

Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) Report

Last meeting: Thursday, March 21, 2013, Monterey Bay Aquarium, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Attendees: Simona Bartl-MLML, Lisa Uttal-MBNMS, Pat Clark Gray-State Parks, Rita Bell-MBA, Beth Callaghan-MBA, Dorris Welch-Sanctuary Cruises and via Conference Call: Annie Frankel-CA CC, Virginia Guhin-ESNRR

Presentation on SIMoN - Chad King, MBNMS

Chad gave a thorough presentation of the SIMoN website resources and potential ways to use them for educators. Chad is interested in learning best ways to develop this for best use by educators. Specifically we looked at:

- 1) Monitoring projects - 130 projects listed.
- 2) Species database - include 130+ species which were selected for their “charisma”.
- 3) SeaPhoto app for iPhone/iPad
- 4) Potential for creating subsets of data that is targeted so specific questions can be posed and this utilized for educational programs.
 - a) Examples:
 - i) Water quality
 - ii) Sub tidal kelp forest data - PISCO, BSNC
 - iii) Limpets – rocky shore and sandy beach
 - iv) Beachcombers – bird and mammal beachcast
 - v) Shelf Characterization and Image Display SCID
 - vi) Lost fishing gear
 - a) Tools – Excel, ArcGIS Explorer, Flickr or Picasa, GPS units and cameras
 - i) Example: Photos + Flickr + ArcGIS - can create a photo story map of the sanctuary
- 5) Comments from SEP members:
 - a) Real time data not useful for teachers. Need data that has been cleaned up and prepared for a lesson activity.
 - b) Water quality data would be great for Watsonville kids working on watershed issues.
 - c) Photos placed by location on maps useful for elementary students.
 - d) Perhaps whale strike data would also be useful.
 - e) Landslide data and diversity this can be seen readily that areas in close proximity are so different. This is a way to show implications of resource management, like case studies.
 - f) Beachcombers - harmful algal bloom/el Niño/ oiled birds
 - g) There is a marine debris committee through Coastal Commission. Is the Sanctuary involved in this? Coast clean-up data will now be logged via this.

Teacher Survey Update – Simona Bartl and Virginia Guhin

- 1) SEP members will test survey on Survey Monkey. Revised version will go the MBNMS teacher email list and we hope to link it to the NEW MBNMS SEP website if we can.

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Role of SEP with SAC – Simona Bartl and Lisa Uttal

- 1) Simona suggests being more proactive with SAC. An example is a current request from the Conservation Working Group to collaborate on a Pacific leatherback turtle conservation project.
 - a) The SEP members agreed to work with them. Discussion ensued.
 - b) Simona reported on Scott Benson's report to the SAC on the CA leatherback sea turtle.
 - c) Question on how to get resources:
 - i) Annie shared that the CC is interested in resources and looked for them when the leatherback became the state marine reptile and found none.
 - ii) Try NMFS La Jolla/turtle tracking
 - iii) Ask Scott for the PowerPoint he showed SAC.
 - iv) Lisa shared that Scott has helped messaging for Exploration Center. Lisa will share this information with Simona.
- 2) Future SEP role discussion
 - a) Lisa shared that we should look at the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary SEP as a potential model. They work on issues that are pertinent to the Sanctuary and the SAC and they provide education advice. They focus on topics that are issue based and have a timeline. Lisa suggests this may be the future of the MBNMS SEP. We can create a unified messaging on topical issues and try to break down the silos of different organizations working separately on the same issue and topic.
 - b) Simona shared that the leatherback issue fits that model. Since the other working group has asked us, this is timely.
- 3) SEP members will pull together what leatherback information is available and we will look at what the sanctuary already has and what should be added to or messaged in a different way.

Next meetings

- 1) May 16th - SEP Exploration Center - Notetaker? – will ask at next meeting.
 - a) Then summer hiatus and restart by meeting a month after the SAC.
- 2) Sept 19th - MBARI - George M
- 3) Nov 21st – ESNRR - Notetaker?

Member Announcements:

- 1) Annie Frankel - Coastal Conservancy announced new grant: \$1 million in \$50,000 amounts for projects that enhance the public's ability to explore the CA coast. - <http://scc.ca.gov/>
- 2) Virginia Guhin - Elkhorn Slough - public K-12 ave. 70 kids/day
 - a) Coastal decision makers program - 4 workshops and many field days - Burrowing owl training, red-legged frog, estuarine sea otters.
- 3) Simona Bartl - MLML - open house April 20 & 21st
 - a) Director interviews completed. Announcement soon.

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- b) Summer workshops will be announced if grant comes through.
- 4) Pat Clark Gray - State Parks - new brochure "150 Years of CA State Parks"
 - a) Sea Studios helped fund a sea otter panel for Moss Landing State Beach.
 - b) Also two Elkhorn Slough panels will go up soon at Moss Landing SB.
 - c) A model of Whaler's Cove may be build 4x4' stone model at site for divers and public.
 - d) Pfeiffer Big Sur - renovation complete. Ribbon cutting ceremony/tours: April 5th, 9-12.
- 5) Beth Callaghan - MBA - gearing up for summer teaching institutes; lots of applicants.
 - a) Met in Alameda last night with Nate Ivey on waste production plants within the schools. Students are collecting nurdles and sending to pelletwatch.org (shearwaters impact).
 - b) Ocean plastic pollution summit will happen again this year. Collecting data over time.
 - c) Teen Conservation Leadership program has doubled – looking for opportunities for teens beyond MBA.
 - d) MBA - EE meeting March 22 - Rita Bell is in a new group: environmental education collaborative from the SF Bay area. Tomorrow is the first listening session.