



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

April 26, 2012

9:30am – 3:00 pm

PRBO Conservation Science, Petaluma, CA

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

Welcome

Advisory Council Chair, Lance Morgan, called the meeting to order at 9:45am

Roll Call

Members present:

Lance Morgan (Chair, Conservation)

Jaime Jahncke (Research)

John Berge (Maritime Activities Alt.)

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

Mike Cummings (Community-at-Large Marin Alt.)

Bill Wolpert (Community-at-Large Sonoma)

Sarah Hameed (Community-at-Large Sonoma Alt.)

Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook (Education)

Leslie Abramson (Gulf of the Farallones NMS)

CBNMS staff:

Dan Howard (Superintendent)

Kaitlin Graiff (Advisory Council Coordinator, Research Specialist)

Jennifer Stock (Education and Outreach Specialist)

Michael Carver (Resource Protection Coordinator)

Review Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved

Review of January Minutes

The January 12, 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed with no changes.

Lance motions to adopt January minutes as final, Bill approves, George seconds, all in favor

January minutes accepted as final

Superintendent's Report (Dan Howard)

- i. Dale Roberts (works part time for Cordell Bank and Point Reyes National Seashore) is retiring at end of May - he will be missed
- ii. Sanctuary boundary expansion: Lynn Woolsey's sanctuary boundary expansion bill may move forward as a legacy action before she retires from office. If appropriate, the sanctuary program will revisit the northern expansion of Cordell Bank in January 2013; the plans do not include expanding Gulf of the Farallones.
- iii. Sanctuary leadership meeting: West coast superintendent and deputy superintendents met in Cambira to discuss regional priorities for the year. These include: 1) The Pacific Fisheries

Management Council's (PFMC) five year review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as this relates to EFH in all west coast sanctuaries, 2) Visitor centers: Monterey Bay visitors center in Santa Cruz, Channel Islands visitor center in Santa Barbara, upgraded to the existing visitor centers at Gulf of the Farallones and Olympic Coast, 3) Boundary expansion: Gulf of the Farallones is considering adding the "donut hole" (areas off Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Bridge) to the sanctuary, 4) Ship strikes and vessel speed – Channel Islands, Cordell Bank, Monterey and Gulf of the Farallones are addressing these topics, 4) Ocean Acidification – research and education, 5) Tourism and recreation as they connect to sanctuaries, 6) The 'Campaign of Engagement' (more on this in the afternoon agenda item).

- iv. Cordell Bank office renovation: contracted a structural engineer to evaluate the entire red barn. They will produce a report on what needs to be done to enhance the structural integrity of the barn that will ultimately allow staff to continue working in the current office space.
- v. Exempted Fishing Permit (EFP) from the San Francisco Community Fishing Association will be introduced to the PFMC in July. The permit would be to use hook and line gear to catch mid water fishes (yellow tail and chilipeppers) in Rockfish Conservation Areas (RCAs) and demonstrate that they will not catch rockfish species of concern such as Canaries, Cowcods, etc. Sanctuaries support the EFP if they can catch target species sustainably. The permit has caps on the number of vessels, number of trips, by-catch and catch, and 100% observer coverage.
- vi. Budget: Senate mark up for FY13 and PAC money was restored

Member Reports

- George Clyde: His daily news broadcast on KWMR recently reported the effect of water temperature rise on oysters in Tomales bay. The native oysters will be negatively impacted and the invasive oyster drills will benefit from increasing temperatures.
- Bill Wolpert: The Petaluma Trestle, a historic structure located on the Turning Basin of the Petaluma River in central Petaluma is slated for upgrades, including interpretive signage that will link the river to the ocean. He and Jenny met with the president of Friends of the Petaluma River to discuss opportunities for future collaboration.
- Jaime Jahncke : Cassin's Auklets layed first clutch on South East Farallon Island early this year (the first was in March). The ACCESS program is ready to start the field season with the first cruise scheduled for May. The ACCESS team will host a NOAA Teacher-at-Sea on the July cruise and graduate students in July and September. ACCESS is now part of the West Coast Ecosystem Based Management Network. NEPA permitting for mouse eradication on South East Farallon Island is moving forward, the Fish and Wildlife Service will determine which methods to use. The negative impacts of the mice are that the mice attract owls to the island and when the mice population crashes the owls prey on Ashy storm petrels.
- John Berge: There is a state bill in legislation by Senator Noreen Evans (Sonoma) that will secure funding for the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. The Pacific Merchant Shipping Association is working with the author on the language of the bill. If anyone is interested in supporting this bill they can contact Senator Evan's office (Senate bill: 1192).
- Leslie Alder-Ivanbrook: – Science on the Seashore is expanding with Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) and Glenn Miller education center. West Marin School is also taking part in the program. She is planning on holding a movie event in West Marin to show the movie 'A Sea Change'.
- Sarah Hameed: Sonoma County Surf Rider is very interested in Lynn Woolsey's Sanctuary Expansion Bill and has written letters of support. They are also holding meetings and fund raisers for Russian River Keeper. The CAMEOS program (Bodega Marine Lab (BML) graduate students are teaching in science classes around Sonoma County) is wrapping up for this year.

There will be more fellows and more teachers next year. Sarah is thinking about incorporating ocean acidification into her lessons. BML is celebrating its 50th anniversary.

- Leslie Abramson: Gulf of the Farallones is moving forward on a community based process to include the 'donut hole' (area off of Ocean Beach and Golden Gate Bridge) as part of the sanctuary. At the last Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council meeting they had presentations on seven gill shark and harbor porpoise research to illustrate how these species are using the donut hole as habitat. America's Cup Healthy Oceans Board is supporting the process. Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council is adding a youth seat and has also created a fisheries issues review committee.
- Lance Morgan: The Waitt Foundation sponsored a meeting in Washington DC and there was a discussion on how to energize the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL). Lance and MCBI are working on a global marine protected area atlas that will be released during Capitol Hill Oceans Week.

Education Report (Jenny Stock)

- i. New Cordell Bank brochure – Jenny passed out copies to the council members
- ii. Climate Change Teacher Workshop series: 80 people registered for the first of three workshops (being held on May 5th). Most of the attendants are middle and high school teachers. 29% of teachers said that their students don't think climate change is happening. The next two workshops are in July and are focused on Ocean Acidification.
- iii. Oakland museum: potential dates for the Advisory Council to visit the new Cordell Bank exhibit - Oct 12th 5-8pm "members sneak peek"; Oct 26th 5-9pm "summer nights"; Nov 11th 11-5pm "family day"; December 2nd 10-5pm "free first Sunday program".

Resource Protection (Michael Carver)

- i. United States Coast Guard (USCG) Port Access Route Study: The USCG was able to accommodate almost all of the Sanctuary's recommendation with a particular emphasis on reducing the co-occurrence of whales and vessels, and thus reducing the risk of lethal ship strikes on Blue and Humpback whales.
- ii. Vessel Speed Petition Response: In June 2011, a consortium of environmental organizations petitioned NOAA to establish a 10 knot speed limit for vessels greater than 65 feet traveling within California Sanctuaries. The ship strike petition, says that in addition to protecting whales from ship strikes, the speed restriction would reduce underwater noise and air pollution. The requests in the petition were denied so that NOAA can continue to direct the agency's resources towards the ongoing development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy to reduce vessel strikes.
- iii. Jessica Redfern with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is developing a whale ship strike assessment model. Another paper is being written on the methods of processing ship AIS data.

Research (Kaitlin Graiff)

- i. First Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) cruise of the season is scheduled for May 18th-23rd on the R/V Fulmar. Other cruises this year will be in July and September. We have a Teacher at Sea in July. She is a high school teacher from Monterey who teaches oceanography, earth science, and biology.
- ii. Liz Clarke from the NMFS received funding for a project using an autonomous drop camera on Cordell Bank. The camera will capture still images from the upper reef of the Bank and data collected could be used to validate our predictive coral model.

- iii. At the last meeting we told you about a Collaborative Fisheries Research (CFR) Pre-proposal developed by Dale Roberts with Rick Starr (CA Sea Grant), researchers from the National Marine Fisheries Service and California Department of Fish and Game (CDF&G), for funding through CFR West, the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and California Sea Grant. The proposal was to replicate a project conducted by CDF&G that used charter fishing boats to sample rockfish over Cordell Bank and other locations adjacent to California ports. The goal is to look at effects to the fish populations due to the closure over the Bank implemented in 2002. The study would also fish in areas around the Gulf of the Farallones and Half Moon Bay where charter fishing still takes place. The project would be two years. The project leads were invited to submit a full proposal and will know of the funding decision by June and work would start in July

Public Comment

Tom Lambert, President of the Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation

The foundation supported a seminar in Sebastopol in March. Dan made a presentation about animal migrations and Jenny dissected an Albatross bolus. The Foundation is planning on hosting another lecture in the fall in Marin. Lisa Crosse (on CB Foundation) wrote a support letter to add PAC funding back to the ONMS budget. The foundation signed another underwriting contract with KWMR, the spot runs three times a week. The Foundation funded a 'thank-you' dinner for the ship strike and sound working group. The Foundation submitted a proposal to the National Environmental Education Foundation to fund the traveling photo exhibit

CA BWET Support Letter (Lance Morgan)

Lance presented a letter thanking Dr. Lubchenco for allocating funds to the California B-WET program in fiscal year 2012. The council requests the continuation of program funding at levels consistent with FY12, and more generously in the future when and if budgets allow.

Lance motions to adopt the CA BWET support letter, George approves, John seconds, all in favor
CA BWET support letter unanimously adopted to be sent to NOAA Administrator, Dr. Jane Lubchenco

Joint Working Group Updates

Vessel Strikes and Acoustic Impacts (Lance Morgan)

- The working group held a two day meeting to draft their recommendations. The group is going to meet one more time to finalize the language in the recommendations.
- Lance gave a brief overview of some of the recommendations: increase research commitment to identify where the whales are and will work with the shipping industry. There will be different recommendations for when there are high densities of whales in the shipping lanes. Criteria to declare a dynamic management area still needs to be established and this is the preferred method for the industry. Still need to identify a recommendation on how to track compliance. Set up a monitoring effort for acoustic monitoring. The recommendations will be distributed to the Advisory Council at the end of May in time for them to review before the joint Council meeting on June 7th.
- The group's consensus was to reduce the co-occurrence of whales and ships and that the method to divert traffic would have more of a benefit than only slowing ship speed. The shipping industry would need 48hrs notice to divert traffic.

Vessel Spills Working Group (Jaime Jahncke)

- The group will draft their recommendations on May 3rd and 10th. At the beginning of the process there was a negative view of the use of dispersants and now the group is coming to agreement and better understands how and when to use dispersants.
- The recommendations will be distributed to the Advisory Council at the end of May in time for them to review before the joint Council meeting on June 7th.

Joint CB/GF council meeting logistics (Dan Howard)

The meeting with Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council to review the recommendations from the vessel strikes and vessel spills joint working groups. Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council will have a full day meeting and the joint session will take place after lunch in the afternoon. The Cordell Bank Council members are invited to lunch and the afternoon session. The councils will receive the recommendations from both groups before the meeting so they can review them before the meeting and will have time for discussion, questions and answers, and approval of recommendations. The action is for the Councils to adopt a motion to send some or all of the working group's recommendation to the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Superintendents for consideration.

Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Review (Dan Howard)

Dan reviewed a map with EFH closure in CBNMS and explained the different EFH regulations: no bottom contact gear allowed in the 50 fathom EFH closure over Cordell Bank and no bottom trawl gear in the Cordell Bank/Biogenic EFH conservation area (we refer to this closure as 'the butterfly', based on its shape)

In response to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council's five year review of EFH, Dan is going to write a letter to the Council recommending maintaining status quo for the Cordell Bank 50 fm closure. He is also going to suggest modifying 'the butterfly' shaped EFH Biogenic area to represent habitats to protect from bottom trawling. The modifications to the closure's boundaries could follow degrees latitude or in a way that would be more comprehensive to the fishing community and thus more enforceable. The Pacific Fisheries Management Council will be taking comments through June and the regulations will be in place for the next five years. Final decisions may not be made until spring 2013.

ONMS Campaign of Engagement (Dan Howard and George Clyde)

In light of the predicted budget decreases in FY13, the ONMS Director developed the concept of a 'Campaign of Engagement' to highlight the relevance and importance of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. The themes of the Campaign are: new communities/new audiences, sanctuaries mean business, pride/40th anniversary, existing communities. Cordell Bank's Campaign initiative is to develop short and engaging movies to be distributed through social media outlets.

General discussion from council members: The challenge is to continue what we are currently doing and leverage our importance with videos. Some local schools have digital arts programs and could work with these students to develop the films; make it into a contest. The San Francisco Ocean Film Festival could have a session for students to show their videos. Expression College graduates were also contacted; they would receive a \$1,000 stipend. Free Range Studios (produced 'The Story of Stuff' and 'The Meatrix') producing a video may be a possibility.

This project is a priority for Cordell Bank this year and there is some discretionary money available for funding the project.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:00pm