

**GULF OF THE FARALLONES AND MONTEREY BAY
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES
JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

**February 10, 2011
Elkus Ranch
Half Moon Bay, CA**

The Gulf of the Farallones (GFNMS) and Monterey Bay (MBNMS) National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils met on Thursday, February 10, 2011, in Half Moon Bay, California. Public categories and government agencies for MBNMS were present as indicated:

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|---|---------------------------------------|
| Agriculture: Traci Roberts | CA State Parks: Nick Franco |
| AMBAG: Lynn Robinson | Conservation: Geoff Shester |
| At Large: Nancy Selfridge | Diving: Randy Herz |
| At Large: Kortney Leabourne | Education: Simona Bartl |
| At Large: Richard Ely | Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark |
| Business & Industry: Jim Weisenstein | Ports & Harbors: Steve Scheiblaue |
| CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove | Recreation: Robert Chatham |
| CA Dept. of Fish & Game: Paul Reilly | Recreational Fishing: Richard Hughett |
| CA EPA: Russ Jeffries-Absent | Research: Chris Harrold |
| CA Resources Agency: Brian Baird-Absent | Tourism: Michael Bekker |

The following non-voting MBNMS members were present as indicated:

Paul Michel: Monterey Bay NMS
Michael Carver: Cordell Bank NMS
LT Steve Arnwine: US Coast Guard

MBNMS Alternates present:

Lauren Gilligan: Conservation
John Hunt: Research

Public categories and government agencies for GFNMS were present as indicated:

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|---|---|
| At-Large Marin/Sonoma: Dominique Richard | Dept. of Interior, NPS: Cecily Muldoon |
| At-Large SF/San Mateo: Kellyx Nelson | Education: Bob Breen |
| CA EPA: Secretary Linda Adams – Absent | Maritime Activities/Commercial: Barbara Emley |
| CA Resources Agency: Brian Baird – Absent | Maritime Activities/Recreational: Mick Menigoz - Absent |
| Conservation: Bob Wilson | Research: John Largier – Absent |
| Conservation: Richard Charter | |

The following non-voting GFNMS members were present as indicated:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: Paul Michel

US Coast Guard: LT Steve Arnwine
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary: Michael Carver

GFNMS Alternates present:

At-Large Marin/Sonoma: Richard Kuehn
At-Large San Francisco/San Mateo: Tim Duff
Maritime Activities/Commercial: Peter Grenell
Maritime Activities/Recreational: George Clyde
Conservation: Jackie Dragon
Research: Jaime Jahncke

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL

Maria Brown, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) Superintendent, clarified the use of motorized personal watercraft (MPWC) within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and specifically at the Mavericks surf spot. The area from Rocky Point to Pigeon Point is in the MBNMS and the GFNMS assists with management in that area. The Mavericks surf area is in the MBNMS and MBNMS regulations apply, but GFNMS manages it. At no time have sanctuary regulations prevented the use of MPWC for assistance with rescue. There was extensive public comment during the joint management plan review on MPWCs. Some of the public comment received stated surfers would like to have a volunteer surf rescue squad. MBNMS regulations allow for volunteer surf rescue squads as long as they are under a public safety agency.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public provided public comment for items not on the agenda: John Donaldson, Shawn Alladio, Scott Frazier, Linda Ciotti, Sabrina Brennan, Frank Quirarte, Robert and Debbie Trette, and Paula Spidel. Comments focused on safety concerns with regard to the MPWC rule.

III. WEST COAST REGION UPDATE

Carol Bernthal, Acting West Coast Regional Director, introduced herself and explained that Bill Douros is on a ten-month detail as the Acting Deputy Director for the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Carol explained she is the superintendent of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. Carol highlighted the Ocean Acidification Task Force, the deep sea coral research initiative, and better utilizing dwindling budgets as priorities for the west coast region this year. She also mentioned that the west coast regional office is looking into larger NOAA initiatives such as Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning.

IV. ENFORCEMENT UPDATE

NOAA Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) Supervisory Criminal Investigator Dan Torquemada, Special Agent in Charge for Area 3 in California, announced Dayna Matthews would no longer

be the NOAA OLE contact for sanctuary advisory councils. A replacement for Dayna Matthews has not been assigned. Torquemada stated NOAA OLE will be present for the Mavericks surf contest.

Advisory council members had questions regarding use of MPWC for public safety at Mavericks. Other advisory council members expressed concern about the Sanctuary's MPWC regulation being able to adequately address surfer safety needs, and a working group was suggested. The GFNMS advisory council chair allowed for further public comment, which continued concern about safety issues. Scott Kathey, MBNMS Regulatory Coordinator, clarified that MBNMS regulations allow an emergency exception for Good Samaritan or public safety agency use of MPWCs to rescue someone in distress. Pillar Point Harbor Patrol or another qualified public safety agency could deploy MPWC during high surf to conduct standby patrols in areas where they know emergency calls are likely, even if there is no emergency at the time of launch. These are public safety agencies who train for surf rescue. Their mission is to save lives and perform ocean rescue in a very dangerous environment. NOAA depends on public safety agencies to determine who is qualified to perform water rescue. NOAA is not a public safety agency and does not determine who is qualified to perform water rescue.

NOAA does not tell safety agencies how to train, where to train, or ocean conditions for training. NOAA is working with public safety agencies to find out what their training needs are and collaborate on solutions to any environmental conflicts. All agencies were given guidance by MBNMS to continue training and operations as they have in the past until formal training permits are issued. This permit process is like no other in MBNMS to date. Sanctuary staff work with the agencies throughout the permit process and negotiate solutions to any conflicts between desired training practices and resource protection. GFNMS advisory council Chair Richard Charter supported the creation of a working group to look at large surf MPWC safety issues. GFNMS will take the lead on this issue.

V. PORT ACCESS ROUTE STUDY (PARS)

Michael Carver, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Operations Coordinator, provided a presentation on the United States Coast Guard Port Access Route Study (PARS). Michael has been working with the Coast Guard through this process. Michael's powerpoint presentation may be viewed http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2011/021011/021011pars_ppt.pdf
or

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/11_02/021011pars_ppt.pdf

Michael stated that the Coast Guard will publish a proposed action in the Federal Register in June. There will be public comment opportunity and he encourages everyone to read the Federal Register notice and comment.

VI. SEABIRD PROTECTION NETWORK UPDATE

Sage Tezak, GFNMS Seabird Protection Network Coordinator, provided an update on the seabird protection network for the last year. Sage's powerpoint presentation may be viewed at http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2011/021011/021011seabird_ppt.pdf

or

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/11_02/021011seabird_ppt.pdf

VII. NOAA PROPOSED OVERFLIGHT REGULATIONS UPDATE

Karen Reyna, GFNMS Acting Resource Protection Coordinator, provided an update on the proposed overflight regulations. Karen's powerpoint presentation may be viewed at

http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2011/021011/021011overflight_ppt.pdf

or

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/11_02/021011overflight_ppt.pdf

VIII. LUNCH

IX. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

X. ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE (EBMI) UPDATE

Paul Michel, MBNMS Superintendent, spoke briefly about the EBMI (the Initiative). He said that the Initiative now has more clarity and purpose. The EBMI is about applying the latest thinking on Ecosystem Based Management (EBM), science and Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning (CMSP). This Initiative is in-line with the Administrations' views on ocean policy and will be an important focus for MBNMS for several years.

Dr. Rikki Dunsmore, MBNMS Resource Protection Specialist, provided an update on the EBMI. Her powerpoint presentation can be viewed at:

http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2011/021011/021011ebmi_ppt.pdf

or

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/11_02/021011ebmi_ppt.pdf

XI. CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE SANCTUARIES

Kelley Higgason, GFNMS Climate Change Initiative Coordinator, gave a presentation on the activities of the Ocean Climate Center at GFNMS, as well as climate change related events and activities in MBNMS (supplementary slides provided by Karen Grimmer). Her presentation can be viewed at: http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2011/021011/021011climate_ppt.pdf

or

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/11_02/021011climate_ppt.pdf

XII. LONG-TERM MONITORING PROGRAM AND EXPERIMENTAL TRAINING FOR STUDENTS (LIMPETS) UPDATE

Alison Young, Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association (FMSA) LiMPETS Coordinator gave an overview of the LiMPETS program. Her powerpoint can be viewed at:

http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2011/021011/021011limpets_ppt.pdf

or

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/11_02/021011limpets_ppt.pdf

XIII. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sanctuary Advisory Council members from both MBNMS and GFNMS made the following announcements.

Simona Bartl, MBNMS Education, suggested that for future joint sanctuary advisory council meetings, the seating arrangement should be more integrated. Also, the Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) met for the first time in eight months. The SEP is interested in improving their online presence in order to be more useful to educators in the area, and to think about who should be on the SEP. Finally, Moss Landing Marine Lab is having an open house April 30- May 1.

Randy Herz, MBNMS Diving, announced that National Geographic has an excellent article on artificial reefs this month.

Richard Keuhn, GFNMS At-Large Marin/Sonoma, announced that Diane Harkey, a member of the California State Assembly from Dana Point, has introduced AB 206. This bill would exempt municipal fireworks shows from the California Environment Quality Act and the California Coastal Act regulation by the California Coastal Commission. This could have a detrimental impact upon nesting seabirds, whose nesting season - April through August - happens to coincide with the 4th of July. If Advisory Council members would like to express their opposition to this bill, they should do so as soon as possible to the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, which is chaired by Wes Chesbro, whose office may be contacted via telephone at (916) 319 - 2001 or email [<Assemblymember.Chesbro@assembly.ca.gov>](mailto:Assemblymember.Chesbro@assembly.ca.gov)

Paul Michel announced that the Sanctuary Exploration Center broke ground in November and construction is going well. MBNMS anticipates taking ownership of the building late December 2011 or early January 2012.

Chris Harrold announced the MBNMS Sanctuary Currents Symposium on April 9th at California State University at Monterey Bay, entitled, Ripple Effects.

Maria Brown announced that on February 25th, the GFNMS will hold a Volunteer Appreciation Event. Also, the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival will begin March 9th.

Bob Breen, GFNMS Education, announced that a marine protected areas watch program is being created in San Mateo County.

Geoff Shester, MBNMS Conservation, announced that National Marine Fisheries Service will soon be requesting relevant data for a 5 year review of groundfish Essential Fish Habitat in all of the west coast exclusive economic zone. Also, he urged everyone to support the shark-finning bill introduced in the state legislature.

LT Steve Arnwine announced that he will be transferring to Key West to take control of a patrol boat, and will be leaving the advisory council. He does not know who will be replacing him, but he has enjoyed working with both the MBNMS and GFNMS Advisory Councils.

XIV. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 3:45pm

Submitted by Nicole Capps and Leslie Abramson