

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

October 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez	CA State Parks: Eric Abma
AMBAG: Steve McShane	Commercial Fishing: absent
At-Large: Dan Haifley	Conservation: Rachel Kippen
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann	Diving: Brian Nelson
At-Large: PJ Webb	Education: Pamela Neeb Wade
Business & Industry: Tom Rowley	Harbors: John Haynes
CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove	Recreation: Barton Selby
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly	Recreational Fishing: Jose Montes
CA EPA: Julia Dyer	Research: John Hunt
CA Resources Agency: Tova Handelman	Tourism: Mike Bekker

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: June Shrestha
College: Jacob Winnikoff
Cordell Bank NMS: Max Delaney
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Dan Brumbaugh
Greater Farallones NMS: Max Delaney
Monterey Bay NMS: Dawn Hayes
National Marine Fisheries Service: absent
U.S. Coast Guard: absent (LTJG Buch)

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Carol Maehr – At-Large
Gwen Kellas – At-Large
Keith Rootsart – Diving
Adam Helm – Recreations Fishing
Steven Haddock – Research
Dawn Mathes – Tourism
Julia Dyer – CA EPA

I. Call to Order

Chair Brian Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call was taken by Secretary Sarah Lopez and Brian Nelson.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Steve McShane, seconded by Sarah Lopez

Yes: 17 No: 0 Abstain: 1

MOTION: Passed

II. STANDING ITEM: MBNMS Superintendent's Report

Dawn Hayes, Acting Superintendent, shared a Superintendent's Report for MBNMS. Highlights included:

1. the management plan is scheduled for release at the end of the month,
2. the search for a new superintendent is going well, and Chris Mobley from CINMS will be acting superintendent for one week,
3. updates on research proposed in the sanctuary,
4. for resource protection, MBNMS is working with USFWS & International Bird Rescue to observe the endangered short-tailed albatross, and
5. provided examples for some recent research permits granted within the sanctuary.
6. education: recent public and volunteer enrichment webinars, as well as support for visitor centers

June Shrestha, California Sea Grant State Fellow at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), shared a brief report on recent happenings within CINMS. She opened by sharing updates on the recent activities of the CINMS advisory council, including a recent letter sent to ONMS Director John Armor in support of the nomination process for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. June then shared recent updates from CINMS, including:

1. the planned release of the CINMS draft sanctuary management plan this November 2021 for public comments,
2. the campaign to locate endangered white abalone (findinghal.org),
3. the funding of another year of regionally-collaborated LiMPETS monitoring,
4. the removal of 2 tons of trash from partnership-supported cleanups, and
5. the publishing of a webstory focused on [Elevating Chumash Values and Traditional Ecological Knowledge at CINMS](#) written by a Coastal Band of the Chumash Nation member. June closed by inviting members of the MBNMS advisory council to attend future CINMS advisory council meetings, and members can receive email notifications about future meetings by contacting june.shrestha@noaa.gov.

III. Public Comment for items not on agenda:

- Rachel Kippen shared the Conservation Working Group form for providing input to CWG initiatives: <https://forms.gle/GAwWw1YPWLUsdXR9w2>
- Dan - support of SEASTARS brunch, Seastars award to John and Vicky Pearse
- Brian Nelson - Kelp Restoration Program

IV. Information Item: Climate Change w/ Sara Hutto and Steve Lonhart

Part 1: Climate Change Impacts within the West Coast Region and MBNMS

Regional Climate Coordinator Sara Hutto and Research Ecologist Dr. Steve Lonhart presented information on the ONMS and MBNMS response to climate change and adaptation outlined in key documents recently published by ONMS, including:

1. [Climate Change Impacts - National Marine Sanctuaries West Coast Region](#),
2. [Climate Change Impacts: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

3. [ONMS Climate Resilience Plan](#) (2021- 2023)

Dr. Lonhart shared nine main takeaways of the science, stressing that each sanctuary will respond differently spatiotemporally to climate change. Notably, the west coast is one of the most rapidly acidifying regions in the ocean, however, it is also projected to warm more slowly than other regions. Before taking questions, Sara highlighted ways that national marine sanctuaries are responding to climate change by focusing on science, adaptation, communication and mitigation.

Steve Haddock asked: “Have you seen the studies about offshore wind farms decreasing upwelling, and if so, what are your thoughts?”

A: Sara hadn’t seen the study, and Steve has no thoughts on this matter. Sara expressed interest in reading the study if it was available.

Rachel Kippen asked: “I know you talked about hypoxia's potential to increase, qualitatively, it seems like the red tides are pretty thick, hanging out forever. Is that an accurate assessment, and I assume it will continue to increase every year? Like late summer red tides seem to be here earlier, not late summer anymore.”

A: Steve doesn’t have any more info about timing or red tides. But the information we do know about species composition will help us characterize if there is a trend spatially or temporally and if it’s increasing its footprint in either direction.

Part 2: MBNMS Climate Change Action Plan

Dr. Steve Lonhart then presented on the MBNMS Climate Change Action Plan. He acknowledged that much of the action plan was written by Karen Grimmer, Resource Protection Coordinator. The goal of the Climate Change Action plan is to address coastal resilience, climate adaptation, and ocean acidification through capacity building and collaborative partnerships via five strategies that: 1) address coastal resilience and adaptation planning, 2) reduce greenhouse gas emissions, 3) communicate ocean-climate impacts and solutions, 4) implement coastal regional sediment management plans, and 5) track and share ocean acidification research. Before taking questions, Dr. Lonhart explained that progress will be tracked via the identification of a desired outcome, output measure, lead staff member, and timeline for completion.

Paul Reilly commented that CDFW participated in the GFNMS vulnerability assessment workshop; and they would like to be involved in the one for MBNMS.

Tami Grove asked: “Is there a schedule for these actions, such as stakeholder workshops, established?” Answer from Dr. Lonhart: We just started FY 22; Monterey-centric workshops would occur in FY 23

John Hunt (Research) asked: “By electrifying, you can really reduce the carbon footprint of sanctuary operations. Can we get support for capital improvements to the sanctuary’s vehicle and vessel fleets (e.g. gas water heaters, space heaters)?”

A: Sara recognized that there are staff working on exploring these options.

Tom Rowley (Business) commented that there needs to be increased coordination between what ONMS is doing and what the real world is doing. He provided the example that in Monterey, the proposed multi-billion Del Monte Corridor project is looking at making decisions on this project within two years. So the ONMS timeline does not agree with the timeline that the city is facing, and studying climate change in two years is going to be too late. Tom also commented that sea level rise wasn't mentioned in the presentation and suggested that researchers look into the data that NOAA puts out now: how accurate is it, is it accurate for our area, and how it will affect our area?

Steve answered that he wasn't aware of the project, but he's sure it will come on the radar soon. He asked for clarification if Tom is questioning whether or not any of this will be necessary because you're unclear on the models and predictions, or the mechanism. Is the question or not that this is going to happen? Or that it's going to happen and not enough is being done?

Tom responded that he's questioning a combination of all those and reiterated that the timeline does not agree with the timeline that the city is facing. He urged for more coordination and stated, "I cannot think of anything more important to this area in the next 20 years."

Sara explained that at the Farallones, they've been working closely with cities and counties, and at sanctuaries, our role is to partner and to plan.

Tami Grove commented that sea level rise is going to be an agenda item at the Coastal Commission meeting in November.

Brain Nelson commented that their permit process is expedited in a way he's never seen before and commended the Coastal Commission.

V. Information Item: Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study

LTJG Buch and Mr. Tyrone Conner presented on the inaugural Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS) by Coast Guard Districts Eleven (D11) and Thirteen (D13). The study area encompasses all major routes adjacent to and within port entrances and traffic separation schemes for the entire Pacific Coast. The intent of the study is to analyze current and future demands of waterway usage to ensure safe navigation. Major goals of the study include: analyzing and quantifying historical vessel traffic densities, analyzing and quantifying historical marine incidents/casualties, collecting and analyzing public comment and concern, working with maritime and environmental partners to determine future waterway use, and finally make an informed recommendation based on data collected to maintain, amend, or create vessel routing measures. The Notice of Study is published on the federal register under docket USCG-2021-0345, and found at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/USCG-2021-0345-0001>. The USCG asked that all official comments be directed to the federal register linked above by January 25, 2022 and questions or concerns be emailed to PACPARS@uscg.mil.

Dawn Hayes asked: “Can you address how ship speed will be taken into account with this study?”

A: Mr. Conner responded that USCG is concerned about whale strikes; this study is more focused on navigation safety. Our mission is to ensure safe transit, and that is why we’re partnering with NOAA. When it comes to vessel speed, USCG office maintains a strong stance that vessel speed does not promote safety. He provided examples that some vessels have to maintain a lower speed to maintain routes, other vessels need to maintain fast speed. With that, USCG has not implemented restrictions (like they have done on the east coast). But the advisory from the coast guard as a navigation safety, we don’t promote vessel speed because of increased risk due to vessel maneuverability

Dan Haifley thanked the presenters for the presentation, and asked: “The scope of this study is pretty big. Will you have flyers that are shareable on social media?”

A: We worked at Public Affairs. There’s a press release. We need max participation through the docket number to track participation. Please add additional notes in the comments. We need this for a comprehensive review of all questions, comments, concerns in the study so that the coast guard can represent the waterway users.

VI. Information Item: Draft 2022 Advisory Council Work Plan

Chair Brian Nelson explained the process for adding new agenda items to the draft advisory council work plan. He asked everyone to make a commitment to email Dawn Hayes within a week new topics of interest and goal/objective.

Tom Rowley (Business) commented: The city of Monterey shifted to Hybrid presentations in June. The supervisors of Monterey county have had it for some time. It worked very effectively for people to make presentations live. What I found is that items that were complicated didn’t get much discussion on Zoom. This is my impression. They had a study session in which no member of the 5-person city council was present. Overall, it was an unsatisfactory meeting. The depth of the discussion, the Q&As, are just not the same as a Zoom meeting as they are for a real live meeting. I agree with Brian’s comment that an all-day meeting is a long haul.... If there’s any way to return to at a minimum for a Chair and Acting Super is amenable. We don’t get much interchange of information, which to me, is a lot of the value to our SAC. Some of these issues we come up with things that other people have not thought about. When you’re in a zoom meeting, there’s less likelihood that’s going to happen. A virtual meeting is fine but it’s only going to go so far.

Hayes commented ONMS is looking into other interfaces besides GoToWebinar. She recognized that MBNMS advisory council has had stellar attendance from members, public and alternates. ONMS wants to retain some aspect of that, but having a hybrid meeting requires extra staff time. She is hoping to implement a new approach by the February meeting.

Brian commented: I have the same experience as Tom, I sit on other Boards that are hybrid.

Paul Reilly “The use of Zoom (as opposed to in-person meetings) reduces carbon footprint.”

Chair Brian expresses that he will not be re-running next year and it’s time “for new blood”. He acknowledged that in 2022 - 2023 there will be a big turnover of council positions, therefore those that are younger to the council (i.e. newer members) to step up into leadership.

Dan Haifley commented that he will not run for Chair or Vice Chair.

Dawn Hayes explained the expectations of serving on the executive committee. She explained that the commitment is to work a little more with the staff and superintendent. The EC gets together 2x before each meeting, and being an officer does mean a little more work but more opportunity to engage with the staff directly, and it’s great to have that kind of connectivity. She expressed hope that council members will think about running, talk to Dan, Brian and Sarah, and even consider shadowing the current executive committee meetings. She also encouraged council members to consider taking on a new mentorship role for the new people coming in over the next two years.

VII. Overview of Staff Implementing AC Coffee Talk Recommendations

Acting Superintendent Dawn Hayes shared that the new SAC coordinator will be announced soon. She explained that the original announcement was limiting who can and will apply. The new coordinator will be able to implement coffee talk items, work with HQ directly for the website, and work with AC on communicating with constituencies. Hayes expressed that MBNMS is also looking more info hosting joint meetings with other sanctuaries around the nation with a common topic (e.g. shipping lanes on the east vs. west coast, or wind energy). Hayes said MBNMS also is looking to get more information on local legislative updates.

Hayes also mentioned that the MBNMS advisory council has also talked briefly about a tribal seat, and ONMS is looking at Indigenous Communities and our engagement. Hayes acknowledges that first and foremost we need to educate ourselves about who is here and how they wish to engage. Erica Burton is our lead and will be helping to formulate what meaningful engagement will be with our Indigenous Communities. We need to be able to introduce ourselves, understand where these groups are coming from, understand what we want from engagement, and let them tell us how they want the relationship to formulate. If it’s a seat, that’s what it’ll be. If they want something different, we’ll let them tell us. She acknowledged that we want to create a relationship first. It’s something exciting and new for us, and so important and overdue.

A council member asked about a coordinator being bilingual Spanish?

Hayes responded that it is preferred. Once we lost our MERITO program and the staff, we lost a lot of our ability to communicate effectively with our local Latino community.

During coffee talks, council members had also asked for more staff updates and for more interaction with staff and information. Hayes acknowledged that the enhanced Superintendent's

report hopefully gave council members more information about each of our teams in addition to the team reports through the year.

Hayes will send out a Google doc with information in the presentations.

Adjourned at 11:45.