

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL

Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 8, 1995
Hopkins Marine Station
Pacific Grove, CA

I. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Members in attendance included:

Gregor Cailliet, MLML
Deborah Johnston, CDFG
Mark Stephenson, CDFG
Judith Connor, MBARI (For Bruce Robison)
Randy Kochevar, Monterey Bay Aquarium (For Chris Harrold)
Geoff Wheat, NURP
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School
Laura Ehret, Naval Postgraduate School
David Epel, Hopkins Marine Station (for Dennis Powers)
Steve Eittreim, USGS
George Boehlert, NMFS/PFEG
Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS
Don Potts, UCSC
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Ken Parker

Members not in attendance included:

Tami Grove, California Coastal Commission
Jim Harvey, MLML
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Rick Starr, University of CA, Sea Grant Advisory Program
Jan Roletto, GF/CB NMS
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation

Special Guest in Attendance:

Jackson Davies, Monterey Institute of International Studies, Project Oceans
Paul Johnson, Greenpeace
Students from the Monterey Institute of International Studies

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair. Dr. Dave Epel welcomed the Research Activity Panel and gave a brief history of the Hopkins Marine Station.

III. CONSENT ITEMS

A. Approval of October 20 Meeting Minutes (Cailliet)

The Minutes were approved as amended.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. MBNMS Research Coordinator Report (DeVogelaere)

- Institutional Permit Status - Headquarters has agreed to send a draft of what has been developed thus far in the revision of the General Permit Process. RAP members can hope to review the preliminary Institutional Permit Process as early as February 1996.
- Site Characterization - A draft of the site characterization will be available on CD ROM and demonstrated at the Sanctuary Symposium in March 1996. Plans are underway to also place the information on the MBNMS Home-page. The address is:

III. CONSENT ITEMS //montereybay.nos.noaa.gov.index.html

- New Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) Research Coordinator - Jane Caffrey, formerly a post doctorate at USGS and research scientist at UCSC, is the new Research Coordinator at ESNERR. She is expected to begin her duties in December 1995.
- MBNMS Whale Surveys - John Calambokidis continues observations on humpback whales and associated mammals. The report will be done in December 1995. RAP members indicated they would like to hear a presentation on the whale report as well as presentations from scientists on a regular basis to keep abreast of issues and other research.
- Science on Jet Ski Buoy Markers - In accordance with an earlier request from the RAP, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary office has investigated the feasibility of placing research equipment on the buoys marking the personal watercraft zones. At present, NOAA's General Counsel is concerned about the legality of having the equipment attached. Dr. Charlie Wahle, Director of the Technical Branch for the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division, is supportive of the project and is helping to obtain consent.
- Intertidal Monitoring - Three organizations are interested in conducting intertidal monitoring projects in the MBNMS -- Sea Grant, the Minerals Management Service, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary office. Recently, Andrew DeVogelaere has revisited several sites from his previous work to provide background information in the event of an oil spill. With funding from the MBNMS, the GFNMS is beginning an intertidal monitoring program in the northern end of the MBNMS. RAP members suggested that it would be a good idea to ask Jan Roletto, Research Coordinator for the GFNMS, to provide a regular update on activities in the northern MBNMS (currently managed by the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division in San Francisco). In the ensuing discussion, RAP members decided that they will be more aggressive in offering expertise that would be of use to projects happening in the northern end of the MBNMS. Examples of situations where the RAP should have an influence is the review of contracts, permits, and other relevant research questions. RAP members requested that a formal report on how the three northern California Sanctuaries are structured and managed be submitted to the working group for the purpose of improving communication channels and coordination efforts. With respect to the three intertidal monitoring studies, RAP members requested that, in the interest of quality control, all participating groups should communicate about their work on a regular basis.

- Pilot Study on Overflight Harassment -- In response to a request for an overflight permit to observe sea otters, several members of the MBNMS staff stationed themselves at various points along the flight path to observe the reactions of marine birds to the plane flying over. No significant reactions were observed.
- Research Plan Update - Final comments should be received by December 15. The updated plan will be sent to RAP members after the subcommittee reviews it. The subcommittee is composed of Debra Johnston, Mark Stephenson, and Chris Harrold.
- McArthur Cruise - RAP members are encouraged to submit their proposals for the next cruise sooner rather than later. Geoff Wheat volunteered to help Andrew in the drafting of the Request for Proposals (RFP). RAP members suggested that the RFP should mention prior research results and funds available to analyze data and complete a report following the cruise.

B. RAP As Potential Reviewers For Research Grants In The New CDFG Ecological Reserves (Devogelaere)

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) has approached the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and Sea Grant about administering approximately one million dollars designated for research in California's four marine reserves, one of which is located in the MBNMS -- Big Creek. At present, the CDFG is considering the RASGAP as a potential mechanism for establishing state wide criteria for proposals and their review.

RAP members indicated that they should be involved in the review of proposals concerning work in the MBNMS.

Greg will investigate further and will report new developments as they arise.

C. Scientific Collecting in the Proposed Underwater Park (DeVogelaere)

At a small meeting of scientists, park proponents and the Center for Marine Conservation, there was some acquiescence to the need for research to continue in the proposed area. It was suggested that existing fish and game permits would be sufficient to regulate research, with recognition that the Marine Park is a special area. Please forward additional comments to Andrew.

RAP members suggested that someone be encouraged to observe the impact and changes, if any, that would occur if the area is set aside as a reserve.

V. PRESENTATION - PROJECT OCEANS AT THE MONTEREY INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (Jackson Davis)

Dr. Jackson Davis, Director of Project Oceans for the Monterey Institute of International Studies, introduced the RAP to a new effort to create an electronic information database on the oceans. Project Oceans is a joint venture between the Monterey Institute of International Studies and the University of California - Santa Cruz. The database will consist of three directories: 1) marine policy; 2) marine science; and 3) technical, and will appear in eight languages including Japanese and German.

Seed money and a permanent space have been provided by the Monterey Institute of International Studies. A demonstration of the project should be completed by the end of 1997.

Project Oceans hopes to keep in close contact with the MBNMS, the RAP, and the Sanctuary Advisory Council. RAP members suggested that Project Oceans be invited to participate in the March Sanctuary Symposium. Andrew will follow-up.

VI. SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on the October 27 and December 1 SAC meetings (DeVogelaere)

- In an effort to save the State Mussel Watch Program (SMWP), the Advisory Council subcommittee responsible for investigating the options will meet with Assemblyman Bruce McPherson on Wednesday, December 13 to discuss possibilities for legislation.
- It was reported that the Bay Protection Program had won the necessary support and would continue.
- With respect to creating an enforcement plan for the Sanctuary, the relevant agencies are currently working on MOUs.
- The Sanctuary license plate program continues to show an increase in sales. The good news is that 44% of the license plates are personalized which means more money for Sanctuary Education programs.
- The Sanctuary Advisory Council has an on-going concern about the proposed Central California Regional Water Recycling Project. The official position is support for water reclamation projects, but strong opposition to ocean discharge alternatives.
- The Advisory Council extended praise for the work of the RAP concerning the Cambria Desalination Plant proposal and the Fort Ord project.
- There is a strong possibility that a NOAA plane will be stationed in Monterey and will be available to the scientific community for research purposes.
- A proposed rule on Jade Cove can be expected by Christmas. In the meanwhile, collecting can continue, but tools cannot be used. In deference to a direct request from a member of the public audience at the meeting, Advisory Council members requested that there be a 60-day comment period.
- Dr. Khasrow Lashkari, an engineer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), presented his work on the Ocean Acoustic Observatory. The presentation was similar to the one presented to the RAP at a previous meeting.
- Dr. Holly Price, Director of the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) provided a quarterly update. The report included mention of the following: regional monitoring efforts; the completion of strategies for urban run-off; near completion of strategies for boats and marinas; and developing strategies for agricultural.
- It was requested that the WQPP present a yearly update to the RAP.
- ATOC update information concluded that there were no known causes for the dead whales recently found in the GFNMS and MBNMS.

B. Update on Monterey Bay Regional Studies Program (UCSC) Grant for Graduate Training in Multidisciplinary Regional Studies (Potts)

Don Potts reported on the Monterey Bay Regional Studies Program grant for Graduate Training in Multidisciplinary Regional Studies, initiated by the UCSC and directed by Dr. Laurel Fox. The "interdepartmental, multi-disciplinary program is focused on basic understanding of regional coastal processes and their relation to specific regional issues." (Please see attachment A).

The benefits of this program for the RAP include:

- a new program and funding for Ph.D. students interested in a Ph.D. at UCSC;
- access to interns;
- the program supports work done in the MBNMS.

There will be a research symposium in Spring 1996. There is strong interest in developing a cooperative and joint symposia in the area. The symposia must be multi-institutional and should be perceived as a regional effort including as many people and institutions as possible.

C. Summary of the National Undersea Research Program (NURP) visit to Monterey

A NURP panel visited in early November to rate proposals. Sites observed included the MBNMS, MBARI, and Moss Landing Marine Labs. Of concern for the MBNMS, is a fisheries initiative focused in the Monterey Bay area that will consider problems that can be solved in a three-year time frame. A workshop on this will be arranged for April. The NURP program will be working with MBARI to coordinate activities and reduce duplication of efforts. The NURP program will also be working to develop a cooperative agreement with the MBNMS to provide an ROV for the McArthur cruises.

D. Marine All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Update (Cailliet/Potts)

A delegation of five area scientists traveled to the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C. to attend a workshop on All-Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI). The net result of the Monterey delegation's efforts is a strong possibility that the MBNMS will be designated as a site for marine ATBI. The program would promote the MBNMS as an area of expertise and resources.

A workshop to explore the possibilities of the MBNMS as a marine ATBI site has been proposed. Greg will be involved in the planning process. A suggested site for the ATBI center is the UCSC Science/Industry Center at Fort Ord.

Andrew, Don, George and Greg will continue to discuss the idea and its potentials for the area, and report progress to the RAP.

E. Fort Ord Update

Further research in the former Fort Ord restricted zone revealed both natural and man-made objects. MBARI will use their ROV to assist in the investigation. The Army has been generous in helping to come up with some of the extra funds needed to complete the sediment analyses.

Greg and his students have been regularly trawling to look at the lesions on the flat fish.

F. Sanctuary Currents Symposium (DeVogelaere/Starr)

The Sanctuary Symposium will take place on March 8-9, 1996 at the Naval Postgraduate School. There will be a call for posters December 8, 1995 and abstracts are due by January 26, 1996. There is a planning meeting scheduled for Monday, December 11 at 1:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to participate.

G. AAAS Conference at San Jose State University (SJSU) (Sharp)

The conference will be held on campus at SJSU and will not have a Monterey component. Abstracts are due by the first week in January for those who want to be involved.

H. Cambria Desalination Plant (DeVogelaere)

The comments from the RAP were useful and it appears the project will be approved. However, the project organizers would like the RAP to remain involved in the monitoring program. A monitoring clause will be introduced to the proposal before construction begins. Contact Pat Cotter at 647- 4252 for questions.

I. Location/rotation for Upcoming Meetings (DeVogelaere)

See handout.

J. Permit Report

There were no questions or comments on the report.

VII. OTHER ITEMS

A. New Business

- USGS will send out a series of moorings (6 moorings) which will include current and wave recordings.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
MBNMS Advisor Council Coordinator