

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, July 16, 2021

9:00 am - 12:30 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 june.shrestha@noaa.gov.

Administrative Business and Announcements

California Sea Grant Fellow June Shrestha oriented advisory council members and attendees with introductions regarding sign-in, audio/video set-up, and the protocol for how to participate effectively in the virtual meeting. Sanctuary deputy superintendent Mike Murray confirmed online attendance, counting the presence of 25 council members representing 16 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix 1). In addition to council members, 29 individuals attended the webinar, including five CINMS interns and three staff.

May 21st, 2021 Draft Key Outcomes

The council approved the draft key outcomes from the May 21, 2021 advisory council meeting. Mark Sandoval offered a motion which was seconded by Michael Cohen. Chair Phyllis Grifman led the voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote. A copy of this document is available upon request to june.shrestha@noaa.gov, and it will be posted online at https://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/meeting_notes.html.

Council Member Brief Announcements

Council members shared a variety of announcements about recent events from their respective agencies and groups. Written announcements submitted via a Google Form in advance of the meeting are available (Appendix 2).

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Sanctuary superintendent Chris Mobley began by discussing the President's FY22 Budget Request, followed by a brief introduction to the new interns working with CINMS this summer: Amber McEldowney (Resource Protection), Danny Dorado (Education & Outreach), Madeline Choi (Resource Protection), Kennedy Rivera (Research), Erin Ristig (Resource Protection), and Will Geiken (Resource Protection; co-hosted with Channel Islands National Park). Mobley then shared a brief update on the sanctuary management plan revision process, which only needs review by three more people within ONMS (Regional Director, ONMS Deputy Director, and ONMS Director) before the draft can be released for public comment hopefully by October.

Superintendent Mobley also shared some announcements from across the ONMS system. First, he announced that Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries now have one combined superintendent (Maria Brown) to reflect the vision that although CBNMS and GFNMS will be two sites, it will be managed by one staff. Second, he announced the designation of NOAA's newest sanctuary: [Wisconsin-Shipwreck Coast NMS in Lake Michigan](#) that protects 36 historically significant shipwrecks. Third, he shared that public comment on the proposed [Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary](#) draft environmental impact statement and draft management plan is requested until September 10, 2021. Third, he announced the new [ONMS wildlife viewing guidelines website](#) that contains helpful information to promote good etiquette around marine wildlife.

Mobley concluded by sharing a few highlights from the CINMS teams, including: 1) The launch of the revamped CINMS website that went live on 7/1/21 (<https://channelislands.noaa.gov>), 2) The completion of the spring season for the West Coast Observations research project supporting regional telemetry network, 3) CINMS participation in the 13th annual Operation Clean Sweep at Santa Barbara Harbor, and 4) The call for applications to 2022 California Sea Grant State Fellowship program, in which CINMS has hosted interns for 10+ years.

Nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary: Proposed Letter of Support

A. Process explanation

Chair Phyllis Grifman opened this agenda item by discussing an overview of how the proposed letter would be introduced, discussed, and voted upon. She recapped that at the last meeting on May 21, 2021 the sanctuary advisory council received a presentation about the nominated [Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary](#) from Lisa Wooninck of the West Coast national marine sanctuaries regional office, and that the council reviewed a draft proposed letter of support from Kristen Hislop on behalf of the council's Conservation Working Group.

B. Recap of Proposed Letter of Support

Councilmember Kristen Hislop reiterated the letter's intent, recapped the feedback she received in the two months since the letter was first introduced, and explained how the draft letter was slightly adjusted in response to comments from council members.

C. Council Discussion

Chair Phyllis Grifman called on council members to provide a few minutes to explain their viewpoint. Seven council members expressed support for the letter, whereas three members expressed dissent for the proposed letter. Superintendent Mobley and Deputy Superintendent for Programs Murray acknowledged the value of concerns heard, and explained that documentation of all points will be shared with ONMS leadership with the

letter. These viewpoints will be sent along with the letter, and are shown in Appendix 3 as well as posted online at:

<https://channelislands.noaa.gov/media/docs/20210804-dissenting-and-other-views-cinms-council-approved-proposed-chnms-letter.pdf>.

Chair Grifman then opened the floor to non-member stakeholders that wanted to address the council on this matter prior to a vote taking place. The council heard from two people with dissenting opinions to the letter, and one person that expressed support for the letter.

D. Council Action: Roll Call Vote on Proposed Letter of Support

Chair Grifman called for a motion to approve the letter. Michael Cohen motioned to approve the letter. Ben Pitterle seconded the motion. A verbal roll call vote was conducted, with one vote per seat (if a primary member is absent, the alternate may vote). In total, 12 council seats voted in favor of the letter, 1 voted against, 3 agencies abstained, and 5 seats were absent. To view results from voting, view results in Appendix 1.

See Appendix 3 for the approved final signed version of the letter, as well as the documentation of additional views. These documents are also posted online at <https://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/actions.html>.

Resource Protection Initiatives

CINMS interns and staff presented on a variety of resource protection issues within the sanctuary, including the issue of balloon debris in the Channel (Madeline Choi, intern), Invasive species outreach initiatives with boaters (Will Geiken, intern), and the Vessel Speed Reduction Program (Jessica Morten, staff).

Public Comment

No members of the public contributed comments during the 15-minute designated period. However, members of the public did contribute comments during the Nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Proposed Letter of Support agenda item.

Future SAC Meetings

Pending NOAA, CDC, and City/County guidelines, CINMS staff were interested in hearing from council members about their interests for future in-person SAC meetings. In a non-binding strawpoll, Deputy Superintendent for Programs Michael Murray presented options for future SAC meetings and asked:

- 1) *In mid-September, would you be comfortable attending an in-person SAC meeting?*
- 2) *If not, is there a better time frame that you would feel more comfortable with?*
- 3) *Would you prefer meetings to stay in an online format?*

4) *Hybrid meetings (some people attending in person, some people participating remotely) are technically difficult to set up and run, but if possible, is this something you would like to see CINMS offer?*

In total, 17 council members wrote into the chat box to express support for an in-person council meeting this September. Three members expressed support for hybrid meetings, whereas two members expressed dissent towards it given how challenging simultaneously doing hybrid meetings can be.

Close-out and Schedule for Future Council Meetings

Chair Phyllis Grifman mentioned the upcoming meeting schedule, offered closing remarks, and Program Support Specialist June Shrestha took a screenshot photo. Upcoming 2021 Advisory Council meetings will be held on the following dates:

- Friday, September 17, 2021 (online, or Santa Barbara)
- Friday, November 19, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)

Appendix 1. Attendance: Sanctuary advisory council online meeting, May 19, 2021

<i>Name</i>	<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Vote on support letter</i>
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism alternate	Yes	n/a
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes	Yes
Dr. Anthony (Tony) Knight	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes	n/a
Giles Pettifor	Business member	Yes	Yes
Paul Amaral	Business alternate	Yes	n/a
Kristen Hislop	Conservation member	Yes	Yes
Samantha Macks Franz	Conservation alternate	Yes	n/a
Dr. Kim Selkoe	Commercial Fishing member	No	<i>absent</i>
Timothy Athens	Commercial Fishing alternate	No	<i>absent</i>
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing member	Yes	No
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing alternate	No	n/a
Cliff Rodrigues	Education member	No	<i>absent</i>
Andrea Mills	Education alternate	No	<i>absent</i>
Phyllis Grifman	Research member	Yes	Yes
Dr. Robert Miller	Research alternate	No	n/a
Dr. Douglas Williams	Public-At-Large member	Yes	Yes
Mary Byrd	Public At-Large alternate	Yes	n/a
Dr. Stuart Kasdin	Public-At-Large member	Yes	Yes
Amanda Allen	Public At-Large alternate	Yes	n/a
Eva Pagaling	Chumash Community member	Yes	Yes
Tano Cabugos	Chumash Community alternate	No	n/a
Daniel Studt	National Marine Fisheries Service member	Yes	Abstain
<vacant>	National Marine Fisheries Service alternate	--	--
Ken Convery	National Park Service member	No	<i>absent</i>
<vacant>	National Park Service alternate	--	--
CDR Justin Noggle	U.S. Coast Guard member	No	<i>absent</i>
LDCR Lee Crusius	U.S. Coast Guard alternate	No	<i>absent</i>
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management member	No	<i>absent</i>
Jeremy Potter	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management alternate	No	<i>absent</i>
Greg Sanders	Dept. of Defense member	Yes	Abstain
Adam Melerski	Dept. of Defense alternate	Yes	n/a
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Yes	Abstain
John Ugoretz	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	Yes	n/a

Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	No	<i>absent</i>
Lindsay Bonito	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	Yes	Yes
Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	No	<i>absent</i>
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	Yes	Yes
Errin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	Yes	Yes
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	Yes	n/a
Danielle Tarr	County of Ventura member	No	<i>absent</i>
Mark Sandoval	County of Ventura alternate	Yes	Yes
Dawn Hayes	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No	n/a
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No	n/a
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No	n/a
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No	n/a
Chris Mobley, Superintendent	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	Yes	n/a
Mike Murray (staff)	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	Yes	n/a
	Total number of individual SAC members (<u>voting seats</u> only)	25	
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	16	

Appendix 2. Copy of written announcements from council members submitted as of 7/14/21

Name: John Ugoretz

Seat: CDFW

Announcement: Invasive Caulerpa in Newport Harbor

Relevant Links: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Invasives/Species/Caulerpa>

CDFW, along with partners on the Southern California Caulerpa Action Team from the Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Board, State Water Resources Control Board, California Coastal Commission, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the City of Newport Beach have created the Newport Bay [Rapid Response Eradication Plan \(PDF\)](#), to address the immediate need to remove the invasive algae *Caulerpa prolifera* from China Cove. This plan includes the following components:

- **Initial Containment** – The City of Newport Beach isolated the area with floating buoys and lines to limit access.
- **Localized Eradication Level Survey** - Prior to removal, an intensive diver survey was conducted in early July within the China Cove infestation area. Divers located, identified, and marked any *Caulerpa* found.
- **Localized Removal** - Diver-assisted suction removal is being used to completely remove *Caulerpa prolifera* from China Cove. The effort is nearly complete and should finish this week.
- **Post Removal Surveys** – Diver surveys will be conducted both immediately following removal and over a longer time frame to help ensure the species is completely removed and does not repopulate the area.
- **Broad Area Surveys** – Diver surveys will occur in surrounding areas, both inside and outside Newport Harbor, to ensure other areas have not been invaded.

See photos below.



Name: Lindsay Bonito
Seat: California Natural Resources Agency (Alternate)
Announcement: Ocean Protection Council updates

OPC Science Advisory Team Working Group Reports Released

Two expert working groups convened by the Ocean Protection Council, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Ocean Science Trust recently released parallel scientific reports that will help guide the State in answering those questions:

- [Climate Resilience and California's Marine Protected Area Network](#) catalogs potential mechanisms through which MPAs could provide resilience in the face of climate threats and recommends actions to support proactive management of California's MPAs.
- [Science Guidance for Evaluating California's Marine Protected Area Network](#) provides a robust, science-based framework for evaluating MPA performance in California. In particular, the report lists performance evaluation questions, suggests analytical approaches to answer those questions, and identifies important knowledge gaps.

Both reports note the importance of continuing California's statewide MPA Monitoring Program to support adaptive MPA management in the face of climate change. The MPA Monitoring Program is already helping resource managers understand how marine populations, habitats, and ecosystems vary in space and change over time in relation to MPAs.



Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Vulnerability and Impacts

At its last meeting in June, the OPC approved the disbursement of \$3,680,786 to support two efforts to improve understanding of ocean acidification and hypoxia vulnerability and impacts along our coast. [California Sea Grant was awarded \\$2,000,000](#) to jointly fund and administer statewide ocean acidification and hypoxia research and monitoring projects that directly support the OPC's and CASG's Strategic Plans and priorities. The OPC also approved [\\$1,680,786 to Scripps Institution of Oceanography, Southern California Coastal Water Research Project, and Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System](#) to implement enhanced and standardized biological and chemical ocean acidification and hypoxia monitoring in the California Current across various ongoing monitoring programs.

Whale and Sea Turtle Entanglement Awarded Projects

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, in partnership with the OPC, have [selected 3 projects](#) through a competitive process aimed to develop, align and improve information to reduce entanglement risk to whales and sea turtles and minimizing impacts to the fishing industry. These projects will directly support OPC's [Strategy for reducing the risk of entanglement in California fishing gear](#) by implementing scientific research projects and fostering collaborative partnerships. Awardees include Cascadia Research Collective, Farallon Institute, and Upwell Turtles.

OPC Summer Internship Program

OPC is proud to announce the launch of our first-ever paid Summer Internship Program. The purpose of this Internship Program is to provide rising junior and senior undergraduate college students with an opportunity to gain hands-on-experience with a small state agency focused on protecting and enhancing the state's coastal and ocean ecosystems and ensuring easy, affordable access to and along the coast for all Californians. Five students have begun their 10-week internship to conclude in late Aug/early Sept.

California 30x30 Initiative – Topical Workshops

The California Natural Resources Agency is launching a series of five [virtual topical workshops](#) focused on the State's commitment to conserve 30 percent of California's lands and coastal waters by 2030 (30x30) and enlist California's vast network of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change. The last workshop will be focused on the conservation of coastal waters on Tuesday, August 17th from 3:00 PM - 6:00 PM. Register here to attend: https://kearnswest.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_q8kQxg7SQpmLVDwFeyu3xA

OPC is hiring a Water Quality Program Manager

OPC is planning to recruit a Water Quality Program Manager with a working knowledge of coastal and ocean issues and stakeholders in California, experience working on projects or research and/or developing or analyzing regulations, policy, or legislation related to coastal or ocean water quality in California or elsewhere. Position should be posted in the next few weeks – look for an announcement on the [OPC webpage](#). Please share the position widely!

Appendix 3. Council-approved letter on designation process for the nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and summary of dissenting and supportive council viewpoints.

Appendix 3

Members/Alternates

Tourism

Michael Cohen / Morgan Coffey

Business

Giles Pettifor / Paul Amaral

Non-Consumptive Recreation

Ben Pitterle / Tony Knight

Commercial Fishing

Kim Selkoe, Ph.D. / Tim Athens

Recreational Fishing

Capt. David Bacon / Merit McCrea

Education

Cliff Rodrigues / Andrea Mills

Research

Phyllis Grifman / Robert Miller, Ph.D.

Conservation

Kristen Hislop / Samantha Macks Franz

Public At-Large 1

Douglas Williams, Ph.D. / Mary Byrd

Public At-Large 2

Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D. / Amanda Allen

Chumash Community

Eva Pagaling / Tano Cabugos

National Marine Fisheries Service

Daniel Studt / *vacant*

National Park Service

Ken Convery / *vacant*

U.S. Coast Guard

CDR Justin Noggle / LT Lelea Lingo

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

Donna Schroeder / Jeremy Potter

U.S. Department of Defense

Greg Sanders / Adam Melerski

California Department of Fish & Game

Carlos Mireles / John Ugoretz

California Resources Agency

Jenn Eckerle / Lindsay Bonito

California Coastal Commission

Cassidy Teufel / Jonna Engel, Ph.D.

County of Santa Barbara

Errin Briggs / David Villalobos

County of Ventura

Danielle Tarr / Mark Sandoval

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Chris Mobley / Mike Murray [non-voting]

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Dawn Hayes / Karen Grimmer [non-voting]

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Maria Brown / Brian Johnson [non-voting]

Chair: Phyllis Grifman

Vice Chair: Michael Cohen

Secretary: Kristen Hislop

Sanctuary Advisory Council

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

August 4, 2021

Mr. John Armor, Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East West Hwy
Building SSMC4, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3278

Dear Mr. Armor:

I write to you on behalf of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Advisory Council to voice the Council's support for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) nomination, and our support for NOAA moving forward with a sanctuary designation process¹. As you know, the CINMS Advisory Council's 21-member body brings together community members and representatives from government agencies to advise the CINMS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. We would like to express our gratitude to the Northern Chumash Tribal Council for their leadership and dedication to the nomination of this important area as a national marine sanctuary, and to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for accepting this nomination. Furthermore, we would like to recognize the Chumash Nation and the Chumash Peoples who have stewarded this coastline, waters, and marine resources for thousands of years. This letter is intended to express the CINMS Advisory Council's majority support for moving forward with designation of the CHNMS.

National marine sanctuaries are designated as special places for species close to extinction, sensitive habitats, and maritime cultural, historical, and archaeological resources. A comprehensive ecosystem-based management approach is used to promote long-term conservation of sanctuary waters, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources, while allowing compatible human uses. Many valuable commercial and recreational activities, such as fishing, boating, and tourism occur in the area of the nominated CHNMS, the waters of which are culturally and spiritually significant to the Chumash Nation and Chumash Peoples. The proposed CHNMS's position at the confluence of two major ocean currents creates remarkable biodiversity, similar to the CINMS. The mingling of cool, nutrient-rich waters from the north with warm currents from the south forms a dynamic transition zone that is home to a myriad of sea life from microscopic plankton to blue whales.


¹ *The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions expressed in this letter do not necessarily reflect the position of sanctuary staff or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.*

Appendix 3, continued

The proposed CHNMS would connect the CINMS and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary by protecting an area that was identified as an “important ecosystem that supports a diverse array of biological communities” in a 2005 biogeographic assessment by the National Marine Sanctuary Program². This area includes Biologically Important Areas for cetaceans, marine protected areas, Audubon Marine Important Bird Areas, and ecologically sensitive areas such as migratory corridors and designated critical habitat. In addition, protection of intact marine habitat is imperative in our efforts to mitigate climate changes, as highlighted in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate, released on September 24, 2019. The CINMS Advisory Council understands the value that national marine sanctuaries can bring to protection of marine resources while also supporting other uses. Management of the waters around the Channel Islands has a multitude of benefits to the communities in the Santa Barbara Channel region by enhancing conservation while allowing for fishing and other uses, and engaging the community through education and outreach, opportunities for input, and celebration of cultural heritage. We support this request so that these benefits can be shared with other communities through the designation of the CHNMS.

On behalf of the CINMS Advisory Council, I submit these comments in support of the CHNMS nomination and encourage you to move forward with its designation.

Sincerely,



Phyllis Grifman, Chair
CINMS Advisory Council

cc: William J. Douros, Regional Director, West Coast Region, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Chris Mobley, Superintendent, NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Enclosure: Advisory council voting record on the motion supporting this letter.

² NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) 2005. *A Biogeographic Assessment of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: A Review of Boundary Expansion Concepts for NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program*. Prepared by NCCOS's Biogeography Team in cooperation with the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Silver Spring, MD. NOAA Technical Memorandum NOS NCCOS 21. 215 pp.

Appendix 3, continued

ENCLOSURE: Voting Results: Advisory Council letter in support of NOAA beginning a designation process for the nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, July 16, 2021.

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Vote on letter
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism alternate	n/a
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Anthony Knight, Ph.D.	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	n/a
Giles Pettifor	Business member	Yes
Paul Amaral	Business alternate	n/a
Kristen Hislop	Conservation member	Yes
Samantha Macks Franz	Conservation alternate	n/a
Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.	Commercial Fishing member	<i>absent</i>
Timothy Athens	Commercial Fishing alternate	<i>absent</i>
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing member	No
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing alternate	<i>absent</i>
Cliff Rodrigues	Education member	<i>absent</i>
Andrea Mills	Education alternate	<i>absent</i>
Phyllis Grifman	Research member	Yes
Robert Miller, Ph.D.	Research alternate	n/a
Douglas Williams, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Mary Byrd	Public At-Large alternate	n/a
Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Amanda Allen	Public At-Large alternate	n/a
Eva Pagaling	Chumash Community member	Yes
Tano Cabugos	Chumash Community alternate	n/a
Daniel Studt	National Marine Fisheries Service member	Abstain
<vacant>	National Marine Fisheries Service alternate	--
Ken Convery	National Park Service member	<i>absent</i>
<vacant>	National Park Service alternate	--
CDR Justin Noggle	U.S. Coast Guard member	<i>absent</i>
LT Lelea Lingo	U.S. Coast Guard alternate	<i>absent</i>
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management member	<i>absent</i>
Jeremy Potter	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management alternate	<i>absent</i>
Greg Sanders	Dept. of Defense member	Abstain
Adam Melerski	Dept. of Defense alternate	n/a
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Abstain
John Ugoretz	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	n/a
Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	<i>absent</i>
Lindsay Bonito	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	Yes
Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	<i>absent</i>
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	Yes

Appendix 3, continued

Erin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	Yes
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	n/a
Danielle Tarr	County of Ventura member	<i>absent</i>
Mark Sandoval	County of Ventura alternate	Yes
Vote results: 12 yes, 1 no, 3 abstain <i>Seats absent for vote: 5</i>		

Summary of comments from CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council members and other attending stakeholders, July 16, 2021

Including views on sending a proposed letter of support for NOAA starting a designation process for the nominated Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and views on sanctuary designation

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Advisory Council Meeting, July 16, 2021

Dissents/Concerns - Council Members:

Commercial Fishing (Tim Athens, via email):

- Commercial fishing industry contacts see the sanctuary proposal as being unneeded and unwarranted, and view the proposed support letter as premature.
- The proposed sanctuary, as well as a letter of support, seem like "cart before the horse" propositions.

Recreational Fishing (Capt. David Bacon):

- The boundary that's part of the nomination proposal is outsized. This takes away from the idea that sanctuaries are supposed to be for special areas. We do not need this to help achieve "30 x 30" initiative goals.
- There's been insufficient work done to identify specific submerged cultural sites.
- Any future sanctuary should come with a legally binding mechanism to leave all fisheries management to other appropriate agencies. We have rights to keep fishing.
- The proposed sanctuary, as well as a letter of support, seem like "cart before the horse" propositions.
- As the sanctuary has been proposed, I cannot support it.
- There's no process to allow citizens to vote on the idea of designation.

Department of Defense (Greg Sanders, U.S. Navy):

- Writing a letter at this stage seems premature because sanctuary proposal details from NOAA are not yet available.
- The letter reads more like advocacy for a particular course of action, rather than just informing ONMS about all of the perspectives.
- Federal agencies like ours (U.S. Navy) tend to not tell other agencies how to do their processes, thus the DoD seat will abstain.

Dissents/Concerns - Non-Member Stakeholders:

Chris Voss (President, Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara)

- Embraces Capt. David's comments.
- This would be a massive expansion of sanctuaries, and diminished the special nature intended for sanctuaries.

Appendix 3, continued

- Would not want this to take away from the good work done at CINMS in collaboration with local fishermen. Do not want a dilution of good programs that need resources in favor of a pursuit of expansion.
- When decision-making is attempted too far away from the place where they will be implemented, you get bad outcomes. State and local governments know these areas best, and their role breaks down when federal agencies take over and overreach.
- The Pacific Fisheries Management Council is an entity appropriate for this area (and throughout the west coast EEZ).
- The California Fish and Game Commission already has a tribal committee that can be approached to assist with tribal issues.
- Want local people to be able to go directly to the places where decisions will be made (e.g., Sacramento, not Washington DC).
- Want to see more locally-controlled initiatives for our local waters and coast (e.g., working with The Nature Conservancy as they have bought land to protect Point Conception area, sacred to the Chumash people).
- Lost some trust in sanctuaries when they opposed a limited proposed red abalone fishery reopening around San Miguel Island. There are people above the local sanctuary superintendent that can tell local staff what they must do.
- Clarification: Agreeing with John Ugoretz -- A tragedy of the commons effect is not what the state of California allows to happen.

David Lopez (General Public, Retired U.S. Air Force Colonel, Retired U.S. Dept. of Energy Manager)

- “My concerns have been expressed by other speakers.”

Supportive - Council Member Comments:

Public At-Large (Stuart Kasdin)

- “Tragedy of the commons” is understood as a result of failing to properly manage commonly used resources. Sanctuaries and their processes at least offer the possibility of allowing us to confront environmental problems together. The forum provided is valuable to help figure out the best management to take.
- If the state does not manage the federal waters, it would seem like the [federal] area is closer to a commons. If the region is not inherently a commons, but is fully managed by the state, in terms of a capacity to manage the resources, then what risk does the sanctuary offer in terms of management?
- Over-reach is always a concern, but we can help avoid that by having local processes and forums.
- Would not want to see a result be duplicative regulations and permitting requirements.
- We don’t want unnecessary impingements on users. Getting the balance right is important.
- The sanctuary offers an opportunity for greater efficiency and reduced overlapping regulations. It allows for improved oversight for all users and all functions.

Appendix 3, continued

Tourism seat (Michael Cohen, member):

- There will be ample opportunity to shape the process and a sanctuary.
- Climate change problems are so severe. Sanctuaries create an opportunity for us to raise our voices in support of addressing what we can do. Carbon sequestration areas should be created.
- Tourism is such an important economic driver in our area. Parks and protected areas have been so valuable for tourism.
- A sanctuary in that area could allow us to advocate for more appropriate access to coastal areas, as opposed to private lands that are off limits to all.
- No-take zones do help all of us. But this letter does not get into that. That would be figured out later through the process. The letter is trying to be non-confrontational.
- The sanctuary is not faceless locally. They are not federal cops that will come regulate us away.
- A sanctuary can give us a tool to help us with protection, help us pursue additional funding, give us voice.

Non-Consumptive Recreation (Ben Pitterle)

- Will support the letter.
- Confident that the fishing community and others will have impactful influence on how a sanctuary would be shaped and its final details. But that can't happen without a process to support it.
- There are robust commercial and recreational fishing industries within the CINMS, which is worth considering.
- Conservationists rely on a spectrum of tools and authorities available. Regulatory agencies don't always act to address problems, so others get involved at all levels.
- We should be proactive about managing the future of our oceans.
- It may be true that we don't know where sensitive submerged cultural sites are exactly located. But this is difficult and expensive and not something the Chumash community could conduct on their own. But a sanctuary could help.

Public At-Large (Mary Byrd):

- Our lens on this issue should perhaps best be from the perspective of how the designation process and potential sanctuary could be good for us at CINMS. That's our main responsibility as CINMS advisory council members. I see future benefits to us in terms of partnerships, funding, issues that go beyond the CINMS boundary, and more.
- There are so many benefits we enjoy now that could be enhanced if there was a neighboring sanctuary to partner with.
- I also support a sanctuary helping us better address climate change threats.

Conservation seat (Kristen Hislop)

- Consider also that oil and gas development is usually not allowed within national marine sanctuaries.
- Our advisory council shows that we have a local voice to influence management. Another sanctuary and advisory council would create even more local voice in the region.

Appendix 3, continued

- This letter is timely given that NOAA may now be more receptive to this nomination.
- While one opinion heard today was that we should wait to protect Chumash sites until we know exactly where they are, I agree with Ben (Pitterle) that the Chumash Peoples may not have the financial means to do that before designation and a sanctuary may provide needed resources to support efforts to locate and/or protect such sites, as desired. For example, the CINMS has been able to work on seafloor mapping of the entire sanctuary, something that may prove valuable for the proposed CHNMS.

Conservation seat (Sam Franz, alternate)

- 1.2 cents per year is the per taxpayer estimated cost that a 2014 economic study estimated for the cost of designating and running the proposed sanctuary.

Tourism seat (Morgan Coffey, alternate)

- In land conservation, we know that the establishment of wildlife corridors between protected lands is crucial to species protection success, which then leads to ecosystem success. It seems to me that this applies to multiple MPAs as well. Spillover can only have a positive impact on adjacent fisheries. I've even heard this anecdotally from local fishers.

Support - Non-Member Stakeholders:

Russell Galipeau - Public comment

- Sanctuaries set up advisory councils to provide locals with a voice. In some ways it's more local than the Pacific Fishery Management Council or California Fish and Game Commission.
- Support the council sending this letter.
- Council members have a lot of knowledge that should be plugged into a designation process. This experience is very valuable to help NOAA shape the sanctuary.
- Elinor Ostrom also explained that we need self regulation and self control too. We have to do the right thing. And we need monitoring to support this.
- Careful with using not fully defined language, like it's a "lock up", without explaining what is meant.

Other:

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (John Ugoretz)

- Clarification related to earlier comments: The resources off the coast of California are certainly not an open commons left to be trampled.