

## MBNMS Advisory Council 2003 Annual Report

Sanctuary Advisory Council Annual Report-DRAFT  
October 1, 2002-September 30, 2003

### INTRODUCTION

**Meetings:** The Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) met seven times. It met at the Community Church of the Monterey Peninsula in Carmel Valley, the Half Moon Bay Lodge in Half Moon Bay, the Watsonville Elks Lodge in Watsonville, the Big Sur Lodge in Big Sur, the Best Western Beach Resort in Monterey and the UCSC Inn & Conference Center in Santa Cruz. Several of these meetings were multiple days long and the July meeting in Santa Cruz included a rigorous public comment session.

**Members:** Dan Haifley, Recreation primary, was reelected as the Advisory Council Secretary. Several new Advisory Council members were sworn in: Mike Laffen and Meg Delano, Citizen At-Large seat; LT Deborah Darminio, Coast Guard representative; Berkely White, Diving alternate; David Vincent and Phil Jenkins, CA State Parks and Russ Jeffries and Eric Gobler, CA EPA.

### WORKING GROUPS

The Council's four working groups - the Conservation Working Group (CWG), the Research Activity Panel (RAP), the Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP), and the Business and Tourism Activity Panel (BTAP) met regularly throughout the year and provided information and advice to the Advisory Council and the Sanctuary Superintendent.

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) is a working group of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council that meets monthly to discuss resource protection issues affecting the MBNMS. From October 2002 through September of 2003, the Conservation Working group met ten times and addressed a range of resource protection issues. In 2002 the CWG had advocated the development of a regulation that would prohibit all cruise ship discharge in the Sanctuary. In February of 2003, the CWG brought the issue to the Advisory Council, which voted to recommend that the MBNMS develop regulations that would prohibit "harmful cruise ship discharges" within the Sanctuary. The CWG also tracked and supported state cruise ship legislation that restricted discharge in state waters and in marine sanctuaries. The CWG also made development of an action plan for invasive species a priority issue. Due to resource constraints, the MBNMS was unable to include invasive species as a topic for action plan development as part of the Sanctuary's management plan review. The CWG agreed to help develop a framework plan with the input of regional stakeholders and experts. In addition to developing the invasive species action plan, CWG members were heavily involved in many of the other working groups convened by the Sanctuary to develop issue specific action plans. CWG meetings would include a regular discussion of the progress of these groups and of specific concerns to be addressed in the work group setting. The CWG also worked to support a CA Sea Otter protection bill that would

allocate federal funds to needed sea otter research. Other topics that were discussed by the CWG include Sanctuary boundary modifications, visitors' center location, and Sanctuary Currents Symposium themes.

The RAP (Research Activity Panel) meets eight times a year and the major items of interest covered in 2003 were: Regional Ocean Observing Systems including building pilot programs through CI-CORE and CIMT; discussions and support for developing an Ecosystem Model of Monterey Bay; support of Jmpr Process through review and direct participation; organizing, planning, and participation in the Sanctuary Currents Symposium and in contributing to Ecosystem Observations; and finally, integrating all of the above and other science through the SIMoN web site.

Patricia Clark-Gray continued to serve as the Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) Chair and Jamie Alanzo as the Vice-Chair. Further development of the Mbnms Education Plan was temporarily halted to allow for the development of the Joint Management Plan Review (Jmpr) with the intent that it would produce an outline for the Education Plan as it evolved. Membership of the SEP was reviewed by the group to assess where potential gaps in representation were and the SEP made suggestions for new recruits in the k-12 teacher categories. The primary focus for the SEP and its members was the Jmpr, with members attending working groups to help develop education programming for the majority of the draft action plans. The SEP was introduced to the new office in Half Moon Bay in July. Six meetings were held around the sanctuary (Mbnms office in Monterey, UCSC, MBARI, Half Moon Bay, Elkhorn Slough and at the Monterey Bay Aquarium). SEP members from 5 agencies and institutions are participating in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail interpretive planning effort, now a Monterey Bay-wide project. The "Educator of the Year" award was given to Dr. John Pearse, professor emeritus from UCSC for his long time work with the development of a student intertidal monitoring program. This program is now a sanctuary program, supported by all 5 west coast sanctuaries.

The Business and Tourism Activity Panel (BTAP) chaired by Dave Ebert (Advisory Council Business Representative) held a total of seven meetings. The November 2002 meeting took place in Seaside, while the January, March, May, July, August, and September 2003 meetings were held at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. During the meetings the BTAP focused a majority of its time on the Joint Management Plan Review (Jmpr) process. Individual BTAP members participated on the following Jmpr working groups: desalination, tidepool protection, special marine protected areas, Davidson Seamount, and fishing related research and education. The BTAP discussed the draft action plans as they evolved and kept abreast of the review process. The group shared concerns with sanctuary staff and the SAC regarding the language, tone, and policy roles outlined in the National Marine Sanctuary Program's "white paper" on regulatory coordination between the program and NOAA Fisheries. The BTAP also sent a letter to the Sanctuary Superintendent about the protocol for writing letters to the Superintendent and to the Advisory Council; this issue was ultimately clarified through modification of the Advisory Council charter at the Advisory Council's April 2003 meeting. At the May meeting the BTAP received a briefing from the Sanctuary Superintendent on the

Sanctuary's past and present relationship with the business and tourism community and the group discussed the potential for future collaborations. The BTAP held a special meeting in August to review the Advisory Council's recommendation on the proposed location of the MBNMS interpretive center, to hear public comments and to develop a BTAP recommendation on the citing of the center. The BTAP sent a letter to the Sanctuary Superintendent supporting the Santa Cruz Beach sites as the preferred center sites. In response to the recruitment of a new Advisory Council Tourism alternate seat (Monty Criss resigned during this period) the BTAP took action and wrote a letter to the Sanctuary Superintendent recommending Mike Bekker (Cannery Row Company) be selected and identifying Rick Johnson (Old Monterey Business Association) as an alternate choice. The group recommended to AMBAG that the Seaside Company receive AMBAG's annual Sanctuary Currents Conference Business Award. The group also spent time discussing the need for and challenges of expanding and maintaining a consistent and active membership.

### MAJOR ISSUES, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The Advisory Council spent most of their time engrossed in the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR). In October 2002, the Advisory Council had the opportunity to sign up for any working groups they wanted to participate in. In December 2002, staff presented the Advisory Council with the structure of each working group, as well as the decision-making protocols produced by a subcommittee of the Advisory Council.

In June the Advisory Council met for two days to hear presentations from the MBNMS staff on the results of the many working groups.

In July they held a five and a half hour long public comment period on the Proposed Action Plans and held a two-day meeting afterwards. The Advisory Council forwarded to staff 504 of the strategies and activities as proposed by the working groups or internal teams. They were able to reach consensus on 64 modified strategies and activities and only needed to take a vote on 4 modified strategies and activities. The Advisory Council tasked the Special Marine Protected Areas and Motorized Personal Watercraft working groups to reconvene and answer some specific questions. Both of these groups met and came back to the Advisory Council, which accepted each of their recommendations.

### OTHER ISSUES, DISCUSSIONS, ACTIONS

The Advisory Council sent a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board asking they factor in and consider the efforts and recommendations from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Agricultural Plan as they adopt their Total Maximum Daily Load program.

The Conservation Working Group presented a letter regarding Krill Harvesting, Cruise Ships and Invasive Species. The Advisory Council voted to have the CWG produce a framework on invasive species for the JMPR.

The Conservation Working Group presented a resolution on cruise ship discharges to the Advisory Council at the February 2003 meeting. The Advisory Council accepted the resolution as presented, with some modifications, recommending that the MBNMS develop a regulation prohibiting harmful discharges within Sanctuary waters.

Holly Price, Resource Protection Coordinator, clarified the fishing “white paper” written and released by NMSP Headquarters regarding coordination on fishing issues. Holly reiterated that the MBNMS would continue to work with existing fishing management agencies to address fishing issues impacting the ecosystem. The Advisory Council agreed to send a letter to the Secretary of Commerce Don Evans, NOAA Undersecretary Vice Admiral Conrad Lautenbacher and National Marine Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta stating the “white paper” would make it more difficult for the Sanctuary to work with the fishing community, that the Advisory Council did not want the “white paper” to replace or supersede the language found in the MBNMS designation documents and that the Advisory Council wanted to be involved in reviewing and clarifying the fishing language in the management plan through a public process involving stakeholders.

The Advisory Council endorsed a written resolution from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments supporting the Sanctuary Scenic Trail with a modification stating the Sanctuary Scenic Trail will provide a critical link to the California Coastal Trail.

The Advisory Council agreed to send a letter, written by Deborah Streeter, Citizen At-Large primary, to the National Marine Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta urging the allocation of more GS (general schedule) positions to the MBNMS or increased funding so contractors can be provided benefits.

In April 2003, the Advisory Council made both substantive and housekeeping changes to the Sanctuary Advisory Council Charter & Protocols.

For more information, view other sections of the Advisory Council website or contact Nicole Capps, Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator at (831) 647-4206 or [nicole.capps@noaa.gov](mailto:nicole.capps@noaa.gov).