

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**FINAL Meeting Minutes
February 7, 2013
Seymour Marine Center
Santa Cruz, CA**

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council met on Thursday, February 7, 2013, in Santa Cruz, California. Public categories and government agencies were present as indicated:

Agriculture: Kirk Schmidt
AMBAG: Lynn Robinson
At Large: Cynthia Mathews

Business & Industry: Cindy Walter
CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly
CA EPA: Russ Jeffries
CA Resources Agency: Amy Vierra – Absent

CA State Parks: Mat Fuzie
Conservation: Geoff Shester
Diving: Phil Sammet – Absent
Education: Simona Bartl
Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
Ports & Harbors: Steve Scheiblaue
Recreation: Gary Pezzi
Recreational Fishing: Rich Hughett
Research: Chris Harrold
Tourism: Mike Bekker

The following non-voting members were present as indicated:

Monterey Bay NMS – Paul Michel
Gulf of the Farallones NMS – Maria Brown- Absent
Channel Islands NMS – Chris Mobley – Absent
National Marine Fisheries Service – Steve Lindley
US Coast Guard – LCDR Brad Soule – Absent
Elkhorn Slough NERR – Dave Feliz- Absent

Alternates present in audience:
Robert Chatham

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND MEETING MINUTES

Approval of October 18, 2012 DRAFT MEETING NOTES

The advisory council approved the October 18, 2012 meeting minutes

MOTION: Passed

Steve Scheiblaue introduced a motion for approval of the October meeting minutes.

Seconded by Paul Reilly

(Vote 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention)

The advisory council will approve the December 13, 2012 meeting minutes with the following changes.

Page 7, paragraph 2

Steve Scheiblauber stated that he would support the motion, but requested that the minutes of the meeting reflect his deep concern that the SAC would not acknowledge the precautionary management that is in place by the DFG/FGC and PFMC.

MOTION: Passed

Steve Scheiblauber introduced a motion for an addition of a paragraph to the December meeting minutes stating his concerns.

Seconded by Russ Jeffries

(Vote: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

MOTION: Passed

Russ Jeffries made a motion to have the meeting minutes of December amended.

Seconded by Gary Pezzi

(Vote: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Nicholas Naccari - Conservation Working Group

Forage Fish and Ecosystem management. Thanks to SAC, Pacific Fish Management council and Fish and Game. West Coast is being managed much better than New England Fish management council, which permitted drastic declines to severely diminish their fishery.

III. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chris Harrold - announced that February 6, 2013 the California Fish & Game Commission unanimously voted to evaluate the Eastern Pacific population of white sharks for possible listing under the California Endangered Species Act. This initiates a 1-year review of relevant literature and solicitation of public comment. The Monterey Bay Aquarium, along with scientists from Stanford University, U.C. Davis and CSU Long Beach have data that are directly relevant to the evaluation and will be working with staff from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to share this information.

Simona Bartl - announced Moss Landing Marine Labs will have an open house on April 20 and 21. They are in the process of hiring a new director and hope to have the position filled next fall. They have an opening for a fiscal services administrative assistant and the position is posted on their website.

Paul Michel - commented MBNMS would like to make more progress with the golf channel and CBS to get Sanctuary content, messages and images broadcasted during AT&T. We were successful with the US Open getting information out there. MBNMS participated in the Clam Chowder cook off February 23 hosted at the Santa Cruz Beach boardwalk and received first place in the Manhattan category. California Fish and Game and the California Ocean Science Trust are putting on a symposium in Monterey for State of California, Central Coast, First Five Years of MPA Monitoring and Management on February 27 and 28. A short video will be shown called

“Lost in the Deep” created by the MBNMS Research team utilizing some of MBARI’s footage. The subject of the video is about lost containers in the deep ocean.

Paul Reilly - informed everyone that as of January 1, his organization had a name change to California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Any printed material they have will be used up prior to reprinting. Paul’s new e-mail is paul.reilly@wildlife.ca.gov.

Mike Bekker - proclaimed tourism is alive and well, but is still not back to the previous numbers when the economy was better. There will be a Save Our Shores clean up on the beach located by the Best Western. Good Old Days in Pacific Grove will be on April 13 and 14 and Mike is planning on having a booth to display material. It is a good family event. Mike suggested that everyone take a look at the website www.MontereyBay365.com. The Big Sur marathon is coming up in April and is another opportunity to display materials. Ms. Julie Packard has been nominated by the Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce for a prestigious award and she will be honored at a dinner at the Hyatt in Monterey.

Steve Scheiblaue - commented the Community Sustainability Fishing Plan is moving along and they are waiting to see a draft document. The city is still dredging off of La Playa Street in Monterey by the condominiums. State legislature is passing a bill that will provide two different forms to use for renewing vessel permits. The city has destroyed 700 vessels and is very aggressive on derelict vessels. In March there is a working waterfront symposium in Seattle on preserving waterfronts on both West and East coast and they will be discussing the challenges from growth that might displace infrastructure of fishing and other waterfront needs.

Gary Pezzi - commented that the local chapter of the Santa Cruz Surf Rider Foundation has participated in the cleanup of syringes, back packs, etc. last Saturday and will be having another beach clean-up on Saturday, February 9. They have drafted a petition letter that went to the city about the issues, and the city is getting more involved in helping clean up the area and bring more awareness to the public. The PWC Subcommittee meeting was constructive; Gary felt it was very informative to get the perspective of the sanctuary. The subcommittee will be meeting again for possible solutions to bring back to the SAC.

Geoff Shester - announced Oceana is sponsoring “The Beautiful Whale” exhibit by photographer Bryant Austin at the Museum of Monterey. It is the first ever exhibition of life size images of whales and it will be at the museum through summer. Oceana is going to release a big report with the largest sampling of seafood DNA (1200 samplings). This will be a big media splash in markets all across the country. San Francisco is a major market for the sampling and a study of how seafood was labeled and whether the species will apply with FDA seafood labeling requirements. There is a major effort to document the extent of this at a nationwide level. It is costly and a major effort. Oceana is one of the petitioners for the White Shark candidacy for listing. The primary objective is to address the by-catch of juveniles in some of the Southern California gill net fisheries and the by-catch in Mexico.

Cynthia Mathews - reported there is activity for the clean-up issue that was brought to the City of Santa Cruz by citizens via video in November to make the Cowell Beach area safer. The City has

acted very quickly. The illegal activity was not viewable from land as it was happening in caves. The City has put a lot of resources into this effort, and staff have been talking about what they can do with the Coastal Commission to increase these efforts. There is ongoing pollution detected in the Cowells Beach area and there has been a lot of research done to pinpoint what the contributing factor is for water pollution. It is a 3-year project with Stanford. They would like to identify what the source is for that water pollution and fix it. There is an exhibit at the Museum of Natural History called "Keen Eyes and Curious Minds." They are displaying the life work of naturalists, Randy Morgan and Dan Miller. Randy Morgan identifies a billion local species. The exhibit will be available until February 23. Dan Miller died recently.

Rich Hughett - shared with the group his experience with the local catch program. Rich is very supportive of the program and suggests the SAC group try Local Catch Monterey. Rich brought in more Marine Mammal brochures from Peggy Stapp.

Steve Lindley - announced on Monday, February 11, Dr. Nate Maverick will be joining their staff at the NMFS Lab in Santa Cruz. They will have a regional plan change at NMSF. They have a new cycle of reviews for their science program.

IV. INFORMATION ITEM: West Coast Region update

Bill Douros gave an update on the new Deputy Director, John Amor, who was recently hired. Bill will be on the west coast full time now in his role of Regional Director. Bill has traveled across the west coast to attend Advisory Council meetings. Bill commented on the uncertainty of the budget for the year. The sequestration decision will come by March 1. The continuing resolution expires March 22. Dr. Lubechenco is retiring in early March and they do not have a firm replacement. Katherine Sullivan will be acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere Administration for interim.

Dave Kennedy of National Ocean Services is now Deputy Under Secretary and Holly Bamford is now the NOS Administrator.

There is a transition going on of three big objectives for the Sanctuary program:

1. Increase resources to the program
2. Enhance protection to the Sanctuaries already in the system
3. Expand resources

Additional funding needs to be raised for the Exploration Center in Santa Cruz and the R/V *Fulmar*. There are a lot of initiatives Sanctuaries are continuing to pursue. There has been success working with NOAA Fisheries, the Sanctuaries and Harbors to adjust the vessels shipping lanes to prevent whale ship strikes. Bill discussed the PWC issues and suggested they give comments to Paul. Sanctuary sites have a regulation for an introduction of new species. The regulation includes boundaries and non- exemption for catch and release. Florida Keys NMS has been reviewed and has expanded the zoning framework proposed 10 years ago. The Coast Guard has been helping with spatial regulations by providing C130s able to fly over all of the California sanctuaries in 1 day.

Bill discussed the boundary expansions of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank. Bill explained the history of the process to expand the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank. The plan is to take the existing management plans and stretch them. NOAA is committed to make this

happen in 18-24 months. The letter the SAC wrote back in support of the expansion in April, inspired a wild fire. The Channel Islands and Fagatele Bay are also sending letters. Monterey Bay is now the 2nd largest Sanctuary. Fagatele Bay is now the largest, now called the National Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa. A new Department Of Interior initiative is focused on travel and tourism. *Monitor* is the first National Marine Sanctuary Monument and is on display in Newport News, Virginia. Chris Harrold commented that the Mariner's Museum in Newport News has a full scale model of the *Monitor* with a great interpretive center. The History channel had a special show on the recovery. There is an amazing picture of the crew sitting on the deck in full uniform. There is a Sea grant fellow working on travel and tourism for the wreck.

The Sanctuary classic fishing tournament will take place again in the summertime. There is a new iPhone app for Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Francisco in time for the Americas Cup in August. Some of the comments from SAC members in regards to Bill's update were effectiveness of MPA's, overfishing of certain species, marketing the Sanctuaries, and involvement with the communities, and navigational system boundaries. NOAA is waiting for Obama to release the Ocean Action Plan.

Bill discussed the challenges of the Panga boats coming up from Mexico that are transporting people and drugs and then left behind on the shore. The Coast Guard is very helpful with the cleanup process and working with Customs and Immigration to make sure hazardous material is not left behind on the beaches.

V. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Calendar Results

The Sanctuary Advisory Council members shared their ideas of what they would like to add to the working calendar. Additional items were added to the calendar: Sea level rise, MLPA, halibut and other fisheries, seismic studies, gill net fishing, travel & tourism partnerships, local education partner efforts, environmental education ideas from different states, connecting education with fishery information.

VI. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEM: Working Group roles

Dawn Hayes presented on the SAC Protocols related to SAC Working Groups, Subcommittees and Task Forces. This review of the current procedures included the roles of the working groups, how they are expected to operate (conducting meetings, agenda development, written materials and membership). Also covered, was the process for requesting issues be brought to the larger SAC, for the Superintendent to request information from working groups and how subsequent information is brought to the council. A memo from Paul Michel and Kirk Schmidt was provided, outlining this discussion.

VII. LUNCH

VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: The origin of CA Leatherback Sea Turtles and Trans Pacific partnerships for recovery.

Presentation by Scott Benson

http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130207/130207leatherback_ppt.pdf

IX. STANDING ITEM: Working Group updates

Conservation Working Group - <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130207/130130cwg.pdf>

Science Education Panel - <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130207/130124sep.pdf>

Research Activity Panel - <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130207/130111rap.pdf>

X. INFORMATION ITEM: Ocean Acidification

Presentation by Simona Bartl

http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130207/130207acidification_ppt.pdf

XI. STANDING ITEM: Superintendents Report

Paul Michel gave an update on the Coastal Discovery Visitor Center at San Simeon Bay, congratulating them on receiving their 100,000th visitor. There is a lot of community support for the center. Paul thanked the staff and docents, as well as PJ Webb who has been very helpful there over the years. There is an Ocean Fair in San Simeon the third Saturday in July attracting 500-600 people and Paul encouraged everyone to go to the event.

Lisa Uttal gave an update on plans for the Sanctuary Exploration Center. Over 19,000 people came in the first month and a half, as it was high season for the boardwalk area. They had 23 tours and 17 events scheduled. If anyone would like to schedule an event, please call them. They have trained 51 volunteers and have incredible docents who are doing a fantastic job. They are using a lot of technology and working through what works best. The docents are great to enhance the displays. The SEC has acquired a big Leatherback turtle from the Museum of Natural History to put up by the Leatherback turtle kiosk. They want to inspire youth to use the interactive technology. They received a Bechtel grant for the development of an education and outreach plan. The plan has a 5 year outlook and it is available on the website. Staff are working on outreach with local hotels. The SEC has received requests to have another Tail of a Whale bench and there will be 85 tiles to fill. If you would like to purchase one, let them know.

ONMS has a campaign of engagement to reach out to other communities across the states. Dan Basta has asked us to find interior communities to make a connection with. MBNMS will be networking with Boulder, Colorado as they have a community of people interested in ocean conservation and a number of SCUBA divers live in that area. Our liaison in Boulder is former SAC member Vicki Nichols and she was very instrumental in the early days of Save Our Shores. She is the powerhouse behind this coalition and she will be attending a future SAC meeting to share a little bit about Boulder and how they got started and how they are able to get connected.

Phil Sammett mentioned to Paul several months ago that the Pacific Grove double-lock hyperbaric chamber was not in use due to some maintenance and liability issues. It is crucial to get it back up and running as it is the only chamber between here and Catalina. In response, MBNMS facilitated a meeting to work out some issues and plan for raising the money for annual costs. With the help of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation \$20,000 has been raised to date to pay for the first year and most of the second year. It will be ready and up and running very soon.

Paul gave an update on the Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas and EFH progress. Staff are working on describing significant benthic areas and using these as a starting point in discussing EFH boundaries with the trawl fleet and conservation. MBNMS will have a GIS tool developed by Chad King for the SAC to interact with and it will be available for your preview in April.

MBNMS is looking at the issue of desalination and have pulled together many authorities to have a conversation of what we know about the proposed projects. This is an example of what the Sanctuary can do for facilitating the dialogue. All of the agencies are appreciative of the coordination role the Sanctuary is taking on.

Your Sanctuary TV show is now in seventy- five cities across the states. There is an annual Alliance Community Media meeting in San Francisco in May; we are going to be there front and center as a title sponsor to promote *Your Sanctuary TV* to possibly 400 stations. We are moving away from a focus on just *Your Sanctuary* show to a more comprehensive library of ocean programming for *Your SanctuaryTV*. There is currently a marketing and outreach element with Café Fina and AMP on Facebook where you are able to put in your idea on how you can make a difference for the ocean. There is a weekly drawing for dinner for two at Café Fina.

Paul gave an update on the plans to examine incorporating the San Francisco exclusion zone into the MBNMS. This is called for in the Management Plan and GFNMS has taken the lead in preparing the background information. A draft of the proposed change will be out late summer or early fall. Public scoping closed on March 1.

The Superintendent Report then transitioned into a discussion about support for a resolution re SAC support for including the SF Exclusion Zone. Chris Harrold commented that the ocean needs all of the help it can get and anything we can do, we should do. After some discussion, it was the consensus of SAC members present to postpone consideration of the resolution and instead to request the Superintendent write a letter on the SAC's behalf to meet the March 1 deadline for public comment. SAC members were frustrated that there was a quorum present in the morning and early afternoon but not at the end of the day to adequately discuss the proposed resolution. They felt if you are going to be on the council that you should commit to the full meeting. Geoff Shester recommended to the Superintendent that the action items should be presented early on in the day, as it seems there is often a problem of members leaving early. Steve Lindley suggested the rules of the quorum could be changed in the Charter. Kirk Schmidt commented that the Superintendent could write a letter with the consensus of the members that are present.

XII. INFORMATION ITEM: SAC recruitment update and recognition of outgoing members.

New applicants are under review with Paul Michel and the plan is to have them attend the April SAC Meeting. Plaques were given to the outgoing members as tokens of appreciation.

XIII. ADJOURN

Submitted by Jackie Sommers, Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator.
Meeting was adjourned at 4:50PM