

NOAA CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, November 18, 2022

9:00am-12:45pm PT

Hybrid Session: Poinsettia Pavilion and Google Meet

Final Key Outcomes

*This hybrid public Advisory Council meeting was not video or audio recorded.
Please contact Mike (michael.murray@noaa.gov) to request a copy of any presentation slides.*

Administrative Business and Announcements

- Chair Kristen Hislop called the meeting to order, described the purpose and composition of the Advisory Council and its bi-monthly meetings, and provided opening remarks.
- CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs Mike Murray oriented attendees with the hybrid meeting technology and practices for effective participation.
- Murray confirmed in-person and online attendance, counting the presence of 15 Council members representing 14 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix A). In addition to Council members, several members of the public and sanctuary staff were in attendance both in-person and online.
- Chair Hislop welcomed Commander (CDR) Ariel Berrios to the Advisory Council in the U.S. Coast Guard member seat.

September 16, 2022, Draft Key Outcomes

- The Advisory Council approved the draft key outcomes from the September 16, 2022, Advisory Council meeting. Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) offered a motion to adopt the notes, which Cliff Rodrigues (Education seat member) seconded. Chair Hislop led a voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote.
- A copy of the September 2022 draft key outcomes is available upon request to Mike (michael.murray@noaa.gov), and will be posted on the [Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Notes web page](#) upon finalization.

Council Member Announcements

- Council members shared a variety of announcements from their respective groups, organizations, and agencies.
 - Errin Briggs (County of Santa Barbara seat member) shared information about ExxonMobil's recent acquisition of a pipeline from Plains All American that it plans to sell, along with its local Santa Ynez Unit, to Sable Offshore Corp.
 - Capt. David Bacon (Recreational Fishing seat member) encouraged meeting attendees to go fishing.

- Michael Cohen (Tourism seat member) characterized 2022 as a strong year for tourism and expressed pride in bringing people into the sanctuary. Cohen also commented on the joy of being back together for an Advisory Council meeting with an in-person component.
- Carlos Mireles (California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) seat member) provided an overview of Assembly Bill 2109 that provides new protections for white sharks in California waters; additional details are provided in Appendix B.
- Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) said it was nice to be back in-person, and provided notice of a Research Activities Panel (RAP) meeting during the first quarter of 2023.
- Cliff Rodrigues (Education seat member) recounted a recent trip to Loreto, Baja California Sur, Mexico – a Sister City to Ventura – and commented on both cities’ shared commitment to community engagement in marine conservation, similar to that of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). Rodrigues also announced that the 2023 California Islands Symposium is expected to be held in-person.
- Donna Schroeder (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) seat member) shared a call for research topic suggestions from stakeholders on how to direct environmental studies programs at BOEM. Schroeder also stated that for the first time on the West Coast, two offshore renewable energy leases (Humboldt and Morro Bay) will be up for auction in December.
- Chair Hislop (Conservation seat member) said the Conservation Working Group will be meeting for a year-end celebration in December.
- CDR Berrios (U.S. Coast Guard seat member) provided remarks on enforcement in sanctuaries, and introduced Ensign (ENS) Taylor Gibbons who presented a briefing for the U.S. Coast Guard seat which included notes on patrol activities in Channel Islands marine protected areas (MPAs), the status of the Coast Guard Cutter (CGC) *Terrell Horne*, the use of informed targeting with data analytics, and the January 31, 2023, in-person Operation Island Sentinel meeting as a forum to discuss relevant topics of interest.
- Written Council member announcements submitted prior to the meeting can be found in Appendix B.

Sanctuary Superintendent’s Report

- CINMS Superintendent Chris Mobley welcomed attendees back for the second in-person Advisory Council meeting of 2022, and shared a Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget update. Mobley also commented on diver safety given recent incidents in and around CINMS.
- Mobley announced Kirsten White as the new University of California, Santa Barbara, Work Study Program Intern at CINMS who will be supporting the Research Team in addition to

managing public comments received on the Draft Management Plan for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

- Mobley stated appointment announcements are expected soon for the current recruitment period for four positions on the Advisory Council (Education seat member, Tourism seat alternate, Public At-Large seat alternate [1], and Commercial Fishing seat member), and that another recruitment period for 11 positions will be open in the coming weeks.
- Mobley recounted a recent visit to CINMS by Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves who joined staff, local contacts, elected officials, and Advisory Council members for a coastal cruise aboard the research vessel (R/V) *Shearwater*.
- Mobley shared information about the [Eyes in Sanctuaries](#) celebration of ONMS' 50th and LiMPETS' (Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students) 20th anniversaries which were marked by sandy beach and rocky intertidal community science monitoring Snapshot Days at LiMPETS sites across California, including Bechers Bay, Santa Rosa Island, and Carpinteria State Beach.
- Mobley provided an overview of the November 10, 2022, dive charter that brought members of the recreational dive community together in support of white abalone restoration efforts at the Channel Islands; the trip launched the *Wanted Alive! White Abalone (WAWA)* citizen science campaign to "[find hal](#)" – endangered white abalone in the genus "*Haliotis*" in and around the Southern California Bight.
- Mobley announced 2021 season highlights for the [Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies](#) voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) program.
- Mobley expressed thanks to Channel Islands National Park Marine Patrol Rangers who recently helped enforce sanctuary regulations for large vessels to stay beyond one nautical mile from island shores.
- Mobley stated that volunteer hours across the National Marine Sanctuary System increased during 2022, with CINMS and LiMPETS being within the top five sanctuary volunteer programs.
- Mobley presented a NOAA Ocean Today animated video – [Cause a Sea Change: Save Sharks](#) – that was nominated as a finalist for a Shorty Award and provides an educational resource about sharks' role in maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems.
- Mobley shared highlights from the 19th annual Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival held on October 15, 2022, during which CINMS staff supported event setup and visitor outreach.
- Mobley provided an update on the new CINMS research vessel expected December 2022, and stated CINMS is awaiting approval on the requested R/V name (*Minke*).
- Mobley invited Murray to share an update on the CINMS management plan revision process, including an overview of the [public comments received](#) and expected timeline for publication. Murray mentioned that the revised management plan offers a set of priorities that can guide staff suggestions for Advisory Council meeting topics.

Pacific Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning Activities

- Schroeder provided an informational presentation on the status of [Pacific offshore oil and gas decommissioning activities in federal waters](#). Schroeder reviewed the oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development process before directing meeting attendees to “[A Citizen's Guide to Offshore Oil and Gas Decommissioning in Federal Waters Off California](#)” to learn more about the process for decommissioning. Schroeder then detailed the draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) open for public comment through January 10, 2023. The draft PEIS does not approve decommissioning activities, according to Schroeder; rather, it evaluates the effects of broad proposals or planning-level decisions.
- Council and public questions and discussion during and following Schroeder’s presentation centered on artificial reefs, the difference between a PEIS and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), and the cost differential of alternatives, among other topics. Schroeder’s presentation slides are available upon request to Mike Murray (michael.murray@noaa.gov).

Public Comment

- Several members of the public provided comments and remarks for guest speakers and sanctuary staff.
 - Russell Galipeau thanked Council members for their participation and engagement with students at California State University, Channel Islands.
 - Karen Telleen-Lawton asked Schroeder if oil companies are funding alternatives in the draft PEIS.
 - Mary Nishimoto asked Schroeder for clarification on the difference between alternatives two and three in the draft PEIS.
 - Jeff Maassen asked Schroeder if there is research that quantifies the effects of full or partial oil platform removal on species biodiversity and ecosystem services, and what the community’s role is in related decision making.

Cruise Ship Visits to Santa Barbara

- Council members received an update from the Advisory Council’s Cruise Ship Subcommittee, including a review of changes made to the draft Council comment letter informed by feedback received during the September 16, 2022, Advisory Council meeting.
- Following Council questions and discussion, Advisory Council members in attendance approved the Council comment letter to the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission’s Cruise Ship Subcommittee and the Santa Barbara Sustainability Committee. Ben Pitterle (Non-Consumptive Recreation seat member) offered a motion to approve the letter, which Rodrigues seconded. Chair Hislop led a voice vote. There were no oppositions to

the vote. Daniel Studt (NOAA Fisheries seat member), Schroeder (BOEM), and Mireles (CDFW) abstained.

- A copy of the Council comment letter is available upon request to Mike (michael.murray@noaa.gov), and will be posted on the [Sanctuary Advisory Council Actions web page](#) upon finalization.

West Coast Deep-Sea Coral Initiative Wrap-Up

- CINMS Research Coordinator Chris Caldow and CINMS Research Ecologist Lizzie Duncan shared an overview of the objectives, accomplishments, and future priorities for the [2018-2021 West Coast Deep-Sea Coral Initiative](#).
- Council member questions, discussion, and feedback on priorities for deep sea science, education, and resource protection followed Caldow and Duncan's presentation. Recommendations included quantifying the amount of marine debris encountered during field work, engaging high school students through education and outreach efforts, and map development for use by resource managers.

Close Out and Next Steps

- Chair Hislop provided closing remarks and reminded attendees of upcoming 2023 Advisory Council meetings:
 - Friday, January 20 (Santa Barbara Zoo with online option)
 - Friday, March 17 (Museum of Ventura County with online option)
 - Friday, May 19 (Santa Barbara Zoo with online option)
 - Friday, July 21 (Ventura County with online option)
 - Friday, September 15 (Santa Barbara County with online option)
 - Friday, November 17 (Ventura County with online option)

Appendix A. Advisory Council hybrid meeting attendance, November 18, 2022

<i>Name</i>	<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism alternate	No
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Anthony (Tony) Knight, Ph.D.	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes
Giles Pettifor	Business member	No
Paul Amaral	Business alternate	No
Kristen Hislop	Conservation member	Yes
Samantha Macks Franz	Conservation alternate	No
Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.	Commercial Fishing member	No
Timothy Athens	Commercial Fishing alternate	No
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	No
Douglas Williams, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	No
Mary Byrd	Public At-Large alternate	No
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	n/a
Ken Convery	National Park Service member	No
<vacant>	National Park Service alternate	n/a
CDR Ariel Berrios	U.S. Coast Guard member	Yes
LT Lelea Lingo	U.S. Coast Guard alternate	No
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management member	Yes
Jeremy Potter	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management alternate	No
Adam Melerski	Dept. of Defense member	No
Stephen Duboyce	Dept. of Defense alternate	Yes
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Yes
John Ugoretz	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	No
Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	No
Lindsay Bonito	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	No

Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	No
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	No
Errin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	Yes
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	No
Jed Chernabaeff	County of Ventura member	Yes
<vacant>	County of Ventura alternate	n/a
Lisa Wooninck	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No
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	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)	15
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	14

Appendix B. Written Council member announcements, submitted as of November 17, 2022

Name: Daniel Studt

Seat: NOAA Fisheries

Announcement: [Pacific Fishery Management Council considering changes to groundfish regulations in areas that include a portion of the CINMS](#)

Narrative: The Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) is scheduled in March to consider adopting a Final Preferred Alternative on changes to groundfish regulations related to the non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) and the Cowcod Conservation Area (CCA). This includes areas within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, particularly around SBI. The PFMC is considering allowing commercial groundfish non-bottom contact hook and line gear within the non-trawl RCA, and removal of the CCA for both commercial and recreational fisheries. Removal of the CCA may also be accompanied by fishing restrictions in certain areas including West of Santa Barbara Island. If adopted by the PFMC, this would then go through the federal rulemaking process. [Find more information, including a mapping feature of the alternatives here.](#)

Announcement: [Gray Whale Numbers Continue Decline; NOAA Fisheries Will Continue Monitoring](#)

Narrative: Gray whales that migrate along the West Coast of North America continued to decline in number over the last 2 years, according to a new NOAA Fisheries [assessment](#). The population is now down 38 percent from its peak in 2015 and 2016, as researchers probe the underlying reasons. The 38 percent decline from a peak of about 27,000 whales in 2016 to 16,650 this year resembles past fluctuations in the eastern North Pacific population. The population also produced the fewest calves on record this year since counts began in 1994, an [accompanying report](#) explains. [Read more on the decline here.](#)

Announcement: [NOAA Provides Funding Opportunity to Enhance Climate Science](#)

Narrative: The [Climate and Fisheries Adaptation Program](#) is soliciting proposals to better understand and support the resilience and adaptation of fisheries and fishing communities to rapidly changing climate and ocean conditions. Pending the availability of funding, the funding opportunity will support research projects for up to 3 years. [Learn more about the funding opportunity here.](#)

Reminder: Comments on updating the National Policy for Saltwater Recreational Fisheries are [due by December 31, 2022.](#)

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement subject: California Assembly Bill 2109 Signed Into Law, Providing New Protections For White Sharks

Relevant links: [CDFW News | California Assembly Bill 2109 Signed into Law, Providing New Protections for White Sharks](#), [White Shark Information \(ca.gov\)](#)

Narrative: On Monday, Sept. 19, Governor Gavin Newsom signed into law Assembly Bill 2109, providing new protections for white sharks in California waters. White sharks, also called great white sharks, are already a protected species and an important part of the ocean ecosystem as top-level predators. There is enormous public and scientific interest in them.

Sponsored by Assemblymember Steve Bennett, the bill passed the California legislature with an overwhelming majority of support. The new restrictions aim to get ahead of activities that may lead to increased interactions between white sharks and humans, and to give law enforcement more tools to protect white sharks from intentional efforts to catch or attract them. The new law also helps protect the public from interactions with white sharks that have been unintentionally hooked by fishermen by restricting when and where chum and shark bait can be used, while still allowing other legal fishing activities to continue.

Photos:

