

NOAA CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Advisory Council Special Session

Thursday, October 12, 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 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 a draft council comment letter for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.
- 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 20 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.

Proposed Council Comment Letter for proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS)

Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member), provided an overview of the draft council comment letter for the proposed CHNMS, which was developed by a subcommittee of volunteers including Phyllis Grifman (Research seat member, David Lopez (Recreational Fishing seat member), Blake Thomas (Public-at-Large seat member), Kevin Brannon (Recreational Fishing seat alternate), Sam Franz (Conservation seat member), and Christina Tombach Wright (Conservation seat alternate).

- Grifman noted that two years prior, the advisory council had submitted a [comment letter](#) about the proposed sanctuary and it included a variety of viewpoints from advisory council members. From that experience and conversations the council has had since then, the subcommittee was aware of a number of strong views and opposing viewpoints regarding the proposed sanctuary, its proposed boundary alternatives, regulations, and more. Thus, the goal while writing this letter was to develop something that hopefully all members of the SAC could agree upon.

- She noted the comment deadline is October 25, 2023 and all SAC members have the opportunity to submit individual letters that represent the opinions of themselves or their organizations.
- The focus of this proposed comment letter is to convey that if the sanctuary is designated, then the CINMS Advisory Council requests good coordination between the new sanctuary, its advisory council, and CINMS. Additionally, the letter requests that the Final Management Plan for the proposed CHNMS includes language that reflects an intent to coordinate and collaborate with adjacent sanctuaries.

Council member questions, comments, and proposed edits to the letter included the following:

- A request to include the full list of tribes and indigenous organizations included within the draft CHNMS Management Plan. This request was accommodated.
- A concern regarding the potential increase in tourism and the related impacts to the coastlines included within the CHNMS boundaries.
- A request to include language regarding the role of NOAA Fisheries and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in managing recreational fisheries within the proposed boundaries.
 - A few council members noted this specific edit was too focused on the management of the sanctuary, which is not the topic of the letter.
 - One council member proposed a new sentence that attempted to convey the importance of the advisory council as a forum for the range of interests within the sanctuary. This sentence was accepted by the SAC and incorporated into the letter.

Public Comment

Several members of the public provided comments and remarks for guest speakers and sanctuary staff.

- Azsha Hudson, Environmental Defence Center (EDC), expressed their thanks to the council for writing a comment letter. She explained that EDC's preference is for the initial boundary alternative because it highlights the connectivity of protected areas and will positively affect biodiversity, fish stocks, and ecological resilience.
- Merit McCrea, recreational fisherman and former advisory council member, expressed that both recreational and commercial fishing communities continue to express their opinion that sanctuaries take a hands off approach to fisheries management. It is clear that the proposed sanctuary could offer many benefits, but he is concerned that this sanctuary will reduce public access for fishing by implementing regulations and other aspects of resource protection. He asked for the letter to highlight that fisheries regulation should be managed by NOAA Fisheries, PFMC, in collaboration with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Council Vote on Comment Letter for proposed CHNMS

Advisory Council members in attendance approved the comment letter for the proposed CHNMS by a vote of 12-yes, 0-no, and 2-abstain. Ken Owen (Public-at-Large seat member) offered a motion to support the letter, seconded by Stuart Kasdin (Public-at-Large seat member). Daniel Studt (NOAA Fisheries seat member) and Donna Schroeder (Bureau of Ocean Energy Management 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

Chair Cohen provided closing remarks and reminded attendees of upcoming 2023 Advisory Council meetings:

- Friday, November 17 (Port of Hueneme, Ventura County with online option)

Appendix A. Advisory Council hybrid meeting attendance, October 12, 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 | No |
| John Hoadley | Commercial Fishing alternate | No |
| David Lopez | Recreational Fishing member | Yes |
| Kevin Brannon | Recreational Fishing alternate | Yes |
| Michael Yorke | Education member | No |
| Andrea Mills | Education alternate | No |
| Phyllis Grifman | Research member | Yes |
| Robert Miller, Ph.D. | Research alternate | Yes |
| 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 | No |
| Alicia Cordero | Chumash Community member | Yes |
| Eva Pagaling | Chumash Community alternate | No |

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|---------------------|---|-----|
| 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 | No |
| 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 |
| 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 | 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) | No |
| Mike Murray (staff) | Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting) | Yes |
| | Total number of individual SAC members (<u>voting seats</u> only) | 20 |
| | Number of voting seats represented (out of 21) | 15 |