

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Final Meeting Minutes

April 21, 2016

USGS – Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center, Santa Cruz

VOTING MEMBERS

- | | |
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| Agriculture: Kirk Schmidt | CA State Parks: absent |
| AMBAG: Ed Smith | Conservation: Letise LaFeir |
| At Large: Dan Haifley | Diving: Brian Nelson |
| At Large: Jimmy Panetta | Education: Tucker Hirsch |
| At Large: PJ Webb | Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark |
| Business & Industry: absent | Harbors: Steve Scheiblaue |
| CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove | Recreation: Gary Pezzi |
| CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly | Recreational Fishing: absent |
| CA EPA: Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso | Research: John Hunt |
| CA Resources Agency: absent | Tourism: Mike Bekker |

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- Channel Islands NMS: absent
- Cordell Banks NMS: absent
- Elkhorn Slough NERR: absent
- Greater Farallones NMS: Maria Brown
- Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel
- National Marine Fisheries Service: Steven Lindley
- U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Steve Dross

Alternates present in audience:

- Gary Hoffmann: At-Large
- Jim Moser: Commercial Fishing
- Bart Selby: Recreation
- Dawn Hayes: MBNMS

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

Call to order 9:10AM

Curt Storlazzi welcomed the MBNMS Advisory Council (AC) to the USGS – Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center. This USGS facility focuses primarily on science support for the nation. Examples of areas of study include environmental hazards, coastal change and ecosystem science. The USGS Pacific Coastal and Marine Science Center has the pleasure of working with MBNMS to provide information on sanctuary tsunami hazards, coastal change and ecosystem science such as potential impacts of trawling.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of February 19, 2016 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Dan H, Brian N seconded.

(Vote: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)

II. STANDING ITEM: SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**MBNMS Superintendent's Report:**

MBNMS Staff has been immersed in Management Plan Review (MPR). Staff is reviewing all of the current action plans and preparing for the next steps of MPR. Staff is also very busy with the topic of desalination. There are now three desalination projects: CalAm, Deepwater Desal and People's Project.

The Water Quality Memorandum of Agreement has been signed by all parties.

In February an oil leak was reported at McAbee Beach in Monterey. The source was bunker fuel used while the canneries were in operation. MBNMS worked with Cannery Row Company, City of Monterey, USCG and CDFW for a quick and successful response in removing the bunker fuel and contaminated sediments.

MBNMS has been working on updating exhibits at the Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC) and Coastal Discovery Center with the remaining available funds. It would be a great opportunity to use the SEC facilities for Management Plan Review workshops. It is a great facility and would give people an opportunity to see SEC.

There will be a reception at the SEC Plaza on June 3rd. It will give the public a chance to experience the new SEC exhibits. The City of Santa Cruz and MBNMS will also be honoring Congressman Sam Farr at the event.

Paul introduced Kristen Hart. She is a new intern that will be helping with Management Plan Review projects over the summer.

GFNMS Superintendent's Report:

The GFNMS AC reviewed MBNMS MPR scoping comments and took action on issues they felt are important for MBNMS to address. The first action included recommendations for MBNMS to articulate a definition of beneficial reuse of clean dredge materials from harbor or other appropriate materials from other sources at the San Mateo Surfer's Beach site. GFNMS AC urges an expeditious response because of community concern. This action was passed with no abstentions or nays. Bill Douros, Paul Michel and Maria Brown have already started discussing this action.

The second action included recommendations to maintain the existing permitting process regarding seabirds and discharge regulations for chumming for seabirds. This action passed with no abstentions or nays. There was a workshop two weeks ago regarding seabirds in sanctuaries because it affects GFNMS, MBNMS and CBNMS. Current regulations, permitting processes and research were presented and discussed.

The third action included recommendations to proceed with an open, transparent National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to address the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion area and closure of the Donut Hole. This action passed with no abstentions or nays.

The last action included recommendations for GFNMS to continue priority training of public safety for motorized personal watercrafts (MPWC), have the MBNMS sub-committee present outcomes to GFNMS AC and discuss public usage. This action passed with no abstentions or nays.

The climate adaptation working group presented eighty-one strategies at the last GFNMS AC meeting. The GFNMS AC was able to reduce that to seventy-eight strategies to be forwarded to GFNMS Staff. GFNMS Staff is now reviewing those strategies.

Sara Hutto will be providing climate change vulnerability training for the GFNMS AC and the training is open to MBNMS AC members.

The GFNMS Beach Watch program monitors Año Nuevo to Point Arena. The program's biggest finding this year is a 320% increase in die off of Cassin's Aucklets. In the past five years there has been a significant increase of Cassin's Aucklet, Common Murre, Guadalupe Fur Seal and Northern Fur Seal deaths. These findings are dated before the start of this year's El Niño. It is predicted die off numbers will continue to increase.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

There was discussion to clarify the definition of clean dredge materials. It was also clarified that GFNMS manages the northern area of MBNMS from San Mateo County to Marin County. GFNMS AC wants to know the best way to provide input to MBNMS on issues in this northern management area for the Management Plan Review. It was requested to schedule a presentation at a future MBNMS AC meeting to understand GFNMS issues and input. It was also suggested to look into having an MBNMS Advisory Council seat for United States Army Corps of Engineers.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

IV. ACTION ITEM: CEMEX SAND MINE LETTER -

Karen Grimmer gave a brief update on MBNMS's involvement with the CEMEX sand mine. MBNMS is working with ONMS Headquarters and General Council. Deliberation of jurisdiction is still being reviewed. There may be more information to share at the June MBNMS AC meeting.

Tami Grove also gave a brief update on California Coastal Commission's (CCC) involvement with this issue. CCC issued a Notice of Intent for a cease and desist order. CCC is not able to share more information at this time except that CEMEX requested an extension to respond.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

There was discussion to clarify how the CEMEX sand mine operates, CEMEX's current stance and the difference between MBNMS and CCC jurisdiction and questions regarding the sand mine issue.

Public comment

Kathy Biala – Resident of Marina, CA

Appreciation for action taken today.

PJ Webb introduced the motion to send a request letter to John Armor, ONMS Acting Director, to look into the legal and jurisdictional issues regarding the CEMEX sand mine.

MOTION: Steve Scheiblauer, Kirk Schmidt seconded.

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

V. STANDING ITEM: WORKING GROUP UPDATES**Conservation Working Group**

There has been exchange between CWG members regarding rail transport of oil (by Philips 66) through Elkhorn Slough. CWG is hoping MBNMS AC will weigh in. Also, CWG is looking forward to the Conservation primary member being confirmed.

Sanctuary Education Panel

Amity Sandage and Tucker Hirsch had an information sharing meeting with the MBNMS Staff regarding the history and present state of the Fishermen in the Classroom program. A meeting is scheduled for May 11th with Rich Hughett (potential funding) and Kathy Fosmark (connection to the fishermen) to discuss moving forward with it.

The outcome of that meeting may result in a request to the SEP members. Tucker would like to get the email list of former SEP members and start at least a quarterly email to them. The next SEP meeting is scheduled for May 25th.

Research Activity Panel

The RAP received a presentation from Erica Burton on the *Bell M. Shimada* research cruise. Most SAC members are familiar with this significant staff effort. Fascinating images of fish collected on the cruise can be found on the sanctuary's SIMoN website:

(http://www.sanctuarysimon.org/photos/photo_search.php?search=kw&keywordSearchTerm=NOAA+Ship+Bell+M.+Shimada).

Scientists on the cruise also conducted water sampling for radionuclide analysis in association with Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and Save the Earth Foundation. None of the seven water samples collected had detectable amounts of Cesium-134 from the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster, but Cesium-134 has been detected at sample sites moving west across the Pacific towards Japan. Results can be viewed on WHOI's website:

<http://ourradioactiveocean.org/results.html>

Jennifer Brown of MBNMS gave an invited presentation on sanctuary monitoring, entitled "How They Fit Together: SIMoN, MBON, IEA, Condition Report, and the RAP." The RAP has discussed the importance of long-term monitoring to provide the informational basis for management of sanctuary resources. MBNMS currently participates in a number of programs related to monitoring and assessment. The Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) tracks monitoring in individual habitats. The sanctuary Condition Reports use monitoring information and expert opinion to assess ecosystem health. NOAA's California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA) is helping to identify standard indicators of resource condition. The Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) is gathering data to provide near-real-time status and trends assessments.

The RAP is interested in using these and partner monitoring programs, such as PISCO and CENCOOS, as coordinating platforms to reinvigorate communication that aligns MBNMS information needs with research community projects that address those needs. Coordination and

participation in long-term ecosystem monitoring is a possible focal point for the MBNMS research program and its Action Plans going forward. Long-term monitoring creates a programmatic and informational framework to support short-term investigations needed for time-sensitive sanctuary management decisions. The RAP will continue to pursue this discussion at its next and subsequent meetings.

The RAP also discussed the continuing importance of serving as subject advisors on specific resource management issues.

Recreation and Tourism Subcommittee

The RATS newsletter is out. The RATS received a request from Cannery Row Co. to include events on Cannery Row in the Monterey section. Brian Nelson will include Carmel and Capitola with Cannery Row as a group of three in the newsletter. The dive newsletter has a higher open/click rate than the RATS newsletter. The RATS newsletter needs more entertainment such as embedded videos. Brian asked the AC to forward one email address of a business owner that can be added to the RATS newsletter email group.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

There was a brief discussion on the status of the Friends of the Sanctuary program. Discussion needs to happen within the Advisory Council. RATS anticipates presenting the Friends of the Sanctuary program proposal to the Advisory Council by the end of the year.

Overflight Working Group (GFNMS)

Two meetings have been held to date, both in San Francisco. The next meeting will be held during the week of April 25th in San Francisco.

The goals of the working group are to: 1) involving all stakeholders; 2) understand the current legal requirements for aircraft (drones are considered to be aircraft) operation over specific sensitive marine wildlife habitats; and 3) determine if these requirements are adequate or should be modified in the sanctuaries from San Mateo to Sonoma counties.

The group includes commercial aviators, Cal Pilot's association members, experts in wildlife, NPS scientists and members of the SAC from Farallones. Bart Selby is on the group as the liaison from MBNMS.

To date the group has worked to develop/improve our group knowledge of

- Current FAA regulations and recommendations.
- Current science of wildlife disruption by aircraft and human activity, both marine mammals and birds (update by Gerry McChesney and Sarah Allen)
- Local history of disturbance hot spots and specific outreach efforts to work with pilots, specifically the excellent work of the Seabird Protection Network.

We have started to review the sites by county. The working group will continue the review at the next meeting and begin to plan the outreach efforts for each of the counties, as well as how we do the meetings with the public.

The working group has also discussed drones, which for the sanctuaries are classified as aircraft. This means the rules are no take, and there are specific zones in which no aircraft can be under 1,000'. For MB the two important zones are a semicircle about 7 miles in diameter extending into the bay and centered on Moss Landing, and another around Pt. Lobos.

VI. STANDING ITEM: MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brian Nelson, Diving member: This month we have been struggling for the weather windows for diving. The wind has made it difficult to go further out. Spring usually has its windy days, but this year it has been coming from all directions. The Dive newsletter is out and hopefully we continue the email growth pattern. The big dive event this year will once again be the Monterey Shootout sponsored by Backscatter Photography and many other organizations in August. With El Nino we normally have a dive season where many different species are noted which are uncommon to the area.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: Have the reader/subscriber numbers continued to grow?

A: The Diver newsletter readership continues to grow but the RATS newsletter readership has plateaued.

Steve Scheiblaue, Harbors member: City of Monterey concluded dredge operations for the year. They were not able to do as much beach nourishment this year. Weather played a part in making beach nourishment difficult. A diver clean up event is scheduled for Saturday, April 23rd. Volunteer divers help clean up marine debris around the harbor and Commercial Wharf #2. MBNMS and GFNMS groundfish proposals have been discussed among the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Two proposals are moving forward: Oceana and Natural Resources Defense Council Proposal and Collaborative Proposal. The Collaborative Proposal includes the intact MBNMS and GFNMS proposals.

Kathy Fosmark, Commercial Fishing member: A California State Senate Bill, SB 1114, has been submitted. The bill would ban drift gillnet gear and would be replaced by deep-set buoy gear. This bill would primarily affect California as the drift gillnet fishery is a California-based fishery.

Ed Smith, AMBAG member: Cities around the peninsula are busy with roadway and sewage work. Monterey is finishing mitigation of sewer line work. Measure P in Monterey has allowed a great deal of work in Monterey on the conference center and roads. City of Monterey City Council approved an \$8 million project for a roundabout at the leading edge of Carmel Hill (Holman Highway) over to Pacific Grove. The roundabout construction should be completed by March 2017.

Kirk Schmidt, Agriculture member: There was an Agriculture Water Quality Alliance meeting on April 20th. Nitrate bio reactors were the main topic of the meeting. There were presentations by Dr. Tim Hartz from UC Davis and Dr. John Skardon from CSUMB.

Mike Bekker, Tourism member: The new hotel in development at the Tin Cannery site is projected to have 220 guest rooms, a museum and an art gallery. The present restaurants will remain at their current site. Cannery Row Company has been dealing with abandoned filtration systems on sidewalks. There have been three flood outs because of contractors leaving equipment. Lastly, over Spring

Break the face recognition equipment setup on Cannery Row counted an average of 15,000 people on one side of street in one day, 21,000 was the highest in one day on one side of street.

Gary Pezzi, Recreation member: The 32nd Annual Santa Cruz Longboard Union Surf Contest will be held at Steamer's Lane Memorial Day weekend. There will be booths, food and fun surfing competition. A fundraising event to benefit Surfrider Foundation Santa Cruz Chapter will be held at Moe's Alley in Santa Cruz the evening of Friday, April 22nd. The psychedelic surf group, The Mermen, will be performing. Surfrider Foundation Santa Cruz Chapter also coordinates public monthly beach cleanups on the first Saturday of each month. Check the Surfrider Foundation website for location and time (<https://santacruz.surfrider.org/>). The Surfrider Foundation Monterey Chapter has been following directly the development of the 'Eco Resort' along the dunes in Seaside. They had voiced concerns for habitat and were looking for opinions from CA Fish & Wildlife on impacts. It is a development that the SAC really hasn't touched on and it might be something for future SAC discussions.

Jim Moser, Commercial Fishing alternate: Santa Cruz Harbor was partially closed most of the winter due to large swell events, dredge breakdowns and possibly poor management of dredge operations. The US Coast Guard officially closed the harbor with high fine for crossing the bar, due to a miscommunication between them and the harbor. This happened one week before a delayed crab season was scheduled to open so it created a lot of stress and finger pointing on the docks but it did get opened before the season opened. The crab season started late and the salmon season is only going to be open for the months of May and June south of Pigeon Point. There will be many crab pots still in the ocean making salmon fishing challenging to say the least. The Pacific Fishery Management Council has created this gear conflict that neither fishery is happy with but the Council has shown again that by not adjusting our season it has no concern of the safety or survival of our business.

Bart Selby, Recreation alternate: There have been large numbers of wildlife around. Herring, sea lions and pelicans are being seen in San Francisco Bay. Bart was on a whale watch boat on April 17th and observed seventeen orcas feasting on gray whale. In the summer months Bart would like to work with MBNMS to communicate with excited people who want to interact with whales.

Gary Hoffman, At-Large alternate: Gary's wife observed a man flying a drone along the Hopkins Marine Station beach. Hopkins Beach is a common birthing place for harbor seals. She called Pacific Grove Police who stated it was not a problem because it is not pupping season. She was referred to Animal Control. Animal Control also stated it wasn't a problem because it is not pupping season. The Pacific Grove Police ultimately responded to the call and talked to the man flying the drone. Flying drones over Hopkins Beach is a problem even when it is not pupping season.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Paul Michel urged people to call NOAA hotline to report these incidents. NOAA may not be able to respond but it gets logged and helps relay the need and urgency of OLE warden response.

Continuation of Member Updates

Letise LaFeir, Conservation alternate: There are two state bills meant to support implementation of the West Coast Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel recommendations. One is Senate Bill 1363 introduced by Sen. Bill Monning; the other is Assembly Bill 2139 introduced by Asm. Das Williams.

Plastic pollution is a priority conservation goal. We're working to uphold the statewide plastic bag ban law when it comes up for a referendum vote in November. We're also interested in CA implementation of the newly approved statewide TMDL (trash maximum daily load). We're planning to support (and now have since the AC meeting) Senate Bill 1287 to launch a program to retrieve lost or abandoned crab traps, which are a source of marine debris.

The new Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA) Director of Science, Kyle Van Houtan, started in March. He previously worked for NOAA in Hawaii. We hope he can engage the AC or RAP at some point in the near future.

MBA changed their mission statement to "inspire conservation of the ocean" singular to better align with our conservation work and emphasize that there is one ocean. We did a soft rollout only at this point.

Copies of the Big Blue Live highlights DVD were given to every CA legislative office as part of our Ocean Day California celebration in March. We included a cover note that mentioned the importance of MBNMS.

Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, CA EPA member: **Water Quality Control Policy on the use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once Through Cooling Policy)** - The Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Policy requires owners or operators of existing power plants to implement measures to mitigate interim impingement and entrainment impacts resulting from their cooling water intake structures. The interim mitigation period commenced on October 1, 2015 and continues up to and until owners or operators achieve their final compliance deadlines as outlined in the OTC Policy. On August 18, 2015, the State Water Board adopted a Resolution 2015- 0057 that delegates authority to the Executive Director to approve OTC mitigation measures on a case-by-case basis. The interim mitigation fee calculation comprises an entrainment fee, an impingement fee, and a management and monitoring fee. On March 1, 2016, the State Water Board posted the final determination to approve mitigation measures for El Segundo Generating Station to comply with the OTC Policy.

Another activity under the OTC Policy is the report of the Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intakes Structures (SACCWIS). The OTC Policy requires the SACCWIS to advise the State Water Board on whether the Policy's compliance schedule takes into account the reliability of California's electricity supply. The Draft SACCWIS Report was approved by the SACCWIS members on April 18, 2016. At this time SACCWIS does not anticipate or recommend a change to the final compliance schedule in the OTC Policy. The Report will be presented to the Water Board as informational item by summer 2016.

California Ocean Plan Amendment to address Desalination Facilities and Brine Disposal Implementation Phase - As directed in Resolution 2015-0033, adopted May 6, 2015, State Water Board staff is collaborating with the regional water boards, California Coastal Commission, California State Lands Commission, and other agencies involved in the permitting of seawater desalination facilities to better coordinate the agency review and permitting processes and ensure new and expanded desalination facilities are in compliance with the Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California Addressing Desalination Facility Intakes, Discharges, and the Incorporation of Other Non-substantive Changes (Desalination Amendment). Office of Administrative Law approved the Ocean Plan Amendment on January 28, 2016. US.EPA approved

the California Ocean Plan Amendment on Desalination Facilities and brine discharges on April 7, 2016.

In February 2016, State Water Board staff initiated a formal consultation process with Santa Ana Regional Water Board staff and the California Coastal Commission to review plans for the proposed Poseidon Huntington Beach Desalination Facility. State Water Board staff is also working with San Diego Regional Water Board staff to review the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit renewal application for the Poseidon Carlsbad Desalination Project.

State Water Board staff is also collaborating with the Central Coast Regional Water Board, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and California State Lands Commission regarding the proposed DeepWater Desal Monterey Bay Regional Water Project in Moss Landing. Staff anticipates the collaborative interagency efforts to increase this summer.

CCHAB - The California Cyanobacteria and Harmful Algal Bloom (CCHAB) Network was first established in 2006 former known as the Statewide Blue-Green Algae Working Group. The name was changed on 2012 to CCHAB. The main objective of this group is to develop a statewide framework to address cyanoHABs in California's freshwater and marine ecosystems. Currently, there are no federal or state standards for cyanotoxins in drinking water and recreational waters.

Participating agencies – State Water Board, OEHHA, and Department of Public Health (CDPH) - have developed and are further refining suggested guidelines for addressing health concerns for cyanotoxins in recreation waters. The CDPH, county health departments, and water body managers are encouraged to use this guidance for posting of water bodies when cyanoHABs pose a health threat. This guidance was proposed on 2010 and currently the group is working on update this voluntary guidance document. The 2016 updates include revised action triggers, an appendix to explain the action triggers, example signage and a decision tree with an associated narrative. The group is continuing to work on revising the remainder of the voluntary guidance document. These items were presented to the Water Monitoring Council for their comments and direction on February 23, 2016. They are now posted on the web page.

http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/monitoring_council/cyanohab_network/index.shtml

For additional information visit the My Water Quality Webpage at

<http://www.mywaterquality.ca.gov/>. The CCHAB Network is found under the workgroups of the Water Quality Monitoring Council.

Paul Michel, MBNMS member: The Get Into Your Sanctuary event is scheduled for June 25th at SEC Plaza. There will be kayak, standup paddleboard, surfing and whale watch vendors in plaza. The public will be able to sign up for whale watching and fishing trips and learn about wildlife viewing etiquette. There will also be a chance to view a live broadcast of the R/V Nautilus. This program will begin with a presentation of research highlights by MBNMS scientists and follow by an opportunity for the public to have real-time conversations with scientists on board the R/V Nautilus.

PJ Webb, At-Large member: On April 28th, Dr. John Pearse, the very man who started LiMPETS in 2002, will be coming down to San Simeon for a LIMPETS training. (Long Term Monitoring and Experiential Training for Students). John is a legend in the marine biology world, and wrote the books on invertebrates and invertebrate ecology we all read as students. We are fortunate to have him with us!

Snapshot Day is coming May 7th – volunteers take water samples and field measurements in many locations for a snapshot of water quality

Cemex Sand Mining - CEMEX Sand Mining

There is a Sea Grant proposal for a project that will use computer models incorporating alternative approaches to risk measurement to examine the costs and benefits of responses in the high erosion area of Southern Monterey Bay. Benefit-cost studies have begun to demonstrate the economic advantages of adaptation strategies with lower environmental impact, but such studies depend on a narrow range of scenarios to test for unknown parameters and may not be sufficient to motivate action without more complete risk assessments. The principal investigator is Dr. Charles Colgan, Director of Research at Middlebury Institute of International Studies in Monterey. The SAC may want to consider a letter of support for this.

National Chairs' Conference Call

After the National Chairs Summit, we all discussed how helpful it would be to continue the conversations we started at the meeting so a periodic conference call will be held.

The purpose of the conversation is to:

- Discuss the current status of each council
- Address any issue or concern
- Ask a question of or respond to the ONMS Director or other advisory council chair: Or
- Present a project or topic for future consideration

General comments – several SACs are reviewing charters/protocol, considering adding seats, Some have trouble having a quorum to do business while some are considering expanding

Sustainable energy projects – can be done in a sanctuary, working towards clearer policy

Climate change is a common focus – want more guidance in communicating connection

Between sanctuaries and climate change – The ONMS is working on a one page piece on what the sanctuary can do with climate change

ONMS is working on their new strategic plan

For MBNMS, I shared the

- Management Plan Review process including public scoping/staff recommendations and the SAC involvement, Prioritization Exercises
- Challenges with storms, high tides, El Nino and the coastal impacts from climate change and sanding mining
- Unusual Mortality Events of wildlife species this year
- Outreach to recreation and tourism businesses through Newsletter (sent to the chairs)

There were assorted concerns amongst the sanctuary advisory councils:

Climate change is a priority, lack of ROV time, ocean acidification, whale alerts, low overflight drones in estuaries, a marine shipping working group, NOAA law enforcement, artificial habitat is a hot issue, naval acoustic testing, Canadian Oil pipelines and deep water ports, ocean acidification sentinel site designation, issues with the co-management focus not in support of ecosystem based management, seeking sanctuary status because as a designated national marine monument they cannot address fines, or do environmental assessments

Discussion on lobbying – as a body, SACs cannot lobby, but as an individual, members of the SAC can lobby, considering developing a friends of the sanctuary to do lobbying

Maria Brown, GFNMS member: The R/V Nautilus will be conducting an exploratory cruise to the USS Independence with Bob Ballard in August sometime between the 15th and 30th. It will be live broadcasted to the Exploratorium.

Tucker Hirsch, Education member: no new announcements

Steve Lindley, NMFS member: NMFS SWFSC has released its Western Regional Action Plan (WRAP) for public comment (due May 30). The WRAP is a 5-year plan for the production, delivery and use of climate information to support the NMFS mission. It represents the regional interpretation of the NMFS National Climate Science Strategy. The WRAP can be found at <https://www.st.nmfs.noaa.gov/ecosystems/climate/rap/western-regional-action-plan>.

Dan Haifley, At-Large member: O'Neill Sea Odyssey's 20th anniversary celebration will be Saturday, September 17, 6-10 PM, Seymour Marine Discovery Center, Santa Cruz.

John Hunt, Research alternate: no new announcements

Paul Reilly, CDFW member: Recreational salmon fishing opened in central California on April 2. CDFW samplers interviewed 76 boats targeting salmon at Moss Landing launch ramp that day and only 12 king salmon were observed (0.16 per boat). Fishing was a little better the next day out of Monterey harbor; 13 boats were interviewed and 13 salmon were observed (1.0 per boat). However, from April 5 to April 10, in Monterey Bay, 62 boats were interviewed with 14 salmon total (0.23 per boat). As a per-angler summary, from April 2 to April 10, 387 salmon anglers were interviewed in the Monterey Bay area, with 40 salmon kept (0.10 per angler). However, on April 17, anglers interviewed at Moss Landing fared better on average than the previous week; 58 anglers on 27 boats caught 40 salmon (1.5 per boat and 0.69 per angler).

The commercial salmon fishery south of Pigeon Point will be open May 1 to June 30, with a 27-inch minimum size limit.

Recreational rockfish opened April 1, 1 month earlier than last year. Anglers generally have been doing well; the lingcod bag limit was increased to three fish per day, last year it was two fish per day. Commercial Dungeness crab season opened in central California on March 26. Crab quality was considered good, with many crab exceeding 2 pounds. However, catch rates were low enough that many of the larger boats left the area after the first week.

At last week's Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting, it was decided that the sardine fishery will remain closed for another year (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) but there will continue to be an allowance for incidental take in other directed coastal pelagic species fisheries.

VII. INFORMATION ITEM: MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Dawn Hayes gave a brief presentation on the Management Plan Review and AC's input process. MBNMS Staff used MBNMS AC input and ranking of public scoping issues and applied a developed criteria matrix to each issue. MBNMS Staff used the criteria to rank each issue topic and make recommendations to the AC regarding their input methods. The input methods included: working groups, council workshops, outside workshops, staff to address, items on hold pending additional action. Staff will consider AC advice or input methods and confirm at the June AC meeting.

Recommended Working Groups:

MBNMS Staff recommended that the topics of wildlife disturbance by recreators, wildlife disturbance by ocean noise and sustainable program funding be considered as working groups.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: Why is fishing industry not a working group?

A: The comments we received were from recreators.

Q: Why are boat lanes and boat strikes not on this list?

A: These issues are based on public comment.

Q: Why is wildlife disturbance by entanglement not a suggested working group?

A: We propose having a workshop to inform AC of this issue.

Q: This list is of public scoping comments. What about the staff issues?

A: There will be an opportunity to review those as well after staff finishes working through those issues.

Q: Can you explain the additional working group for Sustainable Program Funding?

A: Yes, we want to figure out how we can have strategic vision to create sustainable funding for our programs: citizen science, education, etc.

Q: Where will the funding go? To Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation?

A: That is what needs to be discussed. We hope elements of the Management Plan would explain that.

A motion was made to agree with MBNMS Staff to move forward with working groups for wildlife disturbance by recreators and wildlife disturbance by ocean noise. The motion moved to create a working group for sustainable program funding outside of the Management Plan Review process.

MOTION: Steve Scheiblauber, Tucker Hirsch seconded.

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention)

Recommended Council Workshops:

MBNMS Staff recommended beach nourishment 1) sediment management; 2) beach nourishment – use of dredged material; 3) marine debris (non-entanglement); 4) water quality – urban run-off; and 5) wildlife disturbance by entanglement be considered as council workshops.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

There was brief discussion to clarify the purpose of a council workshop. A working group can be developed out of a workshop if the Advisory Council deems it necessary. More than one issue topic needing a council workshop can be covered during an Advisory Council meeting. Also, the Advisory Council can call extra council meetings if needed.

A motion was made to agree with MBNMS Staff to move forward with council workshops for beach nourishment – sediment management, beach nourishment – use of dredged materials, marine debris (non-entanglement), water quality – urban runoff and wildlife disturbance by entanglement.

MOTION: Dan Haifley, John Hunt seconded.

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention)

Recommended Outside Workshops:

MBNMS Staff recommended 1) climate change; 2) education and outreach – wildlife issues; 3) water quality – harmful algal blooms (HABs); and 4) Agricultural Water Quality Alliance (AWQA) be considered as outside workshops.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

There was discussion to clarify the purpose of outside workshops. The results of outside workshops will be reported back to the AC.

A motion was made to agree with MBNMS Staff to move forward with outside workshops for climate change, education and outreach – wildlife issues, water quality – HABs and AWQA.

MOTION: Gary Pezzi, Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso seconded.

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention)

Recommended issues for staff to address:

MBNMS Staff recommended 1) citizen science; 2) desalination; 3) MPWCs – all issues; and 4) water quality – regional program be considered as staff to address.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

There was discussion regarding MPWC issues. It was voiced that there will be public interest with these issues and that the issues should be vetted with stakeholders. Stakeholder involvement is necessary with MPWC training. It was agreed that the MPWC sub-committee would give advice and recommendations to the AC, not MBNMS Staff. There was also discussion to clarify why citizen science was not recommended as an outside workshop. Public comment requested MBNMS to put more effort to citizen science. MBNMS already has several citizen science programs and there is currently no sustainable funding for the existing programs.

A motion was made to agree with MBNMS Staff to have MBNMS Staff address citizen science, desalination and water quality – regional program but to elevate the existing Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC) sub-committee to a working group. The MPWC working group will address safety training for volunteers at Mavericks, reducing the High Surf Warning requirement to a High Surf Advisory for MPWC use at Mavericks and adding locations for recreational use of and training on MPWC's.

MOTION: Dan Haifley, Steve Scheiblaue seconded.

(Vote: 11 in favor, 1 opposed, 0 abstention)

Recommended issues on hold pending additional action:

MBNMS Staff recommended 1) artificial reefs; 2) boundary changes (north and south); AND 3) MPWC – new locations to remain on hold pending additional action.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

There was discussion to clarify why staff recommends each of these issues to remain on hold. The topic of artificial reefs was suggested to be tabled because California cannot permit artificial reefs and MBNMS needs to learn more about the process. Boundary changes were suggested to remain on hold until progress is made on the proposed Chumash National Marine Sanctuary and the Donut Hole. The MPWC – new locations issues was rolled into the MPWC working group.

A motion was made to agree with MBNMS Staff to hold off on AC input regarding boundary changes (north and south) but to move artificial reefs to the Staff to Address category.

MOTION: Dan Haifley, Ed Smith seconded.

MBNMS Advisory Council April 21

Final Meeting Minutes

(Vote: 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention)

Meeting adjourned at 4:28PM