

NOAA CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, March 17, 2023

9:00am-12:45pm PT

Hybrid Session: Museum of Ventura County and Google Meet

Final Key Outcomes

This hybrid public Advisory Council meeting was not video or audio recorded.

Please contact Michael Murray (michael.murray@noaa.gov) to request a copy of any presentation slides.

Administrative Business and Announcements

- Council Chair Kristen Hislop called the meeting to order, described the purpose and composition of the Advisory Council and its bi-monthly meetings, and provided opening remarks.
- CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs, Mike Murray, oriented attendees to the hybrid meeting technology and practices for effective participation.
- Murray confirmed in-person and online attendance, counting the presence of 26 Council members representing 19 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix A). In addition to Council members, several members of the public and sanctuary staff were in attendance both in-person and online.
- Murray thanked eight outgoing council members for their service on the council, including Morgan Coffey (Tourism Seat alternate), Tano Cabugos (Chumash Community seat), Tim Athens (Commercial Fishing seat alternate), Doug Williams (Public At-Large seat member), Ben Pitterle (Non-consumptive Recreation seat member), Merit McCrea (Recreational Fishing seat alternate), and Captain David Bacon (Recreational Fishing seat member).
- Murray also recognized Chair Kristen Hislop for her Sanctuary Advisory Council Leadership Award.

January 20, 2023, Draft Key Outcomes

- The Advisory Council approved draft key outcomes from the January 20, 2023, Advisory Council meeting. Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) offered a motion to adopt the notes, which Tony Knight (Non-consumptive Recreation seat alternate) seconded. Chair Hislop conducted a voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote.
- A copy of the January draft key outcomes is available upon request to Mike Murray (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.
 - Lindsay Bonito (California Natural Resources Agency seat) briefly reflected on the State’s February 15, 2023 “MPA Day” noting that they will share more at the May 19 SAC meeting. She shared that OPC is conducting four webinars focused on the agency’s 30x30 goals, and that there are two staff positions open to support the 30x30 effort. Additionally, there are two RFP’s focused on plastics with a total funding amount of \$1.45 million.
 - Sam Macks Franz, (Conservation seat), announced that the marketing subcommittee is meeting on April 4 to discuss supporting the Sanctuary’s outreach and marketing efforts and the meeting is open to any interested council members. She also noted that the Conservation Working Group had a good turnout at their meeting on March 9.
 - Ken Convery, (National Park Service member), referenced his written comments regarding the news that the National Park Service awarded a new 10-year transportation contract to Island Packers.
 - Daniel Studt, (NOAA Fisheries member) highlighted that NOAA Fisheries completed a status review of the sunflower sea star and is proposing to list the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. There is a public comment period until May 15, 2023.
 - Phyllis Griffman, (Research seat member) provided a few announcements including that California Sea Grant and University of California Santa Barbara are conducting a statewide survey on community adaptation to sea level rise and the city of Santa Barbara received a NOAA grant to explore microplastics.
 - Tony Knight (Non-consumptive Recreation member), announced that the California Coastal Commission and California State Parks will be presenting information about a new clean boat program that includes ensuring boats are equipped with nets to pick up trash found in the ocean.
 - Carlos Mireles, (California Department of Fish and Wildlife member), briefly reflected on the State’s February 15, 2023 “MPA Day” in Monterey which included 150-175 people in attendance and 275 people streaming online. He explained that CDFW is tasked with prioritizing the recommendations from the review and he will update the council when that review is finalized. He also announced his new position as Senior Scientist in the CDFW MPA Program.
 - Paul Amaral, (Business seat), announced that he sold his business, Channel Watch, to Carson Shevitz. He noted he will still work for the organization and stay involved in protecting the environment and sanctuary.

- Merit McCrea, (Recreational Fishing seat), reflected on time as a CINMS council member, highlighting his work on the CINMS SAC Marine Reserves Working Group.
- Captain David (Recreational Fishing member), announced a March 18 Subsistence Anglers Fishing Education (SAFE) Fishing Event at the base of the Goleta Pier. He explained the event is aimed at equipping those from disadvantaged communities with the knowledge and resources for subsistence fishing. The event is sponsored by the Elks Lodge and supported by the California Coastal Conservation Association, CINMS, NOAA Fisheries, MPA Collaborative, and CDFW.
- Kristen Hislop, (Conservation seat member) provided her reflections on the State’s recent “MPA Day”, including the feedback that more work needs to be done to include and learn from tribal partners. She also noted that the Conservation Working Group discussed many topics at their March 8 meeting, including MPA Week, whales and shipping, the Vessel Speed Reduction Program, cruise ships, and the Balloon Free Seas campaign.
- Stuart Kasdin, (Public-At-Large member), announced that the City of Goleta banned the sale of mylar balloons and plans to reach out to other local governments to encourage them to do the same.
- Written Council member announcements submitted prior to the meeting can be found in Appendix B.

Sanctuary Superintendent’s Report

CINMS Superintendent, Chris Mobley, welcomed attendees back for the first in-person Advisory Council meeting of 2023, and shared the following updates:

- Mobley shared that they received the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget allocation, which is a slight increase from the previous year and does not include any budget cuts.
- Mobley introduced the new CINMS Sea Grant Fellow, Kacy Cooper. In her role at the Sanctuary, Cooper will be supporting several program areas at CINMS, including the Sanctuary Advisory Council and the Education and Outreach team.
- Mobley also introduced the seven new interns that joined the CINMS team supporting projects on marine plastics, ecosystem monitoring data analysis, fisheries, webenized sanctuary condition reports, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Designation, and Giant Sea Bass Tagging.
- Mobley shared the recent naming of Brennan Reef, an uncharted reef in the sanctuary that was officially designated in memory of Rear Admiral Richard T. “Rick” Brennan.
- Mobley shared that on Saturday, January 21 CINMS participated in a regional Underwater Parks Day celebration at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History’s Sea Center Aquarium.

- Mobley announced that a [series of short videos](#) are now available that promote participation in the Blue Whales Blue Skies Program. They were made possible through support from the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and produced by Earth Media Labs.
- Mobely shared that in February, the 5th International Marine Protected Areas Conference (IMPAC5) was held in Vancouver, Canada. NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries was a big contributor to the conference, and CINMS was represented by Sean Hastings, Chris Caldow, Ryan Freedman, Jenny Selgrath, and Jess Morten.

Completion of the CINMS Final Management Plan

- Mike Murray announced the completion of the CINMS management plan review process. He noted the [2023 CINMS Final Management Plan](#) will guide the sanctuary over the next 5-10 years. Murray presented a summary of the contents of the management plan (slides are available upon request, and [one-pager handout available online](#)).
- Keighley Lane presented on how CINMS staff are now organizing their efforts around the management plan and will be tracking implementation progress.
- Questions and feedback from council members included encouragement of future opportunities for stakeholder communities to work with the State and CINMS agencies as the Channel Islands MPAs undergo a performance review, connections between MPAs within the CINMS and the State's MPA network, impacts of climate change on MPAs and fisheries, and opportunities for the council to participate in implementing the Final Management Plan.

Public Comment

- Several members of the public provided comments and remarks for guest speakers and sanctuary staff.
 - Jaime Diamond, Santa Barbara Landing, explained she is an active participant in fisheries management work and noted the important leadership and contributions of Merit McCrea and Captain David Bacon to the fishing community.
 - Merit McCrea noted that prior to the formal naming of Brennon Reef, some fisheries and recreational users referred to the site as Egg Rock.

Climate Change at CINMS: Social-Ecological Risks, Responses, and Communication

- Dr. Jennifer (Jenny) Selgrath presented her plans to understand the human dimensions of climate change impacts. She elaborated on opportunities for council member participation and engagement, including providing input on focus groups, surveys, and interviews aimed at measuring the benefit provided by the ocean to coastal communities, as well as the impacts of climate change. Slides available upon request.
- A few council members expressed their support for this type of work and interest in engaging.

NOAA Ocean Exploration Expedition to CINMS Region

- Samuel Cuellar, Expeditions Coordinator with NOAA's Ocean Exploration Program, and Ryan Freedman, CINMS Research Ecologist, gave a presentation about a planned exploration cruise this Fall with the NOAA ship *Okeanos Explorer*. (Slides available upon request). They asked council members for suggestions on how to structure the cruise to best meet the needs of sanctuary stakeholders, such as feedback for pre-expedition outreach, briefings, types of data to collect, and AUV survey locations.
- Cuellar and Freedman responded to council member questions, clarifying that the data from these exploration cruises will become available as shapefiles for use in GIS, and that they rarely encounter fishing gear due to the depth of the cruise and resolution. They also noted that they have done a variety of outreach events in the past, including port events, inviting student groups and scientists aboard the vessel, as well as livestreaming for classrooms to follow-along. Current outreach targets for the Fall cruise include the Long Beach Aquarium, any interested Chumash communities, harbors, and they are open to other ideas.

Close Out and Next Steps

- Chair Hislop provided closing remarks and reminded attendees of the remaining scheduled Advisory Council meetings in 2023:
 - Friday, May 19 (Santa Barbara Zoo with online option)
 - Friday, July 21 (Ventura County with online option)
 - Friday, September 15 (Santa Barbara County with online option)
 - Friday, November 17 (Ventura County with online option)

Appendix A. Advisory Council hybrid meeting attendance, March 17, 2023

| <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 | No |
| Anthony (Tony) Knight, Ph.D. | Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate | Yes |
| Giles Pettifor | Business member | Yes |
| Paul Amaral | Business alternate | Yes |
| Kristen Hislop | Conservation member | Yes |
| Samantha Macks Franz | Conservation alternate | Yes |
| Mike Nelson | Commercial Fishing member | No |
| Timothy Athens | Commercial Fishing alternate | No |
| Capt. David Bacon | Recreational Fishing member | Yes |
| Merit McCrea | Recreational Fishing alternate | Yes |
| Michael Yorke | Education member | Yes |
| Andrea Mills | Education alternate | No |
| Phyllis Grifman | Research member | Yes |
| Robert Miller, Ph.D. | Research alternate | Yes |
| Douglas Williams, Ph.D. | Public-At-Large member | No |
| Chris Ragland | Public At-Large alternate | Yes |
| Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D. | Public-At-Large member | Yes |
| Amanda Allen | Public At-Large alternate | Yes |
| 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 | Yes |
| <vacant> | National Park Service alternate | n/a |
| CDR Ariel Berrios | U.S. Coast Guard member | Yes |
| LT Lelea Lingo | U.S. Coast Guard alternate | No |
| Donna Schroeder | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management member | Yes |
| Jeremy Potter | Bureau of Ocean Energy Management alternate | No |
| Adam Melerski | Dept. of Defense member | Yes |
| Stephen Duboyce | Dept. of Defense alternate | No |
| 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 | Yes |

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|---------------------|---|-----|
| Cassidy Teufel | California Coastal Commission member | Yes |
| Jacqueline Phelps | California Coastal Commission alternate | No |
| Errin Briggs | County of Santa Barbara member | Yes |
| David Villalobos | County of Santa Barbara alternate | Yes |
| 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) | 26 |
| | Number of voting seats represented (out of 21) | 19 |

Appendix B. Written Council member announcements, submitted as of March 17, 2023

Name: Sam Macks Franz

Seat: Conservation Seat - Alternate

Announcement subject: Marketing Subcommittee Meeting

Relevant links: Meeting on Tuesday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom

Narrative: Please join us for a CINMS SAC Marketing Subcommittee meeting on Tuesday, April 4 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. After the incredible presentation from CINMS Outreach Staff at the January SAC meeting, the Marketing Subcommittee is getting together for the first meeting of the year. This meeting will review key outcomes from the presentation and discuss best practices for how the council and our networks can be of best help to sanctuary Outreach staff and more. If you have any questions please reach out to subcommittee chair Michael Cohen or Sam Franz.

Announcement subject: Underwater Parks Day at the Sea Center on behalf of the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center.

Relevant links: <https://www.sbnature.org/visit/calendar/7297/underwater-parks-day>

Narrative: The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center would like to share some highlights of Underwater Parks Day in January. The Sea Center saw 1,503 attendees on Underwater Parks Day this year - a free event thanks to the sponsorship of the Holly Moeller Lab at UCSB (who highlighted their work with mixotrophs on the day)! This day at the Sea Center celebrated our underwater parks in collaboration with CA Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, the Naturalist Corps, and many others!

Photos: Photo highlights from the day can be found here ([LINK](#)).

Announcement subject: Senior Aquarist Position at the Sea Center

Relevant links: <https://www.sbnature.org/connect/careers/current-opportunities/senior-aquarist/>

Narrative: The Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center is hiring a Senior Aquarist. Position Summary: Responsible for all activities related to displaying a diverse marine collection of organisms. Design and maintain saltwater exhibits, filtration systems, life support equipment, and behind-the-scenes areas. Supervise and train aquarist volunteers.

Announcement subject: WARC (White Abalone Research Consortium)Spawning at the Sea Center a success!

Relevant links:

Narrative: On March 8 the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History & Sea Center participated in the WARC So Cal Spawn. Director Alyssa R. Fredrick reports: “Our estimated counts indicate that the animals from UCSB and SBMNH-SC produced ~2 million embryos with parents from Rowlf (2013) and Spongebob (2019). Beaker (2014) and Pomo (2016) spawned at SWFSC, resulting in about 950k embryos. Females at AOP spawned ~1.1 million eggs, which were fertilized with biopsied sperm from males at AOP, as well as sperm transported from the Sea Center (Spongebob) a few hours later. Depending on the fertilization success of the eggs at AOP (typically eggs not exposed to sperm within the first hour will have a low fertilization rate, but AOP is already seeing some cleavage, so fingers crossed!), we have about 3-4 million embryos from today. This is the second biggest southern CA spawn, I believe.”

Name: Daniel Studt

Seat: NOAA Fisheries

Announcement: [West Coast Species on the Move as Climate Change Drives Ecological Shifts, Analysis Shows](#)

Narrative: In a new analysis, researchers and collaborators confirmed that nearly all of the evaluated stocks managed by the Pacific Fishery Management Council are vulnerable to climate change. Out of the 64 species in the analysis, 67 percent were at least moderately vulnerable to climate change. What makes species most vulnerable to climate change in the California Current? Scientists say it's those species with complex life histories, long life spans, or high commercial value. [Read more...](#)

Announcement: [Unsettled Pacific Ocean Offers Surprises as Climate Change Alters Ecosystem](#)

Narrative: Ecological relationships across the Pacific Coast that once guided annual expectations such as salmon returns are evolving as climate change disrupts long-standing connections. NOAA Fisheries researchers report these findings in their latest annual [Ecosystem Status Report](#) for the California Current Ecosystem. [View the report and learn more here.](#)

Announcement: [Follow us on Instagram!](#)

Narrative: The account is a collaboration between the West Coast Region, Northwest Fisheries Science Center, and Southwest Fisheries Science Center as we work together to apply the latest science to sustainably manage the rich marine resources of the region for generations to come. The new account directly supports NOAA's vision of creating an informed society by communicating our science and policy decisions, and supports NOAA's cross-cutting priority of enhancing environmental literacy. [Follow us!](#)

Announcement: [2022 Deep-Sea Coral Report to Congress](#)

Narrative: Highlights include a "Focus on the West Coast" section that references the conclusion of the 4-year research initiative in U.S. West Coast waters. This initiative was co-led by the Northwest Fisheries Science Center and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Collaborators prioritized initiative research, and decided to focus on 1) areas that were under consideration for reopening to fishing or for new fishing restrictions, 2) areas with relatively high coral bycatch, and 3) areas within the five West Coast national marine sanctuaries. [Find more information and the Report to Congress here.](#)

Announcement: [Partner Funding Opportunity Now Open for 2023 National Coastal Resilience Fund Request for Proposals](#)

Narrative: The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, in partnership with NOAA, the U.S. Dept. of Defense, Occidental, Shell, and TransRe, is now soliciting [pre-proposals for the 2023 National Coastal Resilience Fund](#). NFWF will award up to \$140 million in grants to create and restore natural systems in order to increase protection for communities from coastal hazards, such as storms, sea- and lake-level changes, inundation, and coastal erosion, while improving habitats for fish and wildlife species. Pre-proposals must be submitted through NFWF's [Easygrants system](#) no later than Wednesday, April 12, 2023.

Name: Ken Convery

Seat: Channel Islands National Park

Announcement subject: Channel Islands National Park announces award of 10-year contract to provide year-round boat transportation service

Relevant links: [pr031523 - Channel Islands National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

Narrative: The National Park Service (NPS) announced today a 10-year concession contract award to Island Packers to provide year-round boat transportation service from Ventura to Santa Cruz Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Rosa Island, San Miguel Island, and Santa Barbara Island within Channel Islands National Park. Island Packers is a new company that will be formed from the merger of the current concession, Island Packers Corporation and Superboat Incorporated. The Island Packers Corporation has held the current concession contract since 2011. The new contract will begin on January 1, 2024.

"We are pleased to announce that Island Packers will continue to provide transportation services for park visitors to Channel Islands National Park," said Superintendent Ethan McKinley. "Island Packers has provided excellent service to the public for over 50 years, and we look forward to another decade of safe and enjoyable visitor access to Channel Islands National Park."

The new contract will usher in service and sustainability improvements for the concession operation. Visitors will have access to a greater variety of convenience items for sale onboard the vessels, including hats, sunscreen, lip balm, water, and pre-packaged food items, and will have the option to purchase a pre-made boxed lunch when purchasing their boat transportation ticket in advance. Under the new contract, the concessionaire will be making several environmentally sustainable upgrades to vessels, including conversion of the fleet to diesel/electric hybrid transmissions with solar charged batteries.

Announcement subject: Anacapa Island Wharf Construction Complete

Narrative: After a year of construction, the Anacapa Island wharf is complete! This new wharf is designed to last 50 years and is 2 feet higher than the previous structure. The wharf has a fixed vertical lifting platform and will allow visitors and park staff to access the wharf without having to transition from the boat to a ladder, greatly enhancing safety.

Photos:



Name: Ken Convery

Seat: Channel Islands National Park

Announcement subject: Several park closures due to recent storm events

Relevant links: [Channel Islands National Park \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](https://www.nps.gov/channel-islands/)

Narrative: Santa Barbara Island is currently closed. All trails and facilities on San Miguel Island, except the sandy beaches of Cuyler Harbor, are closed to the public until emergency repairs can be made to Nidever Canyon Trail. For the most comprehensive and up-to-date info, please see the park's website.