SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL’S ROLE IN THE MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW PROCESS

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Manager

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Standing Working Groups
- Conservation
- Fishing
- Education/MERA
- Research/RAP
- Military
- Ports & Harbors

Task-Specific Working Groups
- Marine Reserves
- Science Panel
- Socio-Econ. Team

Public Input
Management Plan Study Area

- Pt. Sal
- Pt. Arguello
- Pt. Conception
- CINMS
- Santa Barbara
- Ventura
- Oxnard
- Port Hueneme
- San Miguel Is
- Santa Cruz Is
- Anacapa Is
- Santa Barbara Is

CINMS 6NM Boundary
Management Plan Issues

- Water Quality
- Military Activity
- Oil & Gas
- Emergency Response
- Visitor Use
- Cultural Resource Protection
- Zonation
- Boundary Redefinition
- Improved Resource Protection
Priority Focus Areas For 1999-2001:

- Marine Reserves process
- Management Plan Revision process:
  - SAC to assist with:
    - Data collection
    - Constituent outreach
    - Public Information Forums
    - Determination on Study Area
    - Review DEIS alternative selection (regs and boundary alternatives)
Management Plan Process

- SAC Management Plan Retreat (October 1999):
  - Staff presentations on 5-year vision for program areas
  - SAC input on development of new programs & improvement of existing operations

- Ongoing requests for SAC assistance with:
  - Collection of data for DEIS
  - Develop Framework for Management Plan Document
  - Constituent outreach
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Management Plan Process

- SAC assistance with Public Forums:
  - Military and Coast Guard Activities (April 2000)
  - Status of the Resources (May 2000)

- Working Group meetings and comments to SAC:
  - Conservation Working Group
  - Military Working Group
  - Ports & Harbors Working Group
SAC Input

- Specific Votes on Issues
- Informal Consultation
- Input/Advice from SAC members
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Management Plan Process

- SAC Advice on Boundaries and Regulations
  - SAC Workshop on boundaries (May 2000)
  - SAC Workshop on regulations (June 2000)
  - SAC Advice on DEIS preferred alternative (August 2000)
  - Dan Basta discussion with SAC on boundaries (Feb. 2001)

- Next Steps
  - NMSS decision on preferred boundary -- Fall 2001
  - Release of DEIS/DMP -- Winter/Spring 2002
Management Plan Process - What’s Worked Well

- SAC has been fully engaged in the process
- Community is very aware and involved
  - Attendance at meetings (50-75+)
  - High levels of media coverage
  - Extensive public comment (thousands of letters, e-mails, petitions)
- Major issues scoped out thoroughly with SAC
  - Especially boundary expansion
- Important assistance with data collection/review
- Partnerships and working relationships strengthened through SAC
- Informal Advice from SAC worked best
Management Plan -- Challenges/Lessons Learned

- SAC’s decision making role in the management plan review process not clearly defined in the beginning - no prior framework
- SAC decided to not create management plan review subcommittee(s)
- Many of the decisions/recommendations the SAC were asked to make were too complex/divisive for such a large group of diverse backgrounds
- SAC voting on items less helpful; split votes
- Information overload: exceeded SACs time or ability to read and absorb necessary information to make informed decisions
Management Plan - Challenges /Lessons Learned

- Significant division of “camps” on SAC over key issues (i.e., boundary expansion)
- SAC not speaking with one voice on key issues
- Distrust in NOAA/CINMS -- suspect pre-determined agenda
- Process taking too long -- public and SAC frustrated