

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, May 15th, 2020

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Online Webinar Session

FINAL Key Meeting Outcomes

These notes were approved by vote of the advisory council on July 17, 2020.

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

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6541011573240584193>

Administrative Business and Announcements

Sanctuary staff member Claire Fackler oriented attendees and advisory council members with introductions regarding sign-in and audio/video set-up, with help from staff member Lizzie Duncan. Fackler then went over the protocol for how to participate appropriately. Sanctuary deputy superintendent Mike Murray conducted a roll call resulting in the presence of 29 council members (representing 15 voting seats) (see Appendix 1). In addition, 18 non-member public attendees participated in the Webinar. See Appendix 1.

Member appointments

Mike Murray provided an update regarding new member appointments to the advisory council, including logistics regarding term limits. The staff is still waiting for final approval of appointments for the current recruitment. During the next recruitment period, expected to open up in mid- to late-June, several council members will be unable to reapply for the same seats that they have held. Outgoing council members will still be serving on the council during the July 17th meeting, and newly appointed members are expected to be in place for the September 18th council meeting.

March 20, 2020 Draft Key Outcomes

By unanimous voice vote led by Chair Phyllis Grifman, the council approved the draft key outcomes from the March 20, 2020 advisory council meeting. A copy of this document is available upon request to claire.nasr@noaa.gov. The meeting notes will also be posted on the sanctuary's website.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Sanctuary superintendent Chris Mobley began by addressing the impacts of COVID-19, explaining how it is affecting activities at the sanctuary including mandatory telework and lack of field work and dive operations. Mobley continued by discussing the Proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary and the 5-year review currently being conducted by NOAA to evaluate its ongoing qualifications to remain a nominated site. He provided an update on the general location, and the nomination process details of the proposed sanctuary including a general timeline and processes to submit public comments

either at a May 27th online hearing or via www.regulations.gov (docket #

NOAA-NOS-2020-0063) by June 15. His superintendent's report also included highlights of sanctuary accomplishments since the last advisory council meeting. These topics included: sound monitoring stations in the sanctuary, a blue economy planning process for west coast national marine sanctuaries, virtual sanctuary advisory council meetings, and a local Ocean Guardian School garden project.

Council Member Brief Announcements

Council members shared a variety of announcements about COVID-19 effects and recent events from their respective agencies and groups. A recording of these member announcements can be listened to online:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6541011573240584193>.

CINMS Webenized Condition Report

Dr. Jennifer Brown (Principal, ECOS Consulting, LLC) provided a presentation to highlight a new web-based data viewing platform supporting the CINMS Condition Report. (Slides available upon request to Jennifer.brown@noaa.gov or viewable online at <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/6541011573240584193>). She explained that the project is in collaboration with Ben Best (EcoQuants) and the CINMS Research Team. Dr. Brown introduced the “webenized” condition report, which is part of an ecosystem trends project for sanctuaries, as containing updated figures, graphs and tables that have the ability to scale with respect to time and summarize changes. The condition report is a static document, she explained, while the web-based version is a more interactive and routinely updated web tool. Dr. Brown provided a brief tour of the website, and invited feedback from council members. Dr. Brown highlighted different types of data like long-term population trends of particular species, and human activities and impacts. The new tool is available online at <https://marinebon.org/cinms/>. (For more information, contact jennifer.brown@noaa.gov or pike.spector@noaa.gov).

Public Comment Period

Comments from the public and council members were brief, and primarily reflected support for the webenized condition report.

CINMS Whale Protection Update

Sanctuary resource protection specialist Jess Morten explained that the goal of the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) program is to reduce the risk of ship strikes to endangered whales and to improve air quality. Morten presented how NOAA's west coast sanctuaries and the U.S. Coast Guard are communicating a statistical "report card" to the shipping industry to let them know how the ships in their respective fleets have been cooperating with voluntary requests for reduced speeds. Sanctuary resource protection coordinator Sean Hastings discussed establishing and maintaining relationships with corporations and partners through incentive programs. Sean also discussed the "blue whales and blue skies" incentive-based voluntary VSR program, explaining how shipping companies receive recognition and financial awards based on the percent of distance traveled by their vessels through the VSR zones at speeds of 10 knots or less. The 10-knot target follows NOAA's seasonal voluntary requests for all vessels (300 gross tons or larger) to slow down during the months of peak endangered blue, humpback, and fin whale abundance to protect these whales from deadly ship strikes. Finally, Hastings recognized and thanked Capt. Paul Amaral from Channel Watch Marine and Capt. David Beezer from Condor Express for their recent on-scene efforts to free an entangled humpback whale near Santa Cruz Island. Capt. Amaral recounted the experience. Many participants acknowledged and thanked Capt. Amaral for his involvement alongside other responders in this successful disentanglement.

U.S. Navy Point Mugu Sea Range Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Council member Greg Sanders (U.S. Navy) provided a brief overview about an updated environmental impact statement (EIS) for Navy activities conducted within the Point Mugu Sea Range. Sanders provided information about draft document availability and a public comment period that extends through June 8, 2020. The Navy's draft EIS documents provide an update to a similar assessment last conducted in 2002, and propose continuing military readiness activities and increasing research, development, acquisition, testing, and evaluation of training activities. Sanders mentioned that the proposed testing and training activities are similar to those that have already been occurring for many years. He also discussed three alternatives presented in the draft EIS, including an option supporting testing and training activities that are similar to those currently occurring (preferred alternative), an option describing a lower level of activity, and an option that describes taking no action. Sanders also explained that the proposal to not change Navy activities within the area of the sanctuary aligns with sanctuary regulations, which provide exemptions for these same types of military training activities. Additional details are available online at <https://pmsr-eis.com/>.

CINMS Management Plan Update Process (presentation slides available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov or viewable at <https://attendeegotowebinar.com/recording/6541011573240584193>)

Sanctuary deputy superintendent 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 proceeded to explain how, since the last council meeting, sanctuary staff had been discussing a variety of driving resource protection issues, considering the related public scoping comments and advisory council input, and reviewing a planned document structure for the management plan. Claire Nasr then presented a general outline and structure of the envisioned draft management plan document. The three general sections she covered were the introduction, issue-based action plans, and program-based action plans. Murray then explained in more detail the primary components of action plans, including: a goal statement, background information, a series of strategies, planned activities for each strategy, and performance metrics. Murray then introduced Dr. Zachary Cannizzo, a visiting climate scientist and climate coordinator with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and NOAA's Climate Program Office. Dr. Cannizzo provided an overview of a new CINMS climate impacts report. Dr. Cannizzo summarized conditions and expected changes related to ocean acidification, increasing water temperatures, changing oceanographic processes, and rising sea levels, and also touched on climate change case studies about harmful algal blooms and kelp forests. He explained that the new document would soon be available online. (The new report is online at <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/climate/impact-profiles.html>, and contact Dr. Cannizzo for more information at zac.cannizzo@noaa.gov).

Creating subcommittees: full support from the council

Chair Phyllis Grifman asked the advisory council if they would approve the authorization of two council subcommittees for the purposes of assisting with development of recommendations related to issue-based action plans focused on the topics of climate change and marine debris. By unanimous voice vote, the council approved the formation of both of these subcommittees. Mike Murray explained that he would follow-up over email to see who on the council might be interested in serving as subcommittee members.

Nominations and Elections for Council Executive Committee

By unanimous voice vote, the advisory council re-elected Michael Cohen for a second term as Council Vice Chair, and elected Kristen Hislop as Council Secretary.

Meeting Close Out

Council Chair Phyllis Grifman thanked everyone for attending, and shared that the remaining council meetings scheduled in 2020 are as follows:

- Friday, July 17, 2020 -- Oxnard or Ventura, or possibly an online session if needed.
- Friday, September 18, 2020 – Santa Barbara Zoo.
- Friday, November 20, 2020 -- Ventura.

~ **Total meeting duration:** 3 hours, 32 minutes

APPENDIX 1: Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster for May 15th, 2020

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Andrea Mills	Tourism	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism - Alternate	Yes
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation	Yes
Dr. Tony Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation - Alt.	Yes
Michael Cohen	Business	Yes
Capt. Kip Louttit	Business - Alternate	Yes
Kristen Hislop	Conservation	Yes
Greg Helms	Conservation - Alternate	Yes
Stephanie Mutz	Commercial Fishing	No
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing - Alternate	No
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing	Yes
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing - Alternate	Yes
Cliff Rodrigues	Education	Yes
<vacant>	Education - Alternate	--
Dr. Robert Warner	Research	Yes
Dr. Mark Steele	Research - Alternate	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Public at Large #1	Yes
Judy Willens	Public at Large #1 - Alternate	Yes
Richard Block	Public at Large #2	Yes
Mary Byrd	Public at Large #2 - Alternate	Yes
Luhui Isha Ward	Chumash Community	No
Alicia Cordero	Chumash Community - Alternate	Yes
<vacant>	NOAA Fisheries	--
<vacant>	NOAA Fisheries - Alternate	--
<vacant>	National Park Service	--
Ken Convery	National Park Service - Alternate	No
CDR Justin Noggle	US Coast Guard	No
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.	Yes
Jenn Eckerle	CA Natural Resources Agency	Yes
Paige Berube	CA Natural Resources Agency - Alt.	Yes
Cassidy Teufel	CA Coastal Commission	No
Jackie Phelps	CA Coastal Commission - Alternate	Yes

Errin Briggs	Santa Barbara County	No
David Villalobos	Santa Barbara County - Alternate	No
Danielle Tarr	Ventura County	Yes
Mark Sandoval	Ventura County - Alternate	No
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands NMS [non-voting]	Yes
Mike Murray	Channel Islands NMS - Alt. [non-voting]	Yes
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay NMS [non-voting]	No
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]	Yes