

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes
Friday, September 20, 2019
Santa Barbara Zoo
500 Ninos Drive, Santa Barbara CA 93103

Administrative Business and Announcements

Twenty-four representatives attended the September meeting representing 16 voting seats (see Appendix 1). Public attendance included approximately 12 individuals in the morning, and five in the afternoon. Council Chair Phyllis Grifman called the meeting to order and welcomed new members to the council. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Deputy Superintendent Michael Murray called role.

Moment of Reflection for victims of the m/v Conception Tragedy

Council Chair Grifman began the meeting by calling for a moment of reflection to honor the victims of the *m/v Conception* tragedy that took place in early September. During this time members of the council shared their thoughts and emotions related to this devastating event. Superintendent Chris Mobley noted the response by CINMS staff and their ongoing support of the investigation.

Recognizing Incoming Members

After the moment of reflection Council Chair Grifman asked the two newest members of the council to introduce themselves: LCDR Lee Crusius, U.S. Coast Guard District 11 living marine resources division (council alternate) and Carlos Mireles, California Department of Fish and wildlife (council member).

May 17, 2019 Draft Key Outcomes

The council unanimously voted to approve the key outcomes from the July 19, 2019 meeting. Copies of these documents are available upon request from pike.spector@noaa.gov. They will also be posted on the Sanctuary's website.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Chris Mobley began his report by introducing Shawn Choy from the National Ocean Service (at NOAA's headquarters) who is on a temporary detail with CINMS to assist with the management plan revision process. Mobley then went on to mention a collaborative expedition with the National Geographic and the Ocean Exploration Trust to map submerged caves around the Channel Islands. This effort involved the use of technical cave diving, LiDAR, photogrammetry and autonomous underwater vehicles.

Mobley then acknowledged a sanctuary shoreline cleanup on August 2nd orchestrated by CINMS staff and volunteers, an intern from the Bren School, NOAA's Marine Debris Program, and volunteer fishermen. This beach cleanup took place at Chinese Harbor on Santa Cruz Island; collectively the volunteers removed 1,240 pounds of trash. This report was followed by a synopsis of CINMS's participation in an international deep-sea coral symposium in Columbia, and an overview of CINMS involvement in the annual Get into Your Sanctuary weekend as part of an Office of National Marine Sanctuaries initiative.

Council Member Brief Announcements

Council members shared news and announcements about recent events unrelated to the meeting agenda. Audio recordings are available upon request from pike.spector@noaa.gov.

Emergency Response Summary for *m/v Conception*

CINMS resource protection program manager Sean Hastings described the incident response chain of command and introduced attending responders. Hastings noted the response by Towboat US operator Paul Amaral, who was one of the initial first responders on the scene. Hastings went on to mention that salvage efforts are still underway and noted that there is still a lot of debris in the park and sanctuary.

Hastings then introduced LCDR Jack Smith (US Coast Guard) and Lt. Brian Olmstead (Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department). LCDR Smith described the incident and response from start to finish and described basic layout of the *Conception*. He went on to describe the response area (Platt's Harbor) and the challenges associated with the area. All of the responders are working with small vessels from state, federal, and local agencies. Smith went on to describe aerial and vessel surveys for debris and wreckage.

Lt. Olmstead described the Sheriff's dive team, who led subsurface search efforts. Olmstead noted that there has been a lot of support for dive team salvage efforts. He noted that National Park Service dives and the Santa Barbara Sheriffs dive teams have trained together, which made this effort even more cooperative. LA Sherriff also flew in dive teams. Olmstead and Smith closed with emotional comments.

Nominations and Election for Council Chair

Deputy Superintendent Michael Murray began by saying that the council Chair can serve two, but not three, consecutive terms. Current council chair Phyllis Grifman is eligible for a 2nd term; Secretary Robert Warner and Executive Vice Chair Michael Cohen nominated current chair Grifman, who accepted. No other nominations were put forward; Council Chair Grifman was unanimously approved for a second term.

Guest Presentation: Marine Forecasting and Buoys (slides available upon request)

The council welcomed Dr. James Behrens from the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP), who presented on CDIP's wave data, models, and forecasts in the Channel Islands region. Dr. Behrens introduced CDIP and the program itself, which started in 1975. Currently, there are approximately 70 wave buoy stations worldwide, 23 of which are in California. CDIP is currently run by 13 staff members and receives funding from the US Army Corp of engineers, California State Parks, and NavAir (US Navy), among others. Dr. Behrens then gave a brief overview of wave motions and dynamics. He went on to talk about how CDIP's buoys are made and tested. Dr. Behrens then described the difference between the CDIP "waverider" buoys (handmade by a Swiss watchmaker), and the NOAA buoys in the CDIP array. Dr. Behrens noted that Southern California is a very difficult place to model waves given the coastline, Channel Islands, and dynamic currents. He noted the loss of Goleta Point and Anacapa passage buoys because of funding issues but hopes that replacements can be paid for in the near future. The council then asked several questions, mainly related to the loss of the Goleta Point and Anacapa passage buoys.

Following questions, the council then welcomed Ryan Kittell, a forecaster and marine program manager for the National Weather Service (NOAA) in Oxnard, California. Mr. Kittell introduced the National Weather Service (NWS), which maintains 122 offices around the USA and territories. These stations are open around the clock, there are always at least two forecasters on staff. The Oxnard station covers the nearshore Santa Barbara Channel region out to 60 nautical miles, from Central California to Dana Point. As noted in the mission statement, the NWS exists to protect life, property, and enhancement of the national economy; forecasting for mariners includes recreational and commercial vessels and, as Mr. Kittell noted, provides data that affect commerce. Mr. Kittell described the nuances of forecasting, including the tools and instruments that generate the data necessary to accurately provide forecasts. He concluded by saying that several NOAA buoys are in need of repair, but that the USCG plans to aid in servicing them in October 2019. Several council questions followed, mainly related to the technology and instrumentation that allows for accurate forecasting.

Public Comment Period (#1 of 2)

No comments.

Guest Presentation: Gray Whales Count (slides available upon request)

Dr. Robert Warner, council secretary, introduced Mr. Michael Smith, project coordinator for Gray Whales Count, who presented on 15 years of local gray whale surveying. Mr. Smith described the inception of Gray Whales Count, which was started in conjunction with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History. As of 2016, volunteers have logged 2,700 hours counting migrating gray whales from Coal Oil Point (as well as other migratory organisms). Over the last 15 years volunteers have helped identify routes taken by migrating gray whales; Mr. Smith noted that the whales tend to stay in the outer waters of the Santa Barbara Bight on their southbound migration and remain inside the bight on their northbound migration. Mr. Smith has documented the differences in migration patterns and routes between cows associated with calves, and those not associated with calves. Mr. Smith mentioned that in 2018 and 2019 northbound gray whales have generally taken a straight shot from Ensenada to Point Conception, which is typically not their normal migration route. This could be, in part, related to the gray whale unusual mortality event declared by the National Marine Fisheries Service earlier in 2019. Mr. Smith concluded by thanking his volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Several pointed council questions followed; the council also acknowledged Mr. Smith's hard work and contributions.

Management Plan Revision Process (slides available upon request)

CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs Michael Murray began his presentation by announcing the public scoping period for the management plan revision process would begin on October 1st with the release of the official Notice of Intent on in the Federal Register, and that it will end on November 15th. Murray then announced that there will be two public scoping meetings in October, one in Santa Barbara (Oct 22nd) and the other in Ventura (Oct 23rd).

Murray then gave a brief overview of the revision process, noting the tentative timeline and various steps involved. He shared preliminary priority topics as identified by CINMS staff, which included partner-based management, climate-driven impacts, collaborative research and monitoring, outreach and education initiatives, and others. Murray concluded that CINMS staff will share a synthesis of public comments at the November

15th advisory council meeting, and that the council will have the opportunity to develop and submit a council scoping comment letter at that meeting. A lengthy discussion followed this presentation in which council members expressed their interest in involvement in this process and gave their recommendations on how to proceed.

Public Comment Period (#2 of 2)

No Comments

SAC Charter Renewal

CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs Michael Murray announced that the SAC's five-year charter is due for renewal. The charter is the foundational document that gives authority to the council and provides a framework under which the council operates. Murray has compared the council's current charter to the national charter model and found no substantive disparities. Murray noted that the charter can be also be modified at any time after it is renewed, should there be council interest. Based on the discussion and review of the marked-up charter handout provided, council members offered general support for renewing the charter at this time, with no dissent expressed.

Working Group Reports

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

- *Chumash Community Working Group*. No report, however . Council Chair Grifman noted that USC Sea Grant has received a grant to help create classroom curriculum that is based on the Chumash ecosystem assessment (from the 2016 CINMS Condition Report).
- *Research Activities Panel*. No report.
- *Marketing Subcommittee*. Business seat member Michael Cohen gave an update on CINMS social media “likes” and “shares” on Facebook and Twitter. Mr. Cohen expressed a desire for council members to continue to “like” and “share” CINMS Facebook and Twitter posts whenever possible.
- *Sanctuary Education Team*. Education Member Cliff Rodrigues mentioned that the CINMS-lead White Abalone Workshop is scheduled to take place in February 2020, and that CINMS staff are working with the Santa Barbara Sea Center and National Park Service.
- *Recreational Fishing Working Group*. No report.
- *Commercial Fishing Working Group*. No report.
- *Conservation Working Group*. Conservation Member Kristen Hislop gave an update on the donation of a remotely operated vehicle to the Santa Barbara Channel MPA Collaborative, which will be used for live dives with a variety of partners. Ms. Hislop then gave a brief update on SB69 (the ocean resiliency bill), which is currently held up in appropriations and is now a “two-year bill”. Finally, Ms. Hislop noted that the Environmental Defense Center will take part in a weeklong offshore wind conference with working groups in Morro Bay and Humboldt, California.

Meeting Close Out

- Superintendent Michael Murray displayed the 2020 advisory council meeting schedule, which was approved by the council:
 - Friday, January 24, 2020 – Santa Barbara Zoo
 - Friday, March 20, 2020 -- Ventura
 - Friday, May 15, 2020 – Santa Barbara
 - Friday, July 17, 2020 -- Oxnard or Ventura

- Friday, September 18, 2020 – Santa Barbara
- Friday, November 20, 2020 -- Ventura
- Council Chair Phyllis Grifman thanked everyone for attending.

Meeting adjourned

APPENDIX 1: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster

<u>Name</u>	<u>Advisory Council Seat</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Andrea Mills	Tourism	Absent
Morgan Coffey	Tourism - Alternate	Present
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Absent
Dr. Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alternate	Present
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	Absent
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Present
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Absent
Cliff Rodrigues	Education	Present
<vacant>	Education - Alternate	
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
Mary Byrd	Public at Large #2 - Alternate	Present
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	Absent
Alicia Cordero	Chumash Community - Alternate	Absent
Laura McCue	NOAA Fisheries	Present
<vacant>	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	
<vacant>	National Park Service	
Ken Convery	National Park Service - Alternate	Absent
CDR Jason Noggle	US Coast Guard	Absent
LCDR Less Crusius	US Coast Guard - Alternate	Present
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	Present
Jeremy Potter	BOEM - Alternate	Absent
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense	Present
Greg Sanders	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Present
Carlos Mireles	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Present
John Ugoretz	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alternate	Present
Jenn Eckerle	CA Natural Resources Agency	Absent
Paige Berube	CA Natural Resources Agency – Alternate	Absent
Dr. Jonna Engel	CA Coastal Commission	Absent
Jacqueline Phelps	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Present
Errin Briggs	Santa Barbara County	Absent
David Villalobos	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	Present
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Absent
Mark Sandoval	Ventura County - Alternate	Present
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Present
Mike Murray	Channel Islands NMS - Alternate [non-	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-	Absent