

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL

FINAL

Meeting Minutes

August 7, 1998

Cambria Pines Lodge

Cambria

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council met on Friday, August 7, 1998 at the Cambria Pines Lodge in Cambria. Public categories and government agencies were present as indicated:

Agriculture: Richard Nutter

Diving: Ken Lundie

AMBAG: Katherine Beiers - NOT PRESENT

Education: Dorris Welch

At Large: Steve Webster, Chair

Enforcement: Doug Huckins

At Large: Karin Strasser Kauffman

Fishing: Dave Danbom

At Large: Chet Forrest

Ports & Harbors: Jim Stilwell

Business & Industry: Steve Abbott

Recreation: Sally Smith

CA EPA: Marc Del Piero - NOT PRESENT

Research: Greg Cailliet

CA Coastal Commission: Charles Lester

Tourism: Ed Brown

CA Resources Agency: Brian Baird

U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Phyllis Blanton

Conservation: Rachel Saunders

NOT PRESENT

The following non-voting members were present as indicated:

Monterey Bay NMS: William Douros

Gulf of the Farallones NMS and Cordell Bank NMS: Ed Ueber - NOT PRESENT

Channel Islands NMS: Ed Cassano

Elkhorn Slough NERR: Becky Christensen - NOT PRESENT

- I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, WELCOMING REMARKS,
APPROVAL OF JUNE 5, 1998 DRAFT MEETING MINUTES,

A) Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 9:30 a.m. Ed Brown conducted the roll call - a quorum was present.

B) Welcoming Remarks

Anne McMahon, District Representative for Lois Capps, welcomed the Advisory Council to Cambria. She expressed Lois Capps' interest in coastal issues, and informed the Council and the public that Lois Capps has been convening National Ocean Conference follow-up meetings.

Tom Bordonaro, State Assemblyman, also welcomed the Advisory Council to Cambria. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to listen and learn, explaining that community input guides officials in their decision-making processes.

Bud Laurent, County Supervisor, thanked the Advisory Council for traveling to Cambria and asked that the Council meet in the south more often. According to Mr. Laurent, there is growing interest in the work of the Sanctuary and the Advisory Council.

C) Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The minutes from the June 5, 1998 Advisory Council meeting were approved as amended.

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

David Clayton - California Diving Councils - thanked the Advisory Council for their assistance in passing the Jade Rule. He presented plaques to At-Large Representative, Karin Strasser Kauffman, and to Ed Cooper, Alternate Diving Representative.

Susan McDonnell - Friends of Elephant Seal- announced that docents have reached over 70,000 people, and thanked the Advisory Council for its support. Rachel Saunders commended and acknowledged the community for their enthusiasm.

Richard Hawley - Greenspace - expressed concern regarding a sand and gravel mining project that he believes is occurring below the mean high water line near Piedras Blancas. He requested that the Council look into the mining permit.

Suzy Ficker - Defense Fund - is concerned about local de-forestation projects that she believes are creating siltation which is threatening sea otters.

Bill Allen - North Coast Alliance - announced that he is working to push a national seashore designation, as well as a national marine sanctuary designation, in an effort to ensure a healthy ocean environment. He is concerned about fishery issues.

Janda Hay - expressed concern that a local lot which has been bulldozed will create erosion and runoff into Sanctuary waters.

Ed Cooper - expressed concern regarding cruise ships and the quantity and quality of gray water they discharge. He believes this might be an issue the Council should address. See Attachment A.

Vicki Nichols - Save Our Shores - gave a brief background on her organization.

Bill Douros - MBNMS - announced that Ed Brown has been re-appointed as the Tourism Representative; Matthew Twisselman has been appointed as his alternate; and William Raver has been appointed as the Alternate At-Large Representative to Chet Forrest.

III. PRESENTATION: PROTECTION OF THE MARINE WATERS SOUTH OF THE MBNMS BOUNDARY

Bud Laurent, County Supervisor, gave a presentation on the need for protection of the ocean in between MBNMS and Channel Islands NMS. According to Mr. Laurent, Arguello Canyon and its finger canyons serve as vital conduits of seasonal upwelling, creating a great mix of currents and nutrient-rich waters. The area also includes the rich fishing grounds of the San Lucia Bank. In addition, Mr. Laurent claimed the area holds value as a link between both sanctuaries.

Mr. Laurent believes the methods for obtaining protection for the area are to either extend one of the two existing sanctuaries, or to create a new sanctuary. He explained that the movement to protect the area is in the earliest process and that he is working with others to build public support. Mr. Laurent stated that one of most important groups involved in this issue is the commercial fishermen because they know the ocean best.

IV. PRESENTATION: LIVE FISH FISHERY

Bob Hardy, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), gave a presentation on the live fish fishery. CDFG began looking at the fishery in 1992 when only 52,000 pounds of live fish were harvested. In 1997, over 1 million pounds of live fish were recorded caught by licensed California fishermen.

The fishery targets nearshore fishes of 66 different species, with rockfish species (Sebastes) as the most popular harvested fishes. Mr. Hardy showed several charts indicating decreased landings of nearshore fishes in 1997, however, these data did not distinguish between hook-and-line and trap, nor between live and dead fish. The data also did not indicate whether decreased landings were a result of decreased fishing effort, or declining fish populations. Mr. Hardy pointed out that CDFG has not witnessed a decline in the average size of the fish species being targeted by the live fish fishery. Managers often use declining fish sizes as an indicator of an impacted species. However, Mr. Hardy was questioned whether this theory would hold up when the fishery is selecting small fish as opposed to large fish.

Discussion ensued among Council members, fishermen, and Mr. Hardy regarding:

- ... effective management tools such as size limits
- ... the survival rate of released nearshore fish caught by hook-and-line
- ... current success of the live fish fishery
- ... gathering Catch Per Unit Effort (CPUE) data
- ... optimizing the fishery by leaving large fish in the environment as spawning stock
- ... determining sustainable yields

V. PRESENTATION: CALTRANS COAST HIGHWAY MANAGEMENT PLAN

Aileen Loe, environmental planner for Caltrans, presented an overview of the Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP). The CHMP is the continuation of an effort that has been underway for a number of years but has been given a high priority in the aftermath of the 1998 storms which resulted in the closure of Highway 1 for 3 1/2 months.

The CHMP is a two-phase effort - Phase I is in response to storm damage activities and Phase II is a more comprehensive planning effort to address corridor management on a larger scale. The Phase I planning effort, targeted for completion by December 1998, is intended to develop interagency agreement and facilitate storm damage response for future years. The Phase II planning effort will build on the efforts of Phase I.

The CHMP is being shaped by a group of ³shareholders² through which various interests - regulatory, community, special-interest, public - are represented and help shape the plan. The group will be involved in developing the plan from its conception and will ensure the proper level of involvement by various interests along the way.

Bill Douros, MBNMS, explained that the CHMP is an issue for the Sanctuary two reasons: 1) former Caltrans requests to dispose material into the Sanctuary and 2). Highway 1 is a destination which provides a view of the Sanctuary.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS

... Karin Strasser Kauffman has received numerous phone calls regarding cruise ships concerns and sea otter and shell fish declines.

... Sally Smith announced a Surfrider Foundation tour of an organic farm on August 8 and a Clean Water Day Celebration on August 15.

... Dick Nutter announced an agricultural land projection study in Salinas and Pajaro Valley.

... Rachel Saunders announced US Fish and Wildlife workshops on sea otter issues on August 18 in Monterey at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

... Vicki Nichols announced a Save Our Shores (SOS) fundraiser cruise in conjunction with O'Neill on August 27 and September 30; SOS will be opening an office in Half Moon Bay.

... Ed Cassano has copies of the Channel Islands NMS (CINMS) Annual Report available; CINMS will be establishing a Sanctuary Advisory Council in the near future.

... Dorris Welch announced that she has resigned from Long Marine Laboratories and has accepted a position at the Oakland Museum.

VII. SANCTUARY OFFICE REPORTS

Bill Douros presented a verbal and written report on MBNMS activities.

Highlights included:

... A joint staff meeting between MBNMS and GFNMS was held July 10 at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. The meeting was an opportunity to enhance links between the two sites and brainstorm for the coming year.

... MBNMS received a signed agreement from WASC and our current landlord extending our lease on Foam Street until 2000 allowing us to move to better offices on the second floor, with a large conference and meeting room on the first floor. Planning efforts also continue for establishing a Santa Cruz satellite office on the Santa Cruz Municipal Wharf.

... Sanctuary staff have been collaborating with the Advisory Council Chair to develop informational documents that will help to resolve a continuing controversy regarding conflicts over ³use² of kelp canopy by extractive users -- kelp harvesters -- and non-extractive users -- kayak rental and dive shops. We have committed \$2,000 and have received commitment from the city councils of Monterey and Pacific Grove for \$3,000 to study the natural changes in kelp canopy densities in areas with and without kelp harvesting. We met with kelp harvesters in the region to again encourage their need to develop a kelp harvesters cooperative and try to develop their own ³sustainable¹ harvesting thresholds that can avoid the conflict between the two basic users of kelp canopies.

... Staff have posted and circulated information and answered numerous requests for information on the ³Call for Partners² for the Sustainable Seas Expeditions. At present, we have offered for pilot training: Rick Starr, Steve Webster, Kip Evans, and Bill Douros; others may follow as we receive responses for our call for collaborators.

... Staff worked with the CINMS, FKNMS and various nonprofit groups to promote the two-week Great American Fish Count through media stories, public seminars and celebrity events. Staff gave presentations to dive groups and the general public during the last two weeks. Training seminars were held on June 19 and 20 in Pacific Grove and Santa Cruz. On July 1, staff joined volunteers at Point Lobos State Reserve for an outreach media dive. The event was covered by two television stations and the San Jose Mercury News and Santa Cruz Sentinel.

... Planning continues for the Santa Cruz Shark Festival and Sanctuary Celebration scheduled for September 19, 1998.

... On June 10, the MBNMS Foundation officially donated two rigid hull inflatable enforcement boats to CDFG for conducting Sanctuary enforcement patrols. In a cooperative enforcement agreement concluded in April, selected CDFG wardens have been deputized by NMFS as MBNMS Enforcement Officers and will use the boats to conduct Sanctuary patrols. Our efforts included helping coordinate the press event and speaking at the press conference, which had an excellent turnout.

VIII. NORTH COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLANS

Karin Strasser Kauffman presented an overview of North County development plans and introduced Alex Heines, Planner for San Luis Obispo County.

According to Mr. Heines, the north coast plans contains several controversial items:

Hearst resorts - the plan has been put before the Coastal Commission several times and originally proposed 650 resort units. It has been modified to propose 375 maximum resort units plus a 50-unit dude ranch. Potential locations are San Simeon Cove (west of Highway 1) or San Simeon Acres (east of Highway 1). The current plan states that water will only be taken during high flows from Arroyo de la Cruz. The issues regarding the Hearst plan include the locations, size of the development, water source, and potential golf courses.

East-West Ranch - issues associated with this plan include a proposed desalination plant, an annex to the existing water service district, lot retirement (lots retired in the forest to create lots in the grassland), and vehicular access with a link to Highway 1. Resource problems include public access, public services, scenic resources, and environmentally sensitive habitats.

Charles Lester reviewed the Coastal Commission's procedural process regarding these plans. The Commission emphasizes that resource impact studies must be done prior to development. The next meeting of the Commission is the second week of October in Oceanside.

Bill Douros expressed interest in commenting on issues such as intertidal access these concerns can be submitted at hearings;

Charles would like to work with Bill on any sanctuary issues; Coastal Act calls for ³Balanced access.²

IX. ASSESSMENT OF THE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM

DeWitt John, National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA), presented an overview of NAPA and his assignment to assess the National Marine Sanctuary Program. NAPA is an independent, non-partisan organization chartered by Congress to identify emerging issues of governance and assist Federal, State, and local governments in addressing these issues. Mr. John is managing the marine sanctuaries project and a four-person advisory panel will guide the work.

According to Mr. John, three themes exist in his past work with agencies such as the US Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy:

- ... changing relationships between the government and the private industry
- ... changing relationships between Federal, state, and local governments
- ... new ways of establishing regulations in an effort to work with people in protecting the environment

Mr. John spent the last few days in Monterey meeting with various stakeholders. So far, he has learned the following:

- ... MBNMS has been a useful tool in preventing offshore oil drilling.
- ... MBNMS has some additional regulations, i.e., jet skiis, shark chumming,

jade.

... MBNMS has received a lot of national attention due to its resources.
... MBNMS has worked as a partner and coordinator in several issues - vessel traffic safety, water quality, elephant seals at Piedras Blancas, etc. The Sanctuary has created synergy among researchers and educators, and has exceptional volunteer activity.

Mr. John found that the questions about the Sanctuary include:

... What is the role of MBNMS regarding fisheries?
... How can the Sanctuary manage massive amounts of volunteers?
... What are the tangible results of sanctuaries? How can these results be added up? How can the Sanctuary Program be implemented, and how can it be compelling to citizens?

Council members offered several observations regarding the benefits of the Sanctuary Program.

X. REPORT: CONSTITUENT OUTREACH

Brian Baird - California Resources Agency - gave a verbal and written overview of his work related to the Sanctuary and its Advisory Council. The Resources Agency has worked with the staff from all the California sanctuaries and with the Advisory Council since its first meeting in 1994. For example, Sanctuary staff and the Advisory Council assisted the Resources Agency with the development of California's Ocean Resources: An Agenda for the Future. Representatives from all the California sanctuaries participated in the international conference California and the World Ocean '97 co-organized by the Resources Agency. Brian consistently uses the Sanctuary as a model of integrated coastal zone management in his presentations.

Ed Brown - Tourism - represents those involved in visitor activities. He is working along with Steve Abbott on the Business and Tourism Activity Panel on issues of concern to the business and tourism industries, and relates the benefits of the Sanctuary, tying in the concepts of ecotourism. Ed views cruise ships as a positive influence to the tourism industry and to the potential of expanding environmental education. He has worked with the tourism industry to dispel early concerns about regulations and is now working to promote what the sanctuary can do. He would like to expand the connection between tourism and environmental education to State Parks and coastal resorts.

Bill Raver - alternate At-Large - introduced himself as the newest Advisory Council member. He is a native Californian, and has lived in Cambria for 9 1/2 years. He has been involved in local environmental work, such as founding and serving as Secretary of Friends of the Elephant Seal.

XI. REPORT: VESSEL TRAFFIC WORKSHOPS

MBNMS and the USCG hosted four public workshops in Half Moon Bay, Oakland, Santa Cruz, and Monterey to obtain input on the proposed package of strategies developed over the past year by the vessel management work group. Key components of the package presented to the public include improving the organization of routing for four categories of commercial traffic, and moving large container ships and bulk product carriers further offshore to reduce the

risk of oil spills. While attendance at the workshops was generally lower than anticipated, comments received were generally favorable. Based on the need to make relatively few changes, the vessel management package can be taken to the next step of national review with relatively few minor revisions. A draft of implementation steps was developed for carrying the vessel traffic package forward through national and international review over the next year. Planning work also began for briefing Hill members on the package in September.

Karin Strasser Kauffman made a motion to send letter to NAVSAF supporting the vessel traffic package, by either reviewing a draft at the October meeting or if necessary, to authorize the Chair and Vice Chair to prepare a letter in advance and sign. The motion was seconded by Chet Forrest and passed unanimously.

XII. DISCUSSION: JULY RETREAT

The Advisory Council agreed to the items addressed in the memo from Bill Douros and Steve Webster. See Attachment B.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa de Maignac
Advisory Council Coordinator

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Letter Re: Gray Water
Memorandum Re: Retreat Outcomes
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