

**Member/Alternate**

**Tourism**

Lauri Baker / Monica Baker

**Business**

William Spicer / William Agosta

**Non-Consumptive Recreation**  
Warren Glaser / W. Scott Dunn

**Commercial Fishing**  
Chris Hoeflinger / Jim Marshall

**Recreational Fishing**  
Merit McCrea / Stephen Roberson

**Education**  
Craig Taylor / Barbara LaCorte

**Research**  
Dr. Robert Warner / Dr. Daniel Brumbaugh

**Conservation**  
Linda Krop / Greg Helms

**Public At-Large 1**  
Jim Knowlton / Phyllis Griffman

**Public At-Large 2**  
Eric Kett / Matthew Lum

**Chumash Community**  
/ Paulette Cabugos

**National Marine Fisheries Service**  
Mark Helvey / Lyle Enriquez

**National Park Service**  
Russell Galipeau / Gary Davis

**U.S. Coast Guard**  
CWO Ronald Fien / MSTC John Luzader

**Minerals Management Service**  
Dr. Fred Piltz / Dr. Ann Bull

**U.S. Department of Defense**  
Alex Stone / Walter Schobel

**California Department of Fish and Game**  
Marija Vojkovich / Kristine Barsky

**California Resources Agency**  
Brian Baird / Leah Akins

**California Coastal Commission**  
Rebecca Roth / Gary Timm

**County of Santa Barbara**  
Dianne Meester /

**County of Ventura**  
Lyn Krieger / Jack Peveler

**Channel Islands Nat'l Marine Sanctuary**  
Chris Mobley

**Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary**  
William Douros / Sean Morton

**Gulf of the Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary**  
Maria Brown

**Chair**  
Dianne Meester

**Vice Chair**  
Linda Krop

**Secretary**  
Eric Kett

# Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

August 5, 2005

Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr.  
Undersecretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Bldg HCHB, Room 5128  
14th & Constitution Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20230-0001

## Re: Importance of weather buoy repair and long term support in the Santa Barbara Channel

Dear Admiral Lautenbacher:

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) Advisory Council is a 21-member body that brings together community members and representatives from various government agencies to advise the Sanctuary Manager and NOAA on management of the Sanctuary. The Advisory Council has been alerted to short-term, mid-term, and long-term issues regarding the maintenance of three specific weather buoys adjacent to the Sanctuary. These buoys, when operational, provide critical weather and sea state information that is vital to maritime safety, homeland security, environmental protection, general transportation purposes, commercial and recreational fishing, sailing and kayaking, Sanctuary resource protection, and scientific research. The buoys at issue are:

- 46023 Point Arguello (34°42'50"N 120°58'00"W)
- 46054 West Santa Barbara Channel (34°16'08"N 120°26'54" W)
- 46063 Point Conception (34°16'35"N 120°39'53" W)

In the short-term, all three buoys' anemometers have been non-functional for at least six months. As you know, wind data is a critical component in any decision to enter the ocean environment. The National Data Buoy Center has placed a "support request" with the U.S. Coast Guard to provide vessel assistance with repairs to all three buoys --an activity expected sometime this summer. Meanwhile, Sanctuary Manager Chris Mobley has pledged support for this project, including use of the Sanctuary's research vessel Shearwater as a platform for repair and maintenance of the buoys.



The Shearwater recently supported a maintenance mission to buoy 46054; however inclement weather prevented the maintenance crew from conducting their work. That the Shearwater was unable to complete a maintenance trip to buoy 46054 illustrates the type of vital weather information mariners currently do not have access to when this network of buoys at the head of the Santa Barbara Channel is not working. This buoy network is necessary to provide relative and highly variable wind/wave strengths encountered when traversing the Channel to Sanctuary waters. Completion of these buoy repairs as soon as possible is critical to our shared interests, and your assistance in raising the priority of this work would be appreciated.

In the mid-term, the Minerals Management Service (MMS) representative to the Advisory Council has informed the Advisory Council that while they formerly sponsored buoys 46023 and 46054, MMS has completed its goals for the buoys and has no interest in maintaining these buoys at this time. As a result the buoys are slated for removal from service at the end of the year. Fortunately, we have learned that NOAA's National Ocean Service has secured one-time funding to maintain buoys 46023 and 46054 for another one to two years. The third buoy, 46063, is a NOAA sponsored buoy. Thus, mid-term funding issues have been resolved and the Advisory Council is grateful to NOAA's National Ocean Service for this support.

While the Advisory Council applauds the efforts to maintain the buoys in the short-term, and the foresight and use of one-time National Ocean Service funding to keep these critical buoys functional in the mid-term, we ask for your assistance in securing financial support necessary to create a long-term maintenance commitment to buoys 46023 and 46054 for the reasons stated above. Once the existing equipment has reached the end of its utility at buoys 46023 and 46054, significant funding will be required to purchase and maintain new equipment. Additionally, the Advisory Council urges that NOAA and the agencies within its purview develop a long-term maintenance strategy for buoys in the Santa Barbara Channel that utilizes NOAA and other agency assets in the region.

Thank you again for your attention to these important buoys, which provide real time wind and wave height data to hundreds of users of the Sanctuary, both governmental and private, and for considering our requests for expedited buoy repair and long-term support.

Respectfully,



Dianne Meester

Chair, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: Paul Moersdorf, Director, National Weather Service, National Data Buoy Center  
John McNulty, Director, National Weather Service, Office of Operational Systems  
Dr. Richard Spinrad, Assistant Administrator, NOAA Ocean Services  
Daniel J. Basta, Director, NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program  
Chris Mobley, Manager, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
David L. Johnson, Director, National Weather Service  
The Honorable Tom McClintock, California State Senator