

# NOAA CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, May 19, 2023

9:00am-12:45pm PT

Hybrid Session: Santa Barbara Zoo 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](mailto:michael.murray@noaa.gov)) to request a copy of any presentation slides.*

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

- Council Vice Chair Michael Cohen 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 23 Council members representing 16 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 three outgoing council members for their service on the council: Paul Amaral (Business seat alternate), Tony Knight (Non-Consumptive Recreation seat alternate), and John Ugoretz (CA Department of Fish and Wildlife seat alternate).
- Murray also recognized 10 new advisory council members including Ken Owen (Public-At-Large seat member), Blake Thomas (Public-At-Large seat alternate), Alicia Cordero (Chumash Community seat member), Kaia Kababik (Non-Consumptive Recreation seat member), Molly Troup (Non-Consumptive Recreation seat alternate), Jaime Diamond (Business seat alternate), David Lopez (Recreational Fishing seat member), Kevin Brannon (Recreational Fishing seat member), Christina Tombach Wright (Conservation seat alternate), Armand Barilotti (California Department of Fish and Wildlife seat alternate).
- Murray also acknowledged nine returning council members that were also recently appointed.

### ***March 17, 2023, Draft Key Outcomes***

- The Advisory Council approved draft key outcomes from the March 17, 2023, Advisory Council meeting. Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) offered a motion to adopt the

notes, which Sam Macks Franz (Conservation seat member) seconded. Vice Chair Cohen conducted a voice vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions.

- A copy of the March key outcomes is available upon request to Mike Murray ([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.
  - Alicia Cordero (Chumash Community seat member) shared that the Chumash community is preparing for the annual Tomol crossing and are practicing in the harbor on Sundays.
  - Kaia Kababik (Non-consumptive Recreation seat member) shared that she is working with the Department of Parks and Recreation to establish a summer camp for 500 children this summer that will take them out to the Channel Islands.
  - Amanda Allen (Tourism seat alternate) shared that she went out to the islands with her children's class, which included over 24 kids and 15 parents for five days on Santa Cruz Island. She thanked all those that make it possible to access the islands.
  - Andrea Mills (Education seat alternate), shared she is on the board of the MERITO Foundation which is hosting an award ceremony on May 22, 2023 for the EECCOA Challenge, a STEM competition for middle and high school students, including some from Michael Yorke's (Education seat member) class.
  - Blake Thomas (Public-At-Large seat alternate), shared that over 40 students supported the finish line of the Mountains to Sea marathon at the Ventura State Beach.
  - Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) shared that California Sea Grant is starting a project, funded through NOAA, to assess street sweeping techniques and marine debris in Santa Barbara. She also provided a brief summary of the April 19 Research Advisory Panel group meeting, and shared that she is working with a delegation from Argentina to help improve their management of MPAs.
  - Sam Macks Franz (Conservation seat member) explained the Conservation Working Group (CWG) is open to all and the meetings alternate between in-person and zoom. She and Christina Tombach Wright (Conservation seat alternate) will work together to schedule future meetings. If interested, please email Sam Macks Franz. She also shared that the Marketing Subcommittee is launching a new effort to assist sanctuary staff in amplifying messages and content.
  - Mike Nelson (Commercial fishing seat) shared that he asked the Santa Barbara Harbor Commission to work with the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department to

create more commercial fishing slips at the Santa Barbara Harbor. He also shared that he is working to establish a partnership with the City of Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara City College, and commercial fishermen to provide more boat and cold storage for the local industry, as well as create an ocean careers initiative within the city college.

- Michael Cohen (Tourism seat member) expressed his excitement about the Marketing Subcommittee and shared that ABC News will be doing a story on the Channel Islands. He asked council members to help amplify those messages.
- David Lopez (Recreational Fishing member) shared that the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) started a new campaign about the state's 30x30 campaign and the importance of focusing on the health of coastal waters, including related to pollution impacts.
- LCDR Jay Hagwood provided the Coast Guard incident report which included an overview of Marine Environmental Protection Stats from February - April 2023.
- 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 to the Advisory Council meeting and shared the following updates:

- Mobley introduced a special guest, Carolina Behe, Cultural Resources Coordinator with NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Behe is visiting the native communities of the central coast as part of her work helping ONMS pursue more meaningful engagements with indigenous communities.
- Mobley shared that the council is currently recruiting for the Commercial Fishing Alternate seat until June 8, 2023. He asked council members to help spread the word.
- Mobley shared that NOAA's Marine Debris Program has awarded a grant of \$15 million, acquired through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to support a 5-year project called "High-Impact and Large Marine Debris Removal throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System." The grant will support work across several sanctuaries. At CINMS, the grant will support several important efforts including removal efforts at the islands, funding to continue work with lobster fishermen to remove lost fishing gear, and more!
- Mobley shared that Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) is an annual event hosted by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. CHOW will take place in Washington, DC and also virtually this year from June 6 – 8.
- Mobley shared that NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement will be distributing one-pagers to boaters around harbors adjacent to CINMS and other west coast sanctuaries. They are prioritizing talking to charter vessels and fishing fleets.

- Mobley introduced Laura Ingulsrud (Policy Analyst, West Coast Region, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries) who provided an update on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Designation Process. This included information on anticipated public workshops, followed by public comment meetings this summer.
- Mobley shared that on March 23rd the Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park co-hosted the annual recognition awards dinner to recognize the many volunteers that support both agencies. Over 200 volunteers and staff attended the dinner! The Channel Islands Naturalist Corps “Blue Whale Volunteer of the Year Award” was given to Terri Wright and the SAC Leadership Award was given to Kristen Hislop.
- Mobley shared that Sanctuary divers recently serviced underwater acoustic telemetry receivers around Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, and Anacapa islands to monitor the movement of tagged giant sea bass and white sharks, as part of the larger West Coast Observations project. Additionally, the sanctuary and the Santoro Lab at UCSB launched a Nereid Biomaterials project to test the degradation rate of a newly developed bioplastic under open ocean conditions.
- Mobley shared that in late April the sanctuary research team, in collaboration with the Shark Lab at California State University Long Beach, processed data collected from an array of acoustic telemetry receivers around the northern channel islands. The data revealed, among other things, the observation of 18 juvenile great white sharks (previously tagged by our team) concentrated on the back side of Santa Cruz Island.

***Proposed Council Letter from Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee***

- Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member, Chair of Diversity & Inclusion Subcommittee) introduced a Subcommittee-proposed draft council letter encouraging NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to create a stipend system for supporting advisory council participation. She explained that the Subcommittee has had several discussions regarding how to foster diversity among the SAC and increase accessibility.
- Council member questions and discussion were as follows:
  - Recommendations to look at the different categories that the council recruits for and to determine which of those categories would benefit the most from a stipend.
  - Recognition that underserved communities could benefit from financial assistance, and it's important to hear from members of those communities about what would be helpful.
  - Mike Murray (Deputy Superintendent) elaborated that there will be an in person chairs meeting with other advisory council chairs where this could be brought up, and it's important to elevate this idea as important to the council.
- The letter was approved by the council by a vote of 15-yes, 0-no, and 1-abstain. Upon completion and delivery, the letter will be posted online at <https://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/actions.html>.

### ***Whale Conservation and Vessel Speed Reduction***

- Jess Morten (Resource Protection Specialist, California Marine Sanctuary Foundation) presented on the Blue Whales Blue Skies Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) program' results for 2022, the status of and changes for the 2023 VSR season, and related proposed State Legislation. She explained that in 2022, overall VSR fleet cooperation was at 78% (compared to 64% in 2021). Additionally, the VSR zones expanded to include all of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the program will no longer offer financial incentives and instead focus on public relations incentives. Assembly Bill 953 was introduced to the California State Legislature in February 2023 and proposed expanding the VSR program statewide.
- Council member questions and discussion included the following:
  - A proposal for the SAC to sign a support letter for the bill.
  - Mike Murray explained that given the quick turnaround time, the advisory council would need to schedule a special session in June and the letter would need to be delivered through NOAA's Office of Legislative Affairs.
    - Phyllis Grifman offered a motion, which was seconded, to request that the advisory council take steps to draft an AB 953 support letter, and to have another council meeting next month to consider its approval. The motion passed with a vote total of 14-yes, 0-no, 2-abstain.
  - Council members Sam Macks Franz, Ken Owen, Christina Tombach Wright, and Phyllis Grifman volunteered to draft a support letter for the full council's review and approval.

### ***Public Comment***

- Several members of the public provided comments and remarks for guest speakers and sanctuary staff.
  - Captain David Bacon expressed concern about recent remarks made by the ONMS West Coast Regional Director at a meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council which he felt left the impression that sanctuaries would ignore the council's authority and implement fishing regulations on their own.
    - Chris Mobley (Superintendent) explained that while he was not at the PFMC meeting himself, he expected that what was being mentioned had to do with the legal process described in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. If a sanctuary determines that fishery regulation is needed to achieve the sanctuary's mission, they first present that need to the PFMC. The PFMC then has the option to pursue it with their own authority or let NOAA pursue it with authority under the NMSA. This is not done often or considered lightly.

- Paul Petricth (Naturalist Corps Volunteer) explained that volunteers often are asked questions about all the different types of buoys and aquaculture in the Channel. He asked for more information to share with the public.
  - Carlos Mireles (California Department of Fish and Wildlife) offered to explain the different commercial buoys that indicate the type of gear associated with the buoy.
- Blake Hermann (Fishermen) asked the Advisory Council to consider a timeline and formal process for reviewing petitions for regulatory change within the sanctuary, expressing the importance of adaptive management. He is working on a petition with other fishing organizations to adapt regulations within CINMS, to open three marine reserves for the take of highly migratory species.
  - Hermann also provided a written comment (see Appendix C).
- Geoff Dilly (Professor of Marine Biology at CSU Channel Islands) shared that CSUCI is in the process of funding a Coastal Resource Institute that will bring stakeholders together to form a nexus of research that is local to Ventura County. He welcomed the Advisory Council's participation and feedback.

### ***Marine Debris***

- Jacob Levine, Joy Sanap, and Viet Nguyen (UC Santa Barbara Mechanical Engineering Team) presented their Capstone project focused on reducing balloon pollution: [SEASAFE](#). The team designed two solutions including a latex balloon that is reusable, as well as a metered air compressor that fills mylar balloons to float for a predetermined amount of time. The team conducted a live demonstration.
- Council member questions and feedback included the following:
  - A question about the cost to vendors to install a mixed gas valve system. The team responded that it would cost around \$300 total, but would be cheaper if mass produced.
  - A question about where to recycle the plastic tubing. The team responded that the clear plastic tubing can be TerraCycled, and there are other components that are biodegradable. Additionally, the balloons can be reused.
- Meg DeCoit (Balloon Free Seas Coordinator) presented on Mother's Day and graduation social media campaigns, curriculum and point of sales updates, and an artwork partnership with CSUCI.
- Council member questions and feedback included the following:
  - A question regarding if there are any alternative materials to plastic balloons. DeCoit responded that some balloons are marketed as biodegradable but don't degrade fast enough. There is no alternative that currently exists.
  - A question about how the cards are marketed to retailers and consumers. DeCoit responded that this has been a challenge because they often need approval to post

them. She shared that she is working with a small flower shop that is trying to reduce the number of balloons sold.

- A council member shared that the city of Goleta recently banned the sale of mylar and latex balloons. They recommended a helpful next step could be to reach out to the cities of Santa Barbara, Isla Vista, and Ventura and ask them to develop similar bans.

### ***Enforcement and Vessel Tracking***

- Anastasia Kunz (California Marine Sanctuary Foundation) presented on the use of Marine Monitors (M2) to track nearshore vessel activity in local waters to assist law enforcement.
- Council member feedback and questions included the following:
  - Question about whether the device can capture photos of vessels. Kunz responded that it can take pictures and center on the motion of the vessel. When vessels are further away, it can be hard to see specific characteristics.
  - Question about the findings from using this type of system. Kunz responded that this system allows for better predicting activities of vessels and tracking patterns. It has shown there are many different users of MPAs outside of fishing activities.
  - Question about filtering the data. Kunz responded that the data can be filtered depending on if you are looking for night activities, certain weather types, etc.
- Erin Ristig (California Marine Sanctuary Foundation) presented on the Electronic Fisheries Information Network System (eFINS), a geospatial data collection tool to improve marine domain awareness. The app provides detailed data to streamline reporting and analyze enforcement efforts.

### ***Close Out and Next Steps***

- Vice Chair Cohen provided closing remarks and reminded attendees of the remaining scheduled Advisory Council meetings in 2023:
  - June TBD (Online special session to be scheduled)
  - Friday, July 21 (CSU Channel Islands Boating Center with online option)
  - Friday, September 8 (Santa Barbara Zoo with online option)
  - Friday, November 17 (Ventura County with online option)

**Appendix A. Advisory Council hybrid meeting attendance, MAY 19, 2023**

<i>Name</i>	<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Amanda Allen	Tourism alternate	Yes
Kaia Kababik	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Molly Troup	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes
Giles Pettifor	Business member	Yes
Jaime Diamond	Business alternate	No
Sam Macks Franz	Conservation member	Yes
Christina Tombach Wright	Conservation alternate	Yes
Mike Nelson	Commercial Fishing member	Yes
<vacant>	Commercial Fishing alternate	n/a
David Lopez	Recreational Fishing member	Yes
Kevin Brannon	Recreational Fishing alternate	No
Michael Yorke	Education member	Yes
Andrea Mills	Education alternate	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Research member	Yes
Robert Miller, Ph.D.	Research alternate	No
Ken Owen	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Chris Ragland	Public At-Large alternate	No
Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Blake Thomas	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
Alicia Cordero	Chumash Community member	Yes
Eva Pagaling	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
CDR Ariel Berrios	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	Yes
Stephen Duboyce	Dept. of Defense alternate	No
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Yes
Armand Barilotti	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	No
<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)	16

## Appendix B. Written Council member announcements, submitted as of May 19, 2023

**Name:** Daniel Studt

**Seat:** NOAA Fisheries

**Announcement:** [NOAA Names Jennifer Quan to Lead Fisheries' West Coast Region](#)

**Narrative:** NOAA Fisheries is pleased to announce Ms. Jennifer Quan as the new Regional Administrator for NOAA Fisheries West Coast Region. In her new role, Ms. Quan will direct NOAA Fisheries' science-based stewardship of marine species and habitat within the coasts and watersheds of Washington, Oregon, California, and Idaho. [Read more](#)

**Announcement:** [West Coast Fish Identification App Released](#)

**Narrative:** Our partners at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, supported by the Pacific Recreational Fisheries Information Network, have released a West Coast Fish Identification mobile app. You can quickly ID fish from your phone or tablet, including species of rockfish, salmon, sturgeons, and more. Get quick, accurate information about West Coast fish. Download the app for [Android](#) or [Apple](#) devices

**Announcement:** [2022 West Coast Whale Entanglement Summary](#)

**Narrative:** In 2022, there were 30 reports of entangled whales off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. Our highly trained entanglement response teams were able to respond to 22 cases. How can we prevent whale entanglements? One important way is to mark all fishing gear, buoys, and lines to protect whales. Identifying fishing gear helps us manage fisheries and prevent whale deaths. [Read more](#)

**More:** [Large Whale Entanglement Photo Documentation Checklist](#)

**Announcement:** [2022 Status of the Stocks Report](#)

**Narrative:** NOAA Fisheries has released the Annual Report to Congress on the Status of U.S. Fisheries. This report highlights successful management of U.S. fisheries and the broad economic impact of commercial and recreational fisheries on the U.S. economy. [Learn more](#)

**Announcement:** [Public Scoping Report for the Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Area Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement](#)

**Narrative:** NOAA Fisheries' West Coast Region is pleased to share our Public Scoping Report which summarizes the public comment received on the Notice of Intent to prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed [Southern California Aquaculture Opportunity Areas](#). This Public Scoping Report provides a high-level overview of the nature and themes of the comments received. [Read more](#)

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**Name:** Carlos Mireles and Armand Barilotti

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

**Announcement subject:** Decadal Management Review-Update

**Relevant links:** [CDFW Decadal Management Review](#)

**Narrative:** CDFW staff are currently working to prioritize the recommendations and corresponding management actions presented in Table 6.1 of the Decadal Management Review report (DMR). At their April 2023 California Fish and Game Commission meeting, the Commission requested that CDFW review and incorporate public recommendation/comments, to propose near and long-term priorities and associated tradeoffs for discussion and potential recommendation at the July 2023 Marine Resources Committee (MRC) meeting. Based on this discussion, the MRC will provide guidance to CDFW regarding next steps for discussion on this prioritization moving forward.

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**Name:** Lindsay Bonito

**Seat:** California Natural Resources Agency

**Announcement:** Ocean Protection Council updates

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

### **OPC Meeting Updates – April 24<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The OPC held its last quarterly meeting on January 24, 2023. Funding was approved for the following projects, with more detail on [OPC's webpage](#):

- \$1 million to create a technical assistance program to support sea-level rise adaptation planning
- \$310,00 to expand the California Coastal Adaptation Planning Inventory
- \$540,000 to implement OPC's Equity Plan
- \$5.4 million to accelerate kelp research and restoration
- \$450,000 to establish a statewide groundfish sampling program
- \$450,000 to develop offshore wind environmental monitoring guidance

### **OPC is Hiring a Deputy Director – Apply by June 1**

The Deputy Director will provide executive-level leadership and will lead OPC administrative functions and operations including management of organizational and program budgets; driving and tracking progress towards strategic plan priorities (climate change, equity, biodiversity, sustainable blue economy); oversight and management of staff; and hiring and workforce planning. The Deputy Director will also work closely with the Executive Director and OPC's seven-member Council to protect California's coast and ocean by advancing innovative science-based policy, strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration. **The application deadline is June 1, 2023.** Please visit OPC's [webpage](#) for more details.

### **30x30**

OPC held its most recent topical webinar focused on "Strengthening Biodiversity Protections in California's National Marine Sanctuaries" on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The webinar featured Maria Brown,

Superintendent of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, to discuss the efforts to align the state's 30×30 initiative in coastal waters with the management plan update for Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. This webinar was the second of a four-part of a series of virtual workshops to publicly share OPC's approaches to achieving 30x30. Please visit [OPC's 30x30 website](#) to learn more and access webinar recordings and a newly developed 30x30 fact sheet.

### **New Funding Available: Offshore Wind Environmental Monitoring Guidance**

OPC is seeking applications to develop comprehensive environmental monitoring guidance for offshore wind development in California. The primary goal of this guidance document is to provide a clear and practical resource for regulators, developers, and other stakeholders involved in offshore wind projects in California to ensure that environmental impacts of offshore wind development are properly monitored, evaluated, and mitigated throughout the project lifecycle. Please see the [Request for Proposals](#) for details of this funding opportunity. Full proposals are due **July 3, 2023, 5:00 PM PT**

### **Nominations Open for New Working Group to Help Develop California's Kelp Restoration and Management Plan**

California is developing a formal Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) to guide the state's efforts to manage, protect, and restore these underwater forests in California waters. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), in partnership with the Ocean Protection Council, is looking for people to serve on the KRMP Community Working Group, which will form bull kelp and giant kelp subcommittees. If you are interested in serving on the Community Working Group, [nominate yourself or another member of your community by 5:00 PM PDT on June 9, 2023](#).

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### **Appendix C. Written Comments Provided by the Public as of May 19, 2023**

**Name:** Blake Hermann

**Date:** May 19, 2023

Hello CINMS officials and Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC),

I would like to notify CINMS officials and CINMS advisory council members about the intention of recreational and commercial fishermen alike submitting a formal petition/rule change requesting the modification of existing MPAs within the CINMS. The requested changes concern allowance of limited highly migratory species (HMS) fishing activities within three current MPAs that are no-take zones. Under the effective rule these MPAs would become marine conservation areas (MCAs). The MPAs to be requested are: The Footprint Reserve, Gull Island Reserve, and Santa Barbara Island Reserve.

To summarize what will be later presented...This change falls in line with adaptive

measurement recommendations and goals set forth by the MPA network, reenforced in the State Decadal Management Review (DMR), and outlined in the CINMS management plan (Activity point 1.3). If implemented, this change would bring equality of fishing opportunities to groups local to the Northern Channel Islands NMS, help reduce climate changing emissions from burning fuel, and support sustainable fisheries and local businesses, growing the local economy. This change aims to both give fishermen streamlined HMS fishing opportunities, while still protecting the sensitive ecosystems within these reserves the original MPA science intended to protect.

The formal petition/rule change is currently planned to be submitted to the CINMS prior to the July 21 meeting, so that it may be considered and discussed before and during such meeting. In addition, CDFW, NOAA fisheries, and PFMC officials will be notified of the date to provide any additional input on the matter. Specifically, the CDFW and fish and game council (FGC) have been contacted in order to discuss the changes taking place within state waters of the requested MPAs.

In the coming months I ask of the CINMS officials and SAC members to consider the following:

- In reaction to the DMR or scientific data coming to light, forming a timeline and process for petitions such as this to be formally discussed and considered by CINMS. Thus, giving proper communication channels for adaptive management of the NMS and its protected areas.

Thank you,

Blake Hermann