkeeper would be hosting an Aquathon swim race fundraising event at Leadbetter Beach and encouraged all members to sign up and attend, if possible. Council member Merit McCrea shared that he had been surveying the oil platforms near the sanctuary recently and had been seeing a lot of warm water species. Council member Amanda Allen took a moment to remind the group that California Coastal Cleanup Day was just around the corner on September 17 and that it is a great chance to get new people involved on these pervasive issues. Council member Garrett Kebabik shared a reminder of the importance of prioritizing repairs to the pier at Scorpion Anchorage, noting that business for both Channel Islands Outfitters and Island Packers had been down due to the limited capacity of the skiffs to transport visitors to the islands. Council member Kip Louttit provided an update on the effects of the recent bankruptcy of HANJIN, a major shipping line, and noted that its effects on the density and distribution of shipping traffic appeared to be less significant than had been expected. Council member Tony Knight noted that, coinciding with a lesson plan on the novel *Moby Dick*, he would be taking students out on whale watching excursions in the coming months and would be taking 400-500 students out to Santa Cruz Island in October. Council member Capt. David Bacon commented that he would personally like to see the council member announcements portion of the agenda expanded, if possible, and allow members to take more time to convey all of these important community updates. Council member John Ugoretz introduced Claudia Makeyev, a new colleague at the Navy Sea Range. Council member Michael Cohen shared that he had recently had a wonderful experience at Prisoner's Harbor with representatives from the Wishtoyo Foundation and their guests, and spent the day kayaking and snorkeling with great bat ray and leopard shark sightings to report. Council member and Executive Committee Vice Chair Phyllis Grifman let the group know that USC Sea Grant is looking to hire a marine science specialist, and asked that the council help in spreading the word about the opportunity. An audio recording of all council member announcements is available upon request to jessica.morten@noaa.gov.

Navy Fiber Optic Communication Underwater System (FOCUS) Project

Council member and NAVAIR Marine Biologist John Ugoretz provided an informational presentation on the Navy's proposed Fiber Optic Communication Underwater System (FOCUS) cable project. John began by presenting on the current cable system, noting that the current infrastructure is outdated and unreliable for future planning purposes. He outlined the proposed actions, which ultimately include installing new cables from Point Mugu, San Nicolas Island, and Santa Cruz Island. John alerted the group to some development factors that are being kept in mind in the planning of the project, including avoiding rocky bottom areas that provide important habitat, avoiding known cultural resources, and avoiding any areas that might increase stress on the fiber optic cable. He also shared samples of the type of cable that would be laid to illustrate how small in diameter the installed cable would be.

John noted that the Draft Environmental Assessment for the project would be released on September 30 and open to public comment for 30 days. He also explained that archaeological testing would take place in October and November and a report on the findings would be made available in December. The final Environmental Assessment for the project is predicted to be completed in October of 2017 and installation of the cable beginning sometime in 2018. Questions regarding the FOCUS cable project can be directed to john.ugoretz@navy.mil.

Presentation and Discussion on a Climate-Smart Adaptation Project

Sara Hutto, Ocean Climate Program Coordinator for the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), presented on the Ocean Climate Initiative at GFNMS and some of the Climate Adaptation work that her team has been focused on. She began by explaining the concept of Climate-Smart Adaptation, which promotes nature-based solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and enhance carbon sinks, reduce climate change impacts on wildlife and people and enhance resilience, and sustain vibrant, diverse ecosystems. The goal of the Climate-Smart Adaptation Project taken on by GFNMS was to protect and maintain healthy ecosystems by enhancing the resilience of species, habitats, ecosystem services to the impacts of climate change through collaboratively developed adaptation actions that are feasible, effective, and nature-based. Working to better understand the key threats and overall vulnerability of the ecosystems of concern, Sara and her team worked to answer two main

questions: 1) How vulnerable to climate change are the identified resources? And 2) What can we do to limit or reduce these resources' vulnerability to climate change?

Sarah provided the group with an overview of the steps taken to complete this project, including conducting workshops to identify the key habitats and resources of concern, and shared lessons learned from the climate vulnerability assessment process. Slides and audio of this presentation can be made available upon request to jessica.morten@noaa.gov.

Consideration of Proposed Draft Letter of Concern regarding the Goleta Point Buoy

Per council interest expressed at the July 2016 meeting, group consideration was given to a proposed draft letter of concern regarding the loss of funding to support operations of the Goleta Point buoy. The buoy, which was slotted for removal due to a lack of funding, is still operational to date, but is likely to run out of battery at any time.

The letter on behalf of the Sanctuary Advisory Council had been provided to council members prior to the meeting and the group discussed whether further edits were required or if the letter was ready to be sent. A motion was made by Vice Chair Phyllis Grifman to send the letter and the council voted unanimously to approve. [Post-meeting note: a voting quorum was actually not in place to allow for an official council vote to take place. This potential action item will be revisited at the November 2016 meeting in Ventura].

Public Comment

Community member Lee Moldaver reemphasized the importance of Coastal Clean Up Day and getting the word out to people to get involved with activities to preserve and protect our creeks and watersheds. He also mentioned that in Santa Barbara "Creek Week" was also taking place, with a special emphasis on steelhead, and asked that anyone involved please consider ocean health as important component of the event and remember that a portion of the life cycle of the steelhead takes place in the ocean.

Working Group Reports

Council members shared updates on Working Group items that had taken place since the July 2016 meeting:

- Research Activities Panel (RAP) - No report at this meeting.
- Marketing Subcommittee – Council member and council secretary Michael Cohen highlighted increased traffic on the sanctuary Facebook page, especially with respect to content related to the recent *Nautilus Live* expedition. He recommended council members make sure to help boost post "likes" and stay engaged on the social media front.
- Sanctuary Education Team (SET) – No report at this meeting.
- Recreational Fishing Working Group – Captain David Bacon shared findings from a conference on artificial reefs, noting that some are advocating for a network of artificial reefing zones in California and asking for the state to put together a task force that can help walk applicants through the permitting process. Merit McCrea added that interested council members could review information online about extensive artificial reef programs in Louisiana.
- Commercial Fishing Working Group – No report at this meeting.
- Conservation Working Group – Council member Vic Cox shared an update on the activities of the Conservation Working Group, which met on September 14. The group discussed relevant upcoming items on the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting, Environmental Defense Center Marine Conservation Director Kristen Hislop gave an update on the MPA Collaborative process, and Sea Grant Fellow Jess Morten provided an update on the 2016 Vessel Speed Reduction Program, which is underway until November 15.
- Chumash Community Working Group – No report at this meeting.

Meeting Close Out

Before closing out the meeting Council Vice Chair Phyllis Grifman proposed council action to vote to approve the council meeting schedule for 2017, which is patterned as follows:

Jan 20, 2017 – Santa Barbara

March 17, 2017 -- Ventura
May 19, 2017 – Santa Barbara
July 21, 2017 -- Oxnard
Sept 15, 2017 – Santa Barbara
Nov 17, 2017 – Ventura

Council member Eric Kett made a motion to approve the schedule, council member Michael Cohen seconded the motion, and the council unanimously voted to approve the schedule. [Post meeting note: a quorum was actually not present to allow for an officially recorded council vote to take place. This action item will be revisited at the November 2016 meeting in Ventura].

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Meeting Attendance Roster (September 16, 2016)

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Andrea Mills	Tourism	Absent
Garrett Kababik	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Michael Cohen	Business	Present
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Conservation	n/a
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Absent
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	Absent
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Amanda Allen	Education	Present
Cliff Rodrigues	Education - Alternate	Present
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Absent
Phyllis Grifman	Public At Large #1	Present
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Richard Block	Public At Large #2	Absent
Eric Kett	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Present
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	Absent
Mati Waiya	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	NOAA Fisheries	n/a
Shelby Mendez	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Absent
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	National Park Service - Alternate	n/a
CDR Rom Matthews	US Coast Guard	Absent
LCDR Jason Brand	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	Absent
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEM - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Absent
Craig Schuman	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Absent
Julia Coates	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alternate	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	CA Natural Resources Agency	n/a
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Molly Troup	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Absent
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	Absent
Anne Almy	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Absent
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	Ventura County - Alternate	n/a
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Mike Murray	Channel Islands NMS – Alternate [non-voting]	Present
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent