

Sanctuary Advisory Council



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Photo: CINMS



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The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council enhances awareness and protection of a spectacular marine area by sharing valuable community advice and expertise about marine resource management at the Channel Islands.

Purpose

Recognizing that national marine sanctuaries belong to all of us, community involvement and advice are vital components to successful management and long-term protection of the sanctuary. The sanctuary advisory council provides a public forum for consultation and deliberation and offers community-based advice to the sanctuary superintendent. This is an open participatory process that ensures continued public input to management decision-making, while at the same time expanding public awareness about the sanctuary and locally relevant marine resource management issues.

Specifically, the advisory council's objectives are to provide the sanctuary superintendent with advice on the following:

- ⇒ Protecting natural and cultural resources within the sanctuary;
- ⇒ Identifying and evaluating emergent or critical issues that could affect the

sanctuary and those who use it;

- ⇒ Identifying and realizing the sanctuary's research and monitoring objectives;
- ⇒ Identifying and enhancing educational opportunities to increase public knowledge and stewardship of the sanctuary environment; and
- ⇒ Assisting with developing an informed constituency to increase awareness and understanding of the purpose and value of the sanctuary and the National Marine Sanctuary System.

Membership

One of the council's important strengths comes from the diversity of its membership. The council consists of 21 voting members and 21 alternates that represent a variety of constituencies and agencies. The in-depth and varied knowledge of all participants brings together a valuable collective body of expertise and experience.

Non-governmental council members are appointed competitively by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and serve voluntarily for two-year terms. The fishing industry, conservation organizations, local businesses, resource managers, research and educational institutions, and the concerned public -- these groups and others represent diverse values and interests. Recognizing

Sanctuary Advisory Council Seats

Tourism	Business	CA Coastal Commission
Education	Chumash Community	U.S. Dept. of Defense
Research	Public At-Large (2 seats)	National Park Service
Conservation	Ventura County	NOAA Fisheries
Recreational Fishing	Santa Barbara County	Bureau of Ocean Energy Mgmt.
Recreation (non-consumptive)	CA Natural Resources Agency	U.S. Coast Guard
Commercial Fishing	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

- National Marine Sanctuary
- ▲ Marine National Monument
- Proposed National Marine Sanctuary

the strength of advice built on input from a variety of informed viewpoints, the advisory council provides a model for developing agreements based on shared values and common interests.

Working Groups & Subcommittees

Community involvement in sanctuary management is further enhanced through the advisory council's establishment of several working groups and occasional subcommittees. These groups are created by and operate under the purview of the council. Subcommittees are comprised of current council members, while working groups bring in additional non-member stakeholders and experts to focus on specific issues. Active groups include the following:

- Sanctuary Education Team
- Conservation Working Group
- Research Activities Panel
- Chumash Community Working Group
- Marketing Subcommittee

An Open Public Process

The advisory council conducts itself in an open, transparent and publicly accessible process, which allows for participation of all stakeholders. All meetings of the council are open to the public, and each member helps link the sanctuary and the advisory council process to broader networks of constituencies. The advisory council thus serves as the sanctuary's connection to the larger community of stakeholders, and as an entry point for community participation in sanctuary management. The advisory council meets every other month in open sessions located throughout the Ventura and Santa Barbara region.

It's Your Sanctuary... Get Involved!

The advisory council process helps to vest ownership and responsibility for shaping the future management and protection of the sanctuary in the community most interested in and dependent upon

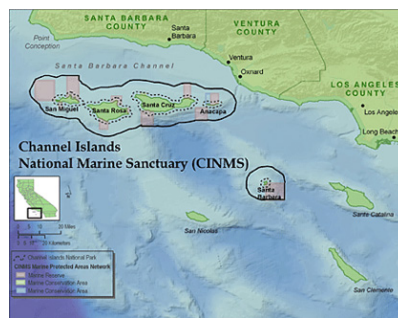
sanctuary resources. In this way, a sense of community-based sanctuary stewardship is fostered.

All meetings of the sanctuary advisory council and its working groups are open to the public. Please consider attending a meeting or contacting the sanctuary office to learn more about this community process. Complete information about the sanctuary advisory council, including meeting schedules and membership details, can be found on the sanctuary's website: www.channelislands.noaa.gov.

To sign up to be notified about sanctuary advisory council meetings or opportunities to apply for membership, contact the advisory council coordinator at (805) 893-6418 or michael.murray@noaa.gov.



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