

# CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, March 20, 2020

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Online Webinar Session

### FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes

*This advisory council meeting was recorded in full as a GoToWebinar online session, which is available for viewing/listening here:*

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7916413756931285507>

#### **Administrative Business and Announcements**

Twenty-five council members attended the March 20th online meeting, representing 16 voting seats (see Appendix 1). Public attendance included approximately 8 individuals logged in to the online session. Council Chair Phyllis Grifman called the meeting to order, describing how the online session would be run. CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs Michael Murray called role.

#### ***January 24, 2020 Draft Key Outcomes***

By unanimous voice vote, the council approved the draft key outcomes from the January 24, 2020 advisory council meeting. A copy of this document is available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov. The meeting notes will also be posted on the sanctuary's website.

#### ***Sanctuary Superintendent's Report***

Superintendent Chris Mobley acknowledged the challenges that the COVID-19 situation is bringing to so many people, and expressed support. Mr. Mobley characterized the adjustments that have been made at CINMS in order to deal with the situation, noting that staff are almost exclusively teleworking from home, the office is closed to visitors, travel has halted, the annual volunteer recognition event hosted by the park and sanctuary is postponed, the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps is not currently active, and most of the CINMS research vessel cruises will be rescheduled. Mobley also mentioned that the budget allocation to CINMS for had recently been received, noting that it will be tight but survivable, and that the sanctuary's numerous partnerships really help. Mobley went on to talk about a series of recent sanctuary program activities, showing slides too. This included mention of the CINMS research vessel Shark Cat supporting a recent mooring deployment through use of a new launch platform table constructed by vessel crew, and a related recent vessel trip involving students that got to participate in the swap-out of four sound trap monitoring sites. Mobley also mentioned the nice award ceremony event in January honoring a Blue Parks Award recognizing the Channel Islands MPA Network. Mobley thanked several council members that helped to plan and conduct an important whote abalone workshop recently held at the Santa Barbara Sea Center, and also thanked Islands Packers for letting our vessel crew participate in a recent life raft deployment safety drill. Mobley also thanked the U.S. Coast Guard for recently included sanctuary staff in a tour of their air assets placed at Point Mugu and for their continued offer of air-based assistance supporting the sanctuary's mission. Mobley wrapped up by mentioning some local news stories, one of which was an article about ocean acidification written by council member Capt. David Bacon.

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

Council members shared a variety of announcements about recent events unrelated to the meeting agenda. A recording of these member announcements can be listened to online here: <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7916413756931285507>.

**Benioff Ocean Initiative: Reducing Collisions Between Ships and Whales** (presentation slides may available upon request to [mvisalli@ucsb.edu](mailto:mvisalli@ucsb.edu), or can be viewed at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7916413756931285507>)

Morgan Visalli gave a presentation about the Benioff Ocean Initiative's development of new tools and information to help address the issue of whale ship strikes in the Santa Barbara Channel. Ms. Visalli highlighted the developing components of a web-based system to be called "Whale Safe". She described the latest blue whale distribution modeling that had been developed to feed into the system, and also explained how an acoustic subsurface listening station is now moored in the Santa Barbara Channel recording and reporting whales daily through vocal recognition. Visalli also explained how existing sources of whale sightings data, including from the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps, are being used within the system, as well as how AIS ship tracking data is incorporated. Regarding shipping behavior, Visalli explained how the Whale Safe tool will provide information about the extent of cooperation by shipping lines with requested voluntary slow speed zones. Finally, Visalli explained how the tool could provide an alert about current whale presence (predicted and observed) and indicate if there is currently a whale advisory zone in effect. Several council members expressed appreciation for all of the work that the project had produced, and noted that the progress links back to ideas raised during the work of the advisory council's Marine Shipping Working Group a few years ago.

### **Public Comment Period**

Local urchin fisherman Lance Maassen addressed the council to raise awareness and talk about concerns with macrocystis kelp forest degradation being observed in California. His focus is on a community-based kelp restoration effort that could be based at San Miguel Island, and noted that kelp loss could be affecting abalone. Mr. Maassen noted that additional kelp forest canopy coverage maps seem to be needed.

Ali Whitmer asked if anyone could provide information about a recently halted National Park Service "Kids in Parks" web ranger program. Unfortunately, there was no-one on the Webinar that had that information.

**CINMS Management Plan Update Process** (presentation slides available upon request to [michael.murray@noaa.gov](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov) or viewable at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7916413756931285507>)

CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs Mike Murray began this agenda item by presenting information depicting the current status of the management plan revision process, followed by recapping the number and nature of the public scoping comments recently received. Mr. Murray explained how sanctuary staff divided the many public comments into four main categories: 1) resource protection issues/threats; 2) human use management recommendations; 3) programmatic focal areas; and 4) regulatory change requests. Regarding the challenge of determining which of the many issues and ideas would be best for CINMS to try to address and incorporate into the next management plan, Mike reviewed a variety of considerations that council members (and staff) had previously been asked to take into account, including factors such as the purpose of the sanctuary, jurisdictional roles of the sanctuary and other entities, limits on sanctuary resources (budget and staff), sanctuary strengths and capacities, the importance of thinking longer term (5-10 years), and a

reminder to be humble about unforeseen future conditions, events, technologies, and more. Murray then walked the council through a handout that showed tabulated scores from council member and staff prioritization worksheets, in which 118 public scoping comment summaries were rated. Murray summarized topics and themes that the advisory council had rated of high interest, and noted that where regulatory issues were concerned there was much more disagreement across the public comments received and the council ratings. Overall, some of the findings Murray took from the results included:

- There is an apparent high level of agreement between council members and sanctuary staff concerning issues of interest to be addressed, as well as issues of lower priority for CINMS;
- Council member input was very helpful to staff (and will continue to be), and especially valuable are the council member written comments that accompany ratings information;
- Where there are mid-range scores, or larger gaps between council and staff scores, there is room to investigate further.

Murray wrapped up by explaining the upcoming steps in the management plan revision process. He expects staff work to result in the development of an outline of the draft management plan, to include issues/themes proposed to be addressed in the plan. Murray explained that at the next two council meetings he expects to show preliminary outlined issues to the council, request feedback, and discuss ways the council can assist and engage with development of the plan and further investigation of select issues.

**California Marine Protected Area Decadal Review** (presentation slides may be available upon request to [John.Ugoretz@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:John.Ugoretz@wildlife.ca.gov) or by viewing the Webinar at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/7916413756931285507>)

John Ugoretz with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife provided a brief description of plans underway for 2022 decadal review of marine protected areas (MPAs) in the state of California. Mr. Ugoretz explained that the assessment of MPAs would be based on many sources of input and evaluation, including monitoring results, stakeholder input, and science advisory teams, and would involve the identification of knowledge gaps and questions, and future monitoring strategies. In the end, the review process would inform any needs for adaptive management. Ugoretz outlined steps coming up to develop the information and findings relevant to the review, including: two science groups that have been convened (one on resiliency, the other on management review); a technical report on MPA monitoring expected in late 2021; data synthesis and public input meetings expected in 2022; and a decadal report expected to be given to the California Fish & Game Commission by the end of 2022. Ugoretz helped respond to a few council member questions.

### **Working Group Reports**

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

- *Chumash Community Working Group*. Alicia Cordero reported that the working group met in February to solicit interest in applying for the Chumash Community seat on the advisory council. Roberta Cordero (recovering from a stroke) was able to attend this meeting. Two people have been identified that have an interest in applying. Outreach to the Santa Ynez Band was part of the recruitment process used, and one of the applicants is from that band.
- *Research Activities Panel*. No working group report, but Dr. Bob Warner mentioned that research activities have just been suspended at UCSB.
- *Marketing Subcommittee*. Business seat member Michael Cohen provided an update on CINMS social media “likes” and “shares” on Facebook and Twitter, showing recent CINMS social media posts. 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 described a recent “Wanted Alive” white abalone workshop hosted by CINMS at the Santa Barbara Sea Center on February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- *Recreational Fishing Working Group.* Captain David Bacon explained that a lot of his effort, and that of others, has been focused on artificial reef creation. The Coastal Conservation Association of California has been working to support continued funding for white seabass releases, and would like to see it continue to other species, including halibut.
- *Commercial Fishing Working Group.* No report.
- *Conservation Working Group.* The group cancelled their March meeting, but they did meet in January just after the last advisory council meeting. Attendees at that working group meeting shared their ideas for priorities among the many public scoping comments received for the CINMS management plan revision process.

### **Meeting Close Out**

Council Chair Phyllis Grifman called attention to the 2020 meeting schedule, thanked everyone for attending, and closed the meeting out. Remaining council meetings scheduled in 2020:

- Friday, May 15, 2020 – Online session expected.
- Friday, July 17, 2020 -- Oxnard or Ventura, or possible an online session if needed.
- Friday, September 18, 2020 – Santa Barbara Zoo.
- Friday, November 20, 2020 -- Ventura.

**12:40 pm -- Meeting Adjourned**

**APPENDIX 1: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster for March 20, 2020**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Advisory Council Seat</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Andrea Mills	Tourism	N
Morgan Coffey	Tourism - Alternate	N
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	N
Dr. Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alt.	Y
Michael Cohen	Business	Y
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Y
Kristen Hislop	Conservation	Y
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Y
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	N
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	N
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Y
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	N
Cliff Rodrigues	Education	Y
<vacant>	Education - Alternate	n/a
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Y
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Y
Phyllis Grifman	Public at Large #1	Y
Judy Willens	Public at Large #1 - Alternate	Y
Richard Block	Public at Large #2	Y
Mary Byrd	Public at Large #2 - Alternate	Y
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	N
Alicia Cordero	Chumash Community - Alternate	Y
Laura McCue	NOAA Fisheries	Y
<vacant>	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	n/a
<vacant>	National Park Service	n/a
Ken Convery	National Park Service - Alternate	N
CDR Justin Noggle	US Coast Guard	Y
LCDR Lee Crusius	US Coast Guard - Alternate	N
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	N
Jeremy Potter	BOEM - Alternate	N
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense	Y
Greg Sanders	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Y
Carlos Mireles	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Y
John Ugoretz	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alt.	Y
Jenn Eckerle	CA Natural Resources Agency	N
Paige Berube	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alt.	Y
Cassidy Teufel	CA Coastal Commission	N
Jacqueline Phelps	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	N
Errin Briggs	Santa Barbara County	Y
David Villalobos	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	N
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Y
Mark Sandoval	Ventura County - Alternate	N
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Y
Mike Murray	Channel Islands NMS - Alt. [non-voting]	Y
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	N
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alt. [non-voting]	N
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones NMS [non-voting]	N
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones NMS - Alternate [non-voting]	Y