

# CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, May 20, 2022

9:00am - 12:30pm

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](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov).*

### ***Administrative Business and Announcements***

- CINMS 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.
- CINMS Research Ecologist Lizzie Duncan confirmed online attendance, counting the presence of 23 Council members representing 18 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix A). In addition to Council members, 17 members of the public and two sanctuary staff attended the webinar.
- Chair Hislop and several sanctuary staff recognized departing Council member Captain Justin Noggle who held the primary U.S. Coast Guard seat since 2019 and will be succeeded by Commander Ariel Berrios. They acknowledged Captain Noggle's leadership in responding to a variety of emergency response situations in local waters in addition to support with sanctuary whale work, radar systems, and oil spills and drills.

### ***March 18, 2022, Draft Key Outcomes***

- The Council approved the draft key outcomes from the March 18, 2022, Advisory Council meeting. Stuart Kasdin (Public-At-Large seat) offered a motion to adopt the notes, which Phyllis Grifman (Research seat) seconded. Chair Hislop led a voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote.
- A copy of the March 2022 draft key outcomes is available upon request to [michael.murray@noaa.gov](mailto: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 seat) reported sufficient fishing conditions for May, despite the wind. Specifically, Capt. Bacon mentioned an abundance of halibut, white seabass, and calico bass near the Channel Islands and along the coast. Capt. Bacon also shared that surf casting has been good, and identified a local hotspot in Goleta Bay.
- Jenn Eckerle (California Natural Resources Agency seat) expanded upon the written announcements that Ocean Protection Council (OPC) submitted (see Appendix B). Eckerle explained that OPC leadership are collaborating with NOAA and sanctuary staff regarding California's 30x30 initiative, namely prioritizing strengthening protections in California national marine sanctuaries. Eckerle noted topics that OPC is seeking feedback on, including areas under threat that are in need of increased protection, mandatory vessel speed limits, and water quality issues.
- Ben Pitterle (Non-Consumptive Recreation seat) announced that Santa Barbara Channelkeeper will be hosting a lobster trap removal at Goleta Beach on Saturday, May 21, 2022, in collaboration with local commercial fishing community members. Pitterle encouraged those available to join the event.
- Kim Selkoe (Commercial Fishing seat) shared various announcements related to the local commercial fishing industry.
  - Selkoe stated that Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) has been heavily engaged in offshore wind planning efforts and is encouraging a fisheries benefits agreement in which the wind energy and fishing industries work together to resolve and mitigate impacts to the commercial fishing community. Selkoe noted the rapid development of wind energy processes, need for careful review of accompanying environmental impact statements, and large size of the proposed wind turbines compared to existing wind turbines elsewhere. Selkoe mentioned that CFSB is advocating for a slower experimental rollout of wind turbines, and was pleased that several state agencies are in support of this as well.
  - Selkoe expressed excitement about the lobster trap removal event that Pitterle mentioned.
  - Selkoe discussed the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department's engagement with CFSB to expand long-term commercial fishing infrastructure needs.
  - Selkoe shared an upcoming Fishermen for Ukraine event hosted by CFSB and partners that will be held at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum on Sunday, June 19, 2022.
  - Selkoe stated CFSB is involved in a settlement with Plains All American Pipeline.
- Michael Cohen (Tourism seat) shared various announcements related to the local tourism industry.

- Cohen presented a series of social media posts that Santa Barbara Adventure Company has developed for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' (ONMS) 50th anniversary using content in the ONMS social media toolkit, and mentioned CINMS' social media presence. Cohen encouraged others to like, share, and comment on sanctuary posts as well as collaborate with ONMS and CINMS on social media content. Cohen also asked Council members active on social media if they would like to assume the role of Marketing Subcommittee Chair.
- Cohen reported some difficulty with the Santa Barbara Harbor Department with regard to how his tourism operations are being regulated.
- Cohen echoed Capt. Bacon's remarks about the heavy winds, and believes climate change is a contributing factor. Cohen anticipated that these conditions could be a challenge for CINMS and Channel Islands National Park and, as a result, called for the reversal of climate change impacts.
- Cohen said tourism is strong in Santa Barbara, and explained that combined snorkeling and sea cave kayaking tours are popular. Cohen also noted the return of outdoor education trips to Santa Cruz Island.
- Captain Justin Noggle (U.S. Coast Guard) shared marine environmental protection statistics for San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties from January to April 2022. He also provided a living marine resources operations report which included the U.S. Coast Guard's monitoring and enforcement of safety compliance measures among commercial fishing vessels, whale sighting protocol, spiny lobster and Dungeness crab fisheries closures, and a reminder about commercial fishing vessel safety examinations. Captain Noggle stated the U.S. Coast guard is hiring for many different openings, and noted upcoming position changes including incoming U.S. Coast Guard Advisory Council member Commander Berrios.
- Chair Hislop (Conservation member) reported on a recent meeting of the Conservation Working Group at which members discussed many items on the May 2022 Advisory Council meeting agenda. Chair Hislop also stated that the Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network is in urgent need of volunteers amid the influx of sick and emaciated pelicans.
- Written Council member announcements submitted prior to the meeting can be found in Appendix B.

### ***Sanctuary Superintendent's Report***

- Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley began the superintendent's report with an update on current coronavirus conditions, outlooks, and challenges at CINMS and other sites. He was hopeful that an in-person Advisory Council meeting with an online joining option would be possible in the coming months, given that CINMS receives the proper clearances.

Mobley shared internal CINMS staff discussions regarding the “new normal,” including transitioning back to the workplace, office culture, and navigating the future amid the persistence of COVID-19 cases.

- Mobley recommended a [video](#) about the sea urchin industry in the Santa Barbara Channel that discusses kelp dynamics affecting the industry and why sea urchins are so expensive.
- Mobley mentioned that an updated [list of Science Needs Assessments](#) are live on the CINMS website and will serve as resources for communicating priorities to potential partners, students, interns, and other interested individuals and organizations. He stated that ONMS uses Science Needs Assessments to evaluate the science and information requirements of sanctuaries as defined by the management issues facing each site.
- Mobley highlighted several 2021 CINMS vessel operations statistics, including 102 days at sea across 26 projects serving over 600 scientists, educators, and students. Mobley said the R/V *Shark Cat* will be replaced by a new boat in 2023, and that the R/V *Shearwater* received a number of repairs and upgrades.
- Mobley announced a [new sanctuary stamp series](#) that will be issued in August 2022 for the 50th Anniversary of ONMS and will include a panel of 16 forever commemorative stamps featuring images from across national marine sanctuaries.
- Mobley detailed outcomes from Santa Barbara Harbor’s Operation Clean Sweep on Saturday, May 7, 2022. He explained that sanctuary staff and members of the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer program helped remove over 4,000 pounds of marine debris. Mobley added that Duncan conducted an informal *Undaria* survey during the event to detect the presence of the invasive species in the harbor; more *Undaria* were seen near the mouth of the harbor, and in the reproductive phase.
- Mobley noted the first CINMS education cruise of the calendar year occurred on Friday, April 1, 2022, on the R/V *Shearwater* with Santa Barbara City College students. After detailing the cruise, Mobley characterized this science education opportunity as one that can change lives and encourage students to pursue a career as a marine and coastal professional.
- Mobley notified meeting attendees of an upcoming Advisory Council recruitment drive for four community seats (education, tourism, public at large, commercial fishing) and shared a new ONMS video advertisement providing information about Sanctuary Advisory Councils and encouraging people to apply for membership.
- Mobley informed attendees that [Capitol Hill Ocean Week \(CHOW\)](#) will be held June 7 through June 9, 2022, online and in-person. He explained CHOW is an important annual event intended to keep ocean conservation issues on the minds of Congress members.

### ***Cruise Ship Visits to Santa Barbara***

- Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Science and Policy Director, and Council member, Ben Pitterle (Recreation (non-consumptive) seat) provided information on environmental concerns associated with cruise ship visits to Santa Barbara.

- Pitterle first provided an overview of the Santa Barbara cruise ship program established in 2002, then offered statistics on cruise ship waste generation from the U.S. Bureau of Transportation. Pitterle reminded Council members of waste discharge regulations and practices as they relate to CINMS, and also shared the City of Santa Barbara Captain's Declaration that prohibits discharge within 12 miles of Santa Barbara. Pitterle went on to discuss Channelkeeper's cruise ship monitoring which is intended to deter ships from discharging within the City's 12-mile zone by demonstrating presence and watchfulness. Air emissions are also a significant concern, according to Pitterle, who cited a study that claimed a large cruise ship can have a carbon footprint greater than 12,000 cars.
- Opportunity for Council questions and discussion followed Pitterle's presentation.
  - Cohen considered the tradeoffs between the economic benefits that cruise ships can bring to the City through tourism and the environmental consequences Pitterle discussed.

### ***CINMS Resource Protection Activities and Updates***

- Resource Protection Specialist Jess Morten with NOAA Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries and the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation provided a vessel speed reduction programs update.
  - Morten discussed maps depicting 2021 NOAA voluntary slow speed zones for the San Francisco Bay region and Southern California, and noted an increase in cooperation for Southern California but a decrease for the San Francisco Bay region compared to 2020 data. Morten identified the 2022 NOAA voluntary slow speed zones for both regions, which will be in effect until December 15, 2022. Morten then explained the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program as a financial and positive press incentive for slower ship speeds to reduce the risk of ship strikes, air pollution, and underwater noise. Morten shared program cooperation data from 2014 to 2021, and stated that four bulk companies are signed up for the 2022 season. Morten added that six companies asked not to receive compensation for their participation, indicating they are not cooperating for the money, which is redirected back into the program.
  - Council questions and discussion followed Morten's presentation.
    - Giles Pettifor (Business seat) asked if the supply chain crisis has affected program participation; Morten suggested that ship congestion at the ports has had an effect on cooperation, with some ships bypassing the San Francisco Bay region. Morten also mentioned that in response to this back-up of ships, they are now directed to wait further from shore and outside the vessel speed reduction areas; ships are given 72 hours notice to enter the port, providing them enough time to proceed at slower speeds.
    - Cohen applauded these programs for their success and importance.

- On behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara, NOAA TightLines Mechanical Engineering Team, undergraduate students Jordan Pink and Daniel Tafoya presented their work to develop a whale-safe fishing gear system.
  - The team designed a self-tensioning system composed of a basic pulley (an O-ring) and a counterweight connected to the buoys and crab trap. The design enables the system to maintain tension with depth changes, thereby reducing the likelihood of whale entanglements and allowing fishermen to operate as close to normal as possible.
  - Council questions and discussion followed Pink and Tafoya’s presentation.
    - Capt. David expressed worry that chafing through the rope could lead to lost crab pots, and stated that lead weights, which can be lost, are expensive; Pink and Tafoya said they were interested in doing further tests with the ropes.
    - Eckerle was interested in learning more about the next steps of this project.
- On behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara Bren School Communications Capstone Team, graduate students Elena Ortiz and Lauren Skube presented their Balloon Free Seas project.
  - The team presented their research on balloon waste issues for marine wildlife in CINMS and Santa Barbara Channel, and shared short- and long-term strategies for raising consumer awareness and changing behavior. This included ideas for shifting the celebratory association with balloons, promoting best practices and alternatives, using community-based social marketing (pledges, social media, endorsements), developing key partnerships, and considering broader policy changes.
  - Council questions and discussion followed Ortiz and Skube’s presentation.
    - Cohen commented on the value of a whale to the community as it relates to shifting balloon use behavior, and pondered the idea of stopping balloon sales altogether; Ortiz and Skube stated they are targeting a change in consumer awareness and behavior as a first step, who could then put pressure on balloon sellers to stop balloon sales.
    - Cliff Rodrigues (Education seat) suggested asking for support from local power companies that are also affected by the balloon issue.
    - Pettifor congratulated the team for using social media as an outreach strategy, and encouraged expanding messaging to both rubber and mylar balloons.

***Public Comment***

- Several members of the public provided comments, questions, and remarks for guest speakers and CINMS staff.

- Greg Bush stated that the National Marine Fisheries Service Office of Law Enforcement West Coast Division has completed its fiscal year 2021 Annual Enforcement Report, which is posted on the North Pacific Fishery Management Council website.
- Dino Dal Bon shared with the Balloon Free Seas project team that the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer program collects data on mylar balloons found in Santa Barbara waters and uses them as part of its interpretive kit.
- Parker Emerson asked Ben Pitterle how much daily air emissions would be reduced if Santa Barbara had electrical plug-ins for ships; Pitterle responded that if these facilities were available, air emission impacts could be reduced.
- Timothy Mitro said that the air emission reduction data that Jess Morten shared and explained were correct.

### ***SanctSound Web Portal***

- Due to time constraints, the scheduled overview and demonstration of the new SanctSound web portal was postponed to a later date. Instead, West Coast Region Sanctuary Soundscape Monitoring Project Coordinator Lindsey Peavey Reeves, Ph.D., with the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Science and Heritage Division and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation provided a brief overview of the SanctSound web portal.
  - Peavey Reeves referred to the presentation she provided at the March 2019 Advisory Council meeting, and stated that five listening stations were established in CINMS. She directed attendees to several resources, including the [SanctSound web portal](#) and related [web stories](#) and a [recent webinar](#).

### ***Cruise Ship Visits to Santa Barbara***

- Chair Hislop returned to Council questions and discussion on the cruise ship agenda item from earlier in the meeting.
  - Capt. David said cruise ship tender boats are also a contributing factor to air pollution and noise, and believed a combination of cruise ships and tender boats are affecting sea life. He suggested that the harbor's narrow and confined entrance also adds to these effects. Capt. David recommended safety concerns associated with tender boat operations be addressed.
  - Pettifor stated that a new California Air Resources Board (CARB) rule on air quality for deep draft vessels recently went into effect, and is being assessed and open for public comment through mid-June. He said CARB is also considering public health impacts of at anchor issues, and added that shore power, where feasible, can help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, though infrastructure to support these efforts can be expensive.

- Merit McCrea (Recreational Fishing seat) shared that the Harbor Commission Cruise Ship Subcommittee is interested in hearing public comments and developing policy that balances resource protection, the local economy, and visitor opportunities. McCrea also commented on the whale-safe fishing method and balloon control presentations, stating that the NOAA TightLines project team made good progress despite the short time frame and limited fishing experience and adding that there could be alternatives to keeping fishing lines taut. He said balloons also affect wildland areas, even though they aren't as easily spotted as they are on the flat surface of the ocean.

***Close-Out and Future Advisory Council Meeting Schedule***

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



**Appendix A. Advisory Council online meeting attendance, May 20, 2022**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism alternate	No
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Anthony (Tony) Knight, Ph.D.	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes
Giles Pettifor	Business member	Yes
Paul Amaral	Business alternate	No
Kristen Hislop	Conservation member	Yes
Samantha Macks Franz	Conservation alternate	Yes
Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.	Commercial Fishing member	Yes
Timothy Athens	Commercial Fishing alternate	No
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	No
Mary Byrd	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
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
Daniel Studt	National Marine Fisheries Service member	Yes
<vacant>	National Marine Fisheries Service alternate	n/a
Ken Convery	National Park Service member	No
<vacant>	National Park Service alternate	n/a
CAPT Justin Noggle	U.S. Coast Guard member	Yes
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	Yes
Stephen Duboyce	Dept. of Defense alternate	Yes
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Yes
John Ugoretz	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	No
Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	Yes
Lindsay Bonito	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	No

Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	Yes
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	Yes
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)	23
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	18

**Appendix B. Written Council member announcements, submitted as of May 19, 2022**

**Written Member Announcements  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council  
Submitted as of May 19, 2022**

**Name:** Carlos Mireles

**Seat:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Announcement subject:** Current CDFW activities related to offshore wind energy planning and development

**Relevant links:**

<https://www.energy.ca.gov/programs-and-topics/topics/renewable-energy/offshore-renewable-energy>

**Narrative:**

CDFW was an inaugural member of the BOEM-California Interagency Renewable Energy Task Force (Task Force) which was launched in 2016. Since then, the CDFW has been involved in a broad range of activities supporting the Task Force including, but not limited to, outreach to fishermen, fisheries data analysis, and providing support to other state agencies. The Governor's 2021 budget included two new Environmental Scientist plus a staff attorney to work specifically on offshore wind energy (OSW). OSW is poised to play a large role in helping California meet its renewable energy goals.[1] Below is a list of activities by Marine Region Staff:

- CDFW continues to be an active member of the joint state-federal OSW Task Force;
- AB 525 was signed into law in 2021 and enacted this year directs the California Energy Commission (CEC) to coordinate a state strategic planning process for OSW over the next two years. The Department is required under the bill to participate in this process, particularly in determining impacts to fishermen, fisheries, natural resources, and port infrastructure planning process. Staff have participated in numerous interagency calls to help CEC staff develop the strategy for completing this plan.
- CEC put forward a BCP to build out the staffing and fiscal needs of the state to better manage offshore wind activities and help with the development of the strategic plan. Marine Region staff contributed to this proposal by earmarking some budgetary needs to help support community engagement by hiring professional facilitators for working with the fishing community statewide.
- Marine Region staff, held in-person meetings with fishermen and other agencies involved in OSW in Crescent City, Eureka and Fort Bragg in November of 2021 and March of 2022. In-person meetings were held in Santa Barbara and Morro Bay in December 2021 and May 2022. These meetings were designed to share information about the OSW process with the fishing industry as well gathering feedback and concerns.
- Marine Region staff supported the Coastal Commission with its federal Consistency Determination review pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act for the Humboldt

and upcoming Morro Bay Wind Energy Areas by providing an analytical and spatial fisheries analysis on catch and logbook data. Marine Region staff also reviewed the environmental sections of the Consistency Determinations to ensure accuracy and provided verbal comments on the Humboldt Wind Energy Area at the April 7, 2022 Coastal Commission meeting.

- BOEM has indicated OSW lease auctioning will most likely occur in the fall of 2022. Marine Region staff will be preparing for this possible event. In addition, we will be reviewing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment anticipated to be released in June 2022 for the lease auction.
- Staff regularly attend interagency working groups meetings led by the CEC to discuss OSW and by OPC to discuss environmental issues relating to OSW wind development.

Contacts for more information:

- CDFW Becky Ota- [Becky.Ota@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Becky.Ota@wildlife.ca.gov)
- California Coastal Commission Kate Huckelbridge- [Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:Kate.Huckelbridge@coastal.ca.gov)
- California Energy Commission Eli Harlandk- [Eli.Harland@energy.ca.gov](mailto:Eli.Harland@energy.ca.gov)
- State Lands Commission Jennifer Mattox- [Jennifer.Mattox@slc.ca.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Mattox@slc.ca.gov)
- Ocean Protection Council Justine Kimball- [Justine.Kimball@resources.ca.gov](mailto:Justine.Kimball@resources.ca.gov)

[1] Based on the draft Energy Commission’s just released report, “Draft Report - Offshore Wind Energy Development in Federal Waters Offshore the California Coast: Maximum Feasible Capacity and Megawatt Planning Goals for 2030 and 2045”

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**Name:** Carlos Mireles

**Seat:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Announcement subject:** New California Grunion Season and Limit Regulations

**Relevant links:**

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/News/new-california-grunion-season-and-limit-regulations>

**Narrative:** Earlier this year, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted regulatory changes to increase the length of the seasonal closure and create a bag and possession limit for grunion, an iconic species found in California and Baja California. Effective June 1, 2022, the new regulations add June to the seasonal no-take closure for grunion, which now extends from April 1 through June 30. Additionally, a bag and possession limit of 30 grunion was created.

[MORE INFORMATION >](#)

**Photos:**



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**Name:** Carlos Mireles

**Seat:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife

**Announcement subject:** Recreational Lobster Outreach Meeting

**Relevant links:** [Click to Join Live Event on Microsoft Teams](#)

**Narrative:**

CDFW staff will be hosting a public meeting to inform stakeholders about proposed changes (listed below) to recreational spiny lobster fishing regulations and gather early feedback on the proposed changes. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide comments and ask questions.

Proposed changes include:

- Simplifying and clarifying hoop net buoy marking requirements
- Prohibiting hoop net fishing for any species during the 24 hours before the lobster opener
- Moving the recreational opening time 12 hours earlier
- General language clean-up for clarity and consistency

**When:** Thursday May 26, 2022 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Live virtual meeting; Interested individuals can attend the meeting by following [this link](#) on the date and time that the meeting starts.

Please note: The proposed changes are for the 2023-2024 season, not this upcoming lobster season. We are still in the very early stages of sharing our proposed changes and getting feedback from stakeholders. There will be many more opportunities for public comment as these proposed changes are finalized.

Please send any additional questions to [lobster@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:lobster@wildlife.ca.gov)

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**Name:** Daniel Studt

**Seat:** NOAA Fisheries

**Announcement subject:** Fisheries of the United States and Status of the Stocks

**Relevant links:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-releases-two-key-reports-status-stocks-and-fisheries-united-states>

**Narrative:** NOAA Fisheries released two flagship reports—the 2021 Status of Stocks report and the 2020 Fisheries of the United States report. The reports capture our shared and continued commitment to sustainable fisheries management in the U.S. as we continue to make progress in rebuilding and ending overfishing on stocks and work to increase the economic impact of our fisheries. In 2020, U.S. commercial fishermen landed 8.4 billion pounds valued at \$4.7 billion, while recreational anglers caught an estimated 1 billion fish and released 65 percent of those caught.

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**Name:** Daniel Studt

**Seat:** NOAA Fisheries

**Announcement subject:** Researchers Find Massive Rare Sponge Mounds Hiding in the Deep Sea (in the CINMS!)

**Relevant links:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/researchers-find-massive-rare-sponge-mounds-hiding-deep-sea>

**Narrative:** NOAA Fisheries' Office of Habitat Conservation recently released a web story highlighting the discovery of a deep seas sponge reef within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. First discovered in October 2020 and returned in August 2021, the vast mounds of glass sponges and their skeletons are rarely seen anywhere in the world.

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**Name:** Daniel Studt

**Seat:** NOAA Fisheries

**Announcement subject:** NOAA Fisheries Invites Public Comment on Draft Climate Regional Action Plans

**Relevant links:**

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/noaa-fisheries-invites-public-comment-draft-climate-regional-action-plans>

**Narrative:** NOAA Fisheries has developed [seven draft Climate Regional Actions Plans](#) (see [DRAFT Western Regional Action Plan](#)) as part of our proactive approach to increase the resilience and adaptation of marine life and the people who depend on them. We are [soliciting](#)

[public comment](#) on the plan(s) to ensure a collaborative and inclusive approach in planning for climate-ready stewardship of fisheries and protected resources. We are particularly interested in input on the clarity of the goals and activities, ways to strengthen the plans, and what additional goals and activities need to be addressed. Comments must be received by June 2, 2022.

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**Name:** Jenn Eckerle

**Seat:** California Natural Resources Agency

**Announcement subject:** Ocean Protection Council updates

**Relevant links:** (links embedded below)

**Narrative:**

### **Upcoming OPC Meeting – June 14**

The OPC will hold its next hybrid quarterly meeting on June 14, 2022. The in-person meeting will take place in Sacramento, with the option to participate virtually as well. The meeting agenda will be posted soon on [OPC's meeting webpage](#), but includes discussions on sea-level rise, and kelp restoration.

### **OPC Releases its Draft Equity Plan for Public Comment**

OPC is pleased to release its comprehensive [draft Equity Plan](#) for a 45-day public review and comment. The OPC Equity Plan represents OPC's commitment to advancing equity across ocean and coastal policies and actions in California and strengthening internal efforts to create a more inclusive workplace and workforce for California's coasts and ocean. The OPC Equity Plan was collaboratively developed with OPC staff and leadership, funding grantee, [Better World Group \(BWG\)](#), and members of OPC's Equity Plan [Environmental Justice \(EJ\) Advisory Group](#).

### **MPA monitoring webinar series and snapshot reports**

Join us as we unpack the results of the latest state-funded [MPA long-term monitoring projects](#) through an 8-part virtual summer webinar series. Participants are invited to ask questions directly to the researchers to understand the science informing the management of California's MPA Network. To support the series, OP has developed a series of ['snapshot' reports](#) that summarize each MPA monitoring program, in English and Spanish. The webinar series is hosted by OPC in partnership with CDFW and supported by Strategic Earth Consulting. Participation by all members of the public is encouraged. No registration is required – please visit [OPC's webpage](#) to learn more join the meeting.

### **Call for Proposals to Build Coastal Resilience – \$9.5 Million Available**

OPC is pleased to [announce the release of a solicitation](#) for projects that build resilience on the coast to prepare for and adapt to the impacts of sea-level rise. Specific project types include



research-based projects that focus on coastal habitat mapping, contaminated sites, and socio-economic impacts, and implementation projects that work to provide resilience to climate change through restoration and/or habitat enhancement. OPC anticipates having \$9.5 million to distribute through this round of funding, and letters of intent are due to [prop68@resources.ca.gov](mailto:prop68@resources.ca.gov) on **June 13, 2022**.

### **California 30x30 Initiative – Final Pathways to 30x30 publicly available**

On Earth Day, California released a groundbreaking document detailing the state’s approach to conserving 30 percent of our lands and coastal waters by 2030. [Pathways to 30×30: Accelerating Conservation of California’s Nature](#) provides strategies and opportunities for protecting biodiversity, fighting climate change, and enhancing access to nature for all Californians. For more information about California’s 30x30 strategy, visit [www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30](http://www.californianature.ca.gov/pages/30x30)

### **OPC Releases State Agency Sea-Level Rise Action Plan**

At its February 23 Council meeting, OPC presented the [State Agency Sea-Level Rise Action Plan for California](#) (Action Plan), a first-of-its-kind, highly coordinated effort to outline a roadmap toward coastal resiliency for the state of California. Developed through intense collaboration from the 17 state agencies that make up the State Sea-Level Rise Leadership Team, the Plan is a living document that fosters accountability and collaboration for planning and implementing sea-level rise (SLR) action over the next five years. It builds on Senator Atkins’ landmark legislation, [Senate Bill 1](#), which was signed into law by Governor Newsom in 2021 and drives California’s efforts to achieve coastal resilience in the face of rising seas.

### **California Releases Landmark Statewide Microplastics Strategy**

California has prepared a first-of-its-kind [Statewide Microplastics Strategy](#) that recommends early actions and research priorities to reduce microplastic pollution in California’s marine environment. The Strategy follows the direction of Senate Bill 1263 (Portantino), which was signed into law in 2018 and [was adopted by the Ocean Protection Council](#) at its Feb. 23 meeting.

### **OPC is hiring a Coastal Habitats Manager!**

OPC is hiring an Environmental Scientist to help lead its efforts to conserve coastal watersheds and habitats, including wetlands, eelgrass, beaches, dunes, and rocky intertidal. The application deadline is **May 23, 2022**. For more details and to apply, please visit [CalCareers](#).