

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 Grifman

Public At-Large 2

Eric Kett / Matthew Lum

Chumash Community

Ricardo Melendez / Paulette Cabugos

National Marine Fisheries Service

Mark Helvey / Lyle Enriquez

National Park Service

Russell Galipeau / Gary Davis

U.S. Coast Guard

Lt. Jerrel Russell / John Luzader

Minerals Management Service

Joan Barminski / Dr. Fred Piltz

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 / Jackie Campbell

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

April 22, 2005

Daniel J. Basta, Director
NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program
1305 East-West Highway
Bldg. SSMC4
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Re: Importance of NOAA Lake Amphibian aircraft stationed at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Basta,

As you know, the Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring and Spatial Analysis Program (SAMSAP) monitors and analyzes physical and anthropogenic activity within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS). As we have learned from sanctuary staff, these activities include commercial and recreational vessel traffic, oil spill emergencies, vessel groundings, and the occurrence of marine mammals. The program was started in July 1997 and continues today. SAMSAP conducts weekly flights following set transect lines around the Channel Islands, and presently uses a Lake Amphibian aircraft. The aircraft also provides emergency response services in coordination with the U.S. Coast Guard.

SAMSAP also plays a role in monitoring the CINMS marine protected area network by providing data on the magnitude of vessel displacement. The Sanctuary Advisory Council's Research Activities Panel, at its February 2005 meeting, also discussed that SAMSAP can assist in examining spillover effects of marine reserves through changes in commercial and recreational activity near the MPAs. The weekly presence of the NOAA aircraft, and its recognizability by sanctuary users, has been credited by the Department of Fish and Game as contributing to the high level of regulatory compliance by users in and near marine reserve areas.

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council urges you to retain the Lake Amphibian aircraft as part of the CINMS SAMSAP program. The Lake Amphibian aircraft is the preferred platform for the SAMSAP mission. The aircraft is inexpensive to operate and ideally suited for the Channel Islands survey mission. This aircraft requires minimal maintenance operates with low annual costs. The aircraft's fuel efficiency is also very high, using only 15.6 gallons per hour when properly leaned. CINMS pays only \$35,000.00 a year for 150 hours of flight time.



113 Harbor Way ■ Santa Barbara, CA 93109 ■ Phone (805) 966-7107
Fax (805) 568-1582 ■ www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sachome1.html

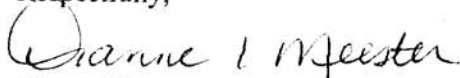
The Lake Amphibian aircraft is also highly suited for aerial observation. This particular model aircraft has been used by the Army and Air Force for aerial reconnaissance operations due to its phenomenal visibility from the cockpit and single-pilot IFR capabilities. Other platforms, such as the Twin Otter and Shrike (designed for transport), will not provide the scientist with the same panoramic view; thus certain vessels and/or mammals can be missed during a survey. Because the Lake aircraft is stationed in Santa Barbara, fast response is possible for incidents and emergencies within CINMS, and more frequent SAMSAP survey missions may be conducted, thus providing more accurate data. Weather is the biggest factor for the local survey area. Santa Barbara is prone to unforecasted marine layers and rapidly changing weather patterns. The crew and Lake aircraft remain on standby daily, taking advantage of most good weather days in an attempt to get full coverage of any day of the week during any given fishing/migration season. A regionally located aircraft means more sporadic surveys, and thus less valid data. A twin-engine aircraft also means greater annual costs due to higher maintenance and fuel consumption. The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary may not be able to afford these dramatic price increases and would eventually have to reduce the time requested from a regional aircraft. Sporadically collected data will be less useful, threatening the existence of the SAMSAP program.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council is concerned that a change to a regionally based, more expensive aircraft could lead to the downfall of the SAMSAP program in the CINMS. The sanctuary would also lose rapid response capability to oil spills, vessel groundings, and other marine emergencies.

The Lake Amphibian aircraft was thoroughly researched a few years ago and found to be the best, most suitable and safest platform to conduct aerial operations here at the Channel Islands; the U.S. Coast Guard was involved in this decision to utilize the Lake Amphibian platform. From that point until now, there has been no evidence to the contrary as to this platform's suitability for the CINMS mission.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter.

Respectfully,



Dianne Meester

Chair, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: RADM Richard Behn, Director
NOAA Marine and Aviation Operations Center
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
1315 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3282

Capt. Steve Kozak, Director
NOAA Aircraft Operations Center
7917 Hangar Loop Drive, Hangar #5
MacDill AFB, FL 33621

Chris Mobley
Manager, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Attachment: List of voting seats participating in the March 18, 2005 Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approval of the RAP-proposed Letter Supporting stationing of NOAA Lake Amphibian Aircraft at the CINMS

ATTACHMENT

List of voting seats participating in the March 18, 2005 Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approval of the RAP-proposed Letter Supporting stationing of NOAA Lake Amphibian Aircraft at the CINMS

Voting Seat	Voting Record
Tourism	Yes
Non-Consumptive Recreation	Yes
Business	Yes
Conservation	Yes
Commercial Fishing	Yes
Recreational Fishing	<not present>
Education	<not present>
Research	Yes
Public At-Large #1	Yes
Public At-Large #2	Yes
National Marine Fisheries Service	Yes
National Park Service	Yes
US Coast Guard	Yes
Minerals Management Service	<not present>
Department of Defense	Yes
California Department of Fish and Game	Yes
California Resources Agency	<not present>
California Coastal Commission	Yes
County of Santa Barbara	Yes
Ventura County	Yes