

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Final Key Meeting Outcomes
Friday, May 20, 2016

Santa Barbara Zoo, Discovery Pavilion
Santa Barbara, CA

Note: Upon approval by the council (expected in July 2016), this document will be posted online at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/meeting_notes.html. Audio recordings of this meeting are available upon request to Jessica.Morten@noaa.gov.

Administrative Business and Announcements

At peak, there were a total of 21 SAC representatives in attendance representing 15 voting seats (see attached attendance roster). Public attendance peaked at about 15 individuals.

New Venue: Santa Barbara Zoo

Advisory Council member and Santa Barbara Zoo Executive Director Richard Block welcomed the group to the zoo and invited all attendees to an elephant feeding to take place directly after the meeting adjourns.

March 18, 2016 Draft Key Outcomes

The council voted to approve the March 18, 2016 SAC meeting draft key outcomes, which will be posted on the Sanctuary's website.

Council Membership Changes

Casey Hehr announced that this would be his final SAC meeting before he retires from the Coast Guard, and thanked the council for all of their support and work. His SAC replacement will be CDR Romulus Matthews.

Executive Committee Elections

A Sanctuary Advisory Council Executive Committee election was held. Mike Murray shared with the group that the current officers (Chair Dianne Black, Vice Chair Phyllis Grifman, and Secretary Michael Cohen) were eligible and had been nominated to serve for another term. Advisory Council member John Ugoretz made a motion to reappoint the same three executive officers, the motion was seconded, and the motion was passed unanimously to reappoint the current committee.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Superintendent Chris Mobley highlighted some sanctuary activities and accomplishments from the July 2016 Superintendent's Report.

Grounding at Santa Cruz Island

Superintendent Chris Mobley expressed thanks to the U.S. Coast Guard for their partnership on the rescue and cleanup effort associated with the sailboat grounding on Santa Cruz Island on May 2.

Marine Shipping Working Group follow-up

Sea Grant Fellow Jess Morten provided an update on two items the council flagged for further discussion during the March meeting. She distributed and summarized a memo from Toyon, a land-based infrared system for detecting whales that could be transitioned to a ship-based system in the future. She also provided a brief oral literature review on the topic of "pingers" or whale warning devices and their applicability to moving whales out of the path of oncoming ships.

Council Member Announcements

A number of council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). One council member shared that starfish populations are beginning to recruit after a devastating year of Sea Star Wasting Syndrome. Another member mentioned that White Seabass are back and being spotted in the area. Another member reported that demoi acid closures are mostly lifted throughout the state with a couple of exceptions. One member revisited the topic of the two buoys in the channel that were slotted for removal – Anacapa and Goleta Pt. – and mentioned that they had heard once again that funding had fallen through for the Goleta buoy. Audio recordings of all council member announcements are available upon request.

Navy Point Mugu Sea Range Operations Presentation from John Ugoretz

Based on interest expressed at the council's March 2016 meeting, council member John Ugoretz provided a presentation on the Navy Sea Range at Point Mugu, with a focus on what they do and how whale aggregations and changes in shipping patterns affects Sea Range operations. John explained that the Sea Range is a critical national asset for the Navy and the Department of Defense, with extensive capabilities to support weapons testing and evaluation, maritime testing and training operations, ballistic missile defense testing, special operations force training, and joint forces interoperability exercises. He emphasized that safety is an integral part of their mission and that no hazardous event will proceed if any non-participants are in a hazardous area. John also highlighted problems associated with scattered shipping traffic, emphasizing that changes in shipping patterns resulting in an increased number of vessels transiting through the area south of the islands can be extremely disruptive and costly to the Department of Defense's testing operations. Audio recording and PowerPoint slides can be made available upon request.

Ship Strike Risk in the Santa Barbara Channel Region Presentation from Jessica Redfern

Jessica Redfern, Program Leader for the Marine Mammal Spatial Habitat and Risk Program at NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center, shared preliminary findings from her updated analyses relating to blue whale distribution and ship strike risk in the Santa Barbara Channel Region. Her team reexamined ship strike risk associated with different management alternatives discussed during the advisory council's Marine Shipping Working Group process, and she shared some of their preliminary findings associated with their new analyses.

Public Comment

David Blue Wolf, a member of the Chumash community, announced that he supported the use of technologies like Toyon to help prevent conflicts between whales and ships. He also suggested that the proposed Chumash Sanctuary designation was an unnecessary expenditure of taxpayer dollars, as there are already a number of federal agencies already operating in the area. He also shared that he was very disappointed to hear of the firing of former California Coastal Commission Executive Director Charles Lester.

Kristen Hislop, Marine Conservation Director at Environmental Defense Center thanked the presenters for their contributions to the conversation and expressed her support for forwarding on the Marine Shipping Working Group final report to sanctuary staff.

Ocean Acidification Presentation from Laura Francis

Sanctuary Education Coordinator Laura Francis shared highlights from the Ocean in a High-CO2 World International Ocean Acidification and Science Symposium in Hobart, Tasmania, which she attended in early May. At the symposium, Laura also co-hosted a communications workshop that was well attended and very successful. The event provided a forum for students, researchers, educators, communicators, and decision makers to share knowledge on ocean acidification and the most effective ways of communicating its effects to the general public.

Marine Shipping Working Group (MSWG)

Following up on conversations held at the council's meeting in March 2016, there was a council discussion regarding next steps to be taken with the Marine Shipping Working Group's final report. Council members considered how and when the council might forward the MSWG final report to the Sanctuary Superintendent. Several council members expressed that they felt the MSWG had completed its charge and that the report was ready to be passed on, though a few others disagreed and felt that the mission of the group was to identify specific recommendations and that passing the report on to the Sanctuary as a long list of options would not be properly

fulfilling its role. After council members shared their views on how to proceed, a motion was introduced by council member Ben Pitterle to pass on the final report to the Sanctuary. The motion was seconded by council member Luhui Isha Ward, and then the council took a vote on whether to pass the motion. The **approved motion** read as follows: “The advisory council recommends that sanctuary staff carefully review the Marine Shipping Working Group final report, work in collaboration with other agencies and interested parties to continue pursuing the feasibility of various approaches listed within the report, and requests that sanctuary staff report back to the council on progress.” The motion was approved by a vote of 9 yes and 1 no, with 3 abstaining. Vote details:

Name	Seat	Vote
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Resources	Yes
David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Yes
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	Yes
Amanda Allen	Education	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Public At-Large #1	Yes
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	Yes
Richard Block	Public At-Large #2	Yes
Molly Troup	California Coastal Commission	Yes
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	Yes
John Ugoretz	Department of Defense	No
Kip Louttit	Business	Abstain
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management	Abstain
Julia Coates	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	Abstain

Presentation on Archaeological and Biological Assessment of Submerged Landforms Project from Dave Ball
 Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) Pacific Region Historic Preservation Officer and Tribal Liaison Dave Ball presented to the group on the planned study by BOEM and San Diego State University focused on identifying submerged geological landforms that may contain evidence of human activity. Dave explained that the overarching goal of the study is to create and refine a predictive model that will ultimately help to avoid disturbance of cultural sites and critical biological resources in future offshore development work. The project has been planned out in three phases along the Pacific coast, with the Channel Islands field portion estimated to be completed by the end of summer 2016. A few members of the council and some members of the public from the Chumash community raised concerns about some of the methods of this study, highlighting the fact that certain components—such as core sampling proposed for fungal analyses—might disturb culturally significant areas if cores are accidentally taken from unidentified sensitive sites within paleo-shorelines. Concerns were also raised about Chumash outreach and consultation steps being limited, late, and unsatisfactory during the planning of the study. Some felt that the timeline established by BOEM and San Diego State University had not been created with the goal of being inclusive of the Chumash community, and had not built in sufficient time for the Chumash people to establish an effective, representative working group to provide input. Presenter Dave Ball and BOEM Advisory Council member Donna Schroeder made note of and responded to these concerns, noting to the group that BOEM and partners on the project had reached out to Chumash community representatives several times throughout the planning process, though acknowledged that their methods of identifying proper representation for such a diverse community may have been imperfect. They also reminded the group that the overarching goal of the study is to create a model to identify and delineate potential paleo-shorelines with the hopes of avoiding damage to culturally significant sites, not to damage them.

Working Group Reports

Council members shared updates on Working Group items that had taken place since the March 2016 meeting. Council member Amanda Allen shared the update from the Sanctuary Education Team and noted that two science fairs were recently hosted in Santa Barbara. Council member Ben Pitterle shared an update from the Conservation Working Group and summarized the meeting on May 18, 2016. He explained that the Conservation Working Group discussed recent activities in the Bycatch Working Groups and MPA Collaborative Effort and there was a robust discussion regarding next steps on the Marine Shipping Working Group final report. Audio recordings of working group reports shared during the council meeting are available upon request.

Meeting Close-Out

Chair Dianne Black closed out the meeting and noted that the next council meeting will be held on Friday, July 15 in Ventura.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Meeting Attendance Roster (May 20, 2016)

Andrea Mills	Tourism	Absent
Garrett Kababik	Tourism - Alternate	Absent
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Absent
Michael Cohen	Business	Absent
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Present
<i>vacant</i>	Conservation	n/a
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Absent
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	Present
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Present
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Amanda Allen	Education	Present
Cliff Rodrigues	Education - Alternate	Present
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Absent
Phyllis Grifman	Public At Large #1	Present
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Richard Block	Public At Large #2	Present
Eric Kett	Public At Large #2 - Alternate	Present
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	Present
Mati Waiya	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	NOAA Fisheries	n/a
Shelby Mendez	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	Absent
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	National Park Service - Alternate	n/a
CDR Casey Hehr	US Coast Guard	Present
LCDR Joseph Giammanco	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	Present
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEM - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Present
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Absent
Craig Schuman	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Absent
Julia Coates	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alternate	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	CA Natural Resources Agency	n/a
Amy Vierra	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	Present
Molly Troup	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Present
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	Present
Anne Almy	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Absent
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	Ventura County - Alternate	n/a
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones NMS [non-voting]	Absent