

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 16, 2012

Sanctuary Classic Recreational Fishing Tournament Supported by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

At a public meeting on November 16, 2012, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (advisory council) approved sending a letter to the Sportfishing Conservancy in support of the Sanctuary Classic recreational fishing and photography tournament. The tournament recently wrapped up its first year, with spokespersons Tom Raftican and Jenny Armstrong presenting highlights of the successful event at the council's meeting in September. In the advisory council's letter, Chair Eric Kett explains that he "appreciated seeing so many children and families from our area enjoying the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary", and that it was "heartening to learn that our sanctuary had the most photo submissions and several winners!" The letter also points out that the Sanctuary Classic is helpful because "people who experience the sanctuary can form strong connections to the place and develop a sense of stewardship", and emphasizes that "a healthy ocean ecosystem can support multiple uses, including ethical angling". At the meeting, the advisory council discussed ethical angling practices and educational benefits of the tournament, and asked their recreational fishing representative, Capt. David Bacon, to serve as a point of contact for following up with the Sportfishing Conservancy to communicate additional thoughts, questions and ideas regarding the tournament. For more information, contact michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Acknowledged for 2012 Accomplishments

At the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council's last meeting of the year, sanctuary staff acknowledged the advisory council's accomplishments in 2012 and thanked them for all that they do. Notable actions that the advisory council was recognized for include:

- Continuing to be a leading voice on and source of deep understanding about the importance of ocean acidification, helping to spur many spin-off accomplishments such as new public service announcements and communication workshops;
- Staying focused on and committed to finding ways to reduce the risk of whale ship strikes, including serving as a leading voice and source of knowledge that is now leading to the adjustment of shipping lanes within the Santa Barbara Channel;
- Expressly supporting sanctuary research, including backing the sanctuary research department and the Research Activity Panel's assessment of science needs and priorities, as well as a UC Santa Barbara Bren School socioeconomic research project;
- Launching a new MPA Science Speaker Series, which engaged everyone in learning about important new marine science happening in and around the sanctuary;
- Embracing high school youth involvement with the council by piloting a Youth Ocean Stewards program;

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- Telling NOAA leadership how important the agency's Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) program is, emphasizing the value of funding education and meaningful experiences for young students;
 - As part of an ongoing commitment to help protect whales from ship strikes, writing a letter of support for the concept of an innovative incentive-based approach to reducing ship speeds by tapping into state greenhouse gas cap-and-trade auction funds;
 - Establishing a new Marketing Subcommittee that is off to a great start, bringing in fresh and creative entrepreneurial ideas to expand support for the sanctuary and help sustain valuable programming;
 - As additional MPAs were established along the coast, taking a broader and leading role in education and outreach, specifically through the coordinating efforts of the Sanctuary Education Team as they brought together agencies, NGOs and other stakeholders to refine and align messaging;

Staff also acknowledged that the advisory council is a highly functioning group and enjoyable to work with, attributing their success to such factors as:

- Creative and productive working groups;
- High participation by council members;
- Having and sharing a wealth of knowledge and experience;
- Dedicated leadership and close communications by the council's Executive Committee;
- Consistently strong public interest in joining the council when seats become open;
- A willingness and ability to address difficult issues, reaching or trying to reach consensus in a manner that is respectful, civil, and a model of how advisory groups should work.

In addition, outgoing California Sea Grant Fellow, Sara Hutto, personally thanked the advisory council for an inspiring year and for opening her eyes to new career possibilities. For more information, contact michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 15, 2012

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Approves Letter of Support for Reactivation of the National Marine Sanctuaries Site Evaluation List

Based on previous meeting discussions about the National Marine Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) and with guidance from Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council's SEL support letters, the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a letter of support for reactivating the SEL. The advisory council sent the letter to Acting Secretary of Commerce Rebecca Blank, NOAA Administrator Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta. The letter points out that reopening the SEL is a specific action item identified in the President's National Ocean Policy Implementation Plan (Regional Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Action 6). The advisory council further stresses that national marine sanctuaries benefit local economies and will help the Department of Commerce achieve the President's directive to expand travel and tourism to America's coasts and beaches.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

October 11, 2012

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Elects New Officers and Outlines Goals for 2013 Work Plan at Annual Retreat

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council elected new officers, Chair Dominique Richard, Vice-Chair Richard Charter, and Secretary Barbara Emley to the advisory council, and are excited to be working with the new executive committee members. The advisory council also reviewed numerous 2012 Work Plan accomplishments and developed a 2013 Work Plan with several new goals including continuation of the Youth Involvement Subcommittee, advisory council participation in the Crissy Field Exhibit Design, and standing updates on important topics such as marine debris, ACCESS research cruises, permitting, emergency response, and the final report on the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan.

November 8, 2012

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Forms Climate Change Indicators Working Group

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) Advisory Council voted unanimously to create a Climate Change Indicators Working Group to aid the work of Benét Duncan, the GFNMS Postdoctoral Ocean Climate Analyst. Dr. Duncan's research has created a regionally-scaled set of biological and physical climate change indicators that will be important for scientists, managers, and planners in future monitoring and mitigation efforts within the sanctuary. The working group will meet through September 2013 to develop goals and strategies for an Ocean Climate Indicators Monitoring Plan including implementation timelines, partners, and funding needs.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

December 13, 2012

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Adopts Resolution on Forage Species

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (advisory council) adopted a resolution recognizing the important role of forage species in the Sanctuary and supporting state and federal fishery managers for their recent commitments to afford additional protections for the ocean's small, but critically important marine life. The advisory council resolution indicates a broad, growing coalition of support for the precautionary steps our fishery managers are taking to protect forage species. Over the last year, the advisory council has taken a deliberate approach to better understand the role of forage species, their management, and how they support the diversity of marine life in the Sanctuary. The advisory council is comprised of representatives from business, tourism, recreation, fishing, conservation, and government agencies. Its resolution supports the work of the California Fish and Game Commission and the federal Pacific Fishery Management Council for their commitments to improve forage species management. The new advisory council resolution will allow the Sanctuary to better align with the new policies adopted by state and federal fishery managers while supporting the respective implementing agencies.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 16, 2012

Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Establish Joint Working Group to Focus on Ocean Acidification

Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (advisory council) held a joint meeting to review advisory council actions and identify topics for future collaborations. IPC representation includes the four Coastal Treaty Tribes (Quinault, Hoh, Quileute, and Makah) and the State of Washington, which have co-management authority of natural and cultural resources in much of OCNMS. The IPC provides policy and research guidance to sanctuary management. While discussion covered many topics, focus returned to the Climate Change Site Scenario for OCNMS to be published in early 2013, OCNMS' nearshore oceanographic moorings, and the sanctuary as a sentinel site for research and education. The two councils committed to establishing their first joint working group with a focus on ocean acidification, to promote and optimize partnerships in research and outreach.