

# CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, May 21st, 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](mailto: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 28 council members representing 19 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix 1). In addition to council members, 32 individuals attended the webinar, including 8 CINMS staff members.

### ***March 19th, 2021 Draft Key Outcomes***

The council approved the draft key outcomes from the March 19th, 2021 advisory council meeting. John Ugoretz offered a motion which was seconded by Samantha Franz. Chair Phyllis Grifman led the voice vote. Merit McCrea abstained. A copy of this document is available upon request to [june.shrestha@noaa.gov](mailto: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 expressing optimism about COVID conditions improving, optimism about the President's FY22 Budget Request and its implications for NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), and shared some highlights from a recent virtual volunteer appreciation event held on Earth Day. The superintendent then presented a brief update on the sanctuary management plan revision process, recognizing that advisory council discussions and input has been helpful in finishing our draft. Mobley also announced the availability of recently released reports, including the [NAPA External Review of the National Marine Sanctuary System](#) and a "Conserving and Restoring America the Beautiful" report from the White House. He also shared a few highlights from the CINMS research team, including: 1) the release of a new

[SanctSound Project Story Map](#), 2) a recording of a webinar highlighting results from the [Fall 2020 deep sea coral expedition](#), 3) The vessel assistance CINMS recently provided to BOEM for a research study, and 4) news of a recently entangled whale. Mobley concluded by sharing some other news highlights from NOAA and the Administration, including 1) the upcoming Capitol Hill Ocean Week, 2) President Biden’s selection for the new NOAA Administrator, and 3) news of President Biden halting the previous administration’s marine sanctuary drilling review.

***Research News: Spillover from MPAs benefit spiny lobster fishery***

Dr. Hunter Lenihan, professor at UC Santa Barbara, presented a 30-minute presentation on his research on the spiny lobster fishery around the northern Channel Islands. With support of his graduate students trained by locals in lobster fishing methods, his research found that despite fishing closures (e.g. size limits, season closures, and trap limits), “spillover” from marine protected areas benefit the spiny lobster fishery. After the presentation, Lenihan answered questions from council members in a brief discussion period.

For more information, visit Dr. Lenihan’s website at:

<https://msi.ucsb.edu/people/faculty/hunter-s-lenihan>

***Nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary: Background and Proposed Letter of Support***

***A. Background***

Regional Policy Coordinator Dr. Lisa Wooninck presented an overview of the nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) and the process by which national marine sanctuaries are submitted as nominations for NOAA review and consideration. She responded to extensive sets of questions from council members, including:

1. How project developments (e.g. wind farms) that emerge prior to sanctuary designation might affect NOAA’s choice of a future sanctuary boundary,
2. How the designation process works and overall timing for the CHNMS nomination,
3. How the nominated sanctuary might fit into the Administration’s “30 x 30” initiative conservation goals,
4. If coastal community members vote to approve or disapprove a sanctuary designation through formal ballot initiatives,
5. If during the nomination process there can be other boundaries proposed or alternatives considered,
6. Which additional protections would a national marine sanctuary provide given that Point Conception already has an adjacent state marine protected area.

Council members also expressed additional comments about the nomination. Some raised concerns regarding the current nomination as has been proposed, noting its large size,

concerns about potential impacts to fishing activities, and an unclear rationale. Others expressed support for the nomination. The two council members representing the Chumash community seat provided additional comments about the cultural value of the region where the nomination overlaps.

### ***B. Proposed Letter of Support***

Councilmember Kristen Hislop introduced a proposed letter of support for the nominated sanctuary written by the SAC Conservation Working Group and invited council discussion and input. No council action (voting) would be anticipated until the July 2021 SAC meeting. Hislop discussed how the idea for the letter formed following discussions with consultants to the Northern Chumash Tribal Council, and explained that the purpose of the letter is to express general support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary designation process to begin, with an understanding that specific proposed management details are still forthcoming and could be commented on a later time.

Discussion points included:

1. Clarifying that the letter is meant to support moving forward with the next phase of the designation process but not supporting any specific management details at this time.
2. How the letter will handle minority opinions, and that voting on the letter does not need to be unanimous.
3. Concerns about voting for this letter for some government seats.

A non-binding straw poll revealed that at least seven council members planned to vote in favor of the letter, whereas three members expressed opposition. Chair Phyllis Grifman determined that enough council members indicated interest and the council will go forward with considering a vote at the July meeting.

For more information on the nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, visit <https://nominate.noaa.gov/nominations/>. For information about the proposed letter of support, contact [khislop@environmentaldefensecenter.org](mailto:khislop@environmentaldefensecenter.org).

### ***Public Comment***

Three members of the public provided comments: Phil Druous commented about adding wind farm planning to the sanctuary letter. Russell Galipeau thanked all of the SAC members that talked with students at CSU Channel Islands and expressed appreciation that SAC members have supported students involved with civic engagement. Vanessa ZoBell, a member of the Conservation Working Group, thanked the SAC for having a discussion on supporting the nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary designation process.

### ***Sanctuary White Abalone Outreach Campaign***

June Shrestha and Pike Spector announced the launch of a white abalone citizen science initiative for the recreational scuba diving community. A brief question and discussion period followed and council members provided input and suggestions for the rollout. For more information:

<https://findinghal.org/>.

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

**Appendix 1. Attendance: Sanctuary advisory council online meeting, May 19, 2021**

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

<b>Lindsay Bonito</b>	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	YES
<b>Cassidy Teufel</b>	California Coastal Commission member	YES
<b>Jacqueline Phelps</b>	California Coastal Commission alternate	YES
<b>Errin Briggs</b>	County of Santa Barbara member	YES
<b>David Villalobos</b>	County of Santa Barbara alternate	YES
<b>Danielle Tarr</b>	County of Ventura member	no
<b>Mark Sandoval</b>	County of Ventura alternate	YES
<b>Dawn Hayes</b>	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	no
<b>Karen Grimmer</b>	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	no
<b>Maria Brown</b>	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	no
<b>Brian Johnson</b>	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	no
<b>Chris Mobley, Superintendent</b>	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	YES
<b>Mike Murray (staff)</b>	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	YES
	Total number of individual SAC members ( <u>voting seats</u> only)	<b>28</b>
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	<b>19</b>

**Appendix 2. Copy of written announcements from council members, submitted as of 5/19/21.**

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**Name: Cliff Rodrigues/Andrea Mills**

**Seat:** Education

**Announcement: Education Updates**

**Narrative:** In this time of COVID, the Education Committee has participated in the six meetings of the Ocean Climate Network. This is a great group that has been discussing better ways of being involved in our local education community to address ocean climate with a special focus on the park and sanctuary. The discussions have dealt with promising practices, equity education and meaningful, practical links to the Science Standards.

We have also attended the Climate Change and Marine Debris SAC subcommittee meetings.

Additionally, involvement continues with the Sanctuary's White Abalone Project.

If the COVID restrictions are lifted for the new school year, we would like to give a proposal for future SAC meetings.

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**Name: Lindsay Bonito**

**Seat:** California Natural Resources Agency (Alternate)

**Announcement: Ocean Protection Council updates**

**Upcoming OPC meeting on June 15, 2021 (virtual)**

We have another packed OPC agenda for our June 15, 2021 meeting, with topics including:

- Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia – consideration to fund projects to improve understanding of Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Vulnerability and Impacts, including the funding of a competitive call for monitoring, research, and synthesis projects that support improved understanding of chemical and ecological sensitivity and adaptation to ocean acidification and hypoxia.
- Reducing the Risk of Whale and Sea Turtle Entanglement in Fishing Gear – Projects have been selected through a competitive call led by Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission in partnership with OPC that improve whale and sea turtle distribution data streams, refine models to predict distributions, and integrate entanglement-related data streams for enhanced risk management.
- Offshore Wind in California – a discussion item featuring Councilmember Jordan Diamond and Karen Douglas from the California Energy Commission.

To join the meeting via Zoom or by phone, please click here to register.

### **California 30x30 Initiative – Regional Workshops**

The State of California is expanding nature-based solutions and is committed to the goals to protect 30 percent of the state’s land and coastal waters by 2030 and enlisting California’s vast network of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change. In light of this commitment, the California Natural Resources Agency recently hosted a series of nine virtual regional workshops to gather feedback from stakeholders across the state regarding impacts communities or neighborhoods. To stay involved and learn more about the initiative, check out [www.californianature.ca.gov](http://www.californianature.ca.gov).

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**Name: Daniel Studt**

**Seat:** National Marine Fisheries Service

**Announcement:** NOAA Fisheries 2020 West Coast Whale Entanglement Summary

**Relevant Links:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/2020-west-coast-whale-entanglement-summary>

**Narrative:** Each year, NOAA Fisheries collects, verifies, documents, and responds to reports of large whale entanglements. The 2020 U.S. West Coast reports, and other relevant information and developments are included in this summary. In 2020, entanglement reporting on the U.S. West Coast continued to be higher than what had occurred historically prior to 2014, although fewer confirmed reports were received in 2020 than in any year since 2013.

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**Name: Daniel Studt**

**Seat:** National Marine Fisheries Service

**Announcement:** NOAA Fisheries Aquaculture Opportunity Areas Update

**Relevant Links:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/educational-materials/slideshow-aquaculture-opportunity-areas-update>

**Narrative:** Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOA) continue to be a priority for NOAA Fisheries and our efforts to make AOA identification transparent and inclusive remain a vital part of the process. An update on the AOA process was recently presented, and the slideshow can be viewed here. In summary, a mix of public comments were received by submission through [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) and the five public listening sessions. A Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) is expected late summer/fall 2021, which begins the in-depth evaluation of potential areas. Further opportunities for public comment and



coordination with management agencies will continue. What is a PEIS? Check out this draft PEIS from NOAA Fisheries' Pacific Islands Regional Office Pacific Islands Aquaculture Management Program for reference:

<https://www.regulations.gov/document/NOAA-NMFS-2021-0044-0003>.

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**Name: Stuart Kasdin**

**Seat: Public-At-Large**

**Announcement: Endangered Species Day Event**

**Narrative:**

Earth Island's Shark Stewards will be hosting a Facebook live conversation tomorrow (May 21; 4:00 p.m. PDT) on "Saving Endangered Marine Megafauna from Extinction." The event is timed to coincide with Endangered Species Day. Moderated by David McGuire, director of Earth Island's Shark Stewards, the panel discussion will include Kristen Monsell, Oceans Program litigation director and senior attorney at the Center for Biological Diversity; Robert Rubin, marine biology instructor at Santa Rosa Junior College; Mariano Castro, legal and policy analyst, Latin America, at Turtle Island Restoration Network; Mark Palmer, associate director at Earth Island's International Marine Mammal Project; Vince Smith, founder and CEO of Blue Endeavors; and Simon Christopher, founder and executive director of Blu Hope (Malaysia).