

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Final Key Meeting Outcomes

Final, March 16, 2018

Museum of Ventura County, 100 East Main Street, Ventura, CA

Please note: This summary will be posted [online](#) once approved by the council. Audio recordings are available upon request from lindsay.marks@noaa.gov.

Administrative Business and Announcements

Seventeen council representatives attended the January meeting representing 14 voting seats (see APPENDIX 1). Public attendance peaked at four individuals. Council Secretary Michael Cohen (acting Council Chair), called the meeting to order and thanked the Museum for hosting. Michael also announced the Council's two new members Jacqueline Phelps and David Villalobos.

November 17, 2017 Draft Key Outcomes

The council unanimously voted to approve the key outcomes from the January meeting. Copies of these documents are available upon request from lindsay.marks@noaa.gov. They also will be posted on the sanctuary's [website](#).

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley began his remarks by mentioning the recent Volunteer Recognition Dinner that occurred the night before (March 15). He recognized Dianne Black, who received a Sanctuary Advisory Council Legacy Award for her 19 years of service with the advisory council. He also mentioned that Susan Lascher received the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps' Blue Whale Award.

Chris Mobley also mentioned that recently there was a collaborative efforts between sanctuary staff, the FBI, and the U.S. Coast Guard to support drone testing in the Santa Barbara Channel, staged off the USGC Cutter BLACKFIN. He mentioned the main objectives of this project were to develop tactics, techniques, and procedures for these types of missions.

Council Member Brief Announcements

Council members shared news and announcements about recent events unrelated to the meeting agenda. Audio recordings are available upon request from lindsay.marks@noaa.gov.

Council Vice Chair Nomination and Election

Following council member nominations, Michael Cohen was elected by ballot vote to the officer position of Vice Chair. Council members then nominated and elected Dr. Robert (Bob) Warner as Council Secretary.

Regional Leadership Report

Sanctuary superintendent Chris Mobley introduced special guest William (Bill) Douros, Regional Director for the West Coast Region of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Mr. Douros shared a variety of news announcements and updates from the regional and national perspective. He spoke about two new sanctuary sites actively undergoing designation processes in Maryland and Wisconsin, and also commented on sites nominated but not at this time approved for designation (St. George Island in Alaska, Cortes Bank in southern California, and the proposed Chumash National Heritage site). Mr. Douros also discussed the recent Executive Order (EO) 13795 that President Trump issued last year. One section of the EO required an analysis of offshore oil, gas, mineral, wind, or wave energy potential

and associated opportunity costs at those national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments that had been newly designated or expanded within the past 10 years. The public commenting generated by the EO resulted in over 200,000 comments submitted—which is the most NOAA has ever received. 99.6% of those comments were in support of national marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments. The agency analysis report written up for EO 13795 has been submitted and is being considered by the White House.

Mr. Douros also talked about black abalone recovery work being done by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Work is being done along a portion of Highway 1 in Big Sur that slumped into the ocean. Some of the black abalone were buried and were translocated to other sites, with some surviving, some moving, and others perishing.

Mr. Douros described the National Marine Sanctuary System’s annual Get into Your Sanctuary (GIYS) Weekend, explaining that the event strives to encourage people to come visit and participate in local sanctuaries. He explained that this year they wanted to focus on encouraging U.S. military veterans to get into sanctuaries (thus, “Vet Into Your Sanctuary”), and described how here at CINMS he and staff are working on arrangements for a sanctuary trip, possibly with kayaking or a beach cleanup activity out at the islands. The GIYS weekend is August 4th and 5th, although there may be a VIP veterans trip to CINMS happening the weekend before.

Council member discussion brought up questions about the likelihood of the Chumash Heritage sanctuary proposal being acted upon. Mr. Douros expressed that he would always remain optimistic about nominated sites someday having a chance, and also suggested that there is a lot of good information available in the proposal document that’s online at nominate.noaa.gov, and also from chumashsanctuary.com.

Island/Sanctuary Visitor Transport Services: Truth Aquatics Profile

Roxanne Diaz introduced this session as a continuation of a small business series to help the council learn about businesses that take visitors out to the sanctuary. Truth Aquatics owner, Glen Fritzler, presented a profile for his company. Glen highlighted visitor experiences through the use of a video showing students from Santa Barbara Middle School exploring the islands and writing about it for their creative writing classes (video available at <https://vimeo.com/193999759/a5acd6ae21>). Glen explained that Brian McWilliams and others at Santa Barbara Middle School have been developing a curriculum that is based around the trip experiences shown in the video. Glen mentioned that Truth Aquatics has run 42 trips like the one in the video. He also mentioned that his company was involved in some cave diving for an expedition conducted last year, as well as a recent trip to Cortes Bank. Truth Aquatics caters to those who enjoy activities such as lobster diving, underwater cinematography, and island hiking too. It was founded in 1974 by Roy Hauser, who was one of the first captains in California to introduce live-aboard dive trips. There are three boats in the Truth Aquatics’ fleet, each of which were built by Roy and Glen. Truth Aquatics has not only introduced visitors to the beautiful waters off the coasts of the islands, but they are also recipients of a “Green Award” in Santa Barbara County. Glen explained that his crew make environmentally conscious choices, including reducing their wastes and air emissions from the boats. This has resulted in a 70% decrease in trash and 70% decrease in emissions. Council member discussions with Glen included talk about emergency response services out around the islands, and opportunities and interests for divers to get involved in research activities supported by the sanctuary and park.

Mudslide Coastal Runoff and Management

Council member Errin Briggs provided a presentation on Santa Barbara County’s disaster recovery efforts in the wake of the Thomas wildlife and Montecito mudslide.

His report focused on the many ways that the County has been helping residents to back into their homes and businesses to reopen as soon as safely possible. He explained many aspects to the county's response efforts, including: public communications regarding emergencies, the extent of debris removal that has occurred on public lands and private properties; mud dumping, including at Goleta Beach; property damage assessments (with maps); rebuilding processes and geomorphic challenges; and how to stay informed for future weather and emergency alerts.

Council member Ben Pitterle provided information to the council on efforts made by Santa Barbara Channelkeeper to monitor nearshore water quality conditions adjacent to the post-mudslide mud dumping that occurred at Goleta Beach. Ben showed maps of sampling locations in Goleta Bay, and explained the various pollutant and toxicity levels observed relative to known standards. Of note were some high ammonia readings along the shoreline.

Public Comment Period (#1 of 2) A member of the public asked if the County of Santa Barbara or others had plans to use a hydro-seeding approach to restoring vegetation in the burn scar areas of the local mountains. Errin Briggs responded that he was not aware of such efforts taking place, and commented on the difficulty posed by the terrain.

Introduction to the Marine Life Management Act Master Plan

Council member John Ugoretz from the California Department of Fish & Wildlife presenting information about amendments to the state's Marine Life Management Act Master Plan. He noted that the amendments aim to reflect advancements in management tools, changing ocean conditions, and stakeholder priorities. The amendments identify tools and strategies that will help MLMA's vision of healthy ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, and fishing communities, and help create transparent and strategic management. John described a multi-phased process, starting in 2015, that has built up knowledge used to amend the Master Plan, improved through public comments and stakeholder reviews, and now features a revised draft Master Plan that is under review and up for possible adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission by mid-2018. The plan's new framework considers prioritization and scaled management and provides a more comprehensive approach to broader MLMA objectives. Council members discussed with John the role of this plan for new fisheries, how the plan would address them, and the role of marine reserves.

Update on Non-Native Algae Recommendations Report

Dave Kushner from Channel Islands National Park provided a brief update on the *Undaria pinnatifida* found by Park divers off the coast of Anacapa Island. He noted no remarkable spread or new dense populations, but that the *Undaria* is still there. Sean Hastings then introduced Roxanne Diaz, CINMS Resource Protection Department Graduate Intern. Roxanne is a second-year graduate student attending the UCSB Bren School of Environmental Science and Management. She spoke about her current report outlining suggestions and recommendations to the council about how to manage this invasive species. In her report she mentions specific recommendations for the Santa Barbara region and highlights how other countries have managed this species. She mentioned the importance of a strategic plan or biosecurity options for invasive species as globalization continues to increase. Council members discussed the upcoming potential endorsement of the report at the May 18, 2018 Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting.

Public Comment Period (#2 of 2) Public comments included questions concerning *Sargassum* management.

Working Group Reports

Council members shared updates on Working Groups and Subcommittee activities and plans.

- **Technical Advisory Committee on Enforcement at the Channel Islands:** Dayna Matthews with the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement mentioned that new officer and agent hiring processes are advancing again, following a period of delay and holds. Their Assistant Director position has been filled by Greg Bush. Dayna mentioned that the fiscal year 2019 budget announced by President Trump does not include any joint enforcement funding for coastal state programs to conduct federal enforcement work. Such a funding cut, if enacted by Congress, would cause the loss of about 10 positions on the west coast alone. Additionally, the Pacific Fishery Management Council met earlier this week to discuss deep-set buoy gear developed to target swordfish. Currently the gear has demonstrated to be successful at targeting swordfish and avoiding bycatch. The PFMC has moved forward to advance this fishery from an experimental to a regulatory process.
- **Research Activities Panel (RAP):** No report provided.
- **Marketing Subcommittee:** Using some summary slides, Michael Cohen explained that despite the limitations on ways that a federal agency can communicate through social media channels, trends have looked good with regard to the sanctuary's following on social media. He pointed to measured growth in CINMS account Facebook followers (up 84% since 2015) and Twitter (up 187%). On YouTube, the most popular video about CINMS features a mysterious "purple orb" species that was discovered during a Nautilus Live expedition. He mentioned the need for more investment on the Instagram account, noting that millennials primarily use this social media platform. Michael also introduced Anna Jacobson from Santa Barbara Adventure Company who he said will be trying to help with CINMS promotion by sharing educational and engaging opportunities for live content and social media following. Her call to action for council members was to be active in retweeting, reposting, and using hashtags to promote the sanctuary.
- **Chumash Community Working Group:** No report; members absent.
- **Sanctuary Education Team:** Cliff Rodrigues said he and CINMS Education team lead Julie Bursek met and spoke about how they can best work with schools and students, and promote citizen science and outreach. Cliff also mentioned gathering volunteer support to help search for endangered white abalone, as well as the need for more invasive species education and outreach initiatives. Cliff also expressed interest in subsistence fishing and subsistence fishers, and topic and cause that has been raised by recreational fishing seat member Capt. David Bacon.
- **Recreational Fishing Working Group:** No report; members absent.
- **Commercial Fishing Working Group:** No report; members absent.
- **Conservation Working Group (CGW):** Greg Helms reported on a recent meeting of the Conservation Working Group, at which a variety of marine environmental affairs and issues were discussed.

Meeting Close Out

- Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley wished everyone safety and wellness.
- Upcoming advisory council public meetings are scheduled for May 18, July 20, September 21, and November 16, 2018.

Meeting adjourned.

APPENDIX 1: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster (March 16, 2018)

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Andrea Mills	Tourism	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Tourism - Alternate	n/a
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Michael Cohen	Business	Present
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Absent
Kristen Hislop	Conservation	Absent
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	Absent
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Absent
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Cliff Rodrigues	Education	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Education - Alternate	n/a
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Absent
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Absent
Phyllis Grifman	Public at Large #1	Absent
Judy Willens	Public at Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Richard Block	Public at Large #2	Present
Eric Kett	Public at Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	Absent
Alicia Cordero	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	NOAA Fisheries	n/a
<i>Vacant</i>	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	n/a
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	National Park Service - Alternate	n/a
CDR Lushan Hannah	US Coast Guard	Absent
LCDR Jason Brand	US Coast Guard - Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	BOEM - Alternate	n/a
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense	Present
Claudia Makeyev	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Julia Coates	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Absent
John Ugoretz	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alternate	Present
Jenn Eckerle	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent
Paige Berube	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Jacqueline Phelps	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Present
Errin Briggs	Santa Barbara County	Present
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Present
<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 - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent