



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 18, 2010

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

Point Reyes National Seashore Red Barn Classroom

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting and do not necessarily reflect the position of the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Welcome

Advisory Council Chair, Lance Morgan, called the meeting to order at 9:40am

Roll Call

Members present:

Lance Morgan (Council Chair and Conservation)

George Clyde (Council Vice-Chair and Community-at-Large Marin)

Vic Chow (Education)

Kevin Krick (Maritime Activities)

John Berge (Maritime Activities Alt.)

Bill Wolpert (Community-at-Large Sonoma)

Ed Smith (Research)

Jaime Jahncke (Research Alt.)

Brian Johnson (GFNMS Deputy Superintendent)

LT Steve Arnwine (USCG Living Marine Resources Officer)

Dan Howard (CBNMS superintendent)

Review Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved with a change to end lunch 10 minutes earlier to accommodate the showing of a quick video produced by David McGuire and Lou Douros from the Reef Crest cruise.

Review of July Minutes

The July 15, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with no changes

Lance motioned to adopt July minutes as final, George approved, Bill Seconds, all in favor

July minutes accepted as final

Manager's Report (Dan Howard)

Leadership: Margo Jackson, Deputy Superintendent of the National Marine Sanctuaries, is retiring and Bill Douros, director of the West Coast region, will be serving as the acting Deputy Superintendent for a year or so. Carol Bernthal, superintendent of Olympic Coast NMS, will fill the role as acting West Coast Regional Director

Budget: no FY11 budget for the program yet, hopefully in January

West Coast Ocean Acidification Task Force: just completed draft plan, which looks similar to management plan layout with multiple strategies and actions addressing research and monitoring, education and outreach, resource protection, etc.

Office Expansion: delayed due to change in staff for key positions at the Point Reyes National Seashore

Research Report (Kaitlin Graiff)

- i. Data collected by the Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program (CBOMP) and the Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) have recently been summarized and mapped to aid in discussing various options for modifying the San Francisco traffic lanes. Specifically, distribution and abundance patterns of humpback and blue whales are being examined to determine seasonal and interannual spatial patterns of aggregation that could influence decisions on the location of traffic lanes that would minimize disturbance and direct impact to whales.
 - ii. CBNMS is planning to use most or all of its 2011 time on the R/V Fulmar to conduct ACCESS. Due to budget shortfalls, the planned sampling area for 2011 is a reduction of the 2010 effort, and represents a core offshore area that has been sampled since 2004. Depending on funding contributions from GFNMS and PRBO Conservation Science (ACCESS partners), CBNMS may have some Fulmar days that could be used to conduct benthic surveys at Cordell Bank using an ROV.
 - iii. Plans continue to be developed for deep sea coral work for summer 2011. Proposals are currently being evaluated by a planning team working with the NOAA Coral Reef Conservation Program. CBNMS is proposing to build upon the work that was conducted in 2010 and continue exploration of deep water areas of Cordell Bank sanctuary and sites within the potential expansion area, particularly Bodega Canyon.
 - iv. This winter, CBNMS science staff will continue to work on data analysis from various projects, including the 2010 deep sea coral project, the 2010 Cordell Bank reef crest SCUBA project, Delta submersible fish community project, Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program, and the Cordell Bank coral habitat modeling project.
- Dan read thank you letters from some of the Cordell Expedition divers about being involved in the recent Reef Crest cruise

Education Report (Dan Howard)

- i. Jenny is starting maternity leave next week; she will be coming back part time in March 2011
- ii. Oakland Museum progress continues: The natural sciences gallery that will have an exhibit on Cordell Bank is slated to open in June, 2012.
- iii. Jenny coordinated an expedition page to highlight the Reef Crest cruise; there is a nice compilation of essays and blogs and photos on the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries website (and there is a direct link off of our website). There was some media coverage with ABC news and the Marin IJ reporting on the expedition and its significance.
- iv. Jenny is in contact with the Lawrence Hall of Science at UC Berkeley who is a leading institution in ocean literacy efforts. The Lawrence Hall of Science is applying for a NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant and wants to work with Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuaries to complement the professional development opportunity for educators in the region.
- v. We received an ocean acidification teaching kit that was assembled by the Channel Island NMS with their partners. Jenny hopes to use this kit in the next year and offer some workshops related to climate change/ocean acidification.
- vi. Jenny has been working on a proposal for developing an ocean education interpretive center at the Point Reyes Light House. The park has offered the space and currently an architectural report is being generated and we are working with the park and Gulf of the Farallones on identifying interpretive themes and goals for the space.
- vii. While Jenny is on leave, KWMR will be playing reruns of Ocean Currents.

Resource Protection (Michael Carver)

- i. USCG C130 flights: mission of flights is enforcement and to document vessel use patterns; 7,902 square km surveyed; flight time within the three central CA sanctuaries was 3.5 hours in MBNMS, 1 hr in GFNMS, and .5hr in CBNMS. Two flights have been completed: July 28, 2010 and September 24, 2010.
- ii. USCG boarding officer training: completed training for USCG personnel on Coast Guard vessels Tern and Pike on sanctuaries' regulations; working with USCG to update their training guide; conducting training for station Bodega Bay in January.

Break

Assessing the role of scientific information in advisory council recommendations and National Marine Sanctuaries management decisions (Lauren Garske)

- Lauren is a PhD candidate at UC Davis and a NOAA Nancy Foster Scholar. She gave a presentation on her collaboration as a Nancy Foster Scholar. Lauren is making her collaboration a full chapter in her dissertation.
- Her research question: How does scientific information (SI) play a role in management & policy decisions? Lauren has extended this question to all 14 ONMS advisory councils
- Research Goals: 1) Evaluate the flow of SI through advisory councils as well as its valuation and use where recommendations are made to sanctuary managers 2) Assess how sanctuary managers value and use council recommendations along with their own understanding of the SI 3) Identify conditions under which SI can facilitate collaboration and improve the effectiveness of sanctuary management
- Justification: Improve the overall understanding & effectiveness of sanctuary management, potential to highlight advisory councils & ONMS as a model system for incorporating stakeholders and science, inform current lack of academic understanding about the role of SI in resource management decisions, offer perspective to scientists seeking to improve their communication of relevant findings to appropriate audiences
- Three stages to the study: Stage 1: Observational visits at West Coast Region (5 sites); Stage 2: introductory visits & interviews: introduce self & research, exploratory interviews w/ advisory council members and NMS staff (n ~ 10), Stage 3: online survey: all council members, relevant NMS staff, and relevant working groups
- Project products: preliminary results @ 2011 SAC Summit, official report to ONMS & SACs, publication as a chapter of dissertation, publication in academic journal(s)
- Involvement for Stage 2 interviews (Sept 2010 – Jan 2011) standardized across all sites, selected by site & perspectives, offered to any staff or council member who is interested
- Involvement for Stage 3: Online Survey (March 2011): ALL council members, including alternates, key NMS staff (local, regional & national), key working groups
- Interviews & survey responses are considered, saved and reported on anonymously. Questions can always be skipped or discussed off-record by your choice. Interview: 30-60 minutes, Survey: 30 minutes

Vessel impacts working group update (Lance Morgan)

Members of the core planning team for the working group (WG) and CB and GF sanctuary staff held their first meeting. At this meeting, they refined the WG's charter and decided that they will focus on vessel strikes to whales and effects of ocean noise. Other vessel impacts, such as emissions and oil spills will not be included at this time. Member representation of the working group will consist of experts in conservation science and the shipping industry. An invitation for working group participants has been drafted and will be released soon. Currently, there is no funding for a working group coordinator;

Michael Carver has been providing staff support. Timeline for working group product is projected to be one year to 18 months, during which there will be 3-4 in person meetings and assigned tasks in between meetings. The group will introduce their recommendation to the Cordell Bank and Gulf of Farallones Advisory council for their approval to be forwarded to sanctuary superintendents Dan Howard and Maria Brown.

Port Access Route Study (PARS) update (Michael Carver)

- Timeline: October 21, 2010 to March 2011 - Review and analyze input from comments and public meetings, consult with National Marine Fisheries Service, National Marine Sanctuaries, and other government agencies and prepare study report. June 2011: Notice of study results published in the Federal Register
- Coast Guard is responsible for designation of fairways and traffic separation schemes to provide safe access routes for vessels proceeding to and from ports and must coordinate with interested stakeholders to reconcile need for safe access routes with other reasonable waterway uses.
- PARS objectives are to determine: present traffic density, potential traffic density, if existing traffic routing measures are adequate, if existing traffic routing measures require modifications, type of modifications
- Conducting the PARS study: collect and analyze data on vessel traffic trends, fishing activity, recreational boating traffic, military activities, environmental factors, economic impact. Consult with other government agencies. Conduct public meetings, as needed or requested.
- Suggestions for PARS:, extend all traffic lanes to the limit of the VTS coverage area, combine the western and southern traffic lanes into a single southwest traffic lane, shift the northern traffic lane further offshore, create alternate lanes for tug traffic.
- Displayed maps for the 6 preliminary options and pros and cons of each.
- CBNMS has started to review datasets on whale distribution and abundance patterns to aid in PARS discussion.

Public Comment

Tom Lambert, President of the Cordell Marine Sanctuary foundation. The mission of the foundation is to obtain funding for education and research projects for Cordell Bank. The last board meeting was on Sept 22nd. Joe Smith and Doreen Gurrola resigned. The foundation's current board members are: Liza Crosse, Tom Lambert, Pete Edwards, Bob VanSyoc, Susan Williams and David McGuire. Their goal is to obtain funds to support a research project using a submersible to survey fish and invertebrates communities on Cordell Bank. This would be a repeat of surveys conducted almost 10 years ago in 2002, the first year all fishing was closed on Cordell Bank to rebuild overfished rockfish populations.

Carol Keiper, Oikonos Ecosystem knowledge and former SAC chair. Recently received funding from the Pacific Life Foundation to analyze animal observation data. She is pleased with the capacity and actions being taken to move forward on the vessel issues working group to address ships strikes on marine mammals and stresses that more long term research is needed.

Pete Edwards, member of the Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation. He worked for many years at Scripps University in the kelp ecology program. He lives in Sebastopol and is a member of the foundation.

Lunch

1250 meeting resumed

- David McGuire and Lou Douros showed a teaser for a movie that could be made about CBNMS from footage collected on the Reef Crest cruise. Estimated budget to make a 30 minute movie is \$200,000.

Update on Sanctuary Expansion Bill HR 223 (Tom Roth)

Opportunities for passage of HR 223 this session of Congress are narrowing. In both the Senate and House, the bill will only move forward if it is attached to a larger omnibus bill (with other public land bills). Senator Boxer and Senator Feinstein support this bill. The vote will be after Thanksgiving.

Presentation: ACCESS, North- central California pelagic ecosystem preliminary update 2010 (Jaime Jahncke) presentation on the web at: http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/council/jahncke_20101118.pdf

Presentation: Copepod assemblages as indicators of ocean conditions in Central California (Meredith Elliott) presentation on the web at: http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/council/elliott_20101118.pdf

Presentation of Science on a Sphere at the Point Reyes National Seashore visitor's center (John Golda)

The presentation of science on a sphere concluded at 3pm. Council members unanimously agreed to exclude member reports and adjourn

Meeting Adjourned at 3:05 pm