

NOAA CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, July 21, 2023

9:00am-12:45pm PT

Hybrid Session: Channel Islands Boating Center and 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, Technical Check-in, and Administrative Business

- Council Vice Chair Michael Cohen called the Advisory Council meeting to order, described the purpose and composition of the Advisory Council and its bi-monthly meetings, and provided opening remarks. Cohen explained they will host an election for chair and vice chair at the end of the meeting.
- 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 22 Council members representing 17 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 one outgoing council member for their service on the council: Lindsay Bonito (CA Natural Resources Agency seat alternate).
- Murray welcomed new council members Pike Spector (CA Natural Resources Agency seat alternate) and John Hoadley (Commercial Fishing seat alternate).

May 19, 2023 Advisory Council Meeting and June 16, 2023 Special Session Draft Key Outcomes

- The Advisory Council approved draft key outcomes from the May 19, 2023, Advisory Council meeting and the June 16, 2023, Special Session. There were two abstentions from members who did not attend the May 19 Special Session.
- A copy of the 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

- David Lopez (Recreational Fishing seat member) noted there is concern among the fishing community regarding fisheries management in sanctuaries and the role of the

Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC). He suggested the advisory council could write a letter to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to express concern that sanctuaries should respect and yield to the management authority and scientific expertise of the PFMC. David offered to work on a letter if there is interest.

- Michael Yorke (Education seat member) shared that he is working with CINMS staff to re-establish the Sanctuary Education Team (SET) (a working group of the advisory council) and one of the first projects will include providing advice for signage and exhibits around the sanctuary.
- Alicia Cordero shared that it has been an active season preparing for the annual Tomol crossing scheduled to occur August 11-13, 2023. Additionally, the Chumash Community Working group is planning on meeting on Saturday, July 29 [meeting subsequently postponed]. She also shared that the Chumash community was contacted about the arrival to Santa Barbara harbor of the *San Salvador*, a historic replica of the flagship used by the Spanish during the first European voyage to the west coast of North America. The ship is visiting during Santa Barbara's annual Fiesta celebration. Chumash community members were asked to paddle a tomol and participate in the reenactment of a greeting of the ship. Alicia shared that it looks like the Chumash community will not be participating, explaining that it is hurtful and offensive to be asked to reenact a greeting but not be given any space or opportunity to talk about the historical significance of this event, including what subsequently became genocide against indigenous communities resulting from Spanish conquest.
- Andrea Mills (Education seat alternate) shared an announcement on behalf of Holly Lohuis, a naturalist and marine biologist, who is leading an initiative to designate the Santa Barbara Channel as a Whale Heritage Area. This designation will emphasize the importance of cetaceans and their habitats and encourage people to experience this place in an authentic and natural way. There are seven designated sites around the world, and 12 sites in the process of submitting applications. It is not a governing body but another venue to highlight the work that the sanctuary is already doing. She shared that Holly Lohuis will attend the September 8th SAC meeting to solicit letters of support and answer any questions.
- Jaime Diamond (Business seat alternate) began by sharing that her organization is writing a letter of support for the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area. She also shared that the upcoming Fiesta celebration in Santa Barbara will bring in lots of business to the waterfront community and provide an opportunity to highlight businesses at the waterfront. She also noted that weather has been an issue this summer (wind and fog) and Fourth of July numbers are down across the waterfront community.
- Pike Spector (CA Natural Resources Agency seat alternate) shared that the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) recently hired two new 30x30 program managers, Abby Mohen and Anh Diep, and he reiterated that OPC will be engaging with California sanctuaries on the 30x30 initiative. OPC is also involved in the process of drafting the

Kelp Restoration and Management Plan (KRMP) and supporting the Science Advisory Committee and community working groups to help shape the direction of the KRMP.

- Mike Nelson (Commercial Fishing seat member) shared that legislation introduced by Senator McGuire, the Offshore Wind Expediting Act, will require cooperation between State Lands Commission and the California Coastal Commission as it assesses the impacts of offshore wind development. Nelson added that he is a member of the California Offshore Wind Energy Fisheries Working Group. Lastly, he highlighted that the Community Economic Resilience Fund, an initiative established by Governor Newsom, held a listening session for the fishing community and encouraged ocean dependent businesses to engage in the economic development process.
- Giles Pettifor (Business seat member) extended a thanks to Sean Hastings, Resource Protection Coordinator at CINMS, for participating in the Port Hueneme World Oceans Day panel event where he discussed the intersection between whales and commercial shipping. He also shared that California announced port infrastructure awards and Port Hueneme is receiving \$80 million in infrastructure funding that will be used for investments in decarbonization, electrical infrastructure, and building up local maritime trade workers.
- Cassidy Tuefel (California Coastal Commission seat member) shared that the Coastal Commission completed the nomination announcement for the Fisheries Working Group for Offshore Wind and it is available on the Coastal Commission website.
- Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) shared that the Research Activities Panel (RAP) newsletter was just sent out. She also shared that Sea Grant is hiring for a resilience staff person to support the Sea Level Rise programs and work related to the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.
- Michael Cohen (Tourism seat member) shared that his company has been experiencing high levels of visitation this year, on par with the numbers last year. He also shared that ABC-7 filmed a series out of Los Angeles that featured Island Packers and his kayaking company. National Geographic also put out a piece featuring Chuck Gramn (Island guide, well known writer and photographer). Lastly, Wild Planet was filming on the islands last week for a story on the Island Fox program.
- Paul Ricketson (U.S. Coast Guard representative) provided the Coast Guard incident report which included an overview of the *Sea Jay* vessel grounding at Santa Cruz Island. The Coast Guard responded to the distress call and rescued six passengers off the charter fishing vessel. The *Sea Jay's* insurance was unable to fund recovery of the vessel so the Coast Guard worked with NOAA to access the federal Oil Spill Fund to mitigate the threat. A tow boat was hired to tow the vessel to the Port where Patriot Environment removed 1,300 gallons of oily water.
- Kevin Brannon (Recreational Fishing seat alternate) shared that his organization collaborated with the National Park Trust to provide military families with a fishing trip at the Channel Islands and provide them with tackle boxes. The goal of the trip was to

educate participants on the history of the islands and promote recreational fishing practices.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

CINMS Superintendent, Chris Mobley, welcomed attendees to the Advisory Council meeting and shared the following updates:

- Mobley first addressed the suggestion by David Lopez that the SAC write a letter to John Armor, Director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). He responded by providing background information on how the National Marine Sanctuaries Act guides NOAA on fisheries management issues for sanctuary areas (Section 304(a)5). He also directed council members to the CINMS Management Plan (pgs. 9-10) for more information about CINMS and fisheries management.
- Mobley then provided a brief history of the Channel Islands Boating Center, which opened in 2013 following a multi-year fundraising effort led by Channel Islands Harbor leadership. ONMS originally contributed funding for the design and fabrication of the exhibits located throughout the facility. The Boating Center has been providing educational and recreational opportunities for youth and adults of Ventura County and the CSU Channel Islands community. The main focus has been teaching boating skills and supporting local boaters. CINMS is working to finalize an agreement that would allow education staff to share a pocket office.
- Mobley introduced a special guest, Sam Reigner, Enforcement Officer, Monterey Field Office, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement. Reigner's primary areas of responsibility include the Central Coast of California and the four National Marine Sanctuaries in California.
- Mobley announced new sanctuary team members including the new Vessel Operations Coordinator, ENS Daniel (Danny) Lucas; 2023 Coast Intern, Alyssa Walter; 2023 Hollings Scholar, Willow Jackson; and UCSB interns Lucas Lowe, Kennedy Flavin, Elizabeth Braun, and Anna Brunnick.
- Mobley shared that the construction is complete for the new CINMS research vessel *Minke*, a 29-foot vessel built locally by Radon Boats. The *Minke* is now being transitioned into sanctuary operations.
- Mobley shared that on June 10, 2023, Reel Guppy Outdoors led a recreational fishing trip to the sanctuary for over 30 local military service members and their families. Participants learned about the sanctuary, responsible fishing practices, and received free fishing gear.
- Mobley shared there are currently six new proposed sanctuary sites working through the sanctuary designation process including Hudson Canyon National Marine Sanctuary (NMS), Lake Ontario NMS, Lake Erie Quadrangle NMS, Chumash Heritage NMS, Pacific Remote Islands NMS, Papahānaumokuākea NMS.

- Mobley announced that the California Islands Symposium is scheduled for November 6-10, 2023 at the Ventura Beach Marriott. Registration is open and abstracts are due by August 1, 2023.
- Mobley shared that on June 2, 2023, CINMS staff, partners, and volunteer recreational divers searched for endangered white abalone at Yellow Banks, Santa Cruz Island aboard the M/V *Peace*. This was the second dive trip as part of the *Wanted Alive! White Abalone* citizen science campaign developed at CINMS, in partnership with Aquarium of the Pacific, National Marine Fisheries Service, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and with support from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

Brief Update on Southern California Domoic Acid Event

- Clarissa Anderson, Executive Director, Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS), provided a brief update on the recent domoic acid event in Southern California. She explained that NOAA CoastWatch’s California-Harmful Algae Risk Mapping (C-HARM) predicted a high probability of domoic acid toxin levels in southern and central California in June and July with the nexus of this event in the Santa Barbara Channel. As of June 14, 2023, there were 139 verified strandings in Santa Barbara by CIMWI including 25 dead dolphins. Rapid response funding has been provided by NOAA NCCOS to determine DA levels in marine wildlife and to expand water sampling to include offshore areas.

Supporting Greater Diversity & Inclusion across the National Marine Sanctuary System

- Anne-Marie Runfola, Senior Advisor to the Director at ONMS, began by thanking SAC members for their letter recommending that ONMS develop a stipend system to reduce barriers to participation. Runfola presented on the work that ONMS is doing to support more diversity and inclusion across the sanctuary system. She explained the importance of not only addressing symptoms but to go further and assess the organization's culture, barriers to access, and history.
- Runfola also explained that ONMS is working with a consulting firm to assess the current status of the organization’s Diversity & Inclusion programs and then recommend next steps and how to move forward.
- Council member questions and discussion included:
 - One council member asked if NOAA has the administrative authority to establish a stipend system. Runfola responded that it is possible but will need to be done in a way that does not conflict with certain laws and regulations. ONMS has been given approval to move forward and develop the details and parameters of a proposed system.
 - A council member noted that if the system is designed as “opt-in”, it might create a barrier for those who feel like they are being singled out. Runfola noted this is something ONMS has also thought about and recognizes the importance of

creating a system that does not make individuals feel shame for receiving a stipend.

Channel Islands Network of Marine Reserves & Conservation Areas and Update on State MPA Decadal Management Review

- Sean Hastings, Resource Protection Coordinator at CINMS, summarized next steps for a future review of the Channel Islands marine reserves and conservation areas. He shared that CINMS has received numerous comments on the existing network during the CINMS management plan revision process and the sanctuary has been aware of and supporting the state's Decadal Management Plan Review process. He explained CINMS will work in alignment with the state to prioritize and consider the feedback that was received. He shared that if stakeholders have information to inform regulatory changes, that they submit that information for CINMS for consideration.
- Steve Wertz, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, provided a brief process update on the State MPA Decadal Management Review (DMR) process. On July 20, the Marine Resources Committee supported the approach to prioritizing DMR recommendations put forward by CDFW. The prioritization outcomes include 12 short-term, 13 mid-term, and three long-term priorities which highlighted ongoing and future priorities needed to advance adaptive management recommendations. Next steps include discussing the approach and timeline to address petitions submitted to amend regulations.
- Council member questions and discussion included the following:
 - A council member asked how the SAC will be involved in this process. Sean Hastings responded that CINMS is developing an internal process to review and prioritize requests for regulatory change and will summarize what has been received and share with the council.
 - Pike Spector, CA Natural Resources Agency seat, shared that OPC is convening the statewide leadership team to discuss the network and DMR priority recommendations. He supports the process of engaging with this council.

Public Comment

- One member of the public provided comments and remarks for guest speakers and sanctuary staff.
 - Captain David Bacon, Wavewalker Charters, shared appreciation for the overview from Chris Mobley of fisheries regulation laws. He suggested that the advisory council draft a letter to the ONMS Director communicating that fisheries management needs to be conducted on a scientific basis, that the PFMC and not sanctuaries has the appropriate expertise, and that the PFMC should be consulted with and engaged on any fishery-related changes of interest to the sanctuary.

New CINMS Project: Understanding DDT in Leopard Sharks, Bat Rays and Angel Sharks, and Associated Pollutant Mobility

- Andres Ramirez Fromm, Research Operations Specialist at CINMS, presented on a new project that aims to establish baseline levels of DDT contamination in Angel Sharks, Bat Rays, and Leopard Sharks, quantify the potential of these animals to act as contaminant vectors, and evaluate the potential human exposure to POPs. In particular, this project is looking to evaluate the contaminant exposure risk from consumption of these species to at-risk or low income populations from fisher surveys conducted by partners at Heal the Bay.
- Council member questions and discussion included the following:
 - Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member) shared that Diane Feinstein’s office just awarded \$20 million to Scripps and \$5 million was provided to California Sea Grant program to assess different elements of this issue. She explained there are a lot of unknowns regarding this problem including the extent to which it impacts local communities and how long it stays in the benthic environment.
 - One council member asked if the project is working with the Santa Barbara fish market. Fromm responded that they are working with the market to establish a system of donating or purchasing samples.
 - A council member asked if it is known when the DDT barrels were dumped and if there have been any recorded issues or illnesses correlated with the included species. Fromm responded the barrels were dumped between 1940-1970 and DDT was also disposed of through sewer systems and has been a persistent problem for decades. Some fisheries have shut down due to this (white croaker commercial fishery) and it has impacted subsistence fishers.
 - A council member noted that they don’t often see subsistence fishers catching bat rays and sharks from the Goleta Pier and asked why this project is focusing on low-income communities. Ryan Freedman, Research Ecologist, responded that some pier surveys have shown that these species are among the top 10 that fishers are taking from piers in Los Angeles and San Diego counties. He added that the project is still conducting some of the human dimensions research to determine if these trends are still occurring.
 - One council member noted there used to be a problem with selling Angel Shark meat as scallops and asked if the project is considering including this in their sampling methods. Freedman responded that he is unsure if that is still happening and they do not have plans to co-sample scallop.

New Plans for Addressing Sanctuary and Island Marine Debris with California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI)

- Joe Forrest, Station Coordinator and Marine Debris Project Manager at Santa Rosa Island Research Station (SRIRS), presented on how CSUCI is addressing marine debris at the

northern Channel Islands with a focus on community outreach and turning trash into student art projects. The SRIRS Marine Debris Program began in 2016 and since conducted 36 island removals resulted in the removal of 19,701 pounds of trash and the categorization of over 30,000 pieces of trash. The program also maintains a publicly accessible website that reports total debris removed, balloons removed, and derelict fishing gear (DFG) removed.

- Council member questions and feedback included the following:
 - A few council members expressed interest in hosting marine debris artwork.
 - Kevin Brannon, Recreational Fishing seat alternate, shared that he works with undergraduate students at the university through CI Serves and noted there are opportunities to collaborate with the marine debris program.

Council Officer Elections

- Mike Murray provided an overview of council officer duties, eligibility, and the voting process. He then provided an overview of nominations received, including Michael Cohen for Chair and Phyllis Grifman for Vice Chair, and asked for any other nominations for Secretary given the current secretary has been nominated for Vice Chair. Ken Owen self nominated and Phyllis Grifman nominated Giles Pettifor.
- Council members conducted a vote for Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary. In-person votes were submitted via anonymous paper ballot and online council members submitted their vote via email.
- Staff tabulated the votes, and the results were announced: the newly elected Chair is Michael Cohen, Vice Chair is Phyllis Grifman, and Secretary is Ken Owen.

Close Out and Next Steps

- Vice Chair Cohen provided closing remarks and reminded attendees of upcoming 2023 Advisory Council meetings:
 - Friday, September 8 (Santa Barbara Zoo with online option)
 - Friday, November 17 (Ventura County with online option)

Appendix A. Advisory Council hybrid meeting attendance, July 21, 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	Yes
Jaime Diamond	Business alternate	Yes
Sam Macks Franz	Conservation member	No
Christina Tombach Wright	Conservation alternate	No
Mike Nelson	Commercial Fishing member	Yes
John Hoadley	Commercial Fishing alternate	Yes
David Lopez	Recreational Fishing member	Yes
Kevin Brannon	Recreational Fishing alternate	Yes
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	No
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	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	No
Armand Barilotti	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	Yes
Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	No
Pike Spector	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	Yes

Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	Yes
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	No
Errin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	No
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	Yes
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 only</u>)	22
	Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)	17

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

Name: Carlos Mireles and Armand Barilotti

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW)

Announcement subject: Update – Prioritization of Decadal Management Review Report Recommendations

Relevant links: [Draft Prioritized List of Recommendations](#) and [Decadal Management Review Report](#)

Narrative: CDFW is presenting the prioritization of the 28 Decadal Management Review (DMR) recommendations (Table 6.1) to the Marine Resources Committee (MRC) on July 20th. While all 28 recommendations in Table 6.1 remain important, this effort prioritized recommendations based on 1) identified need, 2) expected timeframe, 3) input received, and 4) level of information and resources that are available to advance recommendations. This approach will help focus the work of CDFW, the California Fish Game Commission (CFGC), Tribes, and partners to implement the recommendations to achieve near-term, mid-term, and long-term priorities. On July 20, [CFGC’s Marine Resources Committee](#) will meet and provide CDFW with

guidance regarding next steps for discussion on this prioritization moving forward. For more information please visit [DMR Information Blog](#).

Name: Daniel Studt

Seat: NOAA Fisheries

Announcement: [West Coast Deep-Sea Coral Initiative report released](#)

Narrative: The [NOAA West Coast Deep-Sea Coral Initiative 2018-2021: Final Report](#) summarizes the objectives, accomplishments, and outcomes of the NOAA West Coast Deep-Sea Coral Initiative, funded by the Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program. The four-year initiative (2018-2021) was designed to explore, map, characterize, and conduct research on deepwater coral and sponge habitats in the Pacific Fishery Management Council region, inclusive of waters off California, Oregon, and Washington.

Announcement: [NOAA Fisheries Podcast on West Coast Cooperative Research](#)

Narrative: Cooperative research is a team effort! But what is it exactly? It's research that involves NOAA scientists as well as citizens and recreational and commercial fishermen. In this NOAA Fisheries podcast episode, we explore a few different kinds of cooperative research.

[Listen here](#)

Announcement: [Toxic Algal Bloom Suspected in Dolphin and Sea Lion Deaths in Southern California](#)

Narrative: The rapid growth of harmful algae along parts of the Southern California Coast is believed to have killed hundreds of California sea lions and close to 60 dolphins in the first weeks of June. NOAA Stranding Network Partners are managing more than 200 reports of marine mammals in distress each day. [Learn more](#)

Announcement: [New Gray Whale Count Shows Further Decline, with Hints of a Turnaround](#)

Narrative: A new count of gray whales found a 46% decline in population since 2016. The decline is thought to be connected, at least in part, to shifts in the distribution and abundance of prey that gray whales feed on during summer months spent in the Arctic. However, scientists have made other observations over the last several months at wintering lagoons in Mexico and along the U.S. West Coast which suggest that population numbers may soon start to rebound.

[Learn more.](#)