

Research Activity Panel: February, 1997 Meeting Minutes

Hopkins Marine Station
Agassi Room
Friday February 14, 1997
09:00 - 12:00

I. Introduction of members and guests (G. Cailliet)

Institution Representatives

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs- Chair
Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant- Vice Chair
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS- RAP Coordinator
Giacomo Bernardi, UCSC
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Randy Kochevar, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey
Jennifer Nielsen, Hopkins Marine Station
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab

At-Large

Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC/CSUMB

Special Advisors

Gary Sharp, CIRIOS@CSUMB

Guests

David Bunn, State Assembly
Jane Delay, MBNMS
Michael Field, UCSC
Bruce Heyer, UCSC
Michele Jacobi, Sea Grant/MBNMS
Mauren Laughlin
Gary Shallcross, State Assembly
Lisa Ziobra, Student

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

Modifications to the agenda (G. Cailliet)

A presentation by Leslie Rosenfeld on a proposed Littoral laboratory in Monterey Bay was added to the meeting's agenda.

RAP Chair and Vice Chair elections/representation on the SAC (A. De Vogelaere)

Greg Cailliet was re-elected as the RAP Chair and Rick Starr was re-elected as the RAP Vice-Chair. Draft language was submitted for the Sanctuary Advisory Council's (SAC) Charter, stipulating that the research representative on the Council be the Chair of the RAP, and that the RAP Vice-Chair be designated as the official, voting alternate.

Approval of October & November 1996 minutes (G. Cailliet)

The minutes of both meetings were approved as presented.

IV. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

Overview of the Hopkins Marine Station (D. Powers)

Dennis Powers gave an overview of current projects at Hopkins Marine Station. Jennifer Nielsen added to the presentation with an update on the American Fisheries Society's conference scheduled for August 25-28, 1997, at the Monterey Marriott. The list of participants and a schedule of events for the Symposium will soon be available on the Sanctuary website.

Sea Life Recovery Act and the Coastal Bond Act: RAP input for Assemblyman Fred Keeley (David Bunn)

David Bunn, Legislative Director, for Assemblyman Fred Keeley, provided a summary of two new pieces of proposed legislation concerning environmental and coastal sea life issues. The Clean Rivers and Coastal Waters Bond Act, which will allocate funds to organizations protecting wildlife and their habitats and make funds available for pollution prevention and polluted waters treatment. At present, the funds proposed for the bond are \$650,000.

Assemblyman Keeley's office is looking for input from the public. Details about the proposed legislation are available on the worldwide web.

The second piece of proposed legislation presented to the RAP was the Sea Life Recovery and Management Act of 1997. In summary, the Act will:

- Provide a broader approach to managing sea life;
- Attempt to establish a marine life management commission to devote time and resources to the marine issues;
- Mandate a study of marine "no-take" zones, or "marine ecosystems replenishment zones"; as effective management tools;
- Create a sustainable marine fisheries program and try to close unsustainable fisheries;
- Restrict destructive fishing practices;
- Strengthen anti-poaching and enforcement capabilities;
- Improve public education about sea life;
- Establish new sustainable funding for marine resources management.

RAP members will submit comments through Andrew De Vogelaere and are encouraged to contact Fred Keeley's staff directly at:

David Bunn

bunnda@assembly.ca.gov

fax: 916-445-1826

ph: 445-8496

Room 4139 at the State capitol building

Sacramento, CA

or

Gary Shallcross
1200 Aguajito Road, Room 203
Monterey, CA 93940
408-646-1980

BREAK

Monterey Bay National Littoral Laboratory -- Leslie Rosenfeld described a proposal to establish a National Littoral Lab. in the Monterey area. Details of the ONR proposal process can be found on the worldwide web, or by contacting Leslie via e-mail at: rosenfel@oc.nps.navy.mil

Leslie will e-mail the presentation materials to the RAP with a request for letters of support for the project.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

Linking efforts of the Conservation Working Group and the RAP (R. Starr)

At their most recent meeting on January 15, 1997, Conservation Working Group (CWG) members expressed an interest in meeting with the RAP to discuss possibilities for cooperative projects that would match conservation concerns for policy with research priorities. Examples of these types of issues include: fisheries; underwater acoustics; vessel traffic safety; oil spill planning; and, other issues yet to be defined.

RAP members were reluctant to schedule extra meetings for everyone to have to attend. Instead, they suggested that the CWG identify one or more major concerns and refer them to the RAP. The researchers would then track down specialists that might be able to address the issues and answer questions. RAP members also suggested that Rachel be invited to give a presentation on the work of the CWG. Rick Starr was appointed to relate a summary of this discussion to the CWG.

VI. SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

Verbal items:

Summary of the SAC meeting (R. Starr)

A written summary of the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting, prepared by Rick Starr, is available on MBNMS Homepage. Highlights of the meeting included: a discussion of the Draft proposed ruling on the collection of jade in the MBNMS; a discussion of the recently released Vessel Traffic Report; and the a presentation on the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division's (SRD) new Strategic Plan. Problems with the Strategic Plan, with respect to the Plan's lack of attention to research goals and priorities, will probably be addressed at the Sanctuary Manager's meeting scheduled for April 1997. RAP members are urged to inform their contacts about the importance of research to resource management. A motion for the RAP Chair to send correspondence to Stephanie Thornton, Chief, SRD, requesting that research be considered a priority and added to the Strategic Plan was approved.

Also announced at the Advisory Council meeting was the decision by SRD to implement a joint management structure for the area of the MBNMS located north of the San Mateo County line.

Finally, the MBNMS budget was briefly discussed. Advisory Council members learned that funding for the Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) staff, was assumed in its entirety by the MBNMS after other grants ended. This

has major implications for the Sanctuary budget as the Sanctuary has, until now, been assisted with the program's finances by other agencies within NOAA. This raised questions among the RAP members who wondered if the Sanctuary wasn't over emphasizing water quality and the actual usefulness of the WQPP as far as practical data was concerned. The RAP discussed whether an independent review of the water quality program be conducted to see if it was truly meeting its objectives and goals. Greg agreed to mention the RAP's concerns about the water quality program and the research budget to the Advisory Council.

The new MBNMS Research Homepage (A. De Vogelaere)

Andrew asked for suggested additions to the MBNMS research homepage, or comments on the current content.

Update on MBNMS Superintendent and Research positions (G. Cailliet)

The application period is closed and candidates are being reviewed now. The top ten candidates will be evaluated and interviews will be on March 10 and 11, 1997.

Location for future meetings (G. Cailliet/S. Eittreim)

The next two RAP meetings will be: Friday, March 14 at Long Marine Laboratory; and Friday, April 11, 1997 at the USGS office in Menlo Park.

Update on the proposed Ricketts Park and related Oversight Committee (R. Starr)

The City Councils of Monterey and Pacific Grove will discuss the Underwater Park proposal on February 26 in the Steinbeck Forum at the Monterey Conference Center. Discussions are scheduled to begin at 7:00 PM.

Sanctuary Currents update (A. De Vogelaere/R. Starr)

The Program of speakers is on the web page. Rick asked for more posters to be submitted from various research facilities.

Light in the deep sea update (R. Kochevar)

Randy provided a written summary on the issue and asked for input on it.

Fort Ord update (Eittreim)

Two manuscripts out of five have been submitted for presentation during the Sanctuary Symposium. Organizers are hoping to conclude the project in June 1997.

Announcements:

- 1) Gary Sharp -- provided information on the Lightdar camera that can scan the ocean for identifying objects (animals, compounds, etc.). The PEARL group is looking for partners in education and they may have a use for it. Tom Murphy or Gary Sharp are the contacts; please get in touch before March 7 regarding this.
- 2) Moss Landing Marine Laboratories is requesting letters of support for construction of their new facility. The Sanctuary Advisory Council will also be approached to write a letter of support to the California Coastal Commission. Andrew will circulate information on the topic to RAP members by e-mail.
- 3) Jim Rote is in the hospital again, letters or visits to provide support were suggested by Gary Sharp.

Written items (no discussion unless there are questions):

RAP/MBNMS Review of Research Proposals

RAP Reviewers Randy Kochevar and Chris Harrold reviewed and supported "Deepwater Habitat and Fish Resources in Big Creek Ecological Reserve: The Role of Refugia in Managing Fisheries and Conserving Biodiversity." This proposal was submitted to Marine Ecological Reserves Research Program by Mary Yoklavich et al.

NMS Research Reports, see handout (A. De Vogelaere)

Permit Report, see handout (S. Kathey)

ADJOURN

Minutes Compiled by

Jane Delay , Andrew De Vogelaere, and Michele Jacobi

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary