

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

Final Key Meeting Outcomes  
Friday, January 26, 2018  
Santa Barbara Zoo, 500 Ninos Drive, Santa Barbara, CA

*Please note: This summary will be posted [online](#) once approved by the council. Audio recordings are available upon request from [aubrie.fowler@noaa.gov](mailto:aubrie.fowler@noaa.gov).*

***Administrative Business and Announcements***

Twenty-five council representatives attended the January meeting representing 18 voting seats (Appendix 1). Public attendance peaked at six individuals.

Phyllis Grifman, Council Chair, called the meeting to order and thanked the Santa Barbara Zoo for hosting.

***November 17, 2017 Draft Key Outcomes***

The council unanimously voted to approve the key outcomes from the November meeting. Copies of these documents are available upon request to [michael.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov). They also will be posted on the sanctuary's [website](#).

***Sanctuary Superintendent's Report***

Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley began his remarks by acknowledging the hardships in the community, including Park and Sanctuary volunteers and staff, due to the Thomas Fire and mudslides, which was followed by a moment of silence. Chris Mobley thanked the council members for their involvement in the advisory council.

Chris Mobley acknowledged the recent short closure of the Federal government, mentioned the current temporary Congressional continuing resolution federal budget situation, and noted the resulting uncertain about future sanctuary funding levels. He also shared that on December 13, a commercial squid fishing vessel caught fire and sunk south of Smugglers Cove, Santa Cruz Island in deep water; the U.S. Coast Guard is investigating the incident and the sanctuary is working with the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement. Lastly, Chris provided praise to California Sea Grant Fellow Aubrie Fowler, participating in her last council meeting as her 1-year appointment draws to a close, and he encouraged council members to discuss job opportunities with her.

After the Superintendent's Report, Deputy Superintendent Mike Murray played a short video from the [Office of National Marine Sanctuaries](#) recognizing the National Marine Sanctuary System's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

***National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit Report***

Council Chair, Phyllis Grifman, talked about what she had learned at a recent National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit held the week before in San Francisco. She mentioned that some of the group discussion highlights focused on topics such as shipwrecks and marine heritage, west coast sanctuary sites and their commonalities, and boating impact issues at the Florida Keys.

Phyllis also mentioned that the Summit provided her with a good opportunity to network with other council chairs, including Cordell Bank Chair Lisa Swanson, from Matson Navigation Company. Phyllis explained that at the Summit she was happy to represent and discuss the Marine Shipping Working Group and Vessel Speed Reduction Program, including showing the film: “[Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies](#).” Phyllis noted that coming out of the Summit there will now be more support for promoting communications among west coast advisory council chairs.

### ***Council Member Brief Announcements***

Council members went around the table and shared news about recent events unrelated to the meeting agenda. Audio recordings are available upon request to [michael.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov).

#### **Sea Level Rise**

Council Chair, Phyllis Grifman introduced Dr. Juliette Hart and their shared work history. Juliette Hart is an Oceanographer and Director of Outreach for the U.S. Geological Survey’s (USGS) Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center. Using data from Sea Level Rise (SLR) models developed by a team of modelers, Juliette communicates the science to others. A USGS 2011 study of the west coast includes a range of predictions; they continue to track with satellites and predict SLR through 2030. Juliette shared that impacts of SLR include effects on navigation, altered beach and shore safety, and increased erosion rates. Juliette connected SLR to king tides, which are regularly occurring extreme swings in tidal height.

Using the Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS) model to predict what SLR might do to coastline areas, USGS has been working closely with Scripps; the next step will be scaling up to include local hazards projections (e.g., for storm events). The CoSMoS modeling approach includes physics, wind, waves, pressure shoreline change, a range of SLR and storm scenarios, river discharge and storm surge, and seasonal effects. Overall, the SLR models predict an area’s vulnerability to SLR, including consideration of four types of storms, including a rare and extreme 100-year storm.

The CoSMoS model coverage includes many regions in California. Juliette focused in on areas of likely interest to the council, starting with Scorpion Ranch on Santa Cruz Island, which is vulnerable to flooding. The public can check out [www.ourcoastourfuture.org](http://www.ourcoastourfuture.org) to view the SLR models, however, the Channel Islands data is coming soon. For Santa Barbara County, there is a need to plan ahead and apply the socioeconomic analyses conducted in the area to assess the people, businesses, and roads that would be impacted by SLR. For more information, visit [www.usgs.gov/apps.hera](http://www.usgs.gov/apps.hera).

Council member discussion revolved around SLR modeling for the Channel Islands, Scorpion Pier, and suggestions for where and how to get good elevation data. The council brought up using citizen science to validate the models with photographs. Phyllis Grifman mentioned the mobile app called Liquid (download at: <https://getliquid.io/home>) developed by University of Southern California Sea Grant, important for ground-truthing.

**Public Comment Period** (#1 of 2) Vic Cox asked about why it is difficult for USGS to

obtain good elevation data for the Channel Islands. Juliette responded, and there was also discussion about the definitions of a 100-year storm.

### **Island/Sanctuary Visitor Transport Services: Island Packers Profile**

Mike Murray introduced this session as a continuation of a potential new small business series for the Sanctuary Advisory Council, which began with Michael Cohen's presentation on Channel Islands Adventure Company and the Park concession. Council member Andrea Mills (Island Packers Education Coordinator) presented an Islands Packers Company profile. Andrea highlighted the types of visitor, education and research support services they provide within Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Island Packers was started 50 years ago by the Connelly family, a family business that continues to treat employees like family. Andrea shared a history of Island Packers, from the days of skiffing people to island shores and taking visitors to a hunting club, to the addition in the 1980s of Park infrastructure to assist with island access, to Island Packers building modern catamarans (their current vessels) in 2001, 2003, and 2013. Over time they have noted a change in visitor attitudes to a more recreational focus, especially with the establishment of the National Park and The Nature Conservancy preserve at the Channel Islands.

Andrea discussed their focus on supporting local wildlife viewing, including whales, sea turtles, and seabirds. Island Packers is also involved in special community events such as the Chumash Tomol Crossing, and they continue to look to broaden the special trips they offer customers.

Island Packers supports a variety of school field trips to the islands, and also research projects (e.g. water quality and Brown Pelican surveys, tidepool exploration); they share information acquired during research collaborations with their passengers to further connect them with the ocean. Additionally, their crew are all trained as naturalists and outdoor educators.

Island Packers is environmentally conscientious: they pick up many mylar balloons in the Santa Barbara Channel, use unpainted hulls on their vessels, and use fuel efficient engines. Andrea shared that Island Packers is committed to the community, customer service, and relationships with partners.

Council member discussion brought up the issue of preventing invasive species, including praise for the Park's biosecurity team and the importance of camping gear inspections. Chris Mobley suggested the possibility of visitor donation collections to support underserved youth visiting the islands. Along with the Condor Express, Island Packers also provided transportation to those affected by the recent extended 101 freeway closure. Several council members praised Island Packers for all they do for visitors, their employees, and the community.

### **Recognizing Outgoing Council Member: Dianne Black**

Mike Murray recognized long-time council member and frequent Chair Dianne Black for

her 19 years of service and commitment to the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). Mike applauded Dianne for her dedication to leading the council, and for her recent job promotion at Santa Barbara County. Defined with Dianne's help, the spirit of the council and its organizational culture was built through Dianne's committed leadership. Mike shared his gratitude for Dianne's contribution of countless hours, for her continuity of leadership, and for her guidance to our staff, especially to Mike, to whom she has served as a mentor. Chris Mobley added that Dianne maintained a great culture for the advisory council, even during contentious times, such as the marine reserves process. Dianne responded that she felt honored to work with this great group and to provide what she could give: leading, thinking through agendas, making sure everyone is heard, and building a constituency. Mike gave Dianne Black a card signed by council members and the council's original meeting gavel in honor of her legacy.

### **Draft Proposed Program for Outer Continental Shelf Oil & Gas Lease Sales**

Mike Murray (CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs) introduced the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) draft proposed (5-year) program for outer continental shelf (OCS) oil and gas lease sales, and the opening of a 60-day comment period. BOEM was invited to attend and present this information, but was unable to make it to the meeting. Mike mentioned (multiple times), that more information can be found online [here](#). Mike also explained that council member Kristen Hislop had drafted a proposed comment letter for possible council adoption. Mike oriented people to the process of submitting a comment, the review process, and what the background is for this proposal. The public comment period ends on March 9, 2018 (visit [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) for more information). BOEM will host several public meetings, including a meeting in Sacramento on February 8.

Mike addressed some confusion that this proposal has brought up relating to Executive Order (E.O.) 13795 ([Implementing an America-First Offshore Energy Strategy](#)) explaining that BOEM's current proposal is not a response EO review's call for national marine sanctuaries to be reviewed, but instead is in response to a different section of the EO. Mike also emphasized that BOEM's Draft Proposed Program does not introduce any new regulatory or legal authority that would roll back existing federal regulations that currently restrict oil and gas activities within sanctuaries, such as at CINMS. Further, Mike pointed out that a Section 5 of EO 13795 indicates that areas within national marine sanctuaries designated as of July 14, 2008 would be withdrawn from disposition by leasing.

Kristen Hislop then explained her proposed draft letter. She noted that all of the west coast is under consideration for possible leasing, and as such the proposed letter expresses opposition to any lease sales on the West Coast given the presence of five national marine sanctuaries and the ability for oil and gas impacts to travel long distances. Kristen explained that the proposed letter is broad and high-level like a resolution that the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recently adopted. Chair Phyllis Grifman asked for council questions and requested minimal wordsmithing.

Some council members asked about the appropriateness of the council expressing views

about actions far beyond CINMS boundaries, and several members encouraged supporting neighboring sanctuaries. Considerable discussion revolved around which regions to call out in the letter that the council would be in opposition to seeing potentially leased for oil and gas activities, and the idea of supporting other sanctuaries and their letter views. Also discussed was how over time (from when oil and gas exploration surveys were being conducted, until now) the activities and dynamics within the Santa Barbara Channel have changed, with members recalling the negative effects on fishing from seismic surveys, the return of blue whale populations, vessel traffic patterns, and more.

Council members discussed concerns about the promotion of oil consumption hampering the growth in renewable energy development, particularly in California. The council expressed interest in adding statistics about the economic value of sanctuary ecosystem services, as in the E.O. 13795 comment letter. Led by Kristen Hislop, a few members of the council had a small side discussion about the draft letter in an attempt to incorporate the various suggestions that had been made by council members.

**Public Comment Period (#2 of 2)** Public comments included upcoming community meeting announcements shared by Lee Moldaver.

#### **Vote on the Draft Comment Letter**

Kristen Hislop re-presented the proposed letter to the council, now reflecting a variety of changes based on comments from members. Efforts were made to alter language in the letter so that all council members could support the geographic scope of areas that the letter expressed concerns about and opposition to future oil and gas leasing (“any portion of the Pacific Region that could adversely impact national marine sanctuaries in the 2019-2024 DPP, most notably the CINMS and surrounding Santa Barbara Channel Region”). A motion was made and seconded, followed by a roll call vote. The motion carried by a vote total of 11 yes and 1 no, with 3 abstaining. See Appendix 2 for final letter and member voting record.

#### **Update on ONMS/NMFS/SAC Recreational Fishing Team**

Mike Murray introduced the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and Sanctuary Advisory Council recreational fishing topic to the council. Captain David Bacon recently participated in a conference call after attending the ONMS/NMFS Recreational Fishing Summit one year ago. Captain David provided an overview of their agenda and outlined some of the team’s accomplishments and progress to date from around the sanctuary system.

Captain David discussed the value of attending trade shows and engaging more with the fishing community and recreational anglers. He explains that fishing happens here in a National Marine Sanctuary. Additionally, collaborations like the “Take Me Fishing” program supports recreational fishing. In the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa, fishing is a very accepted activity, which Captain David feels is different than along the coast of California.

Captain David hopes that the pier fishing community of Subsistence Anglers might gain access to some sanctuary fishing experiences. He has been doing a lot of work to support the needs of this overlooked community, starting with bringing more awareness to their existence, significance, and basic needs. Subsistence anglers fish for different and lower value species than other recreational anglers. Council member Ben Pitterle helped connect him to accomplish a needs assessment with a consultant, which he is pursuing. Captain David also plans to write a letter or article on this issue.

Captain David believes the population of subsistence fishers, which has been under-accounted for, is the largest of the fishing groups (as compared to commercial and other recreational fishers). He noted that subsistence fishers speak a variety of languages, which can be a barrier to communicating with them.

### **Vessel Speed Reduction Program**

Aubrie Fowler, Resource Protection fellow, shared the highlights about how the 2017 Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Program wrapped up. She reminded the council about the expansion of the program to include the San Francisco Bay Area, and about the reduced incentive payment amounts. Overall, nearly three times as many transits were enrolled in 2017 as compared to 2016, and the VSR Program continues to grow. Emissions reductions calculations by Starcrest Consulting Group LLC were still in-progress at this time. Looking ahead, Aubrie shared that sanctuary staff and partners are considering a fleet-based approach after learning from industry representatives during recent exit interview calls. She also mentioned that a special awards ceremony would be held on March 1<sup>st</sup> in Long Beach to recognize and thank participating shipping lines.

### **2017 Recap and Identification of 2018 Council Work Topics**

Mike Murray thanked Aubrie Fowler for her time with CINMS as a California Sea Grant Fellow, and for helping to lead the advisory council. Aubrie Fowler expressed gratitude for the council and their mentorship to her over the past year. Aubrie also highlighted her major projects, including ship strikes and whales, invasive algae, and island shoreline cleanups.

Council members received copies of the 2017 work topic priorities, including notes on progress made. They also received a new list of staff-suggested topics for them to consider in 2018, along with room for many write-in topics of council interest. However, in the interest of time, Mike indicated he would follow-up over email to ask council members for their input on priority topics.

### **Working Group Reports**

Council members shared brief updates on Working Groups and Subcommittee activities and plans.

- ***Chumash Community Working Group***: Alicia Cordero shared that there are no working group announcements at this time.
- ***Research Activities Panel (RAP)***: Bob Warner said the RAP plans to meet on March 9, 2018.
- ***Marketing Subcommittee***: Michael Cohen shared they plan to schedule a phone

call; the previous attempts to hold a call were postponed because of the recent natural disasters.

- ***Sanctuary Education Team:*** Cliff Rodrigues said he and CINMS Education Team lead, Julie Bursek, aim to meet before the next council meeting.
- ***Recreational Fishing Working Group:*** Captain David Bacon said the recreational fishing trade show season is coming so he will discuss this at the March advisory council meeting.
- ***Commercial Fishing Working Group:*** Mike Murray shared a few remarks on behalf of commercial fishing seat alternate John Hoadley, who had to depart from the meeting earlier. Mike mentioned that John had indicated a willingness to share information with the council concerning new developments in the sea urchin fishery (including a reduction in the number of permits being issues), and that he feels that addressing the problem of mylar balloon pollution is an important marine issue.
- ***Conservation Working Group (CGW):*** Kristen Hislop mentioned that at their recent working group meeting Sean Hastings had provided updates about the Coal Oil Point Reserve marine radar station, which has been tracking vessels for the last six months to acquire vessel use data. She also mentioned that there will be an enforcement technologies meeting at Scripps Institute of Oceanography on May 15.

### **Meeting Close Out**

Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley wished everyone safety and wellness. Aubrie Fowler reminded the council about the upcoming meeting in Ventura:

- March 16, 2018

Meeting adjourned.

## APPENDIX 1

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster (January 26, 2018)

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Andrea Mills	Tourism	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Tourism - Alternate	n/a
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Present
Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Absent
Michael Cohen	Business	Present
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Present
Kristen Hislop	Conservation	Present
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Present
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	Absent
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Present
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Present
Cliff Rodrigues	Education	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Education - Alternate	n/a
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Present
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Present
Phyllis Grifman	Public at Large #1	Present
Judy Willens	Public at Large #1 - Alternate	Present
Richard Block	Public at Large #2	Present
Eric Kett	Public at Large #2 - Alternate	Absent
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	Absent
Alicia Cordero	Chumash Community - Alternate	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	NOAA Fisheries	n/a
<i>Vacant</i>	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	n/a
Russell Galipeau	National Park Service	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	National Park Service - Alternate	n/a
CDR Lushan Hannah	US Coast Guard	Present
LCDR Jason Brand	US Coast Guard - Alternate	Absent
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	BOEM - Alternate	n/a
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense	Present
Claudia Makeyev	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Dr. Julia Coates	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Absent
John Ugoretz	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alternate	Absent
Jenn Eckerle	CA Natural Resources Agency	Present
Paige Berube	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alternate	Absent
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
<i>Vacant</i>	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	n/a
Dianne Black	Santa Barbara County	Absent
Errin Briggs	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present

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Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Present
<i>Vacant</i>	Ventura County - Alternate	n/a
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
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 - Alternate [non-voting]	Absent