

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 18, 1996

10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Moss Landing Harbor District Office

Conservation Working Group Members in attendance were Rachel Saunders, Chair (Center for Marine Conservation); Melissa Hippard (Save Our Shores); David Iverson (Save Our Shores - Half Moon Bay); Donna Meyers (Coastal Watershed Council); Milos Radakovich (American Cetacean Society and BAYNET); Daphne White (Pacific Grove Museum/League of Women Voters); and Mark Pickett and Lisa Ziobro (MBNMS).

I. CWG ADMINISTRATION

á Lisa Ziobro introduced herself as Jane DeLay's part-time summer replacement and provided members with her hours.

á In an effort to mail out meeting agendas and minutes more quickly, CWG meeting minutes will be reduced to two pages which include action items. Meetings will be taped for those interested in further details.

á DRAFT CWG meeting minutes for May 21, 1996 were approved with revisions.

1) Set July meeting, suggest agenda items:

The next CWG meeting will be on Tuesday, July 30 from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office. Suggested meeting topics included the CWG meeting schedule, locations and participants for 1996.

2) Announcements and other meeting dates:

á In an effort to expand their ability to work in the northern end of MBNMS, SOS hired Angela Kalmer as a part-time volunteer coordinator for the northern portion of MBNMS; SOS is in the process of formalizing a committee within their organization to focus on the northern end and has confirmed three new board members from San Mateo County.

á The Long Term Management Strategy EIS/EIR has been released for dredging and dumping within the San Francisco Bay area, with the main focus of getting dredged material out of the bay. CMC's comments will focus on: the inclusion of an extensive monitoring and testing plan for proposed dump sites; increased land use and decreased water use; and a policy of "no monitoring - no dumping." Contact Linda Sheehan if you are interested in this issue.

á BAYNET has brochures and sign-up sheets for its upcoming classes. The next class begins on June 26, 1996.

á The SOS Sanctuary Steward Program will run August 13 - October 22, 1996.

á The Ocean Planet Exhibit opens at the San Francisco Presidio on August 17, 1996 and will run through November 1996.

á The MBNMS Birthday Celebrations are scheduled for September 15, 1996, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM in Monterey at Shoreline Park; and for September 21, 1996, 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM in Santa Cruz.

II. SANCTUARY OFFICE REPORT

Mark Pickett, MBNMS Assistant Manager, provided a report on Sanctuary office activities. Highlights included: Holly Price, MBNMS/WQPP Director, attended Watershed 96 in Washington, D.C.; interviewing continues for the WQPP Technical Position; the Agriculture Workshop is scheduled for July 15, 1996 in Salinas; the first WQPP newsletter will be distributed to participants of the Agriculture Workshop; Pat Cotter, MBNMS/WQPP Environmental Scientist, is working with the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary on water quality issues; the MacArthur Cruise report is pending and copies will be available; the RAP is sponsoring a graduate student research stipend; there will be an Oil Spill Response Exercise on August 8 - 9, 1996 in Monterey; the MBNMS video is available on a check-out basis; MBNMS is participating in the Great American Fish Count scheduled for the first two weeks of July 1996; the WQPP Boater Education card will be available at the end of the summer.

Mark provided brief updates on the following: sea lion population explosion in Monterey Harbor, Piedras Blancas elephant seal management plan, Site Characterization project, MBNMS Birthday Celebration and Sanctuary Symposium, sewage spill into Salinas River, State Mussel Watch Program support letter, vessel traffic study, and the northern boundary issue.

Discussion ensued over the recent status of the northern boundary issue. Sanctuaries and Reserves Division (SRD) has verified Ed Ueber as manager of northern end at this time. Rachel Saunders then provided a summary of Terry Jackson and Ed Ueber's report which was provided at the SAC Protocol Meeting. Rachel felt that SRD's position is to give the new chief time to plan a management approach for the California sanctuary system. She expressed concern that there be a constructive process set up, with a time-frame and public review of management issues.

III. ANNUAL REPORT FOR CWG; MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 1996

1) Annual Report for CWG

The CWG reviewed the DRAFT report and identified missing items. It was suggested that the report make clear when actions were taken by individual members, the group as a whole, and/or the SAC. It was also recommended that it include wording at the end regarding fostering communication between education and research. CWG members were asked to hand in any other editorial comments to Rachel. Overall, the CWG believed the report was great. It will be presented at the next SAC meeting.

2) Meeting schedule for 1996

As a result of suggestions from the previous CWG meeting, members decided to hold CWG meetings in different areas of MBNMS. A motion was passed to combine the July and August meeting. The proposed schedule is as follows: July 30 in Moss Landing, September 10 in Half Moon Bay, October 15 in Moss Landing, and November 19 in San Luis Obispo. There will be no December meeting.

The invitee list for meetings not scheduled at Moss Landing will consist of no more than 20 additional people in an effort to avoid turning meetings into hearings. CWG members are to hand in lists of invitees who are representatives of the community. The mailings to invitees should include an invitation to the meeting, an agenda, and the CWG annual report.

IV. ISSUE UPDATES AND DISCUSSION

1) Water Quality Protection Program

Members requested a presentation by Holly Price at a future meeting.

2) California Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Rachel presented an overview on the status of the Foundation. A suggestion was made to solicit funding from cruise ships.

3) Monterey Marine Park; Kelp Harvesting

The issue of the Monterey Marine Park is on the July RAP agenda. The dive community and others are continuing work on the proposal. More hearings before the cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove are scheduled.

4) California Coastal Commission

Members expressed concern that Peter Douglas may be removed by new pro-development committee members. CMC is pushing to keep the issue in the press and is considering hiring someone to attend Commission meetings. CMC is launching a campaign to generate a strong turnout at the July hearing.

5) 1997 Sanctuary Symposium Planning

Rachel reported on planning activities. So far, plans include: a focus on marine biodiversity; a one-day event with a general session in the morning and two breakouts in the afternoon - 1) biodiversity research, and 2) panels including education and conservation with a focus on water quality; concluding with a poster session and awards ceremony; a location in Santa Cruz at UCSC or the Coconut Grove. Members should provide Rachel with suggestions for speakers on biodiversity and water quality prior to July 23, 1996.

6) State Mussel Watch Program

Rachel requested that members write SMWP support letters from their organizations and to use the provided sample letter if they wish.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ziobro
MBNMS Acting Advisory Council Coordinator

