

NOAA CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Advisory Council Special Session

Wednesday, June 14, 2023

9:00am-10:15am PT

Online Via Google Meet

Final Key Outcomes

This virtual 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.

Welcome and Technical Check-in

- Council Vice Chair Michael Cohen called the Special Session to order, described the purpose and composition of the Advisory Council and its bi-monthly meetings, and provided opening remarks. Cohen explained that the purpose of the Special Session is to consider the possibility of the council sending a letter of support for a proposed bill that is before the CA state legislature: Assembly Bill 953 (AB 953).
- CINMS Deputy Superintendent for Programs, Mike Murray, oriented attendees to the online meeting technology and practices for effective participation.
- Murray confirmed in-person and online attendance, counting the presence of 18 Council members representing 15 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.

Background on Vessel Speed Reduction Program and AB953

- Sean Hastings, CINMS Resource Protection Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the Blue Whales and Blue Skies Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Program and the related proposed State Legislation (AB 953). The VSR program is a collaboration of government agencies, non-profit organizations, shipping industry and cargo owners working together to reduce air pollution, ocean noise and ship strikes on endangered whales in Southern California, the San Francisco Bay and Monterey Bay regions. Shipping companies that slow down their vessels to a speed of 10 knots or less from May 1 to December 15 are acknowledged with public relation incentives.
- Phyllis Grifman (Research seat) expressed strong support for the idea that the advisory council would be a particularly appropriate body to comment on the state's proposed legislation. She explained that members of the SAC's former Marine Shipping Working Group worked diligently to develop recommendations supporting the current Vessel Speed Reduction program and elaborated on the negotiations that occurred to establish it.
- Council member questions included the following:

- A clarification on the types of vessels included in this bill, with concern that it would negatively impact smaller, commercial vessels. Sean Hastings responded that the bill would only apply to vessels that are 300 gross tons or greater.
- A question regarding if the new law would be dependent on funding from the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and would that impact its likelihood of being passed. Alan Abbs, Bay Area Air Quality Management District, responded that this bill is estimated at around \$150,000 per year, and the appropriations committee will decide if that funding amount is within their range. Lindsay Bonito (CA Natural Resources Agency seat member), clarified that they are taking a neutral stance on this legislation but noted that it does fall in line with OPC's strategic vision of zero whale mortality.

Public Comment

- Several members of the public provided comments and remarks for guest speakers and sanctuary staff.
 - Jaqueline Moore, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, noted that the industry is formally supporting this bill and is planning on submitting another support letter to the docket, and looks forward to working with the SAC to make this program successful. She also highlighted the U.S Coast Guard's Pacific Coast Port Access Route study, and a few other programs that are beneficial to marine mammals.
 - Ali Widmar asked if sound reduction is included in the letter. Sean Hastings responded that the bill does highlight many benefits of reducing speed, including reducing noise pollution.

Proposed Council Letter Support for AB953

- Sam Macks Franz (Conservation seat) provided an overview of the letter contents and thanked Phyllis Grifman for her contribution to the drafting process.
- Following, Advisory Council members in attendance approved the Council letter to Dave Min, Chair, California Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee. Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) offered to approve the letter as written and submit it to the state legislature, seconded by Ken Owen (Public-At-Large seat member). Deputy Superintendent Mike Murray led the vote. There were no oppositions to the vote. Daniel Studt (NOAA Fisheries seat member) and Lindsay Bonito (CA Natural Resources Agency seat member) abstained.
- A copy of the Council comment letter is available upon request to Mike Murray (michael.murray@noaa.gov), and will be posed on the Sanctuary Advisory Council Actions web page upon finalization.

Close Out and Next Steps

- Vice Chair Cohen provided closing remarks and reminded attendees of upcoming 2023 Advisory Council meetings:
 - 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, June 14, 2023

<i>Name</i>	<i>Advisory Council Seat</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Amanda Allen	Tourism alternate	No
Kaia Kababik	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Molly Troup	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	No
Giles Pettifor	Business member	No
Jaime Diamond	Business alternate	Yes
Sam Macks Franz	Conservation member	Yes
Christina Tombach Wright	Conservation alternate	Yes
Mike Nelson	Commercial Fishing member	Yes
<vacant>	Commercial Fishing alternate	–
David Lopez	Recreational Fishing member	Yes
Kevin Brannon	Recreational Fishing alternate	No
Michael Yorke	Education member	Yes
Andrea Mills	Education alternate	No
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	Yes
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	Yes
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	No
Armand Barilotti	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	No
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	No
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)	No
Mike Murray (staff)	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	Yes
	Total number of individual SAC members (<u>voting seats</u> only)	18
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	15