

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PANEL

Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 8, 1996
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
University of California, Santa Cruz

I. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND PARTICIPANTS

Members in Attendance:

Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant - Acting Chair
Andrew De Vogelaere, MBNMS Research Coordinator

Leslie Rosenfeld, NPGS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Mark Stephenson, CDFG
Jim Harvey, Moss Landing Marine Labs
Don Potts, UCSC
Deborah Johnston, CDFG
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Jane Caffrey, ESNERR and Foundation

Members not in Attendance:

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs
George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Terry Jackson, MBNMS
Ken Parker
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS
Jim Rote, CSUMB
Les Strnad, California Coastal Commission
Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation

Guests in Attendance:

Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC/CSUMB
Gary Griggs, Director, Long Marine Lab/CORE
Bruce Heire, Coordinator of the Marine Sciences lab at UCSC

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Rick Starr, Acting Chair.

Rick Starr announced that Greg Cailliet was in the hospital recovering from surgery. Rick Starr will continue to act as Chair until Greg is able to return to his responsibilities on the RAP and the Advisory Council. The timing for his return is still uncertain.

III. APPROVAL MEETING MINUTES

Jan Roletto from the Gulf of the Farallones NMS requested by e-mail that the previous meeting minutes, Section D, paragraph 3, be changed to reflect that Terry Jackson, the MBNMS Manager, was notified about all research projects in the northern part of the MBNMS, even though the RAP may not have been.

RAP members requested that a discussion about the management of the northern half of the Sanctuary be included as a topic for the April meeting. In response to questions about whether RAP input would be useful in determining the final status of the management issue, Andrew commented that the issue is to be resolved at the headquarters level in the Sanctuaries and Reserves Division of NOAA. He suggested that it might be more appropriate, at this stage, for the RAP to discuss how they can best respond to the outcome.

The minutes were approved as amended.

IV. PRESENTATIONS

A. Long Marine Lab Expansion and Regional Representation in CORE (Griggs) --

Gary Griggs, Director of Long Marine Lab, introduced LML's plans for expansion. Because of Monterey Bay's emerging status as an international center for marine research with a long history of marine science and opportunities, Griggs has been able to make significant strides toward accomplishing four main goals for the Marine Lab: 1) to work closely with the State and other agencies to improve oil spill response capabilities; 2) to expand the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) presence at LML; 3) to improve cooperative projects with the NMFS Tiburon Lab; and, 4) to develop a UCSC Marine Education Center.

The present status of the projects are as follows:

- 1) The Oil Spill Protection and Response project has been designed and contracts are ready to go through. Plans are to use Long Marine Lab jointly as a research facility for oil spill response and as a marine mammal rehabilitation center.
- 2) A proposal has been made to move some USGS staff to the UCSC campus. An Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being prepared for the construction of a facility to accommodate the USGS and, possibly the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS).
- 3) A local architect has re-designed the Santa Cruz Coastal Marine Center at Terrace Point and a comprehensive plan for the property adjacent to LML. The plans provide for an expanded marine facility along with housing accommodations for researchers, scientists, and visitors. Open space and wildlife corridors on the property have also been allowed for. The political process concerning the property and proposed expansion is just beginning and the issue is expected to be heard by the city of Santa Cruz this Fall.

Dr. Griggs also introduced the Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education (CORE). CORE was established to bring more attention to the

importance of marine related research by taking a more pro-active role in determining 'how' ocean science should be done. CORE strives to develop partnerships in oceanographic research and works to develop and maintain relationships with Congressional members interested in marine related research.

Regional CORE members include: UCSC, National Postgraduate School, MBARI, Moss Landing Marine Labs, and Hopkins Marine Station.

CORE's President is Admiral James Watkins, former U.S. Secretary of Energy. Griggs described ADM. Watkins as a dedicated and articulate advocate of the oceans who has provided excellent leadership to the organization.

More information about CORE and its activities will be provided to RAP members on a regular basis through the Sanctuary office.

V. SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Report on the March 1, 1996 Advisory Council Meeting (DeVogelaere) --

Andrew De Vogelaere, MBNMS Research Coordinator, reported the following highlights from the most recent Advisory Council meeting:

- Kelp harvesting is becoming an issue of public concern. In response to public comments at the March 1 meeting, the Advisory Council will put the topic on its next meeting agenda.
- CALTRANS and the California Coastal Commission gave a presentation on the proposed Highway 1 realignment plan. The CCC and CALTRANS are promoting a long-term inter-agency management plan allowing for co-existence between the marine mammal and human populations. SAC members were informed that Pt. Reyes has a management plan that might be applicable to Piedras Blancas.
- The Advisory Council held a Public Relations workshop on February 9 that was attended by two representatives from NOAA's Public Affairs department in Silver Spring, MD. As a result of the workshop and the obvious need for a public relations officer for the Sanctuary, NOAA headquarters has allocated funds for a full-time position. The Sanctuary office will begin the process for contracting the position as soon as possible.
- Advisory Council members directed that Steve Eittreim be invited to the next meeting to provide an update on the status of work being done in the Fort Ord former restricted zone.

B. Research Coordinator Report (De Vogelaere) --

In place of the Research Coordinator's report, Andrew brought three matters to the attention of the RAP:

1) Ken Parker would like to remain a member of the RAP even though he does not have an institutional affiliation. RAP members requested that a discussion of membership be placed as a full discussion topic on the April meeting agenda.

2) In a recent conversation, George Boehlert had the following suggestions for the RAP:

- schedule a 20-minute update by one of the RAP represented institutions at every meeting. (NOTE: It was commented that this might be a forum to

include participation from smaller institutions and groups who aren't members of the RAP.) The RAP agreed to adopt this new format;

- instead of verbal summaries on status report agenda items, provide written comments similar to the permit report to shorten discussion time. The RAP agreed to try the new format;
- suggest meeting every other month or on an as-needed basis. (Following discussion about this point, RAP members agreed that monthly meetings were important to keep maintain momentum as a functioning working group. Fewer meetings might reduce the effectiveness of the group. However, the group did agree to strive for shorter meetings.)

3) Andrew has a student intern who wants to study the disturbances of pickleweed and its effects on the surrounding community, but was informed by the Moss Landing Harbor District Office that a \$600 fee is required for the CEQA process before she can begin her research. Andrew plans to revisit the ordinances, but suggested that it might be worthwhile for the RAP, and maybe the SAC, to write a letter to the harbor authority about possible mis-management of authority. Andrew explained that Moss Harbor District has co-jurisdiction with the Sanctuary of Elkhorn Slough.

RAP members requested that a discussion of how best to cooperate between agencies be included as a topic discussion at the April meeting.

C. Northern MBNMS Research Coordinator Report (Roletto) --

Jan Roletto from the Gulf of the Farallones/ Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary was not able to attend the meeting.

D. Comments of the Draft Sanctuaries Permit Process (De Vogelaere) --

NOAA is currently restructuring the permit process and has requested input from the RAP. RAP members are asked to provide information on the level of disturbances from common research activities so that the new process reflects the level of importance. Low level disturbance impacts would require minimal permitting.

The classification scheme is: low impact, medium impact and high impact. Andrew commented that some activities might be considered to have 'zero' impact and requested that RAP members please send him a list of specific activities that may require a permit and the perceived level of impact.

It would be helpful to have a list of the types of research and activities institutions around the Sanctuary are planning to do. This may be the basis of institutional permits previously recommended by the RAP.

E. Sanctuary Currents Symposium (Starr) --

The Sanctuary Currents Symposium begins this evening at 6:00 p.m. Deborah Johnston will be presented with this year's award for research in the Sanctuary.

The Poster Contest will take place on Saturday afternoon. Rick and Andrew commented that judges are still needed for the session. Awards will be given in the following categories: 1) best overall poster; 2) best use of technology and science; 3) best innovative idea; 4) best interdisciplinary project; and, 5)

best student poster. There is a \$100 cash award for the winner of each category.

F. NURP Deep Sea Research Workshop (Wheat) -- (Andrew provided the report on the NURP workshop as Geoff Wheat was unable to attend the meeting.)

A workshop on developing a Monterey Bay Initiative is scheduled for May 16-17, 1996. The agenda for the March meeting will include a discussion of research priorities and how the NURP can enhance research endeavors in the Monterey region. Another west coast initiative will be developed for Alaska.

Announcements of the initiatives are in the NURP newsletter and there will be another announcement via e-mail. Send your comments to Geoff Wheat by April 8. More details will be available at the April RAP meeting.

G. McArthur Cruise (King) -- (Andrew provided the report on the McArthur cruise as Aaron King was unable to attend the meeting.)

Six proposals have been submitted to the review panel.

There is a chance that there will be additional cruise time for the Sanctuary due to a minor change in the allotted dates. Andrew will follow-up and report back on the dates at the April meeting.

RAP members briefly discussed the need for more thorough evaluations of the research that will be done on the McArthur this year. Only 'top-notch' projects should be funded in order to maintain the credibility of the Sanctuary's research community.

H. Electronic Communications (King) -- There was nothing new to report.

I. MBNMS Foundation and Big Creek Research Funds (King) --

Andrew reported that the California Marine Sanctuaries Foundation did not get the CDFG grant to administer research in the four marine reserves. The money was given to Sea Grant instead.

RAP members were asked to contact CDFG if they wanted to be a part of the proposal review process for research in Big Creek Marine Reserve.

J. Permit Report (see handout) --

There was discussion about the permit for the Chocolate Abalone Dive scheduled for March 23. Sanctuary staff will be conducting two dives -- pre and post -- to determine if the event results in a serious disturbance of the seafloor. NOAA lawyers have expressed concern about seafloor disturbance and unclaimed chocolate abalones left in the Sanctuary.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

There was nothing new to report.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

RAP members requested that the meeting schedule of dates and locations and the meeting minutes be distributed sooner.

The next RAP meeting is scheduled for Friday, April 12, beginning at 9:00 a.m. in the Moss Landing Marine Labs, Shore Lab, Del Norte.

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jane M. DeLay
MBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator

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