

Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

November 15, 2019

Christopher Mobley, Superintendent
NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
UCSB Ocean Science Education Building
Santa Barbara, California 93106

Dear Mr. Mobley:

On behalf of the advisory council for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), I am pleased to submit the attached comments on the scope of the management plan review. This management plan revision will be an important step toward maintaining the effectiveness of CINMS operations and policies as the sanctuary continues to face global and local environmental change.

The sanctuary advisory council brings together community members and representatives from government agencies to advise NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries on the protection, management, and compatible use of sanctuary waters and associated resources. We represent the general public, tourism, business, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, non-consumptive recreation, education, research, conservation and Chumash community interests, as well as local, State and Federal government agencies.

The council compiled the attached comments during its meeting on Friday, November 15, 2019. Participating council members are shown in Attachment 1. Consensus comments in Attachment 2 were agreed to by all participating members. Attachment 3 contains additional comments that were expressed by one or more members.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide this early input into the process. We also look forward to working with you and your staff in the coming months on prioritizing issues and actions for the new plan.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Grifman, Chair
Sanctuary Advisory Council

Attachments:

1. Council voting record on adoption and submittal of this letter
2. Consensus comments agreed to by all SAC members
3. Additional comments by SAC members

Members/Alternates

Tourism

Andrea Mills / Morgan Coffee

Business

Michael Cohen / Capt. Kip Louttit

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Ben Pitterle / Tony Knight

Commercial Fishing

Stephanie Mutz / John Hoadley

Recreational Fishing

Capt. David Bacon / Merit McCrea

Education

Cliff Rodrigues / <vacant>

Research

Dr. Robert Warner / Dr. Mark Steele

Conservation

Kristen Hislop / Greg Helms

Public At-Large 1

Phyllis Grifman / Judy Willens

Public At-Large 2

Rich Block / Mary Byrd

Chumash Community

Luhui Isha Waiya / Alicia Cordero

National Marine Fisheries Service

Laura McCue / <vacant>

National Park Service

Ken Convery / <vacant>

U.S. Coast Guard

CDR Justin Noggle / LCDR Lee Crusius

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Donna Schroeder / Jeremy Potter

U.S. Department of Defense

Walter Schobel / Greg Sanders

California Department of Fish & Game

Carlos Mireles / John Ugoretz

California Resources Agency

Jenn Eckerle / Paige Berube

California Coastal Commission

Dr. Jonna Engel / Jacqueline Phelps

County of Santa Barbara

Errin Briggs / David Villalobos

County of Ventura

Mark Sandoval / Danielle Tarr

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley / Mike Murray [non-voting]

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel / Karen Grimmer [non-voting]

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown / Brian Johnson [non-voting]

Chair: Phyllis Grifman

Vice Chair: Michael Cohen

Secretary: Robert Warner, PhD

Attachment 1: CINMS Advisory Council voting record for this letter, adopted November 15, 2019

<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>VOTE</i>
Tourism	Andrea Mills – member	YES
	Morgan Coffey – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Non-Consumptive Recreation	Ben Pitterle – member	YES
	Dr. Tony Knight – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Business	Michael Cohen – member	YES
	Capt. Kip Louttit – alternate	n/a
Conservation	Kristen Hislop – member	YES
	Greg Helms – alternate	n/a
Commercial Fishing	Stephanie Mutz – member	<i>Absent (for vote)</i>
	John Hoadley – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Recreational Fishing	Capt. David Bacon – member	YES
	Merit McCrea – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Education	Cliff Rodrigues – member	YES
	<vacant>	n/a
Research	Dr. Robert Warner – member	<i>Absent</i>
	Dr. Mark Steele – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Public at Large #1	Phyllis Grifman – member	YES
	Mary Byrd – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Public at Large #2	Richard Block – member	<i>Absent</i>
	Judy Willens – alternate	YES
Chumash Community	Luhui Isha Waiya – member	<i>Absent</i>
	Alicia Cordero – alternate	YES
NOAA Fisheries	Laura McCue – member	<i>Absent</i>
	<vacant>	n/a
National Park Service	<vacant>	<i>Absent</i>
	Ken Convery – alternate	<i>Absent (for vote)</i>
US Coast Guard	CDR Jason Noggle – member	<i>Absent (for vote)</i>
	LCDR Less Crusius – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Donna Schroeder – member	YES
	Jeremy Potter – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Dept. of Defense	Walt Schobel – member	<i>Absent (for vote)</i>
	Greg Sanders – alternate	YES
California Department of Fish & Wildlife	Carlos Mireles – member	<i>Absent</i>
	John Ugoretz – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
California Natural Resources Agency	Jenn Eckerle – member	<i>Absent</i>
	Paige Berube – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
California Coastal Commission	Dr. Jonna Engel – member	<i>Absent (for vote)</i>
	Jacqueline Phelps – alternate	YES
Santa Barbara County	Errin Briggs – member	<i>Absent</i>
	David Villalobos – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Ventura County	Danielle Tarr – member	YES
	Mark Sandoval – alternate	<i>Absent</i>
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary [non-voting]	Chris Mobley	n/a
	Mike Murray	n/a
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary [non-voting]	Paul Michel	<i>n/a, Absent</i>
	Karen Grimmer	<i>n/a, Absent</i>
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary [non-voting]	Maria Brown	<i>n/a, Absent</i>
	Brian Johnson	<i>n/a, Absent</i>

TOTALS: YES: 13 NO: 0 ABSTAIN: 0

Attachment 2: Consensus Scoping Comments by CINMS Advisory Council Members Present and Participating

- **The health of certain habitats can serve as an indicator of broader ecosystem health and fishery health. Monitoring these specific areas can help CINMS forecast population trends in flora and fauna.**
- **CINMS should address the effects of activities near the sanctuary such as platform decommissioning activities, aquaculture activities, etc.**
- **The extension of low sulfur fuel requirements to international waters can affect shipping routes and chances of whale strikes. CINMS should monitor the changes in shipping patterns and adaptively manage the whale ship strike program.**
- **CINMS should consider resurrecting Alol’koy or similar outreach materials to provide the public with information about the sanctuary.**
- **The California Coastal Commission staff supports actions by CINMS to protect natural resources.**
- **CINMS should consider partnerships with private owners of aircraft on citizen science efforts.**
- **CINMS should maintain existing DOD exemptions to sanctuary regulations.**
- **CINMS should clarify or define sanctuary processes that support DOD infrastructure on the range, e.g. fiber optic cable to Santa Cruz Island.**
- **CINMS should continue its collaborative approach on planning for management of the sanctuary.**
- **CINMS should expand training and funding to schools and nonprofits for educational partnerships to support community based science.**
- **CINMS should work with agencies that operate in the sanctuary to be more inclusive of minorities and language minorities.**
- **CINMS should emphasize more local marketing to raise awareness of sanctuary resources and how to access them. Promotions should target lower income constituencies. CINMS should also explore more partnerships with a broader set of local organizations.**
- **CINMS should consider enhancing and expanding support for on-water enforcement, including shore-based radar monitoring and other appropriate technologies.**
- **CINMS has an opportunity to expand marketing for consumptive and non-consumptive recreation, such as highlighting amenities and destinations. For example, the Channel Islands are a major destination for marathon swimming, which has a small but visible constituency.**
- **CINMS, in its research action plan, should consider developing appropriate indicators to measure the consequences of management actions in the MPA network. Other agencies such as BOEM can be helpful partners in these efforts.**
- **The management plan should consider the recommendations of the Marine Shipping Working Group and continue the successes of the VSR program.**
- **CINMS should work with appropriate partners to develop response plans for future occurrences of invasive species.**
- **CINMS should enhance its efforts to clean up marine debris through additional citizen science programs that identify and potentially reduce sources of marine debris.**

- **Socioeconomic research is important beyond understanding recreational activity. Attributional science on human activity will be necessary to interpreting the outcomes of management actions.**
- **Education and outreach on climate change and marine debris, in the context of the uniqueness and remoteness of the sanctuary, can effectively connect to the public on these issues. Enhanced inclusivity in education and outreach programs will be important to their effectiveness.**
- **In light of the pending climate crisis, CINMS should explore different carbon sequestration options, such as seagrass restoration, to mitigate climate change.**
- **CINMS should consider creative education and outreach efforts and funding opportunities such as the Channel Keeper scuba diving program.**
- **The sanctuary should facilitate increased Chumash visitation. Only approximately 300 of 8800 Chumash have visited the sanctuary and the islands.**
- **CINMS should understand and remove barriers to the continuation of indigenous traditional knowledge. CINMS should consider incorporating the best practices of the NOAA Sea Grant Report, “Traditional and Local Knowledge: A Vision for the Sea Grant Network” in science-based management, including prioritization of research topics.**
- **CINMS should work with interagency and other appropriate partners to incorporate Chumash input into interpretive signage on the islands.**
- **CINMS should commit to collaboration with all Chumash bands on management actions, regardless of Federal recognition status.**
- **CINMS should conduct a demographic study of visitation and strive for more representative visitation.**
- **CINMS should create partnerships to promote water safety skills to promote broader access to recreational opportunities.**
- **CINMS needs to develop strategies to cope with the multitude of impacts associated with climate change.**

Attachment 3: Additional Scoping Comments from CINMS Advisory Council Members

- **We request to change the designation of federal portion of certain MPAs to change the regulations to allow pelagic fishing in the Gull Island, Footprint, and Santa Barbara Island Marine Reserves. This would not affect the benthic community in these areas and provide additional areas for recreational fishing.**
- **We request that the sanctuary develop a framework by which artificial reefs can be considered within the sanctuary.**
- **We request that the sanctuary promote recreational fishing more actively in CINMS. Recreational anglers are the largest constituency in terms of hours and dollars spent.**
- **Climate change effects, including ocean acidification, are increasingly a strong driver of CINMS policy. At a minimum, CINMS should maintain or possibly strengthen current MPA protections.**
- **The sanctuary is a refuge for a range of ecosystem stressors. Expanding the boundaries to the mainland state water boundary and/or the area to be avoided would have substantial ecosystem benefits.**
- **CINMS should commit to consultation with all Chumash bands on management actions, regardless of Federal recognition status.**