

# WEST COAST REGION NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



CHANNEL ISLANDS CORDELL BANK GULF OF THE FARALLONES MONTEREY BAY OLYMPIC COAST

## QUARTERLY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL ACTIONS

### Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 23, 2009

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council met on January 23rd, 2009. A main focus and accomplishment was the roll-out of the CINMS final management plan and accompanying final rule. The meeting also featured educational presentations (e.g., MERITO) and process updates (e.g., Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, Council Ship Strike Subcommittee, Enforcement Working Group, etc.). Looking ahead and with respect to region-wide implications, the most important action taken by the Council was their development of an annual work plan. Council members considered staff recommendations and their own suggestions for important work to take on in 2009, and ranked as “high” and “medium” the following tasks/topics:

High priority (should receive substantive Council focus and action in 2009):

- Ship strikes on whales in the Santa Barbara Channel – Subcommittee to develop policy recommendations for Council consideration
- Ecological monitoring of Channel Islands marine protected areas – receive status reports and provide feedback on planned activities and field season results
- Southern California implementation of the state’s Marine Life Protection Act Initiative – track process and implications for CINMS protected areas
- Water quality – follow-up on previous Council recommendations and presentation of new characterization report from Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- Ocean acidification – follow-up on previous Council recommendations given and discuss/develop education strategies
- Abalone – provide input on critical habitat area for endangered black abalone, and learn more about red and white abalone issues.

Medium priority (should receive some agenda time when possible):

- Ocean-based energy projects (LNG terminals, wind energy, wave energy) – track emerging projects and comment when appropriate
- Education about fishing activities within the sanctuary – provided by fishing representatives
- Prioritization of activities for implementation of final management plan
- Socioeconomic monitoring of Channel Islands marine protected areas – status reports
- Focus group on clean boating and compliance with CINMS discharge regulations
- Sanctuary Condition Report – receive final report and advise on its use

- National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit - prepare Chairperson for participation
- Shipping – review of associated impacts to the Sanctuary and surrounding marine areas
- Wildlife protection and signage – understand issues (especially seabird feeding and marine mammal disturbance), consider value of signs

Work plan details will be posted on line at: [channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report\\_doc.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html).

### March 20, 2009

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council met on March 20th, 2009. A main discussion item at the meeting, and representing an important milestone for CINMS and the ONMS, was the revised sanctuary regulations that took legal effect on March 19th, thus fully completing the management plan revision process. The Council heard from staff and shared ideas on approaches to raise boater awareness of and compliance with the sanctuary's revised discharge regulation. The meeting also featured: a process update on the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative in southern California; a progress report from the Ship Strike Subcommittee; an update on planned MPA biological and socioeconomic monitoring activities, and a report from the CINMS Interagency Enforcement Working Group. New videos were shared that feature high definition footage of various Channel Islands marine protected area sites, and the Council offered ideas for using the videos to enhance education and outreach efforts. Commercial Fishing member Bruce Steele was elected as the Council's Vice Chair.

## **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary**

### April 7, 2009

The Council reviewed and discussed the resolution on ocean acidification that was adopted previously by the joint SAC of the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Council adopted the resolution as written.

The Council reviewed the resolution adopted by the joint SAC of Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries concerning wave energy, and discussed it in context to issues effecting Cordell Bank. The Council also reviewed ONMS director Dan Basta's letter to NMSP staff and Advisory Councils, concerning energy development. The Council discussed the fine points, and pros and cons of translating an alternative energy resolution to match conservation areas and Sanctuaries. The Council agreed that there is more to consider than a blanket resolution can cover with this issue at this time for Cordell Bank NMS. It was suggested that the discussion be continued at further SAC meetings, and Council members further research the issue and present at the next SAC meeting in June, encompassing all alternative energy – not just wave energy.

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**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary  
Annual Joint Meeting**

February 15, 2009

- The Joint Council adopted a joint resolution regarding ocean acidification and west coast national marine sanctuary sites. The Joint Council recognizes ocean acidification is a significant threat. The Joint Council recommends the West Coast Regional Office take a leadership role in coordinating ocean acidification monitoring with the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory, other research laboratories, and other interested parties.
- The Joint Council adopted a joint resolution regarding proposed wave energy projects within national marine sanctuaries. The Joint Council believes that sanctuary waters are not an appropriate location to experiment with industrial energy production projects. The Joint Council desired this recommendation be communicated to all relevant parties including the Director of the ONMS and the Secretary of Commerce.
- The Joint Council adopted a letter to be sent to the Governor of California asking him to reconsider his objection to the proposed prohibition on introducing non-native species (other than striped bass and species cultivated by existing lawful mariculture activities in Tomales Bay) within the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries and to direct the Department of Fish and Game to work cooperatively with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to develop a mutually acceptable outcome that ensures the long-term protection of marine resources.

**Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary**

January 20 & 21, 2009

The advisory council held a two-day workshop in Forks, Washington. The purpose of the workshop was to consider the public comments from seven scoping meetings as well as written comments that were received during the scoping process for updating the management plan for the Olympic Coast National Marine sanctuary. The goal of the workshop was develop recommendations on what priority topic areas should be further evaluated and incorporated into a revised management plan. The top priority topic areas recommended by the advisory council are:

- Treaty trust responsibility
  - Collaborative and coordinated management
  - Collaborative ecosystem-based management
  - Habitat characterization
  - Living resources monitoring
  - Spill prevention planning and response
  - Water quality monitoring
  - Climate change
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- Ocean literacy

The full workshop report is available at ([http://www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/AC\\_Wkshp\\_Report.pdf](http://www.olympiccoast.noaa.gov/protection/mpr/AC_Wkshp_Report.pdf)).

The advisory council also met briefly on January 21 in a public business meeting to adopt minutes of the previous meeting and to take action on a proposed resolution regarding the U.S. Navy Northwest Training Range Complex and the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The resolution recommended that the Navy adopt the “no action” alternative, because the other alternatives will result in increased military training activities within the boundaries of the OCNMS which “would result in increased risks of wildlife disturbance, marine debris, and hazardous materials contamination, causing environmental impacts on sanctuary resources.”

#### March 20, 2009

The advisory council met at the offices of the Port of Grays Harbor. The agenda included consideration of the final Issue Prioritization Workshop report, the draft Management Plan Review Work Plan, and a resolution on ocean acidification. Ed Johnstone, representative of the Quinault Nation and chair of the Intergovernmental Policy Council, gave the welcome. The advisory council discussed and adopted the January workshop report.. They also discussed the Management Plan Review Draft Work Plan. The advisory council took the following actions at the meeting:

- Adopted a resolution supporting research and coordination among the five west coast sanctuaries on ocean acidification (similar to the resolution adopted by the joint Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary advisory council and the Cordell Bank sanctuary advisory council).
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