

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**FINAL Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2014
Veterans Memorial Hall, Cambria, CA**

Agriculture: Kris Beal	CA State Parks: Brooke Gutierrez
AMBAG: absent	Conservation: absent
At Large: Margaret “PJ” Webb	Diving: Brian Nelson
At Large: Dan Haifley	Education: absent
At Large: Tucker Hirsch	Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
Business & Industry: Krista Hammond	Harbors: Steve Scheiblauber
CA Coastal Commission: absent	Recreation: Gary Pezzi
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Deb Wilson-Vandenberg	Recreational Fishing: Rich Hughett
CA EPA: Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso	Research: Dr. John Hunt
CA Resources Agency: Cyndi Dawson	Tourism: Mike Bekker

The following non-voting members were present as indicated:

Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel
LT Shannon Anthony – US Coast Guard

Alternates present in audience:

Barton Selby – Recreation
Cyndi Dawson – CA Resources Agency
Dawn Hayes – Monterey Bay NMS

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND MEETING MINUTES

Call to Order at 9:04AM

Brooke Gutierrez, Coastal Sector Superintendent, welcomed the council to Cambria/San Simeon. She spoke to the value of the partnership with the Sanctuary and noted the partnerships with the Coastal Discovery Center and Friends of the Elephant Seal.

New members Cyndi Dawson and LT Shannon Anthony were sworn in and introduced themselves. Shannon is a LMRA representing the USCG on all four CA advisory councils. Cyndi is the MPA Advisor of the OPC in Sacramento and is the alternate for the CA Resources Agency. She works with agencies, and stakeholders, both public and private for effective management of the state MPA network.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of August 22, 2014 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Edits suggested by Paul and Mariela were instituted.

John Hunt was not present at the August meeting.

MOTION: Mike Bekker moved and Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso seconded the approval of the minutes.

MOTION: (passed)

(Vote: 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

II. STANDING ITEM: SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Paul highlighted the issues and events the sanctuary has been experiencing. MBNMS cosponsored the first annual Monterey Bay Beach Sportsfest: Healthy Oceans Healthy People Expo. MBNMS staff assisted with various activities that took place at the event. About 250 athletes came from all over to participate, even one international participant. Bruckner Chase held one of his First Splash programs, which invites children to experience the ocean for the first time, getting them interested in swimming in the ocean and ocean conservation. Paul assisted the Village Project group from Seaside who were part of First Splash. Paul shared his personal experience with the visit of a juvenile great white shark during the event.

The Recreation and Tourism event in Monterey at the MOM was held in conjunction with the Sportsfest. There will be another event in Santa Cruz at the SEC on November 4th, support/attendance is encouraged. A Coral Triangle delegation made up of six nations visited for a week, travelling the CA sanctuaries. The Coral Triangle manages a 6M km² area and was interested in how the sanctuary is run. They have a center in Bali where the six countries have offices and collaborate on science, protection and education.

Desalinization projects, mentioned last meeting, are still a priority for staff. It was recognized that there is a desalinization project in Cambria, but it is completely contained outside of the sanctuary jurisdiction. There was a question if the sanctuary was doing socioeconomic studies to use as part of the branding effort underway. Paul clarified the Sanctuary is not assessing the market value of the branding effort, but is promoting the association of the marine sanctuary with businesses.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Jim Webb – Cambria resident

Local CCSD persists in making an ocean outfall in the Cambria State Marine Park and MBNMS an option in their new Emergency Water Project.

Mary Webb – Greenspace - the Cambria Land Trust

Request the highest standards of protection and enforcement of our Sanctuary waters especially as it relates to brine disposal and ocean outfalls in the Sanctuary and MPA waters.

Tina Dickason – Cambria resident

I am very concerned about desalination and ocean outfall in the MBNMS—it is becoming more evident with the Emergency Water Supply Project currently being built, that ocean outfall in Cambria is already being discussed.

IV. REGULAR ITEM: UPDATE ON CA STATE MPAs

Public Comments:

Jim Webb – Cambria Fishing Club

Year seven of tagging rockfish in central coast MPAs, which are in MBNMS.

Steve Pschaida – Commercial fisherman

There are already enough MLPAs.

Deb Wilson-Vandenberg reported

October 8th F&G Commission meeting adopted MPA central coast monitoring plan, the plan is laid out similar to the existing monitoring plans for other areas. Central coast monitoring survey (online) has information on the monitoring programs that are taking place and what species were being monitored – received over 55 responses. The results are on the MLPA interactive “Dashboard” (<http://tools.oceanspaces.org/dash#/welcome/monitoring-project>). The results will inform the development of any new monitoring that will occur. The CDFW Staff, in conjunction with others, is updating the master plan for MPAs. This should be about a year-long process. In response to the comments from the public, there is a lot of interest in using long term information on abundance inside/outside MPAs to assess stock assessment models for specific species – Black and Blue rockfish, which will occur through next spring, however, continued long term monitoring like this is also subject to funding.

An overview on the revisions that were made to regulations for central coast MPAs in the sanctuary– 1) in regards to regulations that list different species under different categories, the Pacific Bonito has now been added to the pelagic finfish category; 2) regulations on fishing gear in transit; spearfishing gear has to be unloaded when transiting the MPAs; 3) Specific changes related to species that are allowed/not in Greyhound Rock, Soquel Canyon, and Portuguese Ledge; 4) Name changes – Lovers Point State Marine Reserve, now Lover’s Point Julia Platt State Marine Reserve.

If you have materials you use to do outreach on state MPAs, please check with the CDFW to verify the changes and get updated materials. For the south coast, baseline monitoring project technical report is now in review for release in January 2015. Ocean Spaces is a web resource (<http://oceanspaces.org/>) for the numerous projects going on in relation to MPAs, and fishing regulations. This is a one-stop information source. All of the resources for the projects are public information. The department helped PISCO complete its annual MPA monitoring for the year. The department is working with partners to put signage in place at harbors for the public that give information on MPAs and she shared kiosk and signage draft designs. Pilot project is located in Half Moon Bay Pillar Point harbor near the launch ramp. Some ROV surveys are occurring on the north coast.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Advisory council questions consisted of tracking and monitoring logistics and funding for future monitoring programs. Deb Wilson-Vandenberg noted that the tracking and monitoring plans are multifaceted and were developed carefully. It will be important to look at the MPAs as a network and not individually. Because this program is ephemeral, funding will be year to year. Additional questions consisted of cycles for research, linkages with ASBS sites, transfer effects from fleet reductions, and enforcement. She also stated that cycle time for research is completely dependent upon the research questions being asked. For MPAs closely linked to ASBS sites, water quality data for the sites will be integrated in the monitoring data. In regards to enforcement, there was a meeting in Sacramento about enforcement and work with partners (NGOs and others). Clarification was needed on how the transfer effect with the establishment of the MPAs and decrease of the fleet would be taken into consideration with the assessments. Deb explained that because the MPAs were put in place after the fleet reduction, the transfer effect won't be much of the metric. Since base line work has not been done, it would be difficult to evaluate this effect.

V. INFORMATION ITEM: SOUTHERN REGION UPDATE

Carolyn Skinder, Southern Region Program Coordinator updated the council on the issues and programs in San Simeon, Cambria and Big Sur. She shared information in the Coastal Discovery Center, school and Discovery Saturday programs, outreach with partners at libraries, the mid-state fair and the Hearst Theater. This year MBNMS docents were able to participate in an exchange with the Olympic Coast NMS. They will send docents here in February 2015. She shared some of the research and permitting going on in the southern region. Citizen science in the region is thriving (plankton, water quality, intertidal and Beach COMBERS). The annual Sanctuary lecture series in spring is always a popular. The Law Enforcement Technical Advisory Committee is a key to cross agency cooperation on emergency response to issues like vessel groundings, pangas, and resource protection related to marine mammals (e.g. harassment). She also presented the future project opportunities MBNMS would like to take advantage of or find funding for in 2015.

VI. INFORMATION/ACTION ITEM: LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MARINE DEBRIS GRANT PROPOSAL

Council member Brian Nelson presented the concept for retrieval of lost crab pots in the sanctuary. There were a lot of comments and concerns by salmon fishermen about the crab pot entanglement issues and there was even a sailboat entangled which dragged one in. In speaking with commercial fishermen, some crab pots were dragged to deeper water (submerging buoys), buoys cut, entanglement resulting in lines being cut, etc. The lost crab pots have several sources. The new one pot per line regulation and some new inexpensive recreational pots may be contributing factors. The cut lines are not sinking to the bottom, but creating loops of poly line in the water column. The lines are difficult to see using the sonar on typical vessels. By changing the technique for searching, these pots and the attached lines became easier to detect. This pilot group was permitted to test deployment and recovery of "lost pots." Initial goal for this grant is to recover 200 systems. The grant request is for \$25,000 to pilot and test the process in hope of showing success for larger grant proposals. DM Diving, Inc. is the lead on the grant.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Advisory council questions consisted of who will retrieve lost crab pots, when it will take place, if the lead on the lines creates an issue for the environment, and why near shore traps aren't being

considered. Brian Nelson provided clarification that retrieval will be by commercial fishermen only in the pilot. He noted that a recreational person may not possess the appropriate gear and/or expertise that commercial crews would have. Retrievals are only being done in the off-season. In regards to environmental issues caused by the lead lines, Brian explained that no experts on water chemistry are currently available, this may too be an issue, but it is not the primary issue. For near shore traps, he stated that the highest concentration of lost pots and complaints are coming from deeper depths, not shallow waters.

Comments:

Overall this was well received and a lot of support was expressed in comments. Brian was commended for his work along with the project team. The salmon and crab fishermen seem to be in direct conflict, and the recreational folks on both sides would benefit from better outreach about the potential conflicts and gear loss.

MOTION: Dan Haifley made the motion, Kathy Fosmark seconded to approve the SAC Sign the proposed letter of support.

MOTION: passed

(Vote: 15 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions)

VII. INFORMATION ITEM: REPORT ON LEADERSHIP TEAM MEETING/SANCTUARY NOMINATION PROCESS

Public comments:

Fred Collins – Northern Chumash Tribal Council

Marine sanctuary designation process. NCTC supports a marine sanctuary in San Luis Obispo County along the coast from Monterey Marine Sanctuary to Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary.

Richard E.T. Sadowski – Morro Bay Citizen

Support for the marine sanctuary process.

Eric Endersby – City of Morro Bay

City of Morro Bay has concerns with sanctuary designation in local waters and looks forward to working with sanctuary proposal proponents to address City's concerns and issues.

Mary Webb – Greenspace-the Cambria Landtrust

We fully support this process and proposals to protect all of the ocean areas south of Cambria to Pt. Conception.

Amanda Rice – Cambrian

Support Sanctuary process.

The sanctuary Leadership Team (LT), comprised of superintendents and ONMS managers in the NMS System, met this year in Alpena, MI. Thunder Bay NMS finalized its expansion process and the LT assisted in celebrations. The site nomination process was a key issue covered in the meeting.

Paul shared the process of nomination. The first step requires that the community come together to develop a nomination. The next step is to submit the nomination to NOAA by the community via

email to sanctuary.nominations@noaa.gov or by mail to Director Basta. Subsequently, NOAA's initial review will take place. In this step, NOAA will look at whether or not the nomination contains enough information. If the proposal does not meet the [basic requirements](#), NOAA may decline it or send it back to the community for additional information. A nomination that meets the minimum requirements will be reviewed again. In the second review, NOAA will take a closer look at all of the factors that make the nominated location a potential candidate for sanctuary designation. NOAA will consider several other factors in this review such as, opportunities for marine research, education, partnerships, threats, etc. When a nomination passes the review phase, NOAA will notify the community that all the requirements have been met and the nomination has been accepted and placed in an inventory for potential future designation. Throughout the process, NOAA will be available to answer questions and provide guidance to nominating communities and other interested parties. NOAA will also update nominators on the progress of the agency's review of their nomination. Go to www.nominate.noaa.gov for the complete nomination process.

Paul shared the ONMSs new sanctuary video speaking to the importance of sanctuaries. This can be found at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>

Some members expressed excitement in the potential new process and specifically for the proposal for the Chumash NMS. There are some concerns by fishermen with new designations. There needs to be discussions with fishermen and tribes who may have some jurisdictional issues.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Advisory council questions consisted of budget and funding concerns for new sanctuaries, how Congress can comment on a nominated site, and Advisory Council support in the nomination process. Paul Michel explained that the hope is that new sites are more likely to bring in funds, whereas expansions will not. The nomination process assumes that management goals and budget questions will be answered at time of new designations. If NOAA doesn't want to designate a nominated location, Congress can override NOAA. There is typically a 45-day period for Congress to comment on any new designations. Sites are looking at a variety of sources for funding outside of DC (e.g. grants, donations, endowments). Furthermore, there are restrictions on the use of foundation funding. Funds cannot augment federal budgets for federal labor, rent, utilities, and inherently governmental operations. Programming and some contracted projects can be funded. Lastly, it is entirely appropriate for Advisory Councils to submit letters of support for new nominations. A final question was asked regarding sanctuaries in Alaska. Paul stated that none are designated at this time but there is some interest in the Pribiloff Islands, however that is just what we've heard from community members.

VIII. STANDING ITEM: WORKING GROUP UPDATES

Public Comments:

Mary Webb – Citizen of Cambria (written comment only)

Our region is experiencing unlimited, YEAR ROUND Tourism as opposed to seasonal tourism, which is negatively impacting water supplies as well as resources in general. We must be very careful NOT to “Love the Central Coast to DEATH.” Limits and careful oversight are needed. Need to be sure the stewardship programs are not just green washing.

Conservation: Next meeting is December 3rd. Inviting all SAC members to attend in order to help prioritize the topics the CWG is working on. A flier will be distributed to all. There will also be a search for a new alternate – announcement will come out in November.

Education: The SEP is merging somewhat with Monterey Bay Environmental Educators group and met on Tuesday, where Paul gave an overview of MBNMS' FY15 priorities. Simona has tendered her resignation and MBNMS will be recruiting for this seat in tandem with the Conservation Alternate seat.

Research: Congratulations to Dr. Steve Lonhart for being named as a research associate to UCSC and for his work on the SIMoN Website. The WQPP has done a tremendous job in monitoring sanctuary waters, ASBS minting, the work with the agriculture community and restoration at Santa Rita creek. The last meeting was hosted at the Sanctuary Exploration Center and John was able to share the WQ monitoring data and web based tools with decision-makers. It is no surprise, there is a problem of too much data coming in to make accessible to decision makers quickly. Save the date: Saturday, April 25 Currents Symposium, with a citizen science theme, located at CSU Monterey Bay. The RAP is considering the Ricketts award nominees. Recommend looking at the SESA web pages, this is a significant effort.

Recreation and Tourism: The period of the newsletter is being reconsidered once a month vs. just before SAC meetings, to keep information more timely and relevant. There is also a need to get more articles from the southern region. There are 559 emails on the list, but they are looking to keep increasing this. The click-rate for articles pertaining to events and what animals are migrating in the sanctuary at certain times is very high

IX. STANDING ITEM: ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS/ REPORTS

Krista: The SC Chamber is having a Your Sanctuary: Your Business event on Nov 4th 3:30 – 6:30 at the SEC. The Seaglass festival is happening Nov 8/9 8a-5p at the Coconut Grove again this year. Passes were made available to all. Proceeds from the gate fees are donated to the sanctuary.

Gary: Surfrider had a victory on Martin's Beach public access. The SC Chapter is looking to support a seawall near Jack O'Neill's property, and the Coastal Commission is considering this. The seawall is designed to minimize wave refraction. Went to Washington DC and recommends it as a must-do visit. He received a congressional tour through Sam Farr's office and he noted there was not an MBNMS map in his office.

PJ: with the vacancies on the SAC, please consider recruiting from your communities for the Education primary and Conservation alternate seats.

Brooke: Cambria Community Services District and Desalination two areas of concerns 1) Potential impact to creek 2) potential impact to campground. She mentioned the Realignment of Hwy 1 and accompanying Coastal trail.

Dan: Oct 9/10 had a visit from the government of El Salvador to learn about coastal planning from a group including John Laird and Mark Stone attended. They have a relatively undeveloped coastline and are looking at successful models.

Mariela: WQ Control amendments. Working with the trash amendment. Had public hearing on Aug 5. Received 76 letters and more than 700 comments and in process of response. The trash amendment was submitted to scientific peer review. The scientific community agreed with our proposed amendment. Another Water Quality Control Plan at the Ocean is the desalination facilities and brine discharge amendment, we had our public hearing on Aug 19. We received 27 comments letters and more than 700 comments. We are working with the City of Santa Barbara, which has delayed the schedule, but looking at potential adoption of the amendment in late spring. Implementation of the ASBS – resolution to grant general exceptions. The main objective of this implementation is to characterize the discharges into the ASBS. The state is divided into north, central and southern regions. The south almost completed their monitoring effort. The central and north are still in the collection of samples for the next wet season. Another project is the California Coastal Hazard Algae Bloom, cyanobacteria. Due to limited resources, the Cyanobacteria group meeting has been postponed, and should take place later in the year (Nov/Dec).

Brian: The dive newsletter went out and all SAC members have been added to the list. The list is growing by almost 100 per issue and now totals 2219. The “Chocolate Abalone” dive is looking like it may happen again this year (conservation event). The last newsletter poll results suggested readers supported expansion and designation of new sanctuaries. The hyperbaric chamber funding question has been answered.

Mike: Tourism is doing well. Pacific Grove HS produced a very good brochure that he will share with MBNS staff; these students may be good internship material. There was a big issue back in 1985 during the last big drought and there was a definite business vs. residents dynamic, which is mirrored today. Awards for service were presented to outstanding citizens. The SAC should consider hosting a fundraiser for the MBNMS. Please vote.

Steve: The City of Monterey hosted the Beach Festival, it was well received and has a huge potential to grow and become a big event. He had a visit to Croatia on a Sister City exchange and they were very interested in Monterey’s agreement process with individual cruise ship captains, as they have up to 5 ships in port per day.

Rich: Thanked PJ for hosting the gathering on Thursday night. He mentioned Marine Life Studies group and their great brochures. Rich will be printing more for next year, but there are some for everyone to take for distribution. The San Clemente Dam which is the largest dam removal effort in CA, is offering tours of the site, please see Rich to do the tour.

Bart: Summer is winding down and surf season is up. He is on the Team OCEAN/BayNet team to raise funds, so will be taking Mike up on his suggestion re: fundraising.

X. ACTION ITEM: ADVISORY COUNCIL STATEMENT ON NOISE IN THE SANCTUARY

Public Comments:

Mary Webb – Greenspace

Support highest levels of protection for our area from the cumulative, negative impacts of seismic testing and underwater noise.

PJ brought this statement to the Advisory Council on behalf of Geoff Schester and the CWG. Karen updated the ONMSs effort to characterize sound in the sanctuaries. A proposal is going to Dan Basta seeking PAC funding in support of the equipment needed to begin the research and monitoring.

Discussion:

The RAP has 3 points.

- 1) There was a lot of pushback on a blanket ban.
- 2) There is not a lot of acoustics expertise on the panel and some thought has considered adding an expert.
- 3) This is an area that needs funding. There are numerous research needs already identified in the management plan. Would this jump to the front of the line?

With this in mind, the RAP does support the statement. If it does appear like the program has funding for research, there should be some prioritization effort taken with the long list existing research needs.

With what we have heard and seen about the issue, there should be support of this statement. There will be more and more seismic and acoustic issues coming up in the future and we need to understand the soundscape of the ocean. Suggestions were made to add the element of understanding. It is a little premature to make this statement prior to the public process of the management plan review. Paul disagreed.

The statement was modified by friendly amendment.

MOTION: Brian Nelson made the motion, Gary Pezzi seconded to approve the noise statement by the Advisory Council to the Sanctuary.

MOTION: (passed)

(Vote: 13 Yes 0 No 0 Abstentions)

XI. INFORMATION ITEM: PIEDRAS BLANCAS MONUMENT INITIATIVE

Public Comments:

Fred Collins – NCTC

Monument, we support!

Donovan Marley presented background on the PBMI. This is a grass roots effort between Friends of the Elephant Seal and the Piedras Blancas Light Station Association, supporting the PB Outstanding Natural Area. PBONA holds a federal “protected area” designation and is administered by BLM and includes 444 acres. Jointly managed by BLM and CA State Department of Parks and Rec. The Hwy 1 realignment will result in an additional sliver of land joining this ONA to make 476 acres. Why change this current designation? There are not funds available to accommodate the needs for trails, vista points and signage. These infrastructure elements are needed to accommodate the very large

number of people who use the area. With no controls in place, people are trampling vegetation, creating trails (which promote erosion) and interacting with the elephant seals in addition to putting themselves in potentially unsafe conditions on the bluffs. There is a need for federal and state agencies to construct adequate trails and provide informational signage. He shared the tremendous growth of the elephant seal rookery here will only create more issues with human interaction. The monument designation will make it easier to fill the gaps between state and federal budgets to create a safe, managed and well preserved protected area.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Advisory council questioned if there was a pre-European Elephant-seal population estimation. Donovan Marley explained that there is no record of Elephant seals in these land-based colonies; it is assumed that Grizzly bears were the main reason.

Suggestion:

Consider asking for assistance from the Navy.

Next meeting is Dec 12th in Monterey area.