

Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Member/Alternate

Tourism

Kathleen Fitzgerald / Andrea Mills

Business

Capt. Richard McKenna / <vacant>

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Debra Herring / Perry Ferguson

Commercial Fishing

Bruce Steele / <vacant>

Recreational Fishing

Capt. David Bacon / Merit McCrea

Education

Maria Petueli / <vacant>

Research

Dr. Robert Warner / Dr. Mark Steele

Conservation

Linda Krop / Greg Helms

Public At-Large 1

Phyllis Grifman / Amy Spandrio

Public At-Large 2

Eric Kett / Dan Powell

Chumash Community

Jacy Ontiveros / <vacant>

National Marine Fisheries Service

Peter Fischel / Elizabeth Petras

National Park Service

Russell Galipeau / <vacant>

U.S. Coast Guard

CDR Jason Collins / LT Steve Arnwine

Minerals Management Service

Donna Schroeder / Dr. Ann Bull

U.S. Department of Defense

John Ugoretz / Walter Schobel

California Department of Fish and Game

Marija Vojkovich / Kristine Barsky

California Resources Agency

Brian Baird / Amy Vierra

California Coastal Commission

Steve Hudson / Barbara Carey

County of Santa Barbara

Dianne Black / Susan Curtis

County of Ventura

Lyn Krieger / Marilyn Miller

Channel Islands Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley

Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Paul Michel / Karen Grimmer

Gulf of the Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown / Brian Johnson

Chair

Eric Kett

Vice Chair

Bruce Steele

Secretary

Phyllis Grifman

June 1, 2010

Daniel J. Basta, Director

NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

1305 East-West Highway, SSMC4

Silver Spring, MD 20910

RE: Need for Acoustic Science Capacity at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Dear Mr. Basta:

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Advisory Council would like to thank you for attending our March 19, 2010 Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) meeting. We appreciate your interest in and support of the issues and topics the CINMS staff and Advisory Council are working on. We would like to take this opportunity to strongly support your efforts to seek funding for acoustic studies, which we discussed in some length at the March SAC meeting.

The first step towards proactive management is to better understand the changes occurring in our oceans and how these changes are affecting marine life. Sanctuaries are sentinel sites, selected for their unique natural resources. As you know, these areas are places where protection, enhancement, and conservation of marine biodiversity and cultural heritage occur, and certain types of activities and uses are prohibited. Therefore, Sanctuaries are ideal places for developing an overall baseline for the health of our marine environment through conducting ocean-related science, research, and monitoring. CINMS is located in a biodiversity hot spot where human activities converge with high concentrations of marine life, thus providing a unique opportunity to study human induced sound on a variety of rich biota.

Studies of the impacts of sound on marine mammals are very important. Marine mammals use sounds for finding food, raising their young, finding mates, avoiding predators, and finding their way around the large, generally dark ocean. They are primarily acoustic animals; consequently, sounds in their environment may interfere with communication or significantly alter their behavior. Global concern about noise impacts relates mainly to interference (or "masking") of important sounds from industrial sounds such as large ships.

As you well know, the CINMS is one of two national marine sanctuary sites where initial acoustic research has been carried out. The CINMS Advisory Council adopted a report in 2004 ("Anthropogenic Noise and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: How Underwater Noise Affects Sanctuary Resources, And What We Can Do About It") that identified sound as a critical issue facing the Sanctuary and recommended increased monitoring and research. This work has set a foundation to better understand how anthropogenic noise sources such as commercial shipping in the Santa Barbara Channel affect large cetaceans in and around the Sanctuary.

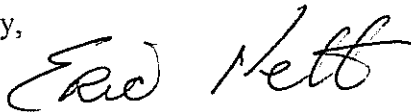
At the March SAC meeting we were informed that a partner involved in acoustic monitoring had to remove equipment from the Sanctuary. This loss highlighted the need for new financial investment to help the CINMS improve its ability to carry out acoustic monitoring and other needed research to achieve the mission objectives of the Sanctuary. Additionally, financial resources for acoustic monitoring can be used to build on work already done by CINMS staff and partners like the Scripps Institution of Oceanography. Developing a self sufficient acoustic program at the CINMS presents an opportunity for the Sanctuary to become a leader in understanding changes in the ocean's acoustic environment and how these changes affect the important marine life found not only in our Sanctuaries but also in oceans all over the world.

Funding is critical to support the following:

- **Increasing financial investment for capital improvements**, including but not limited to:
 - New Automated Information System (AIS) receivers, transmitters and towers, and
 - High Frequency Acoustic Recording Packages (HARPS), and computer loggers.
- **Adequate and stable personnel resources**. Establishing a full time equivalent position would provide stability. Recognizing the current economic situation, establishing a post-doctoral or research fellowship could provide stability in the interim and continue and extend the existing acoustic work ongoing within the Sanctuary and expand the Sanctuary's capacity for future acoustic work.
- **Sufficient resources to establish a stable source of vessel time and field operations** to continue acoustic monitoring and research efforts in the CINMS.

Additional funding would help us fulfill many scientific goals. Please share this letter with all relevant parties, including but not limited to the Regional Director of the West Coast Region of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Director of the National Ocean Service, the NOAA Administrator, the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior, and the Department of the Defense. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eric Kett, Chair

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

cc: Chris Mobley, Superintendent, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
William Douros, Director, West Coast Region, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Attachment: SAC voting record of May 21, 2010 for passage of the motion supporting this letter.

Enclosure: Voting Results

Below are the May 21, 2010 voting results of a Sanctuary Advisory Council motion to send a letter to ONMS Director Dan Basta regarding the need for investments in acoustic science at CINMS.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Council Seat</i>	<i>Vote</i>
Kathleen Fitzgerald	Tourism	Absent for vote
Andrea Mills – Alternate		
Debra Herring	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Yes
Capt. Richard McKenna	Business	Absent for vote
Linda Krop	Conservation	Yes
Bruce Steele [Vice Chair]	Commercial Fishing	Yes
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Absent for vote
Merit McCrea – Alternate		
Maria Petueli	Education	Yes
Dr. Mark Steele - Alternate	Research	Yes
Phyllis Grifman [Secretary]	Public At Large #1	Yes
Eric Kett [Chair]	Public At Large #2	Yes
Jacy Ontiveros	Chumash Community	Absent for vote
Peter Fischel	NOAA Fisheries	Abstain
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Yes
CDR Jason Collins	US Coast Guard	Abstain
Donna Schroeder - Alternate	Minerals Management Service	Yes
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Yes
Marija Vojkovich	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	Absent for vote
Kristine Barsky- Alternate		
Brian Baird	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent for vote
Amy Vierra - Alternate		
Steve Hudson	CA Coastal Commission	Absent for vote
Barbara Carey - Alternate		
Dianne M. Black	Santa Barbara County	Yes
Lyn Krieger	Ventura County	Absent for vote
Marilyn Miller – Alternate		

Yes –11

No –0

Abstain –2