

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council

Research Activity Panel

Meeting Minutes

Friday, June 7, 1996
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Naval Postgraduate School

I. ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Members in Attendance

Greg Cailliet, Moss Landing Marine Labs, Chair
Rick Starr, U.C. Sea Grant, Vice-Chair
Andrew DeVogeleare, MBNMS Research Coordinator

George Boehlert, NOAA/NMFS/PFEG
Jane Caffrey, ESNERR and Foundation
Steve Eittreim, USGS
Chris Harrold, Monterey Bay Aquarium
Deborah Johnston, CA DFG/Monterey
Don Potts, UCSC
Jennifer Nielsen, Hopkins Marine Station (Alternate)
Leslie Rosenfeld, Naval Postgraduate School
Mark Stephenson, CDFG/Marine Pollution Studies Lab
Geoff Wheat, NOAA/NURP
Jim Harvey, MLML
Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS

b) Members not in Attendance

Terry Jackson, MBNMS
Caroline Pomeroy, UCSC/CSUMB
Patricia Port, Department of the Interior
Bruce Robison, MBARI
Jim Rote, CSUMB
Gary Sharp, CIRIOS
Karen Worcester, Morro Bay Foundation
Dennis Powers, Hopkins Marine Station

c) Guests in Attendance

Ray Highsmith NURP/University of Alaska
John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research
Jeff Paduan, Naval Postgraduate School
Tom Ryan, Beach Watch Coastal Bird Intern, GFNMS

II. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:03 AM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS

Approval of the DRAFT minutes from the May 10, 1996 meeting were postponed until the end of the meeting.

Following a discussion concerning the meeting minutes and when RAP members receive them, RAP members approved a motion that Andrew De Vogelaere approach Terry Jackson to make sure that the RAP sees the minutes in a more timely manner.

III. PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS

a) Introduction to the Naval Postgraduate School (L. Rosenfeld)

Leslie Rosenfeld provided a report on the Naval Postgraduate School. Highlights of the presentation included an introduction to the institution and its mission; some historical background about the school and its structure; and an overview of on-going research and projects in the meteorology and oceanography departments.

For more information about the Naval Postgraduate School and its programs, RAP members were encouraged to look up the institution's homepage at:

www.oc.nps.navy.mil or, www.met.nps.navy.mil

The REINAS homepage is a related site at:

<http://csl.cse.ucsc.edu/reinas.html>

b) Marine Mammal Surveys in Central CA (J. Calambokidis)

John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research, provided the RAP with a broad overview of his NMS funded research on large baleen whales. In addition, he spoke briefly about the goals of and preliminary data on the marine mammals research associated with the ATOC project.

Highlights of the presentation included: population estimates of humpback and blue whales; distribution patterns of the whales; movement of the populations; and methods for individual identification of the whales. Publications on the project and related literature from Cascadia Research is available through the MBNMS office.

IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a) Review of the May SAC meeting (G. Cailliet)

Greg attended the May 31 SAC workshop on Protocols; the purpose of the meeting was to incorporate Advisory Council input into the revised draft of the SAC Charter and a draft of suggested Protocols to serve as guidelines for the Advisory Council's role in providing advice to the Sanctuary Manager.

Included on the workshop agenda was an update from Terry Jackson, MBNMS Manager and Ed Ueber, GFNMS and CBNMS Manager, on efforts to improve coordinated management strategies for the Sanctuary. Their report indicated that progress on the issue is continuing.

Following discussion, RAP members suggested that efforts continue to improve communication among the four California National Marine Sanctuaries.

b) Membership Updates (G. Cailliet)

Jennifer Nielsen is the official alternate RAP member for Hopkins Marine Station; efforts to find replacement for low attendance members continue; and the status of combining the CIRIOS and CSUMB representative is still unclear.

c) NMS Research Reports

Andrew DeVogelaere

Site Characterization:

The comment period for the draft document is closed. Expect to see the final draft on the MBNMS homepage in mid-June 1996.

Graduate Student Stipend:

The review committee has completed their comments, and approval of their choice by Terry Jackson is expected next week (he has been out on a McArthur cruise leg).

Monitoring Protocol for Kelp Studies:

There is increasing interest by regional scientists in building on the existing kelp forest monitoring project. There will be a meeting to discuss protocols and possibilities for combining projects. Contact me for more information if you want to be involved.

Montebello Wreck:

The Montebello was sunk off of Point Piedras Blancas during WWII. There is increasing interest to study this oil tanker by sidescan sonar or ROV by independent archaeologists and the national office of SRD. If you see any opportunities to do collaborative work on the wreck or in the area, please contact Aaron King (647-4257).

Trinity Vessel Grounding:

The salvage operation is complete and we have initiated a long term recovery and restoration project at the site (just north of Pt. Pinos). Dr. Foster is heading up a team from Moss Landing Marine Labs and using MBNMS interns (see below) on the project. The insurance company funds for this project were routed through the new California Marine Sanctuaries Foundation (this is their first grant).

Interns:

MBNMS Research will have two interns (Danny McKeever, Stanislaus State University; Angie Nakano, Stanford University) and one senior thesis (Stacey Urner, CSUMB) working on a variety of projects this summer.

Underwater Park:

Based on comments and concerns by the RAP at the last meeting. Kip Evans,

education specialist at the MBNMS, will be tracking the process of the Underwater Park designation. Moreover, intern D. McKeever will be giving periodic reports on current developments.

McArthur

The cruise is currently on its fourth leg. The following field work has successfully been completed: meteorological observations with weather balloons, sea floor mapping in northern Monterey Bay and off of Ano Nuevo, ocean circulation studies, mapping portions of the Big Creek Ecological Reserve, plankton samples in critical marine mammal habitats.

Handouts:

Handouts available to the RAP today include-
Santa Cruz Sentinel article on Terns in Elkhorn Slough
Santa Cruz Sentinel article on the McArthur cruise
Monterey Harold article on the McArthur cruise
The Spring edition of the Sanctuary Newsletter
Information and sign-up forms for the Bay-Net Program

Jan Roletto

Unusual Sightings:

A dead Franklin Gull (id still to be positively confirmed) found along Ocean Beach and a sea otter within SF Bay near Brisbane (id still to be positively confirmed).

Intertidal Monitoring:

Contractors are out this month conducting rocky intertidal monitoring. Their six month report will be completed and turned into the contracting office next week (June 12). A copy of this report will be sent to Andrew. If anyone would like a copy of this report, please let Jan know.

GIS:

There will be a two day workshop on the new GIS program developed for the Sanctuaries, covering the area of just north of Bodega Head south to almost Santa Cruz. Announcement will be distributed at the 7 June RAP meeting.

Intern:

Coastal Bird Intern, Tom Ryan, will be introduced at the meeting today.

VI. SHORT INFORMATION ITEMS

a) Verbal items

- The Channel Islands NMS has a research vessel that will have space for five scientists. If you are interested in the pending cruise, please contact Andrew De Vogelaere at 647-4213.
- There is expected funding for another McArthur cruise in 1997. Andrew De Vogelaere would like to receive requests specifying the project and exact number of days required to complete it. Work involving the National Estuarine Research Reserves might also be included in proposals. If work in the Estuaries can be coupled with open sea research, it might result in more ship days for the MBNMS.

- If there is interest in doing McArthur research in the north, please contact Dan Howard at the Cordell Banks/Gulf of the Farallones NMS (415-556-3509).
- State Mussel Watch Program -- The proposed legislation supporting the State Mussel Watch Program has passed out of the Appropriations Committee. It will be considered on the floor of the Assembly before moving on to the Senate.

b) Written items

- NURP deep sea research workshop (G. Wheat) --The Monterey Bay Initiative Workshop report is in the editing process and will be sent to the National Office on Monday June 10 for peer review. I would like to thank everyone for their participation in the Workshop. Guidelines for proposals have been mailed out deadline in August 30, 1996.
- Cambria Desalination Plant (P. Cotter) -- Construction of the plant will be on hold for a year to change design plans and to wait for a calm weather window for building. Original cost estimates were off and the monitoring plan has not been finalized.
- Permit Report (S. Kathey) -- A permit report was provided to RAP members at the meeting. For questions call Scott Kathey at 647-4251.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a) Elephant Seal Management Plan (J. Harvey) -- nothing new to report.

b) Fort Ord Study (S. Eittreim) -- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be transferring \$180k to the USGS. The USGS will be responsible for dispersing the funds to the appropriate parties associated with research projects in the former restricted zone at Fort Ord. Steve Eittreim is hoping that this can be done as soon as possible; timing is yet uncertain.

c) Lesions of flat fish in Monterey Bay (R. Starr) -- MBNMS will provide some funding for ship time to continue sampling for the fish lesion project.

d) Update on the Effects of Artificial Light (C. Harrold) -- Randy Kochevar met with two Deep-Sea investigators; both have given him extensive resource lists on the topic. In general, the professional opinion is that the lights will cause temporary blindness in both crustaceans and fish; longer exposure could lead to permanent blinding.

e) IMBI (D. Potts) -- Don Potts has been invited to Panama to attend the Coral Reef conference at the end of this month. Don Potts, and the IMBI working group, have also been formally invited to Costa Rica to visit an All-Taxa Biodiversity site. Don will provide an update on his trip at the August RAP meeting.

The next issue of Coastal Ocean will have an article on biodiversity and the next two issues of Oceanus will focus on Marine biodiversity topics.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

1) Leslie Rosenfeld and Jeff Paduan requested RAP input on the importance of maintaining the fog signal building near Pt. Pinos in Pacific Grove. The building is an ideal research station as it features: a power supply; a telephone; it is close to shore; and it has limited public access. RAP members

requested that Leslie and Jeff prepare a letter to explaining the importance of the building for marine research and its value to the community as a whole. A presentation on the research currently being based out of the building will be scheduled for the next RAP meeting. For more information about the project, contact Jeff at 656-3350.

2) The Elkhorn Slough Technical Advisory Committee has issued a request for the RAP to assist in determining how the water quality in the Slough can be made safe for shellfish harvesting. Following discussion, the RAP decided that this project was not within their purview of responsibilities and that the matter should be referred to the WQPP, ESNERR RAC, or back to the SWQCB.

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

- A status update on the proposed underwater park in Pacific Grove and Monterey.

X. FUTURE MEETING DATES AND PROPOSED LOCATIONS

Friday, July 12 at ESNERR

Friday, August 9 at the Watershed Institute at CSUMB

Friday, September 13 at Moss Landing Marine Lab, Shore Lab Del Norte

Friday, October 11 at NOAA/PFEG building in Pacific Grove

Friday, November 8 at CDFG

No Meeting during the month of December

JANUARY at Hopkins Marine Station

FEB or MAR -- a northern location (Jan Roletto and Steve Eittreim to work on location)

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Compiled by

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and

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