

**CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**  
**Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting**

**Final Key Meeting Outcomes**  
Friday, July 15, 2016

Poinsettia Pavilion, Ventura, CA

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

**Administrative Business and Announcements**

At peak, there were a total of 19 SAC representatives in attendance representing 16 voting seats (see attached attendance roster). Public attendance peaked at about 15 individuals.

***Council Member Introductions***

CDR Romulus (Rom) Matthews, introduced himself to the group as the new primary US Coast Guard council member, replacing Casey Hehr. Rom is the Chief of Response at USCG Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach. He is responsible for Coast Guard Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement, Pollution Response, and Port Security Operations in an area of responsibility which includes more than 350 miles of California's coastline, ocean waters out to 200 miles offshore, and the nation's largest port complex. He also introduced local US Coast Guard representatives LT Jeremy Maginot and Chief Warrant Officer Ricketson with the Marine Safety Detachment in Santa Barbara.

New alternate US Coast Guard council member, LCDR Jason Brand, also took the opportunity to introduce himself to the group. Jason assumed his current duties as the Living Marine Resource officer for Coast Guard District Eleven in June 2016. He is responsible for Coast Guard law enforcement operations and policy oversight throughout the region, including counter-drug operations, alien-migrant interdiction, international border engagements, and living marine resources/marine protected species enforcement missions.

***May 20, 2016 Draft Key Outcomes***

The council voted to approve the May 20, 2016 SAC meeting draft key outcomes, which will be posted on the Sanctuary's website.

***Messages from the Chair***

Council Chair Dianne Black shared a few words on council conduct with the group to start off the day, reflecting on the May 20, 2016 meeting. She apologized that she wasn't able to better manage the commenting and interactions that took place during the BOEM/SDSU project presentation, and she regretted that at times the interactions were so harsh. She used the opportunity to remind the group to focus on the issues (not people), to be respectful of one another, to please speak through the Chair (raise your hand if you want to speak), and she explained that to reduce potential confusion only current council members will be seated at the table during council meetings.

***Sanctuary Superintendent's Report***

Standing in for Superintendent Chris Mobley, Deputy Superintendent for Programs Mike Murray welcomed the group, gave special thanks to the contingent of U.S. Coast Guard representatives present at the meeting, and asked Zac Schakner from the National Marine Fisheries Service to introduce himself and talk briefly about the work he's doing to implement recreational fishing policies and plans. Mike also provided some updates on ongoing projects throughout the sanctuary, including an update on the recruitment process for open seats on the advisory council. He thanked those who reapplied and helped to spread the word. Applications are currently under review for six of the open seats (Recreational Fishing primary, Recreational Fishing alternate, Chumash

Community primary, Chumash Community alternate, Conservation primary, and Public At-Large #1 alternate), but a decision was made to extend the application period for four of the seats (Education primary, Education alternate, Tourism primary, Tourism alternate) to allow all interested parties to apply. Mike also took the time to introduce three of the seven CINMS summer interns in attendance: Anita Harrington, Evelin Toth, and Sam Furtner.

### ***Update on Goleta Point Buoy***

Sanctuary Resource Protection intern Sam Furtner provided an update to the group on the status of and funding for the Goleta Point buoy, which, despite earlier reports in March stating otherwise, is in fact still in danger of removal due to a lack of funding. Sam shared that the Anacapa buoy, which had previously also been flagged for potential removal due to a lack of funding, had been confirmed to be funded by the Navy. However, unfortunately no funding source has yet been identified for the Goleta Point buoy. As of July the buoy was still in operation and reporting data, but the battery level was at 0-1% and so it is expected to shut off soon. Costs to continue operating the buoy come in at about \$30,000 per year, including operation and maintenance costs. Council members Eric Kett and Michael Cohen recommended the group take action to prevent the buoy from being removed by writing a letter from the council, and asked that members also consider reach out individually to explain the importance and utility of the data stream to local stakeholders.

### **Council Member Announcements**

A number of council members shared announcements (unrelated to meeting agenda items). Council member and Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau shared an update on efforts to reopen Scorpion Pier, explaining that he hopes the pier can be usable again by September, as the time requirement to fabricate a new gangway is about two months. He also mentioned recent sightings of the invasive alga *Undaria pinnatifidia* near west Anacapa Island, and asked the group to consider any advice for how to approach its control and removal. Council member Eric Kett commented on the warm water temperature, which has been hovering at about 68 degrees, and the high number of whales that have been present in the region this summer. Council member Molly Troup shared information regarding former sanctuary Sea Grant Fellow Morgan Visalli's California Coastal Trail coastwalk and encouraged members to follow and support her journey. Council member Merit McCrea shared that the warmer ocean temperatures have been affecting the types of fish aggregating in the region and mentioned that larger fish have been spotted recently off of northern Anacapa Island. Council member Mark Steele commented on significant kelp regrowth and a number of large fish being spotted and caught near Catalina. Council member CDR Rom Matthews thanked everyone for the warm welcome to the council and shared that the Coast Guard recently released a couple of rehabilitated juvenile elephant seals. Council Chair Dianne Black shared that the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors will review the Coast Guard's response to the Refugio oil spill on Tuesday. Council member Ben Pitterle shared that the Santa Barbara Channelkeeper has created a map for scuba divers to help raise awareness of local MPAs and help people who don't dive appreciate the resources that exist in our own marine backyard. Council secretary Michael Cohen also remarked on the invasive alga *Undaria pinnatifidia* and agreed that action should be taken as soon as possible to limit and prevent its spread. He also commented on the urgency of repairing and patching the pier at Scorpion Anchorage, noting that operating without it significantly limits the number of visitors that are able to visit the park and greatly affects all recreational businesses operating there. An audio recording of all council member announcements is available upon request to [jessica.morten@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.morten@noaa.gov).

### **Direct Marketing of Locally Caught Seafood Presentation from council member Stephanie Mutz**

Based on interest expressed at previous council meetings, council member and commercial fisherman Stephanie Mutz provided an engaging informational talk about local fisheries and efforts by local fishermen to increase consumption of locally sourced seafood. She shared that fishermen have become affiliated with local port organizations in an effort to promote local catch and sustainable seafood and shared some ongoing research projects that local fishermen have been and continue to be involved in. Stephanie urged the group to get to know their local fishermen, to spread the word about the importance of carefully sourcing sustainable seafood, and to buy directly from fishermen whenever possible. She also shared a sample of raw wild urchin with the group to taste. Audio recording of Stephanie's presentation can be made available upon request.

### **Sanctuary Condition Report update from Chris Caldwell**

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Research Coordinator Chris Caldwell shared an update on the sanctuary condition report process, and provided a sneak peek of what to expect. He explained that the report serves as a guidance document to policymakers in NOAA to assist in crafting the sanctuary management plan. He also shared that this most current report will feature a new section on ecosystem services, which will try to highlight the cultural benefits of the area and hopefully will help to elevate public appreciation of sanctuary waters. The last report was released in 2009 and this new edition is scheduled to be completed in 2017. Audio recording and/or a copy of his slides may be available upon request to [jessica.morten@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.morten@noaa.gov).

### **Nautilus Live Expedition update from Julie Bursek**

Education and Outreach Team Lead Julie Bursek provided a summary of the Nautilus Live interactive expedition currently underway in sanctuary waters. She shared that the research expedition's CINMS leg, which strives to map and explore previously uncharted territories of the sea floor, has been an exciting one so far, with fascinating things to see and new species sighted along the way.

### **Live Interactive session with Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley aboard the E/V Nautilus**

The council was connected to a live chat with sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley and Nautilus crew member Katelyn Standerfer as they continued their mapping expedition. Chris Mobley began by highlighting the importance of the expedition, noting that about 50% of the sanctuary seafloor had not been mapped, with new populations of deep sea corals being documented each day. With a current location off of San Miguel Island, Chris and Katelyn also shared that they had been seeing amazing rock formations and juvenile rockfish during the ROV dives and noted that they had also been keeping an eye out for lost fishing gear and were happy to report that so far there had not been a large amount of debris sighted. Chris Mobley signed off by giving a shout out to all sanctuary staff involved in the already fruitful expedition.

### **Public Comment**

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps member Marty Flam thanked Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley for his update on these activities and asked for more information on the ownership and operation of the NOAA ship *Shimada*, emphasizing that he and other volunteers would love the opportunity to get on board and help with the next expedition.

### **Southern California Seafloor Mapping Initiative update from Chris Caldwell and Nichia Huxtable**

After the live interaction with Chris Mobley aboard the E/V *Nautilus*, sanctuary Research Coordinator Chris Caldwell provided some context for and described the status of the seafloor mapping efforts underway. He explained that state waters have been mapped along the mainland from 0-3 nautical miles, but there is and has been a great need for a consistent map of the islands and a huge bulk of the sanctuary sea floor, leading to over 60 days being designated to this overarching mapping mission in 2016. NOAA Teacher At Sea Nichia Huxtable shared her experience aboard the NOAA ship *Shimada*, where she was able to observe and document mapping efforts, study these newly acquired data, and communicate the importance of these findings with her students and community.

### **Enforcement within the Sanctuary Presentation from Dayna Matthews**

West Coast Enforcement Coordinator Dayna Matthews from NOAA Office of Law Enforcement provided a report on enforcement within the sanctuary, including an explanation of how NOAA enforcement cases are handled and updates from the recent Technical Advisory Committee meeting. He explained that his responsibility is to act as liaison between all five sanctuaries along the west coast, to work with the Coast Guard, and to ensure that every fishery regulation goes through an analysis of enforceability. He provided an update on NOAA Office of Law Enforcement staffing and emphasized that the new staffing plan will bring the total number of enforcement officers working on the west coast to 58, though he made sure to highlight that partnerships with other state and federal partners such as the Coast Guard and the Park Service remain critical to operations and to effective enforcement.

### **Shipping and Whales update from Jess Morten**

Sanctuary Sea Grant Fellow Jess Morten provided an update to the council on items related to and coming out of the Marine Shipping Working Group. She began by providing a summary of local whale sightings, noting that a large number of animals had been congregating in a small area off of Santa Cruz Island, an area that unfortunately

overlaps with the southbound shipping lane. This large number of sightings in June prompted sanctuary staff to work with National Marine Fisheries Service and the Coast Guard to establish a whale advisory message and voluntary speed reduction zone in that area to alert mariners to the presence of whales and encourage them to slow down while transiting. She then provided an overview of recent incidents of whale mortalities and entanglements in southern California, noting that there has been an increase in incidents reported in the past few months.

She also provided an overview of the 2016 Channel Islands Region Vessel Speed Reduction Program, which was modeled off of the 2014 program and was rolled in out in June. She noted that the program, which pays ships to transit through the region at 12 knots or less to achieve both air emission and whale conservation benefits, has been scaled up from its pilot year in 2014 to include a southern VSR zone to the south of the Channel Islands, and which also includes a bonus payment incentive scale that allows shipping lines to opt-in on additional conservation-minded actions. Jess closed the session by sharing a recent whale/container ship avoidance incident with the group and saluted the actions of Captain David Beezer of the Condor Express for his successful effort to alert and re-route a steaming container ship to and around blue and humpback whales in the shipping lane. A copy of her slides and an audio recording of her presentation may be available upon request to [jessica.morten@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.morten@noaa.gov).

### **Public Comment**

Michael H. Smith, Project Coordinator for the Gray Whales count of the Santa Barbara Channel, asked whether NOAA had been receiving whale sightings information from container ships passing through the channel prior to the 2016 Vessel Speed Reduction program, and highlighted that two other successful whale/ship avoidance incidents had taken place last year. Jess Morten responded that they had not received any voluntary whale sightings information from vessels outside of the program, but that they had already seen surprising and exciting levels of engagement and participation from vessels enrolled in the first month of the program, demonstrating the potential to engage further with the shipping community on this front.

### **Working Group Reports**

Council members shared updates on Working Group items that had taken place since the March 2016 meeting:

- Research Activities Panel (RAP) - No report at this meeting.
- Marketing Subcommittee – Council member and council secretary Michael Cohen highlighted increased traffic on the sanctuary Facebook page, especially with respect to content related to the recent Nautilus expedition. He recommended council members make sure to help boost post “likes” and stay engaged on the social media front.
- Sanctuary Education Team (SET) – No report at this meeting.
- Recreational Fishing Working Group – No report at this meeting.
- Commercial Fishing Working Group – No report at this meeting.
- Conservation Working Group – Council member and conservation seat alternate seat Greg Helms updated the group on the Conservation Working Group meeting that took place on July 14. He noted that they engaged in a productive conversation about MPAs locally and on the new voluntary seasonal vessel speed reduction project for the Santa Barbara Channel. Notes are available from this meeting upon request to [jessica.morten@noaa.gov](mailto:jessica.morten@noaa.gov).
- Chumash Community Working Group – Council member and Chumash Community primary seat Luhui Isha Ward shared that on September 24 the south coast MPA Collaborative will have an education and outreach event at Zuma Beach from 9am-4pm. The event will feature lots of activities, including surfing and kayaking, and the Chumash community will be starting off the day with an opening prayer.

### **Meeting Close Out**

Council Chair Dianne Black reminded the council that upcoming SAC meetings will be held on:

- Friday, September 16 at the Santa Barbara Zoo
- Friday, November 18 in Ventura

## Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Meeting Attendance Roster (July 15, 2016)

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Andrea Mills	Tourism	Present
Garrett Kababik	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
Michael Cohen	Business	Present
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	Conservation	n/a
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	Present
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Absent
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Amanda Allen	Education	Absent
Cliff Rodrigues	Education - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Absent
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman	Public At Large #1	Absent
Victor Cox	Public At Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Richard Block	Public At Large #2	Absent
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	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	National Park Service - Alternate	n/a
CDR Rom Matthews	US Coast Guard	Present
LCDR Jason Brand	US Coast Guard – Alternate	Present
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	Absent
Dr. Ann Bull	BOEM - Alternate	Absent
John Ugoretz	Dept. of Defense	Absent
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
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	Absent
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]	Absent
Mike Murray	Channel Islands NMS – Alternate [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