



# CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

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**July 15, 2010**

9:30 am – 3:00 pm

PRBO Conservation Science, Palomarin Rm.

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 (Council Chair and Conservation)

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

Vic Chow (Education)

Kevin Krick (Maritime Activities)

John Berge (Maritime Activities Alt.)

Bill Wolpert (Community-at-Large Sonoma)

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

Jaime Jahncke (Research Alt.)

Brian Johnson (GFNMS Deputy Superintendent)

Dan Howard (CBNMS superintendent)

#### Other staff present:

Kaitlin Graiff (CBNMS SAC coordinator and research specialist)

Michael Carver (CBNMS resource protection and operations coordinator)

Jennifer Stock (CBNMS Education and Outreach coordinator)

### **Review Agenda**

The agenda was unanimously approved with the change to move Lance's session to before lunch.

### **Swear in New Members** (Dan Howard)

Dan Howard swears in new members: Kevin Krick (Maritime Activities), John Berge (Maritime Activities Alt.), Bill Wolpert (Community-at-Large Sonoma) and Sarah Hameed (Community-at-Large Sonoma Alt.).

Round table introductions of all Council members.

### **Review of April Minutes**

The April 8, 2010 meeting minutes were approved with no changes

Lance motions to adopt April minutes as final, George approves, Vic Seconds, all in favor

***April minutes accepted as final***

### **Manager's Report (Dan Howard)**

- i. Sanctuaries Act Reauthorization: Congresswoman Lois Capps held a conference call to get input on sanctuary reauthorization. George participated on the call. There were concerns with granting additional regulation authority to sanctuaries, especially with fisheries regulations. Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) works through the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) on any issue relating to fishing within CBNMS. George's opinion from the call was that the participants were mostly anti-regulatory. One significant change that would result from reauthorization of the Sanctuaries Act would be that the National Marine Sanctuary Program would be able to establish new sites. The Act will have to be reintroduced during the next Congress. Reauthorization would also include language to put term limits on Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) members.
- ii. Climate Change Impacts Report: released on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at the California Academy of Sciences (CAS). The report outlines local impacts due to climate change and how these would affect sanctuary ecosystems. The next phase is to address the recommendations from the report. The full reports and executive summary can be found on the CBNMS website.
- iii. West Coast Ocean Acidification Task Force: the task force is holding conference calls to develop strategies for the West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries to address ocean acidification (OA). To do so, the task force will develop a goal statement and several strategies, such as: monitoring, research, education & outreach, protecting sanctuary resources, influencing national and international policy, demonstrating leadership by reducing carbon emissions, and coordinating with other organizations on OA funding opportunities.
- iv. CBNMS Volunteer of the Year: Joe Smith, former SAC member and founder of CBNMS foundation.
- v. Cordell Bank Office Expansion: completed architectural designs; breaking ground in October
- vi. Budget: not yet released for FY11 (Federal Govt. fiscal year: Oct 1-Sept 30)

### **Education Report (Jennifer Stock)**

- i. Ocean Currents Radio Program: recent show on the Climate Change Impacts Report with interviews from Dr. John Largier and Dr. Bill Sydeman.
- ii. ACES (Animals in Curriculum Based Ecosystem Studies) teacher workshop: held June 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, funded by CA Coastal Commission Whale Tail Grant for 23 teachers teaching grades 7-12 to attend workshop at CAS. There will also be two online workshops in September. ACES lessons are based on concepts of physical and biological processes in the ocean, to be correlated to animal migrations
- iii. CBNMS website: adopted the National Marine Sanctuaries template. Lots of new content, especially on the education pages. Jenny will be starting an education list serve.
- iv. BWET (Bay Watershed Education and Training Program): expanded to Sonoma County.
- v. CBNMS Field Seminars: ½ day classroom seminar on Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> and full day boat trips on Sept. 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Offering two free spots to teachers for the boat trips.
- vi. NOAA Teacher at Sea: Deborah Moraga, teacher from Ohio, will be part of the science team for the Applied California Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) cruise in July. She will be working with edheads.org to make an interactive lesson focusing on the California Current Ecosystem.
- vii. Annual Education Coordinators meeting: In America Samoa, host site: Fagatele Bay NMS.
- viii. Oakland Museum: will open the CBNMS exhibit in 2012.

### Research Report (Kaitlin Graiff)

- i. ACCESS: Applied California Current Ecosystem studies; collaborative effort with PRBO Conservation Science, CBNMS and GFNMS; Data collected during these cruises includes: abundance/distribution of birds and marine mammals, relative abundance of plankton (primarily krill) and physical oceanographic conditions. Cruises have taken place in May and June, 10 day cruise planned for July and 8 day cruise in September.
- ii. Fluorometer: has been added to the R/V Fulmar's underway oceanographic data collection system.
- iii. Deep Sea Coral Cruise: highlights presentation during afternoon session.
- iv. Cordell Bank Reef Crest (October 5th-12th, on R/V Fulmar): Initial planning with Office of National Marine Sanctuaries technical divers. The goals of the project are to:
  - a. Test the feasibility of using technical divers for accomplishing science missions on Cordell Bank
  - b. Collect abundance and distribution data of invertebrates and fishes on the upper reef crest/pinnacles of Cordell Bank to develop a future monitoring program
  - c. Collect voucher specimens for identification; target tunicates for identifying a potential invasive species; target hydrocoral (*Stylaster sp.*) for genetic and reproductive analyses.
  - d. Revisit some of the historic dive sites visited in the 1970s by divers from Cordell Expeditions
  - e. Collect high definition video and photos for education and outreach products
- v. Cordell Bank Buoy: was redeployed on July 13<sup>th</sup> by Michael Carver and staff from Bodega Marine Lab on board the R/V Mussel Point. The buoy collects data on temperature, conductivity and fluorescence.
- vi. NOAA Nancy Foster scholarship recipient: Pam Michael, will be working at the CBNMS office this summer. Pam is a master's student at Hawaii Pacific University and is joining us from June 1<sup>st</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>. The focus of Pam's project: to evaluate associations of Black-footed Albatross (BFAL) to bathymetric features, including seamounts and banks, in North central California waters and also examine the effects of fisheries (such as longline and trawl) to BFAL distribution.

### Resource Protection (Michael Carver)

- i. NOAA Twin Otter Aircraft: flights took place on Sunday April 18<sup>th</sup>, Thursday April 22<sup>nd</sup>, Monday May 3<sup>rd</sup>, and Wednesday May 12<sup>th</sup>. The flight on April 18<sup>th</sup> overlapped with the Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival and was one of the first calm weather weekends since the opening of salmon season. Over 100 boats were counted recreating in the sanctuary.
- i. Summary Settlement Training: Michael Carver and Karen Reyna (GFNMS) briefed meeting attendees (enforcement staff from the Dept. of Fish and Game, the National Park Service and the United States Coast Guard) on sanctuary regulations, NMFS agents presented Magnuson-Stevens regulations and Paul Ortiz, conducted the training on how to issue an enforcement action report.
- ii. West Coast Resource Protection Coordinators: met in Monterey during the first week in May. The purpose of the meeting was to develop a regional needs assessment, which identifies resource protection issues that cross-cut site boundaries; a report will be released at the end of the month
- iii. Automatic Identification System (AIS) meeting: with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) staff discussing how to use AIS data for describing the movements of large commercial traffic within the sanctuaries.

**Break until 11:05**

## **2010 SAC Summit Debrief, Updated: Vessel Impacts Working Group, Debrief on joint CB/GF Council Meeting (Lance Morgan)**

SAC Summit highlights presentation: (May 11-13<sup>th</sup>, host site: Olympic Coast NMS). Opening of meeting with State of the Sanctuaries from ONMS director, Dan Basta; sanctuaries have developed strong relationships with Native Indian tribes – all meeting participants took a field trip to see the Makah Cultural Center; climate change session – NOAA is creating a National Climate Service; presentations from other sites – such as CINMS vessel issues working group; regional breakout sessions; discussion of Sanctuaries Act reauthorization.

### Update: Vessel Impacts Working Group:

- Michael Carver is the liaison for CBNMS/GFNMS and the working group. Working group is building on goals statement to address national priorities and started to assemble the members of the group (Dan and Maria will be involved in the decision of working group members)
- The goal of the working group is to address shipping impacts to sanctuary resources. There will be a scoping phase to compile information from experts regarding acoustics, ship strikes etc. (other sanctuaries such as Channel Islands and Stellwagen Bank have been through this). The working group will assess this information, identify gaps in knowledge and then develop recommendations. The recommendations will come back to the Council for their decision if the recommendations should be sent to CB and GF superintendents (Dan and Maria).
- The working group will have three to four in person meetings. Working group is also looking to hire someone else for administrative support.
- Discussion: What are the focus vessels? This question came up on the first call and has not yet been decided. Size and class of vessels of focus will be determined once the goals of the working group have been established.

### Debrief on joint CB/GF council meeting:

- Overall impression from Dan is that we tried to do too much in a limited amount of time. Advice for future joint meetings is to not address more than one issue/action item
- Too difficult to craft one document with limited time. Before acting on a resolution, it should be drafted and distributed in advance and if possible have an expert on the topic present/provide information before acting.
- Majority of CB SAC members thought the joint meeting was valuable to meet the GF council members and we should schedule presentations on topics affecting both sanctuaries. George commented that we don't need to have a joint meeting to act on a joint resolution or letter (i.e. Ocean Acidification resolution).

Member report from Lance: attended Capitol Hills Ocean Week (CHOW) – the focus this year was energy (addressed issues for oil spill response in the Arctic); several Congress members spoke and ocean acidification was a theme.

## **Lunch**

### **Update on Sanctuary Expansion Bill HR 223 (Tom Roth)**

In response to BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, there are hopes for new momentum with the CBNMS and GFNMS boundary expansion bill. But it is still a difficult political environment for moving bills through.

**Follow-up: Salmon as a Sanctuary Resource Resolution** (Dan Howard)

- Maria and Dan have written a cover letter to accompany the salmon resolution approved at the joint CB/GF council meeting. The cover letter summarizes that salmon are an iconic species and the sanctuaries see the need to preserve the species
- The letter will be sent to resources agencies and NMFS in Long Beach, CA.
- Discussion: Jaime asked if the SAC should rewrite the resolution, but Dan thinks the cover letter from he and Maria will cover the tone. Brian Johnson suggested that Dan and Maria send the cover letter and resolution together as one document. Sarah asked if CBNMS or GFNMS are involved in the Russian River conservation projects - not currently, but if the sanctuary expansion bill is approved the Russian River and its watershed would be included in the sanctuary. Vic points out that the salmon resolution could be interpreted as supporting law enforcement
- **Action:** *The Salmon as a Sanctuary Resolution cover letter will be distributed to council members once finalized.*

**Discussion: NOAA and the Deep-water Horizon Oil Spill Response** (Dan Howard)

- NOAA has been very cautious with other sectors of NOAA being involved in any other projects other than the Deep-water Horizon oil spill response.
- Group discussion that this oil spill is similar to the Costco Busan oil spill in that it has become a political response versus a technical response and this may be fueling some of NOAA's concerns.
- Steve Gittings, National Research Coordinator for NMS, has been involved in the response and his comments are that Gulf Coast residents are getting a lot of misinformation and the media is blowing the situation out of proportion. So much so, that people are talking about moving. So in part of the response, they are holding evening sessions for the public to inform them about the facts and science behind the spill and response. There is a peer reviewed document available and NOAA has a response website.
- Of interest is the use of dispersants – as a result of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill there will be more information on the impacts of dispersants to benthic and pelagic organisms. Using dispersants is a trade off of protecting the seashore vs water column. If there is a spill in CBNMS, Dan would be in charge of making the decision on the use of dispersants.
- Dan listed off the NOAA ships involved in the spill response. In terms of NMS involvement: volunteer coordinators, media/communications and GIS support staff are providing their expertise for 2 week rotations.

**Public Comment**

Pamela Michael - commented that the second paragraph of the Salmon as a Sanctuary Resource Resolution could be interpreted as being too specific and could result in future implications.

Jackie Dragon - welcomed new council members and is pleased that the council has new members representing maritime activities. H.R. 3534 is a consolidated lands and energy resources act - it includes the provision called ORCA which has funds for multiple agencies with high priorities to restore oceans and coasts. A.B. 234 is an oil spill prevention/pre-booming bill – it moved through two senate policy committees.

**Presentation: Deep Sea Coral Cruise Highlights** (Kaitlin Graiff and Dan Howard)

Kaitlin presented a power point highlighting the findings from the June Deep Sea Coral Cruise on the R/V McArthur II using the Kraken 2 ROV (owned by the University of Connecticut):

- Poor weather conditions limited ROV dive time to 1 day for 11 hours on the slope region west of Cordell Bank, completed three quantitative transects between 300 and 400 meters
- Over 100 observations of six species of deep coral: Primnoid coral, Paragorgia sp., Anthomastus ritteri, Sea pens (small feather-like), Swiftia sp., and unidentified orange cup corals
- Collected sample of Primnoid coral for genetic analysis and species identification
- Observed associations of fishes and invertebrates with deep sea corals
- Data for ground truthing habitat maps created from multibeam sonar data
- Observed long lines and a trawl net (a first) entangled on the bottom in the vicinity of deep corals.
- Completed ocean chemistry work in vicinity of deep coral surveys and on shelf/slope transect to establish bench mark for ocean acidification parameters that will allow us to evaluate impacts to deep corals in the future.
- Expedition page on NMS website:  
[http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions/2010coral\\_west/welcome.html](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions/2010coral_west/welcome.html)
- Discussion: George proposed that if needed, the SAC could write a support letter to NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Program supporting the need for funding and vessel time to continue this work for the next two years in CBNMS. An autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV) was used on leg 1 and 3 of the cruise, the AUV captured over 16,000 photographs of the seafloor.

### **Member Reports**

Jaime Jahncke: South East Farallon Island Update – in spite of El Nino like conditions, Cassin Auklets are doing well (they are on their second set of chicks). Brandt's Cormorant, Pigeon Guillemot and Common Murres are nesting slowly. Met with Bill Douros about biological hotspots and how the west coast could compile more information about hotspots to support new protected areas/sanctuaries. Provided an update about ACCESS cruises to GFNMS staff. CeNCOOS (Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System) has requested data from ACCESS cruises. San Francisco State students focusing on ocean zoning will be using the datasets from ACCESS. Developing a proposal for an environmental response management application (ERMA), this is a GIS based tool that compiles multiple layers of spatially explicit information (oceanographic, currents, predators/prey etc). ERMAs can be used as a resource response tool for an oil spill; this one is focused on damage assessment.

Vic Chow: Finished first year of CAMEOS program (5 yr GK-12 fellowship). High school students presented at Bodega Marine Lab (BML) about their projects. Over the course of 4 days there were over 100 presentations. BWET funding may be cut – just as Sonoma County got involved. City of Fort Bragg is interested in developing a marine science center; Georgia Pacific (lumber company) is ready to sell the land and the public is interested in building the marine science center.

Sarah Hameed: member of the Sonoma County chapter of Surf Rider, they are a small group but are interested in getting more involved.

Brian Johnson: recognized the amount of overlap that Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank have in regards to research, resource protection and climate change initiatives. Council members are welcome to tour the new GF office space. The Monterey Bay NMS visitor center in Santa Cruz broke ground and will open in 2012.

George Clyde: tried to recruit a fishing representative for the Council – a charter boat captain out of Bodega Bay, but he was not interested. He met with Joe Smith about the CBNMS Foundation; Liza Crosse has joined the board.

**Council Business**

September 30th retreat – council members decided that they would like to hold the retreat at Cypress Grove Research Center

**Meeting Adjourned at 3:07pm**