

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, November 20th, 2020

9:00 am - 12:15 pm

Online Webinar Session

Final Key Meeting Outcomes

This online public advisory council meeting was not video or audio recorded. To request a copy of any of the presentation slides shown, contact claire.nasr@noaa.gov.

Administrative Business and Announcements

California Sea Grant Fellow Claire Nasr oriented attendees and advisory council members with introductions regarding sign-in and audio/video set-up. Nasr then went over the protocol for how to participate appropriately and effectively. Sanctuary deputy superintendent Mike Murray conducted a roll call resulting in the presence of 31 council members representing 19 out of 21 voting seats (see Appendix 1). In total, 57 individuals attended the webinar.

Member appointments

Sanctuary deputy superintendent Mike Murray recognized two outgoing council members: Paige Berube (CA Natural Resources Agency seat alternate, with OPC), and Walt Schobel (Department of the Defense). It was also announced that at the next meeting, Adam Melerski from Vandenberg Air Force Base will join the council as the Department of Defense alternate, and current councilmember Greg Sanders from the Navy will become the primary member for the Department of Defense seat.

September 18th, 2020 Draft Key Outcomes

By unanimous voice vote led by Chair Phyllis Grifman, the council approved the draft key outcomes from the September 18th, 2020 advisory council meeting. A copy of this document is available upon request to claire.nasr@noaa.gov.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Sanctuary superintendent Chris Mobley began by addressing the impacts of COVID-19, explaining how it is continuing to affect activities at the sanctuary including mandatory telework and reduced fieldwork. Mobley acknowledged the passing of Geoff Jewel, a 25-year UCSB employee, long-time staff member at the Bren School of Science & Management, and volunteer with the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps. Mobley also provided an announcement regarding a new process from NOAA Fisheries to identify Aquaculture Opportunity Areas (AOA) in Southern California and the Gulf of Mexico, and mentioned that public comment is invited on two aspects of AOAs during a 60-day public comment period. Mobley acknowledged recent news of decades-old DDT waste barrels discovered on the seafloor near Catalina Island. Mobley's report also included highlights from an aerial survey conducted by the Waitt Institute to better understand visitor use within the sanctuary. Mobley also shared an update from the sanctuary dive team regarding their recent work to service soundscape and acoustic telemetry equipment around Santa Barbara Island. The superintendent's presentation concluded with a brief announcement from Shauna Bingham and Jacob Levenson (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management) about a new Ocean Alert citizen science mobile app that allows users to contribute sightings of marine animals to a network of resource managers, scientists and the public.

Council Member Brief Announcements

Council members shared a variety of announcements about recent events from their respective agencies and groups.

Nautilus Live

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff members Julie Bursek (Education Team Lead) and Lizzie Duncan (Research Ecologist) presented relevant information and highlights from a recent *E/V Nautilus* site visit. They shared background information on the program, and details of the unique mission, which relied extensively on shore-based science staff participants given the challenges of COVID-19. Details of the presentation also included the technology used to sample and survey the seafloor, scientific objectives of the trips, and highlights and photos from San Miguel, Santa Lucia Bank and footprint reef. For more information, contact julie.bursek@noaa.gov or lizzie.duncan@noaa.gov.

Whale Conservation

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary resource protection specialist Jess Morten provided an update on the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) program. Morten presented details of the current state of the incentive-based VSR program including 2017-2020 shipping line cooperation levels, 2014-2020 participating companies, 2020 mid-season reports, plans for the rest of the season, and future program funding. Sanctuary resource protection coordinator Sean Hastings discussed establishing and maintaining relationships with corporations and partners through incentive programs. Sean also described an International Maritime Organization (IMO) proposal under development, and the process to move it forward, that would extend the existing “Area to be Avoided” and traffic separation scheme at the western end of the Santa Barbara Channel. Sean explained how the idea comes from the council-endorsed work of the SAC Marine Shipping Working Group. The last presentation regarding whale conservation was from Cotton Rockwood, Senior Marine Ecologist at Point Blue Conservation Science. Cotton’s presentation focused on Point Blue’s work to better understand and predict the risk of ship strikes along the west coast, including southern California and the CINMS area. He described a spatial strike model, recommendations for lowering strike risk, and commented on implications for the IMO proposal. His assessment of efforts made to date was positive, but his work suggested that modest strike risk reductions experienced thus far have the potential to improve substantially with the added slowing of more ships. For more information, contact claire.nasr@noaa.gov.

Public Comment Period

The only public comment came from Mary Martin from the US Fish and Wildlife Service Ventura office. She provided the announcement that the BeachCOMBERS program is seeking volunteers for beach surveys in the local area (Santa Barbara and Ventura county coasts). No other public comments were provided.

CINMS Management Plan Update Process

Mike Murray began this agenda item by presenting information about the current status of the management plan revision process, showing and explaining a process roadmap. Murray also updated the council with recent activities including NOAA office of National Marine Sanctuaries Leadership briefings, and discussions with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife regarding the state’s Marine Protected Area Decadal Review process. He provided a review of the emerging issue-based and programmatic Action Plans to be developed in the CINMS management plan. Murray concluded by inviting council members to provide input, feedback and questions about the marine debris action plan. Council members provided a variety of suggestions. For a link to the discussion worksheet or more information contact michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Meeting Close Out

Council Chair Phyllis Grifman thanked everyone for attending, and shared the 2021 council meeting schedule:

Friday, January 22, 2021 (online, or Santa Barbara) Friday, July 16, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)
 Friday, March 19, 2021 (online, or Ventura County) Friday, Sept 17, 2021 (online, or Santa Barbara)
 Friday, May 21, 2021 (online, or Santa Barbara) Friday, Nov 19, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)

APPENDIX 1: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster for November 20th, 2020

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Michael Cohen	Tourism	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism - Alternate	Yes
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	No
Dr. Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alt.	No
Giles Pettifor	Business	Yes
Paul Amaral	Business - Alternate	No
Kristen Hislop	Conservation	Yes
Samantha M Franz	Conservation - Alternate	Yes
Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.	Commercial Fishing	No
Timothy Athens	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	Yes
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Yes
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	No
Cliff Rodrigues	Education	Yes
Andrea Mills	Education - Alternate	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Research	Yes
Robert Miller, Ph.D.	Research - Alternate	Yes
Douglas Williams, Ph.D.	Public at Large #1	Yes
Mary Byrd	Public at Large #1 - Alternate	Yes
Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D.	Public at Large #2	Yes
Amanda Allen	Public at Large #2 - Alternate	Yes
Eva Pagaling	Chumash Community	Yes
Tano Cabugos	Chumash Community - Alternate	No
Daniel Studt	National Marine Fisheries Service member	Yes
<vacant>	National Marine Fisheries Service alternate	No
Ken Convery	National Park Service	Yes
<vacant>	National Park Service - Alternate	--
CDR Justin Noggle	US Coast Guard	Yes
LCDR Lee Crusius	US Coast Guard - Alternate	No
Donna Schroeder	BOEM	No
Jeremy Potter	BOEM - Alternate	No
Walt Schobel	Dept. of Defense	Yes
Greg Sanders	Dept. of Defense - Alternate	Yes
Carlos Mireles	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife	Yes
John Ugoretz	CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife - Alt.	No
Jenn Eckerle	CA Natural Resources Agency	Yes
Paige Berube	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alt.	No
Cassidy Teufel	CA Coastal Commission	No
Jacqueline Phelps	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Yes
Errin Briggs	Santa Barbara County	Yes
David Villalobos	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	No
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Yes
Mark Sandoval	Ventura County - Alternate	Yes
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Yes
Mike Murray	Channel Islands NMS - Alt. [non-voting]	Yes
Dawn Hayes	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	Yes
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay NMS - Alt. [non-voting]	No
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones NMS [non-voting]	No
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones NMS - Alt. [non-voting]	No