



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2012

9:45am – 3:30pm

PRBO Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA

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 9:55am

Roll Call

Members present:

Lance Morgan (Chair, Conservation)
Todd Steiner (Conservation Alt.)
Jaime Jahncke (Research)
Pete Adams (Research Alt.)
Kevin Krick (Maritime Activities)
Mike Cummings (Community-at-Large Marin Alt.)
Bill Wolpert (Community-at-Large Sonoma)
Sarah Hameed (Community-at-Large Sonoma Alt.)
Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook (Education)
Brian Johnson (Gulf of the Farallones NMS)
Bill Douros (West Coast Region NMS)

CBNMS staff:

Dan Howard (Superintendent)
Kaitlin Graiff (Advisory Council Coordinator, Research Specialist)
Jennifer Stock (Education and Outreach Coordinator)
Michael Carver (Resource Protection Coordinator)

Review Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved

Review of September Minutes

The September 6, 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed and approved with no changes. Lance motions to adopt September minutes as final, Bill approves, Jaime seconds, all in favor
September minutes accepted as final

Superintendent's Report (Dan Howard)

Dan introduced Bill Douros, Director of the West Coast Region National Marine Sanctuaries

- i. CBNMS is sponsoring a session at the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival for middle and high school students. Please reach out to local schools or individuals who might be interested
- ii. Facilities—A team of structural engineers surveyed the structural integrity of the Red Barn in October; waiting on final report.

- iii. [California Collaborative Fisheries Research project](#) - Completed the first year of sampling at Cordell Bank. The collaborative was formed to promote collaboration between fishermen and scientists to better understand the health of fish stocks and marine ecosystems in California. Completed three trips to Cordell Bank in the summer and fall and fished for rockfish at a deep site and a shallow site on each trip. The goal is to compare the catch with data from a California Fish and Game study completed in the 1980s to evaluate the effects of the recreational Rockfish Conservation Area that has closed fishing on Cordell Bank since 2003. This study is comparing species composition, size, and catch per unit effort between the two studies. In addition scientists at NMFS in Santa Cruz are looking at fecundity in rockfish. There will be one more year of sampling next summer and fall before data analysis.
- iv. NOAA's Habitat Blue Print - Just completed a two day workshop with representatives from other NOAA offices to select a focus area as part of NOAA's Habitat Blueprint initiative. Started with 17 candidate areas from the Klamath River to Tijuana Estuarine Research Reserve. Over the course of two days the list was whittled down to the Russian River watershed, San Francisco Bay/GFNMS and Southern California Bight. Russian River was chosen as the focus area for this pilot project because it's preferred Habitat Focus Area for several reasons. First, there are multiple NOAA line offices actively working to address key NOAA missions, especially (but not limited to) recovering endangered species and increasing resiliency of communities to environmental events. Second, NOAA is clearly a lead agency for habitat improvement in the Russian River, and yet there are many partners to enlist in protecting and restoring habitat. Third, there are a number of NOAA-driven projects that are likely to show clear progress in the next 3 to 5 years. In short, it will be relatively easy to tell a clear story about what NOAA is doing for habitat conservation, study and restoration and why it is important.
- v. Oakland museum private opening on December 2nd, Council members and their families are invited to attend, please RSVP to Jenny.
- vi. Budget—expect to be in a continuing resolution through the winter.

Education Report (Jenny Stock)

- i. Climate Change teacher workshops series for 2012 are complete. They were so successful that Jenny is planning on hosting webinars to continue climate change education for teachers.
- ii. Piloted a teacher workshop for the Winged Ambassadors Curriculum in collaboration with the Sonoma County Office of Education. Jenny plans on holding more workshops in the future.
- iii. Cordell Bank exhibit at the Oakland museum is complete. Museum docents will teach a Cordell Bank focused education program from grades 3-5. The program focuses on analyzing submersible video and characterizing habitat types.
- iv. Jenny played the new video—Cordell Bank: A Sound Investment. The video is an animation using ink and colored pencils, created by Drew Christie. <http://vimeo.com/53459555>

Resource Protection (Michael Carver)

- i. The United States Coast Guard is building a new training facility in the Bay Area. They will have training opportunities for sanctuary regulations and have sanctuary regulations in their patrol guides.
- ii. Michael demoed the beta version of the Whale Spotter app. The app can be downloaded for free to a smart phone or tablet to record whale species, position, and abundance. The app and associated database are being developed by Earth NC and have been funded by Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA). The app team will be holding a science meeting in March to determine specific data thresholds and will discuss how to distribute whale abundance data.

- iii. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has approved the vessel traffic lane modifications for the SF Bay region and southern California.

Update from the West Coast Region (Bill Douros)

- i. For the last two years, Bill has been the acting Deputy Director of the Sanctuary Program. He is now transitioning out of that position back to full time Director of the West Coast Region.
- ii. Whale Ship Strike Issue - top priority for the West Coast region. The region is keeping all sites informed and coordinated on each site's efforts. The Whale Spotting app is applicable across multiple sites in the West Coast region. The Sanctuary Program will continue to work with the National Marine Fisheries Service on this issue.
- iii. Ocean Acidification – in response to the resolution passed by all Advisory Councils, the West Coast region produced an Ocean Acidification (OA) Action Plan. The West Coast Sanctuary education team has been successful implementing several activities in the plan. Bill stressed that addressing OA is a long term process.
- iv. Budgets - have been tight for the past few years, but there has been funding for facilities to upgrade and build new education and outreach centers such as the Crissy Field campus (GFNMS), Santa Cruz Exploration Center (MBNMS), UCSB campus (CINMS).
- v. Campaign of Engagement – the goal is to reach people who the Sanctuary Program hasn't reached before. Each site has been tasked with a specific project to elevate the Campaign. Cordell Bank's projects were to 1) develop engaging videos for social media about the sanctuary and ocean conservation and 2) complete the Cordell Bank exhibit at the Oakland museum. The next avenue is how to enhance and create more tourism opportunities at Cordell Bank. Enhance whale and seabird watching opportunities. Maybe promote technical SCUBA diving on the Bank.
- vi. SAC Summit - Tourism is the theme at the upcoming SAC Summit in December at the Santa Cruz Exploration Center. NOAA's Marine Protected Areas center has officially merged with the ONMS and the MPA center's advisory committee will meet with the SAC chairs at the summit.
- vii. Expansion of the Sanctuary System – It is a national priority to reactivate the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL). The last sanctuary designation was in 2001. In order for a new sanctuary to be designated it needs to be listed on the SEL. The SEL was deactivated in 1995. If the SEL is reactivated there will be opportunities to designate new sanctuaries.
- viii. Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Boundary Expansion - Lynn Woosley's Sanctuary Expansion Bill has had no movement in Congress since she originally introduced the bill ten years ago. Lynn is retiring and she has proposed declaring Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones expansion areas as National Marine Monuments. However, NOAA would like to designate the sanctuaries administratively, making it a public process rather than the President signing a bill for the Monument designation. Monuments are co-managed by multiple agencies. If Lynn's legislation doesn't pass then the sanctuary program will move forward with the expansion of CBNMS administratively.

Discussion with Council members: Q: Is there a cost associated with the SEL? A: No external contractors needed, would use existing staff and low cost for meetings. The designation process results in higher costs. Q: What are the next steps when Advisory Councils write letters supporting reactivation of the SEL? A: The Director of the Sanctuary Program has the authority to reactivate the SEL, but he first wants the approval from NOAA Administrator (Jane Lubchenco). There is language to initiate the SEL in the President's draft National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan. If the plan is approved then NOAA should move forward. Q: Are there sites on the SEL that have not been designated? A: Yes, there are some. All of the current sites in the Sanctuary Program came from the SEL.

San Francisco State University Master Student Presentations

- *Using habitat modeling to inform ocean zoning within Central California's NMS* (Jennifer McGowan)
- *Using habitat modeling to support changes in shipping regulations within Central California's NMS* (Andrea Dransfield)

Lunch

Ocean Acidification Presentation (Dr. Tessa Hill)

Tessa presented about ocean acidification (OA) and how she and her colleagues in the Bodega Ocean Acidification Research (BOAR) group at the Bodega Marine Laboratory are studying the effects of OA on west coast marine species such as mussels and oysters through a variety of laboratory and field experiments. The presentation put the complex topic of OA into context so that Council members are better able to explain the issue to their constituents.

Debrief on Ocean Acidification Communication and Education Workshop (Jennifer Stock)

Key points: 90 participants, mostly informal educators attended the Ocean Acidification Communication and Education Conference that was held after the Ocean in a High CO₂ world conference in Monterey. Overall interest or knowledge of OA is low on people's radars, but increased measurably after the workshop.

Support Letter for Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL)

Displayed the draft letter and the Council members edited and added language.

Pete motions that Council members agree on the additions to the letter and that Lance will finalize the language and Kaitlin will redistribute. Jaime approves, Mike seconds, all in favor.

Support letter for SEL unanimously approved.

Public Comment

Tom Lambert – President of the Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Tom handed out his new business cards. He wrote an op ed about the 40th anniversary of the NMS and reactivating the site evaluation list to be published in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat. The San Rosa Press Democrat was just recently sold and interestingly one of the new owners of the paper was instrumental in designating CBNMS. The Foundation submitted a proposal for funding for the Cordell Bank traveling photo exhibit. The Foundation is collaborating with Michael on the whale ship strike outreach opportunities. The Foundation is also planning another lecture about the sanctuary.

Member Reports

Sarah Hameed - The CAMEOS program at Bodega Marine Lab (BML) which places graduate students in classes around Sonoma County to teach science has begun. Symposium of student presentations at BML will be on May 2nd and 3rd. Sonoma County Surf Rider is fundraising for local beach cleanups at Salmon Creek and opposing the Iron Rangers at Sonoma Coast State Parks. The BML library is interested in the Cordell Bank Oral History book.

Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook - attended the State of Tomales Bay Conference. Has been in contact with Marin School of the Arts about students submitting films to the SF Ocean Film Festival.

Bill Wolpert – New report from the Climate Protection Campaign that Sonoma County emissions have dropped by 14% (600,000 tons) from the high mark in 2008.

Todd Steiner –A sea turtle was seen in San Francisco bay in Oct (looked like an Olive Ridley). Ten years ago an Olive Ridley was seen in Tomales Bay. Coho spawning season is about to begin. SpawnUSA.org has information on where you can view spawning.

We will set up a future date with Todd for the council members to view spawning.

Jaime Jahncke – Mouse eradication Environmental Impact Statement for South East Farallon Island is almost complete. A 50% decline of owls (will be reduced due to eradicating mice) would increase Ashy Storm Petrel populations. Monitoring temperatures in the Auklets nests covered with artificial boxes and developing methods to reduce heat. A new student from Stanford is interested in linking the time depth recorders on the Cassin's Auklets to the CTD data and physical underway data collected by ACCESS. Submitted a proposal to hold workshops focused on forage fish. There is a group of pteropods off the coast of Vancouver that is declining and a researcher from NOAA requested ACCESS zooplankton data to determine if pteropods are declining in our region.

Lance Morgan –The workshop about marine zoning and spatial planning has been determined. It will be a half day meeting so keep a lookout for the invitation. Marine Conservation Institute staff is working on how monitoring, enforcement, and surveillance are structured within NMS and Parks with ocean closures. Staff are also engaged with Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review. Lance urged council members to suggest presenters for upcoming meetings. Potential presenters: staffer for Jared Huffman's office and Rachel from Upwell.

Brian Johnson –Gulf of the Farallones deep sea coral cruise will be incorporated into EFH review. Benet Duncan from Gulf of the Farallones is leading their Ocean Climate Initiative and developed a list of climate change indicators; Benet is proposing to form an advisory council working group to assist. Third Biennial Ocean Climate Summit will be held in February. Painting Crissy Field Office facilities.

Adjourn 3:40.