

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, March 18, 2022

9:00am - 12:10pm

Online Webinar Session

Final Key Outcomes

*This online public Advisory Council meeting was not video or audio recorded.
To request a copy of any presentation slides, please contact michael.murray@noaa.gov.*

Administrative Business and Announcements

- 2022 California Sea Grant State Fellow Samantha (Sam) Cook oriented Council members and attendees with instructions regarding webinar sign-in, audio and video set-up, and the protocol for effective participation in the virtual meeting.
- Chair Kristen Hislop called the meeting to order, provided opening remarks, and described the purpose and composition of the Advisory Council and its bi-monthly meetings.
- Deputy Superintendent for Programs Mike Murray confirmed online attendance, counting the presence of 22 Council members representing 17 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix A). In addition to Council members, 16 members of the public and four sanctuary staff attended the webinar.
- Chair Hislop introduced Jed Chernabaeff as the new County of Ventura member, and Murray announced two additional Advisory Council roster changes: Daniel Studt will assume the National Marine Fisheries Service member seat previously held by Karen Edson, and in May 2022 CDR Ariel Berrios will replace CAPT Justin Noggle in the U.S. Coast Guard member seat.

January 21, 2022, Draft Key Outcomes

- The Council approved the draft key outcomes from the January 21, 2022, Advisory Council meeting. Phyllis Grifman (Research seat) offered a motion to adopt the notes, which Ken Convery (National Park Service seat) seconded. Chair Hislop led a voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote.
- A copy of the January 2022 draft key outcomes is available upon request to michael.murray@noaa.gov, and will be posted on the [Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Notes web page](#) upon finalization.

Council Member Announcements

- Council members shared a variety of announcements from their respective groups, organizations, and agencies.

- Capt. David Bacon (Recreational Fishing member) informed Council members of an upcoming veterans fishing charter hosted by the Coastal Conservation Association and the Elks Lodge. Capt. Bacon reported a good start to the rockfish season and a recent increase in striped bass abundance.
- Michael Cohen (Tourism member) provided a brief update on the recent, post-COVID increase in tourism in and around the sanctuary. Cohen also shared how 450 pounds of debris were collected at Santa Cruz and Anacapa Islands during a recent beach cleanup in partnership with Island Packers, Santa Barbara Adventure Company, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, volunteers, and sanctuary staff.
- Cliff Rodrigues (Education member) recalled obtaining marine debris from Cohen for his wife's educational program at the school she works at. Rodrigues also stated the climate indicators group has been meeting regularly, and appreciated how Channel Islands Naturalist Corps members were invited to attend this (March 2022) Advisory Council meeting.
- Phyllis Grifman announced that the Research Activities Panel (RAP) was reconvened, and that the RAP steering committee met to discuss CINMS resources available to RAP members, the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and the CINMS management plan revision process.
- Chair Hislop stated that the Conservation Working Group would be hosting an upcoming happy hour.
- Tim Athens (Commercial Fishing alternate) reported fewer lobster catches and lower lobster prices this year compared to last year, and stated that a number of lobster permits are currently up for sale. Athens said the squid fishery did very well, and that the groundfish fisheries near the sanctuary have been productive.
- Paul Amaral (Business alternate) shared how an urchin diver was rescued after falling off their boat and spending five hours in the water before swimming to an oil platform nearby.
- Carlos Mireles (California Department of Fish and Wildlife member) highlighted two rockfish species (copper and vermillion) discussed in the written announcements (Appendix B), and attributed changes to species abundance near the Channel Islands to changes in bag limits. Mireles directed Council members to the Department's website to assist with species identification.
- John Ugoretz (California Department of Fish and Wildlife alternate) noted a link on the Department's Marine Region home page for more information on rockfish bag limits, stock assessments, and species identification. Ugoretz anticipated an upcoming rapid stock assessment, and believed if a high abundance of rockfish is being caught, fishing grounds should be rotated.
- Merit McCrea (Recreational Fishing alternate), a member of the groundfish subcommittee of the Pacific Fishery Management Council, shared the perspective

that managers do not have the numbers needed to estimate survival rates, yet they are expected to be able to use existing data to credit fishermen for catching and releasing groundfish with descending devices. McCrea suggested California management take inspiration from that in Oregon, which requires the use of particular gear. McCrea believed this could prevent hooks from getting too close to where copper rockfish are, and recommended four to five feet of leader from sinker to bottom hook.

- Written council member announcements submitted prior to the meeting can be found in Appendix B.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

- Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley began by updating Council members on current coronavirus conditions, outlooks, and challenges at CINMS and other sites. He was hopeful that an in-person Advisory Council meeting in May 2022 with a hybrid/virtual option would be possible, given that CINMS receives the proper clearances.
- Mobley stated the federal budget was passed for fiscal year 2022. He said there was a slight increase, but that this did not cover inflation. Mobley added that the increase in marine diesel prices could affect the site's operations, and that staff may ask contributing partners to help with costs via a fuel surcharge.
- Mobley congratulated Laura Francis on her retirement from NOAA after 28 years, and acknowledged the departure of 2021 California Sea Grant State Fellow June Shrestha and arrival of new fellow Sam Cook.
- Mobley reminded Council members of the [#SaveSpectacular social media toolkit](#) in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), and directed them to Outreach Coordinator Shauna Fry for more information.
- Mobley reported that staff from across sanctuary sites received and are processing public comments on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.
- Mobley announced that the [Sanctuary Soundscape](#) (SanctSound) project completed three years of data collection in CINMS. He explained that the five listening stations in the sanctuary are part of a network of recorders located at 30 locations across the sanctuary system. Mobley said a public web portal with all three years of SanctSound's raw sound data, standardized data products (e.g., vessel detections), sound propagation models, and related educational resources will be publicly available in April 2022.
- Mobley highlighted the "How to Help Whales" webinar as part of World Ocean Day, developed and co-hosted by Shauna Fry and produced by NOAA's Ocean Today program. He shared how the webinar featured the Ocean Alert app and the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps program.
- Mobley summarized a [new publication](#) authored by members of the CINMS Resource Protection and Research teams, in collaboration with National Marine Fisheries Service and

The Nature Conservancy partners, that evaluates adherence with voluntary slow speed requests to protect endangered whales in Southern California from 2010 to 2019.

- Mobley said ten sanctuary divers and vessel crew recently completed their Divers Alert Network (DAN) first aid, CPR, and oxygen delivery recertifications. He mentioned that site Unit Diving Supervisor and DAN instructor Julie Bursek taught the skills assessment portion of the course.
- Mobley described a new ONMS [web feature](#) highlighting recreational fishing as part of sanctuaries' continued effort to promote the enjoyment of responsible recreational fishing in sanctuary sites.
- Resource Protection Coordinator Sean Hastings added that CINMS, in partnership with the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, received a Balloon Free Seas grant to support outreach efforts to students and universities to keep balloons out of the ocean. Hastings said two to three University of California, Santa Barbara, Bren School of Environmental Science & Management students would be a part of the project. Mobley added that under the fiscal year 2022 budget, the NOAA Marine Debris program received an increase in funding. Mobley went on to report a \$2 million budget item to help with kelp restoration on the Central Coast.

Guest Presentation: Abi Powell

- Marine scientist Abi Powell (NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center) provided a presentation on the exploration and characterization of a potential deep sponge reef observed in the sanctuary in 2020. Powell's presentation described researchers' efforts to determine the extent and species composition of the sponge mounds. Less than one percent of the deep sponge is believed to be alive, according to Powell, raising questions such as "how old is the sponge reef?" and "why is it dead?"
- Council questions and discussion followed Powell's presentation. [Additional information online [here](#)].

Public Comment

- Council and public questions and discussion of Powell's presentation continued into the public comment period.

CINMS Management Plan Revision Process

- Sam Cook and Mike Murray updated Council members on the CINMS management plan revision process. Cook identified a total of 157 individual public comments received across [34 submissions](#) from December 17, 2021, to February 24, 2022, that staff will be responding to. Cook provided an overview of the public comment focal areas, and Murray highlighted select substantive public comments. Murray notified Council members that sanctuary staff will use the public comments to inform the development of

the final management plan and environmental assessment documents, with a target completion date of late summer 2022.

- Council questions and discussion followed Cook and Murray's presentation, and focused on the public commenting process.

Whale Protection: Brand Ambassador Initiative

- Research specialist Rick Thomas (UCSB research assistant) shared an update on the Brand Ambassador Initiative as part of the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies program that encourages slower shipping speeds. Thomas explained that slower ships emit fewer greenhouse gasses and smog-forming pollutants, and are less likely to fatally strike whales. Since 2014, the program has generated a 46,000 ton reduction in regional greenhouse gas emissions and an estimated 35 percent decrease in whale strikes. Thomas highlighted that by becoming a Brand Ambassador, participating brands can demonstrate to their customers a commitment to sustainable shipping practices. Efforts to increase participation rates are ongoing, with brands' customers identified as motivation for entrance into the program.
- Council questions and discussion followed Thomas' presentation.

Close-Out and Schedule for Future Council Meetings

- Chair Hislop provided closing remarks and reminded attendees of the upcoming 2022 Advisory Council meeting schedule, as follows:
 - Friday, May 20 (online, or Santa Barbara County)
 - Friday, July 15 (online, or Ventura County)
 - Friday, September 16 (online, or Santa Barbara County)
 - Friday, November 18 (online, or Ventura County)

Appendix A. Advisory Council online meeting attendance, March 18, 2022

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

Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	No
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	No
Errin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	Yes
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	No
Jed Chernabaeff	County of Ventura member	Yes
<vacant>	County of Ventura alternate	n/a
Lisa Wooninck	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	Yes
Mike Murray (staff)	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	Yes
	Total number of individual SAC members (<u>voting seats</u> only)	22
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	17

Appendix B. Written Council member announcements, submitted as of March 17, 2022

**Written Member Announcements
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
Submitted as of March 17, 2022**

Name: Karen Edson and Daniel Studt

Seat: NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region

Announcement subject: 2021 Whale Entanglement Report Summary; 2021-2022 California Current Ecosystem Status Report

Narrative:

- NOAA Fisheries released its [2021 West Coast Whale Entanglement Summary](#). Entanglement reporting on the U.S. West Coast continued to be higher than what had occurred historically prior to 2014, although the number of reports was lower than during the peak years from 2015-2018.

- The [California Current Ecosystem Status Report](#) (pdf) provides a snapshot of the health of the California Current Ecosystem. Derived from environmental, biological, economic, and social indicators. A [summary presentation](#) is also available.

-Karen Edson will be departing NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region. Her last day will be Thursday, March 24. She has accepted a position with the Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management as a Public Affairs Specialist. She is grateful for the opportunity to work with the Council and has appreciated working with each of you. Daniel Studt will assume the Primary Seat for NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region.

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement subject: 2021 Year In Review and By The Numbers Reports

Relevant links: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Year-In-Review>

Narrative: These reports provide an overview of the Marine Region's management activities over the past year and summary of key facts and numbers related to recreational and commercial fishing.

Photos:



Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement subject: Updates to Rockfish Regulations

Relevant links: [CDFW Recreational Bag Limit Reduction](#)

Narrative:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announces multiple changes to recreational rockfish sub-bag limits which are expected to take effect Jan. 6, 2022. The emergency regulations were adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission in mid-December to align with federal regulations for these species. Changes to the sub-bag limits within the 10-fish daily Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling (RCG) complex bag and possession limit include:

- A decrease to the statewide sub-bag limit for [vermillion rockfish](#) (*Sebastes miniatus*) from five fish to four fish
- A new statewide sub-bag limit for [quillback rockfish](#) (*S. maliger*) of one fish
- A new statewide sub-bag limit for [copper rockfish](#) (*S. caurinus*) of one fish

Photos: (copper rockfish)



Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement subject: Update on Whale Safe Fisheries

Relevant links: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries>

Narrative:

Risk Assessment Mitigation Program Implementation (RAMP) to minimize risk of whale entanglement

RAMP regulations became effective Nov. 1, 2020 to minimize the risk of entanglement for Blue whales, Humpback whales and Leatherback sea turtles in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. During its second year of implementation the commercial fishing season was delayed or restricted by depth to minimize risk of entanglement due to high concentrations of Humpback whales in the fishing grounds. In addition, under new regulations adopted by the California Fish and Game Commission, the Director of CDFW restricted the use of traps in the recreational crab fishery. These restrictions or delays were all implemented to allow additional time for the seasonal whale migration and minimize potential for co-occurrence with trap gear which could result in an entanglement. For more information and to sign-up for updates please visit the [Whale Safe Fisheries Web Page](#).

2021 Trap Gear Retrieval Program

This was the second year of implementation for this program. Six permits were issued to remove lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab trap gear. Retrieval operations removed 244 lost or abandoned crab traps during 21 trips between Monterey and Crescent City. More information can be found on this program at the [Whale Safe Fisheries Web Page](#).

Name: Lindsay Bonito

Seat: California Natural Resources Agency (Alternate)

Announcement subject: Ocean Protection Council updates

Relevant links: (links embedded below)

Narrative:

OPC February Meeting

The OPC held its quarterly meeting online on February 23, 2022. Notably, the Council approved the first comprehensive [microplastics strategy](#) in the nation. OPC staff also presented the [State Agency Sea-Level Rise Action Plan for California](#), a first-of-its-kind, highly coordinated effort to outline a roadmap toward coastal resiliency for the state of California. More approved projects related to OAH monitoring and MPA outreach efforts can be found on [OPC's meeting webpage](#).

Long-term MPA monitoring reports available now!

MPA monitoring project teams have finalized their technical reports that address many MPA performance evaluation questions in preparation for the Decadal Management Review. These reports are available via [CA Sea Grant's website](#).

MSLT Work Plan now available

The MPA Statewide Leadership Team has developed a new Work Plan to guide the partnership-based MPA Management Program over the next five years (2021– 2024), which is now available on [OPC's website](#)

California 30x30 Initiative – Draft Pathways to 30x30 publicly available

On December 15, CNRA released a draft of Pathways to 30x30: Accelerating Conservation of California's Nature for public review and comment. OPC worked closely with Dr. Jennifer Norris, CNRA's Deputy Secretary for Biodiversity and Habitat, on the coastal and ocean components of the Pathways document. Stay tuned for the release of the final Pathways document in spring 2022 – updates can be found here: www.californianature.ca.gov/

OPC is hiring a Communications Manager!

OPC is hiring a Communications Manager (Staff Services Manager I, Specialist) to lead OPC's communications and community engagement efforts. The application deadline is March 29, 2022. For more details and to apply, please visit:

www.calcareers.ca.gov/CalHrPublic/Jobs/JobPosting.aspx?JobControlId=295718

Equity Plan Development

OPC staff, in collaboration with grantee, Better World Group, are in the process of finalizing the draft OPC Equity Plan for anticipated public release and comment next week. The Plan aims to advance more equitable and comprehensive ocean and coastal science research, policies, programs and projects that reflect the connection between people, communities, and natural systems. The draft Equity Plan will solicit public feedback in March, during a 30-day period. Feedback and outcomes from public comment will inform the final proposed Plan, which OPC staff anticipate bringing to the Council for consideration and possible adoption at its June 14, 2022 meeting.

Name: Errin Briggs

Seat: County of Santa Barbara

Announcement subject: Exxon Mobil Santa Ynez Unit Trucking Project

Relevant links:

<https://www.countyofsb.org/plndev/projects/energy/ExxonMobil-InterimTrucking.sbc>

Narrative:

On March 8, 2022, the County Board of Supervisors voted 3:2 (Nelson, Lavignino no) to deny the Exxon Mobil Santa Ynez Trucking project.

The Project would have initiated the phased restart of the existing ExxonMobil Santa Ynez Unit (SYU) facilities by trucking limited crude oil production to receiver sites in Santa Maria and Maricopa, as a temporary solution to transport crude oil to a refinery destination until a pipeline alternative became available. Trucking was to occur seven days per week, 24-hours per day, with no more than 68 - 70 trucks leaving the Las Flores Canyon (LFC) facility on the Gaviota Coast within a 24-hours period to one or both of the two receiver sites.

The Board of Supervisors hearing minutes, Action details, and documents can be accessed at the Santa Barbara County Legistar webpage [here](#).