

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, March 19th, 2021

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Online Webinar Session

FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes

This online public advisory council meeting was not video or audio recorded.

*To request a copy of any of the presentation slides shown, contact
june.shrestha@noaa.gov.*

Administrative Business and Announcements

California Sea Grant Fellow June Shrestha oriented advisory council members and attendees with introductions regarding sign-in, audio/video set-up, and the protocol for how to participate effectively in the virtual meeting. Sanctuary deputy superintendent Mike Murray confirmed online attendance, counting the presence of 25 council members representing 17 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix 1). In total, 52 individuals attended the webinar, including 10 CINMS staff members.

January 19th, 2021 Draft Key Outcomes

By unanimous voice vote led by Chair Phyllis Grifman the council approved the draft key outcomes from the January 19th, 2021 advisory council meeting. Greg Sanders motioned the vote and it was seconded by Amanda Allen. A copy of this document is available upon request to june.shrestha@noaa.gov.

Council Member Brief Announcements

Council members shared a variety of announcements about recent events from their respective agencies and groups. Written announcements submitted via a Google Form in advance of the meeting are available (Appendix 2).

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Sanctuary superintendent Chris Mobley began by recognizing the one-year anniversary of the shelter-in-place orders due to COVID-19, and thanking advisory council members for their continued participation. Mobley also recognized the departure of 2020 California Sea Grant Fellow Claire Nasr, who was instrumental in ensuring our smooth transition to hosting virtual SAC meetings and fostering a sense of inclusion and camaraderie among SAC members. The superintendent then presented a brief overview of CINMS volunteer hours in Fiscal Year 2020, recognizing that members of the sanctuary advisory council served an impressive 798 hours throughout the year. Mobley also announced that NOAA is inviting input on President Biden's recent Executive Order, titled, "[Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#)", and shared links for how to submit comments and gain more information. To conclude, Mobley shared a few highlights from the research team and

partners, including: 1) the successful recovery and re-deployment of the Sanctuary Soundscape Monitoring Project moorings, which was also highlighted in a recent [ONMS webstory](#), 2) an [upcoming publication](#) revealing that critically endangered Soupfin sharks utilize habitats within the sanctuary during triennial migrations, and 3) the “[Whale Safe 2020 Year In Review](#)” blog post about acoustic whale detections in the Santa Barbara Channel from our partners at the Benioff Ocean Initiative.

CINMS Management Plan Update Process, Part 1

Sanctuary Deputy Superintendent for Programs Mike Murray provided a brief update on the current status of the management plan revision process, and June Shrestha presented a 15-minute overview of the 10 draft Action Plans under development. Council members then offered comments, suggestions, and questions in a discussion period. Council members overall supported the proposed plan, specifically offering support for the use of emerging technologies to address climate change, biosecurity efforts in the region, the education and outreach plan, and continuing to foster new and existing partnerships.

Council members specifically suggested that sanctuary staff consider the following additions to the draft action plans:

1. assess how to evaluate the effectiveness of the proposed actions over time,
2. develop an indigenous Land and Sea Acknowledgement Statement,
3. develop an education & outreach plan that is communicated to people that may not normally use the sanctuary,
4. conduct outreach on the mainland to engage with communities on marine debris issues, and
5. rephrase “citizen science” to “community science” to be more inclusive, and
6. apply for infrastructure funding to support the climate action plan if the Biden Administration proposes a budget reconciliation bill.

For more information on the management plan revision process or a link to the discussion summary for Part 1, contact michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Public Comment

No public comments arose during this period

CINMS Management Plan Update Process, Part 2

In Part 2 of the management plan update, Superintendent Mobley and Deputy Superintendent Murray presented an overview of the regulatory scope and NEPA environmental assessment process. After reviewing all scoping and advisory council comments and input on regulatory matters, and as indicated early in the Notice of Intent, Murray explained that CINMS staff are not working on proposing new regulatory changes at this time. The two key regulatory changes that had been suggested during the public scoping comment period included, 1) a boundary expansion, and 2) changes to the marine reserves and marine conservation areas.

Murray explained that careful consideration has been given to the potential for pursuing regulatory changes, including extensive review of known threats to sanctuary resources and the role of existing CINMS regulations as well as regulations in place by other agencies. In addition, ONMS leadership briefings, some agency partner discussions, and advisory council reviews and ratings of public scoping comments (which were mixed/divided regarding proposed regulatory changes but indicated the most support for maintaining current regulations) has been considered. Murray expressed that sanctuary staff are very mindful that pursuing regulatory changes, if warranted, is not a process to be taken lightly, especially given the importance of communicating with partners that co-manage the state/federal network of marine protected areas in the region and our participation in the State's Marine Protected Area (MPA) Decadal Review process that is ongoing now through the end of 2022. Murray concluded by reiterating that future regulatory changes do not need to wait until a future management plan revision process; as new information becomes available or situations change, regulatory processes can be pursued.

During the discussion period, agency representatives from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and the Ocean Protection Council described additional details regarding the State's MPA Decadal Review process and expressed that the process will continue to listen to stakeholders and the science. Captain David Bacon (Recreational Fishing) explained that recreational anglers have requested that the federal portion of three marine reserves (Gull Island, Footprint, and Santa Barbara Island) be opened to recreational fishing for pelagic species, and expressed concern about CINMS waiting for completion of the state's MPA Decadal review process before giving joint NOAA/CDFW consideration to such changes given his views that the state's process will not take recreational angler interests seriously. CDFW representative John Ugoretz responded by expressing that the state's decadal management review is about looking at the state's network as a whole. He also clarified that regulatory changes for specific sites will not be made during the decadal review, and emphasized that the review should be conducted before CINMS and CDFW look specifically at the Channel Islands MPA network in consideration of any needed changes. He reiterated that all stakeholders' input will be considered in the state decadal MPA review. Tim Athens (Commercial Fishing) expressed concerns about the large size of the Richardson Rock marine reserve.

Council members also briefly discussed enforcement in the sanctuary. NOAA Resource Protection Coordinator Sean Hastings, who was in attendance at the meeting, responded to a question by explaining that three primary entities enforce both the state and federal regulations: National Park Service Rangers, California Department of Fish and Wildlife Wardens, and the U.S. Coast Guard. Sanctuary superintendent Mobley added that sometimes U.S. Marshalls, the FBI, and county sheriffs also occasionally get involved.

For more information on the regulatory scope, NEPA process, or a link to the discussion summary for Part 2, contact michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Close-out and Schedule for Future Council Meetings

Chair Phyllis Grifman mentioned the upcoming meeting schedule, offered closing remarks and thanks to all. Upcoming 2021 Advisory Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Friday, May 21, 2021 (online)
- Friday, July 16, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)
- Friday, September 17, 2021 (online, or Santa Barbara)
- Friday, November 19, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)

Appendix 1. Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster for March 19, 2021.

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism alternate	Yes
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	No
Anthony (Tony) Knight, Ph.D.	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes
Giles Pettifor	Business member	Yes
Paul Amaral	Business alternate	No
Kristen Hislop	Conservation member	Yes
Samantha Macks Franz	Conservation alternate	Yes
Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.	Commercial Fishing member	No
Timothy Athens	Commercial Fishing alternate	Yes
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing member	Yes
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing alternate	No
Cliff Rodrigues	Education member	Yes
Andrea Mills	Education alternate	No
Phyllis Grifman	Research member	Yes
Robert Miller, Ph.D.	Research alternate	Yes
Douglas Williams, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Mary Byrd	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Amanda Allen	Public At-Large alternate	No
Eva Pagaling	Chumash Community member	No
Tano Cabugos	Chumash Community alternate	No
Daniel Studt	National Marine Fisheries Service member	Yes
<vacant>	National Marine Fisheries Service alternate	No
Ken Convery	National Park Service member	Yes
<vacant>	National Park Service alternate	No
CDR Justin Noggle	U.S. Coast Guard member	No
LDCR Lee Crusius	U.S. Coast Guard alternate	No
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management member	No
Jeremy Potter	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management alternate	No
Greg Sanders	Dept. of Defense member	Yes
Adam Melerski	Dept. of Defense alternate	Yes
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Yes
John Ugoretz	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	Yes
Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	No
Lindsay Bonito	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	Yes
Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	No
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	No

Erin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	Yes
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	Yes
Danielle Tarr	County of Ventura member	No
Mark Sandoval	County of Ventura alternate	Yes
Dawn Hayes	Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	Yes
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	Yes
Mike Murray (staff)	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	Yes
	Total number of individual SAC members (<u>voting seats only</u>)	25
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	19

Appendix 2. Copy of written announcements from council members, submitted as of 3/18/21.

Name: Daniel Studt

Seat: National Marine Fisheries Service

Announcement: Call for input on Climate Resilient Fisheries and Protected Resources

Relevant Links:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/give-us-your-input-making-fisheries-and-protected-resources-more-resilient-climate>

Narrative: NOAA is seeking public input in response to an Executive Order issued on January 27, 2021, titled [Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad](#). Section 216(c) of the Executive Order directs NOAA to collect recommendations on how to make fisheries and protected resources more resilient to climate change, including changes in management and conservation measures, and improvements in science, monitoring, and cooperative research. NOAA requests written input from interested parties on how best to achieve the objectives described in the Executive Order. Interested persons are invited to submit comments by email by April 2, 2021 to OceanResources.Climate@noaa.gov. NOAA is also hosting three national stakeholder calls—two are open to all partners and stakeholders and one is specifically for state and tribal governments.

Name: Kristen Hislop

Seat: Conservation

Announcement: Two permit applications for offshore wind in Santa Barbara County

Relevant Links: <https://www.slc.ca.gov/renewable-energy/offshore-wind-applications/>

Narrative: The California State Lands Commission has been holding outreach meetings to various stakeholder groups, including the environmental community, local government, and fishing, to receive feedback on two offshore wind permit applications offshore Vandenberg. (Fishing to occur on March 24 and April 1.) Specifically, they are looking for information to help them determine if these proposed projects would be in the best interest of the state. More information can be found at the link above, and questions can be directed to stateapplications.OSW@slc.ca.gov

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: Marine Region Year in Review and By The Numbers Reports Available

Relevant Links: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Year-In-Review>

Narrative: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Marine Region extends along the entire California coastline from border to border and approximately three nautical miles out to sea, including offshore islands. Through development of specific projects, staff provide for fisheries and habitat management, environmental review, and water quality monitoring statewide. The annual review documents below provide an overview of each year's activities, beginning with 2014.

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: Recreational Groundfish Opener and Updated Map Products

Relevant Links:

<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=185548&inline>

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/conservation/marine/groundfish#28720314-recreational>

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap>

Narrative: The recreational groundfish season opened on March 1st in the southern Management Area (Point Conception to U.S./Mexico border). For 2021, changes were made to waypoints and Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) lines in three of the Groundfish Management Areas – Southern, San Francisco and Mendocino. The changes in each area offer anglers access to deeper depths, meaning more open fishing area when the groundfish season is open. In the Southern Management Area, the RCA for 2021 increases to 100 fathoms, allowing access to reefs and areas that have not been open to fishing in two decades. In addition to the RCA changes, anglers should also take note of the sub-daily bag limit of five vermilion rockfish, which is also new in 2021. For more information on this change, please see our [FAQ](#).

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) is pleased to announce new map-based flyers are available to assist recreational anglers with Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) waypoints and boundaries on the CDFW [website](#). The new flyers will include an overview cover map, and a series of 38 regional maps detailing the entire California coastline, including offshore islands and banks. The maps feature the RCA waypoint coordinates and boundary lines

as well as the Groundfish Management Area lines. Also included are California's network of Marine Protected Areas, which may be closed to some or all recreational fishing. The RCA maps are overlaid on National Ocean Service nautical charts to help anglers compare them to their desired fishing location; however, they should not be used for navigation.

CDFW also updated our online [Ocean Sport Fishing Interactive Web Map](#) with the new RCA lines. The web map, when used with a smart phone, shows your current position in relation to the RCA lines and marine protected area boundaries. Locations can be clicked or tapped to show the current fishing regulations. New features also include the ability to live-track your position and different selections for the background to better understand the boundaries.

Name: Lindsay Bonito

Seat: California Natural Resources Agency (Alternate)

Announcement: Ocean Protection Council updates

MPA Monitoring and Analysis Funding: At the February OPC meeting, the Council approved the disbursement of \$5.8 million to support MPA long-term monitoring and data analysis in support of the 2022 adaptive management review. This funding extends the four habitat-based long-term monitoring projects through 2022 and provides funding for NCEAS to synthesize and analyze MPA monitoring data. (OPC [staff recommendation](#) for more info).

MPA Statewide Leadership Team: The Leadership Team is developing their new work plan (FY 21/22 – 24/25), with adoption of the plan by the end of 2021. The work plan outlines targets within each key focal area of the MPA management program: outreach and education, research and monitoring, enforcement and compliance, and policy and permitting. As a valued member of the Leadership Team, the Office of National Marine Sanctuary represents all NMS offices and contributes to the successful completion of tasks throughout the work plan. If there are any questions about the Leadership Team, please contact either Paul Michel (paul.michel@noaa.gov) or Tova Handelman (tova.handelman@resources.ca.gov).

MPA Decadal Management Review: In preparation for the first decadal management review of the MPA network taking place in 2022, the Fish and Game Commission, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Ocean Protection Council are working with Strategic Earth to raise awareness and engage the public throughout the review process. It is a strong priority of the State to engage to provide multiple points of engagement for the public and stakeholders to be involved in the review process. OPC will continue to update CINMS SAC and provide opportunities for engagement as they become available. (OPC June-2020 [staff recommendation](#) for more info).

Interim Kelp Action Plan: OPC recently released the [Interim Action Plan for Protecting and Restoring California's Kelp Forests](#) at the February OPC meeting. The Plan summarizes current state-supported kelp research and restoration efforts, as well as other relevant efforts in California and globally; highlights key knowledge gaps; and outlines priorities for action in kelp research and monitoring, policy development, restoration, and community engagement.

Entanglement RFP: In partnership with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, OPC has released a Request for Proposals for \$1.85M for projects that directly support OPC's [Strategy for reducing the risk of entanglement in California fishing gear](#) by implementing scientific research projects and fostering collaborative partnerships. All funded projects will be geared to developing, aligning and improving information to reduce entanglement risk to whales and sea turtles and minimizing impacts to the fishing industry. This call for proposals does NOT include gear innovation work. Proposals are due March 19th at 5pm (PST) for projects that will be in effect through December 2023. Funding is expected to support between 4 and 6 projects.

Engagement with Tribes: In the next several months, OPC will initiate a series of listening sessions to solicit thoughts and feedback on best practices for engagement with Tribal communities and begin discussion of Tribal priorities for the coast and ocean. Based on feedback received during these listening sessions, OPC will conduct outreach to Tribes with the goal of collaboratively developing a Tribal Engagement Strategy. The co-development of that strategy will continue throughout 2021 and potentially into 2022. These efforts are being developed in close coordination with the Governor's Tribal Advisory and CNRA's Deputy Secretary for External Affairs.

Offshore Wind: As focus on OSW has accelerated over the last few months, CNRA and OPC are coordinating closely with DFW, CEC, SLC, CCC on this issue.

Prop 1 solicitation: OPC released a [solicitation](#) for projects that will provide benefits to communities entitled to environmental justice and improve coastal water quality. OPC has up to \$7.5 million to distribute through this round of funding and **letters of intent are due on April 23, 2021**. OPC staff will hold an informational webinar for prospective applicants on March 29 from 2:00-3:00 PM to go over the solicitation and answer any questions. More information can be found on our website at opc.ca.gov.