



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 6, 2012

9:30am – 2:15 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 9:35am

Roll Call

Members present:

Lance Morgan (Chair, Conservation)

Jaime Jahncke (Research)

Pete Adams (Research Alt.)

Kevin Krick (Maritime Activities)

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)

Brian Johnson (Gulf of the Farallones NMS)

CBNMS staff:

Dan Howard (Superintendent)

Kaitlin Graiff (Advisory Council Coordinator, Research Specialist)

Jennifer Stock (Education and Outreach Specialist)

Review Agenda

The agenda was unanimously approved

Review of April Minutes

The April 26, 2012 meeting minutes were reviewed with two changes.

Lance motions to adopt April minutes as final, Bill approves, Jaime seconds, all in favor

April minutes accepted as final

Review of June Minutes

The June 7, 2012 meeting minutes from the joint GFNMS and CBNMS were reviewed and edited with three changes.

Lance motions to adopt June minutes as final, John approves, George seconds, all in favor.

June minutes accepted as final

Superintendent's Report (Dan Howard)

- i. Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Campaign of Engagement: CBNMS is sponsoring a student film competition at the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival. Prizes will be awarded to the winning films. CBNMS summer intern developed a list of local high schools that have media programs and who may have students interested in submitting films. Dan stressed the importance of the personal touch Council members can have connecting with students to submit films.
- ii. CBNMS staff: Kersey Sturdivant, who was on the science team, has taken a post doc position at Duke University.
- iii. Facilities – Point Reyes National Seashore submitted the contract for an engineer to evaluate the seismic integrity of the CBNMS office within the Red Barn. Hopefully we will know by the end of the year if we can begin renovations in the spring.
- iv. FY13 Budget: anticipating a continuing resolution which results in spending restrictions and will operate under the FY12 budget
- v. ONMS 40th anniversary – October 23, 2012, marks the 40th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Take a look at a website highlighting our Top 40 Accomplishments: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/top40/welcome.html>. Dan handed out 40th Anniversary pins to the Council members.
- vi. West Coast Council Actions report for quarter 2 (April-June): http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/sac_report.html. Council members discussed how they would like a brief summary of actions to be e-mailed to them with the report attached.
- vii. Oakland museum private opening on December 2nd, Council members and their families are invited to attend.

Education Report (Jenny Stock)

- i. Oakland museum: in the final stages, reviewing exhibit content and involved with training docents.
- ii. Winged Ambassadors Curriculum released– free online <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/education/curriculumactivities.html>
Jenny will hold a full workshop next year, planned to be in partnership with Oakland museum and with a complimenting boat trip to the Sanctuary
- iii. Cordell Expeditions Oral Histories– all of the transcripts have been compiled into a book. Jenny will distribute to local museums.
- iv. The next 'Sanctuary Watch' is writing a piece to highlight Cordell Expeditions.
- v. Participating in the educator's workshop being held in conjunction with The Ocean in a High CO2 World conference in Monterey. Jenny will give highlights at November SAC meeting
- vi. Climate Change teacher workshops held during the summer were successful. George did a great story about ocean acidification impacting oysters in Tomales Bay on KWMR. Leslie helped out during the workshop at Hog Island by showing teachers oyster spat under the microscope. The last workshop is being held in November (lead by the San Francisco Estuarine research group) and the focus is about animal adaptation to climate change.
- vii. CBNMS field seminars are being held at the end of this month.

Research (Kaitlin Graiff)

- i. Presented a brief overview and photos from the autonomous drop camera cruise conducted on Cordell Bank by researchers from the University of Rhode Island and NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center

West Coast SAC Chairs meeting debrief (George Clyde)

George highlighted the meeting:

- Participated on a national council webinar about the ONMS Campaign of Engagement; each site described their involvement with the campaign
- Discussed compelling priorities in the West Coast Region (the list was developed at the west coast leadership meeting. The CB Council reviewed the list of priorities and the common themes the Advisory Council chairs chose.
- Discussed how to involve Councils in ocean acidification
- Discussed how to positively engage with fishermen

The Cordell Bank Council continued to discuss the Cordell Bank Management Plan and how to conduct the review of the plan. The Council will be directly involved in revising the Management Plan. CBNMS staff has reviewed the activities in the Management Plan and over 80% of the plan has been addressed or the activities have been started. Dan would like the Council to look at the components that have not been addressed and reevaluate those activities or add new activities (ex: climate change).

NOAA's Habitat Blue Print (Dan Howard)

Fact Sheet <http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/pdf/habitatblueprint6pfactsheet.pdf> and website:

<http://www.habitat.noaa.gov/blueprint/index.html>

Dan is representing the west coast region to identify a focus area in California to be a pilot area for the habitat blueprint. Each NOAA office can nominate up to ten sites and there will be a workshop in November to decide on one site using criteria the group developed. The goal is to increase efficiencies within NOAA and address areas that already have habitat work being conducted.

Dan worked with west coast sanctuaries on their nominated sites. Dan nominated Cordell Bank for CBNMS, but measuring habitat recovery will be a difficult metric for Cordell Bank and it therefore may not be chosen as a site for the habitat blueprint project.

Discussion: Pete suggested the Klamath as a non-sanctuary estuary to be considered. John asked about the stake holder input – stake holders are reviewing all the candidate sites that NOAA proposes after the November meeting.

Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) 2012 field season summary (Jaime Jahncke)

ACCESS has completed two surveys this year. The team documented abundant Humpback and Blue whales on both cruises that were feeding over the shelf break and closer to shore than usual. Net samples have abundant krill in very small size classes. Sooty Shearwaters are in high abundances that have not been observed since 2004 and 2005. Update from Farallon Islands: Cassins Auklets had another successful breeding year– above that seen in previous years. Other seabirds' breeding is near the average. Brandts Cormorants are still doing poorly on the Islands, but they are doing better in Southern California. More than 500 Fur Seals (about 200 are pups) have been counted this year; these numbers are increasing every year.

Public comment

Rich Wilson,—Partnering with SeaWeb on an initiative to engage stakeholders in marine spatial planning. Marine spatial planning is a management tool for sustainable use of the oceans with multiple users. He would like the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Councils to become involved in the process to conduct an assessment and identify the key stakeholder groups associated with marine spatial planning in the region. The goal is to gather the stakeholder's opinions and concerns about the use of marine resources in the sanctuaries and initiate a long term planning process with sanctuaries and stakeholders at a regional level.

Caitlin Jensen – Nancy Foster Scholar working with Ellen Hines at San Francisco State University and Jaime Jahncke. Her master’s project will assess the overlap of vessel traffic (AIS) data with endangered whale habitat in relation to vessel traffic patterns before and after California Air Resources Board (CARB) rule changes

Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) discussion (Dan Howard)

The original SEL was deactivated in 1995. For new sites to be considered for sanctuary designation, they need to be on the SEL. The ONMS feels that it is time to reactivate the SEL to be prepared for adding new sites if the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA) is reauthorized.

The council discussed the timeliness of a letter in support of SEL and decided that NOAA will not initiate anything before the presidential election in November.

Lance will draft a letter of support of SEL for the Council to consider as an action item at the November 15th meeting.

Next steps for the Joint Working Group’s recommendations (Dan Howard)

Vessel Spills working group – Gulf of the Farallones hired a new resource protection specialist and will begin to act on the working group’s recommendations with CBNMS once the new hire gets up to speed with sanctuary operations.

Vessel Strikes working group – moving forward with one of the group’s recommendations to conduct outreach. For example, Michael Carver met with the Harbor Safety Committee in San Francisco, members from the United States’ Coast Guard and on September 5th held a meeting with the shipping industry. There was good representation from the shipping industry at the meeting. The goals of the meeting were to give an overview of the joint working group process and the recommendations that came out of the joint working group. There was good discussion on how to incorporate whale observers aboard ships and how to conduct outreach to mariners. There was also conversation on developing a smart phone or tablet application for observers to record whale observations. John Berge mentioned there is confusion among the industry because of all the current whale/ship strike efforts, such as at the Channel Islands NMS, the CB and GF working group and all the media attention. John also added that the data collection from observers needs to be simple and Sanctuaries and the National Marine Fisheries Service need to decide on the minimal amount of data that needs to be collected.

Member Reports

Kevin Krick – a subcommittee of the International Maritime Organization will meet the first week of October to discuss market base measures of carbon emissions from ships. Kevin also attended the September 5th meeting with the sanctuaries and the shipping industry (described above).

John Berge – Attended the September 5th meeting with the Sanctuaries and shipping industry and provided his report of the meeting during the previous discussion.

Leslie Adler-Ivanbrook – assisted with the Sanctuary’s climate change and ocean acidification workshops held earlier this summer, specifically at Hog Island Oyster Company. Developing science education programs for youth with Point Reyes National Seashore

Sarah Hameed – Sonoma Coast Surf Rider has reached a court settlement with the Sonoma Country Water District in regards to human health threats from low flow of the Russian River. Surf Rider is also concerned about plans to add Iron Rangers (shelf pay stations) to the currently free access Sonoma state beaches. Surf Rider was also involved in organizing the volunteer based beach cleanup of the fishing vessel that grounded near Bodega Bay. The CAMEOS program at Bodega Marine Lab which places

graduate students in classes around Sonoma County to teach science is starting up for the new school year.

Bill Wolpert– Plans for restoring the Petaluma Trestle, a historic structure located on the Turning Basin of the Petaluma River in central Petaluma, are moving along. There were multiple options for restoration and the effort will salvage all good pieces and replace ones that aren't salvageable.

George Clyde – completed a full year of radio programs for his “West Marin Report” on KWMR. He recently wrote a story for the West Marin Review about the jurisdiction of the National Park Service on Tomales Bay. George found the original map outlining the jurisdiction decision and NPS now realizes that they do not have jurisdiction on Tomales Bay, except for Giacomini Wetlands. George is concerned that duck hunting may become legal around Tomales Bay.

Lance Morgan – shared response letter from Dr. Jane Lubchenco regarding the Council's BWET support letter. Marine Conservation Institute was funded to develop a monitoring and enforcement plan for MPAs. They are hosting a workshop in the fall and want to bring together resources for MPA enforcement and monitoring.

Brian Johnson– Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan was released and seeking public comment. The Sanctuary is also holding public meetings for comments on the San Francisco Pacifica Exclusion Area. Engines from the fishing vessel that came aground near Bodega have been removed from the surf zone. The sanctuary will be conducting exploration for deep sea corals and sponges in October on Rittenburg Bank. Data may be provided to the Pacific Fisheries Management Council for designation as Essential Fish Habitat. GFNMS staff recently held a meeting with climate scientists to develop a list of climate change indicators to be ranked and incorporated into a monitoring plan. GFNMS Council chairs are turning over. GFNMS has hired a new resource protection specialist and the Farallons Marine Sanctuary Association is hiring an executive director.

Meeting Adjourned at 2:20pm