

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL Meeting Minutes

California Dept. of Fish and Game Conference Room
20 Lower Ragsdale Rd., Monterey Calif.
July 15, 1994 - 0830 to 1200 hrs

Minutes taken and transcribed by:
Aaron King, Monterey Bay NMS - RAP Executive Coordinator

Member Attendees

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs - RAP Chairman Steve Eittrheim, USGS
Cliff Hoskins, Department of the Interior
Deborah Johnston, CA Dept. of Fish and Game / Monterey Bill Schramm, OAR
Gary Ichikawa, CDFG/Marine Pollution Studies Lab (Representing Mark Stephenson)
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Pat Cotter, CA Coastal Commission (Representing Les Strnad)
Jeff Paduan, Naval Postgraduate School (Representing Laura Ehret)

Members Not Able to Attend:

Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jim Rote, NOAA/OCRM
Terry Jackson, Manager, Monterey Bay NMS
Mary Yoklavich, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Don Potts, UCSC
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Rick Starr, Univ. of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Stephen Mueller, Morro Bay Foundation

Guest Attendees:

Donna Meyers, AMBAG
Holly Price, Center for Marine Conservation
Sean van Sommeran, Pelagic Shark Research Foundation
Russ Hein, UCSC/PSRF

Greg Cailliet, RAP Chair, introduced the meeting.

Quick discussion items:

Introductions - Introductions were made around the table and RAP membership substitutions announced.

Minutes - The minutes to the June 17, 1994, RAP meeting were unanimously approved.

Site Characterization (Cailliet) - Only one proposal was received by NOAA, and that one was from Moss Landing Marine Labs (by Rikk Kvittek and Jo Guerrero). It is presently being process through U.S. Government budget

channels.

SAC Update (Cailliet) - The Chair gave an update on the June 24th SAC meeting. Topics covered at this meeting included the Water Quality Protection Program by NOAA, preparation for the Vessel Traffic Safety study and upcoming SAC workshop, outdoor interpretive signs for the Sanctuary, MBNMS Open House and other birthday celebrations, Jade Cove and some possible routes for resolving this issue, ATOC, and roles of the various working groups/subcommittees.

Permit Report (King) - Aaron ran through an updated permit report. Some discussion ensued on a fireworks policy by NOAA. Advice by the RAP was that the MBNMS approach this issue carefully from a PR point of view. Some discussion ensued about the Pelagic Shark Research Foundation's (PSRF) request for a permit to chum for sharks to tag.

ATOC Update (King) - Aaron announced that the MBNMS had received a request for an extension to the MBNMS ATOC permit. ATOC is still considering their options with regard to retrieving their lost equipment. ATOC will meet with the Conservation community on July 19 to try and reach a compromise stand. Some discussion ensued on work that the ATOC researchers are considering to collect acoustical data for the DEIS, but nothing definite was decided.

At this point, Pat Cotter suggested that he could start appending a section on the end of these permit reports regarding water quality permits. For example, Pat described the program being considered to pump central valley water through the San Francisco outfall system into the MBNMS donut hole. The Chair agreed to review these as long as the issues were pertinent on research.

Econet Update (King) - Aaron stated that there was nothing new to report, though there was some discussion and explanation on how to send and receive e-mail over the Internet via Econet.

Marine Prediction Center Symposium/Presentation at NPS (Schramm) - In a reorganization of the National Weather Service, the Marine Prediction segment of the National Centers for Environmental Prediction will be located with the Naval Fleet Numerical Center here in Monterey. The office of the National Weather Service in San Francisco will be relocated in Monterey beginning on the 16th of August.

MBNMS Foundation Progress (Price) - Handout - Over the next few months, a consultant of the CMC (Mike DeLappa) will be conducting a needs assessment of the MBNMS for what a Foundation can do for the Sanctuary, a business analysis, and looking into the legal end of having NOAA as a business partner. He will have a recommendation in about 2 months. Some concern was expressed that such a foundation (Cooperating Association) would not be duplicative of other non-profit entities around the MBNMS.

Full-Time Acting Research Coordinator (King) - Aaron announced that he will be acting in more of a Research Coordinator role as soon as Scott Kathey is hired by the MBNMS. Aaron also announced that Terry believes a Research Coordinator Vacancy Announcement could be out by late September, at a GS-11 level. Some discussion ensued as to the qualifications required for this position relative to the GS-11 level.

AMBAG's Sanctuary Reflections Symposium (Cailliet) - The Chair recommended Andrew DeVogelaere to represent the RAP because he could not be there. This was acceptable to Andrew and the RAC.

BREAK

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Outstanding Marine Scientist Award (Cailliet) - As part of Sanctuary Reflections '94, AMBAG has requested that the RAP recommend a name or names for an outstanding marine researcher award. Last year's recipient was Dr. John Martin, former Director of Moss Landing Marine Labs. The Chair appointed a nominating committee of Chris Harrold (Chair), Don Potts and Jim Harvey to derive a slate of candidates. He would contact them and have them bring name(s)

to the next meeting for a vote.

Environmental Assessment of Fort Ord Coastline (Cotter) -

Pat Cotter made a presentation summarizing the work he has been doing for the MBNMS in the closing of Fort Ord. The Army and its consultants are being asked to evaluate the environmental status of old outfalls, waste water treatment facilities and the former offshore prohibited and/or restricted zone. During the Second World War, a similar area also existed north of Moss Landing. Some discussion ensued on what types of surveys have been done in this area in the past, and what more could be done to enhance the database on this area. A workshop is scheduled for August 10, 1994, and the RAP was requested to form a working group of researchers/scientists who would be helpful in scoping the issues and survey protocol to be used in the assessment, and who may have any historical data that could be used in the assessment. A suggestion was ultimately made to integrate this offshore work into the Site Characterization. The Chair appoint Steve Eittreim, Mark Stephensen, Jim Oakden (MLML and ABA) and Bill Broenkow (MLML) to this committee. The Chair said he would contact them and, if agreed to serve, would have the final list approved by Terry Jackson.

Institutional Permit Status (King) - Aaron announced that we should be setting up the MLML model to start before the beginning of their Fall Semester.

New Name for the RAP (Cailliet) - After a lengthy and humorous discussion, the RAP decided that it would like to start calling itself the Research Activities Panel (RAP) to conform to the Federal Advisory Committee Act. The Chair stated that he would take this recommendation to the SAC.

MBNMS Research Budget (Cailliet) - Greg described the model (below) that was presented by Terry to his superiors based on input that had been made by the RAP at its last meeting. Particular discussion on the budget centered on how the MBNMS could use any GIS system that it gets to supplement what already exists.

Research projects (based on priorities set in Scientific Research Plan for the MBNMS)

- A. Enhance existing knowledge- Site characterization enhancement, mar.mam/vessel interaction study, Elkhorn Slough erosion mitigation
- B. Monitoring- Intertidal and subtidal assessment's w/ GFNMS, biodiversity, resource assessment, water quality assessment & monitoring, circulation and transport
- C. Experimental studies (will be assessed after completion of Site Char. Study)
- D. Modeling - none at this time
- E. Information management (GIS development)

RAP Binder (Cailliet) - The Chair again requested that the MBNMS Research Coordinator put together an administrative binder, but that it be kept in the Sanctuary office to save paper and other resources.

Old Business

Research Symposium Update (Yoklavich/Starr/Cailliet) -

The Research Symposium this year will be conducted in conjunction with the Western Society of Naturalists (WSN). The newsletter for WSN has already gone out. The date of the Symposium, which is one of 5 symposia at the meeting, will be Tuesday the 27th of December. The title for the Symposium will be **From Sardines to Satellites to Submersibles: Fisheries Research within the MBNMS**; 5 speakers are slated - Richard Parrish - Sardines, Ed Ueber - Why fish in the Sanctuary: Economic Benefits and Resource Protection, Paul Reilly - Sportfisheries Research: Monitoring and Management in the Marine Sanctuary; Mike Morris - Satellites and Fisheries Oceanography; and

Gregor Cailliet - Fisheries Research: New Techniques for Doing it Deeper.

OSPRE Report (Potts) - Postponed until next meeting.

Monterey Bay Regional Research Initiative (Cailliet) - A report on this is now available. If you care to see a copy, contact Laural Fox or Don Potts.

Letter by Mark Stephenson on Accuracy of News Reporting (Cailliet) - A letter was presented from Mark asking that the RAP try and get a retraction from the Herald about an article that was written on the Water Quality Protection Program stating that the Monterey Bay was threatened by pollution, when in fact it isn't. The discussion followed centered on the appropriateness of the RAC's involvement in attempting to get such a retraction. It was decided that Terry would be asked to talk to Mark and Steve Laughlin, and that they should decide whether or not to follow-up with a letter.

Naval Reserve Center (Cailliet) - Does the RAP believe it should get involved in trying to help get the old Naval Reserve Center for research purposes (i.e.. - as new offices for the PFEG and the Sanctuary)? After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made that the RAP write a letter in support of the PFEG and Sanctuary's use of the building. Bill Schramm offered to draft the letter for Greg's signature.

Invitation to Dr. Judith Connor to talk about the Regional Marine Research Board (Cailliet) - Discussion centered on where the program now stood and whether or not this was an appropriate time, and Dr. Connor was the appropriate person to invite, to brief the RAC. It was decided to invite the Dr. Connor to come to the Next meeting and brief the RAC.

New Business

Fort Ord land Transfers to the Universities (Cailliet) -

There was a general discussion about the State University and University of California programs that are anticipated to be put in at the new facilities at Fort Ord. It was generally agreed that the RAP should stay informed of what is occurring there and get involved where necessary.

Moro Cojo Plan (DeVogelaere) - Monterey county gave a contract to a consulting firm to develop a management plan. An existing conditions report has been written and is now available for review and comment. The next step is to develop a resource enhancement alternatives. Broad alternatives include making it Fresh water, making it totally open to tidal action, or a combination of the two. Andrew will keep the RAP abreast of this activity as it develops.

Items for next meeting

- Future of R/V Pt Sur
- Review of Fort Ord Offshore Environmental Risk Assessment
- OSSPRE Report
- Mitchell Bill Update

Cancellation of the December RAP Meeting (Cailliet) Approved by unanimous consent.

1200 hrs - Meeting adjourned by the Chair.