

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 Eckerte / 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.

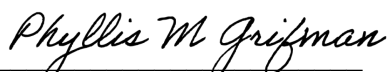
National marine sanctuaries are designated as special places for species close to extinction, sensitive habitats, and maritime cultural, historical, and archaeological resources. A comprehensive ecosystem-based management approach is used to promote long-term conservation of sanctuary waters, wildlife, 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.*

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.

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

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>		