

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

**Key Meeting Outcomes
August 21, 2013
Half Moon Bay Yacht Club
Half Moon Bay, CA**

The Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries (MBNMS) Advisory Councils met on Wednesday, August 21, 2013 in Half Moon Bay, California.

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, SWEAR-IN OF NEW SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

The following Monterey Bay advisory council members were sworn in and provided a brief description of themselves and why they are interested in serving on the council:

Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso – California Environmental Protection Agency
Jim Moser – Commercial Fishing
Kris Beal – Agriculture
Todd Lewis – California State Parks

Paul Michel imparted what is expected of advisory council members, how they are expected to work together, reach out to their constituencies, and better serve the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

II. STANDING ITEM: SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT

MBNMS, Paul Michel

NOAA is soliciting public comment on the proposed rule to establish criteria for a Sanctuary Nomination Process (SNP) – a new process for communities and interested parties to provide proposals for new sanctuaries. Comments are due by Aug. 27 and can be made through the ONMS website. Once the public comment period has closed and NOAA has reviewed the comments, the agency is expected to issue guidance for nominations and solicit proposals for new areas of America’s ocean and Great Lakes waters for possible designation as national marine sanctuaries.

The new visitor center in Santa Cruz is open Wednesday through Sunday; it is a great facility that receives almost 100,000 visitors a year. Please visit!

YourSanctuary TV is now being seen in almost 300 communities across the U.S., and a downloadable library of content has been compiled for viewers. MBNMS staff recently shot a travel and tourism show that features the Central Coast, from Marin to Cambria.

The Institute for Applied Marine Ecology at CSUMB, working with support from MBNMS, has accumulated an extensive archive of video and still photographs of demersal fish and invertebrate communities as part of the on-going deepwater characterization project in largely unexplored areas of the Sanctuary.

GFNMS, Maria Brown

Bob Breen, marine biologist and GF Sanctuary Advisory Council Member, passed away. 1940 – 2013.

Bob Breen will be honored in the new Sanctuary Memorial Garden in September for his important role in the history of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Since the 1970s, Bob was one of the first proponents of setting aside ecologically important areas, specifically the Gulf of the Farallones, for special protection. He realized the unique qualities of the Gulf area as a keystone upon which to establish other contiguous sanctuaries, in Monterey Bay and Cordell Bank. Since the inception of the Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council in 2002, until his death in June 2013, Bob served as Education Chair. Bob contributed to regional stakeholder groups that helped map out the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries and the entire system of marine protected areas along California's north-central coast— an exhaustive, often controversial process. He also helped develop a long-term university monitoring program to track their success.

GFNMS has issued a research permit to Cheryl Strong and Gerry McChesney from the US Fish and Wildlife Service to conduct overflights in the MBNMS and GFNMS for seabird and northern fur seal surveys at the Farallon Islands. GFNMS issued an education permit to James Moskito of Great White Adventures to attract white sharks using decoys for education purposes as part of ecotourism charters for the public.

The public comment period closed in March for the Northern Expansion of GF and CB sanctuaries. A joint management plan between GFNMS, CBNMS, and MBNMS is proposed, and public comment is scheduled to be advertised this winter.

Expansion of the GFNMS to include the exclusion area off the coast of San Francisco is on hold for now, but GFNMS still has plans to work on it later in FY14.

For information regarding the Sanctuary System Business Advisory Council, see: http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_08/Business_Advisory_Council.pdf

GFNMS is currently working on responses to comments on the introduced species proposed rule. It is possible that there may need to be a supplemental proposed rule in order to address comments from the state. GFNMS cannot speculate at this point the timing of the publication of the final rule and will give an update at the next Advisory Council meeting.

Since May 2013, there have been 5 whale strandings in the MB, GF and CB regions. One was a confirmed vessel strike- June 11: humpback whale, Coast Camp, Pt Reyes National Seashore, Marin County. One was a confirmed death by fishing gear entanglement- July 16: gray whale, South Beach, Pt Reyes National Seashore, Marin County. Three causes of death were unknown:

5/3/13, gray whale, Marina, Monterey County; 6/19/13, gray whale, Marshall, Marin County; 8/19/13, fin whale, Stinson Beach, Marin County. The National Marine Fisheries Service oversees volunteer stranding networks of partner organizations like The Marine Mammal Center in Marin and the California Academy of Sciences to respond to strandings. They are authorized through Letters of Authority to respond.

III. INFORMATION ITEM: Activities in the Northern Management Area of MBNMS

Maria Brown, GFNMS Superintendent, provided an overview of GFNMS activities in the Northern Management Area. Her presentation is available at:

<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130821/agenda.html>

IV. LUNCH

V. STANDING ITEM: ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

PJ Webb (MBNMS At-large) encouraged everyone to submit comments on the new Site Nomination Process.

Jessica Grigsby (MBNMS Business/Industry) discussed the coordinated action with Save Our Shores and other local business to ban single-use plastic bags in the local area counties and the outreach she has undertaken for this project.

Barbara Emley (GFNMS Maritime Activities/Commercial) reported that fishing was mediocre.

George Clyde (GFNMS Maritime Activities/Recreation) discussed a project he is involved in to research historical Navy activity at Cordell Bank using the Freedom of Information Act process. MBNMS has a known hydrophone system at Point Sur lighthouse, and he is trying to contact folks in that area to learn the history of any diving in the late 60s and early 70s.

Tim Duff (GFNMS At-large San Francisco and San Mateo) commented on Bob Breen's memorial service. He also mentioned that the Devil's Slide tunnels are open. San Mateo County is developing information panels on old Hwy 1 that will be part of the California Coastal trail, one of those will be about the Sanctuary.

Valerie Termini (MBNMS CA Resources Agency) discussed the rapid assessment of selected state fisheries to use for marine stewardship council information and fishery improvement. Also, the Ocean Science Trust will have new science advisory council members in November.

Clare Waldmann (GFNMS CA Resources Agency) reported on the west coast ocean acidification and hypoxia panel, which provides state of the science synthesis to translate information to managers on the west coast. Another initiative is the launch of the California

coastal geoportal, with data layers to address state management needs. Both will go online next week.

Bob Wilson (GFNMS Conservation) reported on work in the Northern Management Area, including the Krill Club fundraising for the Sanctuary.

Dominique Richard (GFNMS At-large Marin and Sonoma) discussed outreach to the tourism industry and the collaboration with America's Cup and the Healthy Oceans Project (ACHOP). He encouraged members to visit the ACHOP website and sign the petitions for ocean protection. He also discussed the Environmental Action Committee of West Marin and the work they are doing to assess oil spill readiness.

Richard Charter (GFNMS Conservation) discussed off-shore fracking (hydraulic fracturing), and that much of the Purisima shale that extends from off the coast of Carmel northwards remains unprotected. Industry has been fracking offshore in Santa Barbara and Santa Maria without alerting the Coastal Commission – they are now looking into this. This is no longer a future issue; it needs to be addressed now.

Paul Michel (MBNMS Superintendent) reported that staff participated in an oil spill drill in which a simulated tanker spill occurred along the central coast. He reported that the drill was informative, and emphasized the local information and rich knowledge of the area by sanctuary staff was invaluable and impressive to spill drill organizers.

Maria Brown (GFNMS Superintendent) announced a town hall meeting in early September at Stinson Beach Community Center with the County of Marin and the National Park Service regarding the restoration of Bolinas Lagoon.

James Lindholm (MBNMS Research) reported on the discussion that Bob Warner and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Advisory Council Research Activities Panel have been having regarding the science in the National Condition Report. The issue is the use of expert information versus monitoring data and how they are presented, used and explained.

Steve Scheiblaue (MBNMS Harbors) discussed the draft fisheries community sustainability plan coming up.

Rich Hughett (MBNMS Recreational Fishing) encouraged everyone to log on to the Sanctuary Classic Fishing and Photo Contest website and vote on Monterey photos to help MBNMS compete with CINMS (who are currently getting the most votes). Rich has materials to distribute. He also mentioned the issues of lost fishing line in the Sanctuary.

Jackie Dragon (GFNMS Conservation) mentioned the Greenpeace ship that will be traveling down the west coast and arriving in San Francisco at the end of October. The crew typically hold an open house to share the ship with the community as an opportunity to meet the captain and crew and learn about Greenpeace. Jackie would like to partner with the sanctuary to promote and provide outreach on sanctuary expansion. The ship will also be stopping in Seattle.

LT Cody Dunagan (MB and GF USCG) works in the living marine resources (LMR) division, and he brought along Joe Giamaco who will be replacing Cody next year in Summer 2014.

Kathy Fosmark (MBNMS Commercial Fishing) discussed the high and markedly improved salmon returns in Klamath. The crab fishery was also better than expected. Albacore is going well, and the price is great. The water is very warm, bringing abundant wetfish and migratory species to the area. Kathy worked with the Office of Protected Resources to protect sperm whales, with a rule that applies to the drift gillnet fishery currently being written under NMFS Sustainable Fisheries Division.

Phil Sammet (MBNMS Diving) reported that this year has seen the largest young of year (YOY) rockfish recruitment in 25 years. He has also seen two blue sharks, and believes the ocean is very vibrant and healthy right now. He mentioned the diving newsletter, distributed by Brian Nelson, has a large readership and is a great source of communication with their constituency. The diving community has been without a functioning Hyperbaric Chamber, but along with the sanctuary program and the research community, they have been able to raise the needed funds. The chamber has now been operating since August 3. Other activities include the Santa Clara dive show and harbor clean-ups. Phil emphasized that the diving community are great volunteers, ready to pitch in when asked.

Jaime Jahncke (GFNMS Research) reported that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for mouse eradication on SE Farallon Island has been released and encouraged public comment. He also pointed out two of the Indicators developed for California that are of interest: Cassin's Auklets and ACCESS data. The local Climate Indicators project, led by Dr. Benet Duncan, is finalizing the working group report for the monitoring goals and strategies for each indicator. The final meeting for this working group is Aug 28 to finalize the plan, and the project will be complete by the end of September. Benet has started a new job with the Ocean Science Trust. Finally, Jaime reported on the latest ACCESS cruise – great observations of megafauna (50 whales during cruise), and a good cormorant and gull breeding year.

Rich Kuehn (GFNMS At-large Marin and Sonoma) reported on the monitoring of islands off of Sea Ranch – Murres are nesting there for the first time, and they will probably be there to stay. Interest in sanctuary expansion has remained very high, and he is happy to hear of the upcoming meeting in Gualala.

Paul Reilly (MBNMS CDFW) announced the new regional manager for CDFW's Marine Region (1 of 7 regions) is Dr. Craig Shuman. Dr. Shuman has a doctorate in Environmental Science from UCLA, lives in Santa Barbara and works out of that office. Paul also reported on a strong recruitment of Dungeness crab this year, which means the fishery should be great in four years. He has seen lots of molt on the beach as well as some live crabs, which indicates that YOY crabs are so populated, that some are brought to shore.

Dan Howard (CBNMS Superintendent) commented on the science concern regarding the National Condition Report and that it has been acknowledged that expert opinion is no replacement for quantitative monitoring – different people have read and interpreted the report

differently. He reported that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries needs to address the issue, though, that monitoring can't be overlooked and can't be replaced. James Lindholm added that CSUMB will hold a discussion October 10 in the afternoon to discuss this issue with graduate students.

Bruce Bowser (GFNMS Conservation) is working on a collaborative effort for a Marine Protected Areas (MPA) watch program to get citizen scientists involved.

Jim Moser (MBNMS Commercial Fishing) reported on a really good salmon season and that 90% of the feed in salmon stomachs was baby rockcod – there is a phenomenal biomass of rockcod out there, which is encouraging for hook and line fishing.

Kellyx Nelsen (GFNMS At-large San Francisco and San Mateo) reported on the completion of a seven-year study to find the source of fecal material in Pillar Point Harbor – within 1 or 2 weeks, this should be complete, and they can distribute the findings and recommendations. This is just one of many water quality efforts.

Steve Lindley (MBNMS NMFS) reported that the NMFS lab just completed a rockfish recruitment survey and found the highest recruitment in the history of this coast-wide survey. He also reported on a rigorous review of cowcod and that historically this fishery was considered overfished and not likely to recover. However, four new data input streams show cowcod stock will be rebuilt in six years.

Gary Hoffman (MBNMS At-large) commented that it was an excellent idea to have a joint meeting and that it is a great opportunity. He also reported on seeing killer whales right off of Point Lobos!

Susan Ashcraft (MBNMS CDFW) reported on the MPA guidebooks that cover each region – they have not been widely distributed, and they are just starting the process to start contacting tackle shops and sellers of fishing licenses. They are taking recommendations of where to distribute these. CDFW also just finished a draft of the North-central coast guide – if you are interested in reviewing, let Susan know. They also just finished a contract to spend 350k on signs along the entire state coast. Partners including Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation are being used to create 106 interpretive signs and over 100 basic regulatory signs to cover areas considered as high priority.

Karen Grimmer (MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator) reported for the Conservation seat, including a Conservation Working Group (CWG) report from their last meeting, and a discussion on bringing a proposed draft resolution for seismic activity to the next SAC meeting in October.

Sara Hutto (MBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator) reported for the Education seat on two working groups that are addressing Pacific Leatherback education for Grades 1-6 for schools here and in Indonesia, and Ocean Acidification activities for collaboration with other west coast sanctuaries. Lisa Uttal and Simona Bartl are also considering restructuring the Sanctuary Education Panel so that it functions more like a task-oriented working group.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Ashley Blakely (Oceana) spoke in support of Oceana's Essential Fish Habitat proposal to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

Scott Jarrett, local surfer, spoke in opposition to the Motorized Personal Watercraft rule and its effect on surfing.

Jackie Dragon (Greenpeace) spoke in support of Greenpeace's Essential Fish Habitat proposal to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

TJ Glanthier (San Mateo County Resource Conservation District) acknowledged the importance of the Agricultural Water Quality Alliance.

VII. INFORMATION ITEM: Agriculture Water Quality Alliance

Bridget Hoover, MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program Director, presented on the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance and MBNMS water quality programs. Her presentation is available at <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130821/agenda.html>.

Discussion: Kathy Fosmark asked how contaminants are removed and Bridget Hoover discussed the process of using vegetation to pull out sediment and particulates from the water. PJ Webb asked about how many volunteers are involved, and Bridget reported that around 50 – 200 participate in some of the events (first flush, kayakers) and that they are pivotal to this work. Paul added that there are 2 grants – Bridget referred to the Santaria Creek project and another planning grant (750k) – that demonstrate a complex effort as part of integrated regional water management program for greater Monterey County (Santa Cruz to Santa Barbara). Steve Scheiblaue recalled the Condition Report and asked if this program supplied data to that effort and Bridget confirmed yes. Bridget also discussed all of the grants that fund this work.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: Ship Strikes and Whales

Leslie Abramson, GFNMS Advisory Council Coordinator, provided a presentation on the issue of ship strikes on whales in the west coast sanctuaries. Her presentation is available at <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2013/130821/agenda.html>.

Discussion: There is a free download on iTunes for Spotter Pro – the whale spotting app discussed in this presentation. SAC members are encouraged to download and use the app! Leslie also stated that they are accepting donations for ipads and iphones to donate to FMSA to repurpose for use with the Spotter Pro app. Jim Moser asked about cell phone service and Leslie clarified that the app records the information and sends it when the user is back in range. Steve Scheiblaue asked about the recommended lane changes and if this was supported by shippers. Leslie responded that the shipping industry reps discussed this at length with the working group

and came to an agreement that they must have enough time to divert to a different lane, and it must not compromise navigational safety. The shippers would also have the option to stay in the lane and transit more slowly. There was some discussion of vessel speed, and a few questions regarding economic incentive for ships to slow and estimation of actual ship strike occurrence.

ADJOURN JOINT MEETING

MBNMS Attendance:

Agriculture: Kirk Schmidt	CA State Parks: Todd Lewis
AMBAG: Steve McShane – Absent	Conservation: Geoff Shester – Absent
At Large: Margaret “PJ” Webb	Diving: Phil Sammet
At Large: Cynthia Mathews – Absent	Education: Simona Bartl – Absent
At Large: James Panetta	Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
Business & Industry: Jessica Grigsby	Ports & Harbors: Steve Scheiblaue
CA Coastal Commission: Dan Carl – Absent	Recreation: Gary Pezzi
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly	Recreational Fishing: Rich Hughett
CA EPA: Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso	Research: James Lindholm
CA Resources Agency: Valerie Termini	Tourism: Robert Massaro

The following non-voting members were present as indicated:

Monterey Bay NMS – Paul Michel
 Gulf of the Farallones NMS – Maria Brown
 Channel Islands NMS – Chris Mobley – Absent
 Cordell Bank NMS – Dan Howard
 National Marine Fisheries Service – Steve Lindley
 US Coast Guard – LT Cody Dunagan

Alternates present in audience:

Kris Beal – Agriculture
 Gary Hoffman – At Large
 Dan Haifley – At Large
 Susan Ashcraft – CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
 Jim Moser – Commercial fishing
 Brian Nelson – Diving
 Barton Selby – Recreation
 Robert Chatham – Recreational Fishing
 John Hunt – Research

GFNMS Attendance:

NAME	SEAT	P/A
Dominique Richard [Council Chair]	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma	P
Richard Kuehn	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma-Alt	P
Kellyx Nelson	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo	P
Tim Duff	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo Alternate	P
Catherine Kuhlman	CA Ocean Protection Council	A
Clare Waldmann	CA OPC Alternate	P
Richard Charter [Council Vice-Chair]	Conservation	P
Bruce Bowser	Conservation Alternate	P
Bob Wilson	Conservation	P
Jackie Dragon	Conservation Alternate	P
Vacant	Education	
Vacant	Education Alternate	
Barbara Emley [Council Secretary]	Maritime Activities/ Commercial	P
Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate	P
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities/Recreational	P
George Clyde	Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate	P
John Largier	Research	A
Jaime Jahncke	Research Alternate	P
Cicely Muldoon	National Park Service	A
Frank Dean	National Park Service Alternate	A
Anne Morkill	USFWS	A
Gerry McChesney	USFWS Alternate	A
LT Cody Dunagan	USCG	P
LT Helen Crump	USCG Alternate	A
Pat Rutten	NMFS [non-voting]	A
Natalie-Constantino Manning	NMFS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Maria Brown	GFNMS [non-voting]	P
Chris Mobley	CINMS [non-voting]	A
Mike Murray	CINMS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Dan Howard	CBNMS [non-voting]	P
Michael Carver	CBNMS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Paul Michel	MBNMS [non-voting]	P
Karen Grimmer	MBNMS Alternate [non-voting]	P