

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP (CWG)
MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Moss Landing Harbor District Office

The Conservation Working Group met on Tuesday, May 16, 1995 at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office. In attendance were Rachel Saunders (Center for Marine Conservation), Daphne White (League of Women Voters), Jack Wickham (Sierra Club), Ellen Faurot-Daniels (Friends of the Sea Otter), Tanya Sozanski (Sea Grant), Jo Stallard (Citizen-At-Large), David Iverson (Save our Shores - HMB), Anna Weinstein (Center for Marine Conservation), Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores), Thomas LaHue (Surfrider Foundation) and Jane DeLay (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary).

I. CWG ADMINISTRATION

- 1) The Meeting was called to order at 10:10 a.m.;
- 2) The Draft Minutes were approved as presented;
- 3) Review of the Agenda and New Items for Discussion -- Members added an update on the ATOC project; news on the status of the oil moratorium; the San Mateo Devil's Slide project; and questions concerning an operating budget for the CWG to the agenda.
- 4) June meeting -- The next business meeting of the Conservation Working Group will be on Tuesday, June 20 from 10:00 - 12:30 p.m.
- 5) Announcements --
 - ˆ A Save Our Shores fund raiser on June 1 will feature dinner with a wine maker -- the cost is \$50 plus tip and tax. Contact Vicki Nichols for more information;
 - ˆ The League of Women Voters finally adopted "the environment" as an issue for emphasis at its recent state convention;
 - ˆ Thomas LaHue requested additional information about the Clean Act bill (HR961), that just passed the House. CMC staff will try and get an update on what is happening on the Senate side. In the meantime, working group members should express their opposition to Feinstein and Boxer.

Members suggested using the CWG as a forum to get information to the public, and to investigate methods of engaging local news and media on a consistent basis about larger issues, like the Clean Water Act, that will affect the Sanctuary.

- ˆ FYI -- The ATOC certification has been deferred until the hearing scheduled for the second week in June in Carmel. If interested, call the California Coastal Commission and talk to Mark Delaplane, (415) 904-5200.

II. REPORT FROM THE SANCTUARY OFFICE

The report from the Sanctuary Office included:

- ˆ the successful visit of Dr. James Baker, Director of NOAA -- (Dr. Baker indicated that he would like to attend the Sanctuary celebration in the fall);
- ˆ the continued monitoring of flood impacts on the Sanctuary;
- ˆ the status of the shark chumming issue;
- ˆ the status of the jet ski regulations -- jet ski regulations have been approved. The Sanctuary office can begin enforcement measures once marker buoys are in place;
- ˆ the status of an enforcement plan -- possibly with State Parks as the result of a productive meeting held recently;
- ˆ the current McArthur cruise; and,
- ˆ an introduction of Kip Evans, the new Assistant for the Education and Water Quality Programs.

III. SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL REPORT

At the request of the CWG, the following information regarding the Sanctuary Advisory Council and the Working Groups is as follows:

- ˆ the next SAC business meeting is June 30 at the Crossroads Community Center;
- ˆ the Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) will meet on Thursday, June 22 from 2:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at MBARI - Moss Landing; and,
- ˆ the Research Activity Panel (RAP) will meet on Friday, June 23 from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Department of Fish and Game in Monterey.

Report on the April 24 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting:

1) Review of the SAC Annual Report - working groups were asked to produce a document of highlights to attach to the report. CWG members suggested the following work should be included as highlights:

- ˆ identify the group's leadership role on shark chumming, Vessel Traffic Study, the Bluefin, noise in the Sanctuary, Devil's Slide alternatives, Jade Cove, and jet ski regulations;
- ˆ CWG's leadership in tracking legislation - only group doing it;
- ˆ CWG's participation in planning various events such as the Sanctuary Anniversary Celebration, conferences, signage projects, the enforcement workshop, programs developed for Sanctuary outreach, and support for the Mussel Watch Program.

2) General discussion items on the SAC agenda included:

- ˆ a presentation on the flood impacts;
- ˆ a presentation by Mark Stephensen, Director of the California Mussel Watch Program -- The SAC directed that a letter of support for the Program be sent to Senator Mello and Assemblyman McPherson. CWG requested a copy of any letter sent.

Thomas LaHue mentioned his pending trip to Sacramento to attend the statewide Regional Water Quality Control Board's meeting from May 18-19. As the Agenda for the meeting includes a round table discussion of state issues, Tom offered to carry a message of support for the Mussel Watch Program, as well as ideas on how to improve the monitoring (e.g. to include more substances to be tested for.)

Discussion ensued concerning the correct protocol for individual and working group correspondence. The importance of correct representation as a working group and not the SAC, or the Sanctuary office, was emphasized. Protocol will be discussed at the upcoming June 2nd SAC Retreat.

The CWG then discussed the appropriateness of their agreeing on every issue before taking action. In the past, the working group has never resolved to deal with an issue that doesn't reflect a consensus. It was decided that these questions be placed on the June meeting agenda for further discussion.

3) Jo Stallard commented on the excellent publication and the work being done by the Watershed Ecology Outreach Program (WEOP). CWG members requested that the WEOP group be invited to a future meeting.

IV. ISSUE UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

1) Noise Pollution -- the draft letter by Jack Wickham has been sent to the other working groups with the following results:

- ˘ The SEP discussed the issue and voted to endorse the draft;
- ˘ The RAP will address the issue at their meeting on Friday, May 19.

CWG members suggested that the chairs of the three working groups get together to discuss the memo and agree on language. The Chairs would then sign the document for submission to the SAC.

Concerns were raised about the following:

- ˘ How will the research be funded? NOAA or private research solicitation;
- ˘ How will we use the information? What will the strategies look like?

CWG members were reminded that the current objective of the memo is to bring the issue to the table and to gain support for the idea in a general, simple way. It was suggested, that the transmittal letter for the memo identify concerns about future steps and complex issues that are not yet addressed in the draft.

The CWG suggested that a MBARI scientist that Jack has contacted might address the issue at a CWG and/or future Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting.

The group also suggested that the working groups, especially the Research Activity Panel, take a lead in organizing a workshop on the subject after the Council has endorsed the issue.

2) ESA Report - A packet containing information about the Endangered Species Act and strategies for initiating support was provided to the group by Ellen Farout-Daniels. Additional information is available -- call Ellen if interested.

Using the 10 talking points and other specifics contained in the packet, CWG members were encouraged to write letters to the editor, influential people in the community, and scientists. Moreover, individuals and groups need to keep Congress informed and engaged about what elements should be included in a responsible ESA.

Ellen will draft letters to local papers and produce more detailed documents for distribution in the Friends of the Sea Otter retail store. Further information will be provided to other groups along with recommendations for action.

3) Pajaro River follow-up -- CWG members interested in doing something about the situation with the Pajaro are encouraged to contact the Zone 7 Board and encourage the creation of a long-term management plan for the watershed that provides for both flood control and habitat along the six miles of river between Highway 1 and Murphy's Crossing. Steve Stiles is County Staff to Board 7 (454-2816).

Obviously the issue is still very sensitive - care should be taken NOT to further any divisions. Anna Weinstein will prepare a "cheat sheet" of individuals to call or write to for additional action.

Senator Mello drafted legislation that will permanently exempt the Pajaro from riparian protection measures. It is believed to be on hold for the time being.

4) Coastal development - the CWG supports the concept of trying to get a larger picture of what is protected from development and what isn't. The group defined a need to catch the development projects early on. More individuals need to:

- ˆ attend county planning meetings;
- ˆ have the agendas in advance of the meetings;
- ˆ physically visit the sight; and,
- ˆ be specific and positive about deserving projects.

CWG members are encouraged to try to attend county planning meetings.

5) Rick Starr has applied for a grant to monitor the long term effects of the floods. Students at Moss Landing Marine Labs will use data points to monitor areas that were affected against areas that weren't touched. They will also do weekly fly overs to gather information.

6) Devil's Slide Project - CWG members were given copies of a recent article and a letter to the editor dealing with CALTRANS alternatives to the Devil's Slide project. In summary, CALTRANS has decided to withdrawal its sound wall proposal due to rising costs and public outcry.

David Iverson reported that pressure is building in favor of the tunnel alternative. He indicated that he would like to see the CWG take leadership in support of the tunnel alternative.

7) Oil moratorium status -- CWG members received copies of a flier concerning the potential for off-shore oil drilling in Central California waters. The CMC produced document identifies key people to target through phone and letter writing campaigns. Let Rachel know if you want more information or brochures.

8) Questions and Concerns --

- ˆ Jack Wickham raised the question of what authority NOAA has to manage noise in the Sanctuary. Jane indicated that she would mention the matter to the Sanctuary

manager and provide a response at the next meeting.

Members questioned how long the MBNMS will continue to be broken up with Ed Ueber of Gulf of the Farrallones/Cordell Bank NMS managing the northern end. The working group suggested that they raise the issue and that NOAA work to reunite the territory.

Members also asked if there is an inter-Sanctuary communication system so that there is some coordination and communication between the Sanctuaries. There is a national managers meeting and was a national education coordinators meeting but timing is unclear? (Jane to investigate with the Sanctuary office.)

Conservation Working Group members requested that Pat Cotter be invited to the June meeting to provide an overview of the WQPP.

V. CELEBRATION SANCTUARY PLANNING

Vicki Nichols reported that the Santa Cruz Sanctuary Celebration will be on September 24 from 11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. The event, sponsored by Save Our Shores and the Santa Cruz Port District, will focus on boats taking groups out on the Bay. Guides will be on board, probably from the Sanctuary Steward program, pointing out areas of interest and explaining the meaning of the Sanctuary. Vendors and musicians will be located in the parking lot making them handicap assessable. The number of booths will be limited this year. Vicki expressed her desire to work more closely with the Monterey celebration and invited the Sanctuary office to participate in the Santa Cruz event. Rachel is working on the Monterey celebration and indicated that a first planning meeting will occur this month. Rachel will raise the issue of collaboration with Santa Cruz -- eventually, it would also be good to try and involve the northern and southern ends of the Sanctuary.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
SAC Coordinator

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