

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL
A WORKING GROUP OF THE
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
299 Foam St
Monterey, California 93940

Phone (831) 647-4257
Fax (831) 647-4250
Internet mbnms@igc.apc.org

May 15, 1995

Research Advisory Panel

Dear Member:

The minutes from the April 21, 1995, RAP meeting and the next meeting's agenda are enclosed with this correspondence. The next RAP meeting is being held on Friday, May 19, 1995, in the OVCR of the Monterey Bay Aquarium from 9 am to noon.

If you have any questions, or wish to add topics to the agenda please contact Aaron King at the numbers listed above.

Cheers,

Dr. Gregor Cailliet
RAP Chair

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MBNMS RAP Interested Parties:

The minutes from the April 21, 1995, RAP meeting and the next meeting's agenda are enclosed with this correspondence. The next RAP meeting is being held on Friday, May 19, 1995, in the OVCR of the Monterey Bay Aquarium from 9 am to noon.

While you are not a member of the RAP, this information is being copied to you for informational purposes. However, you are welcome to attend the upcoming meeting as an observer. If you would like to attend, please call me at the numbers listed above.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to discuss RAP communications with you. There are three means by which I communicate and coordinate activities of the RAP: mail, fax and email. Lately, the RAP has become extremely dependent upon email communications. Every member of the RAP has email, and this process makes it very easy for me to coordinate their activities. If some material contains graphics, or is too long for email, I may fax it to each of the RAP members (since they all have fax machines also). Finally, if some correspondence is too long or inappropriate for faxing, I may mail it to the RAP membership. The bottom line is that many of you do not have email or fax capabilities. If you don't, you cannot be assured of receiving all appropriate RAP correspondence. If you want to be assured of receiving all this info, please arrange for email and fax service and I will be happy to add you to those lists.

Sincerely,

Mr. Aaron E. King
RAP Executive Coordinator

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RAP Meeting Agenda
Ocean View Conference Room
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey, CA

Friday, May 19, 1995, 0900 to 1200 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Introduction of Members and Participants

- a) Members Not Able to Attend:
- b) Meeting Member Substitutions:
- c) Guest Attendees:

List:

Greg Cailliet, MLML - RAP Chairman
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Terry Jackson, Manager, Monterey Bay NMS
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey
Ken Parker, OAB
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Don Potts, UCSC
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Rick Starr, Univ. of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Jim Rote, NOAA/CSUMB
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundatio

Approval of April 21, 1995, Meeting Minutes (Cailliet)

Report on the April SAC meeting (Cailliet)

Research Coordinator Status (Jackson)

MBNMS/GFNMS/CBNMS Marine Researchers Guide (King)

Permit Report (King)

Electronic Communications Update (King)

Institutional Permit Status (King)

RAP Binder (King)

Next Monterey Bay Research Symposium (Parker/Starr)

RAP Membership Invitation to CSUMB (Cailliet)

RAP/MBNMS Review of Research Proposals

In Review/Reviewed: USGS San Andreas Geodynamics

New Requests: None

Scheduling July-Dec, 1994, Meetings/Sites (Cailliet)

Fort Ord Update (Cailliet/Jackson)

NURP Equipment Pool (Potts)

NOAA R/V McArthur (Jackson)

Sound and the MBNMS - Letter (Wickum/Starr)

NOAA Coastal Forecast System - Judith Gray Meeting (Rote)

BREAK

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MBNMS Research Budget (Ehret) - Discussion of MBA

Weather/Oceanographic Station Partial Funding through

MBNMS Research Budget

Regulatory "Short-Term Impact/Negligable Effect Clause" /
ATOC Update / Communications with NOAA (Jackson/Cailliet)

Diving Reciprocity (Potts)

OTHER ITEMS

Other Old Business - Open

New Business - Open

Items for future meetings - Monterey Academy of Oceanography, ????

ADJOURN

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL

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Advisory Council
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SPECIAL NOTE: Due to time constraints, these minutes have not yet been reviewed by the RAP Chair, as has been done for past meetings.

Research Activity Panel Draft Meeting Minutes
Ocean View Conference Room at the Monterey Bay Aquarium
Friday, May 19, 1995
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Meeting arrangements made by:
Aaron King, Monterey Bay NMS - RAP Executive Coordinator

Members in attendance were:

Greg Cailliet, RAP Chair, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Terry Jackson, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Ken Parker, NOAA Ocean Applications Branch
Rick Starr, University of California, Sea Grant
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Jim Rote, California State University Monterey Bay/NOAA
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Steve Webster, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/Monterey
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Gary Ichikawa, CA DFG/Monterey

Special Guests in attendance included:

Heidi Dewar, MBARI
Jack Wickham, Conservation Working Group
Roger Phillips, Monterey Bay Aquarium

Research Activity Panel members not in attendance:

Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Don Potts, UCSC
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Bruce Robinson, MBARI
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF APRIL 21, 1995 MEETING MINUTES

The minutes were approved as presented.

III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

A delegation from the State Oceanic Administration of the People's Republic of China visited the RAP meeting. The purpose of their visit to Monterey was to learn about U.S. management of the large marine eco-system and environment, and to try to implement similar measures for the marine eco-system in China.

The delegation wanted to meet the experts and specialists here to study the following:

- activities and implementation plan for the program;
- regulations and management techniques - specifically, standards criteria and legislation;
- multiple use and maintenance of the Sanctuary; to form ties and exchange ideas and experiences on Sanctuary management;
- to maximize marine resources through cooperation between the U.S. and China.

RAP members and the delegation shared information and questions. Greg gave them several pages of material describing the role and activities of the RAP in relation to the Sanctuary.

A copy of the brochure on the State Oceanic Administration of China is available to Panel members upon request.

IV. QUICK DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) Report on the April 24 Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting (Cailliet)

* The Draft Annual Report from the Council to the Sanctuary was presented with the following comments from Advisory Council members:

- request for working group input - a list of activity highlights from the working groups over the past year should be added to the report (the RAP report is available to members upon request);
- add more emphasis to the uniqueness of the SAC and its importance to the community and to the Sanctuary;
- request that the hours spent by Advisory Council and working group members be calculated for reference in the future;

* Elections for officers took place -- Steve Webster was re-elected as the Council's Vice-Chair and Steve Abbott was elected as the new Secretary;

* Pat Cotter from the MBNMS office gave an update on the flood impacts to the Sanctuary -- the main point being that the Sanctuary is in fairly good shape regarding levels of toxic waste. However, the needed funds to do adequate research on the floods are lacking.

Council members suggested that watershed management and the flood be part of the Research Symposium;

* Two new task forces were created -- alternative funding and economic development;

* Brian Baird of the CA Resources Agency reported that negotiations and efforts to alleviate the problems associated with the Piedras Blancas Elephant Seal harassment are underway;

* Mark Stephenson, Director of the California Mussel Watch Program, gave a short presentation about the Program. The Council decided on the following action:

- to write a letter in support of the Program to California Senator Henry Mello and Assemblyman Bruce McPherson;
- request that the RAP work with the WQPP to endorse and support the program in a formal way;

* Announcement of the Council Retreat on June 2 -- there will not be a business meeting for May;

* The Sanctuary Manager gave a brief update on Sanctuary activities;

* Discussion of the tourism representative selection process - Council members outlined specific criteria to be considered for the position;

* Terry, Ed Ueber, and Karin Strasser Kauffman reported on their trip to the Managers Conference in Washington, DC; and,

* Working group Chairs reported on their recent activities.

2) Research Coordinator Status (King)-- The Sanctuary office is still accepting applications for the position of Research Coordinator. The contract is for one year only due to budget uncertainties for the future of the Program. WASC will put together a bid package to be sent to all applicants and then provide a list of acceptable candidates to Terry.

RAP members can participate in the selection process. Terry Jackson will review the applications and submit a list of his recommendations to RAP members for their input and comments before a final selection is made.

3) MBNMS/GFNMS -Researchers Guide (King)-- The document is close to completion. The information will be on the MBNMS web page. Contact Aaron King at 647-4257 for more information.

4) Permit report (King)-- The permit report was presented without comment. If you have questions or comments please contact Scott Kathey at MBNMS, 647-4251.

5) Electronic Communications (King)-- The Sanctuary's internet connection is up and running. The web-page is now assessable. The partial address is: sapphire.cse.ucsc.edu/mb/nms. The system allows/will allow hypertext links; bulletin boards; and, wide area information servers for research databases such as the site characterization database and bibliographic information.

6) Institutional Permit Status (Jackson)-- Scott Kathey attended a conference in Washington, DC on Institutional Permits. A document is currently being produced on Institutional Permits and will be submitted to the RAP for comments when available.

7) RAP Binder (King)-- a binder similar in nature to the SAC Handbook has been produced for the RAP. It contains a record of all meeting minutes, correspondence, resolutions, a list of current members, and a synopsis of the organization. Although parts of the document will be available electronically, the purpose of the binder is to provide a source of institutional memory for the group.

8) Research Symposium (Starr/Parker)-- there will be a meeting with AMBAG on Monday, May 22 to coordinate the symposium with the Anniversary celebration. The RAP directed Rick Starr to speak with Mark Silberstein about nominating Roy Gordon as the Keynote Speaker for the event.

The John H. Martin "Iron-Man Award" of excellence is also to be awarded at the symposium, please send your nominations in writing to Dennis Powers.

9) Review of Research Proposals (King)--There were no new research proposals to consider.

Discussion concerning the complexities of what constitutes legitimate research was postponed for a later meeting. The Panel also discussed its role in the permit review process, finally deciding that their endorsement will be on a case-by-case basis.

10) MBNMS Research Budget-MBA Weather/ Oceanographic Station (Starr) -- Chris Harrold left the room when discussion started so that there wouldn't be a conflict of interest.

After some discussion, the RAP decided to fund the MBA Weather/ Oceanographic Station, concluding that any long term data collection is useful.

RAP members requested that the criteria for next year be very clear and decided upon in advance.

NOTE: The Sanctuary office has moved quickly in allocating the research funds and has already purchased the CD writer for the site characterization project.

11) Meeting Schedule for July through December (Cailliet)-- a brief review of the year's meeting schedule. As Greg won't be able to attend the June 16 meeting, he asked Rick Starr to stand in for him.

12) Fort Ord update (Cailliet)-- the EPA has played an instrumental role in getting a response from the Army. The RAP will propose that the Army implement certain kinds of research, beginning with a swath-mapping ship to do a very detailed mapping of the entire area.

13) R/V McArthur (Jackson)-- this year's cruises went very well and Terry will request more time for next year. Terry needs feedback from the panel on what projects should be considered for the coming year so that an appropriate amount of ship time can be reserved.

A report of the projects conducted this year will be circulated once the cruise is completed.

The panel requested that a discussion of future projects and research time on the vessel be placed on the next meeting agenda.

It was reported that funding for the Pt. Sur and other research ships looks bleak. The local research community should consider using the local fleet for research projects in order to keep the local fleet up and running and supported.

14) NOAA Rescission by House/Senate (Cailliet)-- funding programs that affect the RAP include:

(NOTE: the proposed cuts listed below have since been vetoed.)

- GLOBE -- No cuts;
- Global and Climate Change -- cut \$14 million;
- NURP -- cut \$ 3.5 million;
- Coastal Ocean Program -- cut \$3 million.

Greg suggested that Panel members do their best to inform each other and the Sanctuary office about information that may be useful to the group.

NOTE: Rick Starr mentioned that the SEA GRANT program could be cut as it is up for reauthorization this year.

15) Status of the MBNMS "Foundation" or Cooperative Association (Jackson)-- there is a contract with the Center for Marine Conservation to establish a cooperative agreement as NOAA cannot use government funds for this purpose. CMC is attempting to obtain the funds pro-bono. It will probably be another three to four months before there will be any results.

16) NOAA coastal forecast system (Rote)-- the intent of the project is to spend 3/4 of a million and to come to the west coast which they haven't done in the past. The rescision would probably affect the project. Judith Grey can provide copies of brochures on the program. Please contact Jim Rote at 647-4256 for more information.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

1) SOS - Sanctuary Steward Program (Aldridge)--Mahlon Aldridge, Sanctuary Steward Coordinator for Save Our Shores, provided an overview of the program, the purpose of which is to train a select group of 25 volunteers to educate, inspire, and involve the public in the policy making and protection of the Sanctuary. The Stewards are not to be "eco-cops", but advocates for information. They will present slide shows to local groups and schools, educate guides on how to clean-up and protect an area, and volunteer to handle the "hot-line", channeling information to the proper authorities.

RAP members expressed reservations about the advocacy aspect of the program, cautioning that SOS should train the steward's about who they are representing and who's opinion is being advocated. RAP members voiced concern over the promotion of opinions that may differ from that of the Sanctuary and other groups in the area. Panel members asked SOS to consider teaching their stewards

to leave their own agendas behind and to only teach what the issues are and not give positions and opinions.

The RAP recommended that SOS involve NOAA more closely with the program.

Mahlon indicated that SOS is open to suggestions from the panel and requested that the Panel provide speakers for some of the training sessions. They need someone to give the presentation on research institutes in the area.

2) Sound and the MBNMS: Letter and SAC Proposals (Wickham)-- Jack Wickham, a member of the Conservation Working Group, presented a draft letter addressing the need for research on the impacts of noise pollution in the Sanctuary. Jack is hoping to gain the support of all three working groups before presenting the issue to the SAC. Will the RAP endorse this letter to the SAC? The Conservation Working Group and the Sanctuary Education Panel have already voted to endorse the letter.

The Panel made the following suggestions to the letter:

- specify in writing that the research about sound be conducted in the Sanctuary;
- replace the word "pollution" with "levels," and the word "problems" with "situation" in appropriate places throughout the document;
- reorder the bullet points -- #1 should be #3 and #3 should be #1;
- change the word "control" as it is a red flag to many individuals.

The RAP requested that the chairs of the working groups meet and draft a letter to the Council that includes the needs of all the groups. Laura Ehret volunteered to meet with the other two working groups to re-draft the document to be presented to the SAC.

3) NRC Marine Biodiversity Report (Boehlert)-- George Boehlert introduced a new book addressing the human threat to biodiversity. The publication of the book should lead to more research if the funds are available. For more information, please contact George Boehlert at the Pacific Fisheries Environmental Group - NMFS, 648-8447.

4) Communications with little and big NOAA (Jackson)-- basically means Sanctuary communication with NOAA in Washington, DC. The Sanctuaries and Reserves Division is considering a transfer of funds -- 75k -- to the MBNMS/GFNMS/CBNMS to implement marine mammal research in the Sanctuaries. A request for proposals will be prepared.

5) Regulatory "Short-term Impact/Negligible Effect Clause" (Jackson)-- a NOAA requirement for a permit only if it will have negligible effect on the surrounding environment. However, "negligible effect " in the Sanctuary has not yet been defined.

6) ATOC FEIS (Cailliet)-- the ATOC FEIS is available and in the Sanctuary office. Greg observed that the FEIS does not emphasize letters of support. Rather, the report categorizes the correspondence by issues or problems and references them as a group. It is important for the RAP to be aware of this process in order to function more effectively in future situations.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1) The Alaska Fisheries Science Center will be conducting a bottom trawl survey of groundfish resources off of the coasts of California, Oregon, Washington, and Vancouver Island. They are encouraging multi-agency participation in the survey. Expenses for travel, room, and board will be covered for all non-government employees. Interested persons should contact Ken Weinberg at (206) 526-6109, or Mark Wilkins at (206) 526-4104.

2) The Vessel Traffic Safety report will be added to the June agenda.

3) Geoff Wheat of the University of Hawaii should be invited to speak to the Panel at the June meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
SAC Coordinator