



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

August 25, 2016

1:30 PM

Cordell Bank Office, Bldg. 532, Point Reyes Station, CA

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS). The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of CBNMS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Call to Order/Roll Call/Welcome (Kevin Krick)

Kevin Krick (for George Clyde), Advisory Council Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 1:31 PM and welcomed everyone. Lilli Ferguson, advisory council coordinator, then called roll.

Members and Alternates Present:

George Clyde (Chair; Community-at-Large – Marin County) (part of meeting)
Mike Cummings (Community-at-Large - Marin County Alt.)
Bill Wolpert (Community-at-Large-Sonoma County)
Sarah Hameed (Community-at-Large – Sonoma County Alt.)
Leslie Adler Ivanbrook (Education)
Rachel Bergren (Education Alt.)
Richard Ogg (Fishing)
Noah Wagner (Fishing Alt.)
Kevin Krick (Vice-Chair; Maritime Activities)
John Berge (Maritime Activities Alt.)
Tessa Hill (Research Alt.)

Agency Representatives and Alternates Present:

Dayna Matthews (NOAA Fisheries)

Members of the CBNMS staff were also present:

Dan Howard (Sanctuary Superintendent)
Lilli Ferguson (Resource Protection Specialist and advisory council coordinator)
Michael Carver (Resource Protection Coordinator)
Danielle Lipski (Research Coordinator)
Jennifer Stock (Education and Outreach Coordinator)

Review and Approve Agenda; Review and Approve April Meeting Minutes (Kevin)

The agenda was reviewed; an item about the advisory council retreat was added under “Advisory Council Business.” With that change, the agenda was unanimously approved by the advisory council. The April 20, 2016 meeting minutes were reviewed and unanimously approved by the advisory council.

Members' and Alternates' Reports (advisory council)

Kevin: Matson will be hosting a Coastal Cleanup day on September 17 in Oakland.

- Last month, Scouting.org profiled a Marin County Eagle Scout whose project was building benches for 10,000 Redwoods, a project of the Turtle Island Restoration Network. Todd Steiner mentioned the opportunity for an Eagle project to Kevin, who passed it along to the Scouts in Fairfax. It was nice to see national coverage of a climate change project that was first discussed at an advisory council meeting.

Sarah Hameed: Surf rider is doing a beach cleanup on Labor Day at Salmon Creek Beach, and on September 25 is doing a blue water paddle race and party.

- The weekend following the advisory council meeting is the Bodega Bay seafood, art and wine festival; some proceeds will benefit Bodega Bay firemen and some the Stewards of the Coasts and Redwoods.
- The Bodega Marine Laboratory seminar series continues this fall; each talk conveys interesting science stories to a general audience.
- The California State Parks proposed fees at the coastal beaches in Sonoma County have been scaled back; with the help of the California Coastal Commission, they are seeking to find a compromise.
- California Senate and Assembly bills are expected soon regarding including Carrington Ranch, adjacent to Salmon Beach, as regional park property; the bills will propose rezoning the land from an agricultural to a park designation.

Tessa Hill: reported there would be a State of Tomales Bay conference on September 23.

- The Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) cruises have been continuing, and one is planned in September. A person she is working with can take the data gathered and get the carbonate chemistry. A research paper relevant to this region is coming out soon.
- Bodega Marine Laboratory is celebrating its 50th anniversary in September.
- Next week, the Governor plans to declare September 16 Coastal and Marine Science Day in California; the announcement will be made at the laboratory.

Leslie Adler-Ivanboork: The Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) has been going through staff transitions recently and over the past year.

- PRNSA is planning the Dinner on the Pacific Plate and associated events, which will take place soon.
- Coastal Cleanup Day is September 17, and there will be some interpretation and educational materials at the Drakes Beach cleanup; this is being held as an "Every Kid in a Park" event, and passes are available to families of 4th grade students.
- They are still working on inviting 4th grade classes to more hands-on field trips to the park.

Rachel Bergren: The Marine Mammal Center (TMMC) is saving a Sea Lion Soiree fundraiser on September 18.

- TMMC is hosting a coastal cleanup at Rodeo Beach.
- There are various middle schools around the Bay Area working with TMMC on an academic program, and if people have other middle schools to suggest, they can contact her.
- The California Academy of Sciences put out an electronic publication, "Biographic," that did a feature story about the cancer in sea lions in California; it also touches on domoic acid and other things that affect sea lions.

Dick Ogg: The salmon fleet is struggling through a weak salmon season; there are some salmon being seen close to shore. There were some domoic acid issues; last week, some tests in rock crab showed levels up to 200 parts per million. He will be involved in future testing and sampling.

- A public party recently acquired Mason's Marina fuel dock. Fishermen would like to be able to bring fishing products, primarily crab, to the dock and offer it directly to the community. Right now they are in the process of trying to work this out. They would also like to include education at that location about the process fishermen go through to be able to bring their products to the public. Dick has a camera on his

boat and could provide educational footage on different types of fisheries. Tessa said she may be able to help make some connections on this and would follow up. Sarah said the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association might have an interest in helping.

John Berge: Senate Bill (SB) 32 passed the day before the advisory council meeting, and it concerns air resources board carbon dioxide emission levels, which affect ocean acidification. This is a bookend to Assembly Bill 32, which passed in 2006, which mandated a reduction in the carbon dioxide emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. SB 32 goes further, renewing the cap and trade issue and requiring reductions in 1990 levels of carbon dioxide by 30% by 2030.

- The state also established a task force to assess the viability of using vessels of opportunity for oil spill response; there were public task force meetings recently. John mentioned some local people who have been participating. The task force's product should be complete in September. There may be a formal vessels of opportunity program later; the state would have to delve into the details of training, participation, liability, etc. in the future. There are already some programs in place, mostly for spill response organizations.

Bill Wolpert: He takes the information learned here and tries to push it up chain of command in his community, Petaluma, as it relates to things like the flood maps along the Petaluma River, which do not account for sea level rise. He plans to run for City Council; if elected, it would give him a bigger platform for talking about issues raised at advisory council meetings.

Advisory Council Business (Lilli)

- Lilli mentioned applicants for several advisory council positions were being sought, and that the deadline for receipt of applications was August 31.

- Lilli also mentioned that the upcoming advisory council retreat (not a public meeting) had a change of venue, and that she would send out logistical details to the advisory council.

Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation (CMSF) Report (Bob Van Syoc)

- Bob Van Syoc reviewed recent changes to the board of directors and plans to bring new people on as board members.

- There are eight CMSF restricted funds and one unrestricted fund. Once expended, they can point to the achievements made using the funds, which helps with fundraising. Some recent expenditures were for: 1) an intern to work with Jennifer Stock, CBNMS Education and Outreach coordinator, on social media; 2) the hypoxia study mooring; 3) upgrading imaging equipment on the sanctuary's remotely operated vehicle (ROV); 4) cohosting an opening event at the Gualala Arts Center; and 5) CMSF postcards.

- If people are on Amazon Smile, they can pick CMSF as a nonprofit to which to donate.

Public Comment

- Tom Lambert, CMSF board member, commented about the history of the CBNMS expansion area. This was the topic of a Congressional bill by Lynn Woolsey a number of years back. He was Chair of the CBNMS Advisory Council then, and the group agreed to recommend including Bodega Canyon within the proposed area. With the expansion of the boundaries last year via a NOAA administrative process, he commented that now CBNMS might have a historic maritime heritage resource, the ex-USS Stewart. He summarized the story of this vessel. He thought in about a year Jim Delgado of ONMS and others would be searching for it. Lilli added that the last known position of the vessel was within the sanctuary's boundaries.

- Dan Howard added, regarding the expansion area, that in an early version of Lynn Woolsey's bill, a small triangle of area at the bottom of the sanctuary was proposed to be transferred to Gulf of the Farallones [now Greater Farallones] National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS). That was later taken out of the bill, and all of Bodega Canyon to the north, and an area west of the previous western boundary, was added to the bill. These areas are now within the expanded CBNMS.

CBNMS Research, Education and Resource Protection Reports (Jennifer Stock, Michael Carver and Danielle Lipski)

- Education: Jennifer Stock, CBNMS Education and Outreach Coordinator, mentioned CBNMS has a new social media intern, who is a graduate student working with Tessa.
 - She has been interacting with Marin and Sonoma County 4th grade students and chaperones, through the “Every Kid in a Park” program, introducing them to waters at Doran Beach and Bodega Head that are now protected by GFNMS. They start learning at seminars before the field trips. It has been a good opportunity to work with regional partners.
 - The Ocean Exploration Trust Nautilus cruises, using ship to shore presentations, have been a good way for people to learn about sanctuaries. We are hoping they will do a cruise in CBNMS next year.
 - There was a good turnout at the Gualala arts center opening for the CBNMS photo exhibit. In addition to the photos, there are now some interactive elements. She mentioned a few upcoming locations for the exhibit.
 - The CBNMS website is in the process of being updated to support a design responsive to smart phones, etc.
 - Jennifer passed around an Earth is Blue handout, which featured good stories about national marine sanctuaries’ activities.
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- Resource Protection: Michael Carver, CBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator, gave a brief office operations report (separate from resource protection): CBNMS secured a little over \$50,000 for the ROV; \$25,000 at CMSF and \$25,000 in construction funds. Three contracts were awarded recently, for support services for internet technology and research, and for video and still camera equipment for the ROV. Work is ongoing to get a faster internet connection and a NOAA voice over internet telephone system.
 - For resource protection, in enforcement, Michael attended a Marine Protected Areas Cooperative meeting, and provided education to the group about CBNMS and GFNMS regulations. In 2017 he will work to increase patrol presence in CBNMS. Nicole Capps of the ONMS West Coast Region office is training U.S. Coast Guard boarding officers on the regulations of the sanctuaries in the region, and conducted one training since the last CBNMS Advisory Council meeting.
 - The National Marine Fisheries Service does stock assessments across U.S, and found in a recent Pacific marine mammal stock assessment that entanglement is the most common human-based cause of humpback whale mortality; for North Pacific blue whales, it is being struck by ships. The number of blue whales in the California current likely exceeds the potential biological removal number for this species (the maximum number of animals that can be removed from the stock while allowing it to maintain optimum sustainable population). Michael gave an overview of work at CBNMS to address marine debris, including working with the NOAA Marine Debris Program and partners like the SeaDoc Society on funding for and removal of debris.
 - Michael is working with NMFS, Protected Resources Division to assess the reduction of risk of ships striking whales, and the conservation benefit, as a result of the Voluntary Speed Reduction and the traffic lane changes. To assess the socioeconomic portion, he is working with our socioeconomic staff to gather data from with the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Ocean Service, the Coast Guard, and others.
 - The University of Rhode Island, Graduate School of Oceanography published a case study on the collaboration of sanctuaries and the USCG during the Port Access Route Study process to deliver on marine conservation while balancing compatible uses of the sanctuary.
 - In 2017, CBNMS will continue to work on emergency preparedness and response planning.
 - Lilli, CBNMS permit coordinator, said there were two new permits since the last meeting. One was for the NOAA Northwest Fishery Science Center’s West Coast groundfish bottom trawl survey, and one was for Oregon State University’s project to tag whales, as part of a Navy noise study. She mentioned several permit amendments were pending, to make minor adjustments to change the permittee name, etc.

- Research: Danielle Lipski, CBNMS Research Coordinator, provided an overview of the two ACCESS cruises that already took place this year, in May and July. In May, there were windy conditions, normal temperatures, the highest numbers of whales for a spring cruise, a fair amount of adult krill, and gelatinous zooplankton. In July, rough sea conditions canceled part of the cruise, normal sea surface temperature (10-15 C), abundant phytoplankton, over 150 humpback whales, over 30 blue whales, krill (patchy), and doliolids. The upcoming ACCESS cruise is September 17. Advisory Council members are welcome to join for a day, space permitting, and may contact her.
- Dani is working to develop a long term benthic science strategy, through the next 20 years, to build on the great history of sampling at Cordell Bank dating back to the 1970s. Goal: Benthic communities in the sanctuary are well characterized and monitored so that changes can be detected and information is available to make recommendations to support management. A workshop was held in June on this topic, and she's working on a report on the results of that workshop. Plan elements will cover biological sampling, use of imagery, physical variables to measure, and education components.
- The Beyond the Golden Gate Research Symposium is taking place December 1; there is a cost of \$25 and a limit of 140 people. Abstracts are due October 31.
- The Nautilus Bodega Canyon survey was cancelled due to weather conditions; she had proposed that site plus the ex-USS Stewart as being good target for the ROV to survey. She will be engaging in planning for possible 2017 Nautilus surveys in CBNMS.
- In summary, work planned for fiscal year 2017 includes ACCESS, benthic science, publishing products from 2014 work, continued development of the long term strategy, a CBNMS ROV survey, Nautilus surveys, the symposium, and data analysis from the acoustic buoy (once retrieved next year).

Kevin adjourned the meeting at 3:10 PM.