



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

JUL 25 2008

Dr. Chris Harrold
c/o Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940

Dear Dr. Harrold: *Chris*

Thank you and your coordinator for participating in the 2008 Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting in Newport News, Virginia. It was a very productive week, and, among other things, I was very pleased to see the evolution in the discussions that highlighted the critical and influential role advisory councils have in our sanctuary communities and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Therefore, based on our agreement, I am laying out "next steps" to begin positioning each council's participation in the national arena. I know you are ready to leverage your local expertise on behalf of the ONMS, and it's now about timing and resources.

Even though our budget may not allow a dedicated meeting as we had discussed, we can still begin the work on this now while it is fresh in our minds. Consequently, I would like you to help identify national forums and key players with whom we could collaborate to address the marine conservation problems the nation confronts. If you remember, at the meeting we identified forums such as the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee, the NMS Caucus, etc. Please identify groups that have complementary goals and objectives with our councils and the National Marine Sanctuary System. In addition, please also give me your ideas on a strategy on how to proceed with each group. Think outside the box!

Hopefully we will be able to meet to discuss this national choreography before the 2009 Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting the week of May 4th in Alpena, Michigan, however, we may not have the luxury to do so. With a new administration on the horizon, we will have a chance to navigate a new direction in ocean and Great Lakes protection for this country.

Please share this letter with your councils, and discuss the national choreography forum list and strategy follow-up action. Get their input, and submit your proposal to Karen Brubeck and me by December 31, 2008. Mark your calendars now for the May 2009 meeting and discuss this with your council.



I am pleased with the direction the councils are headed, and pleased to see how we are all rising to the nation's needs. Continue to stand tall!

I HEARD YOU HAD TO
MOVE SOME STOCK BECAUSE
OF THE FIRES -- Hope ALL
TURNED OUT okay.

Sincerely,



Daniel J. Basta
Director

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

cc: ONMS Leadership Team
ONMS Executive Team
ONMS Advisory Council Coordinators
Karen Brubeck