



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June, 9 2011

9:30 am – 2:40 pm

Point Reyes National Seashore, Red Barn Classroom

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

Welcome

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

Roll Call

Members present:

Lance Morgan (Council Chair and Conservation)

Jaime Jahncke (Research)

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

Todd Steiner (Conservation Alt.)

Kevin Krick (Maritime Activities)

John Berge (Maritime Activities Alt.)

Bill McMillon (Education Alt.)

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

LT Elisa Garrity (USCG Living Marine Resources Officer)

CBNMS staff:

Dan Howard (CBNMS superintendent)

Kaitlin Graiff (CBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator)

Jennifer Stock (Education and Outreach Specialist)

Review Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved

Review of April Minutes

Clarifications were made to George's question about enforcement data being publically available and to Lance's comments about climate change and ocean acidification.

The April 21, 2011 meeting minutes were approved with these changes

Lance motioned to adopt April minutes as final, Jaime approved, Todd seconds, all in favor

April minutes accepted as final

Manager's Report (Dan Howard)

- i. Budget - The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) received their FY11 budget in June. Cordell Bank received an addition to base budget to fund federal employees and critical contractors. Additional funds were also provided for the ACCESS (Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies) program. However, the NOAA satellite program is over budget, resulting in the budget for other NOAA programs being impacted (ONMS is faced with a 3 million dollar

decline). CBNMS received funding from the Coral Reef Conservation Program (CRCP) for the Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV) cruise in Bodega Canyon this August. CBNMS also received funding for facilities (office expansion).

- ii. CBNMS is hosting a PhD graduate who was previously working at ONMS headquarters.
- iii. The National Ocean Council is holding a listening session about President Obama's National Ocean Policy in San Francisco on June 30th from 12-5pm. The goal of the listening session is to review the nine national priority objectives and receive public feedback. ONMS site evaluation list may be discussed.
- iv. The Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Expansion Bill – was passed by the Senate Commerce Committee. The bill still needs a hearing in the House of Representatives. Dan explained the expansion boundaries for the new council members. The scientific justification for CBNMS boundary expansion is to protect and preserve Bodega Canyon. Vessel speed limit petition – was filed by environmental groups to the Department of Commerce and NOAA requesting that ship speeds be regulated to 10 knots in national marine sanctuaries within California. The petition addresses whale strikes and ocean noise, which are the focus of the Joint Vessel Activities Working Group. NOAA is reviewing the petition and the West Coast Region Sanctuaries will be meeting and discussing the petition. The petition has received lots of media attention.
- v. Dan presented Lance with the volunteer of the year award. Lance's involvement with the sanctuary includes being the Advisory Council chair and chair of the Vessel Activities joint working group. He also was a member of the working group that recently completed the Climate Change Impacts report and he has been instrumental in helping sanctuary staff design procedures for the sanctuary's deep sea coral research program.

Education Report (Jenny Stock)

- i. Kristin Gloystein will be starting this summer as an education and outreach intern. Kristin is an undergraduate at the University of Oregon, studying marine biology and outdoor leadership.
- ii. Showed an example of the sanctuary signs being put up along 101, she has a few extras for additional places.
- iii. Oakland Museum update – The Cordell Bank exhibit will be part of the seven California hotspots in the natural sciences gallery. Jenny ran through the floor plan of the planned exhibits in the 2,200 sq. ft Cordell Bank NMS area. Opening is proposed for June-July 2012.
- iv. Plans are in the works for a future exhibit for Cordell Bank NMS and ocean conservation type visitors center at the old restrooms next to the current Point Reyes National Seashore lighthouse visitors center

Public Comment

Tom Lambert, President of the Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Foundation update: Received a National Science Foundation grant for education. The foundation will be at the Ocean Day event in San Francisco with their new 6ftx4ft banner. They are waiting for funding for a promotional video. The Foundation sent in a letter supporting sanctuary expansion. There was general discussion about the Foundation being a membership level organization and how to fundraise for small or large projects.

SAC Summit Debrief (Lance Morgan)

- i. The Sanctuary Advisory Council chairs met in May in Savannah, Georgia at the Gray's Reef NMS.
- ii. There was a panel discussing Coastal Marine Spatial Planning and how sanctuaries relate to local economies. Thunder Bay NMS has been highlighted as doing a great job working with the local community. The theme of the meeting was to make sanctuaries relevant to local economies and demonstrate the relevance of ONMS to communities.
- iii. National Advisory Council –the goal is still being developed, but it would mostly be to help with issues at a national scale. The opinions of the chairs on forming a National Advisory Council were mixed. Some chairs supported the idea, while others felt they can't take on anything else at the moment. So the chairs discussed that the National Council could be formed as needed when there was an issue. The chairs also discussed that the National Council would be made up of the more experienced members rather than newer members.
- iv. The youth seat concept was also discussed and asked to be considered by councils. The Cordell Bank council decided that it would require too much staff time to form a youth working group. The idea came up again, that the Cordell Bank Council members could bring a high school student to a meeting. It could be marked in agenda and meeting announcement that youth are welcome to attend.

Update: Vessel Activities Working Group (Lance Morgan)

First meeting was on May 10th. First half of the meeting was spent outlining the mission of the group and administrative items. The afternoon session was case studies from Channel Islands and Stellwagen Bank NMS on how they addressed shipping issues like strikes and noise. The working group will meet 4-5 more times. The group has not yet discussed how the vessel speed petition will affect them. The next meeting is June 24th. The meetings will be closed to the media.

Member Reports

Todd Steiner– National Marine Fisheries Service has agreed to have a final plan for critical habitat for leatherbacks by November. He attended a meeting about sustainable swordfish. The fishermen were trying to prove that the swordfish fishery is clean and hasn't killed any leatherbacks as bycatch. He thought the meeting would be about moving the fishery from gillnet to longline (but it wasn't). There are closures for drift gillnets - including Cordell Bank. California Academy of Sciences 'nightlife' on June 16th will be about sea turtles. Scott Benson will be presenting in the planetarium.

John Berge – California is leading the way with regulations about ship biofouling as this could be a vector for invasive species. The regulation of biofouling would be for ships over gross 300 gross tons. It's in the industries best interest to keep their vessel's hulls clean since it results in better performance – speed and fuel consumption. The rule is in the draft stage.

George Clyde– Looking to be a good salmon season this year.

Sarah Hameed– Sonoma County is trying to establish baseline data on north coast Marine Protect Areas (MPAs). She is focused on sandy beach habitat and trying to establish citizen science type monitoring (working with Limpets and their protocol). There is also a citizen science effort for fishermen and residents to collect data on surf perch (catch and release inside and outside MPAs) The Sonoma Coast Surf Rider is trying to increase their membership by holding movie nights in Sebastopol. June 25th – Hands Across the Sand event for anti-drilling activists. There is debate of regulating flow in the Russian River during the summer and how to keep natural flow versus impounded flow. Surfers are concerned that low flow will result in poor water quality and affect surf breaks.

Jaime Jahncke– Completed first ACCESS cruise in May. The first two humpback whales of the year were sighted. Tucker trawls contained krill. Cassin’s Auklets started breeding in late February and the chicks have started fledging. There has been a second clutch from younger birds. ACCESS will become one of the options students have when applying for summer internships in the COAST (Council of Ocean Affairs, Science, and Technology) program. The Fish and Wildlife Service is currently preparing a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to help protect and restore the Farallon ecosystem by eradicating non-native house mice and preventing their future reintroduction. PRBO will review the EIS. There has been interest from the EMB network to include ACCESS. The forage bill (AB 1299) has passed the Assembly Floor and is headed to the Senate. He participated in a meeting with California Ocean Protection Council about Coastal Marine Spatial Planning. Vessel spill working group will hold their first meeting on June 20th.

Kevin Krick– was at NOAA headquarters asking for assistance in regards to APL ships following 10knot speed restrictions on the east coast, but the pilots are disregarding this regulation (stating its due to inclement weather) when they board the ship. This could be an issue if the industry gets fined for speeding, but overriding the pilot’s decisions could result in insurance issues.

Lunch

Discussion: Consolidating Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Councils (Dan Howard)

Background: at the West Coast region superintendents meeting, the discussions were focused on how sanctuaries can be more efficient in times of severe budget declines for FY11 and FY12. Maria Brown, Brian Johnson, Michael Carver and Dan had an “after hours” brain storm session about being more efficient. One idea was consolidating the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Councils. There would be one council coordinator and fewer meetings to save money. But Cordell Bank has spent the last few years carving out an identity and the consolidation could result in Cordell Bank issues losing priority. However, there are currently two joint advisory council working groups and many of the issues facing CBNMS are also shared by GFNMS.

Group Discussion: Do the councils merge or stay independent? Bill thinks that during the first eight years of management plan review the CBNMS council worked so closely with GFNMS that it felt like a joint council. He can’t remember too many issues that weren’t shared by both sites – except for the essential fish habitat closure over Cordell Bank. Todd asked about the geographic range for traveling to meetings – probably Half Moon Bay to Bodega Bay. Kevin asked what would be the savings - It would be in salary and staff time. George has been to most CBNMS and GFNMS council meetings and thinks that the scope of the meetings is very different. He thinks that it would be hard to preserve the offshore component of Cordell Bank if the two councils were combined.

Ideas to make council coordinator administrative duties more efficient and other opinions:

- Have one e-mail list for both Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Council communications
- Since recruiting for council positions is time consuming, could possibly have one person do this.
- If the decision is made to merge councils, then there could be an extra meeting to focus on Cordell Bank related issues or dedicate an afternoon or morning session to Cordell Bank.
- The general opinion of the council members was to preserve the unique nature of Cordell Bank. Consolidating councils may impact Cordell Bank issues from remaining forefront.
- Dan wants it noted that there is also time/work required for council coordinators to respond to headquarters initiatives, data calls, conference calls, etc.
- Another point to consider is how the consolidated councils would impact the Cordell Bank Foundation.

- The suggestion to hold fewer Cordell Bank council meetings came up, but Dan feels that fewer meetings could result in members losing touch and becoming disconnected with sanctuary issues.
- Having a joint meeting with GFNMS council every now and then would be productive.
- Dan thinks we can realize the Advisory Council administrative efficiencies with GFNMS and have division of labor.

Actions Item: Dan will summarize the council's discussion, discuss it with Maria Brown and come to a decision on the matter.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:40 pm