

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

ADVISORY COUNCIL

FINAL

Meeting Minutes

February 23, 2000
Doubletree Hotel
Monterey

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council met on Wednesday, February 23, 2000 at the Doubletree Hotel in Monterey. Public categories and government agencies were present as indicated:

Agriculture: Richard Nutter
Diving: David Clayton
AMBAG: Stephanie Harlan - ABSENT
Education: Patricia Clark-Gray - ABSENT
At Large: Steve Webster
Enforcement: Doug Huckins - ABSENT
At Large: Karin Strasser Kauffman
Fishing: Dave Danbom
At Large: Chet Forrest - ABSENT
Ports & Harbors: James Stilwell
Business & Industry: Steve Abbott
Recreation: Takashi Hattori
CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove - ABSENT
Research: Gregor Cailliet
CA EPA: Craig J. Wilson - ABSENT
Tourism: Ed Brown - ABSENT
CA Resources Agency: Brian Baird - ABSENT
U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Phyllis Blanton - ABSENT
Conservation: Vicki Nichols

The following non-voting members were present as indicated:

Channel Islands NMS: Ed Cassano - ABSENT
Gulf of the Farallones NMS and Cordell Bank NMS: Ed Ueber - ABSENT
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Becky Christensen
Monterey Bay NMS: William Douros

I. CALL TO ORDER & ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Steve Webster, at 9:00 a.m. Michele Finn conducted the roll call.

II. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

The Chair opened the floor to discussion of issues not related to the recent organizational changes within the National Ocean Service (NOS). Dan Basta, Acting Sanctuaries Program Chief, and Bill Douros, MBNMS Superintendent responded to Council inquiries on the following items:

- National Marine Sanctuaries Program (NMSP) fiscal year 2000 budget allocations
- implications of letter from Nancy Foster, Assistant Administrator of NOS, regarding the authority of the Sanctuary Advisory Council
- coordination among the Council's working groups
- recently released National Academy of Public Administration report on the NMSP

III. INTRODUCTIONS & RECENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES WITHIN

NOS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SANCTUARIES PROGRAM

Bill Douros provided a brief background about the Council's request to meet with Dan Basta and the concerns of the California Coastal Commission regarding the organizational changes within NOS. Because Coastal Commission staff were unable to attend the meeting, with Dan Basta, the agency submitted their concerns in a letter.

Dan Basta provided an overview of the recent organizational changes within NOS. As a result of increased interest in the NMSP, the Marine Sanctuaries Division (MSD) is being elevated within NOAA; the program will no longer operate within the Office of Coastal Resource Management (OCRM), but will remain within NOS. Stephanie Thornton, the former Chief of MSD, has been reassigned to conduct special projects and Dan Basta is serving as the interim Chief. Dan outlined some of the benefits of the reorganization:

- greater ability to bring NOAA assets to the sanctuaries program
- more direct decision-making
- greater ability to enter into collaborative relationships
- directly responds to constituent requests supporting the sanctuaries program
- increased priority within NOS science office
- more power in dealing with agencies within NOAA and other government agencies

Council members raised several concerns about the reorganization:

- internal nature of reorganization - no consult with other agencies involved in coastal zone management
- separating programs may pit the Sanctuary program against other coastal resource management programs for resources
- fragmentation may negatively impact National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) program

Dan responded by explaining that these programs have not necessarily worked closely together at the national level in the past and have been fundamentally separate. However, joint programs exist at local levels, and these opportunities will not be affected by the changes.

Dan, Bill and Council members also discussed the Advisory Council future role within the sanctuaries program. Discussion focused on the following issues:

- finalization of Sanctuary Advisory Council policy paper
- improving the effectiveness of Advisory Councils
- providing opportunity for Sanctuary Advisory Councils to communicate and interact with each other
- significance of the Advisory Council's role in bringing together diverse interests to reach consensus/agreement
- the role of the Council in producing a "product"
- need for increased coordination among Council's working groups and between the working groups and the Advisory Council
- communication problems and unprofessional behavior—accusations and falsifications
- need for better access to NOAA documents

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Submitted by
 Michele Finn, Assistant Manager and
 Lisa de Marignac, Advisory Council Coordinator