

**MBNMS Research Activity Panel
Meeting Summary
July 13, 2012**

Host: Churchill Grimes – Fisheries (NOAA Fisheries Service)

Location: NOAA Fisheries Service
110 Shaffer Road
Santa Cruz, CA

Date: Friday, July 13th, 2012; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Members:

	Name	Discipline	Institution	Primary/ Alternate
	Abeles, Adina	Marine Policy	Center for Ocean Solutions	primary
X	Cailliet, Greg	Deep-Sea Ecology	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (retired)	primary
	Carr, Mark	Nearshore Ecology	University of California, Santa Cruz	alternate
	Chavez, Francisco	Biological Oceanography	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute	alternate
	David, Aimee	Marine Policy	Center for the Future of the Oceans, MBA	alternate
X	DeVogelaere, Andrew	Research Coordinator	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	
	Epel, David	Water Quality	Hopkins Marine Station	alternate
X	Grimes, Churchill	Fisheries	NOAA Fisheries Service (retired)	primary
X	Haddock, Steve	Deep-Sea Ecology	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute	alternate
X	Harrold, Chris*	Marine Conservation Biology	Monterey Bay Aquarium	primary
	Kudela, Raphael	Biological Oceanography	University of California, Santa Cruz	primary
X	Lindholm, James†	Nearshore Ecology	California State University Monterey Bay	primary
X	McPhee-Shaw, Erika	Physical Oceanography	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories	primary
	Micheli, Fiorenza	Marine Conservation Biology	Hopkins Marine Station	alternate
	Paull, Charles	Marine & Coastal Geology	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute	alternate
X	Pomeroy, Caroline	Social Sciences	California Sea Grant Extension Program	primary
X	Ramp, Steve	Physical Oceanography	Soliton Ocean Services, Inc.	alternate
	Scorse, Jason	Social Sciences	Monterey Institute of International Studies	alternate
	Starr, Rick	Shelf & Slope Ecology	California Sea Grant Extension Program	alternate
	Storlazzi, Curt	Marine & Coastal Geology	United States Geological Survey	primary
X	Wasson, Kerstin	Estuarine Ecology	Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation	primary
		Estuarine Ecology		alternate
		Fisheries		alternate
		Shelf & Slope Ecology		primary
		Water Quality		primary

*Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Primary)

†Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Alternate)

RAP Coordinator:

X	Burton, Erica	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
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GUESTS:

DeVogelaere, Beth	MBNMS Intern
Henkel, Laird	MWVCRC, OSPR, CDFG
Hunt, John	UC Davis
Lindley, Steve	NOAA Fisheries Service
Scheiblaue, Steve	Monterey Harbor, City of Monterey
Shester, Geoff	Oceana
Van Sommeran, Sean	Pacific Shark Research Foundation

CONSENT ITEMS

Introductions/Modifications to the Agenda (Harrold)

HOST PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Research Update from NOAA Fisheries Service (Steve Lindley/NOAA Fisheries Service)

- Lindley, Division Director, provided an overview of the Fisheries Ecology Division of the Southwest Fisheries Science Center of NOAA Fisheries Service in Santa Cruz, CA
- Lindley described two major research teams and several associated projects
 - Pacific coast groundfish (rockfishes, flatfishes, Pacific whiting, sablefish, lingcod)
 - Pacific salmon (coho, chinook, steelhead) and sturgeon
- Long-term ichthyoplankton surveys (>25 yrs); see SIMoN Project page for more info: http://www.sanctuariesimon.org/projects/project_info.php?projectID=100118&site=true
- Rockfish habitat association studies with Delta submersible
- Salmonid studies in California and Oregon
- Fisheries Economics program
 - Klamath River and salmonids
 - Fleet dynamics
- NOAA Facilities:
 - Research Aquarium
 - Dissection Room (large enough for small whale)
 - Video Analysis lab
- 90-100 people at lab (40 federal; others university, and support staff)
- \$7 million base budget, plus outside grants
- <http://swfsc.noaa.gov/fed/>

ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT

RAP Review of Conservation Working Group White Paper: Forage Species Science and Management in the MBNMS (Harrold)

- Goal at this RAP meeting: consensus statement on paper
- History of paper to date
 - Geoff Shester (CWG co-chair; Oceana) presented to SAC and RAP, draft white paper on the forage fish species issue related to ecosystem management
 - RAP agreed a subcommittee would review paper for scientific integrity
 - RAP formed a subcommittee to review paper

- Subcommittee members were encouraged to find additional experts to assist them with reviews, if desired
- Reviews are completed and comments returned to Shester for paper revision
- Paper revised and sent back to RAP
- SAC perspective:
 - Paul Michel thought the topic was important to consider
 - Informational presentation made to SAC by regional expert (Julie Thayer)
 - At August 2012 meeting, SAC will hear about management framework for management of forage fishes
 - MBNMS office would consider SAC recommendations for management
- Shester provided comments on review:
 - Thanked RAP for review
 - Removed advocacy language and management aspects from initial draft
 - If room for further improvement, RAP could provide additional comment/review, and comments would be incorporated in an additional draft
- RAP discussed various opinions on white paper and how the RAP could proceed, including:
 - Appreciate what CWG is trying to do; and a good start to describe the issue, raise awareness
 - RAP doesn't want the SAC to make uninformed recommendations
 - In the paper, the science, roles of management, and advocacy should be clearly separated, or described in separate papers; and the review of each should be separated among CWG, RAP, etc.
 - RAP not unanimous in supporting the paper as it is written
 - RAP members not experts on forage species, and thought forage fish experts at NMFS should review paper
 - It is unclear whether the forage species experts at NMFS will be able to comment on paper due to pending lawsuit filed by Oceana against NMFS
- RAP concluded:
 - RAP subcommittee would provide final comments on revised draft (Aug 1)
 - CWG would incorporate revisions at their discretion
 - RAP could not be referred as endorsing paper, but providing scientific input that improved scientific credibility of document
 - **ACTION**: RAP subcommittee comments due by Aug 1

SANCTUARY RESEARCH

Update (DeVogelaere)

- DeVogelaere provided brief update on recent research activities
- CSUMB/MBNMS partnership to characterize sanctuary habitats using camera sled and ROV, video used for management of seafloor issues including:
 - F/V *Stikine* damage assessment
 - Essential Fish Habitat review
 - Web interface shows transects line, images, video clips; For more info, see:
 - http://sep.csUMB.edu/ifame/CenCal_Projects.php
 - <http://sep.csUMB.edu/ifame/scid/>

- Big Sur Nearshore Characterization at Alder Creek landslide
 - Working with UCSC/PISCO to look at impacts
 - http://sanctuarysimon.org/projects/project_info.php?projectID=100312&site=true
- Long-term monitoring inside/outside MPAs with PISCO
 - http://www.sanctuarysimon.org/projects/project_info.php?projectID=100329&site=true
- Invasive species in Monterey Harbor and nearshore: kelp *Undaria* and bryozoan *Watersipora*
 - <http://sanctuarysimon.org/monterey/sections/other/invasives.php>
- NOAA diving safety increased, staff contributed to revised NOAA dive manual and training
- Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz opens July 23
 - <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/vc/sec/welcome.html>
- Marine Debris tracking, including Tsunami debris
 - <http://sanctuarysimon.org/news/index.php/2012/07/noaa-tracks-tsunami-debris-updated-6712/>
- Whale strike issue:
 - Priority for the ONMS west coast region
 - West coast sanctuaries working with NMFS to address issue (leading effort: GFNMS, CINMS, CBNMS)
 - MBNMS providing information including GIS krill distribution
- Water Quality Program busy with coordinated monitoring, including:
 - State Board ASBS
 - Regional Board Ag waiver
- Management Plan Review and Condition Reports: ONMS discussing future processes and timing
- Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Units (CESU) Network:
 - National consortium of federal agencies, academic institutions, tribal, state, local governments, NGOs, others working to support informed public trust resource stewardship
 - NOAA partnering with CESU
 - CESU partnerships will include joint funding, easier to move funds
 - Californian CESU includes various federal and university partners, and CDFG
 - CSUMB will submit application (6 month process)
 - <http://www.cesu.psu.edu/>
- MBNMS Monterey office moved to Heritage Harbor at 99 Pacific St., Bldg 455A, Monterey

PRESENTATION REQUESTED BY RAP

Research Update from Pelagic Shark Research Foundation (Sean Van Sommeran/PSRF)

- Van Sommeran provided an overview of PSRF activities
- In late 80s, Van Sommeran concerned about overfishing of blue sharks, started tagging; continued tagging other sharks
- Started shark work in Elkhorn Slough during shark derbies
- PSRF established in 1990

- Has worked with several local scientists to tag sharks
- Funding is low, and an issue
- Shark stranding collection unit continues
- For more info, see <http://www.pelagic.org/>

RAP Membership Update (DeVogelaere)

- There are several open seats on RAP
 - Estuarine Ecology: alternate
 - Fisheries: alternate
 - Shelf and Slope Ecology: primary
 - Water Quality: primary
- Membership subcommittee formed to recruit new members
- Two memberships filled at this meeting:
 - Steve Lindley: Estuarine Ecology (alternate)
 - John Hunt: Water Quality (primary)
- In addition, the two Physical Oceanography members will swap roles due to McPhee-Shaw’s teaching schedule conflicts with RAP meeting schedule:
 - Steve Ramp will become primary member
 - McPhee-Shaw will become alternate member
- RAP suggested Fisheries alternate membership should be filled by CDFG employee
- RAP subcommittee will continue recruitment process

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- CeNCOOS update from Leslie Rosenfeld (Ramp)
- WQ monitoring web portals: Ocean Health for CA (Hunt; 2-3 months out)

Future Agenda Items (running list):

- Climate Change: Results of May 2012 “Climate Change and the Central California Coast” workshop
- Desalination update:
 - Update on fresh water supply, desal, waste water management
 - Competing Moss Landing desal proposals (CalAm, DeepWater, People’s)
 - Including Cambria
- Ecosystem-Based Management Updates:
 - Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)
 - Natural Resources Assessment (NRA)
- Results of sand mining plant study (Score)
- Results of Pleasure Point Surf property value (Score)
- Trawling study report results (Lindhalm; final due end Dec 2012)
