

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

Research Activity Panel

Meeting Minutes

Friday, July 12, 1996

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Members in Attendance

Introduction of Members and Participants

Members in attendance:

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs- Chair
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS- Research Coordinator
Jane Caffrey, ESNERR and Foundation
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey
Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC/CSUMB
Jennifer Nielsen, Hopkins Marine Station
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab
Mary Yoklavich for George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG

Members not able to attend:

Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant- Vice Chair
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Don Potts, UCSC
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS
Jim Rote, CSUMB
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission
Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation

Guests:

Ed Cooper, SAC
Bruce Heyer, UCSC
Mark Silberstein, Elkhorn Slough Foundation

CONSENT ITEMS:

Approval of June 1996 minutes (G. Cailliet)

Minutes were approved as presented. The RAP commented that they like the abbreviated format with circulation of draft minutes by e-mail.

PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Introduction to the Elkhorn Slough Reserve and Foundation (20 min: J. Caffrey)

- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) is one of three NERRs in California (including a proposed site in San Francisco Bay).
- ESNERR is a partnership between CA Fish and Game and SRD in NOAA.
- The Reserve is 1400 acres of mostly upland habitats.
- Major goals of ESNERR include: research and monitoring, education and interpretation, and stewardship.
- 10,000 school children visit ESNERR every year.
- There is an active volunteer program- 115 volunteers who take a 9 week training course.
- ESNERR maintains monitoring programs for water quality, changes in local bird colonies, weather, and land-use.
- Example research projects include: tidal scouring/erosion, pesticide contamination in sharks, lifetime reproductive success of songbirds, links between agriculture and wetlands.
- The Elkhorn Slough Foundation is a non-profit organization that works closely with ESNERR to promote research, education and conservation in the watershed.
- The MBNMS RAP was patterned after ESNERR research subcommittee.

Status of the proposed underwater park off Cannery Row (15 min: E. Cooper)

- A handout was provided on the concept of the park, but a formal proposal has not yet been developed.
- The basic concept is a no-take zone from the Breakwater in Monterey to Lover's Point, to a depth of 60 feet. Ed Cooper stated a panel, such as at Hopkins Marine Reserve might make decisions regarding extractive research.
- 5 public workshops have occurred, next workshop is on 7/18.
- The RAP felt there could be research benefits to the proposed park if it is developed in a thoughtful manner, they were unclear about how their concerns were expressed in a letter of support by the SAC.
- Major Concerns of the RAP included: a detailed proposal explaining the purpose of the park and how it will operate is needed; how will research be limited and how will it be incorporated into management of the resources in the park; will there be another layer of permitting; who would be on prospective panels that review research; how the park might influence the Hopkins Reserve; extraction should be defined (e.g., fish versus one worm or drift algae); how divers will impact the resources.
- Parks and Recreation departments will propose a park concept to the City Councils of Monterey and Pacific Grove. If they approve a park, it will be co-managed by the cities with partnership from CA Fish and Game enforcement.
- The RAP asked Andrew DeVogelaere to circulate, by e-mail, a recent review of the proposed park by CSUMB student Stacey Urner.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

MBNMS Site Characterization: RAP endorsement and the future (A. DeVogelaere)

- The Site Characterization is available on the MBNMS homepage.
- The RAP endorsed the current Site Characterization document as adequate vis-a-vis the original contract, and commended the editors and many authors for their efforts (volunteer in most cases).
- The RAP felt the Site Characterization should be an evolving document, funded annually, with input on content and review from the RAP.
- Motion passed: the RAP approves the MBNMS Site Characterization as it now stands and encourages the MBNMS to continually upgrade it.
- Suggested improvements for the next version: more information on fish in the habitat chapters, adding the Water Quality Protection Program chapter, adding the pelagic habitat section.
- Suggestions to facilitate use of the Site Characterization included: setting up P.C.s at visitor centers, a press release, and advertising flyers.

Research at the Fog Signal Building at Pt. Pinos (L. Rosenfeld)

- Until the year 2000, there is no threat of the building being torn down. No action needs to be taken at this time.

McArthur cruise 1997 (A. DeVogelaere)

- The MBNMS will work directly with the Research Community in developing the next McArthur Ship time proposal to the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division. In previous years, the MBNMS wrote a proposal based on concepts (not pre-proposals).
- The RAP is looking forward to a 1996 cruise report that A. King is currently compiling, and requested an e-mail questionnaire to 1996 cruise participants on how to improve the cruise for next year.

Progress on the Sanctuary Currents '97 (J. Caffrey)

- Proposed dates: 1st or 3rd weekends in March
- Proposed locations: Santa Cruz - Coconut Grove or UCSC
- The committee has suggested a format change, eliminating Friday night and including everything in one day. The Ricketts lecture would be held at the end of the day.
- Rough Symposium format: marine biodiversity, broken down by habitats in the AM, Parallel tracks in the PM on research, education, and conservation panel.

Review of the June 1996 SAC meeting (G. Cailliet)

- The report has been e-mailed to all the RAP members, send any comments to Greg Cailliet. He will forward modifications to the SAC.
- Tom Pedersen (CDFG) has been appointed as new SAC member representing Enforcement.
- The Cambria desalination plant design is reflecting input from RAP comments.
- Morro Bay has been designated as a State Estuary

SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

Verbal items:

Status of the RAP minutes (A. DeVogelaere)

- MBNMS will move ahead with a more abbreviated format. The minutes have moved to a higher priority in the MBNMS office, but details are still being worked out on how the minutes will be produced.

Written items (no discussion unless there are questions):

- NMS Research Reports (A. DeVogelaere/J. Roletto)
See Attachment

California and the World Ocean 1997 (G. Cailliet)

- The conference will be held 24 - 27 March in San Diego. There will be presentations by M. Yoklavich, R. Starr, T. Jackson, H. Price, A. DeVogelaere, and G. Cailliet.

Working groups at the Channel Islands NMS (G. Cailliet/A. DeVogelaere)

- The CINMS is modeling their SAC, RAP and other working groups after the MBNMS model. We've met scientists from UCSB who are excited about the prospect and interested in the MBNMS research experience. One significant difference between MBNMS and CINMS is that the latter has no shoreline jurisdiction, so most of their research will be from ships.

Electronic Communications Update (A. DeVogelaere/A. King)

- Until there is a link made between the MLML homepage seminar list and the MBNMS homepage calendar, interns will be updating the Sanctuary Calendar with all seminars and events we are aware of. RAP member can make additions directly to the Sanctuary Calendar or send the information to A. DeVogelaere by e-mail. The SAC has requested that information on items like the AAAS symposium be added to the MBNMS homepage.
- To contact all of the RAP members at once, MBNMS has set up a ListServe address at mbnms_rap@lobos.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov

RAP/MBNMS Review of Research Proposals (D. Johnston and A. DeVogelaere)

- New Endorsement Letter: for J. Oliver et al. to the State Water Board re: Comprehensive watershed management solution to nonpoint source pollution in the Salinas Valley-Carr Lake.
- New Requests: for AMBAG to the Regional Water Quality Control Board re: Pajaro River watershed water resources management plan. Jane Caffrey agreed to review it.

Permit Report (S. Kathey)

See handout.

Old Business (optional updates):

Mussel Watch Update (M. Stephenson)

- The Bill passed the senate 65 to 0; however there is confusion between the state bill and special SWRCB funds; the office of Bruce McPhersen has been very supportive; the SAC, perhaps through Marc Del Piero could sill assist in this effort.

Intertidal Monitoring report (J. Roletto)

- Jan Roletto was not able to attend this meeting, but none of the RAP members have seen the intertidal reports, discussed in previous minutes, that are due out.

AAAS Symposium (A. De Vogelaere)

- Individual talks were excellent and the mix of presentations gave a thoughtful perspective on research in sanctuaries and reserves. In the future, better advertising and coordination with related symposia would increase attendance.

Fort Ord offshore studies (S. Eittreim)

- Passing of funding from the army is imminent.

Elephant Seal population growth at Pt. Piedras Blancas (A. King/J. Harvey)

- A draft management plan is available

NEW BUSINESS

Greg Cailliet reported that CDFG had an extensive library which they are not sponsoring anymore; there is a coordinated effort by Moss Landing Marine Labs, CSUMB, and Hopkins Marine Station to move the library to the Monterey Bay Area. The NPS may also be interested in participating. A proposal will be submitted to the Packard Foundation to assist in moving the library.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT NOON

The MBNMS video was viewed after the meeting