Meeting Minutes – Tues, June 25, 2002

Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank
National Marine Sanctuaries
Joint Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Present

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Josh Churchman	Maritime
Doreen Moser	Education
Carol Keiper	Research & Council Chair
Bill McMillon	Education
Brian Mulvey (for Jim Bybee)	Government
Tom Lambert	Conservation
Joe Smith	Community-at-large
Mark Dowie (alt)	Community at large

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Mick Menigoz	Maritime
Richard Charter	Conservation
Karen Reyna (alt.)	Conservation
Bob Wilson	Conservation
Brenda Donald	Research

Sanctuary Staff:

Ed Ueber, GF/CB	Sanctuary Manager
Dan Howard/CB	Asst. Sanctuary Manager
Maria Brown/GF	Asst. Sanctuary Manager
Mary Jane Schramm/GF,CB	Council Coordinator, Recorder *pro tem*

Special Guests:

Satie Airame, Marine Science Institute, Santa Barbara CA
Tracy Gill, National Marine Sanctuary Program, Silver Spring MD

MINUTES:

0935 – Meeting began, Carol Keiper presided.

Approval of prior meeting minutes

CB: Quorum was present; motion for approval of prior minutes made, seconded, approved.

GF: Quorum was present; motion for approval of minutes made, seconded, approved.

Also, minutes for CB 2/15/02 meeting moved, seconded and approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CB: Josh Churchman – Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) plans to close area from Canada to Mexico for groundfish to save those few stocks that are in trouble. Ed clarified limits as between 20 fathoms in California to 150 fathoms. Most of California is already closed to trawling w/in 3-miles of the coast. To the north closure is from 50-150-fathoms/900 ft. See NMFS website for details; also PFMC website. www.pcouncil.org. Josh called for definition of a sustainable fishery, suggested we open this up for discussion at a future meeting.

GF: A suggestion was made to move from storm sewer systems to other means to remove surface water during rainy season. Case in point is Pillar Point sewer system; Sanctuary should work w/cities to find better drainage systems). Sanctuaries need to work w/agencies, governments, and citizens to improve approach.

CB: Carol Keiper:
1. Volunteer Appreciation event was wonderful, with thanks to all those who made it possible.

2. Carol was recently aboard the NOAA research vessel *McArthur* for Sanctuary Quest 2002.

3. Carol recently acted as a marine life observer on the barge anchored above the shipwreck *Jacob Luckenbach.* Impressive technology is being implemented to attempt to protect Sanctuary resources.

CB: Doreen Moser: Stated the National Marine Educators Association (NMEA) conference next month will be greatly advantageous to Sanctuary and FMSA staff's work. She is glad the Sanctuaries support full education staff participation.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD:

10:00 – no public comments were forthcoming.

Proceed Management Plan review in the interim.

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW:

Ann Walton recapped the April meetings which prioritized the cross cutting issues. She is putting together a document of both site specific and cross cutting (involving two or more Sanctuaries) issues. The document will be distributed to Council members. A matrix will indicate site specific and cross cutting issues. The work plan will be based on this document.
Comments on this document are welcome.

Next: this summer work plans addressing issues will be developed and working groups formed. Council members will be asked to participate on working groups.

The draft Management Plan will be based on working group recommendations. The draft Management Plan will be available for public comment.

SECOND CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT: None forthcoming.

(BREAK)

1018 meeting resumed:

Presentation Tracy Gill/NMSP Headquarters
Biogeographical Study

Tracy presented the biogeographic assessment in support of Management Plan Review. The final report is scheduled for completion in October. The preliminary report is available: 50 reports will go to each Sanctuary. Outside comments are welcome, as well as from within NOAA.

Presentation by Satie Airame, Marine Science Inst., Sta. Barbara
Ecological Linkage Report

The purpose of the Ecological Linkage Report is to describe all riverine, estuarine and marine habitats off Central California. The team will develop a

40-60 page summary this summer which will be included on CD. The team will continue to work on a larger (400+ pages) document; no completion date is available at present.

Break 11:20

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Jennifer Saltzman/FMSA gave THE "Above and Beyond" Teacher Award to Cathy Soave for her outstanding accomplishments with the sustainable seas, High School intertidal monitoring project.

11:31 resumed presentation

Satie, when asked for five "bullets" of maximum alarm, cited 1) zooplankton decline; and 2) declines of sablefish, thornyhead and other slope fisheries. However, more data is needed on virgin stocks and optimum yield to confirm trends. See EL report where human-caused factors will be treated on. In October, the list of human activities will be integrated into biological/physical and geological data.

Progress on study in marine environment is hampered (vs. land ecosystem study) by foreign nature of fluid environment, by different breeding strategies of land organisms (small broods, parental involvemenet) vs. marine organisms (broadcast spawning).

Ed commented that species may range thousands of miles, but individuals within a population may move only a short distance as a discrete population. This has led to serious depletion in the past. This would be desirable to reflect in document. (A Life History section of the full document will contain this information). Satie stated the need for an overall ecosystem management approach.

Doreen recommended flagging maps according to quality of data, categorizing data as highly certain vs. limited data. Maria suggested providing more detailed information on the specific Sanctuary-managed region.

The Council members discussed Pt. Reyes as a distribution breaking point: many species (including rockfish) will not pass the boundary of Point Reyes. Satie will review the data to determine effective barriers. Maria requested species most vulnerable/species of concern be noted.

Ed noted we must look at the Sanctuary area. We cannot combine all the data for one genus and make assumptions for an individual species; better to say, "data are missing."

Groupings: Distribution of species and life history parameters of a species or age class are important for designation of Reserves and management. (See page 13 and 29 of preliminary report for groupings).

Seabird surveys aren't conducted in an adequate manner (e.g. on ashy storm petrels) to assess critical habitats. The Farallon Islands and other offshore sites are given more importance, but coastal sites are increasingly emerging as important as survey methods are adjusted.

The range of information from Mexico to Alaska is only helpful as a background. We need species specifics, especially at areas of possible boundary change (i.e., over Pint Conception, Big Sur and Ano Nuevo).

3:00 p.m. **CLOSING REMARKS:**

Tracy invited members to email her additional comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Future Council Meetings: September 10th Cordell Bank NMS; next Gulf of the Farallones Council September 12th. Venue and further details are to be announced.

Public Comment at the Cordell Bank meeting will include Josh Churchman's presentation on fishing.