

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
5/13/15 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC, SAC Conservation Seat), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy, SAC Conservation Alternate), Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Debra Herring (SAC Non Consumptive Seat)

Via Phone: Walt Schobel (Air Force, SAC DOD Alternate)

CINMS Staff: Sean Hastings

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channel MPA Collaborative members Julie Bursek, Jenna Driscoll, Capt. David Bacon, Luhui Isha Waiya, and Kristi Birney all attended the MPA Collaborative South Coast Forum at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium on April 29, 2015. The goals for the meeting were to network among Southern California MPA collaborative leaders and partner agencies, discuss and develop approaches for effective MPA education and outreach, research and monitoring, and compliance and enforcement, and identify resources needed for sustained success. Several collaborative members were on panels to provide thoughts about MPA Messaging, Intercommunication, and Sustainable Finance. Notes from the meeting will be made available in the near future.
- b. Sean noted that the agencies are well aware of an enforcement hotspot at Footprint Marine Reserve and are frustrated by the lack of compliance.
- c. MPA Enforcement Training: The MPA Collaborative Implementation Project and SB MPA Collaborative will be hosting an MPA Training for officers and allied agencies in Santa Barbara and Ventura. The meeting will be held Thursday May 28th 9-1 at the Channel Islands Boating Center. This training is for law enforcement and participants must RSVP to: calla@resrouces.ca.gov
- d. The Sea Center is hosting World Ocean Day on June 6th. Access to the education and NGO booths on the wharf will be free there is a small fee for admission to the Sea Center. Inside the Sea Center there will also be additional activities (science and art activities) that are included with admission. Lots of bang for the buck for this festival fun.
- e. SBCK is moving forward with developing several short videos promoting recreational use in MPAs. Anticipate release in mid-summer.
- f. SBCK is also in the first stages of developing promotion around a Naples Dive Trail to promote scuba diving and snorkeling at Naples. This trail would

be distributed to local dive clubs to promote business. Ben will be coordinating with UCSB to avoid science transects. This effort also brought in the interest of an aspiring Eagle Scouts who may work with his troop to promote this idea and possibly take stewardship of the area and dive trial.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Marine Shipping Working Group: At Friday's SAC meeting Kristi and Phyllis will provide an overview from two webinars where participants discussed the group's intended outcomes and lessons learned from past management efforts. For the first webinar presenters included NOAA General Counsel, Maersk Line, Marine Exchange of Southern California, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), CINMS, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Meeting topics focused on options for ship-strike reduction, shipping patterns and relevant industry activities. The second webinar focused on the available information and data. Presenters included Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), and scientist Jessica Redfern and John Calambokidis. John and Jessica lead a discussion about the whale data included in SeaSketch and shared how to best use each data set in the MSWG process.

The MSWG, a working group of the Sanctuary Advisory Council, is supported by professional facilitators and sanctuary staff and fellows. Participants include Advisory Council members, outside experts, and representatives from the shipping industry and other agencies. The diverse group of stakeholders will meet several times in 2015, in person and via webinar, to develop recommendations to address regional shipping-related concerns, including ship strikes on endangered whales, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, navigation safety concerns, and conflicts with naval operations. MSWG website with materials can be found [here](#).

- B. Sean noted that the Sanctuary conducted an aerial survey and found 33 whales in the Santa Barbara shipping lanes. The Sanctuary has issued a local notice to mariners (NOTM) asking ships to slow down in a slow speed zone in the SB Shipping Lanes. Walt offered to also transmit the information over Vandenberg's radio broadcast.
- C. Sean noted that NOAA Fisheries is proposing to reclassify humpback whales into 14 distinct population segments and delist several of the DPS segments. More info can be found [here](#).

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

These items will be discussed in more detail at the Friday SAC meeting.

- A. Navy Fiber Optic Cable Project
- B. Ocean Acidification
- C. Sanctuary Classic
- D. NMS Economic Reports

E. Visit SB

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- Debra mentioned that the next “From Shore to Sea” lecture series sponsored by the Channel Islands National Park will host a discussion that furthers understanding about Seal and Sea Lion Populations Trends at the Channel Islands. The lecture is at 7:00 pm May 14th at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center, 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor. The program is free and open to the public. This lecture can also be viewed live online at:

<http://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/live-programs.htm>.

Lectures are recorded and posted at:

<http://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/photosmultimedia/from-shore-to-sea-lecture-videos.htm>

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
3/18/15 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC, SAC Conservation Seat), Stewart Willison (SAC Non Consumptive Alternate), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy, SAC Conservation Alternate), Vic Cox (SAC Public At-large Alternate), Jenna Driscoll (SBCK)

Via Phone: Walt Schobel (Air Force, SAC DOD Alternate)

CINMS Staff: Sean Hastings and Morgan Visalli (Sea Grant Fellow)

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. MPA implementation activities:
- a. Jenna mentioned that SBCK has printed 2,500 copies of the MPA Explore Brochure to distribute to tourist visitor centers, the Sea Center, hotels, visit Santa Barbara, and other places tbd in Ventura and Santa Barbara. Printing was done by Rockwell and they kindly offered a discounted printing rate. The brochure provides information about MPAs and lists businesses that provide services for the community to get out and enjoy the MPAs.
 - b. SBCK is planning future subsidized trips with local businesses (e.g. dive trips) to MPAs. Stay tuned for more info.
 - c. The South Coast Collaborative Forum for the MPA Collaborative members will be held on April 29th at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. Several members of SB Channel MPA Collaborative plan on attending.
 - d. It was noted that a four page booklet “Ten Years of Change at the Channel Islands” summarizes findings from 10-years of monitoring the network of MPAs at the northern Channel Islands is available on PISCO’s website. The latest 10-year results indicate that the initial positive trends seen in 2008 are continuing. The five-year review showed that abundance (numbers of fish) and biomass (total weight of fish) of fish species targeted by fishermen in the region were both greater inside the reserves relative to the outside reference sites. Non-targeted fish species did not show these same differences between MPA and open areas. This ten-year review now shows the same patterns with even larger differences between protected and unprotected sites. The brochure and other finding can be found [here](#).

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Vessel Speed Reduction (“VSR”) Trial Update: The results are in, and they are good! The EDC, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District successfully executed a VSR trial incentive program in the Santa Barbara Channel to slow cargo ships down to reduce air pollution and increase protection of endangered whales. Seven global shipping companies made 27 transits at a reduced speed of 12 knots or less. This reduced speed resulted in a 50% reduction from baseline emissions and increased the likelihood of survival of a whale that may be struck by a ship by 50%. The VSR Report and supporting materials can be accessed [here](#).
- B. Marine Shipping Working Group: At Friday’s SAC meeting Kristi will provide a review of the Outcomes from the first Marine Shipping Working Group (MSWG) meeting that was held on Feb 25th. Outcomes and summary notes will be made public within the next few weeks. The second MSWG meeting is scheduled for April 30th and will most likely be held at the Marine Exchange. MSWG website with materials can be found [here](#).
- C. Bren School Proposed Project: Sanctuary is still waiting to hear back from the Bren selection committee regarding the UCSB Bren group proposal; “Economic Incentives for Vessel Speed Reduction in the Santa Barbara Channel.” The proposed project will explore the value of the whale watching industry and value of whales to our region. This will be the first study of this scale to explore the financial benefit of whale conservation. There will also be an evaluation of benefits associated with air emissions reductions.

Sean noted that the Sanctuary has received internal funding to partner with National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) to support 3 graduate students to work on the Bren Group Project should it be selected.

- D. Cruise Ships: Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count) contacted Kristi and Sanctuary staff prior to the CWG meeting and alerted us to his recent observation of a cruise ships transiting the area just offshore going back and forth several times in an area that he knows overlaps with the gray whale migration corridor.
 - a. Sean mentioned the NMFS is interested in bringing the program [Whale SENSE](#), a whale education program, to the west coast. This voluntary education and recognition program already exists on the east coast and is offered to commercial whale watching companies. NMFS is expecting to expand and tailor the program to different user groups including boaters and the cruise ship industry.
 - b. Kristi shared that perhaps the best avenue to address this concern is through the Santa Barbara City Council or Harbor Commission. We know that the Harbor Commission and City Council discuss and approve the contracts for the Cruise Ships that visit the area. In the past conditions have been placed in

the contract that address community concerns. SBCK and EDC offered to help Michael with this.

- c. Jenna also noted that Cruise ships now have to report and connect with the USCG when they visit the harbor. On the day when this particular incident was observed it was the first time that this reporting took place. It is possible the Cruise ship was killing time before connecting with the USCG.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

These items will be discussed in more detail at the Friday SAC meeting.

- A. NOAA Ship Bell M. Shimada
- B. Santa Cruz Island Shoreline Cleanup
- C. Center of Excellence for Unmanned Technology.
 - a. NOAA website with more information can be found [here](#).
- D. Sanctuary Tourism Outreach
- E. SAC Recruitment:
 - a. Kristi mentioned the Sanctuary is seeking applicants for appointments to the Sanctuary Advisory Council for specific positions listed including: Business (Member & Alternate (M&A)), Non-consumptive recreation (M&A); Commercial Fishing (M&A), Research (M&A), Conservation (M&A), and Public at-large (2 M). Applications are due March 31st more info here.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

ADJOURN

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/21/15 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC, SAC Conservation Seat), Stewart Willison (SAC Non Consumptive Alternate), Michael Smith (Gray Whale Count), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy, SAC Conservation Alternate), Debra Herring (SAC Non-Consumptive Seat); Vic Cox (SAC Public At-large Alternate), Jenna Driscoll (SBCK)

Via Phone: Walt Schobel (Air Force, SAC DOD Alternate)

CINMS Staff: Via phone: Michael Murray, Sean Hastings, and Sean Herron (Sea Grant Fellow)

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. MPA implementation activities:
- a. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative continues to work on its MPA Awareness Campaign. Recently completed activities include participation in Underwater Parks Day at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Sea Center. The event hosted fun activities for kids, displayed local school children art, a tide pool exhibit, and hosted special speakers.
 - i. Feedback from CWG members was that attendance felt light. There was a discussion about cost of admission for adults. It was suggested that the SB Channel MPA Collaborative could consider seeking grant funding to offset cost of admission for all participants. It was noted that this item has been placed on a short list of ideas for the Collaborative.
 - b. Jenna mentioned that SBCK has sent a final draft of the MPA Excursion Brochure to the printer.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. VSR Trial Update: Sean Herron will provide a wrap up of the VSR Trial at the SAC Meeting, building on information he presented at the previous SAC meeting.
- a. Bren School Proposed Project. Sanctuary staff discussed a new student UCSB Bren group thesis; “Economic Incentives for Vessel Speed Reduction in the Santa Barbara Channel.” The project will explore the value of the whale watching industry and value of whales to our region. This will be the first study of this scale to explore the financial benefit of whale conservation.

There will also be an evaluation of benefits associated with air emissions reductions.

- B. Marine Shipping Working Group: Sean Herron will report on the status of the new Working Group at Friday's SAC meeting. First Working Group meeting is scheduled in Santa Barbara, location tbd, Feb 25th, from 10-4. Staff and the SAC Executive Committee have been conducting planning meetings with facilitation team Kearns and West and Sea Sketch staff.
 - a. Co-Chairs: The SAC will be asked to consider approval of two co-chairs for the new Working Group. Co-Chairs must be members of both the SAC and the Working Group. Co-Chairs will serve in an administrative role for the Working Group and reporting role to the SAC. Currently, names under consideration include: Kristi Birney and Phyllis Grifman. The SAC will be asked to approve working group co-chairs.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. 2015 Council Work Topics: Mike is working with staff on a draft starter list for consideration on Friday. CWG members were in agreement that the new Working Group will be a priority. Kristi committed to reporting to the CWG about Working Group progress, alternatives. She will also be responsible for carrying any CWG concerns, issues, and suggestions back to the new Working Group.
 - a. Possible themes for work topics: Marketing Subcommittee, Marine Shipping Group, MPAs, OA, Navy Fiber Optic Cable project, RAP and research team engagement, SET MPA education outreach, and Desalination (as it relates to NPS possible small scale desal proposals).
- B. Desalinization: Educational Presentation & Discussion: Staff from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary will present a guidance document that they use for approaching the topic of desalination.
- C. Ocean Acidification Update: This SAC meeting we will hear from Sanctuary staff about their work on OA. Jenna noted that SBCK has been partnering with the Hoffman Lab to install another OA sensor at Naples Reef. Jenna mentioned that SBCK collects the water sample and data, which are then transferred to the Hoffman Lab. Sanctuary staff is also working on scheduling a presentation by the UCSB Hoffman Lab for the May SAC meeting.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Debra mentioned that Antioch University is showing a documentary film tomorrow about factory farming. Movie is from 4-6 at Antioch University in downtown Santa Barbara.
- B. Vic mentioned the movie Breach will show during the Santa Barbara Film Festival. This movie is about whale watching and whaling in Iceland.
- C. Mike mentioned that SAC recruiting will take place for a variety of Seats. Announcements will be sent out soon.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
11/19/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC, SAC Conservation Seat,), Debra Herring (SAC Non-Consumptive Seat), Michelle Berman Kowalewski (Channel Island Cetacean Research Unit), Aliya Rubinstein (UCSB Bren student), Kira Redmond (SBCK), Stewart Willison (SAC Non Consumptive Alternate), Michael Smith (Gray Whale Count), John Ugoretz (Navy, SAC Department of Defense (DOD) Seat), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy, SAC Conservation Alternate), Debra Herring (SAC Non-Consumptive Seat); Vic Cox (SAC Public At-large Alternate)

Via Phone: Walt Schobel (Air Force, SAC DOD Alternate)

CINMS Staff: Via phone: Michael Murray, and Sean Herron (Sea Grant Fellow).

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative continues to work on its MPA Awareness Campaign. Recently completed trips include: Dive Trips with Truth Aquatics & SBCK; SBCK's "SPLASH" Paddle Out, Two excursions with Seafaring Opportunities for Those in Need (SOFTIN) with Capt. Bacon and EDC. SBCK and Truth Aquatics have planned a dive trip (weather dependent) this Saturday Nov 22nd.
- b. SBCK is finalizing a new brochure they developed, "Explore Santa Barbara's Marine Protected Areas," listing business and vendors serving local MPAs. Funding to print the brochures will be shared between SBCK and the Collaborative. Brochures will be distributed to tourist centers, hotels, and businesses serving our region. SBCK is also designing a new website that provides qr codes linking MPA access maps, public access points, MPA highlights and recreational opportunities.
- c. Greg mentioned that he has been able to get new MPA signs up Devereux and Campus Point to replace ones that had been removed.
- d. Debra mentioned a video that has gone viral showed divers chumming for hammerhead sharks has raised some concern. She asked if the divers were chumming in an MPA. Sanctuary staff looked at the footage to determine where the incident took place. While difficult to be certain, staff reported that the incident did not appear to take place in an MPA but on the backside of Anacapa Island. NOAA enforcement department is aware of the incident.
- e. John mentioned that there is another viral video of the same diver releasing lobster in MPA after harvesting it, taking it home, and then giving it to the Sea

Center. John noted that releasing the lobster into the wild after it had been placed in an aquarium setting (the Sea Center) is illegal.

- f. There was some conversation acknowledging that the diver had potentially overlooked some rules even though his intent seems well intended at least in the case of the lobster release. The group suggested communicating with him would be worthwhile as he is an active source of info and imagery and in the public spot light for now.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. VSR Trial Update: Sean Herron will provide a wrap up of the VSR Trial.
 - a. Michael reported that there have been a large number of whales near shipping lanes and was interested to know if there have been any notices. Sean Herron mentioned that the USCG has a whale advisory that is currently going out advising mariners that whales are present in the area. Broadcast of this notice has been extended beyond the typical season as whales are still in the channel.
- B. Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and brief update at Friday's SAC meeting on the funding status for the Working Group.
 - a. Funding: EDC and partners (CINMS and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District) return in early November to the Santa Barbara Foundation and interview for an additional \$100K for the Safe Passage Project. We are pleased to announce that we secured the \$100K. Unfortunately, we were notified that the additional \$36K could not be guaranteed at this time. This funding would be used to covers EDC's participation in the working group. We will continue to move forward as planned with the Working Group and anticipate starting the Working Group early next year. EDC is actively seeking funding and will continue to have conversations with our funding partners and our hopeful that we can fill this gap. If we cannot secure funding we will have to revise our level of engagement in the Working Group.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Optional Mock-Council Discussion: At the SAC meet this week there will be a SAC agenda Mock-Council Discussion item. This is made up exercise to give UCSB Bren School Master's students the opportunity to experience what it is like to be in a real world policy forum. CINMS staff have emphasized that this is just a mock-exercise and no proposal is before staff requesting cruise ship visitation to the Sanctuary. SAC members are encouraged to attend and participate as members of the public.
- B. Marine Mammal Standing Response: There will be several presentations about Marine Mammals this Friday. Michelle will be presenting her research looking at whales and dolphins over the last 10 years.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Santa Barbara City- Desalination Plant

- There was a robust discussion regarding the City’s plan to re-start the City of Santa Barbara’s Desalination plant. Discussion centered on the different technologies that are used for water delivery into the desalination facility and the range of effects different types of intake technologies could have on the marine environment. Debra and Ben have been talking about this issue and its relevance to the Sanctuary and SAC. SBCK brought forward a resolution to start as a template for conversation. The resolution encourages the Cities of Santa Barbara and Montecito to consider the feasibility of a subsurface intake versus an open ocean intakes (as currently proposed by the City of SB) should they decide to move forward with a desalination plant. SBCK has been lobbying the City to consider the feasibility of a subsurface option.
- John suggested that the appropriate procedural path forward would be to introduce the topic at the upcoming SAC meeting Friday during the CWG Report with a request that SBCK have an opportunity to return to the SAC in January for a more robust presentation and discussion about this topic and a possible conversation about a draft proposed resolution.
- There was general consensus and the CWG is supportive of this approach. At this time the CWG request that at the Executive Committee consider including this topic as an Agenda item at the next SAC meeting in January. SBCK would provide a presentation with an opportunity for input and discussion on the draft template resolution.
- Walt shared the link to a white paper titled “Overview of Desalination Plant Intake Alternatives.” This paper can be accessed at:
http://www.watereuse.org/sites/default/files/u8/Intake_White_Paper.pdf

ADJOURN

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Staff: Sean Herron via phone (Sea Grant Fellow CINMS)

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative continues to work on its MPA Awareness Campaign. As part of the MPA Awareness Campaign, upcoming events will include a dive trip for 40 divers to Naples Reef with SBCK and Truth Aquatics. SBCK is also hosting “SPASH,” a paddle out on Oct 25th in Isla Vista.¹ In addition, EDC is working with Seafaring Opportunities for Those in Need (SOFTIN) in the next few months to host two excursions trips that will provide at-sea education, skill building and self-esteem for people with special needs.
- b. Greg mentioned that he has been working with UCSB to get approval of Campus Point MPA signage. The sign location and design had been completed; next is fabrication and installation.
- c. SBCK shared a new brochure they developed, “Explore Santa Barbara’s Marine Protected Areas,” listing business and vendors serving local MPAs. Funding to print the brochures may come from the Collaborative. Brochures will be distributed to tourist centers, hotels, and businesses serving our region. SBCK is also designing a new website that provides qr codes linking MPA access maps, public access points, MPA highlights and recreational opportunities.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. VSR Pilot: On September 10, 2014, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, and the Environmental Defense Center hosted a community forum to discuss their current Vessel Speed Reduction Trial Program that aims to slow down commercial cargo ships in the

¹ Meet at the end of Del Playa Road by staircase to Devereux Beach to join. Event is from 11-2 more info here: <http://www.sbck.org/calendar/>

Santa Barbara Channel to reduce air pollution and increase protection of endangered whales. The forum featured guests from the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association and Maersk Line, in addition to a presentation on a recent air pollution and vessel speed reduction study by Dr. Wayne Miller from UC Riverside. Other meeting highlights included an overview of the program, updates on current whale research taking place in the Santa Barbara Channel, and a forum panel with the meeting hosts and guests that was moderated by Dr. Steve Gaines, Dean of the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management at UC Santa Barbara. The Ventura County Air Pollution Control District also announced that their board approved \$30,000 in funding to join the coalition's efforts, increasing the program's total funding to \$90,000.

- B. Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting on the funding status for the Working Group.
- a. Funding: We have successfully filled the \$50K funding need/gap for the Working Group. Funding has been provided by the Bower Foundation and International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW). EDC and partners will return in early October to the Santa Barbara Foundation for an interview for an additional \$100K. Should we receive that funding we will move forward with the new SAC Working Group.
 - b. John mentioned that California Air Resources Board recently presented the latest technology assessment on potential emission reducing technologies and strategies for ocean-going vessels at a workshop in Diamond Bar. The presentation is here: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/msprog/tech/presentation/oceanvessels.pdf> and identifies vessel speed reduction on page 56 and also mentions the potential benefits to marine mammals.
 - c. We discussed sound monitoring in the SB Channel. It was acknowledged that while most of the HARPS have been removed there still remains a small handful of HARPS. Sean mentioned that a new HARP is going to be installed south of the islands to measure low frequency acoustics. NOAA staff James Barlow and Shannon Rankin are involved in the project and new HARP installation.
 - d. Sean and Kristi noted that the Whale Alert App has been released: <http://westcoast.whalealert.org/>. The Whale Alert App is designed for citizen science and for the general public to use. This same App is also used on the east coast for whale sightings and has been shared with the whale watching and shipping industry. There is a similar target audience on the West Coast. Michael mentioned that he had inquired about the ability to enter gray whale data into Whale Alert App and its usefulness for local small boater operators. He questioned that if the data was entered via Whale Alert could it then be shared with boaters to notify them of the location and presence of gray

whales. Sean shared that Whale Alerts location information is taken from the person who enters the data's physical location. This may be logistically challenging for Michaels purpose since the Gray Whale Count collects data from on-shore; thus, data points would alert boaters to the presence of gray whales but not the exact location.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. New CINMS Science Team: At the SAC meeting on Friday we will get to meet the new CINMS Research Coordinator, who will give an update about current Sanctuary research projects. In addition, Ryan Freeman (CINMS Sea Grant Fellow) will report on current scientific research. Dr. Miller of UCSB MSI will present information on a large scale multi-year science project that Sanctuary is involved in.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Sanctuary Nomination Process and Central Coast Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary: Kristi noted that she continues checking in with local Chumash representative, Luhui Isha Waiya to see if the Southern Band of the Chumash has endorsed the proposal. In addition, Kristi is having further conversations with local community members and groups to gather more information about the proposal.
- B. Jenna mentioned that the next cruise ship will be visiting the SB Harbor this weekend and SBCK will be greeting and monitoring the cruise ship as it enters SB Harbor.
- C. This Saturday, September 20th is California Coastal Cleanup Day. Visit this website for local cleanup sites: <http://www.sbprojectcleanwater.org/CCD/>

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 - c. We discussed sound monitoring in the SB Channel. It was acknowledged that while most of the HARPS have been removed there still remains a small handful of HARPS. Sean mentioned that a new HARP is going to be installed south of the islands to measure low frequency acoustics. NOAA staff James Barlow and Shannon Rankin are involved in the project and new HARP installation.
 - d. Sean and Kristi noted that the Whale Alert App has been released: <http://westcoast.whalealert.org/>. The Whale Alert App is designed for citizen science and for the general public to use. This same App is also used on the east coast for whale sightings and has been shared with the whale watching and shipping industry. There is a similar target audience on the West Coast. Michael mentioned that he had inquired about the ability to enter gray whale data into Whale Alert App and its usefulness for local small boater operators. He questioned that if the data was entered via Whale Alert could it then be shared with boaters to notify them of the location and presence of gray

whales. Sean shared that Whale Alerts location information is taken from the person who enters the data's physical location. This may be logistically challenging for Michaels purpose since the Gray Whale Count collects data from on-shore; thus, data points would alert boaters to the presence of gray whales but not the exact location.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. New CINMS Science Team: At the SAC meeting on Friday we will get to meet the new CINMS Research Coordinator, who will give an update about current Sanctuary research projects. In addition, Ryan Freeman (CINMS Sea Grant Fellow) will report on current scientific research. Dr. Miller of UCSB MSI will present information on a large scale multi-year science project that Sanctuary is involved in.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Sanctuary Nomination Process and Central Coast Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary: Kristi noted that she continues checking in with local Chumash representative, Luhui Isha Waiya to see if the Southern Band of the Chumash has endorsed the proposal. In addition, Kristi is having further conversations with local community members and groups to gather more information about the proposal.
- B. Jenna mentioned that the next cruise ship will be visiting the SB Harbor this weekend and SBCK will be greeting and monitoring the cruise ship as it enters SB Harbor.
- C. This Saturday, September 20th is California Coastal Cleanup Day. Visit this website for local cleanup sites: <http://www.sbprojectcleanwater.org/CCD/>

ADJOURN

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
7/16/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Michael Smith (Gray Whale Count), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy), Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Debra Herring (SAC Non-Consumptive Seat), Vic Cox (SAC Public at Large Alternate)

Staff: Sean Hasting (phone)

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Kristi reported on the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area Collaborative work at World Ocean Day/Santa Barbara Ocean Festival. There was general agreement from attendees that there was a great showing of collaborative members, good Chumash representation. There was a lot of good effort/energy. The booths were built in well, not too far from the main stage, and there were many opportunities for groups to talk on stage. However turnout was low. Suggestions were made about improving signage, festival layout, marketing/promotion of the event.

As part of the MPA Awareness Campaign, other Collaborative sponsored events such as fishing trips, kayak trip, condor express trip were all successful with positive response from participants and associated recreational businesses.

Of special note: SBCK also took the lead subsidizing a dive trip, fishing trip, and several boat trips for underserved (low income) youth. These activities were also well received by participants and collaborating businesses.

Sean mentioned that discussions during the technical enforcement meeting have focused on MPA infractions. Unfortunately, these infractions continue to happen and several hotspots continue to be problem areas. It seems that current existing outreach efforts may not be enough to detour poaching. There was conversation about exploring opportunities to raise fines in the hopes of detouring illegal activity and motivating behavior change.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting on the funding status for the Working Group and announcing the addition of new Working Group Members.

- a. Funding: We have been applying for funding to fill the 50K funding gap for the Working Group. We applied to three foundations in the last month. Foundations will notify us in the fall if we are a grant funding recipient. We are also in conversations with International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), who are in discussions about an idea to provide i-pads (pre-loaded with the Whale Spotter App) to some commercial ships transiting the west coast. Whale Spotter is an App that helps identify whales.
 - b. Working Group Participation: Kristi has confirmed participation by Margaret Cooney and April Wobst, two staff from the IFAW, who will participate on the new SAC Working Group. They both bring NGO experience and lessons learned from many years of working with the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary on right whale protection on the east coast. Margaret will be the main representative with April serving as an alternate.
- B. Michael gave a Gray Whale Count update. This was a fantastic year for counting gray whales! The Gray Whale Count actually extended the season because grays were still present and migrating thorough the area beyond the time when counting typically ends. Counts this year were very high for mother/calf pairs. Calf production was 2nd highest for all years on record. They counted a total of 100 juvenile (also higher than average). This year the total count was 750 whales (typically the count ranges from 500 to 600). Michael noted that approx. 75-90% of the mother/calf pairs are captured in the Gray Whale Counts from shore.
- a. Michael also noted that he is increasing UCSB student participation in the Gray Whale Count with a new program called “My MPA.” As part of this program students will be monitoring the campus point MPAs and monitoring vessel traffic. Michael is working with MPA Enterprise to determine best approach for integrating his citizen science data into the monitoring effort.
- C. Sean noted that the Whale Alert App will be released in September 2014. Whale Alert App is designed for citizen science and for the general public to use. This same App is also used on the east coast for whale sightings and has been shared with the whale watching and shipping industry. It will be available to the public with a similar target audience on the West Coast. He noted that this App is different from Whale Spotter App which is currently in use by Naturalist Corp. members and is for professional and trained whale observers.
- D. Sean gave a Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Trial update. He noted that the Sanctuary, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District and EDC launched registration for the VSR Trial last month. During the registration period there was an overwhelming response from shipping companies. We received more requests than we are currently able to reward during this Trial. The significant interest in the project has propelled the partners to seek additional funds to incentivize more ships.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Tourism Panel Discussion: Sean mentioned that this SAC Working Group is trying to find ways to make the Sanctuary more marketable and find ways to encourage the community to get out and visit the Sanctuary. This is similar approach that the SB

Channel MPA Collaborative is taking by encouraging responsible ocean recreation and stewardship.

- B. SAC Summit Report & Call to Action Letter: We discussed the Call to Action Letter. This letter expresses a commitment by SAC Advisory Bodies and the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee to ensure well planned and sustainable management of recreational activities in MPAs. The letter acknowledges the growing number of recreational users in our special places and emphasizes the following: 1. Inviting people to play responsibly in MPAs; 2. Building lasting ocean constituencies by understating the drivers of how humans recreate in these special places; 3. Managing recreation activities in a sustainable manner that supports ecosystem values; 4. Engaging recreational users as ocean stewards; and 5. Making all this happen through collaboration, sharing resources, and building partnerships. The group was supportive of the spirit of the letter and appreciates the SAC Chairs for taking the lead on this effort.

Debra also mentioned that the Federal Advisory Committee also hosted a webinar providing more information about the letter.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW) Report: Kristi reported that she attended CHOW this year. A very impressive line-up of key-note speakers included John Podesta (Counselor to the President of the USA), Sally Jewell (United States Secretary of the Interior), and Sheldon Whitehouse (U.S. Senate, Rhode Island). John started the meeting by announcing that NOAA is now accepting nominations for new National Marine Sanctuaries. NOAA and partners have developed an informative website ([here](#)) providing more information about the nomination process.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
5/14/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, and Stewart Wilson,

Staff: Sean Heron, Sean Hasting (phone)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area Collaborative is kicking-off its MPA awareness campaign by participating in the Santa Barbara Ocean Festival June 7th and sponsoring a variety of subsidized or free ocean related activities that will get people out on the water to learn about local MPAs and how individuals can become Stewards of the Sea. Leading up to the Festival SBCK is partnering with Capt. Bacon and will be hosting a subsidized fishing trip. In addition, as separate activities SBCK will also host a dive trip to Naples Reef MPA and a kayak trip at Campus Point MPA. In the months following the Ocean Festival the Collaborative will sponsor additional activities include a Whale Watching Coastal Cruise aboard the Condor Express, a recreational fishing trip, boat trips for children with disabilities, and a youth art show. More details will be provided as these projects develop.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. CINMS Whales Update: Sean Herron reported that:
 - Whale Sighting Maps are being updated. There has been an increase in the number of humpback whale sightings in the Channel this month.
 - The new Whale Watch Spotting App will be rolled out within the next month. This App will be similar to Whale Spotter Pro App that has been used on the East Coast. The new App has some updates so it is more user friendly and there will be two versions of the App. One version will be available for the public to use.
 - An entangled Humpback whale was identified in Monterey. This whale was tagged and tracked down to the Santa Barbara Channel where the NMFS Entanglement Team was able to remove the fishing gear and free the whale.
- B. CINMS and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (SBCAPCD) staff will provide a VSR Pilot update at the SAC meeting.

- C. Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting outlining efforts to secure the remaining \$50K to support the new Working Group. The Safe Passage team (CINMS, EDC, and SBCAPCD) have applied for several grants and will receive notification about grant funding in the Fall. Should the grants be secured we anticipate the Working Group would convene and move forward in Fall 2014.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Ocean Acidification: Laura Francis from the Sanctuary will be providing information at the upcoming SAC meeting about the online webinars she has been hosting.
- B. Sanctuary Classic Fishing & Photography Tournament: Sanctuary Classic will be hosted again this year and will be similar to previous year's event including a Best Practices workshop date and time tbd. Debra mentioned that it would be great to incorporate for the Classic to host a Best Practices workshop before the event starts or somehow working it into a condition for participating in the event. She also mentioned it would be worthwhile to host workshops both in Ventura and Santa Barbara.
- C. Channel Islands Documentary Film: A member of the film crew will be at the SAC meeting to discuss this new documentary. This is the first full length feature documentary of the Channel Island. The film will be releasing on public television in 2015.
- D. Evaluating Offshore Wind Energy Feasibility: A Bren group will be presenting final results from the Master Thesis work this Friday on the evaluating offshore wind energy feasibility.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Sean Herron mentioned that the Ocean Defenders Alliance removed 600 lbs of net debris off Anacapa Island recently as part of their marine debris removal program.

ADJOURN

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
3/19/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC & SAC Conservation Seat), Debra Herring (SAC Recreation Non-Consumptive Seat), Jenna Driscoll (SBCK), Stewart Wilson (SAC Recreation Non-Consumptive Alternate), Vic Cox (SAC Public At-Large Alternate), Greg Helms (OC & SAC Conservation Alternate), and KK Holland (Hannah-Beth Jackson staff)

Staff: Sean Heron

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch and has plans to expand MPA efforts for education and youth outreach. They are planning several boat trips for at-risk youth and the Chumash community. SBCK mentioned an interest in securing support for an MPA awareness day that could fall on the same day as World Oceans Day.

The Gray Whale Count (Michael Smith and volunteers) continue surveying Campus Point MPA as part of their daily gray whale count efforts. Data and reports can be found at Gray Whale Count website.

- b. **SAC Presentation Calla Allison:** Kristi reported that Calla Allison, Director of Community Partnerships, MPA Collaborative Implementation Project, will be presenting at the Friday SAC meeting about her involvement in helping organize local collaboratives. At the SAC meeting Kristi will share information about the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area Collaborative implementation project.

The SB Channel MPA Collaborative implementation project involves a series of events scheduled in conjunction with World Oceans Day on June 7th or 8th, 2014. The purpose of this project is to: 1) connect this narrative to Santa Barbara Channel's new coastal MPAs to generate public awareness, stewardship and community engagement around these special places; 2) showcase ocean activities that serve to improve health of and enjoyment in the Channel's ocean waters and share information about appropriate locations for non-consumptive and consumptive activities; and 3) communicate the status and findings of continued biological monitoring of the Channel Islands MPAs and highlight these areas as sentinels of ocean health.

- c. **SAC Presentation Jenn Caselle:** This Friday at the SAC meeting, Jenn will present some of her biological findings from monitoring the Santa Barbara Channel MPAs.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Marine Shipping Working Group Update: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting about the funding situation for the Safe Passage Project (still looking to secure 50K) and providing a list of specific working group members and technical experts. Contact Kristi Birney with any questions (kbirney@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org).

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Marketing Subcommittee Report & Recommendations: Michael Cohen will report out on the marketing subcommittee recommendations at the SAC meeting on Friday. These recommendations include suggestions for continued social media presence, increased sales of Sanctuary products (i.e. t-shirts, water bottles), increased coordination with Visit SB, and presentation in conjunction with other groups and organizations.
- B. MERITO: Rocio will provide an update at the Friday SAC meeting about the status of the MERITO program.
- C. Advisory Council Charter Renewal: Channel Islands SAC Charter will be renewed in June 2014. We discussed revisions that will be made to the charter with respect to the term limits for non-governmental members. The change will result in a limit on members serving only three consecutive terms (terms are two years each) for a total of six years in any given seat. This change will not be retroactive. Many other Sanctuary Advisory Councils Charters already have term limits, and this policy is now being implemented Sanctuary wide.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

Ocean Acidification:

- Sanctuary staff have taken the lead on developing a series of webinars for ocean educators called Sharing Ocean Acidification Resources for Communicators and Educators (SOARCE). More information about the series can be found at the NOAA Ocean Acidification Program website ([here](#)). The first webinar titled: From Science to Communication was hosted Wed March 19th. Resources and information from that webinar will be shared via web and sent to participants in the next several weeks.
- It was mentioned that Lydia Kapsenberg from the Hoffman OA lab will be providing some OA training to the Naturalist Corps members.

- SBCK received some additional funding to install a new SeaFet OA monitoring device at Naples Reef. This new station will add one more site to Lydia Kapsenberg's current monitoring network.

SAC Recruitment: The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for appointments to the Advisory Council. Deadline is March 31, 2014 more info [here](#).

Orcas and Dolphins in Captivity Presentation: A discussion at the SB Maritime Museum, March 26, 7:00-8:30. Call to RSVP.

Cruise Ships: SBCK continues to meet cruise ships as they enter the SB region to welcome them and remind them that they have entered a no dumping area. Twenty-nine cruise ships are expected over the next year.

Fukushima Radiation: SBCK is involved in two collaborative monitoring efforts to determine if radiation from the Fukushima event has reached the Santa Barbara coast. One effort is to monitor water samples from the area. According to results, these samples show zero isotopes for radiation indicating that at this time the radiation plume has not reached Santa Barbara. In addition, SBCK is participating in another project called "Kelp Watch 2014." This collaboration (with over 40 research institutions/groups) involves sampling kelp from local area and sending it off to be analyzed for radiation. There will be three sampling periods for this effort. Jenna noted that Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution is taking a leadership role on the radiation issues and has a very informative website found [here](#).

Debra shared information about the 1st California Adaptation Forum. Organizers are currently seeking proposals and the deadline for submitting them is March 20th. The Symposium will be hosted in Sacramento on August 19-20th (more info [here](#)).

Debra and Sean provide copies of the new and updated brochures "Protecting Your Channel Islands." If you have an interest in getting brochures to hand out contact Sanctuary staff.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/22/14 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Jenna Driscoll (SBCK), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Stewart Wilson, Vic Cox, Gail Osherenko, Greg Helms (OC)

Staff: Andrea Dransfield, Sean Heron, Sean Hasting (phone)

I. INTRODUCTION

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch. They will be conducting an MPA Watch Training on Feb 4th. Visit SBCK website to learn more.
- b. Kristi reported that the Santa Barbara Channel Marine Protected Area Collaborative has submitted a grant application to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for the 2013 Ernest F. Hollings Ocean Awareness Grant.

The grant proposal seeks funding in support of a collaborative project that will involve a series of events scheduled in conjunction with World Oceans Day on June 8, 2014. The purpose of this project is to: 1) communicate the status and findings of continued biological monitoring of the Channel Islands MPAs and highlight these areas as sentinels of ocean health; 2) connect this narrative to Santa Barbara Channel's new coastal MPAs to generate public awareness, stewardship and community engagement around these special places; and 3) showcase ocean activities that serve to improve health of and enjoyment in the Channel's ocean waters and share information about appropriate locations for non-consumptive and consumptive activities.

Since the initial meeting of the group in February 2013, the SB MPA Collaborative Group has been working to broaden its membership in order to reflect a representative cross-section of local ocean stakeholders. There has been an effort to actively engage with recreational and commercial fishermen and the Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation to integrate their interests into the collaborative efforts.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Proposed Marine Shipping Working Group: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday's SAC meeting asking that the SAC approve a new working group that would develop recommendations to: reduce the risk of ship strikes on endangered whales; decrease air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions; improve navigational safety and promote efficient maritime shipping throughout the region; and minimize interference of naval operations and conflicts with other ocean user. The Proposal specifically ask that SAC to approve: 1. a new Marine Shipping Working Group, 2. general membership (specific members and technical experts to be determined by March meeting), and 3. the project proposal. Contact Kristi Birney (kbirney@EnvironmentalDefenseCenter.org) for a copy of the proposal.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Ocean Acidification: SBCK will be presenting at the SAC how it will be contributing to monitoring array in the Santa Barbara Channel. There will also be presentations by Linda Kapsenberg of the Hoffman Lab and Laura Francis of the CINMS at the Friday SAC meeting.
- B. Prioritization of Council Work Topics: Debra suggested adding responsible wildlife watching (i.e. Ocean Etiquette) to the list of Work Topics.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- Andrea attended the Biennial Conference on the Biology of Marine Mammology. She presented on humpback whale habitat modeling. Leslie Abramson (Gulf of the Farallones) also attended the conference and discussed different ways to use cloud based data bases to assist with whale conservation. For more info contact Andrea Dransfield.
- Kristi reported that the Sanctuary Currents Symposium will be held on April 26, 2014. The theme is "Marine Debris: How do you pitch in?" A call for abstracts is taking place in January. For more info go to: [:http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/symposium.html](http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/symposium.html)
- Andrea reported that the SAC will have the following SAC seats open: Education, Rec Fishing, Public at Large, Tourism, Chumash. The deadline for applying for the open seats is March 1st. More info [here](#).
- Sean Hastings reported that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has released a recent series of reports on the economic impact of commercial fisheries on local county economies. The report about the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary can be found [here](#).
- Sean Heron mentioned the Sanctuary is starting to gather background information on the possible implication of fracking and other oil and gas well stimulating techniques in the Channel.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
11/13/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Stewart Wilson, Vic Cox, John Ugoretz (Navy), Elena Egorova (Bren Student), and Sarah Sorensen (Bren Student)

Staff: Andrea Dransfield

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch.

SBCK reported that the “MPA Splash” event they hosted was a success. The event targeted educating the IV community (including UCSB students) about the campus point MPA. This event may become an annual event for SBCK.

SBCK is also exploring a new initiative that would provide local businesses the financial incentives to incorporate MPA excursions into the suite of recreational opportunities and outings they provide customers. SBCK has partnered with a local six pack dive operator to mobilize awareness about economic opportunities in MPAs and will be seeking additional funding to expand this new initiative to other local businesses.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday’s SAC meeting from interviews she conducted with stakeholders to explore opportunities for advancing discussions to address marine shipping issues in the Santa Barbara Channel region. Her presentation will provide a synopsis of the interviews and will cover the following topics: Issues, Interest, Information, and Needs; Other Issues for Consideration; Process; and Proposed Next Steps. Please attend the Friday SAC meeting or e-mail Kristi for more project details.

Vic suggested that there might be consideration of expanding the scope of the working group to include concerns about routing of cruise ships into and out of the Santa Barbara Harbor.

- B. Ben reported that SBCK has been monitoring cruise ship routing patterns into and out of the SB Harbor. John mentioned that AIS data could be used to better understand cruise ship routes and speeds.

- D. John mentioned a letter that was sent by Congresswomen Lois Capps and Julia Brownley addressed to the Navy and the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) encouraging discussions about ship routing through the missile testing range. The Navy and PMSA have responded to the letter and have started having conversations. They have identified the need for more data on whale presence and are exploring options for filling this data gap.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Channel Islands National Park General Management:
 - It was mentioned that Russell Galipeau, NPS Superintendent, will be providing more information about the Parks Management Plan at the Friday SAC meeting.
- B. Federal Government Shutdown:
 - Andrea reported that the following operations were affected by shutdown: Naturalist Corps operations, Research Vessel Operations, and an Education Workshop was cancelled.
 - There was discussion about how we could express concern over the loss of economic, recreational, and educational opportunities that occurred during the federal government shutdown and how we might share these concerns more broadly with legislations or the general public. Kristi suggested that she would explore opportunities for working with an intern to draft a letter from EDC that could possibly be shared as a sign-on letter with other individuals or other organizations.
- C. Ocean Acidification:
 - Andrea had two updates from Laura Francis (CINMS staff):
 - Laura has participated in a NOAA Principal Investigator (PI) meeting and has been in discussions with the UCSB Hofmann Lab about potential collaboration for developing an OA sensor network in the SB Channel region, including the Sanctuary.
 - Laura reported that she is leading an OA networking group that will be creating a webinar series to share effective educational activities related to OA. They hope to start the webinar series early next year. This builds off the efforts started by the OA Communication workshop in Sept 2012
 - Ben reported that SBCK is still exploring opportunities to partner with UCSB researchers at the UCSB Hoffman Lab to expand OA research and data collocation in the SB region.

- D. Graduate Student Mock-Council: Sean Hastings is teaching a UCSB Bren class this semester and students will be participating in a mock-SAC Council Agenda item this Friday. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate during the public comment period of the exercise.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Vic reported that there is a new book written by Joan Easton Lentz “Naturalist Guide to the Santa Barbara Region;” there is an emphasis on the Santa Barbara region and a chapter on the Channel Islands. Book signings events will take place locally and more info can be found at: <http://joaneastonlentz.com/>
- B. California Central Coast Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary: Kristi reported that the Northern Chumash Tribal Council is asking organizations to support a proposal for the California Central Coast Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. The proposal extends from Point Conception to up to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and out to the Western Slope of the Santa Lucia Bank. For more info contact fcollins@northernchumash.org

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
9/18/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Jenn Feinberg Eckerle (NRDC), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy), Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Jefferson Litten (CEC), Stewart Wilson, Mary Byrd (SBCAPCD)

Staff: Sean Hastings

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch. SBCK will be hosting a community event called “MPA Splash” targeted at educating the IV community (including UCSB students) about the campus point MPA. The event will take place on October 5th from 11-2 pm. The event is free, bring your own board or kayak for the paddle out. Event will take place at Devereux Slough. Stay for free food and a raffle after the paddle.
- b. Sean Hastings reported that California Fish and Wildlife has notified CINMS staff that all future education and outreach material will need to include “State” before the name of State Reserves. They are still determining whether this protocol will effect MPAs that share boundaries with Federal MPAs.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update for the upcoming SAC meeting. At this meeting she will go over each of the seven 2009 SAC recommendations¹ highlighting (1) progress, (2) status, and (3) work still to be done. She will also provide an update on her efforts to reach out to individual SAC members and other stakeholders to gauge interest, solicit experience, and seek input on the consideration of developing a formal SAC process such as a Marine Shipping working group. Please attend the Friday SAC meeting or e-mail Kristi for more project details.
- B. Michael mentioned some concerns surrounding the increased visitation by cruise ships to the SB Harbor and specifically that they are arriving and

¹ Recommendations included: research and monitoring, alteration of vessel behavior, alteration to traffic separation schemes, education and outreach, incentives and mandates for vessel speed reductions, adaptive management, and engaging industry, agencies, stakeholders.

transiting the area during gray whale migration season. There is concern about possible overlap of ship routes and migration routes. Sean suggested raising this concern with the SB City Harbor Safety Commission and/or City Council. Ben suggested that there might be ways to work with the city to take this into consideration under the list of measures the City requires for cruise ships that visit our area. There was a robust discussion about the transferability of measures that have been explored offshore (ship speeds and rerouting) and how they might be applied to this situation to reduce the risk of whale strikes close to shore.

V. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Sanctuary Classic Tournament: Debra participated in the best practices sustainable fishing workshop. She reported that it was educational especially as it related to rock fish and sea bird best management practices (BMPs).
- B. UCSB Bren CalWind Project: Jefferson provided background and information on the Bren School Group project titled CalWind. The group will present at the SAC meeting this Friday. CEC and Infinity Wind are co-clients on the project which aims to accomplish the following: 1. Design and carryout a stakeholder survey; 2. Evaluate regulatory permitting processes and pathways; and 3. Conduct spatial evaluation of possible areas for offshore wind. This project is not part of any specific project proposal but instead seeks to gather information about offshore wind for the local area. The student group has just launched the survey and they are soliciting participation [here](#).
- Debra mentioned a project on the Santa Cruz municipal wharf that is assessing wind turbine impact on birds. The project is called the Greenwharf Project and more info can be found [here](#).
- C. Ocean Acidification:
- Kristi reported that The Seattle Times is running a series of stories on Ocean Acidification. The first article called “SeaChange, the Pacific’s Perilous Turn” provides an overview of the issue highlighting case studies including coral recruitment, clown fish, and seafood (fish, oysters, and crabs). This is a great messaging and informational resource. Articles can be found [here](#).
 - Kristi reported that NOAA has appointed Jennifer Bennett to be the regional coordination, education, and outreach staff for NOAA’s Ocean Acidification Program. Jenn is working to re-engage the Ocean Acidification working groups that were established at the Effective Practices for Communicating Ocean Acidification Workshop (2012). EDC is taking the lead along with Julia Robertson (Ocean Conservancy) and Laura Francis (CINMS) on the messaging working group.

- SBCK will be working with Gretchen Hoffman Lab on local Channel based Ocean Acidification monitoring. SBCK will assist with field monitoring on a variety of data arrays and loggers within the Santa Barbara Channel. It is possible that efforts might expand to other mainland and island sites. CINMS staff offered to provide assistance either with permitting and/or collaboration should there be an interest in expanding the number and location of monitoring sites.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. NOAA: Status Review Humpback Whale North Pacific Population: Kristi reported that NOAA will be reviewing a petition from the Hawaii Fisherman's Alliance for Conservation and Tradition Inc., to consider identifying the North Pacific population of the humpback whale as a Distinct Population Segment (DPS) and delist the DPS under the ESA. NOAA is soliciting comments by October 28, 2012. More info [here](#).

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
7/17/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Jenn Feinberg Eckerle (NRDC), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy), Jenna Driscoll & Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Vic Cox, Brian Shafritz (SBCAPCD), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count)

Staff: Andrea Dransfield

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. MPA implementation activities: a) Channelkeeper continues conducting MPA watch. They will also host some education/outreach MPA events that will involve kayakers and divers in the Fall. Michael reported that Gray Whale Count finished gray whale surveys for the years. He noted that Gray Whale Count has seven years of data that can be shared with other groups or management agencies.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Kristi reported that she continues to work with CINMS staff to fact check a reference table. CINMS Sea Grant Fellow Andrea has taken the lead on the section of the report that will review and compare the CINMS Advisory Council report to the Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank Joint Working Group Ship Strike Reports. As next steps Kristi will evaluate the table, working group comparison, and follow up by reaching out to individual SAC members. Following these activities the CWG will begin to develop recommendations for more formal SAC consideration.
- B. Kristi mentioned an informative article by John Calambokidis in the most recent American Cetacean Society Newsletter (Spyhopper) discussing efforts along the West Coast to better protect whales. The article mentions efforts in San Francisco Bay and the Santa Barbara Channel to modify shipping lanes, work done by Jessica Redfern et. al., to model whale habitat and overlap with shipping activity in the Channel, the collaborative effort in the Central Coast by the Joint Working Group, and the need to still consider alternative shipping routes and ship speed for blue whale protection.
- C. Michael asked if any ships have ever reported whale sightings and/or collisions with whales. Andrea indicated she would look into the question. Andrea presented a copy of the new whale poster that is under development, and will be distributed to the shipping industry. It encourages shipping companies to report all whale sightings, and provides a number to make reports.

- D. USCG Rule-Making: Kristi reported that the IMO recommendation for changing the lanes in the SB Channel went into effect on June 1, 2013. It is our understanding that the USCG is working with NOAA to get the charts updated and developing a Notice to Mariners (NOTM) with graphics. Sanctuaries will assist with sharing the NOTM and educating the maritime industry about the change.
- E. Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Meeting:
Kristi reported that the State Budget has absorbed all this year's Cap-and-Trade Auction revenue for the general fund. Efforts continue by SB County Air Pollution Control District, CINMS, and EDC to build support for the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Initiative and try to secure some funding (Cap-and-Trade or other funding) for the effort.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. Update: Andrea reported that a volunteer group from Citrix Online has updated the "Understanding Ocean Acidification" web site (cisantuary.org/acidocean). More updates to come during the SAC meeting.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Site Nomination Process for NMS: NOAA is re-establishing the sanctuary nomination process and seeking public comments on the criteria and process they should use to evaluate community based nominations (Docket NOAA-NOS-2013-0091). Public comment is accepted no later than August 27, 2013.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
5/15/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Jenn Feinberg Eckerle (NRDC), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy), Stuart Wilson, Christine Ryerson, Patricia Duffy, Kira Redman (SBCK), John Ugoretz (Navy)

Staff: Sean Hastings, Danielle (Danni) Lipski, and Andrea Dransfield

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: The Bren Group presented at the March 6th SAC meeting and the results were well received by the SAC. The full report will be posted on NOAA's Sanctuary [Socioeconomic Science](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/channelislands/boating.html) webpage along with a short two page fact sheet for the report. (<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/channelislands/boating.html>).
- B. MPA implementation activities: a) Channelkeeper continues conducting MPA watch. Debra reported that she handed out the "Protecting Your Channel Islands" brochure and other Sanctuary education & outreach material to Lynn Houston at the City of Santa Barbara Airport Department.
- C. RAP MPA Reporting Questions: There was support from the CWG for short term presentations by David Kushner & Jenn Caselle (or any other researchers that would like to present information to the SAC). There was a good discussion about a comprehensive 10 year review and the challenges of securing funding for this effort. Issues discussed included: question about possible approach and if it would be similar to 5 year review with a (1) NCEAS science working group, (2) Presentation at CA Islands Symposium, and (3) PISCO brochure. There was also discussion about challenges including lack of a mandate or decision making body requesting this report, relevance of 10 year anniversary, possibility of monitoring funding running out in the near future. John suggested that in addition to SAC presentations other avenues could be explored such as the Shore to Seas Lecture Series. Sean reported that there is an enforcement synthesis in the works to examine 10 years of data pre & post MPA.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Because of time constraints during the last SAC meeting the whales and shipping update was moved to the Superintendent's Report and there was not time to provide an update on the status of this effort. There will be time at the upcoming SAC meeting on Friday to provide this update. Kristi reported

that she continues to work with CINMS staff to fact check a reference table and will reach out to relevant SAC members after CINMS has finished its review. CINMS Sea Grant Fellow Andrea D. will be taking on the section of the report that will review and compare the CINMS Advisory Council report to the Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank Joint Working Group Ship Strike Reports. As next steps Kristi will use the table and working group comparison to develop recommendations for more formal SAC consideration.

- B. USCG Rule-Making: Sean reported that the IMO recommendation for changing the lanes in the SB Channel will go into effect on June 1st. The USCG has not completed its process so a domestic rulemaking will not be complete by June 1st; however, the domestic process will commence within the next few months. The USCG is working with NOAA to get the charts updated and developing a Notice to Mariners (NOTM) with graphics. Sanctuaries will assist with sharing the NOTM and educating the maritime industry about the change.
- C. Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Meeting:
- i. Kristi reported that the Governor has released the May Budget Revise (May 14) and has proposed loaning \$500 million of the first year's Cap-and-Trade Auction revenue to the general fund. The Budget still has to go through the legislative budget process. Efforts by SB County Air Pollution Control District, CINMS, and EDC are ongoing to build support for the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Initiative and try to secure some funding (Cap-and-Trade or other funding) in this year's Budget.
 - ii. The Air Resources Board also just released the final three- year [Cap-and-Trade Investment Plan](#). SBCAPCD, CINMS, and EDC made a successful push during the public comment period for the draft plan and were able to get a wide base of support for the VSR Initiative securing letters of support from: California Coastal Commission, the California Ocean Protection Council, the U.S. Navy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the Environmental Defense Center, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, the Maersk Line, over 280 community members, and many more.
- D. Other Whale Topics for Friday SAC Meeting: Sean mentioned that at Friday's SAC meeting he will cover the following items: whale poster, apps for whale monitoring/tracking that could be used on smart phones or computers, ride along on cargo ships, over flights, shipping lane changes; summer plan for whale NOTM.

IV. RAP Memo

- A. Discussion and support for the proposed RAP memo expressing concerns about data and evaluation quality not being mentioned in the National Conditions Report.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. Updates:
- Kristi shared that she and Laura Francis (CINMS) are working to re-engage the group that participated in the Effective Practices for Communicating OA Workshop held in Monterey last September. Laura has reached out to the entire group and solicited suggestions on a Communication Matrix that was developed from that workshop. Kristi and Christine Quigley (an EDC Intern) will be leading the OA Messaging working group to refine the messages in the Matrix.
 - Kristi shared that Sanctuary staff have secured a volunteer group from Citrix Online that will be updating the "Understanding Ocean Acidification" web site (cisantuary.org/acidocean) on June 16th.
 - NOAA is developing an OA Ocean Acidification Education Implementation Plan (OAEIP) that will be available to the public in the near future.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. World Ocean Day: CWG expressed support for World Ocean Day op-ed with some proposed edits to increase its chances of being selected as an article for media print. Kristi and John U. will work on edits.
- B. Sanctuary Classic: The CWG is looking forward to hearing about the upcoming Sanctuary Classic and how they have incorporated SAC recommendations to integrate responsible wildlife viewing guidelines into this year's tournament.
- C. Channel Islands Seabird Protection Network (SPN): Debra reported that SPN held their first Channel Islands Chapter meeting on March 1st. This chapter is known on as the Pt. Sur- Pt Mugu Chapter and will work on seabird protection along the coast and at the islands. They will be gathering to discuss issues and concerns while working to minimize levels of human disturbance to CA seabird colonies.
- D. SB Natural History Museum Town Hall Meeting: No one at the CWG meeting attended the meeting at the Natural History Museum but Kristi reported that Grant House (SB City Council member) did mention the VSR Initiative as an opportunity to reduce greenhouse gas emission for our local area and possibly along the CA coast.
- E. Debra shared info from a workshop she attended Monterey called the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Symposium Sanctuary Currents

2013 the title this year: "Change: Observations on the Shifting Ecology of the Sanctuary."

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
3/06/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Sheehy (SB Channelkeeper), Jenn Feinberg Eckerle (NRDC), Vic Cox, Patricia Duffy

Staff: Sean Hastings, Michael Murray, Danielle (Danni) Lipski, and Andrea Dransfield,

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: The students will present research findings at the March SAC meeting. Model results found that Private Boaters receive a positive economic benefit from trips to the Sanctuary with a consumer surplus ranging from \$30.57 to \$45.84. This is consistent with other research literature exploring socioeconomic benefits to recreational users. Boaters were also found to be positively influenced by biological attributes (Fish abundance, Fish richness, Invert abundance and Invert richness) and negatively affected by site exposure. Students found that based on the 2006 data the presence of MPAs was not a significant factor in determine where private boaters chose to recreate.
- B. Youth Ocean Steward Council Presentation on Marine Protected Areas: Mike shared that the students will be presenting a video and poster at the March SAC meeting. Debra participated in a trial-run and preview of the presentation to assist the students in preparation for the SAC meeting.
- C. MPA implementation activities: a) Jenn reported that there are informational MPA signs installed at all Isla Vista access points, Campus Point, and Coal Oil Point. (b) Michael reported that Channelkeeper will hold training for MPA-Watch in April. Efforts have been extended to include Naples and Campus Point, (c) The Central Coast MPA symposium was held in February. A new report and e-book highlighting key findings from the first 5 years of MPA monitoring in the Central Coast and can be accessed on-line at www.oceanspaces.org. Jenn reported that DFW has a new team working specifically on outreach and education efforts. The DFW team will be looking expand partnerships and outreach efforts.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Kristi reported that she is working on a table with the SACs 2009 recommendations, what has been accomplished, and what work remains to be done. She will give a progress report and update at the March SAC meeting. As next steps she will be following up with CINMS staff and other relevant SAC members to fact check the table. After this is complete, she will prepare a

memo to the SAC that will: (1) summarize the table, (2) compare the SAC report to the Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank Joint Working Group Ship Strike report, (3) discuss new and emerging opportunities, and (4) provide recommendations for more formal SAC consideration (e.g. reconvene the SAC subcommittee on whales and shipping, develop a working group, etc).

Patricia suggested that efforts be taken to explore options for engaging the corporate sector (Costco, Nike, big box store) and seeing if they can serve as a pressure point for engaging the cargo shipping industry. She mentioned the how public pressure or corporate pressure might be a motivating factor for the shipping industry to consider slower speeds.

Sean reported that the Sanctuary with the APCD submitted a Bren Group Project proposal to explore this angle but the proposal was not accepted. Michael shared that Pepperdine Business School might be a good research entity to approach with this idea. Sean will follow up with Michael.

- i. Sean and Kristi reported that a Fin Whale was struck and killed by a container ship headed for the Port of Los Angeles on February 26, 2013. The stranding Group was initiated in response to the strike, they were able to determine that the cause of death was a ship strike, and the whale was towed offshore with a buoy as attached for identification.
 - ii. The ship (Ever Dainty) was en-route from Panama to LA. AIS data showed it was traveling approximately 20 knots up until it got just off the coast of Encinitas where it slowed to approximately 12 knots. As it approached the ports of LA it slowed to speeds of less than 10 knots (AIS track can be found here: <http://marinetraffic.com/ais/default.aspx?zoom=9&oldmmsi=565106000&olddate=2/26/2013%201:55:00%20PM>.)
 - iii. Sean mentioned that there are many factors that influence why ships slow down as they approach ports (i.e. they are on time or ahead of schedule, they are in line for docking and unloading, etc...)
 - iv. From initial research the Ever Dainty does not appear to be enrolled in LA/LB Green Flag incentive
- B. USCG Rule-Making: Mike reported that USCG is on track to carry out domestic rule-making to adopting the IMO lane change as a federal regulation. The process has started and will include consultation under the Endangered Species Act. NMFS is taking lead on ESA consultation and Sanctuaries will be involved in this process as well. USCG is aiming for June 1st as the date the TSS lanes will move (this is the same date as the IMO has set to change the lanes). The USCG is working with NOAA to get the charts updated and developing a NOTM with graphics.

Sanctuaries will assist with sharing the NOTM and educating the maritime industry about the change.

- C. Cap-and-Trade Auction Proceeds Meeting: Kristi reported about a public meeting she, Sean, and Brian Shafritz (SBCAPCD) attended in Los Angeles on Feb 27th regarding how Cap-and-Trade Auction proceeds should be spent. At the meeting Kristi spoke in support of the Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Incentive program that SBCAPCD is proposing. Sean reported that the CINMS will re-submit the Sanctuary and SAC VSR support letters. Public comments are due March 8, 2013. Andrea will also share highlights from this meeting during the March SAC meeting.
 - i. Sean has been in contact with the DFW staff who are participating on the Climate Action Team and has shared the VSR initiative with them.

IV. SITE EVALUATION LIST LETTER

- A. Update: Kristi reported that she has been working with John Ugoretz, and Walter Schobel (DOD Seats) and Capt. Bacon and Bruce Steel (Recreational and Commercial Fishing seats) to modify language in the SEL letter to address concerns they raised at the last SAC meeting. The SAC will have a chance to consider these edits at the March meeting.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. Updates: Danni shared a new resource that Sanctuary Research team has assembled, an inventory of all the ocean acidification research and monitoring taking place in and around West Coast Sanctuaries. This will assist with tracking OA research and monitoring. A summary document titled *West Coast Region Ocean Acidification Research and Monitoring Inventory Summary* will be posted on the website, reported at the RAP, and shared at a future SAC meeting. To add project to the list contact danielle.lipski@noaa.gov

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Officer Elections: Elections for the Executive Committee will be held at the March SAC meeting. Nominations for possible members can be submitted to Mike.
- B. CINMS & BOEM Offshore Renewable Energy Presentation: At the March SAC meeting, the Sanctuary will provide an introduction on offshore renewable energy as it relates to Sanctuaries. BOEM will present on technologies that are appearing in project proposals.
- C. World Oceans Day: WOD is June 8, 2013. It is an opportunity to be pro-active and highlight the role of the Sanctuary in our community and the importance of our ocean. Is there anyone on the SAC that would be interested in developing ideas for how the Sanctuary, SAC, or SAC Working Groups

might participate in the World Ocean Day? A useful resource is the World Ocean Day website. Event organizers can share ideas, experiences, ask questions, and learn about past efforts. The website is <http://worldoceansday.org/>.

ADJOURN

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/16/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Owen Bailey (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Danni Storz (Gray Whales Count); Kira Redmond (SB Channelkeeper), John Ugoretz (Dept of Defense), Vic Cox, Mary Byrd (SBC APCD)

Staff: Sean Hastings, Michael Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: The students are working to determine what attributes are most valuable to non-consumptive boaters and see how these attributes influences decision making process in terms of sanctuary visitation, activity, and site choice. Students anticipate presenting project results at the March 2013 SAC meeting. The final presentation will take place at the Bren School in April.

- B. MPA implementation activities: (a) Kira reported that Channelkeeper will hold a training session for MPA-Watch on January 29 at 5:30 at their office; (b) Informational signs have been installed in Isla Vista at beach access points; signs will also be installed at UCSB; (c) Central Coast symposium will be held in February to assess five-year results.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. IMO/USCG Rule-Making: At the request of the US delegation, the IMO endorsed modification of Santa Barbara Channel Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). CINMS and NOAA helped gather and provide data. The IMO system is voluntary; USCG will initiate a domestic rule-making to adopt a federal regulation. Process will include public workshop/hearing, environmental review, and consultation under the Endangered Species Act and National Marine Sanctuary Act. The IMO set June 1 as the date the TSS lanes will move. USCG may be able to present to the SAC in March.

- B. 2012 Season, Updates: September 2012 presentation to the SAC reflects seasonal whale migration and ship speed data. Whale sightings decreased after that. Ship speeds came down a little bit, but unrelated to whale conservation (due to fuel costs, etc). Approximately 50% of ships are still travelling outside the Islands.

In terms of future projections, John mentioned that some ships (that are not stopping elsewhere on the west coast) may travel directly east from Asia to the Ports of LA/LB and avoid our area. Sean also talked about the potential for larger, “super” ships in the future.

Mary mentioned that SBC APCD may be interested in a Bren School group project to address international shipping industry patterns and develop recommended incentives to reduce ship speeds.

Sean reported that the CINMS is working with “Earth and Sea” (which developed the “whale alert” app). The goal is to develop an app that will allow Naturalist Corps (and other?) data to be uploaded in real time.

CINMS and SBC APCD continue to monitor the state’s upcoming cap-and-trade allocation process.

- C. ***Recommendations for SAC action:*** *We discussed various options, and decided that it would be helpful to have the CWG review progress regarding the SAC’s 2009 report and recommendations, identify new and emerging opportunities, and report back to the SAC in March with a recommendation regarding more formal SAC action (e.g., reconvene the SAC subcommittee on whales and shipping, develop a working group, etc.).*

IV. SAC CAMPAIGN OF ENGAGEMENT

- A. **SAC Marketing Subcommittee Update:** The subcommittee met last week and will provide report at SAC meeting.
- B. **SAC Summit report:** The group discussed the connection between Sanctuaries/MPAs and the travel/tourism industry. They also discussed economic benefits, branding, etc. The positive attributes of Sanctuaries (particularly economic) led to support to reactivate the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) process. Eric may request that our SAC send a letter of support, to complement the letters sent by some other SACs. In general, CWG members were supportive of sending a letter, but John U. wants to have the SAC vote on the issue in March so that he and Walt can bring the request to DOD. He asked if there are timing considerations; staff will check. Mike noted that boundary changes do not need to go through the SEL process. ***Recommendation for SAC action: if timing is an issue, support sending a letter in January; if timing is not critical consider continuing discussion to March.***

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. **Updates:** Vic shared the recent report, “Frequently Asked Questions: Ocean Acidification.” Kristi advised us that a report is available from the September 2012 Sanctuary workshop on best practices for communicating ocean acidification.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. **William Douros attendance at SAC meeting:** Bill will mainly discuss the Site Evaluation List (see above).

- B. Site Evaluation List: See above.
- C. SAC work topics for 2013: CWG members were provided with the Worksheet and were invited to provide Linda with their input before the SAC meeting.

ADJOURN

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/16/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Owen Bailey (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Danni Storz (Gray Whales Count); Kira Redmond (SB Channelkeeper), John Ugoretz (Dept of Defense), Vic Cox, Mary Byrd (SBC APCD)

Staff: Sean Hastings, Michael Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

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In terms of future projections, John mentioned that some ships (that are not stopping elsewhere on the west coast) may travel directly east from Asia to the Ports of LA/LB and avoid our area. Sean also talked about the potential for larger, “super” ships in the future.

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CINMS and SBC APCD continue to monitor the state’s upcoming cap-and-trade allocation process.

- C. ***Recommendations for SAC action:*** *We discussed various options, and decided that it would be helpful to have the CWG review progress regarding the SAC’s 2009 report and recommendations, identify new and emerging opportunities, and report back to the SAC in March with a recommendation regarding more formal SAC action (e.g., reconvene the SAC subcommittee on whales and shipping, develop a working group, etc.).*

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- A. **SAC Marketing Subcommittee Update:** The subcommittee met last week and will provide report at SAC meeting.
- B. **SAC Summit report:** The group discussed the connection between Sanctuaries/MPAs and the travel/tourism industry. They also discussed economic benefits, branding, etc. The positive attributes of Sanctuaries (particularly economic) led to support to reactivate the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) process. Eric may request that our SAC send a letter of support, to complement the letters sent by some other SACs. In general, CWG members were supportive of sending a letter, but John U. wants to have the SAC vote on the issue in March so that he and Walt can bring the request to DOD. He asked if there are timing considerations; staff will check. Mike noted that boundary changes do not need to go through the SEL process. ***Recommendation for SAC action: if timing is an issue, support sending a letter in January; if timing is not critical consider continuing discussion to March.***

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. **Updates:** Vic shared the recent report, “Frequently Asked Questions: Ocean Acidification.” Kristi advised us that a report is available from the September 2012 Sanctuary workshop on best practices for communicating ocean acidification.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. **William Douros attendance at SAC meeting:** Bill will mainly discuss the Site Evaluation List (see above).

- B. Site Evaluation List: See above.
- C. SAC work topics for 2013: CWG members were provided with the Worksheet and were invited to provide Linda with their input before the SAC meeting.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
11/14/12 REPORT [CORRECTED 11/20/12]
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Danni Storz (Gray Whales Count); Rayon Carruthers (member of the public).

Staff: Sara Hutto, Danielle (Danni) Lipski

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: Kristi reported that students are on target for achieving the project objectives and have compiled existing bio-geographic data. They are currently developing the Random Utility Model (RUM) to look at non-consumptive users and aiming to determine the non-market value of recreation by private boaters within the CINMS. They are working to determine what attributes are most valuable to non-consumptive boaters and see how these attributes influences decision making process in terms of sanctuary visitation, activity, and site choice. Attributes they will examine include kelp, biological resources, and - if data and time allow - MPAs and exposure (combination of swell, wind, and wave site intensity). Students anticipate presenting project results at the March 2013 SAC meeting.
- B. Report on Sanctuary Education Team MPA education meeting: Kristi, Greg, and Debra all attended the meeting. Kristi reported that the CINMS SAC Education Team hosted a meeting with approximately 25 participants with local representatives from a wide variety of agencies, NGOs, research institution, educators, and recreational fishing. These smaller regional meetings were identified as a next step during the Ocean Communicators Alliance Workshop held at the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium in May 2012. The SET meeting was an opportunity for people in our region working on education, outreach, and communication for MPAs to meet and gain an understanding about what others are doing. Greg reported that each group was able to highlight the work they are doing and an interest in coordinating efforts for celebrating Underwater Parks Day January 19, 2013. Debra reported that a topic of discussion was how important including a discussion about native people is, and specifically highlighting the culture of the Chumash community. In breakout groups and as a larger group there were discussions about the four main lenses that can be used when talking about MPAs, including: 1. Legacy, 2. Big Breeders “Female Fish” 3. Under Water Parks, and 4. What About Me.

Danni (Lipski) reported that Maria Petueli will give an update at the SAC meeting about the next steps from this workshop. It is thought that the

Education Team will now go back to the SET Matrix to identify products that can meet new audiences.

It was recommended that future MPA Education Team Meetings also be forwarded to the CWG list-serve.

Danni (Storz) reported that Gray Whales Count has seven years of data on the Campus Point State Marine Conservation Area prior to its implementation, and is coordinating with SB Channel Keeper to align data collection efforts with MPA Watch.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. IMO: the IMO subcommittee recommended moving the Santa Barbara Channel TSS to help protect whales from ship strikes. The Marine Safety Committee will make a final decision at its meeting November 26-30, 2012. Danni (L) reported that staff anticipates having the US Coast Guard present at a SAC meeting in early 2013.

- B. SB APCD – Port of LA Environmental Ship Index Program: Kristi and Greg attended a meeting hosted by the SBC APCD. Carter Atkins (Port of LA) and Bruce Anderson (Starcrest Consultants) talked about the Green Flags Program. They focused on the Environmental Ship Index (ESI) Program at the Port of LA. This program aims to get ships to perform better than IMO regulations. This internationally recognized program has also been adopted at other Ports (mostly in Europe) and each Port tailors the ESI program to their specific needs. The LA Port includes incentives for using: lower sulfur fuel; improved engine technologies, an Energy Efficiency Management Plan, on-shore power technology, and vessel speed reduction (VSR). We also learned that it is possible to be an ESI provider even if you are not a Port. The incentives provided by the program do not offset the total cost to the operator for slowing down. However, shipping companies are using the ESI for PR to secure companies like Nike and others who want goods shipped by companies with high environmental performance standards. The total cost of the program for VSR at the Port of LA is approximately \$2 million/yr.

Sara reported that the Bren School cost benefit class is examining the cost and benefits of slowing down ships in the Santa Barbara Channel and is working with CINMS and APCD to get data and other relevant information for their project.

- C. 2012 Season Update: CINMS discontinued the NOTM for the slow speed zone in September 2012. On November 1st they discontinued the NOTM for the entire whale advisory zone. NMFS and CINMS will hold a meeting at the end of this year to evaluate 2012 actions and start planning actions for next year.

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
9/19/12 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Vic Cox, Christine Ryerson (Jim Ryerson Environmental Fdn), Kiya Gornik (Bren School), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Timothy Lin (Bren School)

Staff: Sara Hutto, Mike Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: Kiya provided a report on the progress of the project. The group has been evaluating the available data and seeking additional data as necessary. They recently received the last data they need to create their model.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. PARS/IMO: the IMO subcommittee recommended moving the Santa Barbara Channel TSS to help protect whales from ship strikes. The Marine Safety Committee will make a final decision at its meeting November 26-30, 2012.
- B. 2012 Season Update: The Notice to Mariners recommending 10-knot speed limit was withdrawn due to scarcity of whales; the Whale Advisory Zone still exists, however, so if whale sightings increase, the Notice will be re-sent. Natalie will provide a report regarding the level of cooperation with recommended speed reductions at the SAC meeting. CINMS staff is also contacting the shipping industry directly, asking for interest in issue, and has received some positive responses.

The CWG will wait to review the results at the end of the 2012 season to determine whether we may recommend reconvening the SAC subcommittee or establishing a working group to discuss further options and strategies.

- C. APCD – John Calambokidis presentation: Kristi, Mike and Sara attended a meeting hosted by the SBC APCD. John is conducting research regarding whale behavior near cargo ships. Although the data set is small, he has noticed that blue whales dive shallower when ships are nearby, and that the whales float and drift close to the surface at night. John still supports separating whales from ships geographically as well as slowing ships down. He also supports the Joint Working Group report from the Gulf of Farallones/Cordell Banks NMS's, in particular the recommendations for

real time sightings and the two-year voluntary period (with changes to mandatory requirements if necessary).

IV. SAC CAMPAIGN OF ENGAGEMENT

- A. SAC Subcommittee: The subcommittee met on Sept 10 to discuss strategies to raise awareness about the Sanctuary. The group discussed their experiences and brainstormed some ideas for marketing strategies. They will meet again in October.

Christine reported that she asked if Island Packers could make Island trips a couple days a week from Santa Barbara. Island access from Santa Barbara could help enhance Sanctuary and Park visibility and experience. Another option would be to grant an additional concession in Santa Barbara. Mike said that the Subcommittee may request a presentation by the National Park Service to discuss Island access.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: a progress report was provided at the West Coast SAC Chairs meeting. Highlights include education (upcoming workshop – see Item V.B.), research/monitoring (conducting survey to inventory existing efforts on the West Coast), and the PSA. Bruce gave a great overview of the issue. In response, Bill Douros implored all sites to make this issue a priority at SAC meetings.
- B. National Marine Sanctuaries and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute “Effective Practices for Ocean Acidification (OA) Communication and Education Workshop” Sept 27-28, 2012: Kristi will attend and share our OA PSA toolkit to encourage others to help distribute the PSA. The Conference will focus on developing messaging strategies and networking. Vic suggested focusing attention on iconic species such as whales, as a means to generate more public interest. Kristi noted that we are also focusing on effects on people (e.g. loss of food sources) in order to garner more attention and interest.
- C. EDC Public Service Announcement (PSA): see Item V.B. above. Kristi will attempt to network and enhance our distribution opportunities while attending the Workshop.
- D. Alert re hypoxic conditions in Washington and Oregon: Bruce Steele will provide a presentation to the SAC regarding hypoxic conditions and how they relate to ocean acidification.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. West Coast SAC Chairs Summit Aug 30-31: in addition to the discussion regarding ocean acidification (see Item V.A.), there were discussions regarding relationships with the fishing industry (recommendation to

acknowledge local/regional fishing issues and trends, and success stories), developing/sharing lists of priorities, and the Site Evaluation List.

- B. SAC Chairs conference call Aug 30: There was a discussion about tourism and campaign of engagement. Topics included tourism activities, why it is important, and examples of successful programs. Participants raised concerns about affecting the wilderness feel of the Sanctuary. The group also discussed promoting what people *can* do vs. talking about what you can't do. There was an emphasis on what you can do.
- C. SAC Speakers series: As part of the SAC speakers series there will be two presentations at this SAC meeting. Carol Blanchette (UCSB/MSI) will speak about her work regarding the monitoring of baseline conditions at coastal MPAs before implementation of the MLPA; Chris Lowe (CSULB) will speak about his work regarding MPAs and applicability to top level predators in the ecosystem. Oak Park High School students will join Chris to talk about a project they have collaborated on with him.
- D. Sanctuary Classic Report: The event ended September 3rd and scholarship winners were selected. Two of the winners are from the Santa Barbara Channel. During Friday's SAC meeting we will get an update on the event and learn what the plans are for next year.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
7/18/12 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Vic Cox, Christine Ryerson (Jim Ryerson Environmental Fdn), Jenna Driscoll, Kia Gornik (Bren School), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Dani Storz (Gray Whales Count), Caryn Bower (EDC law clerk), John Ugoretz (Navy), Mary Byrd (SB County APCD)

Staff: Sara Hutto, Mike Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: Kia provided a report on progress thus far. The group has spent the past month collecting existing data and integrating it into a database for the project. The group is developing a model that will identify statistically significant attributes for private boat use in the Sanctuary.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. PARS/IMO: the IMO Subcommittee on Navigation Safety recommended moving the SB Channel TSS; the Marine Safety Committee will make a final decision in November 2012. The CINMS helped prepare the US delegation to the IMO. The Coast Guard will initiate its own rule-making process after the final IMO vote. The Coast Guard process will involve environmental review, public input, ESA consultation, and consultation with the CINMS.

In a related matter, the IMO's Emission Control Area (ECA) will go into effect in August. The ECA will require ships to use cleaner fuel within the Economic Exclusive Zone. While the initial requirements are not as stringent as California's requirement, stricter requirements will phase in in 2015.

- B. Agency Plans for 2012: US Coast Guard is publishing a notice to mariners. The notice includes a Whale Advisory Zone that extends from just north of Pt. Conception to Dana Point, and within that a smaller "Slow Speed Zone" within the Channel. The CINMS is working with NMFS to reach out more to the shipping industry and to broadcast the notice through NOAA and the California Air Resources Board (CARB). The Sanctuary program has also posted more information on its website. John Ugoretz expressed concern that recommending slower speeds only within the Channel could encourage ships to travel outside the Islands. As such, it may be more effective to recommend a slower speed throughout the

Whale Advisory Zone. Other CWG members pointed out that the voluntary speed reduction recommendation has not been effective and thus there may not be a shift in response to the recommendation. Sara also reported that the shipping industry has stated that shippers will be more likely to comply with a recommended Slow Speed Zone if it is smaller. We all agreed that this year will provide a good opportunity to test this theory.

- C. Joint Working Group report: A report prepared by a working group in the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Banks NMS's was adopted by the two SACs and forwarded to the Sanctuary Superintendents. One of the recommendations is to develop a real time sighting system with industry, and to then identify Dynamic Management Areas which could be used to spatially separate the ships from the whales (note: there are 3 approaches to the SF Bay, thus allowing a shift of approach to avoid high concentrations of whales). The recommendation is to start with a voluntary system, and then consider mandatory measures if necessary. Linda pointed out the benefit of having specific recommendations and timeframes (with consequences) and asked how these concepts could be applied in the CINMS. Mike reported that all west coast Sanctuaries are being briefed on the recommendations. The real time sighting technology could potentially be used all along the west coast. The International Fund for Animal Welfare is working with NOAA on developing technology.
- D. California Air Resources Board: Mary reported that there were several comments in support of allocating funds from the cap-and-trade program to provide a financial incentive for ships to slow down offshore CA (which will benefit air quality as well as reduce GHG emissions). The first auction will occur in November; we are not sure how and when a decision will be made.

IV. SAC CAMPAIGN OF ENGAGEMENT

- A. Dan Basta, director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, has directed all Sanctuaries to take steps to increase awareness about the Sanctuary program and to engage in more partnerships. The CINMS has been asked to expand its relationship with industries that manufacture and use unmanned aerial vehicles. In Monterey there is a TV show about Sanctuaries; the show may be expanded to include segments on other Sanctuary sites. The CINMS Advisory Council will discuss ideas for enhancing public support for the Sanctuary. An initial step could be to form a SAC subcommittee. (A working group could follow.) Michael Smith pointed to the benefits of partnering with the CINP.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: the Education Coordinators are planning a workshop about how to communicate the issue of ocean acidification, based on a workshop at UCSB. The workshop will be

tacked onto a symposium on ocean acidification in September in Monterey.

Continued research is underway as well, in concert with NOAA and other researchers. The Hofmann Lab is installing more monitors in the Channel.

- B. EDC Public Service Announcement (PSA): The PSA is completed and starting to be distributed. We are asking all CINMS Advisory Council members to send an email to their counterparts on all other SACs asking them to help distribute the PSA in their communities. We recognize that not all SAC members will participate, but we wanted to make it easy for those that do. EDC is also soliciting other ideas and assistance with distribution.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. SAC agenda – Artificial Reefs: There will be a presentation about artificial reefs at the upcoming SAC meeting, including information about the proposed Fish Reef Project.
- B. SAC agenda – Informational presentation re predation on rocky reefs: There will also be a presentation by Ryan Jekinson (San Diego State) regarding predation on rocky reefs.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
5/16/12 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Sheehy (SBCK), Vic Cox, Mark Brody (SB Channelkeeper volunteer), Michael Cooper, Jenn Eckerly (NRDC), Mary Byrd (SBC APCD), Christine Ryerson (Jim Ryerson Environmental Fdn)

Bren School Group Project: Timothy Lin, Gavin McDonald, Nathaniel Ng, Daniel Viana, Christine Quigley, Kia Gornik

Staff: Sean Hastings, Mike Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: the Bren students introduced themselves, their backgrounds, and their interest in studying the socioeconomic effects of MPAs with respect to private boaters. Some of the students come from other countries and are interested in learning about issues in our region and how they may take this information to other areas. Kia provided a background on the group project, which will analyze attributes that influence patterns of use and build a model using existing data. Gavin reviewed the process and milestones. An update will be provided to the CWG and SAC in the fall and winter. The final product will be completed next spring. Sean pointed out the value of this information to the CINMS' socioeconomic monitoring efforts. Michael Cooper suggested that the students look into Santa Catalina recreational boating information.
- B. Implementation: Greg reported that groups are working to post informational signs at all access points near the Campus Point SMR. In addition to reaching consumptive users they are also looking for ways to reach non-consumptive users to let them know how and where to visit and enjoy the MPAs.

III. SHIPPING

- A. PARS follow-up: the USCG submitted a proposal to the IMO Subcommittee on Navigation Safety to re-route the Channel TSS. The Subcommittee will consider the proposal in July. Full ratification could occur in the fall. The Coast Guard must also conduct its own rule-making process which will involve environmental review, public input, ESA consultation, and consultation with the CINMS.

- B. Sanctuary ship speed petition, NOAA response and other agency efforts: NOAA denied the petition, in part relying upon other pending efforts. The petitioners met with Sanctuary and NMFS staff and discussed next steps, including further outreach to the shipping industry, release of a report and recommendations by a working group from the Cordell Banks and Gulf of Farallones SACs, and development of a plan for the 2012 blue & humpback whale season. Sean reported on the meeting earlier this month with the shipping industry, USCG, SBC APCD, and John Calambokidis. CINMS staff raised the issue of lack of cooperation from the shipping industry with the advisories that have been sent out. John C. is tagging blue whales both in the approach to the Ports of LA/Long Beach (where ships are slowing down in response to the Green Flags program) and where ships are not slowing down. His work is intended to track whale behavior. NMFS reported that humpback stock is growing, while blues are staying flat. CINMS and NOAA are exploring the possibility of working with the shipping industry to provide whale sighting data. The Cordell Banks/Gulf of Farallones working group report and recommendations will be presented to the SACs in June.
- C. Agency plans for 2012: Sean reported that notices to mariners will be transmitted again this summer. Potential changes include: modified language, inclusion of a visual chart, expansion of the advisory area, and focusing the recommended speed reductions to areas where whales are actually sighted (a more dynamic approach).
- D. California Air Resources Board: CINMS and SBC APCD will participate in a CARB workshop next week regarding how to allocate funds from the cap-and-trade program, and will ask that funds be used to provide an incentive for ships to slow down (which will benefit air quality as well as reduce GHG emissions). Comments are due June 22; the SAC will be asked to support this proposal. This action would be consistent with the SAC's recommendation to pursue incentives to get ships to slow down.
- E. Blue whale recovery plan update: NMFS announced plans to update the blue whale recovery plan. EDC and others will submit comments (due May 17) requesting formal revision of the recovery plan.

IV. CWG OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

- A. Report status: We continue to work with an intern from UCSB on the policy/regulatory section.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. Information and updates: Several handouts were passed around including: (1) Information about the "Effective Practices for Ocean Acidification Communication and Education Workshop" to be hosted by West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries & Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute in the Fall of 2012; (2) a report produced by the National Marine

Sanctuary Foundation titled “Federal Policy and Funding related to Ocean Acidification;” and (3) information about the SeaFET ocean pH Sensors that have been installed at two locations in the Sanctuary.

- B. EDC Public Service Announcement: Watch the new PSA on our [website](#) and [take the pledge](#) to demonstrate positive steps you can take to address OA. The PSA will also be available on the [acidocean.org](#) web site under the “Take the Pledge Page.” EDC will be reaching out to all thirteen National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils to see how they may assist with distribution of the PSA. We will be providing a toolbox to each interested group, institution, individual, etc. that will include: a DVD of the PSA, short description, tweets, and facebook postings for social media use; and EDC’s Distribution Plan.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. SAC agenda: Discussed the revised B-Wet letter. There was general support for the modified and more specific language in the revised letter. .
- B. SAC Work Plan: Discussion about trying to identify opportunities for collaboration with the other SAC members on implementing the SAC work plan. One suggestion was the possibility of asking individual SAC members if they would be willing to reach out to their counterparts at a different SAC to: (1) share the PSA and (2) see if there might be opportunities for helping with PSA distribution.
- C. World Oceans Day June 8. The Ty Warner Sea Center is holding a world ocean day festival on June 9th. The Theme is Dr. Seuss Style! Channel Islands Naturalist Corps will be tabling and working the event. The Sportfishing Conservancy is hosting a June 9th event at the Sea Landing to kickoff “The Sanctuaries Classic.” This summer long fishing and photo contest will award prizes for the person who submits the best photo. More info [here](#).
- D. Workshop on getting to know your “Campus Point SMR” will be held on May 30th at UCSB’s Bren School (Bren Hall 1414) 3:00-6:30 pm. This workshop will host speakers that will discuss the science, policy, regulations & enforcement for the Campus Point SMR. The target audience is UCSB students and larger IV and Santa Barbara community.
- E. Santa Barbara Channel buoy: The Sanctuary recently partnered with a school group that deployed a buoy to investigate and track local SB Channel ocean currents. The buoy was recovered by Sanctuary staff before running aground along the coast. It is expected to be deployed again in the near future.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
3/14/12 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (OC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Sheehy (SBCK), Amanda Hendrickson (Sea Center), Brian Shafritz (Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, or SBC APCD)

Staff: Sean Hastings (by phone), Sara Hutto

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. SHIPPING

- A. PARS – the USCG plans to pursue the recommendations in the PARS by forwarding the recommendations to a US delegation and then the IMO. EDC sent a letter supporting both recommendations but asking that if there would be a delay regarding the southern Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS), we would like the USCG to still proceed with the modification of the SB Channel TSS. Sean reported that NOAA is very involved in the process.
- B. Sanctuary ship speed petition: we expect to receive NOAA’s response soon.
- C. Brian reported that the SBC APCD is in favor of ship speed reductions because that will help the County achieve federal and state ozone standards. APCD invited Maersk to meet with the local community because the company has been proactive environmentally. The meeting was attended by some APCD board members, NOAA, CINMS, EDC and others. Maersk presented some of their initiatives, including slow speeding and “steady steaming.” Maersk has also worked with agencies to assist with monitoring and data collection. They may offer opportunities for collaboration. Recent data shows that approximately 50% of the ship traffic is back in the Channel, and ships are travelling at about 15-16 knots. Both Sean and Brian felt that the meeting with Maersk provided an excellent opening to dialogue. APCD is also reaching out to the CINMS to access data regarding ship patterns.
- D. Agency plans for 2012: the SAC will receive a report about agency actions to reduce ship strike issue. CINMS is talking to NMFS and other west coast Sanctuaries about the upcoming 2012 humpback and blue whale migration season. One topic under consideration is the “trigger” NMFS has used to determine when to send notices to mariners. The CWG expressed frustration with the data collection process, delays in sending notices, and lack of compliance. Sean pointed out that with less flight time, the agencies will be more reliant on other sighting data. Sara

reported that a joint working group at Gulf of Farallones & Cordell Bank is studying ship strikes and acoustics, and will provide a report with recommendations in June.

III. CWG OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

- A. Report status: Kristi sent the technology and impact sections to the RAP for feedback. We continue to work on the policy/regulatory section.
- B. Offshore Oil: Michael asked about the SAC's role in responding to offshore oil projects such as Carone and Paredon. We will check with the CINMS staff.

IV. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project proposal: we are waiting to hear if our proposal has been selected.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: there will be an educators' workshop in Monterey in September, following the ocean acidification conference.
- B. SAC presentation: Dr. Carol Blanchette and Lydia Kapsenberg, researchers for the UCSB Marine Science Institute's Hofmann lab, will provide a presentation regarding new developments and future plans for advancing scientific understanding of ocean acidification, including data collection around the Channel Islands.
- C. EDC Public Service Announcement: we hope to complete the PSA in time for the April 9 SAC Summit. The PSA is intended to raise awareness and directs viewers to the Sanctuary's acidocean website. We need help with distribution. Amanda offered to show the PSA at the Sea Center and connect us with other museums in California. We could ask other Sanctuaries to similarly partner with museums in their states. We will also coordinate with the Thank You Ocean campaign.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Research Activities Panel report and proposed letter of support for funding: the RAP reviewed the CINMS Research Division's prioritization of research needs and recommends that the Sanctuary allocate sufficient resources to address the high priority needs. Support for using the memo as a foundation for drafting a letter supporting the RAP's comments and concerns. Alternatively, CWG would support attaching memo to power point that Steve Katz presented to the RAP and forwarding entire package to Chris and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

- B. Sanctuary Education Team report and proposed letter of support for funding: the SET requests a SAC letter of support for funding for B-WET and MERITO. CWG supports approval of the proposed letter.

- C. Sara reminded us that SAC recruitment for a variety of positions will start on Friday March 16th and include the following seats: Recreational Fishing (member & alternative); Tourism (member & alternate); Education (member and alternate); Chumash (member & alternate); and Business (alternate)

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/18/12 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Vic Cox, Debra Herring, Mike Lum, Brandon Doheny (Bren School), Kiya Gornik (Bren School), Michael Sheehy (SBCK), Stephanie Mutz

Staff: Sean Hastings, Dani Lipski, Sarah Hutto

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. SHIPPING

- A. PARS – since the new CARB rule went into effect, some ships are back in the Channel. CINMS is tracking data to determine whether there are certain patterns, e.g., category, speed and direction of ship traffic within the Channel. About half of the ships remain south of the Islands. We are waiting for the Coast Guard rule-making process. We would like the Coast Guard to consider initiating the rule-making for the modified TSS in the Channel separate from, and perhaps in advance of, the rule-making for the new TSS outside the Islands.
- B. Sanctuary ship speed petition: we are waiting for a response from NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. CINMS staff submitted its information last fall.
- C. SAC presentations re ship traffic patterns (see above) and new technologies to enhance marine mammal sightings data collection: CINMS staff will discuss potential new technologies to collect and report data more efficiently and accurately. Mike mentioned a technology used by Save the Redwoods (iNaturalist).
- D. Whales & Shipping Workshop: EDC has posted a website with powerpoints and videos:
(http://www.edcnet.org/learn/current_cases/save_the_whales/whale_ships_workshop.html)
- E. 2012 whale season: we noted that it would be nice to receive a report in March regarding how the CINMS and other agencies plan to address the upcoming summer whale migration season.

III. CWG OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

- A. Report status: Kristi reported that EDC hired a new intern to help research and draft the section of the report focusing on policy and regulations. Our effort to seek input from the regulatory agencies has been challenging because their processes are in flux. We are also seeking experts and

agency personnel that would be willing and able to make a presentation to the SAC. Dani informed us that the Research Activities Panel will meet in February; we could approach the group to see if they are interested in reviewing our draft report (particularly the sections on technology and potential effects of offshore renewable energy projects).

- B. Ocean Protection Council report: Kristi reported that the OPC just came out with a report regarding policy and regulatory framework for pilot projects in California.

IV. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. Status: the new State MPAs in our region went into effect on January 1. SBCK is working with volunteers to monitor the social response to MPAs.
- B. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project proposal: Kristi, Brandon and Kiya provided a presentation regarding their proposal to help implement the Social Science Plan by conducting research regarding private recreational boat use and value within the CINMS. This project will use data from 2006-07 and run a model that will help the CINMS fully evaluate the socio-economic effect of a variety of attributes that may influence where private boaters chose to recreate within the CINMS. Should the data allow, there will be an emphasis on understanding how marine protected areas may affect boaters' decisions. The proposal is due January 27, 2012. The CWG noted that the project will focus on broader issues and attributes, not just MPAs. We also noted that this project implements a portion of the Social Science Plan that otherwise lacks funding and resources. The CWG supports the request for the SAC to send a letter of support to the Bren School.
- C. SAC presentation re: MPA education and outreach, MPA socioeconomic study: review of CINMS MPA education and outreach, and how efforts will be extended to new south coast MPAs. Stephanie mentioned the role of fishers in educating peers about the MPAs. Sean pointed out the need for collaboration, coordination, and consistency in materials and messages. We also noted the extra challenges in reaching out effectively to recreational users. Michael showed us the SBCK map of Channel Islands and mainland MPAs.
- D. Underwater Parks Day is Saturday, January 21.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: Dani reported that the Sanctuary program is seeking funding for a workshop on communicating ocean acidification issues.
- B. EDC Public Service Announcement: EDC is finalizing plans for a 30-second PSA. Our goal is to present the PSA at the national SAC chairs'

meeting this spring and then implement a distribution plan. The purpose of the PSA is to compel people to care about ocean acidification and direct them to learn more about the issue at an existing CINMS website: acidocean.org.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Stephanie reported on the proposal to launch a Community Sustainable Fishery (CSF) program to promote purchase of local sustainable seafood, and to keep more seafood local. The program will be launched this spring or summer. Edible Santa Barbara will host an Edible Institute on March 11-12 and will feature panels on sustainable seafood.

- B. SAC Annual Work Plan: we handed out the 2011 work plan status report, as well the draft work plan for 2012. CWG members were encouraged to review the draft 2012 plan and provide comments to Kristi prior to the SAC meeting.

ADJOURN

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
11/16/11 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Vic Cox, Cheryl Snell, Jack Peveler (County of Ventura), Danni Storz, Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Chris Hughes (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Christine Ryerson (Ryerson Environmental Foundation), Debra Herring, John Ugoretz (Navy), Leslie Purcell, Jean Holmes (SB League of Women Voters), Ann Rosecrance

Staff: Sean Hastings, Kristen Hislop

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. SHIPPING

- A. PARS – final report and recommendations; SAC presentation: US Coast Guard completed the PARS study and recommends establishing shipping lanes south of the Channel Islands (primarily to address safety concerns) and shifting the lanes within the Channel Islands (to reduce threats to marine wildlife). The recommendations may result in a proposed rulemaking, which will involve consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service and the Sanctuary. A final rulemaking would also require IMO approval. It was noted that shipping patterns may change based on the new CARB rule and future implementation of the Emission Control Area regulations, both of which may reduce the incentive for ships to travel further offshore, outside the Islands. The PARS did not recommend speed limits, stating that the Coast Guard does not have authority to impose such limits. The PARS states that speed limits are within NOAA's authority.
- B. Sanctuary ship speed petition: Petitioners are waiting for a response from NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.
- C. Marine Advisories: Sean reported that the speed reduction advisories to mariners have stopped, given the low numbers of target whales.

III. CWG OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY REPORT

Report status: EDC hired a new intern, Chris Hughes, to help research and draft the section of the report focusing on policy and regulations. We continue to seek input on all sections of the report (including technology and potential effects) from agencies and experts; please let Kristi Birney know if you have any contacts. We are especially seeking experts and agency personnel that would be willing and able to make a presentation to the SAC. There aren't any current proposals in our area, so we have an opportunity to get a head start on the topic, but this fact also makes it challenging to garner agency focus and participation. An important focus for all stakeholders will be on planning and siting, so as to avoid/reduce conflicts and impacts.

IV. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. Status: Greg reported that a court has rejected most of the legal challenges brought by some fishing groups, but a few issues remain. The Fish & Game Commission submitted additional information to the Office of Administrative Law. The regulations should go into effect on January 1, 2012. Some tribal issues also remain.
- B. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project proposal: Kristi reported that EDC and the CINMS are preparing a Bren School group project proposal that will provide research regarding the socio-economic value of non-consumptive use at the CINMS. This project will fill a data gap that will help the CINMS fully evaluate the impacts of marine reserves. The proposal is due in January 2012.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Action Plan implementation: Kristen reported that the CINMS and the Sanctuary Education Team (SET) are working on implementation of the education component. They are planning a workshop for next year, in coordination with other West Coast Region sanctuary sites, which will focus on developing strategies for educating teachers and the public. Funding applications are pending. CINMS staff and Kristi Birney attended a USC SeaGrant workshop on communicating science (with a specific focus on ocean acidification, climate change and sea level rise). There is a need for scientists to help with public education.
- B. EDC Public Service Announcement: EDC is teaming up with an animator to prepare a 30-second PSA. Our goal is to present the PSA at the national SAC chairs' meeting next spring. The purpose of the PSA is to compel people to care about ocean acidification and direct them to the acidoceans.com website.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Report re oil spill exercise: the US Coast Guard will provide a report regarding the September oil spill exercise in our area.
- B. Updates re gear entanglement, black abalone: NMFS will provide reports regarding a new gear entanglement guide and final black abalone critical habitat designation. The critical habitat designation will go into effect on November 28, 2011.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
9/21/11 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (Chair), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (Ocean Conservancy), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Michael Sheehy (SBCK), Debra Herring, Kristi Birney (EDC), Brianne Billups, Jean Holmes (LWV)

CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Kristen Hislop

- I. INTRODUCTIONS 3:00**
Celebrated Mike Murray's birthday!
- II. SHIPPING 3:05**
- A. PARS: USCG anticipates release of the Study by end of October. Mike also reported on status of SF PARS. USCG staff has pointed out that even if the PARS recommends a change, the decision is still up to the agency (and would require a full rule-making process).
 - B. Sanctuary ship speed petition: Mike reported that we can expect a response (from NOAA) by mid-October. In the meantime, the Sanctuaries are putting resources into studying the issue.
 - C. "Sharing the Ocean: Searching for Safe Passage for Whales & Ship" (EDC, Coastal Fund, Bren): Kristi described the upcoming public workshop on whales & shipping, which will take place at Bren on 9/28, 1:00-4:00 pm, and include representatives from the CINMS, NMFS, SBC APCD, Navy, USCG and EDC.
 - D. Dave Rastovich "Transparent Sea" event: Kristi announced a film event on 9/29, 7:00-9:00 pm at the Maritime Museum, featuring efforts to protect whales and including a chance to highlight the Sanctuary ship speed petition.
- III. CWG OFFSHORE ENERGY REPORT 3:25**
Kristi reported she has been reaching out to agencies, in the hopes that they could provide speakers for a panel presentation to the SAC. This effort has been stalled because there are no specific applications pending before the agencies and thus they do not have staff resources available to address our request. In the meantime, Kristi and her Bren interns continue with their research.
- IV. MLPA 3:35**
Fish & Game Commission hearing – 9/15/11: Greg reported that the Commission needs to submit further clarifications regarding the proposed regulations to the Office of Administrative Law. A further hearing is scheduled for October, 2011. The regulations will likely be effective on or by January 1, 2012.
- V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION 3:50**
- A. West Coast Action Plan: (New) Final Plan is publicly available and on the web [sanctuaries.noaa.gov> about your sanctuaries> west coast region> what's new]. The West Coast Education Coordinators participated in a

meeting to discuss the recommendations in the Plan and possible implementation strategies. The Research Coordinators are attempting to do something similar and have commenced informal discussions. Dani will provide a report at the SAC meeting.

- B. Dr. Feely completed another west coast cruise.
- C. Oceans for Life students were trained in ocean acidification and participated in workshops with scientists and Bruce Steele.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

4:00

- A. Oil Spill Exercise report: Chris Mobley will provide a preliminary report at the September SAC meeting, and a more comprehensive report will be provided by the USCG in November.
- B. Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation: Dennis Long of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation will announce plans to begin doing business at Channel Islands.

VII. OTHER ISSUES/REPORTS

- A. MBNMS Expansion: Someone from SLO may attend our SAC meeting to speak during public comment in support of expanding the MBNMS to the south. Linda reminded the CWG about the history of study of the CINMS boundary.
- B. Sea Otter Translocation: FWS has published a notice of intention to declare the translocation program a failure, thereby providing protection for otters south of Pt. Conception. Hearings are scheduled in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Santa Cruz.

ADJOURN

4:30

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
7/21/11 AGENDA
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, EDC (Chair); Greg Helms, Ocean Conservancy (Vice Chair); Kristi Birney, EDC; Michael Sheehy, SBCK; Debra Herring; Michael Smith, Gray Whales Count; Vic Cox; Mark Brody.

CINMS Staff: Kristen Hislop

I. INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Linda announced that she and Kristi Birney attended the Ocean for Life boat trip yesterday. This is a program sponsored by the Sanctuary Program involving high school students around the U.S. and other countries (mainly the Middle East) to enhance their knowledge about the ocean and to develop cross-cultural relationships.
- B. Michael Sheehy announced that the SBCK is hosting a volunteer training as part of its MPA Watch Program on July 26 at 5:30 p.m. at the SBCK office.

II. SHIPPING

- A. Whale distribution data will be presented at the SAC meeting.
- B. Brandon Southall (SOCAL-11) will make a presentation to the SAC about research regarding biological and behavioral responses of marine mammals to noise in Southern California.
- C. PARS: The SF PARS, which was recently released, considered some of the recommendations from the Sanctuaries. The PARS for our area may be released in September.
- D. Sanctuary Ship Speed Petition: EDC and three other conservation groups submitted a petition to the four CA National Marine Sanctuaries, asking the Sanctuaries to pursue a rulemaking imposing a 10-knot speed limit for large vessels traveling through the Sanctuaries.

III. CWG OFFSHORE ENERGY REPORT

- A. Report status: focus thus far has been on technologies and impacts. Work to continue on impacts and other sections (e.g., policy framework).
- B. SAC panel presentation still planned for September.

IV. PLASTIC BAG BAN

- A. Request to SAC to adopt resolution: in response to the adoption of a resolution by the MBNMS advisory council supporting efforts to ban single-use plastic bags, the CWG voted to forward a resolution to the SAC that supports (1) legislative and regulatory efforts to ban the use and distribution of single-use plastic bags; (2) efforts of local businesses to transition away from single-use plastic bags; and (3) efforts to remove plastic bag litter from the shores and waters of the Sanctuary. The resolution focuses on plastic, not paper, bags because of our focus on the marine environment. The CWG referred to the recent report by

Environment California that identifies dozens of nations and local governments that have banned plastic bags. The CWG recommended a grammatical change to the fourth recital, such that it would read “Whereas, plastic bags never fully biodegrade, they are instead broken down by the sun through photodegradation into tiny pieces, which attract and accumulate various toxins that then enter the ocean food chain.”

V. WATER QUALITY

- A. Dani Lipski will provide a status report to the SAC regarding the Sanctuary’s follow up from the CWG Water Quality Report and SBCK assessment, and the work the Sanctuary is doing to address water quality.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Wildlife Protection Workshop: Michael Smith proposes a workshop to discuss how to protect marine wildlife when engaged in commercial and recreational activities on the water. He would like to hold the workshop at UCSB because of the proximity to the MPA, and invite all types of ocean users in the area to discuss the issue. The CWG recommended considering multiple workshops (at different locations) to engage various user groups.
- B. Aquaculture: NOAA finalized its aquaculture policy. Congresswoman Capps reintroduced her aquaculture legislation.
- C. Oil Spill Area Contingency Plan: Michael Sheehy attended the meeting yesterday. He mentioned the upcoming oil spill drill that is planned for our area, and questioned whether there will be a simulated natural resource damage assessment.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
5/19/11 AGENDA
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, EDC (Chair); Greg Helms, Ocean Conservancy (Vice Chair); Kristi Birney, EDC; Michael Sheehy, SBCK; Debra Herring; Vic Cox

CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Kristen Hislop

- I. INTRODUCTIONS 6:00**
- II. SHIPPING 6:05**
- A. PARS: release of final report has been delayed; CINMS is providing additional data to USCG re whale sightings. USCG is evaluating location of shipping lanes, probably not ship speeds.
 - B. NMFS workshops: providing data to USCG, working on modeling.
 - C. Ocean Etiquette: concerns continue to be raised regarding boats approaching too close to whales and other marine wildlife (by whale watching boats, recreational and commercial boats). Discussed potential strategies, e.g. ocean etiquette workshops/trainings; signs at the harbor.
 - D. Other updates: EDC will host a forum at UCSB on June 25 regarding whales and shipping, with support from the Coastal Fund. Panelists will include scientists and agency staff.
- III. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION 6:30**
- A. West Coast Task Force plan (sent with agenda): LK explained context and result of planning effort. While the Sanctuary program may not have funding to implement the recommendations, it is important to include strategies and activities to (1) identify funding and implementation priorities, and (2) provide information so that partners and other entities can help with fundraising and implementation. The plan can also help focus NOAA's overall work on ocean acidification in marine sanctuaries. The plan is being presented to all 5 west coast SACs for their feedback. VC recommended preparing an executive summary, and better identifying priorities. He also pointed out the need to tie the research to education so that information can be shared with the public. MS suggested using a graduate student to help synthesize and summarize emerging research (as part of Year 1). He also suggested checking with MPA Monitoring Enterprise.
- IV. CWG OFFSHORE ENERGY REPORT 7:00**
- A. KB will provide an update to the SAC regarding the status of our offshore energy report. She will provide an overview of the framework of the report and the technologies that we are studying. At future SAC meetings, we will invite panelists including agency and industry representatives and researchers.

V. PLASTIC BAG BAN

7:15

- A. MBNMS SAC Resolution: MS brought to our attention that the MBNMS SAC voted unanimously to pass a resolution supporting a reduction in the use and distribution of single-use plastic bags. Specifically, the resolution supports (1) legislative and regulatory efforts to ban the use and distribution of single-use plastic bags; (2) efforts of local businesses to transition away from single-use plastic bags; and (3) efforts to remove plastic bag litter from the shores, rivers, and waters of the SAC. The CWG decided to request a future SAC agenda item to consider adoption of a similar resolution here.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES / OTHER ISSUES

7:30

- A. San Miguel Island Red Abalone: Chris Voss will share the California Abalone Alliance's research fishery proposal.
- B. KB announced that the National Ocean Council is hosting a workshop on Coastal and Marine Spatial Planning on Tuesday, June 21, which will be broadcast live (9-5 EST).

ADJOURN

8:00

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
3/16/11 Report
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (TOC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Vic Cox, Jean Holmes (LWVSB), Sarah Green (Bren), Jen Feinberg, Christine Ryerson (Jim Ryerson Foundation), John Ugoretz (Navy)

CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Kristen Hislop

I. SHIPPING

A. PARS

Mike Murray reported that the U.S. Coast Guard's PARS study for the SB Channel is anticipated to be available to the public in June 2011. The report will be a "Notice of Study Availability" and there will not be a public comment on the study. The study will provide one preferred recommendation with respect to the Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) in the Santa Barbara Channel. Should the U.S. Coast Guard decide to make a change within or to the TSS, the agency will initiate rulemaking procedures. The public would have an opportunity to comment on the proposed rulemaking.

B. NMFS WORKSHOPS

Pacific Life Foundation sponsored the Southern California Marine Mammal Workshop in January 2011. The conference is organized by and for marine mammal researchers who work in the Southern California Bight region. The workshop's overall goal is to provide introductions and discussions to foster collaboration between researchers in the Southern California region. Steve Katz and Sarah Green attended the workshop for the CINMS. Staff from NMFS discussed a new risk model they have developed that assesses, at a regional level, areas with high risk for collision between whales and ships.

C. BREN GROUP PROJECT

Sarah Green presented an overview of the Bren Group project, which will also be presented at the SAC meeting on Friday. The full group presentation will take place at Bren on April 15. The Bren report examined economic impacts and risk reduction related to various management options. The economic analysis addressed changes in fuel consumption, time at sea, and possible delays due to Navy operations. The analysis was based on future implementation of the Emission Control Area offshore California. The risk analysis utilized SAMSAP and AIS data. The results of the analysis show that reducing ship speeds seasonally or permanently provides the greatest risk reduction while avoiding significant cost impact. Year-round speed reductions provide the greatest reduction in risk of ship strikes. Narrowing the existing shipping lanes may

actually increase the risk of ship strikes with virtually no change in costs. Moving the lanes south of the islands increases the cost, with variable effect on risk.

D. SOCAL-10 STUDY

The SoCal-10 Study is now available.

E. OCEAN ETIQUETTE

Debra provided NOAA's Ocean Etiquette "Marine Wildlife Viewing Guidelines." She also brought the updated Naturalist Corps data collection sheet which includes a data point indicating whether whales are less than, or greater than, 100 yards from whale watching vessels.

F. OTHER CINMS UPDATES

John Ugoretz reported that the Navy is providing financial support for CINMS aerial surveys. Surveys have occurred less frequently than hoped for, due in large part to weather (and partially due to sea range operations). The Navy is collecting data that can be coordinated with SAMSAP data.

II. AQUACULTURE

The CWG reviewed a letter drafted for SAC consideration regarding NOAA's and Commerce's proposed aquaculture policies. Comments are due April 11. The draft letter is based on the SAC's 2007 report on open ocean aquaculture. Kristi reported on the SAC input she has received thus far regarding the letter, which ranges from seeking a full ban on aquaculture in the CINMS and surrounding areas, to allowing aquaculture on a more flexible basis. The CWG pointed out that it is important for SAC members to understand the context of the proposed policies, and the 2007 recommendations. First, the proposed policies only apply in federal waters (more than three miles offshore) and thus do not affect state regulations or nearshore aquaculture projects. Second, the SAC's 2007 recommendations are focused on open ocean finfish commercial aquaculture (e.g., not restoration activities). Third, our intention is not to create new recommendations, but to simply provide input based on the 2007 report, which was adopted by a unanimous SAC vote following extensive consideration and deliberation. The CWG suggested that these points be presented to the SAC, and that we bring copies of the 2007 recommendations so members can compare them to the draft letter. We may also bring proposed revisions that clarify the focus and context of the letter, and add Commerce as a recipient of the comments.

III. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Kristi reported that we have received a new draft of the West Coast Task Force Plan. The latest version of the draft is under review and we anticipate a completed plan in the near future.

Kristi also reported that EDC received a grant from the National Marine Sanctuaries Foundation to help develop and distribute a PSA about ocean acidification. Receiving only ½ the funding they requested, EDC is looking for matching funds.

IV. CWG OFFSHORE ENERGY REPORT

Kristi provided an update regarding our progress drafting a report about offshore energy. Similar to previous reports, the analysis will address potential projects and technologies, potential impacts to sanctuary resources, existing laws and regulations, gaps in information and management approaches, opportunities and need for sanctuary engagement, and recommendations. We discussed the possibility of providing a panel discussion at the May SAC meeting to focus on the first two components: possible projects and technologies in the CINMS region, and potential impacts to sanctuary resources. A later panel could focus on the regulatory framework. Kristi invited input re potential panelists for the first panel presentation.

V. MLPA

Greg Helms reported that there has been a legal challenge to the network of south coast MPAs under the MLPA. The lawsuit was filed by United Anglers of Southern California and Coastside Fishing Club, and Robert Fletcher against the California Fish and Game Commission. Allegations include violations of CEQA, adoption of regulations without statutory authority, and violations of the coastal act. Ocean Conservancy and NRDC will most likely intervene in the lawsuit.

VI. OTHER SAC, CINMS ISSUES

Debra passed out a handout regarding dolphin protection.

John mentioned that the State Water Board issued a notice regarding a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report that addresses Stormwater/Nonpoint Source exceptions and protections in Areas of Special Biological Significance. Public Comments are due on May 4, 2011.

ADJOURN

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/19/11 AGENDA
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (TOC), Debra Herring

I. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

We began with a debrief of the State's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process and decision.

II. SHIPPING

A. PARS

Michael Murray (CINMS staff) provided us with the following (slightly edited) written report:

Sanctuary staff spoke today with Mike VanHouten from the USCG about the current Port Access Route Study. They held public comment hearings a while back and kept the public comment period open for an extended time (it is closing this week, he said). They did receive additional comments, and everything is on line at regulations.gov (search for docket # USCG-2009-0765 in the keyword box).

Mr. VanHouten informed Sanctuary staff that the USCG is currently analyzing available data to include in a draft report. They do not have any preferred option identified, and have yet to lay out and draft the range of options they will consider. By June they are targeting having a completed, internally-cleared study that will be shared in the federal register as a Notice of Study Results. They public can review the study, but the Notice will not start a comment period.

Mr. VanHouten will attend a scientific workshop this week in Newport Beach: Southern California Marine Mammal Workshop (<http://www.socalmarinemammals.org/>), which will include a panel session on "Vessel Strike Reduction in the Southern California Bight." He hopes to take in additional information for consideration in the study.

Also at the workshop, the Bren group focusing on this issue will have the opportunity to present their models for various traffic separation scheme management scenarios to the USCG.

Sanctuary staff stand ready to help provide AIS data to the USCG to assist with their report, but the Coast Guard has not yet determined if they need that data from us (they may be able to get it through their own channels).

B. OTHER CINMS, NMFS UPDATES

Mike Murray (CINMS staff) provided us with the following (slightly edited) written report:

- Coast Guard is tentatively planning a 3-day oil spill drill in mid-September 2011. They are interested in working with the Sanctuary and Park.
- Bren ship strike project update from the student team:
 - The Bren group has been working on two models:
 - A risk model to assess the change in risk of ship strikes to whales resulting from various management scenarios, and
 - An economic model to calculate the resulting cost to the shipping industry of slowing down or being re-routed.
 - Sanctuary staff are currently finalizing models and generating preliminary results.
 - The final outcome will compare the change in risk of strike and the total cost to the shipping industry for each management scenario.
 - SAC members (and Sanctuary staff) are invited to attend the final public presentation on Friday, April 15.
- CINMS: Sanctuary staff continue to monitor whale sightings from the whale watch vessels via the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps. There have been no recent reports of endangered large whales in the region. However, the region is in full gray whale season with daily sightings of grays and occasional sightings of orcas. Staff are also teamed up with the Navy and conducting whale observation flights on a monthly basis, as weather allows, surveying areas south of the northern Channel Islands.
- NMFS: We expect to learn more about the status of NMFS' ship strike modeling work by way of Steve Katz, who is attending this week's Southern California Marine Mammal Workshop.

C. CWG DISCUSSION

- A. PARS: we discussed the importance of ensuring that the study addresses protection of the marine environment as well as vessel safety, as required by the Ports and Waterways Safety Act.
- B. Recreational / Whale Watching Boats: we noted that there have been recent reports of recreational and whale watching boats approaching whales, in close proximity to whales, and transiting in the midst of feeding activities. We discussed NOAA's guidelines for such activities, as well as the guidelines that apply in the Hawaiian sanctuary. We would like the SAC to review the existing guidelines, discuss their adequacy and the need

to educate recreational boaters and concessionaires about the guidelines.
See NOAA statement from September 2010 (pasted below).

III. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Task Force: we are waiting for the completed plan.

IV. OFFSHORE ENERGY

- A. CWG Report: EDC continues to work on the report, and has hired a new Bren intern.

V. OTHER SAC, CINMS ISSUES

Mike Murray (CINMS staff) provided us with the following (slightly edited) written report:

- A. 2011 Work Plan: Mike Murray sent us “Staff Ideas for Council Activities in 2011”. We discussed our interest in not only having the USCG lead a planned exercise for responding to an oil spill, but also the need for a surprise drill (especially in light of the Deepwater Horizon experience, in which case many requirements in the emergency plans were not implemented).
- B. Sanctuary overflight regulations: extended public comment period (until Feb. 7).
- C. Acting Regional Director Carol Bernthal (ONMS West Coast Region) will attend Friday’s SAC meeting. Bill Douros has accepted a one-year detail to ONMS headquarters to serve as ONMS Deputy Director.
- D. Update on CINMS documentary film: “*Beneath the Rainbow Bridge: A Journey Through the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*” will be screened at the upcoming Santa Barbara International Film Festival, on February 4 at 2:00 pm (Metro 4, Theatre IV) and on February 5 at 1:00 pm (Santa Barbara Museum of Art).
- E. Sanctuary Advisory Council member recruitment – the Sanctuary is still accepting applications (materials on channelislands.noaa.gov) until January 24 for these positions:
- a. Commercial Fishing member and alternate
 - b. Non-consumptive recreation member and alternate
 - c. Conservation member and alternate
 - d. Research member and alternate
 - e. Public at large members (2)
 - f. Business member

ADJOURN

NOAA Whale Watching Guidelines

Sept. 15, 2010

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jim Milbury/562-980-4006

Monica DeAngelis/562-980-3232

Viewing Guidelines for Blue Whales and Other Marine Mammals

Whale watching can be a positive and enriching experience when it is conducted responsibly and in a manner that results in the safety of animals and boaters alike. NOAA Fisheries Service is reminding boaters of guidelines and regulations for observing marine mammals like the numerous blue whales currently off the coast of Los Angeles or any of the other marine mammals that often live in and transit our local ocean waters.

All marine mammals are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972. In addition, some species, like the blue whale, are also protected under the Endangered Species Act. Both federal laws prohibit the "take" of any marine mammal except by permit or exception. Any actions by vessels operating in the vicinity of marine mammals that have the potential to significantly disrupt their behavior may be a violation of the law(s) unless such persons have specified legal authority or a permit under the MMPA. Violators may be subject to significant monetary fines and penalties.

Mariners should use prudent judgment while operating their vessels and always follow the navigational Rules of the Road. The following guidelines are intended to inform the public on how to avoid inadvertently disturbing these amazing animals in their natural environment. These guidelines are not a replacement for federal legal requirements.

- Be alert and avoid disturbing whales and changing their normal behavior.
- Attempt to stay at least 100 yards away from any whale.
- Do not:
 - o Move into the path of a whale
 - o Move faster than the whale
 - o Make rapid speed or erratic directional changes
 - o Go between two whales
 - o Chase any whales
 - o Attempt to feed any whales

For further information please contact Monica DeAngelis at 562-980-3232 or contact NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement Hotline at 800- 853 -1964.

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
September 23, 2010
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop (Environmental Defense Center), Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney Rieman (Environmental Defense Center), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment), Debra Herring, Vic Cox, Sarah Green (Bren School), Michael Gould, Lauren Garske (UC Davis), Bud Bottoms

CINMS Staff: Michael Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves.

II. WHALES AND SHIPPING

- A. PARS: A representative of the USCG will make a presentation at the SAC meeting tomorrow. He will summarize comments received thus far and describe the upcoming workshops. The USCG is interested in using whale and AIS data from the CINMS.
- B. Bren School group project: Sarah Green discussed the group project. Chris Costello is the primary faculty advisor, and the CINMS and NMFS are the clients. The main objectives of the project are to (1) provide an economic analysis, and (2) analyze the risks associated with various management options. They will use AIS data to develop their analyses. They are also interested in trying to analyze means for detecting ship strikes. Their proposal is available on the Bren School website. The report will be completed in February 2011.
- C. AIS data: CINMS staff has the capacity to receive and process AIS data. The recent AIS analysis will be presented at the SAC meeting.
- D. Recent whale deaths: (a) a blue whale washed up near Pt. Bennett on San Miguel Island; efforts are underway to access the whale and commence assessment; (b) a minke whale came in on the bow of a ship at Oakland; and (c) a whale washed up on Ocean Beach in SF. Investigations regarding causes of death are underway. We discussed the desire to have Michele Berman and Paul Collins from the SBMNH provide a follow-up report regarding the blue whale to the SAC.
- E. Jackie reported that a CBNMS/GFNMS Working Group is being formed to address shipping issues.
- F. Mike Murray brought a publication from ECM Maritime Services LLS,

which includes an article regarding “Whale Advisory Zone for Santa Barbara Channel Area.” Linda also noted that the USCG sent a notice to mariners reminding them that the only IMO-approved traffic lanes are within the Channel.

III. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Task Force: the respective staff members of the Task Force are developing draft activities to match the strategies of Research, Monitoring, Education & Outreach, Resource Protection, Influencing National and International Policy, Demonstrating Leadership by Reducing Carbon Emissions, and Coordinating with other Organizations on Funding Opportunities. In addition, Linda conducted outreach to the five west coast SACs. She relayed the responses she has received thus far, pertaining to (1) the relationship between ocean acidification and oxygen depletion zones, and (2) a July 2010 workshop in Puget Sound.
- B. The Sanctuary Education Team is hosting a training workshop for educators, the Naturalist Corps and docents on October 7 and 23. Linda will email the information to the CWG.
- C. Vic mentioned an article from Frontiersman that discusses that commercial and recreational fishers agree on the threats posed by ocean acidification. Linda will distribute the article to the CWG.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

- A. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the South Coast MPAs has been released; comments are due October 4. Some interested parties have requested an extension. The Fish & Game Commission will consider this request at a hearing near Sacramento on September 29.
- B. The LA Sanitation Districts have raised concerns about the Palos Verdes MPAs.
- C. The Fish & Game Commission will hold a hearing on the DEIR October 20-21 and on the FEIR and project December 15-16.

V. RIGS TO REEFS

- A. AB 2503 has passed the State Legislature, and is awaiting action by the Governor. Linda explained the provisions in the bill, and pointed out the many uncertainties (e.g., whether fishing will be allowed at a decommissioned platform, how platforms will function when the top 85 feet are removed). The legislation and the proponents cite the new Ocean Science Trust report, which itself identifies numerous “data gaps” in addressing ecological and economic issues.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

- A. NMSA Reauthorization: no new news.
- B. Water Quality Characterization Report: SB Channelkeeper will present their report at the SAC meeting. The CWG expressed an interest in learning how the Report will be used by the CINMS.
- C. Viewing Guidelines: Debra distributed a NOAA news release from the Southwest Region providing guidelines for viewing blue whales and other marine mammals, and informing the public about the requirements of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- D. California and World Ocean Conference: several CWG members attended the conference and commented on how informative and relevant the conference was. The conference included panels about ocean acidification, climate change, marine spatial planning, marine protected areas, ocean governance, rigs to reefs, sustainable seafood, and marine debris. Sarah stated that she will provide summaries of the panels she attended.
- E. Sea Otters: Linda will circulate an article about a UC Santa Cruz study linking sea otter deaths along the California central coast to a freshwater toxin.
- F. Coastal Cleanup Day is September 25. The CINMS and CINP will co-sponsor cleanup efforts at Emma Wood State Beach in Ventura County and at Santa Claus Lane and Gaviota State Beaches in Santa Barbara County.

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

7/14/10

Environmental Defense Center Conference Room, 906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop (Environmental Defense Center), Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney Rieman (Environmental Defense Center), Kira Redmond (SB Channelkeeper), Jean Holmes (LWVSB), Debra Herring, Vic Cox.
CINMS Staff: Michael Murray
ONMS West Coast Region Staff: Lisa Wooninck, Regional Policy Coordinator

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves.

II. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

A. CWG Report: Kristi updated the group regarding the progress on our offshore renewable energy report. She recently hired a new Bren intern to assist with the regulatory section. She is also reviewing materials and references from the Climate Hill Ocean Week conference (see below), and incorporating additional information on technologies and impacts as appropriate.

B. Climate Hill Ocean Week report: Linda reported on her trip (along with SAC Chair Eric Kett) to the CHOW conference in D.C. The conference focused on offshore energy and included presentations by agency staff, industry, and public stakeholder interests. Several members of Congress also addressed the conference. Linda noted that she was able to bring a lot of information back to SB that will help us write our offshore energy report. She also met a lot of people that we may contact for more information.

III. SHIPPING

A. Whale Presence in Channel, Notice to Mariners: At the SAC meeting, we will receive updates regarding whale sightings, collection of AIS data, the Notices to Mariners. The Notice went out earlier this year, thanks to improved policies for NMFS to receive and act on sighting reports.

B. Acoustics Follow-up with Dan Basta: Mr. Basta sent a response, thanking the SAC for our support for acoustic research and monitoring in the CINMS. We discussed the potential for the Sanctuary program to work more regionally and in partnership with other entities as a means to enhance opportunities for such research and monitoring. Mike will forward our letter to other SACs. Vic mentioned a recently released report about right whales increasing the volume of their calls as environmental noise increases.

C. Port Access Route Study (PARS): The SAC approved the letter we proposed in May. Mike reported that the Coast Guard may hold public meetings in the fall. We will receive an update at the September SAC meeting.

D. NMFS Workshop: Mike noted that NMFS is compiling information from the workshop and will develop a database that identifies relevant information and data gaps.

IV. WATER QUALITY

A. SBCK Water Quality Characterization Report: Kira presented SBCK's water quality characterization report, which implements a key recommendation of the CWG Water Quality Report. The Report, which synthesizes information from a variety of sources, notes the condition of water quality in the Channel and recommends further monitoring. The report will be on the SBCK website, hopefully by the end of this week. Kira will make a presentation to the CINMS staff. The CWG would like SBCK to present the report to the SAC, with the hope that the SAC will endorse the report. Mike pointed out that the Shearwater has new equipment that can be used for water sampling.

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

A. West Coast Task Force: Linda reported that the next meeting is scheduled for July 26.

B. Gulf of Farallones Conference on Climate Change: We discussed the fact that the Gulf of Farallones NMS will sponsor a conference on climate change, which will include acidification.

C. NOAA Acidification Research Plan: NOAA's research plan is now public. The plan is separated into regions, and includes a West Coast research element.

D. Deep Sea Coral Cruise: Mike reported that the CINMS was included in the ocean acidification deep sea coral cruise. Conditions were ideal, and water quality samples were taken in our area.

VI. MLPA / MARINE RESERVES

A. Monitoring Workshop: On July 19, there will be a workshop in Santa Barbara regarding monitoring of marine protected areas.

B. MLPA EIR Scoping: The Department of Fish and Game will hold a scoping hearing for the South Coast EIR on July 23 in Long Beach. The deadline for submitting written comments is August 3.

C. Fish and Game Commission: The next Fish and Game Commission hearing regarding the South Coast plan will take place in October. The August 5 meeting has been cancelled.

VII. AQUACULTURE

A. NOAA Proposed Policy: Comments from the listening session are posted on the NOAA website.

B. HR 4363 (Capps) / Vitter: Nothing new to report.

VIII. RIGS TO REEFS

A. AB 2503: The state bill passed the Assembly and the first policy committee in the Senate. Some environmental groups oppose the bill, while others have been negotiating amendments. We discussed the fact that federal law (the National Fishing Enhancement Act) may require the state to allow fishing at the decommissioned sites if they are converted to "artificial reefs." We also noted that the bill would apply to both state and federal platforms in the Channel region.

B. Resources Agency / Ocean Science Trust Report: The OST report was presented to the Ocean Protection Council at a meeting in Santa Barbara on June 25. The report identifies numerous "data gaps" and yet is cited in AB 2503 as providing the basis for new legislation. Public comments on the report will be accepted until July 25.

IX. OTHER SAC ISSUES

A. National Marine Sanctuary Act Reauthorization: Kristi reported on her participation in a listening session sponsored by the author, Congresswoman Capps. The bill includes several substantive components that could enhance Sanctuary management and resource protection opportunities and protocols. Kristi reported that she has spoken to some commercial fishers who are concerned about the bill. We noted that while the bill does allow for designation of marine protected areas (which is already allowed), it also requires consultation with the Fishery Management Councils (also already required). Kristi submitted comments on the bill.

ADJOURN

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

5/19/10

**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Kristi Birney Rieman (Environmental Defense Center), Michael Sheehy (SB Channelkeeper), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment via phone), Debra Herring, Gail Osherenko, Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters), Rene Callahan (Bren Vessel Collision Masters Group Project).

CINMS Staff: Michael Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Attendees introduced themselves.

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. West Coast Ocean Acidification Task Force: Kristi announced that the West Coast Ocean Acidification Task Force held its first meeting in April. The Task Force developed a plan with 6 strategies (monitoring, research, resource protection, operations, education, and outreach). The next step is for each Sanctuary staff to coordinate with representatives at the other Sanctuary sites and start drafting their respective strategy sections of the report.
- B. EPA- Water Quality Act and Ocean Acidification. Kristi reported that the EPA is soliciting comments to determine if it should use the Clean Water Act Section 303(d) to address ocean acidification. EDC has submitted comments on this topic and they are available by request to Kristi@edcnet.org.
- C. NOAA Progress. Mike reported that NOAA just completed the “NOAA Ocean and Great Lakes Acidification Research Implementation Plan” that will be available online in the near future. In addition, NOAA’s deep sea coral cruise aboard the *MacArthur II* is scheduled for this summer. The cruise will start in Washington and work down the coast. CINMS staff will attempt to coordinate to get OA sampling in the SB Channel.
- D. MERITO. The MERITO program has implemented their new teaching module on Ocean Acidification and has received several requests from other agencies and organizations to share the module.

III. SHIPPING

- A. SAC Follow-up: Kristi reported that Linda and she had a phone conversation with Dan Basta to discuss how the SAC could help ensure that acoustic work in the CINMS continued and how to improve the program.
- B. Acoustics Report follow-up: The CWG has drafted a cover letter and resolution requesting additional investment of financial resources to further acoustic monitoring and research at the CINMS. The resolution requests adequate and stable funding, equipment

and personnel resources to address acoustics in the Sanctuary. Mike Sheehy expressed interest in including a budget with the resolution. Mike Murray indicated he would talk to Steve Katz to develop a ball park figure with a high and low budget estimate for each resolution item. Mike reported that at the SAC Summit he and Eric Kett (SAC Chair) let Dan Basta know the resolution was in the works, and he in turn let all the SAC Chairs know about the resolution. Mike has received several requests from other sites expressing interest in the resolution.

C. PARS. The US Coast Guard (USCG) is soliciting comments on the Port Access Route Study (PARS). The CWG is proposing the SAC submit a comment letter that urges the USCG to consider not only vessel safety but also Sanctuary resources, such as the needs of large whales and other marine life in and near the CINMS. The comment deadline is June 7th. Comments can be viewed and submitted at www.regulations.gov (enter the docket code "USCG-2009-0765").

D. NMFS science workshop: Mike announced that NMFS Southwest Region is convening a workshop with the NOAA Science Center on May 19th & 20th. The two day workshop will focus on improving the understanding of risks of vessel collisions with large whales, with an emphasis on the U.S. West Coast; identifying data needs, determining how to fill data gaps; and creating a foundation for future work.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

Greg reported on the progress and status of the MLPA process. In April, the Fish and Game Commission selected the Blue Ribbon Task Force recommendation as the proposed project to undergo environmental review. The next Fish and Game Commission meeting will be held on May 20 in Sacramento. A final decision on the MLPA plan (following environmental review) is expected to occur in October.

The Commission will meet in the SB/Carp area in August, which will provide a valuable opportunity for local input regarding the MLPA process and options.

V. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

A. CWG report: Kristi provided an update regarding the preparation of our Offshore Renewable Energy report. In the summer, there will be a new Bren intern to delve into the statutory and regulatory framework and issues regarding such projects. Kristi encouraged input from anyone who has information, interest and/or concerns. Mike commented that Liam Antrim, the Resource Protection Coordinator at the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, has collected and reviewed a lot of information on wave energy and the SAC for the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary has adopted position statements concerning placement of alternative energy projects within the sanctuary. Mike also reported that Linda Krop will attend the Capitol Hill Oceans Week to hear workshops and presentations on energy and the oceans with specific focus on offshore renewable energy presentations. See agenda at <http://www.nmsfocean.org/CHOW-2010-agenda>.

B. WaveConnect project; stakeholder nominations: Kristi informed the group that PG&E has received their preliminary permit to move forward and begin the process of determining if wave energy is feasible in the proposed project area.

VI. AQUACULTURE

A. NOAA proposed policy: Kristi reported that NOAA is developing a draft policy statement and will provide an opportunity for public “listening sessions.” Kristi reported that EDC submitted comments on the NOAA policy and these comments integrate recommendations outlined the CWG report on open ocean aquaculture. Mike reported that the CINMS also recommended that Headquarters staff incorporate the CWG report recommendations into the NOAA policy.

B. HR 4363 (Capps): Kristi reported that EDC has submitted a letter of support for Congresswoman Capps’ legislation that would establish a national ocean aquaculture program with substantial environmental safeguards and standards. Anyone interested in receiving a copy of the comments can contact Kristi at Kristi@edcnet.org.

VII. RIGS TO REEFS

A. AB 2503: Speaker of the Assembly Perez introduced legislation to establish a state rigs-to-reefs program. Kristi and Linda are reviewing the legislation and will contact Perez’s staff. Jean indicated that there may have been a hearing this week in Sacramento to discuss this bill.

B. CA Resources Agency/OST Study: Kristi reported that the California Ocean Protection Council will be holding a meeting in Santa Barbara on June 25th and 25th. We have heard that the OST study about rigs to reefs will be discussed at this meeting. In large part, there is a concern that the study does not help fill the “data gaps” identified by the stakeholders, and that there are too many assumptions that are not necessarily justified. An additional concern relates to the fact that the consultant developed a decision-making model despite the lack of scientifically based, objective data. Gail asked if the CWG has taken a position on the R2R issue and suggested that this could be a future discussion for the CWG.

VIII. OTHER ISSUES

A. Mike reported that sanctuary staff had been contacted about a Biological and Behavioral Response Study of Marine Mammals in Southern California proposed by Sea Inc. The study is designed to increase understanding of marine mammal’s behavior and reaction to sound. The information gained during this study will be used to inform both conservation management and military environmental review requirements. Kristi reported that EDC has been briefed on this project too. More information is available at: <http://www.sea-inc.net/SOCAL10>.

B. Mike mentioned that a big theme at the SAC Summit was the importance of reauthorizing the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Lois Capps has drafted a bill that may soon be release publicly. Capps' office is working on inviting all 14 SAC chairs to participate in a conference call on this bill. The call may take place before the end of the month. SAC chairs would participate as individuals, as federal rules do not allow SACs (as groups) to lobby Congress. Mike noted that SACs can write to NOAA to let them know how the Council feels and if this item should be an agency priority. Kristi proposed having the CWG recommend that the SAC Chair and anyone else who participates in the call report back to the SAC at the next SAC meeting and that this be an agenda item. CWG participants were in favor of putting this item on the next SAC agenda.

C. Mike reported that the application for empty SAC members and alternates will be extended another month. This includes the following seats:

- Education alternate
- Chumash community
- Commercial fishing alternate

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

1/27/10

**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Michael Sheehy (SB Channelkeeper), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment via conference phone), Debra Herring, Kristi Rieman (EDC), Vic Cox, John Kuizenga, and Mark Brody .

CINMS Staff: Michael Murray provided written comments that were presented on his behalf.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

All attending did self introduction (see "Present" above for more detail).

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(a) CINMS staff has been tracking how the Ocean Acidification report prepared by CWG and adopted by SAC has made its way through other Sanctuary Council's and through the Sanctuary program. All but four Advisory Councils have adopted a resolution or passed a motion that is supportive of the CINMS Council's recommendations. Three additional Councils (Flower Garden Banks NMS; Gray's Reef NMS; and Monitor NMS) are expected to take an action this year. The Council at the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument is not working on this as they are in a transition stage into a new kind of advisory group.

There is a new web site available now that will be used to share Advisory Council actions that have broad regional effects. Initially this site will host all the OA resolutions:

http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/ac/council_actions.html

(b) NOAA Sanctuary Regional Director Bill Douros has indicated that a west coast working group will be tasked with addressing Ocean Acidification in the near future. Details to be worked out include: what it will mean for the regional office to coordinate action for west coast sanctuaries, role of SAC's, and SAC member participation. Issues will include research, education, management, and role of resource protection staff from west coast sanctuaries, and possible involvement of NOAA experts like Dr. Richard Feely. SAC may have an opportunity to recommend a SAC and staff member from CINMS for the group.

III. WHALES AND SHIPPING

(a) CINMS staff had a chance to provide a short briefing on the whale ship strike issue to Dr. Jane Lubchenco on January 11. She was receptive and agreed that this is an important marine spatial planning challenge.

CINMS staff held a meeting in November with NOAA colleagues from the NMFS Office of Protected Resources. The main focus was on moving forward to consider and address the SAC's ship strike recommendations. NMFS is taking steps to convene a scientific workshop designed to facilitate experts sharing information and strategizing on analysis and data needs. CINMS has taken the lead on developing a joint CINMS/NMFS proposal that will be submitted on Jan 28 by a Bren School student team. With NMFS and CINMS serving as clients, the proposal intends to have a student team build on the SAC's recommendations, fleshing out their feasibility, impacts, and evaluating management options.

Steve Katz has continued to seek external funding for whale/shipping research and monitoring. Nothing has come in yet, but there have been some near successes.

(b) CINMS staff plan on reviewing the acoustics report recommendation at the March 19 SAC meeting. Megan McKenna (from Scripps) may be able to deliver a presentation on related work she and her colleagues are doing.

Dan Basta is expected to be at the March 19 SAC meeting. There is an opportunity to remind Dan about the direction the CWG and SAC would like to see acoustics work move in. This will also give Dan a chance to talk about a large ambient acoustic monitoring proposal that he has developed.

Jackie Dragon reported on the progress of a proposed working group on acoustic noise as a joint effort between Cordell Banks and Gulf of the Farallones SAC. There is potential for CINMS CWG and SAC to be linked to that work as it progresses.

Jackie Dragon also reported on the development of a letter to NOAA outlining Best Management Practices that NOAA vessels and contract vessels can take to reduce potential ship strikes and acoustic impacts to whales.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

Greg reported on the progress and status of the MLPA process. A final round of stakeholder MPA designs has been completed; four arrays are now on the table representing a largely conservation oriented proposal, a largely fishing proposal, a "cross interest" proposal, and the compromise proposal developed by the Blue Ribbon Task Force. The Fish and Game Commission (FGC) will meet to discuss and perhaps adopt a "preferred alternative" sometime in 2010. It is anticipated that this decision will be made at the FGC meeting on March 3 and 4 in Ontario. Greg and others will be tracking the FGC agendas to see what month this item will appear.

The latest status on the southern California regional proposals will be summarized at Friday's SAC meeting by Marija Vojkovich, CDFG Marine Region Manager.

V. OFFSHORE RENEWABLE ENERGY

Kristi reported on the status of the CWG offshore renewable energy report. A Bren Intern has been conducting initial research to identify technology and potential

environmental impacts for wave, wind, and current offshore renewable energy. He is in the preliminary stages of gathering resources and information. Other Sanctuaries that have had experience with offshore renewable energy projects have been contacted. Anyone interested in this topic is encouraged to contact Kristi to ensure that their concerns and issues are addressed.

Kristi, Michael, Greg, and Vic reported on the CEC-hosted stakeholder meeting about the Central Coast WaveConnect project proposed off the coast of Vandenberg Air Force Base. Public meetings will be held on February 3rd at Faulkner Gallery in Santa Barbara (5:30-8:30 pm) and February 4th at the Betteravia Government Center in Santa Maria (6-9 pm).

VI. AQUACULTURE

(a) Congressional testimony was given by NOAA's Jim Balsinger (NMFS' Acting Assistant Administrator) in Sept. 2009, in which he primarily described the need for a Federal permitting and regulatory system for offshore aquaculture, some necessary components of such a system (including siting, permitting, and operating requirements and precautionary measures to protect the environment and coastal communities), and mentioned that NOAA would be "reassessing existing Department of Commerce and NOAA Aquaculture Policies." That testimony is on line at:
<http://www.legislative.noaa.gov/Testimony/Balsinger090909.pdf>.

(b) Louis Capps has introduced a bill (HR 4363) to establish federal aquaculture legislation. Initial review of the bill indicates strong language for environmental protection. The CWG open ocean aquaculture report continues to be relevant and can be used in the future as appropriate.

VII. OTHER SAC ISSUES

(a) In February there will be an announcement for several positions on the SAC due to expiring terms including: Tourism alternate, Recreational fishing member and alternate, Education member and alternate, public at-large alternate (2 seats).

(b) In response to a SAC letter highlighting the need for more MERITO funding, Dan Basta gave CINMS an immediate "advance" on its budget allocation. This funding will assure that the program's administrative labor costs will be covered this year. Kristi, Debra, and Maria Petueli were thanked for their work on the letter.

(c) Dan Basta is expected to attend the March 19 SAC meeting in Ventura.

(d) Suggested Recommendations for Council Priorities in 2010 include the following:

- Ocean Acidification (what role will Sanctuaries play)
- Shipping and Shipping Lanes (could fall under Marine Spatial Planning, look at Oak Park High School & Bren Project for assistance)

- Offshore Renewable Energy (PG&E project demonstrates timeliness of this issue)
- Oil Platform Removal (R2R)
- Boundary Expansion

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

11/18/09

**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of SB), Michael Sheehy (SB Channelkeeper), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Debra Herring, Kristi Birney Rieman (EDC), Vic Cox, John Ugoretz (Navy)

CINMS Staff: Michael Murray [by phone]

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. Eight Sanctuary Advisory Councils have adopted motions or resolutions supporting Sanctuary action to address ocean acidification. Other Councils will consider similar action in the near future.
- B. Bruce Steele is meeting with officials in Washington, D.C.
- C. EDC has a few copies of “A Sea Change” that can be borrowed for small, private showings. Groups can also contact the producers to obtain the film for larger public showings.
- D. Education: Some CWG members plan to attend the SET meeting tomorrow night to discuss public education and outreach strategies.

III. WHALES AND SHIPPING

- A. Report follow-up: Dan Basta wrote a letter acknowledging our report, praising us on our work. He will discuss the matter within NOAA. CINMS staff will also meet with NMFS.
- B. Acoustics: CINMS will review the recommendations from the SAC report and provide an update on progress implementing the recommendations. Mike Murray alerted us to the March 2009 Updated Office of National Marine Sanctuaries “Acoustic Impact Policy Statement.” Michael Smith reported that Gray Whales Count is experimenting with passive acoustic monitoring offshore Ellwood.
- C. John Ugoretz noted that ships are moving outside the Channel in response to the State’s clean fuel standards. He pointed to the concern that ships travelling outside the Channel do not have the benefit of established shipping lanes, and that there could be conflicts between oil tankers and faster cargo ships. John also mentioned that he has seen fin and blue whales in the

shipping lanes near San Pedro.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

- A. BRTF: Greg Helms reported on the final BRTF meetings, and the unanimous decision to forward a “preferred alternative” to the Fish and Game Commission. The BRTF action also included forwarding some of the stakeholder options. Greg presented and discussed the map adopted by the BRTF. The map, which is weaker than the “compromise” proposal from the regional working groups, includes some quality areas but in general the protected areas are not as large or connected as the conservation groups endorsed. Nevertheless, the map may present the most viable option to being the Fish & Game Commission review process.
- B. Fish & Game Commission: the Commission will hold a joint meeting with the BRTF on December 9 and select the preferred alternative for environmental review.

V. OFFSHORE ENERGY PROJECTS

- A. CWG Report: Kristi reported that she is working with a Bren student to conduct research and prepare a report for CWG and SAC consideration. She plans to reach out to CWG and SAC members for input.
- B. Sanctuary status: Mike informed us that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has prepared a “Frequently Asked Questions” document regarding Alternative Energy and Oil & Gas Projects in National Marine Sanctuaries. The document points out that, in general, projects are not allowed within Sanctuaries. In addition, the 2005 Energy Policy Act prevents the Minerals Management Service from permitting projects in Sanctuary waters. Even if projects are proposed outside Sanctuary boundaries, they may impact Sanctuary resources (similar to aquaculture projects).

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. MERITO Funding: Kristi and Debra worked with Maria (Education Rep) to draft a letter for SAC consideration, requesting funding to support the very successful MERITO program.
- B. “Greening” Ideas for the SAC: We discussed ways to make SAC meetings more environmentally friendly, such as (1) not providing bottled water; (2) asking SAC members to bring their own cups (and possibly utensils as well); and (3) facilitating carpooling.

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

9/16/09

**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of SB), Jessie Altstatt (SB Channelkeeper), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Debra Herring, Toni Frohoff, Kristi Birney Rieman (EDC), John Ugoretz (US Navy).

CINMS Staff: Sean Hastings.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

John Ugoretz (re)introduced himself. John has been hired as the Navy's environmental staff at San Nicholas Island.

IA: ANNOUNCEMENTS: Jessie Altstatt announced that a research cruise to Anacapa Island discovered an extensive bed of non native brown algae – *saragassum phillissailim* – growing in recently disturbed area. Likely some at Santa Cruz as well. Source likely ballast water. There is a need to monitor and consider options for containment or removal. Jessie will present to the SAC in November.

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(a) The film A Sea Change will be shown at Natural History museum on October 27 and a panel discussion will be held. Bruce, Chris Mobley and a researcher will lead the discussion.

(b) Kristi updated the CWG on how the Ocean Acidification report prepared by CWG and adopted by SAC has made its way through other Sanctuary Councils and through the Sanctuary program. Sean detailed progress on NOAA planning for OA research and monitoring.

III. WHALES AND SHIPPING

(a) The latest recommendations from the Ship Strike report were discussed and presented for edits. A small number of mostly formatting edits were suggested.

(b) Strategies to Reduce Ship Strikes were discussed, along with response to efforts so far. Discussion focused on voluntary vs. mandatory measures, as well as education and outreach strategies.

(c) The Council will consider the report and recommendations and consider a motion to move the report forward. CWG members were asked to consider how this report can be made most effective – who else would the SAC like CINMS manager to share the report with? The SAC will consider the substance of the report rather than trying to

wordsmith.

(d) Possible responses by NMFS and the shipping industry were discussed. Implications of a shift of vessel traffic to areas outside the Channel were discussed.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

Greg reported on the progress and status of the MLPA process. A final round of stakeholder MPA designs has been completed; three arrays are now on the table representing a largely conservation oriented proposal, a largely fishing proposal and a “cross interest” proposal. The Blue Ribbon Task Force will meet to discuss and perhaps adopt a “preferred alternative” in Long Beach October 20-22.

V. OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES AWARD

Sean announced that the ONMS has a “partner of the year” award and this year our own Conservation Working Group has been selected. The selection carries a \$5,000 award to the Sanctuary for continued work.

VI. SANCTUARY ACT REAUTHORIZATION AND FUNDING

Sean detailed the current process of considering reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act process and the important separate process of Congressional appropriation to carry out this mandate.

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

7/15/09

**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Shiva Polefka (EDC), Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of SB), Jessie Altstatt (SB Channelkeeper), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Debra Herring, Toni Frohoff, Nick Patton (EDC), Kristi Rieman (EDC), Betsy Weber (EDC)

CINMS Staff: Michael Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Kristi Birney Rieman introduced herself as Shiva's replacement as EDC's new Marine Conservation Analyst. Shiva is moving to Washington D.C. to begin a graduate program at Johns Hopkins University.

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

(a) The Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council voted to support our full report with recommendations. All west coast Sanctuary Advisory Councils have adopted resolutions supporting our work.

(b) Kristi will begin work contacting the other Sanctuary Advisory Councils around the country to ask whether they would be willing to adopt our report. Mike Murray mentioned that as a follow-up to the Sanctuary Summit, the National Marine Sanctuary Program is polling all Sanctuary Advisory Councils in an effort to find out whether they are pursuing any work on acidification.

(c) EDC and other partners will sponsor a showing of "A Sea Change," a new film about ocean acidification, on October 27 at the SB Museum of Natural History. We will invite a panel of experts to speak after the film. We also hope to convene a group of Sanctuary stakeholders and scientists for a workshop during the day. Finally, we hope to show the film in Ventura as well.

(d) Mike Murray reported that NOAA is working on a plan for acidification research and monitoring. The Sanctuary program will be involved, and could offer "sentinel sites" for such research.

III. WHALES AND SHIPPING

(a) We discussed the SAC agenda for 7/17/09, which will include (1) a report on the summer migration season; (2) presentations regarding four case studies; and (3) a panel of experts and stakeholders. Linda, who is a member of the SAC subcommittee on whales and shipping, summarized the subcommittee's recommendations thus far as

gleaned from the case studies. After the SAC meeting, the subcommittee will continue to work on refining recommendations and developing priorities.

(b) The CWG once again expressed support for a year-round speed limit in the Channel, to ensure adequate protection, prevent harm to whales, and allow for advance voyage planning by shippers. Michael Smith pointed out that humpbacks and blues are in the Channel almost year-round.

(c) We discussed ongoing concerns related to the notices to mariners. The CWG expressed disappointment that the current notice does not recommend a speed reduction. We also asked about progress with figuring out how to use data from credible sources to ascertain "triggers" for noticing mariners. Mike Murray told us that the Sanctuary is working with NMFS, the Naturalist Corps and concessionaires on this issue.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

Greg reported on the progress and status of the MLPA process. The Open Houses were well attended; CA Dept. of Fish and Game (CDFG) is accepting comments until July 18. At the next Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting (July 28-29), the process and guidelines for Round 3 of the stakeholder process will be discussed and adopted. The regional stakeholder group will finish its design phase in August-September. The Blue Ribbon Task Force will then develop a final recommendation by the end of the year, which will be used to initiate the state's environmental review process.

V. OFFSHORE ENERGY PROJECTS

Given the concerns and questions that were raised about our resolution at the May SAC meeting, the CWG has decided to withdraw the resolution and instead prepare a report analyzing how offshore energy projects may impact or otherwise relate to the Sanctuary and its resources. We will then bring some recommendations back to the SAC.

VI. RED ABALONE

Jessie Altstatt from SB Channelkeeper reported on the progress of the "Abalone Advisory Group" (red abalone stakeholder group), which is sponsored by CDFG. CDFG is working on recovery and management planning, and convened the stakeholder group to help envision what a potential limited red abalone fishery at SMI would look like. So far, three options have been proposed: two options allow take, but provide different allocations for commercial vs. recreational take. The third option, devised by Jessie as the conservation representative on the group, would allow harvest for restoration purposes and research on the potential for rebuilding the population. Modeling for any take option shows further decline of the species. The next step involves developing total allowable catch for each option, as well as management recommendations. In January, the Fish & Game Commission will select a preferred option and initiate the environmental review process.

The CWG talked about the vulnerability of abalone to warming waters (whether from an El Nino event or climate change), and the need to incorporate such concerns in any management decision.

CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

3/18/09

**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Shiva Polefka (EDC), Greg Helms (The Ocean Conservancy), Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of SB), Jessie Altstatt (SB Channelkeeper), Jackie Dragon (Pacific Environment), Annie Crawley, Vic Cox, Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Rachel Couch, Gail Osherenko, Debra Herring

CINMS Staff: Michael Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Gulf of Farallones & Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Councils adopted a joint resolution supporting our recommendations and supporting attention by the National Marine Sanctuary program. Next steps: (1) Cordell Banks NMS and Olympic Coast NMS Advisory Councils to consider report and resolutions; (2) SAC Summit presentation in May; (3) EDC (and potentially others) to sponsor movie, "Sea Change" later this year; (4) Public comment at CA Coastal Commission hearing in Ventura in April, including request for a workshop at a later hearing; (5) EDC sent request for funding and support for research via the NMS Reauthorization Act and S. 22. Mike Murray reported that CINMS staff are seeking partnership opportunities and funding for research and monitoring.

III. WHALES AND SHIPPING

The Conservation seat participates on the SAC subcommittee. The current focus of the subcommittee is on developing case studies to assess effectiveness of other efforts to reduce impacts of shipping on marine animals. A CINMS intern is working on case studies addressing the Hawaiian Islands, Stellwagon Banks, and Glacier Bay. Shiva is taking the lead on developing a case study of the Port of Long Beach Green Flag program. Jackie referred Shiva to David Pettit at NRDC. The subcommittee will make its report to the SAC in May or July. Mike reported that the CINMS continues its surveillance activities and data collection and dissemination. The CWG recommends that we invite a panel of experts and stakeholders to make a presentation to the SAC. We also reiterated our desire that NMFS expand the circumstances warranting issuance of Notices to Mariners. The CWG also raised concerns about the lack of protection for the gray whale in the SB harbor.

IV. MLPA/MARINE RESERVES

Greg reported on the progress and status of the MLPA process. The stakeholders have completed the process of developing maps to be evaluated. External proposals have also

been submitted, including one by SB Channelkeeper/Santa Monica Baykeeper. A total of nine maps (6 from the stakeholder groups and 3 from the public) have been submitted. They are vastly different. Next steps: meetings by the Blue Ribbon Task Force, Regional Stakeholder Groups; scientific and socioeconomic evaluation of maps.

V. MANAGEMENT PLAN - BOUNDARY

The final Management Plan includes the commitment to evaluate CINMS boundary options. The CINMS has already completed a Biogeographic Study. The next step would be for the CINMS to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate various boundary alternatives. There are also other efforts along the west coast to consider expanding existing Sanctuaries. Mike reported that there is no funding to initiate CINMS review in this fiscal year, but that the CINMS is still committed to the evaluation process. EDC and its interns have conducted some initial research on options and justifications supporting boundary expansion. Certain CWG participants may prepare an analysis of the benefits and concerns regarding boundary expansion.

VI. WAVE ENERGY

Shiva pointed out that there are a couple offshore wave energy projects proposed in our region. He noted that although we support renewable energy, such projects may cause adverse impacts and produce user conflicts in our region, particularly if sited within the CINMS. The CWG considered a proposed resolution (see attached) that addresses siting of ocean energy projects, and recommends that siting of offshore ocean energy facilities should be carefully considered to identify areas with the best combination of high energy potential, low risk of harm to the marine environment and wildlife, minimal interference with existing ocean uses and habitat values, and maximum availability of impact mitigation measures. In addition, the proposed resolution expresses a concern that energy facilities not be sited within the CINMS itself due to conflict with CINMS regulations.

DRAFT

Resolution of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Regarding Offshore Ocean Energy Projects

Whereas the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was created under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act based on the special national significance of the area's conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural archeological, educational and esthetic qualities, and the communities of living marine resources it protects; and

Whereas, increasing levels of carbon dioxide and other anthropogenic greenhouse gases pose major threats to the ocean environment from acidification and climate change; and

Whereas, the CINMS Advisory Council represents groups of ocean stakeholders concerned about marine resource conservation, the sustainability of local fisheries, and the vitality of coastal communities, harbors and regional economies, and therefore recognizes the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions through increased energy efficiency and development of renewable energy sources; and

Whereas, technologies designed to commercially harvest offshore ocean energy— wave, tide, current, and wind— are likely to play a role in our energy future, but are presently untested on the West Coast, and could cause adverse impacts to marine resources and ecosystems in and around CINMS, and produce significant conflicts with existing human uses of the regional marine environment, and

Whereas constructing wave energy devices, platforms, seabed anchoring systems, and burying and laying transmission cables along the seafloor of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary would directly conflict with CINMS regulations, and such activities would not likely qualify for a Sanctuary permit since such permits are limited to a narrow range of purposes including research, education, salvage and recovery or to assist in managing the Sanctuary; and

Whereas, an expedited effort to significantly curb carbon dioxide emissions is imperative, but existing sensitive and valuable marine resources in and around CINMS need not and must not be sacrificed to achieve this end;

Now therefore be it resolved by the CINMS Advisory Council that:

For renewable energy technology to meet its considerable promise to protect our environment, it must be both carefully designed and appropriately sited; and

The siting of offshore ocean energy facilities should be carefully considered using comprehensive marine spatial planning that identifies areas with the best combination of high energy potential, low risk of harm to the marine environment and wildlife, minimal interference with existing ocean uses and habitat values, and maximum availability of impact mitigation measures;

The CINMS Advisory Council believes that, given its regulations and statutory objectives, the waters and subsea lands within CINMS are not an appropriate location to site energy facilities.

Be it further resolved that this recommendation be communicated to all relevant parties including the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the Secretaries of Commerce and the Interior, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

CINMS Advisory Council Conservation Working Group meeting minutes
January 22, 2009

Attendees:

Debra Herring new non-consumptive recreation seat on SAC
Jessie Altstatt SBCK
Michael Murray CINMS
Greg Helms, Ocean Conservancy, acting chair
Shiva Polefka EDC
Leslie Abramson, NOAA intern, Bren
Alicia Glassco, Bren
Capt. Dick McKenna, SoCal Marine Exchange, new SAC member
John Kuizenga, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps

- I. Final Management Plan released, presentation by Mike Murray
 1. Three documents finally released and distributed at the meeting: Final Management Plan, FEIS, Final Rule.
 2. The Final Rule has published in the FedReg, requires 45 days of Congress being in session to promulgate and come into effect. It is difficult to predict the schedule of recesses and other congressional actions, so CINMS is predicting late March or early April for the regs coming into effect.
 - i. Personal Watercraft Rule – Mike expressed some concern that folks associated with the PWC industry may come out against the Sanctuary’s new rule banning PWC within 1NM of shore as a new closure. The reality is that CINP has banned PWC in this zone since 2000; they request that CINMS overlay their regulation to offer greater enforcement and prosecutorial flexibility. Because the CWG explicitly commented in support of this rule, it was agreed that we would continue to advocate for this rule if need be.
- II. Ocean Acidification – update on current and next actions from SP
 1. CFWG member Bruce Steele secured ocean acidification as an explicit “implementation consideration” within the Regional Stakeholder Group process of the Marine Life Protection Act implementation by leveraging CWG member comments. CWG members will continue to push for the MLPA implementation that enhances ecosystem resilience in the face of climate and ocean chemistry changes.
 2. Steve Katz and Dave Siegel have created a potentially exciting aragonite mapping plan, for which we need to identify funding opportunities. According to Steve, this study could help establish a needed baseline upon which we could build future ocean acidification research and monitoring, as recommended in the CWG OA report.
 3. FOARAM Act (within S.22) update—waiting to clear the house and get sent to the President; CINMS should continue to position itself as potential target for the activities that will be facilitated by these funds.
 4. Mike Murray presented two additional ideas

- i. CWG should consider some form of recirculation of the CINMS Advisory Council recommendations on OA once NOAA chief-appointee Jane Lubchenco takes office; she may find the work of particular interest. It also may be relevant should FOARAM be signed into law and some form of FOARAM director appointed to direct the funds.
- ii. SAC Chairs meeting in Alpena MI; Mike has high confidence that OA will be selected as a case study for a one hour presentation; CWG will assist with presentation preparation.

III. Shipping

1. Case study efforts continue: Stellwagen Bank case study is largely complete but in the process of editing and clearance by NMFS. Once done this document will serve as the template for the case studies on the Hawaii Super Ferry and the Glacier Bay National Park.
 - i. Shiva reported that EDC will take on a fourth case study on the POLA/LB Green Flag program so that useful information on this regionally successful incentive program can be brought to the Council Subcommittee and the SAC. Target completion is end of March. Capt McKenna graciously offered to provide help for the CWG on this project.
2. Capt. McKenna reported that, based on AIS data analysis, the ship that entered LA/LB with a dead fin whale on its bow last fall actually slowed down significantly during its traverse of the Channel. He also reported that the Green Flag program expanded its range from 25 to 40 nautical miles on the new year, with wharfage fee discounts of 25% for ships that slow to ten knots at that range.
3. Discussion of SET ideas and objectives for outreach to mariners and agents of the Channel's "frequent fliers."

IV. MLPA

1. Greg Helms reported on the Fish and Game Commission's decision to advise the RSG to exclude the Channel Islands from consideration of Southern California Implementation.
2. He also reported on how quickly the process is moving—last week the RSG began its discussion of places of interest within the Southern California Region, and drawing boxes on the map. Three more RSG meetings are scheduled to actually draw the RSG's recommended map concepts, and then they will be forwarded to the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the Science Advisory Panel.

V. Adjourn.

November 13, 2008

To: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: **CWG Report – November 12, 2008 Meeting**

Attendance: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (LWVSB); Shiva Polefka (EDC); Kira Redmond (SB Channelkeeper); Jackie Dragon (Sea Flow); Vic Cox, Patricia Duffy

CINMS Staff Present: Sean Hastings

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. **Next Actions – CINMS:** Following unanimous adoption of the CWG's Ocean Acidification report by the Sanctuary Advisory Council, the report was submitted to the Sanctuary Superintendent for consideration and potential implementation. Since that time, CINMS staff have taken the following actions: (1) a meeting with Dr. Gretchen Hoffman at UCSB, including discussions about installing monitoring stations in and near the Santa Barbara Channel (possibly using weather buoys) and using Sanctuary vessels to assist in research efforts; and (2) a meeting with David Siegel at UCSB to discuss the potential for collecting transect-based data as part of his ongoing research.
- B. **Next Actions – CWG:** Our main focus will be to reach out to other Sanctuaries around the country. Shiva (the primary report author) has been following up with other West Coast Sanctuaries, starting with contacts with the Conservation Working Groups. He and Linda will also contact Bill Douros, the West Coast Regional Director for the Sanctuary Program. Shiva talked with Mike Murray about other ideas. As a result of this conversation, Shiva will make a presentation to the CINMS staff on December 2, so that all staff (including those involved with education, research, etc.) will be aware of the report and have the opportunity to participate in its implementation. Mike and Shiva also discussed the possibility of providing a presentation at the 2009 SAC Chairs meeting in May. Finally, Shiva will follow up with Dr. Fabry to learn more about her research and monitoring efforts.

III. WHALES AND SHIPPING

- A. **Report from CINMS Staff:** Sean provided an update regarding the 2008 blue whale season. Sightings fluctuated, with a current decline as expected due to the end of the migration season. The notices to mariners will probably stop by December 1. The data shows that ships are not slowing down in response to the notices. A fin whale was struck and killed recently in Southern California. We should ask for information about the ship (including route, speed, etc.). Also, a dead blue whale was spotted near Catalina; the cause of death is unknown.

- B. Emergency Response Plan:** Sean reported that the Plan was useful in promoting better coordination between agencies in handling overflights and monitoring. The agencies will review the Plan and update it for 2009. One key goal is to increase the collection of data from ocean users, and not rely so heavily on whale watching concessionaires, which do not cover the entire Channel area.
- C. Phase II of the Subcommittee Process:** This phase is focused on long-term strategies to protect whales from shipping, and will involve efforts by the Subcommittee as well as some of the SAC Working Groups. Sean reported that the SET is working with staff and the Marine Exchange to improve education to shippers and the public. They will begin their outreach to shippers by focusing on the “frequent flyers” (companies with the most ships in the Channel). The RAP has offered to help by reaching out to whale experts on an as-needed basis. The SAC Subcommittee will bring a recommendation to the SAC to request case studies from other regions and programs, including Glacier Bay, Stellwagon Bank, and Hawaiian Islands. Shiva and the rest of the CWG recommended adding the Green Flag program in the Ports of LA and Long Beach, which has been effective in reducing ship speeds. The case studies will provide information and a basis for developing a suite of recommendations for consideration by the Subcommittee and SAC.
- D. Ocean Protection Council meeting:** Linda, Sean and Shiva will attend an OPC meeting on November 17 to brief the State on the issues and explore opportunities for working together in developing solutions.

IV. Marine Reserves/MLPA

- A. CINMS Marine Reserves:** The SAC will receive a presentation regarding the Channel Islands 5-Year Report.
- B. MLPA:** Greg reported that he attended a two-day Regional Stakeholders Group meeting, and will participate in the next meeting on November 18 and 19 in Ventura. Sean will be working $\frac{3}{4}$ time on the MLPA process. The CWG discussed the relationship of the Channel Islands Reserves to the MLPA process. The CWG would like the state to recognize the success and value of the Channel Islands reserves, and commit to continue developing data from such reserves so that this information can be used to help inform and advise the MLPA process.

V. Other

- A. Management Plan:** Sean reported that the CINMS hopes to have full approval for the Management Plan by the end of the year.
- B. Scripps low-energy marine seismic survey:** NMFS contacted the CINMS for input on the proposal.

September 17, 2008

To: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: **CWG Report – September 17, 2008 Meeting**

Attendance: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (LWVSB); Shiva Polefka (EDC); Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count); Debra Herring

CINMS Staff Present: Mike Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. **Final CWG Report:** Shiva presented the proposed final Ocean Acidification report for CWG review and comment. He summarized the findings, and then walked through the recommendations in detail. The CWG suggested that the Education component of the program be expanded to include ideas for how we can reduce CO₂ emissions. We noted that a lot of information already exists, so we wouldn't have to "re-invent the wheel" to include this information. Mike suggested that, after the report is adopted, Shiva should meet with the Sanctuary education staff to discuss the report and its recommendations, and to develop specific ideas for the education component. Finally, it was suggested that Shiva explicitly mention the State as a partner in the recommendations.
- B. **SAC Presentations:** Dr. Feely and Dr. Hofmann will present at the SAC meeting. Shiva will then go over the findings and recommendations of the report, and we will move for SAC approval.

III. SAC ISSUES

- A. **Subcommittee recommendations re Emergency Response Plan re Reducing Ship Strikes on Large Cetaceans**

The SAC will receive updates regarding sightings, the Notice to Mariners recommending reduced ship speeds, and the analysis of data regarding actual ship speeds.

The Subcommittee will provide an update regarding ideas for developing a long-term plan for this issue. After much discussion, the Subcommittee

decided to recommend foregoing the establishment of a new Working Group due to limitations on staff time and resources, and the concern that the Working Group and SAC could develop recommendations that the Sanctuary does not have authority to implement. Instead, the Subcommittee decided to maintain the Subcommittee structure, with support from existing Working Groups (e.g., Conservation, SET, RAP). We can expand those Working Groups to bring in additional experts and stakeholders; we can also invite experts to speak to the SAC or we could schedule special forums/workshops. We noted the importance of coordinating with the California Air Resources Board and local air districts, because they also have an interest in reducing ship speeds (for air quality reasons). Finally, the Subcommittee recommended adding the California Resources Agency seat to the Subcommittee roster.

B. Marine Reserves/MLPA

The SAC will receive an update regarding the Channel Islands 5-Year review.

Greg provided an update regarding the State MLPA process. The Blue Ribbon Task Force and Science Advisory Team have been appointed, and the Regional Stakeholder Group will be announced on 9/26. We discussed potential SAC action to communicate our interest in maintaining the Channel Island reserves. Greg pointed out that, legally, the Channel Islands reserves cannot be excluded from the process. However, we hope that the MLPA participants will respect the process that resulted in the establishment of these reserves, and recognize the value of the monitoring data on the reserves.

C. Aquaculture: OCS Alternative Uses Proposal

Linda and Shiva handed out a comment letter submitted by EDC and Heal the Bay in response to MMS's proposal to consider Alternative Energy Projects and Alternative Uses of OCS facilities. The comments focused primarily on the aquaculture component of the proposal, reiterating the recommendations adopted by the SAC and pointing out that NOAA is already engaged in the issue.

D. SAC Open Seats

Linda advised the CWG that there are several seats on the SAC that will be open at the end of the year.

July 17, 2008

To: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: **CWG Report – July 16, 2008 Meeting**

Attendance: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC); Jean Holmes (LWVSB); Shiva Polefka (EDC); Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count); Jackie Dragon (SeaFlow); John Kuizenga (CINC); Michael Hanrahan (The Ocean Channel); Kira Redmond (SB Channelkeeper); Vic Cox; Megan McKenna (Scripps Institute of Oceanography)

CINMS Staff Present: Mike Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. **Draft CWG Report:** Shiva provided an update on the status and progress of the draft report. He has received input and feedback from several scientists in the field. He reviewed the draft report, which will be presented to the Sanctuary Advisory Council. As part of his presentation, he reviewed the recommendations and entertained questions and comments from the Working Group. Michael Smith referred to an article in the New Yorker titled “The Island in the Wind” by Elizabeth Kolbert. Jean Holmes noted the importance of securing data from other locations and reaching out to other Sanctuaries. John Kuizenga asked about monitoring in Alaska. Mike Murray thanked Shiva and Julia Forgie for preparing a well-researched report, and acknowledged the need for Sanctuary-wide support. We talked about the need to develop educational materials, and to coordinate with the Sanctuary Education Team (SET). Mike was asked whether other SACs or Sanctuaries are considering this issue, and he replied by noting that the Gulf of Farallones SAC is addressing climate change issues. Shiva is trying to contact a scientist on the Olympic Coast NMS Advisory Council. Michael Hanrahan observed that the CINMS could be considered the “canary in the coal mine” on this issue, and a key monitoring site, given the coldwater upwelling that occurs here.
- B. **SAC Presentations:** Dr. Victoria Fabry will provide a scientific overview at the SAC meeting on July 18. At the same meeting, Shiva will present our draft report and solicit input from the SAC. We will then bring a proposed final report to the SAC in September, when we will also schedule presentations from the UCSB Hofman Lab regarding local

impacts, and from the Feely group regarding their data and research on the issue.

III. SAC ISSUES

A. Subcommittee recommendations re Emergency Response Plan re Reducing Ship Strikes on Large Cetaceans

Linda (a member of the subcommittee) reported on the favorable SAC support for the CWG recommendations last session, including support for (1) sending notices to mariners immediately, advising them of the presence of blue whales in the Channel and recommending reduced ship speed; (2) expanding the scope of the plan to include all large cetaceans; and (3) establishing a Working Group. Linda also shared the Notice to Mariners (NOTAM) that was sent on June 25, which did not include any recommended speed limit. Linda and others on the SAC have responded to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), asking for a stronger notice.

Mike Murray informed us that NMFS will have a response at the SAC meeting. Mike also informed the CWG that the Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit against the Coast Guard, claiming that the Coast Guard violated the Endangered Species Act by failing to consult with NMFS. Because of the litigation, the Coast Guard is not engaging in discussions with the CINMS. Finally, Mike said that the CINMS is talking with both NMFS and the Marine Exchange to develop more effective notices.

Megan McKenna, from Scripps, informed the Group that she will make a presentation at the SAC meeting regarding her analysis of the data from last fall. According to Megan, the data – which focused mainly on cargo ships, but included some tankers – shows that there was no statistical change in speed based on the two notices that were sent last year. The average speed remained 19 knots, with a maximum of 25 knots.

Jackie Dragon of SeaFlow talked about her group's efforts to focus on the broader issues surrounding shipping, including air, water and noise pollution. She pointed out that reducing ship speed would result in many benefits and recommended adoption of an interim speed limit of 10 knots. We noted that local Air Pollution Control Districts are also considering the benefits of reducing ship speed as a means to reduce air pollution, and discussed the potential for partnering with them on this issue.

Linda will ask for another subcommittee meeting before the SAC meeting to address (1) the notices and interim speed limits; and (2) the establishment of a Working Group that would include other stakeholders

interested in shipping and ship strike issues. Linda will recommend that an agenda item be placed on the September SAC agenda to address these issues.

Mike Murray reminded the Group that the draft plan endorsed in May includes other recommendations, such as increased aerial monitoring and an emergency response plan.

B. Marine Reserves/MLPA

Linda advised the CWG that the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) initiated a process under the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) to consider the establishment of marine protected areas in the So. Cal. Region, which includes the Santa Barbara Channel state waters. Linda pointed out that when the MLPA process began, conservationists assumed that the CDFG would focus on the mainland coast, but we have learned since then that the Channel Islands marine reserves will be part of the discussion. This inclusion means that the existing reserves could be modified or eliminated. Linda reminded the CWG of its ten years of work that resulted in the establishment of the Channel Islands marine reserves, and recommended that we stay involved in the issue. CWG member Kira Redmond said that the SB Channelkeeper has hired someone to work on the MLPA issue and has nominated this person to serve on the stakeholder committee. CWG members Shiva Polefka and Greg Helms are also involved in the issue, and Greg has been nominated to serve on the committee as well. The first stakeholder meeting will take place in September.

January 22, 2008

To: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: **CWG Report – January 22, 2008 Meeting**

CWG Members Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC); Greg Helms, Vice-Chair (Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (LWVSB); Shiva Polefka (EDC)

CINMS Staff Present: Mike Murray

Public Members Present: Chris Miller, Julia Forgie, Julia Ekstrom, Jenn Feinberg, Michael Smith, Bruce Steele, Jerome Betts, Betsy Cramer, Merit McCrea

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

Julia Forgie, an EDC intern, reviewed her preliminary draft of a report on ocean acidification. We discussed the report and the need to develop recommendations pertaining to education, science, and policy. We would like to consult with the SET regarding ideas for education. Bruce has been offering great input on the science.

We expect to have a draft report to present to the SAC in March, along with a presentation by a scientist. Bruce suggested that we broach the idea of a workshop sponsored by the SAC.

Julia Ekstrom informed us that she is a Ph.D student researching ocean-related laws, jurisdictions, gaps, and relationships. She is interested in analyzing this issue as a case study.

III. SAC MEETING AGENDA FOR 1/25

A. Subcommittee on Large Cetaceans and Shipping – I reviewed the draft recommendations and our comments, focusing on the establishment of a working group, research, and interim strategies. Mike Murray responded to questions about the process and what transpired last year.

B. Artificial Reefs – I advised the group that the SAC will receive a presentation regarding NOAA artificial reef policies. I also reviewed Capt. Bacon's request for the SAC to endorse a letter supporting artificial reefs. We discussed the request. Merit provided some perspective in support of the request. Some participants expressed concerns about the process, comparing this request to previous items that have been

presented to the SAC, in which cases the SAC has first been presented with an issue and need for action, an opportunity for input, and a recommendation based on consensus. We do not understand the need for action, or problems with existing laws, policies, and regulations. Finally, we were concerned that the statement is so broad that it could be used to support projects that may cause harm to the environment (e.g. rigs-to-reefs).

C. Annual Work Plan – I reviewed the items in the draft Work Plan. We asked Mike about the schedule for re-evaluating the Sanctuary boundaries. He pointed out that the Management Plan process will likely not be completed until the end of this fiscal year, and so we will not get to this issue during that timeframe. We advised the group that the review process for the Clearwater Port LNG Project has been stalled due to the need for additional information. The Draft EIS/EIR may be released in late summer or early fall.

IV. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Greg announced that the next MPA Study Region will cover Southern California, from Pt. Conception to Mexico.
- B. Mike announced that the marine reserves gaps were filled on December 17, 2007, and handed out new maps.
- C. Greg announced that the Channel Islands Symposium will feature a program regarding the CINMS marine reserves on February 7 and 8.

November 14, 2007

To: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: **CWG Report – November 13, 2007 Meeting**

CWG Members Present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC); Jean Holmes (LWVSB); Shiva Polefka (EDC)

CINMS Staff Present: Mike Murray, Natalie Senyk

Public Members Present: Ingrid Overgard

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Ingrid Overgard, Program Director at Seaflow, introduced herself. She is visiting our area from Marin. She is working on a campaign to reduce noise in national marine sanctuaries.

II. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mike Murray provided an update regarding the Supplemental Draft EIS and Proposed Rule regarding sewage and gray water discharges from large vessels. The CINMS is waiting for final clearance so that the documents can be released for public review and comment. We discussed the need and rationale for the proposed changes to the Management Plan. We also recognized that Alternative 1 in the Draft EIS already includes a recommendation that sewage discharges from large vessels be prohibited in the Sanctuary. The purpose of the new Proposed Rule is to elevate that recommendation to the “Preferred Alternative” and to add a recommendation that gray water discharges also be prohibited, to ensure consistency with recently enacted state law. Such discharges are already prohibited within the state waters portion of the Sanctuary. The CWG is supportive of these changes and will likely comment on the draft documents when they are released for public review.

III. CLEARWATER PORT LNG PROJECT

We discussed the upcoming panel presentation scheduled for the November SAC meeting. Mike announced that Crystal Spurr from the CA State Lands Commission has been added to the agenda. We talked about the potential roles for the SAC and CINMS, given that this project would have a direct effect on the Sanctuary and its resources. The LNG tankers will travel through the Sanctuary, and the regasification facility (on Platform Grace) would be located approximately 3 miles from the Sanctuary. We recommended that the SAC and CINMS assist with public education about the project,

including presentations at SAC meetings and possible co-sponsorship of a public forum, similar to the one that was held to educate the public about the Cabrillo Port LNG Project. We also pointed out that the SAC can advise the CINMS Superintendent regarding our thoughts or concerns about the Project, and ask the CINMS to take an active role in reviewing and commenting on the Project. Although the November panel presentation is focused on educating the public about the lead agencies with jurisdiction over the Project, we agreed that in the future it may be appropriate to hear from the applicant and other interested parties.

IV. SAC MEETING AGENDA FOR 11/16

- A. Blue Whale Deaths: Natalie reported that the CINMS conducted some overflights to determine whale presence and help notify whale mariners, in an effort to prevent further ship strikes. Data from the overflights is available on the CINMS website. As Natalie and Mike pointed out, we need to figure out how to prepare for next year's blue whale season, as well as migration by other large cetaceans. We discussed the potential role for the CINMS, including help with scientific research, monitoring, and follow-up. We also discussed the possibility of the CINMS and SAC providing a vehicle to bring various stakeholders together to discuss the issues and potential solutions. We talked about the recent attempts to get large vessels to reduce speed through the Channel, and our disappointment that the federal government did not take a more aggressive approach to this effort. We also recognized that reducing ship speed can result in other benefits as well (e.g. reduced air pollution).
- B. Artificial Reefs: John Ugoretz (CDFG) will provide a presentation regarding the state's artificial reef program.
- C. Marine Reserves: Mike reported that the CDFG did request, and receive, expedited review. Accordingly, the "gap" areas may be protected by mid-December.

V. OTHER ISSUES

- A. Ocean Acidification: EDC and Bruce Steele have identified ocean acidification as a serious emerging issue facing the CINMS. We agreed that this would be a good topic for the next CWG report, with Shiva taking the lead and working with Bruce, scientists, and other interested CWG and SAC members. We also agreed that we would like the SAC to host a presentation by scientists to educate us and the public on the issue. Finally, we agreed that this would be a good topic for consideration at the 2008 SAC Chairs meeting, as this is an issue that could have a profound effect on all national marine sanctuaries. Shiva mentioned that the current National Geographic has an article on this topic.

- B. “Blue Seas, Green Communities:” Mike directed our attention to a letter from Dan Basta, inviting Sanctuaries and SACs to participate in an initiative focused on “greening” our Sanctuaries and communities. We will ask if any CWG members want to be involved in this issue.

- C. CWG Involvement: In recognition of the relatively low participation by several CWG members, Linda agreed to write a letter to all CWG members, asking them to indicate their interest in continuing their involvement on the CWG. The letter will identify issues that the CWG is working on, as well as issues that may come up in the next year, and ask the members to indicate which issues they are interested in working on.

- D. Noise: we had a very interesting discussion about the work that Seaflow is doing in their campaign to reduce noise in national marine sanctuaries.

9/20/07

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: Conservation Working Group Report

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on September 19, 2007.

Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Shiva Polefka (EDC); Jean Holmes (LWVSB), and Jessica Altstatt (SBCK).

CINMS staff present: Mike Murray.

Public members present Gail Osherenko.

I. INTRODUCTIONS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Shiva announced that he attended a SeaGrant workshop yesterday regarding west coast regional governance on ocean issues. There was an interesting discussion regarding ecosystem management.
- B. Greg Helms announced that two blue whales have died recently, apparently from ship strikes.

II. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Mike provided an update and pointed out that the CINMS has published new maps to indicate the addition of the reserves in the federal waters portion of the Sanctuary. The CA Fish and Game Commission held two hearings on the issue of filling the gaps; the third and final hearing is scheduled for October 11 or 12 in Concord. The SAC and conservation community continue to advocate for expedited processing by the Fish and Game Commission.

Mike also announced that a new Research Coordinator has been hired – Stephen Katz.

Finally, Mike informed us that the Social Science Plan for socioeconomic research and monitoring has been approved.

III. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mike advised us that the CINMS is still waiting for final clearance of the Supplemental EIS.

IV. SAC MEETING AGENDA FOR 9/21

There are a couple items on the SAC meeting agenda regarding water quality. The final sub-item includes a request for input regarding next steps for the CINMS and SAC. The CWG took this opportunity to review the recommendations from the 2005 SAC-approved water quality report. Mike reviewed the recommendations and provided updates regarding the CINMS' progress in these areas. It appears as though the CINMS has devoted most of its efforts towards research and monitoring, with less focus on jurisdictional and policy issues, or public education and outreach. Part of the reason for this focus is due to the fact that some of the policy and education targets won't be known until more research is conducted and the CINMS develops a more detailed water quality plan. Mike offered to provide notes on the SAC report recommendations and to bring this information to the SAC meeting.

V. OTHER ISSUES

- A. **Clearwater Port LNG Project:** LNG is listed on the SAC's work plan as an issue of importance. Linda acknowledged Sean Hastings' email regarding the Coast Guard's Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Shiva handed out a fact sheet that EDC prepared at the request of some community groups in Oxnard, who were interested in potential impacts to marine life in the Santa Barbara Channel. He also handed out a map showing where the proposed terminal would be located (on Platform Grace) and the LNG ship routes, in relation to the CINMS. We discussed the role of the CINMS in the consultation process for the project. Mike explained that the CINMS would be included in the consultation with NOAA.

We discussed the benefit of scheduling a SAC agenda item to learn more about the project, and to provide input to the CINMS Superintendent regarding the CINMS' role and potential issues facing the Sanctuary. Based on the close proximity of the terminal to the Sanctuary, and the fact that the LNG tankers will travel through Sanctuary waters, we recommend that the SAC invite a panel of agency representatives to educate us regarding the review process for the project. We identified the U.S. Coast Guard (federal lead agency), CA State Lands Commission (state lead agency) and CA Coastal Commission (consistency review agency) as potential panel members.

We pointed out that it would be useful for the CINMS to take an active role in responding to this proposal. For one, the CINMS could provide marine life sighting data. We also thought it would be a good idea for the CINMS to conduct its own independent assessment of potential impacts to Sanctuary resources. We noted several potential impacts to assess, including impacts to marine wildlife (from noise, lighting, ship strikes,

ballast intake, etc.), public safety, air quality, and greenhouse gas emissions.

- B. **Artificial Reefs**: Linda and Mike reported that the SAC may receive a request to place an item on a future SAC agenda regarding artificial reefs. We agreed that we need more information regarding the link to the CINMS; we noted that this issue is listed on the SAC work plan.
- C. **Red Abalone Fishery at San Miguel Island**: Jessie Altstatt (SB Channelkeeper) gave a presentation regarding the San Miguel Island Abalone Advisory Group, of which she is a conservation/non-consumptive participant. She reminded us that the Southern California red abalone fishery has been closed for 10 years. An Abalone Recovery and Management Plan (ARMP) was adopted by the CA Department of Fish and Game; this Plan includes performance standards that have not yet been met. However, there is an exception in the Plan for consideration of limited fisheries in small areas. The Advisory Group will provide a range of recommendations to DFG regarding potential allocation, regulations and management for a limited fishery. Surveys were conducted at San Miguel Island in 2006 and 2007; abalone distribution is patchy and overall density levels are not very high when compared to standards in the ARMP (note: there is considerable discussion about whether the standards are appropriate). A scientist has been hired to model scenarios to ascertain potential Total Allowable Catch (TAC); such modeling must take into account warm water years and the potential for mortality due to Withering Syndrome disease (over half the abalone sampled test positive for WS). Unfortunately, the Department does not have funding to implement much of the Recovery Plan or to enforce existing regulations; and the costs of a new fishery are unknown. Jessie offered a proposal to test the TAC experimentally before opening a consumptive fishery; the precautionary plan calls for paying commercial fishermen to help harvest and translocate abalone to create new population centers at other islands. This allocation option appears to have support from National Park Service and National Marine Fisheries Service representatives on the AAG. Funding for the proposal could come from foundation grants and agency partnerships. Information regarding this issue is available on the Department's website.

7/18/07

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Chair, Conservation Working Group

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 7/18/07

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on July 18, 2007. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (EDC), Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Shiva Polefka (EDC); Jean Holmes (LWVSB), and Kira Redmond (SBCK). CINMS staff present: Sean Hastings.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. AQUACULTURE REPORT

Shiva informed the group that he has been talking to individual SAC members and integrated a few minor changes to the final report to address their questions and concerns. The changes do not modify the substance of the report or recommendations, but rather clarify certain statements. We discussed the upcoming SAC meeting and consideration of the document. We will bring handouts containing the recommendations to aid the discussion on Friday.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

- A. Federal Register Notice re Final Rule and State Waters Portion: we discussed the Federal Register Notice announcing the final rule for the federal portion of the CINMS reserves, and inviting comment on the state waters portion. Comments are due July 23. Sean clarified the purpose and intent of the Notice and the focus of the request for comments. Linda and Shiva presented EDC's draft comment letter, in which we note that the proposed adoption of Alternative 1C will (a) diminish reserves management coordination and effectiveness; (b) leave gaps for awhile, rendering compliance and enforcement troublesome; (c) and leave the state waters portion of the reserves vulnerable to future changes by the state.

Sean also informed us that the federal portion of the reserves should be completed and in effect on July 27.

We acknowledged that the DEIR and the public overwhelmingly supported Alternative 1A.

Sean pointed out that the federal rule will be closed after state action on the gap areas. Even if the state approves extending the reserves into the gap areas

in October, the extension won't become effective for several months, leaving approximately six months with gaps between the state and federal reserves. We discussed the problems with this situation, including confusion, complications with enforcement, and difficulties creating regulatory and informational documents because the information will change as the gaps are included in the reserve network.

- B. Fish and Game Commission Hearing: the F&G Commission is scheduled to take public comment on the gap issue on August 10 in Santa Barbara, and to make a decision in October in Concord. We talked about the possibility of the SAC sending a representative to testify at the SB hearing.

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sean informed us that the SEIS for the graywater discharge issue should be released soon, hopefully in time for the SAC meeting in September.

6/4/07

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Greg Helms, Conservation Alternate

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 5/10/07

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on May 10, 2007. Members present: Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Shiva Polefka (EDC); Jean Holmes (LWVSB).

Other participants included Paul Petritch, Greg Haas and an additional representative from Rep. Capps office, two representatives from a Santa Barbara county abalone farm, The Cultured Abalone, Inc., including Douglas Bush.

CINMS staff: Sean Hastings.

I. CINMS Management Plan

Sean described the additional work related to coordinating state and Sanctuary regulations for small vessel grey water discharges that is being prepared by Mike Murray for a supplemental DEIS to be released for public review in advance of finalization of the management plan EIS.

II. CINMS Federal Waters MPAs

Sean explained the contents of the newly published FEIS for the federal portion of the Sanctuary MPA network, and indicated a proposed final rule would be published in the federal register in the coming week, which it was. Sean discussed the “response to comments” section and some of the issues dealt with in this section, explained certain figures and values regarding the MPA network, indicated that in essence, Alternative 1c was chosen by NOAA, but that the administrative record would remain open in the event the Cal. Fish and Game Commission proves unable to close the gaps between state MPAs and the seaward boundaries of state waters. Sean fielded numerous questions including issues regarding co-management and memoranda of understanding for enforcement, monitoring, outreach and management.

III. Open Ocean Aquaculture Report

Shiva explained the process by which the report is being finalized for possible adoption by the SAC. He discussed the process of receiving and integrating comments from SAC members, highlighted the prominent substantive changes that resulted from reviewer feedback, and distributed copies of the recommendations and an itemized list of substantive edits. He indicated that comments and requests for pdfs of the report or the changes list could still be submitted to him at shiva@edcnet.org.

Discussion ensued about the current and emerging state and federal policy and permitting frameworks, and how the SAC and CINMS staff can effectively address future aquaculture within this evolving context. Representatives from the local shellfish aquaculture operation commented, and offered that a lead agency with a workable permitting framework is needed so that they can pursue additional local aquaculture. They also indicated that quantitative “thresholds of significance” are needed to define what the industry should strive for in terms of impact reduction.

IV. CINMS CWG rep visit to MBNMS CWG meeting

Shiva summarized his trip up to Monterey to speak to the MBNMS Advisory Council CWG, which was done at the request of Steve Shimek, MB CWG chair. The MB CWG is interested in pursuing the conservation initiative model developed by the CINMS CWG, in which emerging issues are rigorously reviewed, packaged in reports along with management recommendations, and presented to the SAC. Shiva also described how the visit and talk lead to discussion and brainstorming on future collaboration between west coast CWGs (starting with the open ocean aquaculture issue), which sparked discussion of its own at this meeting.



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 2/13/07

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on February 13, 2007. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Deborah McArdle, Shiva Polefka (EDC).

Other participants included Jon Day (Director, Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia), Tracey Duffy (California Coastal Commission), Gail Osherenko (Bren School), Sylvia Cunningham (EDC intern), Celia Williams (EDC intern).

CINMS staff: Sean Hastings, Mike Murray, Danielle Lipski.

I. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introductions were made.

II. OCEAN ZONING

Jon Day (Director, Conservation, Heritage and Indigenous Partnerships, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Australia) provided a presentation regarding ocean zoning in the Great Barrier Reef. He talked about the types of zoning, the process for establishing zones, the monitoring results, and compliance and enforcement issues. Approximately 33% of the GBR has been set aside as “no take” zones. However, Jon was quick to point out that the percentage of protected areas not as important as ensuring that the zones contain adequate representations of important bioregions. Jon also pointed out that management and enforcement have been very effective because several agencies share responsibilities and work from the same regulations. In fact, Federal jurisdiction completely overlaps State waters. Finally, Jon concluded that compliance has improved as fishers have observed the success of the protected areas.

Following Jon’s presentation, the CWG and public participants engaged in a lively discussion, asking several questions about the GBR program and how that program might provide valuable insight into the consideration of marine reserves in the CINMS. For more information about the GBR zonal management system, please visit www.gbrmpa.gov.au.

III. OPEN OCEAN AQUACULTURE

Shiva provided an update regarding comments received on the draft OOA report. Although the deadline for comment was today, he is still waiting to hear from some SAC members who have asked to provide input. As he receives comments, he will work with interested CWG members and experts to determine how such comments may relate to the final report.

The CWG engaged in a discussion about one comment that questioned whether the recommendations to prohibit raising of non-native, carnivorous and genetically modified fish would preclude finfish OOA in our region. Shiva will research this issue. In general, CWG and public participants agreed that it is most important to set clear standards, based on legitimate concerns, and then review proposals to determine whether they can satisfy such standards. Jon Day pointed out that such an approach would be consistent with how OOA is addressed in Australia. They have strict standards, and not all proposals are able to meet such standards.

We are not sure whether we will have funding to support an OOA panel at the March 16 SAC meeting. CWG representatives and CINMS staff will engage in further discussions regarding the timing of the panel and presentation of the final report to the SAC.

IV. MARINE RESERVES UPDATE

Sean Hastings reported that CINMS Staff has tabulated and compiled the overwhelmingly supportive comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and drafted responses. The "internal draft Final EIS" has been sent to the west coast Sanctuary office, the next step on the pathway to a (April, 2007) public release of the FEIS.

V. MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Similarly, Sanctuary staff members have been compiling and responding to comments on the Draft Management Plan Update and EIS, which are less numerous but more detailed. The most extensive number of unique answerable comments was made by the CWG. The new State greywater discharge rules for large vessels and cruise ships established in the Clean Coast Act have caused the Sanctuary to develop an additional supplemental DEIS for the Management Plan in order to adopt new regulations that are consistent with current State standards. The supplemental DEIS for this proposed additional rulemaking may be released in April or May. The CINMS is currently targeting a late summer release for the Final EIS for the Management Plan Update.

VI. OTHER ISSUES

The CWG also discussed other current affairs affecting the Channel Islands Region:

- A. Informal discussion was had regarding the status of the Cabrillo Port LNG proposal, and its interrelationships with at least two other proposals, including Energia Costa Azul in Baja, and the Clearwater Port proposal for Platform Grace.

- B. Grace Mariculture proponents are apparently constructing their aquaculture facility in a location in Mexico.



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 3/21/06

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on March 21, 2006. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara); Jim Knowlton (Ocean Futures); Phyllis Grifman (Sea Grant).

Other participants included Shiva Polefka (EDC Marine Conservation Analyst), John Dutton, Sarah Richmond, Laura McLendon.

CINMS staff: Mike Murray.

I. INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introductions were made.

Linda announced that the CA Ocean and the World Conference will be held in Long Beach in September. The deadline to submit proposals for presentations and abstracts is April 14. EDC may submit a proposal and abstract that would highlight the successful partnership model developed by the CINMS and SAC, using the CWG and our issue reports as an example of how this partnership can help public agencies further policy, education and research objectives.

Linda also announced that the Revised Draft EIR for the Cabrillo Port LNG project is available, and explained how interested persons can obtain a copy of the report and submit comments.

II. CWG AQUACULTURE REPORT

Linda and Shiva introduced the discussion regarding our work on a report addressing open ocean aquaculture (OOA). The report will follow a format similar to our previous projects, in that it will address potential environmental impacts from OOA in general as well as specific impacts that may affect the CINMS; socioeconomic impacts; existing and proposed regulatory framework; identification of regulatory and management gaps; and recommendations for CINMS action.

EDC intern John Dutton reviewed the initial draft section on environmental impacts, and intern Sarah Richmond reviewed the draft discussion of the regulatory framework and issues. In May, we will provide additional information regarding these sections, and will present a draft socioeconomic section. We hope to have a complete draft report that we can present to the SAC in July. We will solicit comments and feedback from the SAC at that time, and incorporate such responses into a final report that we would like to present to the SAC for consideration in September.

III. MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Mike provided an update regarding the status of the Management Plan. NOAA director Lautenbacher has approved the public release of a proposed rule (re: regulatory changes). The CINMS still needs approval of the full Management Plan from the Dept. of Commerce and then can print the document and EIS for public review and comment. The plan and EIS may be available to the public as early as April. There will then be a 60-day public review period.

IV. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Mike reported that the draft EIS is close to entering the clearance process. The draft EIS will include three spatial alternatives.

In addition, the PFMC is still considering additional fishing prohibitions within the CINMS. If such actions are taken, the CINMS reserves would probably only continue to exist where PFMC prohibitions do not exist. The CWG expressed strong support for CINMS reserves, so that protections will continue to exist in the event the PFMC does not enact fishing prohibitions or subsequently rescinds them.

V. SAC MEETING ISSUES OF INTEREST

- A. SAC WORK PLAN: Many of the issues identified by the CWG have been incorporated into the SAC Work Plan for 2006. CINMS staff will provide a report to the SAC on March 22 that summarizes the priorities recommended by SAC members.
- B. SAC ROSTER CHANGES: Mike announced new appointments for Tourism Alternate, Chumash Alternate, Recreation Fishing Member and Alternate.
- C. WATER QUALITY UPDATE: Linda reported that she, Shiva and Mike met with Donna Meyers to learn about her plans to follow up on the report and recommendations from the CWG's Water Quality Needs Assessment. Thanks to our work, Donna has been authorized to work on this issue! She will provide a presentation at the SAC meeting tomorrow, explaining how she plans to build on the work of the CWG. She proposes the following next steps: (1) further characterization of water quality (inc. quantitative and qualitative assessments);

(2) issue refinement; definition of goals and objectives for the CINMS; and (3) establish partnerships and planning groups.

- D. ACOUSTICS UPDATE: Mike reported on the initial results of acoustic monitoring in the Channel. The monitoring, conducted by the Scripps Institute, focused on ambient acoustics, as recommended by the CWG acoustics report. The initial results picked up marine mammal sounds, but also significant ship noise. The CINMS would like to expand the Automated Identification System (AIS) so that the noises can be matched to the actual ships so we can start to identify the noisiest sources in the Channel. The CINMS would like to have an additional AIS base station on Santa Cruz Island. The CWG supported this proposal.
- E. CINMS BUDGET UPDATE: Mike reported that the CINMS program 2006 budget was reduced by about 10% (32% of discretionary funds) from 2005. The CINMS expects to be funded at about the same level for fiscal year 2007. As a result of the budget reduction, the CINMS lost some staff positions and consolidated other assignments.
- F. MANAGER'S REPORT: Mike handed out the Manager's Report.



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 11/17/05

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on November 16, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara); Jim Knowlton (Ocean Futures).

Other participants included Shiva Polefka (EDC Marine Conservation Analyst), John Dutton, Gail Osherenko and Steve Shimek.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

II. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Greg Helms reported on the status of the proposed expansion of marine reserves within the Sanctuary. He discussed the NOAA decision regarding the respective roles of the Sanctuary and the PFMC, as well as the most recent PFMC decision to refuse to draft regulations for the Sanctuary portion of the reserves and instead attempt to incorporate marine reserves into its various fishery management plans. We are waiting for NOAA's response. A potential result is that NOAA will consider PFMC's response inadequate and direct the Sanctuary to draft its own regulations. We are now waiting for the Sanctuary's Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

III. CWG AQUACULTURE REPORT

Linda announced that EDC has begun work on a report analyzing potential risks and impacts from open ocean aquaculture. John Dutton, an intern at EDC, reviewed an outline of the report, which will cover topics similar to our previous reports on noise pollution and water quality. In sum, the report will review environmental and socioeconomic issues of concern, as well as the current regulatory and policy framework, and propose management recommendations. John and Sean Hastings will check in with Jim Sullivan to inquire about the status of the National Marine Sanctuary Program's work on the issue.

IV. SAC MEETING ISSUES OF INTEREST

A. SAC WORK PLAN: We reviewed the 2005 Work Plan and Status Report.

Marine Reserves: all items appear to still be relevant. Item #4 (increase understanding of PFMC) is proving to be very challenging.

Management Plan: we are still waiting for the Draft Plan and EIS; we are not sure what will happen with the Biogeography Study in 2006.

Water Quality: we noted possible follow-ups to the approval of the Water Quality Needs Assessment, including (1) a report back from the Sanctuary Manager; (2) possible establishment of a Water Quality Working Group; and (3) opportunity to work with Regional Water Quality Coordinator. A question was raised as to whether the new regionalization of the Pacific Sanctuaries will affect the CINMS Water Quality program.

Marine Acoustics: we encourage the Sanctuary to continue pursuing monitoring and other report recommendations.

Liquid Natural Gas: we recommend expanding this category to “Energy Projects” and include offshore oil and gas activities, wave energy, and wind farms (offshore and on the Islands). We also recommend inviting additional speakers on LNG as well as on these other topics. We would like the Sanctuary to invite Bill Powers (of the Border Power Plant Working Group) to speak to the Sanctuary regarding the need for LNG.

Aquaculture: the CWG is working on a report on aquaculture, as mentioned above. We are also wondering what is happening with the NMSP headquarters assessment.

B. SANCTUARY OIL & GAS RESOLUTION: the CWG voted to support the proposed resolution.

C. SEA OTTER TRANSLOCATION PLAN: we discussed the City Council hearing.



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 9/14/05

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on September 13, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara); Kira Schmidt (Santa Barbara Channelkeeper).

Other participants included Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow), Tracey Duffy (CA Coastal Commission); John Kuizenga.

CINMS Staff: Sean Hastings.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. John Kuizenga announced Coastal Cleanup Day on 9/17 and provided posters.

II. WATER QUALITY

The EDC, on behalf of the CWG, has been working on a Water Quality Needs Assessment for the past year and a half. At the last CWG and SAC meetings, we presented our draft report for review and comment. The primary authors of the report (EDC Research Fellow Shiva Polefka and EDC Intern Sara Polgar) incorporated suggestions and clarifications received from CWG and SAC members, and finalized the report for submittal to the CWG. Shiva summarized the final report, which addresses the following issues: identification of threats; analysis of current research and monitoring efforts; description of existing regulatory and policy frameworks at the local, state and federal levels; description of existing public outreach and education programs; identification of gaps in each of these management and program areas; and recommendations for Sanctuary involvement in protecting water quality. We discussed the recommendations, and added an additional recommendation that the Sanctuary sponsor a Coastal Cleanup Day at the Islands as part of its monitoring efforts.

After the presentation and discussion, a motion was made by Greg Helms to approve the report and submit it to the Sanctuary Council with a request for (1) adoption of the report and submittal

to the Sanctuary Manager; and (2) assuming submittal to the Manager, a request for a report back from the Manager regarding the recommendations. The motion was seconded by Jean Holmes and passed unanimously. We also talked about scheduling a follow-up discussion at the CWG, after approval by the SAC, to prioritize the recommendations so that we can continue to work with the Sanctuary Manager and staff on these issues.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Sean Hastings provided an update regarding the status of the marine reserves process. NOAA expects to make a decision regarding the jurisdictional issue by mid-October. Concerns were raised that if the PFMC has jurisdiction, the regulations would not affect non-fish species and therefore would not meet all of the Sanctuary's goals and objectives in establishing marine reserves; and that the PFMC does not have the resources or the will to provide adequate management, monitoring, enforcement and education regarding the expanded area of marine reserves. It was also pointed out that to have the Sanctuary complete the process, only one regulatory process would be required, whereas if the PFMC assumes jurisdiction, three processes would be required (new state process to ensure that all existing reserves are extended to the three-mile state boundary, a PFMC process to adopt fishing no-take zones, and a CINMS process to cover non-fish species), thus increasing the time and cost before full implementation.

Sean also advised the CWG regarding the status of the effort to monitor the socioeconomic effects of the existing marine reserves. He asked whether the CWG could help sponsor a public workshop that would focus on effects to non-consumptive users. We agree to help notify interested parties and schedule a workshop. *Potential dates are October 18 or 19.*

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sean informed the CWG that the departure of the current National Ocean Service administrator will cause yet another delay in the process. However, the process is far enough along that staff will present an overview of the Management Plan update at the September 23 SAC meeting.

V. OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES & DISCUSSION

Sean handed out the agenda for the 9/23 SAC meeting.

- A. Biogeography Study: The report may be released in October.
- B. Aquaculture: EDC announced that we will have a new intern starting September 15 who will work with us to develop a report regarding open ocean aquaculture, including an analysis of potential impacts to Sanctuary resources and a description of recommendations for Sanctuary involvement and response.



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 7/1/05

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on June 22, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara); Al Sanders (Sierra Club); Jessica Altstatt (Santa Barbara Channelkeeper).

Other participants included Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow), Sara Polgar (EDC intern), Alison Eastley (EDC intern), Tracey Duffy (CA Coastal Commission); John Kuizenga. CINMS Staff: Chris Mobley, Sarah MacWilliams.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

II. WATER QUALITY

EDC intern Alison Eastley presented the draft "Public Outreach & Education" section of the Water Quality Needs Assessment. This section is divided into three areas of discussion: (1) Mainland Programs – Predominantly Onshore Water Quality; (2) Harbor, Vessel Traffic & Predominantly Offshore Water Quality; and (3) Parks & Sanctuary Water Quality. Some of the meeting participants added information to the draft report or offered to meet with Alison separately to ensure an up-to-date and complete assessment of current public outreach and education efforts that address water quality in the Sanctuary. As part of the report, we will clarify programs in which the Sanctuary already has a role.

EDC Research Fellow Shiva Polefka and EDC interns Sara Polgar and Alison Eastley announced that they are finalizing our overall assessment of "Gaps" in water quality research and monitoring, regulations and policies, and outreach and education. They are also preparing draft "Recommendations" that identify priorities for potential Sanctuary response to such gaps, taking into consideration the feasibility and appropriateness of Sanctuary involvement and potential for partnerships with other agencies and organizations.

Our goal is to submit a complete draft report to the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) for presentation at its July meeting. Therefore, we will be soliciting feedback from the Conservation Working Group (CWG) and staff on these final draft sections by July 1. We will revise the draft report and attempt to send a complete version to the SAC by July 15. We would like to present the draft report at the July 22 SAC meeting, and then accept feedback from the SAC so that we can finalize the report in time for potential action at the September SAC meeting.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Chris Mobley and Greg Helms informed the CWG regarding the action taken by the PFMC at its June 15 meeting. We discussed the potential consequences of the PFMC recommendation to incorporate the federal marine reserves into its groundfish “essential fish habitat” (EFH) regulations. Attendees raised several questions, including a concern as to whether groundfish EFH can extend to other fish species. We also discussed potential implications for marine reserves management, monitoring and enforcement if the PFMC is to have jurisdiction instead of the CINMS. Chris informed us that the Sanctuary and NOAA are still analyzing the potential differences that exist in managing marine reserves under the Magnuson Act versus the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Chris also mentioned that the CINMS continues to request PFMC assistance in drafting regulations for the marine reserves.

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

According to CINMS staff, we were informed that the management plan process continues to move forward in a positive manner, and that the draft plan and EIS may be released after July.

V. OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES & DISCUSSION

- A. Biogeography Study: staff is still reviewing the draft study.
- B. LNG: Al Sanders asked whether potential Sanctuary expansion would affect the LNG projects proposed offshore Oxnard. Chris responded that such projects would probably be approved before there would be any expansion of the Sanctuary boundaries.
- C. Aquaculture: We were informed that the Chevron/Hubbs application has been suspended. There are competing federal bills regarding open ocean fish farming. There is no update regarding the potential for a national marine sanctuary policy, but existing regulations could apply to any specific projects.
- D. Upcoming SAC items: In July, the SAC will receive additional presentations regarding acoustic monitoring and how it might be extended to the CINMS.



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 5/18/05

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on May 18, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt (SB Channelkeeper); Jim Knowlton (Ocean Futures); and Deborah McArdle (non-voting member). Other participants included Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow), Sara Polgar (EDC intern), Alison Eastley (EDC intern), Donna Meyers (Sanctuary West Coast Regional Water Quality Protection Coordinator), Tracey Duffy (CA Coastal Commission). CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Alison Chen (intern).

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made.

Announcements: (1) Ocean Film Festival, May 22; (2) EDC Annual Auction and Environmental Hero Awards event, June 5.

II. WATER QUALITY

Sara Polgar presented the draft section of our "Water Quality Needs Assessment" pertaining to the existing status of Research & Monitoring. We had a thorough discussion of research & monitoring efforts focusing on non-point source pollution from the Islands, small vessel traffic, large vessel traffic, anthropogenic marine debris, ocean dumpsites, wrecks, hydrocarbons, oil production, point source pollution, non-point source pollution from mainland, harmful algal blooms. At our next meeting on June 13 we will discuss the final report sections pertaining to Public Outreach & Education, and gaps and recommendations.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Mike provided an update regarding the extension of marine reserves into the federal portion (three to six miles around the Islands) of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has been consulting with

the Pacific Fisheries Management Council and intends to offer the PFMC the opportunity to draft regulations. The PFMC and NOAA Fisheries have instead requested an analysis comparing the application of the Sanctuary Act versus the Magnusson Stevens Act to this issue. The CWG suggested that the SAC send a letter to NOAA reminding the agency of its commitment to the existing State/Sanctuary process to complete the implementation of marine reserves.

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mike also provided an update regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The draft plan and Environmental Impact Statement are being reviewed by National Ocean Service attorneys. The Sanctuary hopes to release the draft plan and EIS in July.

V. OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES & DISCUSSION

- A. Federal Oil Leases - Linda announced that the federal oil lease suspensions will be considered by the California Coastal Commission. The hearing is currently scheduled for June 9, but may be continued to August.
- B. LNG – Mike Murray handed out the written summary from the public forum sponsored by the CINMS and the Ventura League of Women Voters. Linda announced that the Coast Guard sent a second request for additional information from the Cabrillo Port project applicant. Accordingly, the project is still on hold.
- C. Aquaculture - Greg reported that the Army Corps of Engineers appears to be the lead agency for the Chevron/Hubbs project, and that various agencies have requested additional information.
- D. Upcoming SAC items of discussion - At the May 20 SAC meeting, there will be a couple reports following up on prior recommendations regarding acoustics, as well as presentations regarding the status of the Biogeography Study and the proposal to construct a Sanctuary education center at UCSB.

NEXT MEETING: June 13, 2005, at EDC.

2/25/05



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 2/23/05

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on February 25, 2005. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt (SB Channelkeeper); Kara Kemmler (Surfrider Foundation); and Deborah McArdle (Sea Grant, non-voting member). Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow), Sara Polgar (EDC intern), Tracey Duffy (CA Coastal Commission) and Scott Dunn (SAC Recreation Alternate), were also present.
CINMS Staff: Mike Murray, Anna Chateau.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. In addition, an updated CWG contact list was distributed.

II. WATER QUALITY

Shiva presented the draft section of our "Water Quality Needs Assessment" pertaining to the existing *Jurisdictional Framework*. This section of the report presents the existing laws and regulations that deal with water quality at the federal, state, regional and local levels. It also describes the agencies that are responsible for implementing these programs. Finally, this section discusses laws and regulations that apply to certain high priority sources of water pollution. The final report will include recommendations to address gaps or opportunities that exist within the current regulatory framework.

We had a constructive discussion about this section of the report, and the participants offered suggestions to Shiva to incorporate into the final report. Some participants said that they would submit additional information following our meeting. At our next meeting we will discuss the draft section dealing with *Research and Monitoring*.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Mike provided an update and distributed a timeline regarding the environmental review process for considering marine reserves in the federal portion of the Sanctuary. The Sanctuary has asked the Pacific Fisheries Management Council to comment on proposed changes to the Sanctuary's designation document. The PFMC will be offered the opportunity to draft the new regulations. Once that process is completed (sometime later this year), the Sanctuary will release the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to the public and Congress.

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Mike also provided an update regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The process in D.C. is moving along, and hopefully the draft plan and EIS will be forwarded to NOAA and the National Ocean Service in a few weeks. The draft plan and EIS will then be released for public review and comment, hopefully by May.

V. OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES & DISCUSSION

- A. CINMS/CINP 25th Anniversary: Anna Chateau gave a presentation regarding the event schedule for the Sanctuary's 25th Anniversary. Events include a Fall Gala; participation in the Ventura Seafest and Harbor Festival; a photo contest; benefit concert, sunset cruise, and PSAs that will be shown in local movie theatres.
- B. LNG – March 1 Forum: Mike distributed a flyer for the March 1 public forum, sponsored by the CINMS and the Ventura Chapter of the League of Women Voters. Speakers at the forum will include representatives of the U.S. Coast Guard, State Lands Commission, BHP Billiton, Border Power Plant Working Group, and Environmental Defense Center.
- C. Aquaculture: Mike reported that there is nothing new to report regarding the proposal to draft guidelines for the National Marine Sanctuaries program, or regarding the Chevron Hubbs Seaworld Platform Grace project.
- D. Upcoming SAC items of discussion: Mike mentioned the collaborative research project, biogeographic assessment, and possibility of another acoustics presentation and discussion of Notice of Preparation for new acoustics regulations. The CWG expressed interest in knowing when the Sanctuary manager will respond to the acoustics reported adopted in September 2004. May was suggested as a possible time because Angela Heron will have completed her report.

11/17/04



To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 11/17/04

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on November 17, 2004. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice-Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt (SB Channelkeeper). Sara Polgar, EDC intern, was also present. CINMS Staff: Chris Mobley, Sarah MacWilliams. One public member was present.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made. In addition, the following materials were handed out at the beginning of the meeting: an updated CWG contact list; the Sanctuary Manager's report; and a flyer announcing SAC openings.

II. WATER QUALITY

Linda introduced Sara Polgar, a Bren student who is working as an intern at the EDC and drafting a Water Quality Needs Assessment for the Sanctuary. Sara provided a general overview of the report, which will identify and describe sources of water quality threats to the Sanctuary and present the current status of water quality-related research & monitoring, regulations, and public outreach & education efforts. Based upon this analysis, the report will identify gaps and opportunities to further address water quality issues facing the Sanctuary.

Sara handed out three initial draft sections: Introduction; Structure and Methods; and Sources of Water Quality Impairments (Threats). She reviewed each section in detail and the group provided comments and input. The threats focus primarily on anthropogenic sources of water pollution and include: nonpoint source pollution from the Islands; small vessel traffic; large vessel traffic (shipping and cruise ships); ocean dumpsites; wrecks; oil production; point source pollution; nonpoint source pollution from the mainland; harmful algal blooms; and future potential threats such as liquefied natural gas (LNG) terminals and aquaculture facilities.

After a lengthy and constructive discussion, Sara outlined the next steps in the project. First, she will revise the report to respond to the input received at the meeting. In addition, she will complete the draft research & monitoring section for discussion at our January meeting. Shiva Polefka, another EDC intern, will continue to work on the regulatory programs section. In January, Sara will try to meet with Donna Meyers, the new Water Quality Coordinator for the West Coast Sanctuaries. Donna has already received an earlier draft of the report.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Chris provided an update regarding the status of the review of marine reserves expansion into the federal portion of the Sanctuary. The CINMS has received comments on the preliminary assessment, and staff is reviewing them. Based upon such input, the CINMS is developing a “preferred alternative” to submit to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) in March 2005. The PFMC will be asked to draft regulations in support of the preferred alternative and to act on such regulations at the June 2005 PFMC meeting. The CINMS will then complete the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sarah provided an update regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The CINMS staff are waiting for a meeting with the National Ocean Service (NOS); however, all internal review so far has been very promising. The staff will also continue to work on a communications plan for presenting the draft Management Plan Update and EIS to the public.

Sarah also reported that the Biogeography Study is almost completed. The researchers are waiting for some final data from NOAA Fisheries.

V. OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES

We talked about the SAC-sponsored forum about LNG, scheduled for December 9 in Ventura. We passed around flyers announcing the event.

7/21/04

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 7/21/04

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on July 21, 2004. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair (Environmental Defense Center); Greg Helms, Vice-Chair (The Ocean Conservancy); Jean Holmes (League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara), Kira Schmidt and Jessie Altstatt (SB Channelkeeper), Rick Skillin (Sierra Club). Guests: Chris Mobley, Sarah MacWilliams and Angela (CINMS), Shiva Polefka (EDC Research Fellow). Three public members were present.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

The CWG members, guests and public member introduced themselves.

II. MARINE ACOUSTICS

A draft report on marine acoustics was distributed in advance of the meeting. Shiva Polefka provided an update regarding the preparation of the report. He then summarized and explained the recommendations, which include Science and Research recommendations as well as Policy and Management Recommendations. Shiva will present a summary of the report and recommendations during the July 23 Acoustics Panel presentation to the Sanctuary Advisory Panel. The recommendations focus on partnering with other agencies and entities in researching technical and other means to reduce noise pollution in and near the Sanctuary. The recommendations also address the need for more background information regarding noise levels in the Sanctuary, and how such noise levels may impact marine wildlife resources. The full report is available on the CINMS web site.

During the discussion that followed Shiva's presentation, we talked about the possibility for the new SAC Science Panel to include experts in the areas of marine mammal and acoustic sciences. Chris also mentioned the potential for partnering with other marine sanctuaries on some of the research ideas.

III. FEDERAL MARINE RESERVES

Chris provided an update on the federal marine reserves process, and reported on the meeting with the PPMC Science and Statistical Committee. The CINMS is continuing to work on the preliminary assessment and draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), especially in the areas

of analyzing the alternatives and identifying baseline conditions (ecological, stocks, and economic). Chris also provided an update regarding the timeline for completing review of the preliminary assessment. The SAC is still expected to provide input in September, but the PFMC may not complete its review until November. The CINMS is trying to encourage coordination between the two Councils. Greg Helms reported that his organization will be reaching out to other conservation groups in an attempt to generate support for marine reserves. Finally, Linda focused the group on the scope of alternatives that will be analyzed in the EIS, and suggested that the CWG may consider developing its own alternative based on the Science Advisory Panel input and our scoping comments.

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sarah provided a report regarding the status of the Management Plan Update. The CINMS staff will meet with the National Sanctuary Program in August, and then forward the draft Plan and EIS up the NOAA chain of command. Hopefully, the draft documents will be released to the public in September. In addition, a final report on the Biogeographic Study is expected soon.

V. WATER QUALITY

Shiva and EDC Bren School intern Sara Polgar continue to work on a Water Quality Needs Assessment that addresses sources & threats; research & monitoring, regulations, and outreach & education. They are interviewing staff from various local, state and federal agencies and organizations. The project will continue through the summer. Chris and Sarah announced that a water quality staff person will be hired soon for the west coast region of the Sanctuary program.

VI. OTHER CINMS ADV. COUNCIL UPDATES

Linda announced that there are open seats on the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Tourism, Research, and Commercial Fishing Alternate. Sarah encouraged interested persons to apply immediately.

Chris announced that CINMS staff has been meeting with Channel Islands National Park staff regarding their respective management planning processes.

1/28/03

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 1/27/03

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on January 27, 2003. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair; Greg Helms, Co-Chair; Jean Holmes; Mary Stack; Rick Skillin; Cara Weigand; and Drew Bohan.

I. INTRODUCTION

The CWG members introduced themselves, followed by a welcome and introduction of Chris Mobley, the Sanctuary Manager.

II. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Two announcements were made: one for the Marine Wildlife Viewing Workshop on February 27, and one for the Marine Reserves Monitoring Workshop on March 14-16. CWG groups were encouraged to designate a representative to attend the Monitoring Workshop.

III. MARINE RESERVES UPDATE

Greg provided an update regarding the State reserves process, including mention of the lawsuit filed by fishing groups, and the February 6 hearing by the Fish and Game Commission to decide whether to reconsider its October decision adopting marine reserves. In the meantime, the Department of Fish and Game continues to proceed with the State rule-making process.

Linda reported that NOAA is considering a delay in the Federal reserves process until the Sanctuary boundary expansion is studied in late 2004. At its January 17 meeting, the Sanctuary Advisory Council voted to send a letter to NOAA requesting expeditious consideration of Federal reserves to ensure timely adoption and implementation of the complete Sanctuary reserves network. Although the Sanctuary will take the lead in considering the Federal reserves, there will be a need for consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

IV. MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Sarah McWilliams from the Sanctuary program staff reported that the draft Management Plan Update and EIS for the existing boundaries will be released to the public in late Spring or early Summer, and that a series of workshops will be scheduled to allow full public review of the Plan.

The Management Plan will include regulations, non-regulatory programs, and performance measures.

V. MISSION AND ROLE OF CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP

We reviewed the mission and role of the CWG, and heard a report containing input from various CWG members as well as Kaitilin Gaffney, Chair of the MBNMS CWG. The CWG members present agreed that the primary function of the CWG should be focused on making substantive recommendations on issues facing the CINMS. These recommendations may relate to specific CINMS or SAC issues, or to issues that we may bring to the attention of the CINMS and SAC.

Other suggestions regarding the function of the CWG included: (1) encouraging more participation from Ventura County organizations by meeting occasionally in Carpinteria and/or Ventura; (2) developing a short document to hand out at CWG meetings describing the role and function of the CWG; (3) establishing CWG subcommittees as needed to help review and develop recommendations on certain issues; (4) providing presentations about specific issues at our CWG meetings; (5) providing an agenda and information in advance of the CWG meetings so members can be prepared to discuss the issues and develop recommendations; (6) strategically planning public forums to help with issue outreach and education; (7) partnering with other working groups as appropriate; and (8) identifying additional groups (and possibly individuals) to serve on the CWG.

VI. ISSUE IDENTIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION

The agenda included a list of issues pertaining to the Management Plan, Boundary Expansion, or identified as an emerging issue. The CWG members identified which issues they thought were priorities, and which issues their groups would likely be interested in working on. The CWG members will take the list back to their groups for feedback. The issues that received the most interest from those present included:

Management Plan: acoustic impacts; military activities; vessel traffic and water quality.

Boundary Expansion: oil/gas/mineral extraction; aquaculture/mariculture.

Emerging Issues: artificial reefs/rigs-to-reefs; fishing impacts; desalination; wildlife interaction; alternative energy projects; invasive/exotic species; marine debris; and seawalls.

In addition, Chris Mobley mentioned some issues that received enthusiastic support by the CWG: (1) assisting with species recovery; (2) ecosystem restoration/essential fish habitat; and (3) response to Ocean Commission reports and recommendations.

In addition, the CWG reviewed the SAC 2003 Work Plan. Mary Stack volunteered to work on the oil spill response issue, and some groups (SBCK, Surfrider) volunteered to participate on a Water Quality Working Group.

Finally, the CWG also renewed its commitment to sponsor or co-sponsor public education forums on specific issues, the Management Plan, etc.

VII. RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE SAC FOR THE MARCH MEETING

Although it was difficult to predict exactly what will be on the March SAC Meeting Agenda, the CWG agreed to volunteer certain participants for the Water Quality Working Group and engage in the Federal marine reserves process. The CWG decided to request an opportunity to participate in the Federal consultation processes, including a request for a joint PFMC/SAC meeting in the Santa Barbara/Ventura region.

VIII. 2003 MEETING SCHEDULE

The CWG will meet the Wednesday of the week before the SAC meeting, as follows:

March 12

May 7

July 9

September 10

November 5

At the next CWG meeting in March, we will discuss updates regarding marine reserves and the management plan, and we will receive a presentation and have a discussion (led by Mary Stack and Greg Helms) regarding acoustic impacts.

7/02/02

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 7/02/02

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on July 2, 2002. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair; Greg Helms, Co-Chair; Jean Holmes; Drew Bohan; Mary Stack; Rick Skillin

1. INTRODUCTION

The mission and purpose of the CWG was described for new public attendees. The CWG members introduced themselves.

2. MARINE RESERVES UPDATE

Linda Krop and Greg Helms provided background and an update regarding the marine reserves decision-making process. Linda and Greg reminded the CWG and audience that neither the CWG nor the Sanctuary Advisory Council will submit any additional formal recommendations to the decision-making bodies. However, due to the CWG role in the process to date, updates will be given to inform the group and the public.

Greg reported that the draft environmental document pertaining to reserves in state waters (up to 3 miles around the Channel Islands) is available for public review and comment. Comments are due July 15. The public can purchase copies from Kinko's. Greg also reported that the Fish and Game Commission hearing was continued from August to December; however, the issue (and timing of the decision) may be addressed at the Commission's August 1-2 meeting in San Luis Obispo. Some public groups have requested a decision hearing earlier than December.

After the state decision, the CINMS will consider marine reserves in the federal portion of the Sanctuary (4-6 miles around the Channel Islands). Other agencies (including the Pacific Fisheries Management Council, National Marine Fisheries Service, and California Coastal Commission) will also provide input regarding the proposed marine reserves.

Greg reported that in a separate action, the PFMC declared an emergency groundfish closure offshore California, Oregon and Washington, between 120-900 feet (depth). This closure was declared because several groundfish species are close to being listed as threatened or endangered. Greg provided a map showing a comparison between the groundfish closure and the proposed CINMS marine reserves.

3. ddddMANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Linda provided an update regarding the status of the CINMS Management Plan Update process. The federal government continues to conduct internal review of the draft plan and environmental impact statement (EIS). The draft plan and EIS are expected to be released to the public in late fall or early winter. In an unusual turn of events, the government will not identify a “preferred alternative” in the EIS. Instead, the document will provide an analysis of various alternatives for public review and comment.

Daniel Basta, the director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, will attend the July 12 SAC meeting to discuss the status of the Management Plan Update process, and to explain why the government has decided not to designate a “preferred alternative.”

Linda described the elements of the Management Plan – boundary definition, regulations, and non-regulatory programs. She referred to previous CWG recommendations regarding these issues.

A public comment was received, requesting that commercial space launches be exempt from CINMS regulations.

4. ddddWATER QUALITY PROTECTION

Linda reported that both the SAC and the CWG have identified water quality as a high priority for the CINMS. She gave a power-point presentation about the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Water Quality Protection Program.

A discussion ensued, identifying lessons learned from the MBNMS program, and discussing recommendations for application to the CINMS. Comments and questions were raised concerning:

- a. The extent and need for additional monitoring data, to identify the status of water quality in the CINMS, what’s causing the problems, who’s addressing the problems and what’s being done, and what additional work needs to be done. Baseline monitoring information was identified as a high priority and important starting point.
- b. Stormwater and agricultural runoff were identified as important contributors to ocean pollution.
- c. Potential roles for the CINMS to bring to the issue of water quality include: education; coordination; staffing; funding; and assistance in developing monitoring and cleanup plans.
- d. The CINMS should look at biological, as well as human health, issues.
- e. Reports indicate that the problems are worse than we thought, and that our base of knowledge is less than we thought.
- f. The CINMS could help provide more public surveillance and regulation.
- g. The CINMS could help protect our ecology and our economy through improved water quality protection.

- h. The CINMS could coordinate with the fishing industry to develop monitoring data.
- i. A coordinated, consistent monitoring program is essential. We are lacking in adequate information
- j. Oil and gas discharges should be addressed. The CINMS could help analyze alternatives that would minimize water quality impacts.
- k. The chemical dump offshore Pt. Arguello should be studied.
- l. The Pac Baroness site and impacts from the shipwreck should be analyzed.
- m. The relationship between the CINMS boundary, and the ability to effectively address water pollution, must be acknowledged in the Management Plan. An expanded boundary will help address water quality issues.

5. dddd**NEXT MEETINGS**

- a. The next SAC meeting is July 12 in Ventura. Daniel Basta and the SAC will discuss the Management Plan process from 9:30 – 11:00. Public comment will occur from 11:00 – 11:15. See the CINMS web site for the full agenda.
- b. The next CWG meeting will take place prior to the September SAC meeting. Notice will be provided via the CINMS web site and e-mail list.

2/15/02

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 2/13/02

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on February 13, 2002. Members present: Linda Krop, Chair; Greg Helms, Co-Chair; Jean Holmes; Drew Bohan; Mike McGinnis; Cory Gallipeau; Rick Skillin

I. INTRODUCTION

The mission and purpose of the CWG was described for new public attendees. The CWG members introduced themselves.

II. MARINE RESERVES UPDATE

Greg Helms provided a handout that included a schedule of upcoming state and federal processes regarding the potential designation of marine reserves within existing Sanctuary boundaries. The Fish and Game Commission, which has jurisdiction within the first 3 miles from shore around the Channel Islands, has identified the 25% set-aside alternative as the “working” preferred option pending completion of environmental review. The Commission is in the process of conducting environmental review of the preferred option as well as other alternatives ranging from 0-34%. The Commission will meet on April 4 in Long Beach, and will make a final decision at its August 2 hearing in San Luis Obispo. The Sanctuary program will then consider reserves within federal waters (3-6 miles around the Islands).

Linda Krop reported on the role of the Advisory Council in the marine reserves process. The Advisory Council already submitted certain recommendations to the Sanctuary and Fish and Game Commission. At this point in time, the Council will assist the agencies in developing implementation and monitoring programs that could be incorporated into a program of marine reserves.

III. MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Linda Krop provided a handout describing the issues that will be reviewed during the Management Plan Update process. A draft Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are expected to be released in June, 2002. The issues to be discussed include:

boundary expansion; program areas; and regulations. The CWG discussed the issue areas and the role of the SAC and CWG in responding to the proposed Plan. The CWG discussed the possibility of sponsoring a public forum when the Draft Plan and EIS are available. In addition, individual CWG members and the groups they represent will assist with public outreach and education. CWG members also expressed an interest in working on various aspects of the Plan. The issue areas that generated the most interest included: water quality; marine/terrestrial interface; boundary expansion; and education.

The public discussion pointed out the need for improved educational materials for people that recreate in Sanctuary waters. The discussion was referred to agency staff and the Education Working Group.

IV. 2002 SCHEDULE

The CWG will adopt an annual meeting schedule for 2002 which will be posted on the CINMS web page. The next meeting will be held on April 24.

10/23/01

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 10/23/01

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on October 22, 2001. Members present: Linda Krop, Environmental Defense Center, Chair; Greg Helms, The Ocean Conservancy, Co-Chair; Jean Holmes, League of Women Voters; Mike McGinnis; Drew Bohan, Santa Barbara ChannelKeeper; Dan Pearson, Pt. Mugu Wildlife Center.

1. Marine Reserves

The group discussed the status of the CA Fish and Game Commission's consideration of a network of marine reserves in state waters surrounding the Channel Islands. Greg Helms brought everyone up to date regarding the Commission process. The CWG reiterated its support for marine reserves and encouraged groups and individuals to write letters of support to the Commission. The CWG supported the SAC's action last week, urging the Commission to consider a range of options that reflects the input from the MRWG process.

2. Management Plan

The group was informed that a new NOAA Administrator has been nominated and therefore we expect that the Draft Management Plan and EIS will be released by the end of the year. Linda reminded the group of the range of issues that will be addressed in the Management Plan Update (e.g., boundary expansion, programs, and regulations) and encouraged groups and the public to stay involved in the process.

3. SAC Open Seats

Linda informed those present about the openings on the SAC and encouraged interested persons to apply.

4. Next SAC, CWG Meetings

Linda announced that the next SAC meeting is Nov. 14. A CWG meeting was scheduled for November 20; location to be announced.

2/14/01

To: CINMS Advisory Council

From: Linda Krop, Conservation Representative

Re: Conservation Working Group Report, 1/16/01

The Conservation Working Group (CWG) met on January 16, 2001.

Announcements:

- MMS EIS scoping hearing 1/22/01 re: delineation drilling on 17 oil and gas leases.
- MMS 5-Year Leasing Program, preliminary comments due 2/1/01.
- Dan Basta meeting with SAC, 2/9/01.

Marine Reserves:

- Presentation by Sean Hastings and Greg Helms.

Sean provided the background, purpose, and process regarding the Marine Reserves Working Group (MRWG). Sean presented the “Problem Statement” and “Goals and Objectives” that have been approved by the MRWG. Sean also described the process whereby the MRWG is being provided information from a Science Team and a Socioeconomic Team.

Greg provided information about the issues facing the MRWG. He discussed the Science Team recommendations regarding the size and scope of marine reserves within the Sanctuary. He also noted the MRWG’s commitment to minimize socioeconomic hardship, and to ensure equitable sharing of any economic hardships. He also discussed the need to include appropriate representation of habitat.

- Public discussion, comments, questions regarding the presentation and the role of the CINMS and MRWG in considering marine reserves. It was pointed out that the MRWG will provide a recommendation to the SAC, which will forward a recommendation to the Sanctuary Manager. The Sanctuary Manager will then forward the recommendation to the appropriate decision-making agencies (e.g., CA Fish and Game Commission, National Marine Fisheries Service, Pacific Fisheries Management Council). The CINMS itself does not regulate fisheries, although the ultimate decision on marine reserves may be incorporated into the CINMS Management Plan. Involvement by the CINMS has provided a stakeholder forum to discuss the issue of marine reserves and to attempt a consensus recommendation by various interested parties.

- The following public opportunities were identified:

MRWG meetings

Evening forums that will be sponsored by the SAC and MRWG

SAC meetings

Agency workshops and hearings following a recommendation from the MRWG and SAC

- Sean announced that the Spring edition of Alolkoy will feature marine reserves.