

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL
A WORKING GROUP OF THE
MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL
299 Foam St
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Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Research Activity Panel Meeting Minutes

Ocean View Conference Room, MBA
Monterey, California
Friday, February 17, 1995 - 1300 to 1630 hrs

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

Member Attendees

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs, RAP Chairman
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Mark Pickett (for Terry Jackson), Assist. Manager, MBNMS
Deborah Johnston, CDFG/Monterey
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Ken Parker, OAB
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Marine Pollution Studies Lab
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Don Potts, UCSC
Mary Yoklavich (for George Boehlert), NOAA/NMFS/PFEG

Members Not Able to Attend:

Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Jim Rote, NOAA/OCRM
Rick Starr, Univ. of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Cliff Hoskins, Department of the Interior
Les Strnad, California Coastal Commission
Stephen Mueller, Morro Bay Foundation

Guest Attendees:

Ellen Fourot-Daniels - FSO, Conservation Working Group
Jack Wickham - Conservation Working Group
Allen Tom - On-Site-Coordinator, NOAA HWNMS
Wendall Nuss - NPS

Greg Cailliet, RAP Chair, introduced the meeting.

Quick discussion items:

Introductions - Introductions were made around the table.

Approval of the January 13, 1995, Meeting Minutes (Cailliet) - Motion to approve made without amendment, and approved unanimously. Gary Sharp stated that the minutes for the previous minutes had been corrected wrong, and that CODR resolution should be corrected to 4 meters.

REINAS Presentation (Nuss) - Dr. Nuss requested that he give this presentation between 1:00 and 2:00 pm.

A project called the Real-time Environmental Information Network and Analysis System (REINAS) was described by Prof. Wendell Nuss of NPS. REINAS is a collaborative effort between NPS, UCSC and MBARI to build a real-time data collection, data management and data visualization system for meteorological and oceanographic observations around the Monterey Bay. The system is a distributed computing system consisting of data collection nodes, data management computers, and visualization on SGI workstations on the INTERNET using software developed at UCSC. The project is midway through its Navy-sponsored funding cycle and is maturing toward an operational system.

The data collection aspects of the system involve the collection of a large variety of meteorological and oceanographic data through various sources.

Presently surface meteorological data is collected from REINAS instrument sites, NDBC and MBARI buoys, NWS/FAA sites, California Department of Forestry sites, and sites maintained by the Monterey Bay Air Pollution Control District and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. Upper-air observations from rawinsondes and doppler wind profilers are also collected. Oceanographic data from several CODAR systems are collected in real-time as well. In addition to observational measurements, numerical model products and satellite imagery are also planned to be incorporated into the REINAS data base at some point.

The data management part of the system is a modification of standard data base functioning to accomodate high volume and high frequency data streams in real time. Both loading and real-time querying are part of the UCSC data base design. At present the system exists at one site but will eventually become a federated data base at several sites.

The visualization consists of both rudimentary real-time displays and some very high-end visualization software developed at UCSC called spray rendering. The real-time displays can be accessed using mosaic

(<http://csl.cse.ucsc.edu>) and the spray rendering software is being developed for more sophisticated data explorations in both real-time and retrospective modes.

When Dr. Nuss was finished, Aaron asked him to clarify some issues on his request for time on the R/V McArthur.

Report on the SAC meeting (Cailliet) - The Chair reported on the Jan. 20 SAC meeting. The following subjects were either discussed by the SAC, or were brought up by Greg at the SAC meeting on issues that were of concern by the RAP: Chocolate Abalone Dive, Shark Chumming and the resulting resolution passed by the SAC, Fort Ord Offshore Area, Research Coordinator, Site Characterization, Electronic Communications, R/V McArthur, Strategic Planning, Research Symposium, ATOC - Including presentation by each of the working groups on their resolutions regarding ATOC at which point Greg presented the RAP's resolution, clerical budget for the SAC, Piedras Blancas and Elephant seals, and finally, the Salinas River lagoon.

Fort Ord Offshore Environmental Risk Analysis (Cailliet) - Greg announced that the Army will be reporting to the SAC on its offshore work at the next SAC meeting.

Research Coordinator Position Status (Jackson/Cailliet) - The Chair had asked the RAP to consider, for this meeting, appointing a RAP RC Selection Subcommittee. Mark briefed the RAP in where the contract now stands. The RAP selected a subcommittee composed of George Boehlert, Gary Sharp, Greg Cailliet (or other MLML designate) and Don Potts to review the RC applicants and develop a recommendation on the position.

NOAA Guide to MBNMS/GFNMS/CBNMS Marine Researchers (King) - Aaron described plans to update Sam Farr's 1992 Research Directory. He passed around packets of information, from Farr's directory, on the various researchers and institutions, with instructions on how each of the RAP members should go about updating their institution's and associated researchers' information. Aaron stated that he intended to make this database one of the first resources loaded on the MBNMS Internet Server. The Chair encouraged each RAP member to edit their packages and return them to Aaron ASAP.

Permit Report (King) - Aaron stated that he had no information on hand to update the RAP, but that Greg would be receiving a permit update at the SAC meeting.

SRD Research Coordinator (Cailliet) - Greg announced that SRD had hired a program-wide Research

Coordinator, Dwight Trueblood, whose research background was in soft-bottom benthic ecology. If any members wished to get in contact with him, his number is (301) 713-3145 (ext. 174).

Electronic Communications Update (King) - Aaron announced that the MBNMS internet wire will be installed on April 12. The UCSC internet publication class, SRD HQ, and others, are helping MBNMS get together the necessary software and hardware for this effort. Aaron stated that he felt the MBNMS office would have numerous resources ready to go online as soon as the wire was hooked up by CalREN. Laura Ehret offered the help of Mike McCaine at NPS to help MBNMS get online. Aaron thanked Laura for that, and said he would contact him.

Institutional Permit Status (King) - Nothing new to report.

RAP Binder (King) - Aaron is waiting until the SAC binder is finished, to use it as a template for the RAP Binder.

Next Monterey Bay Research Symposium
(Parker/Starr) - Nothing new to report.

RAP Membership Invitation to CSUMB (Cailliet) - Draft invitation letter to Peter Smith passed out to RAP, with cc:'s to Bill Head and Jim Rote (recently hired faculty members). Don Potts suggested that the letter be more explicit to indicate that the RAP is interested in having a scientist be the representative.

Biodiversity Conference (Cailliet) - Greg announced his participation in this conference (March 3-5) in San Francisco, and how he has been asked to give a presentation on "Managing for Biodiversity." Greg asked any members for help in pulling together info for this presentation.

House Appropriations Interviews (Cailliet) - Greg described the interview that he had with this House committee staff team.

RAP/MBNMS Review of Research Proposals -

In Review/Reviewed:

- Waddell Bluff/Highway 1 Project (Johnston) - Nothing requested by SAC or MBNMS
- Friends of the Sea Otter (Harrold) - Letter handed out.
- Cailliet/Starr Sea Grant Proposal (DeVogelaere) - Letter handed out.

New Requests:

- None

OSPREE Report Reply (King) - Aaron passed out a reply the RAP had received from the writers of the OSPREE report in response to the RAP's review of this draft report.

BREAK

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ATOC (Cailliet) - Greg announced his recent reception of a letter from Charlie Wahle explaining why the Sanctuary program has requested that the ATOC source be moved out of the MBNMS. This discussion started with a presentation by Mark Pickett. Mark's statement covered seven points: 1) That the Sanctuary program has requested, and ATOC has agreed, that the ATOC source be moved out of the Sanctuary; 2) That two alternate sites were being considered, including Sur Slope and Pioneer Seamount; 3) That one outcome of this decision is a significant reduction in the ATOC MMRP, since there would be less pressure to get this done if it was outside of the Sanctuary; 4) That all input was considered by the Sanctuary program in this decision, particularly that made by the Sanctuary working groups and SAC; 5) That numerous levels of the Sanctuary program were involved in the decision, and that the final decision to ask that the project be moved was made unanimously during a recent conference call; 6) That NMFS supports going forward with the project, and; 7) That Charlie Wahle would be out here for the SAC meeting next Friday, and would be happy to meet with the RAP or a delegation from it. The RAP first wanted to know what the exact hierarchy that had been involved in this decision, and who represented those levels. There was some discussion about the new possible site at Pioneer Seamount, and how this would not be a good site due to the geology of the area, the distance offshore and the amount of fishing along there. Jim Harvey discussed how he felt the MBNMS should not even be getting involved in the mammal issue, since the Sanctuary regulation only deals with disturbance of the seafloor. Why should the Sanctuary program be concerned, when NMFS (the NOAA marine mammal experts) have no problems with the project? Several RAP members indicated their belief that since the Sanctuary program had not made the decision based on the amount of scientific information available, then the decision must have been made on a political level, responding to the public outcry. There was concern expressed, particularly by Jim Harvey, that Terry Jackson had not stuck up for this project, since he should have been enlightened as to the facts versus the unfounded rhetoric being put out by misguided environmentalists, nor had he communicated his stand to any RAP member. Several institutions were directed not to take any official position on ATOC. Some RAP members

from these institutions indicated that they had sent personal letters of support to ATOC. The Chair outlined three possible courses of action the RAP could take: write a letter of protest, get a committee together to meet with NOAA people, and lastly, hold a press conference. Jim Harvey spent some time discussing, with several persons adding in, the benefits of having the research within the MBNMS, versus the problems associated with having it outside the Sanctuary, including:

1. The Sanctuary program will no longer be able to exert any more influence (i.e.: permit conditions, monitoring, etc.) on the project, even though it will continue to affect Sanctuary resources.
2. The resources the program intends to protect by moving the project are migratory/transient, and will continue to be affected no matter where the transmitter is.
3. Six months' worth of marine mammal baseline research data are now useless, since the survey results at Point Sur cannot be applied to Pioneer Seamount.
4. Submarine features and geology on, and leading to, the Pioneer Seamount, will make it difficult to install, operate and maintain the transmitter. Local marine geologists (people not accessible to ARPA/ATOC when they agreed to move the transmitter there) claim the Pioneer Seamount is known to exhibit massive geological slumping and wasting, causing the possibility that the transmitter could be buried under sediment or move before long.
5. The area leading to the Pioneer Seamount (unlike Sur Ridge) is heavily fished by large bottom trawlers, who could snag any cables running to the site.

Harvey summarized by stating that, since this was a research project, and since the RAP's advice had been asked, and since the RAP's answer had been so unequivocal, that the advice should have been taken, or at least more seriously considered. He also said that if the RAP is asked for it's advice, but that advice is never taken, then he sees little use in continuing to agree to give advice, especially at such a cost of volunteer time.

Chris Harrold stated that a commitment exists, whenever someone asks for advice but then decides against following that advice, to explain to the advisor(s) why such a decision is made. He stated that he would, rather than judge Terry in absentia or have it explained by Mark, like to hear directly from Terry why he did not

support the project to his HQ. A discussion ensued on the general Sanctuary decision-making process, with the understanding that everyone knew what the RAP's position was, and that it was weighed in the decision to move the transmitter. However, a decision such as this is not one that the Washington powers-that-be are going to allow the local community to make. It was suggested that HQ should not even be involved in such decision-making; that it should be made at the local level, with HQ supporting and implementing that decision, instead of the other way around. Otherwise, why have local advisors? From here the discussion turned to the reasons for creating the MBNMS, and why the area needed any more regulations that just seem to regulate research, and not the activities that have a significant influence on the area. Don Potts brought up the discussion of how the letter from Wahle should be answered. Greg suggested that the RAP should not just "answer" Wahle's letter, but a series of letters that have come out lately to various people from SRD on ATOC. A committee to compose the response letter was selected to include Jim Harvey, Chris Harrold and Steve Eittreim. At this point the RAP discussed Charlie's letter, and mentioned two particular statements (3rd paragraph, last sentence and 6th paragraph, last sentence) which claimed that a lack of evidence existed to satisfy protection concerns. The RAP generally felt that there is a mountain of evidence to satisfy these concerns, and that if we wait for absolutes, all scientific endeavors will come to a grinding halt.

NOAA R/V McArthur (Jackson) - Aaron displayed the draft time line for the cruise plan as it presently existed. Two notes: The pull test for the McArthur A-Frame have rated it at 12,000 lbs; and the ship will pre-cruise loading in San Francisco instead of San Diego. Aaron described how the two legs of the cruise were planned to be run. The first leg of the voyage will be essentially composed of USGS coring and Pott's diving. The second leg of the cruise will be essentially composed of Harvey et al doing bird and mammal survey's and Potts doing more diving. More work still needs to be done to get Nuss's project into the schedule at an opportune place. The RAP encouraged Aaron to get together a group of cruise participants to enable them to work out such details at the earliest opportunity.

MBNMS Research Budget (Jackson) - Aaron presented a report by the MBNMS program for review by the RAP. The first part was a list of priorities that the MBNMS Program would like to see filled with the limited research budget we now have. Attached to these priorities were procedures the MBNMS would like to follow to ensure the quality of the research and the

simplicity of the program administration. The RAP considered possible composition of a Budget Subcommittee, but decided to retain review of the MBNMS as a Committee of the Whole. For the Monitoring aspect, the RAP suggested the MBNMS get each of the potential researchers to submit a 2-page summary of their project to be reviewed by the RAP at the March meeting, with a decision being made at the April meeting. The RAP decided to ask Rikk Kvitek to present a preliminary report on the Site Characterization to them at the April meeting, with a request that he make a suggestion as to how the study could benefit from an additional \$25,000. No decision for the time being was made on what to do with the remaining money in the Information Management budget.

OTHER ITEMS

Other Old Business - Mary announced the Sanctuary's purchase of a plaque that was presented to Richard Parrish for his keynote address at the Research Symposium.

New Business - Greg brought up the idea of moving the meetings back to the morning, a vote was taken, and it was decided to make it for the morning.

Items for future meetings -

- Monterey Academy of Oceanography
- April 21, 1994 Meeting: Set last six month RAP Meeting Schedule
- Open

ADJOURN

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February 15, 1995

Research Advisory Panel

Dear Member:

The minutes from the January 13, 1995, RAP meeting and the next meeting's agenda are enclosed with this correspondence. The next RAP meeting is being held on Friday, February 17, 1995, in the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Ocean View Conference Room from 1 pm to 4:30 pm.

If you have any questions, or wish to add topics to the agenda please contact Aaron King at the numbers listed above.

Cheers,

Dr. Gregor Cailliet
RAP Chair

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February 15, 1995

MBNMS RAP Interested Parties:

The minutes from the January 13, 1995, RAP meeting and the next meeting's agenda are enclosed with this correspondence. The next RAP meeting is being held on Friday, February 17, 1995, in the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Ocean View Conference Room from 1 pm to 4:30 pm.

While you are not a member of the RAP, this information is being copied to you for informational purposes. However, you are welcome to attend the upcoming meeting as an observer. If you would like to attend, please call me at the numbers listed above.

Finally, I would like to take a moment to discuss RAP communications with you. There are three means by which I communicate and coordinate activities of the RAP: mail, fax and email. Lately, the RAP has become extremely dependent upon email communications. Every member of the RAP has email, and this process makes it very easy for me to coordinate their activities. If some material contains graphics, or is too long for email, I may fax it to each of the RAP members (since they all have fax machines also). Finally, if some correspondence is too long or inappropriate for faxing, I may mail it to the RAP membership. The bottom line is that many of you do not have email or fax capabilities. If you don't, you cannot be assured of receiving all RAP correspondence. If you want to be assured of receiving all this info, please arrange for email and fax service and I will be happy to add you to those lists.

Sincerely,

Mr. Aaron E. King
RAP Executive Coordinator

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Dear Members:

This is to remind you all that the next RAP meeting on Friday, February 17, 1995, will be in the Ocean View Conference Room at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and will start at 1 PM.

I have just faxed the Jan. 13 Draft Minutes and the Feb. 17 Agenda to you. Please contact me if you wish to place any other items on the meeting agenda.

Sincerely,

Aaron King

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RAP Meeting Agenda

Ocean View Conference Room
Monterey Bay Aquarium
Monterey, CA

Friday, February 17, 1995, 1300 to 1630 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Introduction of Members and Participants

- a) Members Not Able to Attend:
- b) Meeting Member Substitutions:
- c) Guest Attendees:

- Wendall Nuss - NPS

List:

Greg Cailliet, MLML - RAP Chairman
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Cliff Hoskins, Department of the Interior
Terry Jackson, Manager, Monterey Bay NMS
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/ Monterey
Ken Parker, OAB
Don Potts, UCSC
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation
Bill Schramm, OAB
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Rick Starr, Univ. of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program
Mark Stephenson of CDFG/Mar. Pollution Studies Lab
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Andrew DeVogelaere, ESNERR and Foundation
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jan Roletto, GFNMS
Jim Rote, NOAA/OCRM
Les Strnad, CA Coastal Commission

Introductions

Approval of the January 13, 1995, Meeting Minutes
(Cailliet)

REINIS Presentation (Nuss) - Dr. Nuss has requested that
he give this presentation between 1:00 and 2:00 pm.

Report on the SAC meeting (Cailliet)

Fort Ord Offshore Environmental Risk Analysis (Cailliet)

Research Coordinator Position Status (Jackson/Cailliet)
- The Chair asked the RAP to consider, for this meeting,
appointing a RAP RC Selection Subcommittee.

NOAA Guide to MBNMS/GFNMS/CBNMS Marine Researchers
(King)

Permit Report (King)

Electronic Communications Update (King)

Institutional Permit Status (King)

RAP Binder (King)

Next Monterey Bay Research Symposium (Parker)

RAP Membership Invitation to CSUMB (Cailliet)

Biodiversity Conference (Cailliet)

House Appropriations Interviews (Cailliet)

RAP/MBNMS Review of Research Proposals

In Review/Reviewed:

- Waddell Bluff/Highway 1 Project (Johnston)
- Friends of the Sea Otter (Harrold)
- Cailliet/Starr Sea Grant Proposal
(DeVogelaere)

New Requests:

- None

BREAK

DISCUSSION ITEMS

ATOC Update (Cailliet)

MBNMS Research Budget (Jackson) - MBNMS staff will
present a list of priorities for review by the RAP. The
RAP was to consider possible composition of a Budget
Subcommittee.

NOAA R/V McArthur (Jackson)

OTHER ITEMS

Other Old Business - Open

New Business - Open

Items for future meetings -

- Monterey Academy of Oceanography
- April 21, 1994 Meeting: Set last six month RAP Meeting Schedule
- Open

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