



**CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
Wednesday, November 2, 2022  
9:00AM – 1:40PM  
Virtual via Google Meet

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS). The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of CBNMS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

To view slides from any presentation referenced in this document, please email [jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov](mailto:jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov).

**Call to Order, Roll Call, Review Agenda**

Vice Chair Irma Cuevas welcomed all to the meeting and called roll. Conservation member Scott Artis put forward a motion to approve the day's agenda. Fishing seat Richard Ogg seconded.

**MOTION: Approve meeting agenda**

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

**Sanctuary Advisory Council Business**

The council approved the draft meeting highlights from the August 2022 council meeting. Community-at-Large Sonoma member Steve Tubbs offered a motion to approve the highlights which was seconded by Richard Ogg. Vice Chair Irma Cuevas led the vote.

**MOTION: Approve August 2022 meeting highlights**

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

A copy of the meeting highlights is available upon request to [jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov](mailto:jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov), and it will be posted online at <https://cordellbank.noaa.gov/council/documents.html>.

The council then reviewed and discussed the 2023 CBNMS Advisory Council Work Plan. Council Coordinator Jordan Gorostiza reiterated that all council meetings in 2023 would be held jointly with the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) Advisory Council given significant overlap in topical areas as the two sanctuaries head into management plan review. Scott Artis moved to approve the work plan which was seconded by Steve Tubbs.

**MOTION: Approve 2023 CBNMS Advisory Council Work Plan**

Vote: 7 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Jordan provided a reminder to the council that officer nominations would be taking place at the next meeting in February 2023.

Finally, Superintendent Maria Brown recognized departing council members Noah Wagner (Fishing), Richard Ogg (Fishing), and Irma Cuevas (Education) and thanked them for their invaluable service to the sanctuary as council members.

### **GFNMS and CBNMS Superintendent's Report**

Maria Brown, Superintendent of Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMS and CBNMS, respectively), provided updates on GFNMS and CBNMS Operations, Research, Education/Outreach, and Resource Protection program activities since the last council meeting in August.

Highlights included 1) the onboarding of a new Research Operations Specialist, Monisha Sugla, 2) completion of the 2022 Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) season, 3) updates on the GFNMS and CBNMS Condition Reports, 4) recent dives by the Bay Area Underwater Explorers (BAUE) on Cordell Bank, 5) Science staff are preparing to return to Southeast Farallon Island to conduct rocky intertidal monitoring, 6) that the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) West Coast Regional Office would be submitting comments on the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Port Access Route Study, and 7) that the 2021 Ocean Climate Indicators Report was published.

Conservation member Morgan Patton inquired about the Southeast Farallon Island rocky intertidal monitoring. Jan Roletto, GFNMS/CBNMS Research Coordinator, informed Morgan that the site is used as a non-human disturbed control site compared to other onshore sites in the sanctuary.

Richard Ogg asked if there were any studies ongoing examining environmental impacts from offshore wind development. Maria informed Richard that she would look into this and get back to him, and that the council could propose to cover this topic at a future meeting.

Morgan Patton asked if there was anything within the Ocean Climate Indicators Report that was particularly concerning to the sanctuaries. Dani Lipski, GFNMS/CBNMS Research Coordinator, stated that the sites have seen some conditions recovering following the 2014-2016 marine heat wave, but that there was still concern about temperature changes, prey availability, and species distribution. Maria mentioned that an update to the sites' Climate Vulnerability Assessments would be occurring in 2023.

### **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent's Report**

Dawn Hayes, Deputy Superintendent of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), provided the report in lieu of MBNMS Superintendent Lisa Wooninck. Highlights included work to characterize the nearshore environment of Big Sur, the creation of a MBNMS Indigenous Engagement Action Plan, the site's Annual First Flush Water Quality event, and that the site received recommendations regarding response to vessel incidents from their sanctuary advisory council.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

**Information item: Summary of CBNMS Condition Report**

Dani Lipski, Research Coordinator for GFNMS and CBNMS, provided an overview of findings from the CBNMS Condition Report. The presentation provided an overview of the Condition Report process, findings from the responses provided at expert workshops, and how this information will be used to inform the site's next management plan.

Irma Cuevas inquired about how the sanctuary measured questions related to "sense of place." Dani informed the council that they examined how folks identify with the sanctuary, esthetic and spiritual connections, level of appreciation for iconic attractions, and media created about the site (e.g., films, literature, articles).

Richard Ogg mentioned that he had not seen a lot of trawling within the sanctuary, but that when he had, his catch had not been good due to bottom contact of trawls stirring up sediment which scatters fish. Dani appreciated Richard's mention of this.

Steve Tubbs inquired if a baseline is established for areas where a trend could not be determined in order to be used when exploring trends in the future. Dani explained that the report documents areas where knowledge gaps exist and that the management plan would focus on those gaps.

Scott Artis asked if anything from this Condition Report stood out in comparison to the previous one. Maria mentioned that staff would be going through this exercise in conjunction with the GFNMS Condition Report. The sites will examine where there is synergy to take combined actions for both sites and where individual actions should be taken. Findings will be shared at future advisory council meetings.

Research member Jeff Dorman mentioned that these trends represent the last ten years, but factors like climate change are happening over much longer time periods. Jeff asked how the report reconciles this fact. Dani stated that the climate change question within the report specifically used data from a longer timeframe for the "status" rating.

**Information item: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 2022-2027 Strategic Plan**

Anne-Marie Runfola, Senior Advisor for ONMS, provided an overview of the recently released ONMS 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Anne-Marie highlighted areas of change in the new plan from older strategic plans. She emphasized increased attention towards Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work, both internally at ONMS and within our partnerships with sanctuary communities.

Irma Cuevas asked if there were any strategies outlined for outreach to and engagement with diverse communities. Anne-Marie stated that there are strategies, but that they are still high-level at each site. She also mentioned that ONMS has DEI and Indigenous Engagement teams to help brainstorm strategies.

Jeff Dorman asked about the linkage between this strategic plan and site management plans. Maria stated that the strategic plan serves as a guiding document throughout the management plan review process.

Brian Johnson, GFNMS/CBNMS Deputy Superintendent, mentioned that it is critical to invest in site infrastructure in a sustainable manner (i.e., taking greenhouse gas emissions into account).

**Discussion item: Proposed Draft GFNMS/CBNMS Goals**

Maria Brown, Superintendent of GFNMS and CBNMS, led a discussion on proposed goals for GFNMS and CBNMS for the upcoming management plan. Maria reminded the councils that there would be one management plan for both sites, and these goals would be for both GFNMS and CBNMS. The GFNMS Advisory Council would be discussing any suggestions to these goals provided by the CBNMS Advisory Council at the present meeting.

The council discussed and suggested edits to the goals.

**Member and Alternate Reports**

Council members shared a variety of announcements about recent events from their respective agencies and groups. Highlights from these reports are below.

Steve Tubbs, Community-at-Large Sonoma: Most groups are still meeting virtually so less in-person contact. Still continuing to post on social media and with programs. Continuing to talk about Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank NMS.

Scott Artis, Conservation: Started collegiate programs, but only a few were involved in direct ocean advocacy. Organized “ORCA” which is a collegiate program and has an internship program to have students be involved in direct ocean and watershed activities. It has been approved by Santa Clara University and our goal is to partner with more colleges. Trying to partner with University of Texas at Galveston campus and Flower Garden Banks NMS.

Irma Cuevas, Education: I have been working with youth to get them out on the coast and sharing information about Cordell Bank.

Richard Ogg, Fishing: Commercial Dungeness Crab Fishing season is delayed, the average humpback population is increasing but is impacting us socioeconomically. Ability to provide the crab resource to the public is limited and it will probably be closer to January until the fishery opens. He has been advocating on minimizing any interaction of any kind with whales. The effort of crab gear recovery is high. Salmon season was good, but in September, they were gone. So, hopefully we have another opportunity to fish for salmon.

Noah Wagner, Fishing: I really appreciate the opportunity to update the council on what is happening in Bodega Bay and with the fishing community. It was a decent fishing season this year. Fishing season will be opening soon with hoop nets. We will know when the commercial season will open soon. Albacore tuna were running in October. Couple of big eye tuna and dorado as well. Spud Point Marina, Sonoma County, and others have submitted a grant to help remove some sunken and abandoned vessels in Bodega Bay, focusing on the American Challenger and some other prospects in Tomales Bay.

Jeff Dorman, Research: Big research effort to try to better understand whale distribution. There is a lot of work on trying to understand why they are so close to shore during those time frames.

*Meeting highlights prepared by Jordan Gorostiza, Advisory Council Coordinator.*

**Appendix 1. Attendance for the November 2, 2022 CBNMS Advisory Council Meeting**

| <b>Name</b>                 | <b>Seat</b>               | <b>Attendance</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Vacant                      | Community-at-Large Marin  | --                |
| Rob Taboada                 | Community-at-Large Marin  | N                 |
| Frank Capurro               | Community-at-Large Sonoma | N                 |
| Steve Tubbs                 | Community-at-Large Sonoma | Y                 |
| Scott Artis                 | Conservation              | Y                 |
| Morgan Patton               | Conservation              | Y                 |
| Irma Cuevas<br>(Vice-Chair) | Education                 | Y                 |
| Vacant                      | Education                 | --                |
| Richard Ogg                 | Fishing                   | Y                 |
| Noah Wagner                 | Fishing                   | Y                 |
| Chris Hendry                | Maritime Activities       | N                 |

|                    |  |    |
|--------------------|--|----|
| Kai Martin (Chair) | Maritime Activities  | N  |
| Jeff Dorman        | Research   | Y  |
| Chrissy Piotrowski | Research   | N  |
| Lisa Wooninck      | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary<br>(Non-voting member)    | N  |
| Dawn Hayes         | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary<br>(Non-voting alternate) | Y  |
| LT Kynan Barrios   | National Marine Fisheries Service (Non-voting<br>member)         | Y  |
| Vacant             | National Marine Fisheries Service (Non-voting<br>alternate)      | -- |
| LT Lelea Lingo     | United States Coast Guard (Non-voting member)                    | Y  |
| LTJG Andrew Kang   | United States Coast Guard (Non-voting alternate)                 | N  |

**Sanctuary staff present:** Maria Brown, Superintendent; Lilli Ferguson, Resource Protection Specialist; Daniella Lipski, Research Coordinator; Brian Johnson, Deputy Superintendent; Jan Roletto, Research Coordinator; Jennifer Stock, Education and Outreach Coordinator; Jordan Gorostiza (Affiliate), Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator; Tishma Patel (Affiliate), Administrative Assistant; Sara Hutto (Affiliate), Conservation and Climate Program Coordinator

**Others present:** Anne-Marie Runfola, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; Samuel Reigner, National Marine Fisheries Service