

## MNBMS Sanctuary Advisory Council 2002 Annual Report

Sanctuary Advisory Council Annual Report - DRAFT

October 1, 2001-September 30, 2002

### INTRODUCTION

During the past fiscal year, the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) held six regular meetings at the Jade Street Community Center in Capitola, the Douglas Beach House in Half Moon Bay, the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, the Big Sur Lodge Conference Center at Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park, and the Cambria Veteran's Memorial Hall in Cambria. They also held a joint meeting in Half Moon Bay with members of the Sanctuary Advisory Councils of the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries with staffmembers of the National Sanctuary Program.

Sanctuary Advisory Council members participated in a number of activities in the communities adjacent to the Sanctuary, including meeting with local elected officials, participating in the Santa Cruz County Interagency Local Task Force Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the Sanctuary Scenic Trail meetings convened by Congressman Sam Farr, and public workshops on the MBNMS management plan process.

They also participated in the Santa Cruz Shark Fest and Sanctuary Birthday celebration, the Monterey Dive Clean Up, the National Steinbeck Center, and a subcommittee to review SAC applicants. Other activities include the AMBAG/Sanctuary Currents Symposium, Moss Landing Marine Laboratory forums, Seymour Center Long Marine Laboratory forums, PISCO events, and the SAC Chair and Coordinator meeting.

Dan Haifley, Recreation Representative, was re-elected Secretary. Three new SAC members were sworn in at the June 2002 meeting: George Cook, California State Parks; Frank Degnan, Diving; and Monty Criss, Tourism. Stephanie Harlan was nominated for her second two-year term as SAC Chairperson at that meeting. A special presentation was given to Rachel Saunders who was leaving the SAC after serving since its beginning. She was the Alternate Representative, Education, Primary Representative, Conservation, and was one of the leaders in the designation of the Sanctuary in 1992.

Brian Foss, Harbormaster, Santa Cruz Harbor, was sworn in as the alternate for the Ports and Harbors seat, and a plaque was to be sent to Jim Stilwell, former manager of Moss Landing Harbor District for his four years of service to the SAC.

Many SAC members were very busy working on the various Sanctuary Birthday events that would take place in October throughout the communities adjacent to the Sanctuary.

### WORKING GROUPS

The Council's four working groups - the Conservation Working Group (CWG), the Research Activity Panel (RAP), the Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP), and the Business and Tourism Activity Panel (BTAP) met regularly throughout the year and provided information and advice to the SAC and the Sanctuary Superintendent.

The Business and Tourism Activity Panel (BTAP) chaired by Dave Ebert (SAC Business Representative) held a total of six meetings. The meetings took place in November 2001, and January, March, May, July, and September of 2002 at locations in Monterey, Watsonville and Santa Cruz. The BTAP received briefings from Sanctuary staff on the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) process and provided comments to the SAC and the other working groups on JMPR issues to be addressed and other areas of concern. The BTAP also received specific briefings from Sanctuary staff and community members on issues related to dredging, cruise ships, desalination, fireworks and motorized personal watercraft. Working with Sanctuary staff, the BTAP developed content for a specific BTAP web page to be placed on the MBNMS web site. The group recommended to AMBAG that West Marine receive AMBAG's annual Sanctuary Currents Conference Business Award.

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) is a working group of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) that meets monthly to discuss resource protection issues affecting the MBNMS. From October 2001 through September of 2002, the Conservation Working group met ten times and addressed a range of resource protection issues. Throughout the year there was an ongoing discussion on proposed desalination facilities at Moss Landing and elsewhere, as well as appropriate strategies for MBNMS involvement in the issue. The group also discussed the periodic review of Monterey County's Local Coastal Program and identified areas of potential improvement. Cruise ships were also a priority issue for the CWG which encouraged the Sanctuary to address the threat to water quality posed by cruise ship discharge. The CWG sought to strengthen the voluntary compliance agreement between the cruise industry and the MBNMS and advocated a mandatory "no discharge policy". (The group would later be instrumental in bringing the issue before the SAC which voted to develop regulations to protect the Sanctuary from "harmful discharges" in February of 2003) The CWG was also involved in identifying the appropriate scope of the Sanctuary's periodic management plan review. It identified the issues that members believed to be of the highest priority and presented them to the SAC as areas that should be addressed in the management plan review, including MPAs, water quality, and cruise ships. The CWG also tracked legislation such as California's Marine Life Management Act, followed resource protection threats such as Naval acoustic testing, and helped to hone the theme for the Sanctuary Currents Symposium.

## MAJOR ISSUES, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The SAC began the year with a discussion of topics for future meetings. For the next two years, the management plan review was adopted as the top priority.

The Conservation Working Group members presented a letter with recommendations for the fair market value topic when permits are considered for fiber optic cables in sanctuaries. A letter was prepared from the SAC to the Superintendent and appropriate NOAA contacts. The SAC also took action to ask the Superintendent to write to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries asking it to reconsider whether the Special Use Permits are the appropriate permit to approve fiber optic cable maintenance.

Former Manager of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Matt Pickett gave a very useful presentation on the Channel Islands management plan process to date. He discussed what had worked well including the fact that there was a high level of awareness and involvement by the community as shown by large attendance at meetings, extensive public comments, and a lot of media coverage. Matt discussed challenges and lessons learned, and offered recommendations to us.

Sean Morton MBMMS Joint Management Plan Coordinator began his long and difficult task of leading the SAC through the opening stages of the management plan review process. The first brochure was presented, outlining the proposed steps; the JMPR website was announced along with the dates of the scoping meetings. SAC members who were interested in participating in the scoping meetings were invited to a November 7, 2001 training meeting in Santa Cruz. Sean emphasized that the SAC's role is extremely important in outreach to the community, identifying issues, narrowing these issues, and developing action plans.

The scoping meetings were well attended, including the meeting Thursday November 30, 2001 in Half Moon Bay, which proceeded the Friday December 1, 2001 SAC meeting. Sean gave summaries of the scoping meetings and the topics identified, and there were long discussions by the SAC members of these issues. The SAC requested that the public comments be compiled, posted on the website, and organized into priorities with assessments and analysis of the topics that may be priorities, and why

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Pew Oceans Commission Chair, former Congressman and former White House chief of Staff Hon. Leon Panetta gave a 90-minute presentation to the SAC. He discussed the history of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as the Congressman representing this area. He discussed the designation, the work of the PEW Oceans Commission, loss of fisheries, the need to build consensus and to provide leadership, and have all effected persons at the table to find solutions to the problems.

The SAC held a special public meeting on August 1, 2002 in Cambria to hear comments on the Joint Management Plan Review. Over 60 people attended the meeting, including Morrow Bay City Council members, commercial fishermen, representatives from environmental organizations, and residents of various communities of San Luis Obispo County. The SAC approved a series of motions at that meeting regarding priority issues, made changes to site specific and cross cutting issues, and moved topics from one area to another.

## OTHER ISSUES, DISCUSSIONS, ACTIONS

The Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries Marine Reserves Workgroup met throughout the year to develop recommendations.

The SAC agreed upon a protocol for use of the listserv. There was a discussion of the NAPA Report, with a recommendation that it be linked with the Joint Management Plan Review process.

The SAC had a presentation on the Agricultural and Rural Lands Action Plan by MBNMS staff persons Holly Price and Katie Siegler, Kelly Huff of the Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus, and Daniel Mountjoy of the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

National Marine Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta addressed the SAC at the February 2002 meeting at the National Steinbeck Center. He discussed the priority-setting workshop process that has been developed, and the planning process for the draft action plans. Jennifer LaBarre from the National Marine Sanctuary Program gave a report on the JMPR document "Summary of Scoping Comments" and discussed the next steps. She explained the process for the Joint Prioritization Workshop that would be held with the SAC members from the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. The group will conduct a prioritization exercise for cross-cutting issues, and then break into site-specific groups and conduct the exercise for site-specific issues.

The joint SAC workshop was held in April 2002 in Half Moon Bay.

The SAC had a presentation and discussion on cruise ships visiting Monterey Bay, and potential and real impacts to the Sanctuary. The SAC encouraged staff to continue their work on this issue including items recommended by the Conservation Working Group.

The current SAC Charter expired, and action was taken recommending that it be extended for two years with changes agreed upon by the SAC.

Recreation Alternate Heide Tiura gave a presentation on biodiesel fuel, and discussed her experience with its use in her business, Sanctuary Cruises.

MBNMS Research Coordinator, Andrew DeVogelaere gave a presentation on the Davidson Seamount with former SAC member Greg Cailliet from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and Randy Kochevar from the Monterey Bay Aquarium. They discussed what was found during the exploration of the seamount located 80 miles southwest of Monterey.

The SAC supported a local working group to explore options for expanding the southern boundary or other alternatives in San Luis Obispo County.