

**Conservation Working Group
February 17, 2004, 9:30 – 12:00
Moss Landing Harbor Office
Meeting Minutes**

CWG Members attending:

D'Anne Albers, Friends of the Sea Otter (FSO); Jane De Lay, Beth Dieveney, and Susan Danielson, SOS; Steve Webster, Monterey Bay Aquarium; John Fischer, At-Large; Kaitilin Gaffney, The Ocean Conservancy (TOC), Chair; Carol Maehr, American Cetacean Society; Huff McGonagall, Holly Price and Rachel Saunders, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS); Steve Shimek, The Otter Project; Deborah Streeter, SAC Member; Erin Simmons, Oceana; Mike Osmond and Meredith Lopoc, World Wildlife Fund.

I. Special Dates and Announcements

1. Comments on the Monterey County General Plan Local Coastal Plan are due on Friday, February 20.
2. Beth Dieveney was introduced as the new Policy Education Coordinator for Save Our Shores.
3. A decision on the northern boundary of the MBNMS is due on March 3, 2004.
4. May 1: Snapshot Day for the MBNMS. Recruiting volunteers for the event.

II. Ruth Vreeland Scholarships: In memory of Ruth Vreeland, the MBNMS has established a scholarship to support youth participation in marine education programs. AMBAG will also honor Vreeland as the public official of the year at the Sanctuary Currents Symposium and they will rename the award in her honor.

III. Special Presentation: Grey Hayes, Coastal Training Program Manager, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Foundation, provided an update on his work to protect coastal habitats. Hayes will send information on his coastal training workshops to the CWG.

IV. Sanctuary Report

1. The Sanctuary is still recruiting candidates for the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The following seats are vacant: Business and Industry (Primary); Agriculture (alternate); Recreation (alternate); and Education (alternate).
2. The Sanctuary is beginning to implement some of the preliminary strategies of the JMPR action plans including: Wildlife viewing; WQPP; Special Marine Protected Areas; benthic habitats; Motorized Personal Watercraft; and regional coordination for desalination.
3. CALTRANS has nearly completed its Highway One Management Plan. The CWG was involved early on in this process to consider the highway and its management and potential impacts to the intertidal areas of the Sanctuary. Comments on the plan are due to Eileen Love at CALTRANS by March 2-3, 2004.
4. AMBAG will continue its review of the Sanctuary Advisory Council at its board meeting on April 14, 2004. CWG members are encouraged to attend. Contact AMBAG for more information.
5. The annual Sanctuary Currents symposium is scheduled for March 6 at CSUMB.

VI. CWG meeting locations

The Conservation Working Group had discussed earlier the possibility of rotating meetings between the north reaches of the Sanctuary and south to Cambria to accommodate all of the communities included in the MBNMS boundaries. The group decided to wait until after a decision was made about the northern boundary before determining a meeting schedule and locations.

The next meeting of the CWG is set for March 16, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office.