

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL

Conservation Working Group

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 16, 1996

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Moss Landing Harbor District Office  
Moss Landing, CA

Conservation Working Group members in attendance were: Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation); Rick Starr (Sea Grant); Vicki Nichols (Save Our Shores); Dave Iverson (Save Our Shores - Half Moon Bay); Ellen Faurot-Daniels (Friends of the Sea Otter); Daphne White (Pacific Grove Museum/ League of Women Voters); Jack Wickham (Sierra Club- Ventana Chapter); Donna Meyers (Watershed Council); and Mark Pickett and Jane DeLay (MBNMS).

I. CWG ADMINISTRATION

1) Review minutes from 3/19/96 meeting

The minutes were approved as amended.

2) Review Agenda, i.d. any new items for discussion

No new items for discussion were introduced.

3) Set date for May meeting; suggest agenda topics

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 21 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office. Suggested agenda topics included:

á Vessel Traffic Update

á Marine Park Update

á ESA Update

4) Announcements and Other meeting dates:

Please refer to the April 16 agenda for listing of meeting dates, times and locations.

Additional meeting announcements included:

á The second class of BAY NET volunteers will graduate on Saturday, May 4 at 10:00 a.m. at Shoreline Park in Monterey. All are invited to attend the ceremony. A third class of volunteers will begin their training in late-June.

á The SOS Sanctuary Stewards will be starting another class in June.

á There will be a meeting on April 30 at the SOS office in Santa Cruz beginning at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is to meet with Rusty Agrias who is running for State Senate. SOS is located at 2222 East Cliff Drive, Suite 5, Santa Cruz, CA. For more information, please contact Vicki Nichols at (831) 462-5660.

II. SANCTUARY REPORT

The Sanctuary Report was given by Mark Pickett, MBNMS, Assistant Manager. Highlights of the report included the following:

#### Administrative:

Issues relating to the management of the northern sector of the MBNMS remain unresolved. CWG members discussed the matter further and recommended that there be a mechanism for addressing the concerns about the north and for instituting a framework that deals with the issues in a rational manner. The Sanctuary needs to be able to respond to the dis-information that is rampant in the northern sector. Aggressive statements should be made to correct mis-perceptions. Moreover, the MBNMS staff should have its perspective on how it is going to work with the north. There needs a physical presence in the northern region as well as stronger education programs and communication with San Mateo County.

The working group suggested that the Sanctuary consider partnering with the Parks Department to help alleviate expensive overhead costs of maintaining an office in San Mateo or Santa Cruz County.

Vicki Nichols, said that SOS could help facilitate a Sanctuary presence in Half Moon Bay through SOS's new volunteer coordinator who will be located in San Mateo.

The discussion concluded with general agreement that it makes more sense to approach the issue from a perspective of what are the management needs of the region rather than who is managing it.

#### Research:

- á The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Symposium is scheduled for June at San Jose State University;
- á The RAP discussed the effects of light on deep sea organisms from research submersibles;
- á The RAP agreed to fund graduate students, in their final year, to help them complete writing their dissertations. Graduate students competing for the Sanctuary stipend will be asked to submit short proposals on projects of resource management interest to the Sanctuary;
- á The Site characterization is expected to be completed in June; future plans for the project include: 1) put it into the GIS format; and 2) produce the information on CD ROM;
- á The RAP reviewed their membership list and criteria;
- á The RAP discussed the Sanctuary Currents Symposium; suggested biodiversity as a potential theme for next year. In general, the RAP liked the new format and approach and wanted to expand on it.

#### Education:

- á Plans are beginning for the Sanctuary celebration;
- á The Sanctuary will have a booth at the Earth Day celebration;
- á School students were taken out on the Sanctuary boat for a field trip;
- á The Sanctuary video is in the final stages of production; it will be previewed at the April Sanctuary Education Panel meeting;
- á Kip Evans, MBNMS, WQPP Education Outreach Coordinator, is arranging a cruise for high school students on board the Chardonnay; the purpose is to expose them to the marine environment and teach them about the Sanctuary;
- á Kip is also working on Sanctuary displays for airports.

#### Public Relations:

- á The Sanctuary office is accepting local applications this week and will be advertising nationally next week for a full-time Public Relations Coordinator;
- á A recent article in the Times , has spurred a number of calls about shark chumming; the Sanctuary is still waiting for a final rule on the issue.

#### Permits:

- á The jet ski buoys will be installed after a notice appears in the Federal Register. The Sanctuary is also waiting on an Environmental Assessment and a permit from the Coast Guard before the buoys can be installed.

#### WQPP:

- á The WQPP staff is expanding; an Education Assistant will begin working with Kip next week . She will work part-time on education and outreach for WQPP Urban Run-off strategies.
- á The WQPP is also looking for a technical specialist.

#### Enforcement:

- á The grant revenues for enforcement will be channeled through the Sanctuary Foundation. Scott Kathey is the key point of contact for questions about enforcement.

### III. WQPP VOLUNTEER MONITORING DISCUSSION

Rachel Saunders introduced the subject of a volunteer Program and suggested that the CWG work together to plan and coordinate a workshop. Rachel Saunders, Donna Meyers, Ellen Faurot-Daniels, Jack Wickham, Vicki Nichols, and Dave Iverson volunteered to work on the project. The group scheduled a planning meeting for May 21 from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. immediately following the next CWG meeting.

Contact Donna Meyer if you have ideas for what should be included on the May 21 meeting agenda.

The purpose of the volunteer monitoring workshop will be to: consider and pull together existing monitoring programs; identify/clarify protocols and redundancies; target organizations that should be involved with monitoring; and consider methods of insuring quality control.

### IV. KELP HARVESTING

Ellen Faurot-Daniels, from the Friends of the Sea Otter, reported on recent activities concerning the harvesting of kelp in Monterey Bay. At a meeting on Friday, April 12, concerns were raised by members of the recreation and tourism industries about the commercial use of kelp and regulations protecting its exploitation. Approximately 30 people attended the session including a representative from the City of Monterey, 4-5 local harvesters, Sanctuary staff, and concerned citizens. The intent of the meeting was to consider a long-term kelp harvesting management plan.

In summary, the issue of kelp harvesting is considered to be more of a multiple use conflict and less of a biological resource issue. However, the group did acknowledge that not enough is known about kelp and that a real need exists to learn more about kelp biology. If Mariculture continues to grow and, if kelp continues to be the main component, is there potential for a long-term problem? CWG members also questioned what the community ecology ramifications might be. It was recommended that some kind of mechanism be instituted to track the harvesting and its impacts, as well as to map the kelp beds in order to

observe changes both from natural causes and from harvesting.

The local harvesters have consented to a Gentlemen's Agreement to self-regulate their harvests and to continue meeting with interested citizens on a regular basis.

The CWG recommended that the Sanctuary Advisory Council work with the Research Activity Panel to look at the kelp beds and assess the efforts being made to bring all of the different users together. CWG members also requested that the Sanctuary utilize the new enforcement equipment (i.e. plane and boats) to help document the kelp beds. (Meetings between the kelp harvesters, conservationists, and members from the recreation community are likely to continue.)

## V. UPDATE ON THE UNDERWATER PARK

There will be a hearing on the Marine Park on Thursday, April 18 in the Monterey City Council Chambers beginning at 7:00 p.m. At this time, the City of the Monterey will not support a proposal that is not endorsed by the local fishing industry. Suggested changes to the original proposal from commercial users include: 1) to allow pole fishing off of the Coast Guard Pier; 2) to change the depth boundary of the marine park from 60 feet to 40 feet; 3) to continue to allow kelp harvesting; and 4) to respect scientific collection permits issued by the CDFG.

The Center for Marine Conservation recommended that the 60 feet depth boundary be maintained.

## VI. SAN MATEO NEWS

Dave Iverson, from Save Our Shores, gave the following report on activities affecting the Sanctuary in San Mateo County:

á The Tunnel by-pass Alternative's independent study is proceeding; CALTRANS is still trying to impose conditions on the study even though they're not supposed to. The issue has divided the San Mateo County Board of Supervisors. There is an initiative to put the tunnel alternative on the ballot for the November elections;

á The proposed Visitors Center at Surfers Beach has been pushed aside for the moment while compromises are considered;

á The Marchant Hotel is under construction on Highway one; the hotel is located at Surfers Beach just below Pillar Point. Phase two of the hotel construction has exacerbated local tension about the hotel;

á The SAM (Sewer Authority Mid-Coast) Plant expansion has approved 3.6 mgd instead of 4.0 mgd up from 2.0 mgd. The SAM plant is in Half Moon Bay just north of main Street and right on the water. Supporters of the larger plant used Sanctuary fines as leverage to move the approval for a larger plant forward.

## VII. MISCELLANEOUS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Jack Wickham shared a couple of thoughts about the proposed Sanctuary Enforcement Plan. He suggested that the Sanctuary try to deal with the problem in such a way that the costs and benefits are commensurate. It may be that the educational component is the most important. Jack continued by commenting that the Enforcement Plan should be monitored in a way to avoid such an outcome as the "War on Drugs" in which enforcement has become a vested interest of the enforcers, but does not seem to have a pay-off appropriate to the cost. Jack recommended that a cost-benefit analysis of the enforcement program be implemented.

2) Tom LaHue, from the Surfrider Foundation, recently testified at the Reauthorization hearing of the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP). The Center for Marine Conservation sponsored his trip. Congressman Sam Farr's office is asking for letters of support for the Reauthorization of the NMSP. CWG members were asked to write their own letters as well as contact others who might also be interested in writing on behalf of the NMSP. The effort needs a great deal of grass roots support.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jane M. DeLay  
MBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator  
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