

NOAA CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, January 19, 2024

9:00am-12:45pm PT

Hybrid Session: Santa Barbara Zoo

Final Key Outcomes

*This virtual public Advisory Council meeting was not video or audio recorded.
Please contact Keighley Lane (keighley.lane@noaa.gov) to request a copy of any presentation slides.*

Welcome, Technical Check-in, and Administrative Business

- Council Chair Michael Cohen (Tourism seat member) called the Advisory Council 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 to the online meeting technology and practices for effective participation.
- Lane confirmed in-person and online attendance, counting the presence of 24 Council members representing 19 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix A). In addition to Council members, 18 members of the public and sanctuary staff were in attendance both in-person and online.

November 17, 2023 Advisory Council Meeting Draft Key Outcomes

- The Advisory Council approved draft key outcomes from the November 17, 2023 Advisory Council meeting. There were no abstentions from the motion.
- A copy of the key outcomes will be posted on the [Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Notes web page](#) upon finalization.

Council Member Announcements

Council members provided the following announcements:

- Ken Convery (National Park Service) shared that Santa Barbara Island wharf has been reopened and work is underway to devise more comprehensive solutions. He also shared that there are permanent NPS boat captain openings. Reach out to Ken if interested.
- David Lopez (Recreational Fishing) shared that the [Fish Reef Project](#) has secured final approvals to test deployment of sea cave artificial reefs for kelp restoration.
- Jamie Diamond (Business) shared that the Stardust Express is taking Title I schools out on the water for floating marine lab classes and that the SB Maritime museum has invested in an ROV to use during these outings. Jamie also shared that the Visit Santa Barbara Tourism Summit ranked outdoor adventure travel in the top five travel trends.

She also shared that constituents would like more access to the national parks from Santa Barbara and not just Ventura. She shared that Kevin Brannon has secured a Chevron grant for \$20,000 to engage with junior high students to teach sustainable fishing practices, how to shore fish, and how to clean, and cook their catch.

- Phyllis Grifman (Research) shared that there is an upcoming online workshop to present the preliminary results of DDT research in the San Pedro Channel - contact her to join the online workshop. She also shared that USC Sea Grant will look to fill three openings for positions addressing marine debris, the blue economy, and aquaculture.
- Michael Cohen (Tourism) shared that Santa Barbara tourism had a challenging year as there was some drop in occupancy and price per room, but that the forecast shows a strong year ahead. He also shared that the recent business summit meeting focused on employment retention, pathways for internships, and housing issues in Santa Barbara.
- Molly Troup (Non-consumptive Recreation) shared that Santa Barbara Channelkeeper has been involved in the City of Santa Barbara Cruise Ship Program. The next meeting to discuss this program will be with the Harbor Commission on 2/15 at 6:30 pm at Santa Barbara City Hall where the Commission will receive updates from the cruise subcommittee and discuss their recommendations which will be given to city council for review. She also shared that Santa Barbara Channelkeeper recommended that the number of cruise ships visiting Santa Barbara be capped at 18, ensure that the ships have advanced wastewater treatments, and lower their speed to 10 kts or less.
- Pike Spector (California Natural Resources Agency) shared December council meeting updates including the approval of \$9.5 million to be dispersed to support MPA monitoring across the state over the next 3 years (including the Channel Islands). He also shared that there is \$6 million in funding to support accelerating kelp research programs with competitive grant solicitation. He also shared that the KRMP sanctuary advisory council and community groups are meeting this quarter and he will have updates to share at the May meeting.
- Michael Yorke (Education) shared about his experience with [LiMPETS](#) community monitoring program including getting taken out on the water by Channel Islands Expeditions and learning about how remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) provided by Blue Robotics are used for eelgrass surveys.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

CINMS Superintendent, Chris Mobley, welcomed attendees to the Advisory Council meeting and shared the following updates:

- Mobley shared that the House has approved a spending bill that extends funding for most government operations until March 1, and extends funding for NOAA and the rest of the government until March 8.
- Mobley shared that after discussions with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and the Sanctuary Advisory Executive Committee and hearing experiences of other sanctuary

advisory councils, the CINMS will be pursuing a student seat. This change will be included as a part of the update process for the council's charter in May. This change will need to be approved by headquarters.

- Mobley shared that three interns have joined the Research Team: Macey Hartmann, Perla Nava, and Johnson Chan. He also introduced Vanessa Van Deusen who is a new staff member of the Research Team and Sachiko Lamem who is the incoming 2024 CA Sea Grant Fellow.
- Mobley shared that Michael Murray has been assigned as the temporary Designation Manager for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) designation team. He will be leading production of four key CHNMS National Environmental Policy Act documents including: 1) Response to Comments, 2) Final Rule, 3) Final Environmental Impact Statement, and 4) Final Management Plan. CINMS is working to fill his duties until July.
- Mobley shared that the R/V Shearwater is currently in the Ventura Harbor Boatyard to undergo winter maintenance. The Shearwater is getting two new engines installed to extend her working life and will remain operational for years to come thanks to the good care of the vessel operations team.
- Mobley shared that on November 14, 2023 the Shearwater transported eleven high school students and their teachers, like council member Michael Yorke, to conduct LiMPETS rocky intertidal surveys on Anacapa. Passengers also included members from the MERITO Foundation, Blue Robotics, Antioch University, UC Santa Barbara and CINMS. Students conducted eelgrass surveys at one of the restoration sites near Frenchy's cove using a Blue Robotics remotely operated vehicle and collected water/plankton samples for microplastics studies. This trip to the island will happen again next February. CINMS is looking to host more LiMPETS surveys at our mainland sites. If your class is interested, reach out to Keighley Lane, keighley.lane@noaa.gov
- Mobley shared that on November 21, 2023 the Shearwater escorted ten divers to San Miguel Island to search for and collect 73 red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) across six locations on the southside of San Miguel as broodstock for captive breeding to help restore mainland populations impacted by the 2015 Refugio Oil Spill along the Gaviota coast. Divers in attendance came from NOAA Restoration, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Rincon Consultants, Paua Marine Research Group, and The Bay Foundation. The abalone were turned over to the Cultured Abalone Farm where they will be housed for captive breeding in hatchery tanks.

Channel Islands Network of Marine Reserves & Conservation Areas and Update on State MPA Decadal Management Review

Carlos Mireles, Senior Environmental Scientist, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) and Susan Ashcraft, Marine Advisor, California Fish and Game Commission (CFGF) presented a brief process update on the [State MPA Decadal Management Review](#) where they summarized the

petition process and reviewed the Commission's guiding principles for petition development. They reported that 20 petitions were received requesting changes including five within CINMS waters. The California Fish and Game Commission Marine Resources Committee will meet to discuss these petitions at their March, July, and/or November 2024 meetings.

Sean Hastings, Channel Islands Resource Protection Coordinator, also outlined the 5 petitions within CINMS waters and provided a brief summary of Channel Islands MPA history and next steps regarding the process for reviewing petitions for changes within the Sanctuary. CINMS will continue to work closely with the CDFW, CFGC Marine Resources Committee, and Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). Please see the provided handout [here](#).

Council member questions and discussion included the following:

- A council member asked whether the evaluation of petitions will differ depending on the proposed changes; for example a management change versus changes to MPA boundaries.
 - Ashcraft responded that they will try to provide an overview of all the proposals in time for the February meeting, but if not then it will be the focus of the March Marine Resources Committee meeting and that the Department will need to conduct an analysis on any proposals asking for significant changes. Individual petitions will be posted on [this webpage](#).
- A member thanked everyone for their hard work.
- A member asked how many petitions were focused on expanding MPAs, if any.
 - Hastings responded that there are two petitions within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary requesting expanded protections to marine reserves.
- Another member asked for more information about petitions regarding Anacapa Island and regarding the Frenchy's Cove special closure.
 - Ashcraft responded that there is one petition to either eliminate the special closure or make adjustments for boat access to a portion of the special closure either by simplifying, accommodating, or modifying it. The public will be able to find these petitions online soon.
 - Mireles also responded that the link to the bundled list can be found in the public written meeting announcements and via [this link](#).
- A council member commended the Commission for basing decision-making on good basic science and peer reviewed science including habitat data, species data, and socioeconomic data.
- Superintendent Chris Mobley stated that decisions will be made using the best available data, and existing science and working closely with the CDFW.

Santa Barbara Ocean Collective

Dr. Kim Selkoe, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara, and Dr. Michelle Paddack, Santa Barbara City College presented an overview of the Santa Barbara Ocean Collective, an

industry/academic partnership between the Santa Barbara City College, the City of Santa Barbara, and Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara. They explained the Ocean Collective's vision and goals, provided details of services and facilities that would be provided, and explained how the collective would support both terrestrial and ocean-based environmental and career development initiatives.

Council member questions and discussion included the following:

- A member expressed their excitement, stating that they are always looking to hire people and that the collective is an investment in the local economy. They also asked if anything similar is happening in Ventura County and whether the collective has contacted them.
 - Selkoe responded that she is not aware of any such programs. The Ocean Collective wants to serve the whole central coast, not just Santa Barbara.
- A council member stated that they have been a long time supporter of the collective and are excited to see it come to life, this is an important cornerstone for our community. It is important that there are college-level education programs that support these interests.
- Another member asked whether they have considered working with high schools or dual enrollment opportunities at the community college.
 - Paddock responded that these topics are always part of the conversation and are being pushed more strongly. They want to make sure that Career Technical Education programming doesn't just serve those who want to transfer, but also for those who may just want an associates degree.
- Two members stated that they would be willing to help support in some way.
- A member expressed that blue economy training should incorporate climate change and wanted to know if the collective had applied to receive a NOAA Climate Ready Workforce award.
 - Selkoe responded that they did not have the capacity to apply.
 - A council member noted that the Ocean Collective aligns with priorities brought up by Gavin Newsome's office concerning the Blue Economy at a recent Santa Barbara Chamber of Commerce meeting.
 - Selkoe and Nelson affirmed that the project does intersect with multiple federal, state, and agency priorities.
- A member stated that it might be a good idea to solicit a Bren School group project to conduct analyses.
- Another member stated their support for The Ocean Collective and its alignment with and their own work partnering with Reef Check to get young adults SCI diving certifications.

Public Comment

Members of the public provided the following comments and remarks for guest speakers and sanctuary staff:

- Greg Busch shared that the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement recently held a west coast summit to discuss priorities, enforcement issues, and the final stages of an action plan for sanctuaries. He also shared that a coast-wide black abalone survey detected numerous state violations and supported deterrence and public outreach. NMFS is working with general council, enforcement, and visiting sanctuary advisory council meetings this year to present on enforcement efforts and support partners in the sanctuaries.

CINMS Research Team Update

Vanessa Van Deusen, CINMS Marine Ecologist with Cardinal Point Captains presented an overview of CINMS Research Team activities and publications.

Advisory Council Annual Planning

Kacy Cooper, 2023 CA Sea Grant State Fellow, NOAA CINMS, presented a 2023 year in review highlighting her accomplishments, reflections, and outlook for 2024.

Council member questions and discussion included the following:

- A member reminded the council to get involved in the diversity and inclusion subcommittee
- All council members agreed to write a letter to support Merit McCrea Pacific Fisheries Management Council “At Large” member seat..

Close Out and Next Steps

- Chair Cohen provided closing remarks and reminded attendees about the upcoming 2024 Advisory Council meetings:
 - Friday, March 15 (TBD with online option)
 - Friday, May 17 (Santa Barbara Zoo with online option)
 - Friday July 19 (Ventura County with online option)
 - Friday, September 20 (Santa Barbara County with online option)
 - Friday, November 15 (Ventura County with online option)

Appendix A. Advisory Council hybrid meeting attendance, January 19, 2024

<i>Name</i>	<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Amanda Allen	Tourism alternate	No
Kaia Kababik	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Molly Troup	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes
Giles Pettifor	Business member	No
Jaime Diamond	Business alternate	Yes
Sam Macks Franz	Conservation member	No
Christina Tombach Wright	Conservation alternate	Yes
Mike Nelson	Commercial Fishing member	Yes
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing alternate	No
David Lopez	Recreational Fishing member	Yes
Kevin Brannon	Recreational Fishing alternate	No
Michael Yorke	Education member	Yes
Andrea Mills	Education alternate	No
Phyllis Grifman	Research member	Yes
Robert Miller, Ph.D.	Research alternate	No
Ken Owen	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Chris Ragland	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Blake Thomas	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
Alicia Cordero	Chumash Community member	No
Eva Pagaling	Chumash Community alternate	Yes
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 Ariel Berrios	U.S. Coast Guard member	No
LTJG Taylor Gibbons	U.S. Coast Guard alternate	Yes
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management member	No
Jeremy Potter	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management alternate	No
Adam Melerski	Dept. of Defense member	Yes
Stephen Duboyce	Dept. of Defense alternate	Yes
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Yes
Armand Barilotti	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	Yes
Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	No
Pike Spector	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	Yes

Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	No
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	Yes
Errin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	Yes
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	Yes
Jed Chernabaeff	County of Ventura member	No
<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)	
	Total number of individual SAC members (<u>voting seats only</u>)	25
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	19

Appendix B. Written Council member announcements, submitted as of January 19, 2024

Name: Jacki Phelps

Seat: Coastal Commission

Announcement: **The Commission is hiring!**

Narrative: We are looking for planners in our Ventura office. Here is the information regarding the position- [CalCareers](#). The initial final filing date is 1/12, however if someone is interested in the position please have them reach out directly to me at jacqueline.phelps@coastal.ca.gov (even if it is after 1/12).

Prior to applying, an applicant must first take an exam, and information for that can be found here- [CalCareers](#) and [CalCareers](#).

Name: Daniel Studt

Seat: NOAA Fisheries

Announcement: [Reopening Areas for Groundfish Fishing After 20 Years](#)

Narrative: Effective January 1, 2024, Amendment 32 to the Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan opens fishing areas that have been closed since the early 2000s to protect several species of overfished rockfish. With the successful rebuilding of nearly all these species, reopening these areas will provide recreational and commercial fishermen with greater access to healthy groundfish stocks. The action includes reopening the Cowcod Conservation Area off Southern California to non-trawl groundfish commercial and recreational fisheries, giving new access to approximately 4,600 square miles of historically important fishing grounds. The action will also create new closures to protect rebuilding yelloweye rockfish, groundfish essential fish habitat, and other sensitive areas. Learn more in this [web story](#) and [story map](#).

Announcement: [New Video and Webpage: Sustainable Fishing on the West Coast](#)

Narrative: Here on the West Coast, fishing is a way of life. On average, nearly 1.5 million recreational anglers take over 5 million ocean fishing trips each year. This contributes to the fabric of our coastal communities, supporting over 10,000 jobs and contributing almost \$1.5 billion in sales to the U.S. economy. We can protect marine fisheries, ecosystems, and habitats by fishing sustainably. Through interviews with anglers about sustainable fishing in California and a webpage with tips and information about how to get involved, this resource aims to inspire West Coast anglers to practice sustainable recreational fishing. [Check out the video and webpage, and share it](#) with the anglers you know!

Announcement: [Increasing Recreational Fisheries Engagement through the Fish Habitat Partnerships - Call for Proposals](#)

Narrative: NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation and Recreational Fisheries Initiative are seeking to identify and support projects within coastal [Fish Habitat Partnerships](#) that enhance collaboration with recreational, subsistence, cultural, and non-commercial fishing communities and that also protect or restore fish habitat. Project proposals should be coordinated with the local Fish Habitat Partnership, and are due by **April 15, 2024**. For more information, please reach out to the local [Fish Habitat Partnership](#) or Alex McOwen, alex.mcowen@noaa.gov. [Projects funded in 2023 can be viewed here](#).

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: Update on Petition Process for Requesting Changes to California's MPA Network

Narrative: At the Fish and Game Commission meeting on December 14, 2023, the Commission officially received 20 petitions requesting regulatory changes to California's Network of Marine Protected Areas. The Commission plans to grant, deny, or refer individual petitions for CDFW's official evaluation at the upcoming Commission meeting on February 14-15, 2023. Petitions can be accessed here- <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=218156&inline>