

**MBNMS Research Activity Panel
Meeting Summary
July 11, 2014**

Host: Kerstin Wasson – Estuarine Ecology (Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation)

Location: Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
1700 Elkhorn Road
Watsonville, CA 95076

Date: Friday, July 11th, 2014; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Members:

	Discipline	Primary/ Alternate	Name	Institution
X	Research Coordinator		DeVogelaere, Andrew	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
	Biological Oceanography	primary	Kudela, Raphael	University of California, Santa Cruz
	Biological Oceanography	alternate	Chavez, Francisco	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
X	Deep-Sea Ecology	primary	Cailliet, Greg	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (retired)
X	Deep-Sea Ecology	alternate	Haddock, Steve	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
	Estuarine Ecology	primary	Lindley, Steve	NOAA Fisheries Service
X	Estuarine Ecology	alternate	Wasson, Kerstin	Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation
	Fisheries	primary	Sogard, Susan	NOAA Fisheries Service
	Fisheries	alternate	Grimes, Churchill	NOAA Fisheries Service (retired)
X	Marine & Coastal Geology	primary	Storlazzi, Curt	United States Geological Survey
	Marine & Coastal Geology	alternate	Paull, Charles	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
	Marine Conservation Biology	primary		
	Marine Conservation Biology	alternate	Micheli, Fiorenza	Hopkins Marine Station
	Marine Policy	primary		
	Marine Policy	alternate	David, Aimee	Monterey Bay Aquarium
	Nearshore Ecology	primary		
X	Nearshore Ecology	alternate	Carr, Mark	University of California, Santa Cruz
	Physical Oceanography	primary	Ramp, Steve	Soliton Ocean Services, Inc.
X	Physical Oceanography	alternate	Cheriton, Olivia	United States Geological Survey
X	Shelf & Slope Ecology	primary	Lindholm, James †	California State University Monterey Bay
	Shelf & Slope Ecology	alternate		
X	Social Sciences	primary	Pomeroy, Caroline	California Sea Grant Extension Program
	Social Sciences	alternate	Scorse, Jason	Monterey Institute of International Studies
X	Water Quality	primary	Hunt, John †	University of California, Davis
	Water Quality	alternate	Epel, David	Hopkins Marine Station

*Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Primary)

†Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Alternate)

RAP Coordinator:

X	Burton, Erica	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
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GUESTS:

Daly, Alex	CSUMB
Douros, William	West Coast Regional Office, ONMS
Moye, Flower	CSUMB
Rosenfeld, Leslie	CeNCOOS
Walecka, Hilary	UCSB, Bren School

CONSENT ITEMS

Introductions/Modifications to the Agenda (Lindholm)

- New RAP member Olivia Cheriton (USGS); Physical Oceanography, alternate

HOST PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Estuarine Conservation Research at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve (Wasson)

- Wasson provided overview of Slough, including brief history of uses, changes in flow
- Addressing threats through conservation and restoration
- Provided research summary
 - Long-term monitoring
 - Water Quality
 - Habitat change
 - Biological Indicators
 - Short-term research
 - Marsh sustainability, including NERR Sentinel Site Program
 - Oyster restoration science
 - Sea otter investigations, including estuarine residents; sea otters promote healthy eelgrass beds
 - Water Quality assessment, outreach w/WQ Report Card
- For more information, see <http://www.elkhornslough.org/research/>

PRESENTATION REQUESTED BY RAP

Carmel Bay Larval Dispersal Study (Cheriton)

- Full title: Integrative evaluation of larval dispersal and delivery in Kelp Rockfish using inter-generational genetic tagging, demography and oceanography
- PIs include: Mark Carr (UCSC), Chris Edwards (UCSC), John Garza (SWFSC), Eric Anderson (SWFSC)
- May-Sept: oceanographic sampling
- July-Sep: standard monitoring unit for the recruitment of reef fishes (SMURFs) and adult rockfish sampling
- Research Questions:
 - Does dispersal from Carmel Bay to Monterey Bay predominately occur as result of wind relaxation?
 - Is there evidence for local retention of larval Kelp Rockfish within study region?
 - Is relative recruitment of recently settled Kelp Rockfish to focal sites in study region disproportionate to the relative larval production of those focal sites?

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Should the RAP Continue as a Standing SAC Working Group? (Lindholm/DeVogelaere/Burton)

- Lindholm, DeVogelaere, Burton briefly summarized issue
- SAC Charter being re-written with specifics on working groups
- SAC working groups should be formed for specific purposes or topics that need focused attention and cannot be accomplished by an advisory council subcommittee. Their work should be limited to functional areas and discrete issues relating to individual sanctuaries, and once the final advice from the working is submitted to the full advisory council, the working group must disband.
- Discussion question posed to the RAP: Should the RAP continue to be a “standing working group” of the SAC?
- Some of the reasons listed to stay associated with the SAC, standing, are:
 - Disbanding and reconstituting the RAP would result in a loss of institutional knowledge
 - It would be time consuming to repeatedly pull the group, or a sub group, together, compared to having standing regular meetings
 - RAP members would receive less support from their institutions to be part of ad-hoc groups as opposed to a standing group associated with a formal body (the SAC)
 - The RAP should be ready to serve the SAC at every meeting, in that they provide technical and scientific information to make decisions (i.e., the RAP is not issue driven)
- RAP agreed they would like to continue as a “standing working group” of the SAC. If that is not an option, RAP will continue as a *MBNMS Research group*.

PRESENTATION REQUESTED BY RAP

Sanctuary Nomination Process: Your Role (William Douros/West Coast Region, ONMS)

- Douros provided overview of new sanctuary nomination process
- First time in 20 years, NOAA has re-established process for public to nominate nationally significant marine and Great Lakes areas as potential new national marine sanctuaries
- NOAA’s website (www.nominate.noaa.gov) describes nomination process, including list of criteria and considerations that NOAA will use to evaluate nominations
- NOAA expects review process for each nomination to take approximately 3-6 months
- Successfully nominated sites will be placed in an inventory that NOAA could consider for national marine sanctuary designation
- Designation is a whole separate process (described in the National Marine Sanctuaries Act); typically designation takes 3-5 years
- For more information, see: www.nominate.noaa.gov

STAFF/SAC REQUESTS TO RAP

Update: RAP Participation in CCIEA Indicator Development and Conceptual Models (DeVogelaere)

- DeVogelaere reminded RAP, MBNMS staff working with the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (CCIEA) science team to apply a CCIEA developed process for indicator development to MBNMS with the goals of:
 - Identify priority monitoring targets for 8 major habitats in MBNMS

- Identify focal indicators of ecosystem status and trends for the Condition Report
- A modified short list of indicators for each major habitat has been used to create 'conceptual models' for each habitat (i.e., diagrams showing the portfolio of potential indicators for each habitat)
- These draft conceptual models will be delivered by email to RAP members for review and comment on Monday July 14. We seek the following specific input:
 - Are we missing any key indicators of status and trend for the focal habitat? Why?
 - Do you recommend removing any indicators from portfolio? Why?
 - For a given indicator, are we focused on the best metric (e.g., biomass vs. size structure)? Why?
- Next steps:
 - We will incorporate RAP input and possibly solicit review from additional partners and experts
 - Score all the highly recommended indicators using the CCIEA-developed indicator screening process, whittle down the list, and create a portfolio of top scoring indicators for each major habitat
- **ACTION**: RAP will receive concept models for review on Monday, July 14 (via email)

ADDENDUM DISCUSSION (per Carr): Perhaps create standing RAP agenda topic - Quick updates on new hires at institutions; and facility updates

- UCSC (Carr): hired Kristy Kroeker (ocean acidification issues; PhD HMS w/Fio Micheli); also recent hires at ocean sciences department
- CSUMB (Lindholm): hired Kerry Nichols (current postdoc at HMS) and Alison Hop (population genetics); will teach classes (perhaps joint kelp forest class)
- MBNMS (DeVogelaere): no new hires, but have interns and Nancy Foster Scholars (periodically)
- MLML (Cailliet): Harvey is full-time director; Kenneth Coale, Chemical Oceanographer; Birgitte McDonald, Vertebrate Ecologist; Cailliet moving into MLML Friends office (volunteer Director); Erika McPhee-Shaw now at Western Washington University; building mariculture facility; will lose R/V Point Sur, didn't get new UNOLS vessel; Alison Stimpert (post doc) working on sound, whale strikes
- USGS (Storlazzi): Griggs no longer taking graduate students; Marlene Noble retired; J.P. Xu (canyons) going back to China; Katie Mayer hired; Danny Brothers hired (hazards program); partnering with MBARI to look at hazards; Nancy Prouty (shallow and deep coral work)
- MBARI: Jim Bellingham going to WHOI; Leslie Rosenfeld leaving CeNCOOS; two post-docs coming from Hawaii (one works on fishes; Kakani Katija works on hydrodynamics)
- Sea Grant: Jennifer O'Leary (San Luis Obispo; fisheries ecologist) starts Aug 1st

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- SAC Charter
- Storlazzi: seismic testing off Connecticut
- DeVogelaere: Monterey Bay acoustics group headed by Jeremy Goldbogen (HMS), John Ryan (MBARI), John Joseph (NPS); grant proposal; therefore team of scientists to address issue
- DeVogelaere: Center of Excellence for acoustics in development at GFNMS, Leila Hatch (SBNMS) involved

Future Agenda Items (running list):

- MBNMS Updates:
 - Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESAs)
 - Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)
- Water Quality:
 - “Making the Grades: Turning Masses of Water Quality Data into Geo-Referenced Report Cards for Resource Managers” (per Hunt; Sept meeting)
 - WQ monitoring web portals: Ocean Health for CA (per Hunt)
 - Sept/Nov 2013 meeting: regional water board on assessment of monitoring data for 12 years at coastal confluences (30 streams/rivers); report written July 2013; (per Hunt)
 - Ways to present WQ data to region (July meeting, or later); per Hunt
- Leadership changes at Big NOAA, and how affects little NOAA (MBNMS)
- RAP Membership:
 - Revisit RAP member policies including representation: discipline vs institution; available at: http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/rap/history/rap_policies.html
- Continuation of SAC resolution to ban seismic air gun surveys
- 2nd update on Sea Star Wasting Syndrome
- Discussion of SAC charter (per Hunt)

2014 RAP Meeting Schedule and Locations

Date	Host	Location
January 10	Lindholm	CSU Monterey Bay
March 14	Haddock	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
May 9	Scorse	Monterey Institute of International Studies
July 11	Wasson	Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve
September 12	DeVogelaere	Sanctuary Exploration Center, Santa Cruz
November 14	Pomeroy	Center for Ocean Health, UCSC