

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, September 17, 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 23 council members representing 16 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix 1). In addition to council members, 21 members of the public attended the webinar, as well as 13 sanctuary staff and interns.

July 16, 2021 Draft Key Outcomes

The council approved the draft key outcomes from the July 16, 2021 advisory council meeting. Ben Pitterle offered a motion to adopt the notes, which was seconded by Stuart Kasdin. Chair Phyllis Grifman led a voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote. A copy of this document is available upon request to june.shrestha@noaa.gov, and it will be posted online at https://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/meeting_notes.html.

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 discussing COVID-19 conditions, outlook, and challenges and Fiscal Year 2022 budget possibilities, priorities, and expectations. Mobley shared a brief update on the sanctuary management plan revision process, which only needs review by the ONMS Director before the draft can be released for public comment soon. He recognized how valuable advisory council discussions and input up to this point have been, including recent feedback from the council's Climate Change Subcommittee and Marine Debris Subcommittee. Mobley then announced changes to the contracted vessel crew at CINMS, welcoming Captain Matt Howard whilst saying goodbye to longtime captain Marshall Stein.

Superintendent Mobley provided a few research highlights, including the publication of a new [journal article](#) co-authored by sanctuary resource protection staff. Lastly, he shared resources online pertaining to recent CINMS activities, including: 1) the *Get Into Your Sanctuary* [webinar](#); 2) a TEDx Santa Barbara [talk](#) on the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies program; 3) a [webinar](#) featuring conversations with indigenous leaders; and 4) a [new webstory](#) acknowledging several volunteer programs within the national marine sanctuary system.

Guest Presentations on Resource Protection Issues

A. U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (LTJG Nicholas Buch, U.S. Coast Guard)

LTJG Buch presented on the recently commenced Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS) by Coast Guard Districts Eleven (D11) and Thirteen (D13). The intent of the study is to analyze current and future demands of waterway usage to ensure safe navigation within all major routes adjacent to and within port entrances and traffic separation schemes for the entire U.S. Pacific Coast. Major goals of the study include: 1) analyzing and quantifying historical vessel traffic densities, 2) analyzing and quantifying historical marine incidents/casualties, 3) collecting and analyzing public comment and concern, 4) working with maritime and environmental partners to determine future waterway use, and 5) making an informed recommendation to maintain, amend, or create vessel routing measures.

The Notice of Study is published in the federal register under docket USCG-2021-0345, and found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/USCG-2021-0345-0001>. The USCG asked that all official comments be directed to the federal register linked above by January 25, 2022 and questions or concerns be emailed to PACPARS@uscg.mil.

B. Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event (Justin Viezbicke, NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region, Office of Protected Resources)

Mr. Viezbicke presented updates on the recent Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Event, which started in January 2019 to 2021. From Mexico to Alaska, nearly 500 Gray Whales were reported stranded. Various factors have contributed to this Unusual Mortality Event, including malnutrition, human interactions, predation by Killer Whales, and disease. Mr. Viezbicke highlighted challenges in the response and investigation of Gray Whale Unusual Mortality Events, and concluded by fielding questions from council members.

C. Island Shoreline Cleanups (Amber McEldowney, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation)

Ms. Amber McEldowney presented results from two 2021 Santa Cruz Island cleanups. These cleanups, supported by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, connect NOAA

with local businesses, nonprofit organizations, and fishermen to clean up debris from rocky shorelines off of Santa Cruz Island. Over the course of two cleanup days, 48 participants collected 4,000 lbs of debris from 2.5 miles of shoreline. About 70 lobster traps and buoys were collected, many of which were very degraded and did not have tags, suggesting that they were lost before 2017 when California Department of Fish and Wildlife implemented a lobster tagging program. Numerous council members asked questions about the types of marine debris found, lobster trap tagging design, partner cleanup projects, and ways to get involved.

Public Comment

During the 15-minute designated period, Jeff Maassen provided a comment on the Port Access Route Study, suggesting that NOAA collate information about noise with the study. Maassen also commented about the extent of marine debris on the Southeast shore of San Clemente Island, and asked if volunteers could help clean up debris there. In response, Greg Sanders (Department of Defense seat) commented that volunteers cannot go to that island but there are military personnel enthusiastic about clean ups, and there are plans to study marine debris and clean it up this fall.

Council Administration

A. Council Consideration and Adoption of Meeting Dates for 2022

Council members expressed support for the proposed meeting dates in 2022: January 21, March 18, May 20, July 15, September 16, and November 18. Deputy Superintendent for Programs Mike Murray expressed hope that the council can get back to in-person meetings when possible in 2022, pending permissions from NOAA.

B. Upcoming Officer Elections and Seat Recruitment Schedule

Murray explained officer positions, eligibility, the nomination process, and election process for the upcoming officer elections to be held in November 2021.

C. Active Working Groups and Subcommittee Membership & Meetings

Murray explained the purpose and structure of working groups and subcommittees, and then turned to each group chair for their brief remarks on the purpose of the group and membership. The Research Activities Panel, Sanctuary Education Team, Chumash Community Working Group, Conservation Working Group, Climate Change Subcommittee, and Marine Debris Subcommittee each presented. The council also heard about the status of the Recreational Fishing Working Group, with Murray acknowledging that the group has been “active” regardless of not holding public working group meetings.

D. Future Council Meetings - Prioritization Process for 2022

Murray explained that the council will have a process to prioritize SAC agenda items, which will involve council ratings of issues/topics to help CINMS staff allocate agenda time toward items that are of high interest. Murray indicated that more information on the prioritization process will be presented at a future Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting.

Close-out and Schedule for Future Council Meetings

Chair Phyllis Grifman mentioned the upcoming meeting schedule, offered closing remarks, and Program Support Specialist June Shrestha took a screenshot photo. Upcoming 2021 Advisory Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Friday, November 19, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)
- Friday, January 21 (online, or Santa Barbara County)
- Friday, March 18 (online, or Ventura County)
- Friday, May 20 (online, or Santa Barbara County)
- Friday, July 15 (online, or Ventura County)
- Friday, September 16 (online, or Santa Barbara County)
- Friday, November 18 (online, or Ventura County)

Appendix 1. Attendance: Sanctuary advisory council online meeting, September 17, 2021

<i>Name</i>	<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism alternate	Yes
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Dr. Anthony (Tony) Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes
Giles Pettifor	Business member	Yes
Paul Amaral	Business alternate	No
Kristen Hislop	Conservation member	No
Samantha Macks Franz	Conservation alternate	No
Dr. Kim Selkoe	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	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Research member	Yes
Dr. Robert Miller	Research alternate	Yes
Dr. Douglas Williams	Public-At-Large member	No
Mary Byrd	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
Dr. Stuart Kasdin	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Amanda Allen	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
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	n/a
Ken Convery	National Park Service member	Yes
<vacant>	National Park Service alternate	n/a
CDR Justin Noggle	U.S. Coast Guard member	No
LT Lelea Lingo	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	No
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	Yes
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	Yes
Errin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	No
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	Yes
Danielle Tarr	County of Ventura member	No
Mark Sandoval	County of Ventura alternate	No
Dawn Hayes	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	Yes
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Chris Mobley, Superintendent	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</u> only)	23
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	16

Appendix 2. Copy of written announcements from council members submitted as of 9/15/21

Name: Jacki Phelps

Seat: California Coastal Commission

Announcements:

- The Ventura office is hiring a Coastal Program Analyst I/II. Please forward this posting to anyone that may be interested and feel free to have them get in touch with me at jacqueline.phelps@coastal.ca.gov. Information about the position can be found here- [Microsoft Word - CPA I.II PermitPlanner_Ventura_9.13.2021.docx \(ca.gov\)](#)
- At the September Commission hearing an informational briefing on offshore wind was given on Thursday 9/9. Although focused on the central and north coast areas, given our past meeting conversations, some may be interested.
- Also at the September Commission hearing, a briefing on the draft document “Critical Infrastructure at Risk: Sea Level Rise Planning Guidance for California’s Coastal Zone” was given on Wednesday 9/8. The document can be found here- [Sea Level Rise Guidance for Critical Infrastructure](#). Comments on this document are due by 9/24 and can be sent to StatewidePlanning@coastal.ca.gov.
- A recording of the hearing can be found here- [CAL-SPAN:California State Meetings Webcast Video](#)
- September 18th is Coastal Cleanup Day!! Info here- [California Coastal Commission](#)

Name: Lindsay Bonito

Seat: California Natural Resources Agency (Alternate)

Announcement: Ocean Protection Council updates

Relevant Links: (links embedded below)

OPC Meeting – September 15, 2021

The OPC held its quarterly meeting this week, which included informational discussions about microplastics, communication efforts on sea level rise and [Prop 68 coastal resilience projects](#), summer intern projects, and the MPA Management Program and [Decadal Management Review](#). The meeting recording is available on OPC’s webpage [here](#), along with the [Executive Director’s report](#) which is full of great updates!

California 30x30 Initiative – Coastal Waters Workshop

The California Natural Resources Agency convened a series of five [virtual topical workshops](#) focused on the State’s commitment to conserve 30 percent of California’s lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30) and enlist California’s vast network of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change. The last workshop was focused on the conservation of coastal

waters with panelists Dr. Jennifer Caselle, Dr. Jaime Jahncke, Dr. Jameal Samhour, and Megan Van Pelt. An advisory panel summary document can be found [here](#).

OPC is hiring an Administration and Finance Analyst

OPC is hiring a limited term Staff Services Analyst to provide critical support for grant and contract administration, accounting, and other administrative duties, as needed. The application deadline is **September 21, 2021**. For more details and to apply, please visit:

<https://www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=267672>

Name: Errin Briggs

Seat: County of Santa Barbara member

Announcement: The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission will consider the Exxon Mobil Trucking for Santa Ynez Unit Phased Restart project on September 29th

Relevant Links:

Photos (add below)

Narrative

The Santa Barbara County Planning Commission will consider the Exxon Mobil Trucking for Santa Ynez Unit Phased Restart project on September 29th. ExxonMobil (“Applicant”) is proposing a phased approach to restarting oil production at its existing Santa Ynez Unit (SYU) facilities, consisting of offshore platforms Hondo, Harmony, and Heritage, and an onshore processing facility at the LFC, by:

- 1) Constructing a tanker truck loading rack and ancillary equipment within the LFC; and
- 2) Initiating interim trucking of limited crude oil production (approximately 11,200 barrels/day) from the LFC to two receiving terminals until pipeline transport becomes available.

As proposed, the project would allow for the transport of SYU processed oil via tanker truck from the LFC to the following two receiving sites along predetermined routes: (1) the Phillips 66 SMPS, located near the City of Santa Maria in northern Santa Barbara County; and (2) the Plains Pentland Terminal, located near the City of Maricopa in southwestern Kern County. Trucking would occur seven days per week, 24-hours per day, with no more than 70 trucks leaving the LFC within a 24-hour period to the SMPS, and no more than 68 trucks leaving the LFC within a 24-hour period to the Pentland Terminal. The lifetime of the interim trucking project is expected to be four to seven years, and would not exceed seven years unless extended by County decision-makers.

The hearing will be held in a virtual format and allow for public comment for those who would like to do so. The staff report and EIR, as well as the agenda for that day may be viewed on the Planning & Development Departmental website here:

<https://cosantabarbara.app.box.com/s/q97rv82305oyfmbdjhcyxrrdhu3dgkqy/folder/14524336124>
5

If anyone has any questions about the project or hearing process, they can reach out to me I would be happy to discuss.

Thank you!

Errin Briggs
Supervising Planner
Planning & Development
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ebriggs@countyofsb.org
<http://sbcountyplanning.org/>

Name: Dawn Hayes

Seat: Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)

Announcement: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's 2021's Get Into Your Sanctuary (GIYS) "Let's go Fishing" Webinar

Relevant Links:

Photos (add below)

Narrative

Lisa Uttal and Hollings intern Celia Patterson produced a webinar on recreational fishing for 2021 MBNMS GIYS, which showcased a prerecorded video and live interactions with guest speakers, which included MBNMS Advisory Council members for recreational fishing Jose Montes and Adam Helm.

The webinar shared a video recording of interviews of Jose, Adam and Vince Schweitzer on the water. The interview questions highlighted the opportunities for recreational fishing in the sanctuary, and the amazing biodiversity and productivity of the sanctuary. The pre-recorded interview also touched upon the sanctuary being a type of MPA, and the differences between the sanctuary and the network of state MPAs, with the sanctuary being the type of MPA that promotes sustainable fishing practices. During the live Q/A of the webinar, the guest speakers shared live stories about the sanctuary, and they were able to speak about responsible recreational fishing - getting a license, knowing your species and ocean conditions before going

out and how you can be a steward for the sanctuary by picking up trash and not getting too close to marine mammals. The guest speakers really communicated their passion for fishing during the Q&A. There were 68 participants in the webinar and over 135 registrants.

For more information, please contact: Lisa.uttal@noaa.gov

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: California Halibut Scaled Management Process

Relevant Links: [California Halibut Scaled Management Process](#)

Photos (add below)



Narrative

CDFW is in the initial stages of considering scaled management for California halibut, and is committed to partnering with stakeholders to make informed decisions about the degree, or scale, of management necessary to ensure a sustainable California halibut fishery. We are interested in learning about your priorities and concerns so we can work together when considering changes designed to benefit the species, fishery, and the marine ecosystem. CDFW invites you to the following webinar series (found here: [California Halibut Scaled Management Process](#)) to learn about and discuss California halibut. You can also use this link to sign up for our email list and RSVP for the future webinars.

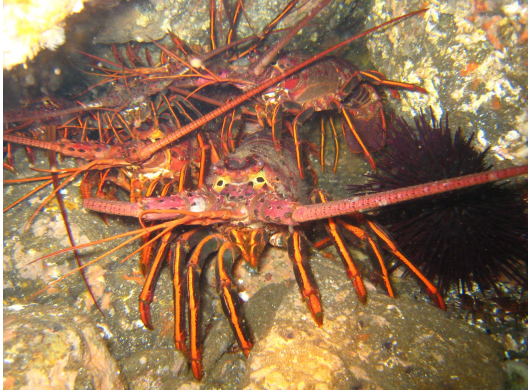
Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: California Spiny Lobster Opener (2021-2022)

Relevant Links:

Photos (add below)



Narrative

The 2021-2022 California spiny lobster season is scheduled to begin on October 2nd for the sport fishery and October 6th for the commercial fishery. The average price per pound for the commercial fishery reached a record price of \$38.10 last season, with a record number of report cards (~46,000) sold for the sport fishery. In the early weeks of the 2020-2021 lobster season, landings from blocks around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) comprised about 20% of overall landings. Since the 2015-2016 season, the commercial landings from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have made up 50% or more of statewide landings.