

ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Topics
- 2008 Calendar Year -

****Note: Please note that all activities are subject to change. Contact site council coordinators for most current information.**

Channel Islands NMS Council

❖ **Large Cetaceans And Shipping**

- Addressing Risks from Ships to Large Whales in the Santa Barbara Channel. [high priority]
- SAC subcommittee to propose a Council-based process for investigating and advising on this issue.
- Possible SAC Working Group to developing short and long-term recommendations to address vessel-based threats (e.g., ship strikes) to large whales in the Santa Barbara Channel

❖ **Energy Projects**

- Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) [high priority]
 - Track status of Clearwater Port proposed project
 - Advisory Council and working groups to comment on Clearwater Port draft EIS/EIR, if released this year
 - SAC to support/co-host possible educational forum on LNG (as was done in 2005 re Cabrillo Port project)
- Renewable Energy Projects – Wind & Wave [low priority]
 - Staff to bring CINMS-region emergent project proposals to the attention of the Council for possible review/comment, as appropriate.

❖ **Fisheries Education**

- Sanctuary Education and Outreach on Fishing within CINMS [medium priority]
- Fishing representatives (commercial and recreational) provide educational talks to the SAC
- SAC fishing reps. advise CINMS on Sanctuary-related fishing facts for use in educational products

❖ **Final Management Plan**

- Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking/Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement on Large Vessel Graywater Discharge [medium priority]
 - SAC and working groups to comment during 45-day SDEIS review period
- Release of Final EIS, Final Management Plan, Final Rule (FEIS/FMP/FR) [medium priority]
 - Receive staff updates on status of FEIS/FMP/FR development
 - Receive presentation from staff on FMP/FEIS/FR
 - Assist in raising public awareness and understanding of the FEIS/FMP/FR

❖ **Marine Acoustics**

- Ongoing Developments responsive to SAC Recommendations on Marine Acoustics [high priority]

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- Receive periodic updates on CINMS acoustic monitoring projects from Dr. John Hildebrand and colleagues
- Invite shipping industry representative(s) to provide a presentation to the SAC on industry efforts to mitigate vessel noise impacts

❖ **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)**

- Biological monitoring program for existing Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas [high priority]
 - SAC members to attend February 7-8 Channel Islands MPA symposium
 - CA Dept. of Fish and Game to present information on 2008 planned activities and preliminary results (as in years past), soliciting SAC feedback/comments.
- Socio-economic monitoring program for Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas [high priority]
 - SAC members to attend February 7-8 Channel Islands MPA symposium
 - SAC and public to receive periodic reports on monitoring program implementation
- Effectiveness of CINMS Education and Outreach for Marine Protected Areas within CINMS [high priority]
- A subcommittee (or Working Group, SET?) may form to advise CINMS on evaluation methods for assessment of MPA educational products, programs and strategies
- Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) [high priority]
 - Receive MLPA briefing to understand SAC implications for the forthcoming southern California regional MLPA process

❖ **Water Quality**

- CINMS Response to SAC Recommendations on Water Quality [high priority]
 - Receive periodic reports from staff (or invited partners) on progress toward addressing the SAC water quality recommendations from Sept 2005
 - Receive educational presentations from staff or invited partners on Sanctuary water quality topics, including Channel Keeper report on CINMS water quality characterization
- *Bight 08* Regional Water Quality Monitoring Project [medium priority]
- Staff to keep SAC informed of *Bight 08* monitoring/sampling plans and activities before and after the work is done in summer 08
- Clean Boating [medium priority]
 - Convene a boater focus group to develop advice, for SAC consideration, on effective ways to promote clean boating within CINMS
- Boating Instruction and Safety Center [low priority]
 - Presentation on this new center and solicitation of SAC input on CINMS signage/exhibits within the new center

❖ **Artificial Reefs**

- Artificial Reef Policy [low priority]
 - Continue (from 2007) educational process to learn about artificial reef policies from the NMSP and NMFS
- Artificial Reef Recommendation Letter [low priority]
- Consider and take action on Recreational Fishing seat proposals for Council letter of support on artificial reef development

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❖ **Ocean Acidification**

- Ocean Acidification [medium priority]
- Conservation Working Group, and other SAC members, to research this issue and develop a report for SAC consideration
- Bring in expert speakers to provide presentations to the SAC

❖ **Clean Seas/Green Communities Initiative**

- NMSP Clean Seas/Green Communities [high priority]
- Form a subcommittee to work on development of a proposal that would contribute to the greening of the Sanctuary community and protection of sanctuary resources.
- Develop Council proposal for 2008 SAC Chairs meeting (see also #11d), including funding request
- Implement the proposal

❖ **Other Topics**

- Chumash Education and Outreach [medium priority]
 - Chumash Community Working Group to work with staff to understand and help shape the Chumash cultural components of Sanctuary programs; discuss and inform the Advisory Council
- SAC Retreat
 - Optional Council retreat in spring or fall 2008 [medium priority]
- Sanctuary-Wide Integrated Monitoring (SWIM) Report [medium priority]
 - Receive educational information and/or presentations about SWIM report
- SAC Chairs Annual Meeting [low priority]
 - Provide SAC Chair with input on issues of concern to be raised at 2008 annual SAC Chairs meeting (May 13-15, 2008)
 - Receive follow-up report from SAC Chair and Coordinator about meeting highlights and outcomes
- Communications and Partnership with Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council [low priority]
- SAC members can join the MBNMS Advisory Council at their October meeting in Cambria to discuss common interests/issues
- National Marine Sanctuaries Act congressional reauthorization
 - Staff reports on Congressional progress with NMSA reauthorization, noting opportunities for public comment
- Black Abalone endangered listing on the Endangered Species Act [low priority]
 - NMFS presentation to Advisory Council on March 14, and Council to comment on the proposed rule for federally listing the black abalone as endangered.

Cordell Bank NMS Council

- ❖ **Alternative Energy:** The exploration and development of wave energy in California will be a priority topic for the council in 2008 – encompassing at least two regular meetings.
- ❖ **Boundary Expansion Bill:** The council will be updated on the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act.

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- ❖ **Scientific Presentations:** Council meetings will continue to feature scientific presentations including oceanographic presentations, and a presentation on the biology and migration fluctuations of the Humboldt Squid off the west coast by Ken Baltz of the National Marine Fisheries Service.
- ❖ **MLPA Process:** The council will be updated on the progress of the California Marine Protected Areas designation progress, as well as the Marine Life Protection Act.
- ❖ **Ecosystem Based-Management:** Ecosystem-based management of Cordell Bank NMS will be explored and recommendations made to sanctuary management.

Fagatele Bay NMS Council

- ❖ **Management Plan Review:** The council will be involved with the management plan review process for the site.

Florida Keys NMS Council

- ❖ **Review of FKNMS Management Plan Update and Assist with Obtaining Public Input into Regulatory Processes:** The council will assist with obtaining public input into potential regulatory changes corresponding to the sanctuary's Revised Management Plan.
- ❖ **Ecosystem Restoration:** This working group will continue to look at restoration issues related to water flow to the Everglades and Florida Bay, *diadema*, coral reef ecosystems, development, and marine zoning. The group is taking the lead on behalf of the council in organizing a council workshop on marine zoning.
- ❖ **Green Living Energy Education (GLEE):** The council will continue to be active in supporting this County-wide initiative to help lead sustainability efforts in the local and regional community.
- ❖ **Education and Outreach:** Council meetings will continue to feature presentations from community education/outreach organizations about their activities, how they relate to the sanctuary, and possible ways of strengthening future interactions. The working group plans to identify short and long term education/outreach goals, and will examine facilitating communication through council members, between sanctuary management and constituents.
- ❖ **Water Quality:** Several council members actively participate in the sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program. They will continue reporting back to the council and will involve the water quality working group as needed to examine particular topics. Issues of concern include nonpoint source pollution, and stormwater and wastewater projects.
- ❖ **Ballyhoo:** This working group plans to meet after the conclusion season for hair-hooking for Ballyhoo (a permitted activity) within Sanctuary Preservation Areas. The group will review any issues related to resource protection, enforcement and continued issuance of permits that should be brought before the full council.
- ❖ **Research:** Among other research topics, the council will learn about the existing Sustained Ecological Research Related to the Management of the Florida Keys Seascape (SEAKEYS) initiative, and will

provide input on locations for additional monitoring stations. They will also receive updates on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's coral bioindicator work, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission mutton snapper stock assessment, and turtle surveys being conducted by a nongovernmental organization.

- ❖ **Agency Updates and Reports:** The council will continue to receive brief updates and reports on a variety of topics from both FKNMS staff and relevant agencies with jurisdictions related to the sanctuary. As prompted by the reports, the council will discuss/investigate questions relevant to the community and sanctuary management, in order to provide appropriate advice to the superintendent.
- ❖ **Advisory Council Retreat:** The council may begin planning for a council retreat to be potentially held within the next year, funding permitting.

Flower Garden Banks NMS Council

- ❖ **Management Plan Review:** The council will continue to be involved in the development of action plans by making recommendations to sanctuary management. Subcommittees and working groups focusing on sanctuary priority issues that were established in 2007 will remain in place. The council will also have the opportunity to review the draft management plan and a draft environmental impact statement upon their release and provide comment. Priority issue working groups and subcommittees include:
 - Boundary Expansion
 - Fishing Impacts/Research Area
 - Visitor Use
 - Education and Outreach
 - Law Enforcement
 - Pollutant Discharge
- ❖ **Greening:** The council formed a Greening Subcommittee to facilitate a local community project as set forth by the Blue Seas/Green Communities initiative. The first task of the subcommittee and other council members will be to host a booth at the annual Ocean Discovery Day (March 8, 2008) sponsored by the NOAA campus in Galveston.

Gray's Reef NMS Council

- ❖ **Research Area:** The council has been significantly involved in development of a proposed designated research area in the sanctuary. The council will continue this project through 2008 as the formal public process is undertaken and a decision made by NOAA.
- ❖ **Law Enforcement:** The council established a working group to report on law enforcement and compliance in the sanctuary. A mechanism for regular reporting from state and federal law enforcement agencies was lacking; the working group will now report quarterly enabling the site to adjust approaches such as the Joint Enforcement Agreement between NOAA and the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

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- ❖ **Gray's Reef Condition Report:** A working group of the council was engaged in developing the sanctuary's report on its "condition," in 2007. That report is expected to be released in early 2008 with the support of the council.
- ❖ **Spearfishing activities:** The 2006 revised management plan called for additional socioeconomic studies and a reassessment of spearfishing activities in 2008. The council will oversee the public process surrounding the reassessment in 2008.
- ❖ **Greening:** TBD

Gulf of the Farallones NMS Council

- ❖ **GFNMS Condition Report:** The council will provide comments on the GFNMS Condition Report.
- ❖ **Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Project:** The council will be updated on the Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Project and the release of the Locally Preferred Plan for Bolinas Lagoon. One council member will participate on this working group as the chair.
- ❖ **Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan:** The council will be updated on Tomales Bay water quality and the release of the Vessel Management Plan for Tomales Bay. One council member will participate on this working group as the chair.
- ❖ **Marine Life Protection Act:** The Marine Life Protection Act will be an ongoing topic at every meeting in 2008.
- ❖ **Emergency Response:** The council will continue to be involved in the GFNMS Emergency Response Plan. The council will convene the working group that was established in 2007.
- ❖ **Maverick's Surf Contest:** Updates will be given before and after the Maverick's Surf Contest on the involvement of the sanctuary in ensuring the safety of wildlife and the protection of the event area. The council will be asked to provide comments and suggestions, and will be given the opportunity to ask questions regarding possible impacts from the event.
- ❖ **Blue Seas Green Communities Initiative/Ocean Climate Summit:** The council will participate in the Blue Seas Green Communities Initiative through a "greening" working group that will be made up of several council members. The first task of this group will be to aid in the planning and execution of the 2008 Ocean Climate Summit (which is being organized by GFNMS). The group will then continue to aid in implementing strategies from the Action Plan that will be produced as a result of the Summit. The working group will also actively be involved with the greening of the GFNMS campus as outlined in the GFNMS Facilities Master Plan.
- ❖ **Seabird Colony Protection Program:** The council will be updated on the progress of the Seabird Colony Protection Program by both the program manager and two council members who serve on working groups for this program.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Council

- ❖ **Management Plan Review:** The council will be extensively involved in the sanctuary's management plan review process. The council has already devoted a significant amount of time preparing for the management plan review process, which included evaluating sanctuary research, education, conservation, and management programs and assisting in editing the sanctuary's *Accomplishments Report 2002-2007*. The council has also been involved in providing feedback to co-managers on the sanctuary's *Assessment of Additional Marine Resources for Possible Inclusion in the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary* and attending presentations and holding discussions on marine mammals, sea turtles, and maritime heritage resources. The council sent a letter to the Governor of the State of Hawai'i in support of expanding sanctuary programs and moving forward with the management plan review process. The council will be take part in a visioning session, communications training, and scoping meetings.
- ❖ **Restructuring of Committees and Working Groups:** The council's subcommittees and working groups will be restructured this year to align their goals and objectives more closely with sanctuary programs by working with sanctuary staff members.
- ❖ **Research Permits:** The Research Subcommittee will be reviewing research permits that have been issued for humpback whale research within the sanctuary. The Research Subcommittee and Conservation Subcommittee will provide the council with the latest findings on humpbacks.
- ❖ **Education and Outreach:** The Education Subcommittee has been working with sanctuary staff to identify education and outreach opportunities to reach diverse groups of ocean users. Messages include creating awareness of humpback whales and their habitat in Hawai'i and minimizing impacts to the population.
- ❖ **Whale-Vessel Interactions and Entanglements:** These continue to be issues of concern in the HIHWNMS and the council and sanctuary staff work to minimize these interactions by focusing their efforts on boater outreach workshops, products, and methods to minimize vessel-whale interactions and entanglements through educating the boating community about conduct, response, and safety concerns. The council will monitor the Superferry and its success in carrying out the whale avoidance policy.
- ❖ **Aquaculture:** The Aquaculture Working Group was established to gather information on offshore aquaculture development in the State of Hawai'i and build communication to ensure future developments and have minimal impacts to humpback whales. The group has been establishing liaisons between the council and the aquaculture industry on each of the main Hawaiian Islands. In addition, the council accepted the *Research Needs for Offshore Aquaculture Development in Hawai'i*, identified by the council's Research Committee and Aquaculture Working Group and will be evaluating opportunities to conduct studies on possible impacts to humpback whales and other species.
- ❖ **Water Quality:** The Conservation Subcommittee and the entire council continue to address concerns related to water quality issues in the sanctuary and have encouraged the development of pump-out at small boat harbors around the state.
- ❖ **Budget Needs:** The council has continued to encourage the importance of increased funding for not only the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, but also the ONMS as a

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whole.

Monitor NMS Council

- ❖ **Management Plan Review:** In 2008 the council will work to further define priority issue areas that were determined at the November 2007 meeting. The council will begin drafting problem statements and goals and objectives for each this year. Topics include: (1) Maritime Heritage: Continued *Monitor* preservation; (2) Interpretation, Education & Outreach; (3) Sanctuary Boundary Expansion; (4) Conservation of *Monitor* Artifacts; and (5) Environmental Research

Monterey Bay NMS Council

- ❖ Marine Protected Areas
- ❖ Ocean Literacy
- ❖ Introduced Species
- ❖ Water Quality
 - Oil spill response
 - Harmful Algal Blooms
 - Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AWQA) Presentation

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands CRER Council

- ❖ **Monument Management Plan:** The Northwestern Hawaiian Islands CRER Advisory Council plans to meet late this spring to provide input on the Monument Management Plan, as it relates to the Reserve. The council provided significant input on the Reserve Operations Plan which provided the management framework for the Reserve.

Olympic Coast NMS Council

- ❖ **Primary Focus**
 - Management Plan Review
 - Assist with scoping
 - Recommend issue priorities
 - Participate in action plan workgroups
- ❖ **Periodic reports on:**
 - Finavera (Aqua Energy) wave buoy project
 - Issues on acoustics and marine mammals
 - Reauthorization of NMSA
 - Olympic Coast Alliance activities report
- ❖ **Other Actions/Activities:**
 - Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group

Stellwagen Bank NMS Council

- ❖ **Acoustics:** Concern surrounding anthropogenic sound and marine mammals is warranted, given the endangered status of many marine mammals, the identified importance of sound in the lives of marine mammals, the potential for harm from excessive noise and the paucity of data with regards to the amount of sound introduced into the oceans by human activity and its potential impact on marine mammals. Also effects on other marine life (e.g., fish).

- ❖ **Liquefied Natural Gas:** Concern that this is a current issue in SBNMS and emerging as public issue in many sanctuaries.

Thunder Bay NMS Council

- ❖ **Management Plan:**
 - Advisory council and working groups work on action plans
 - Integrate working group action plans into Draft Management Plan

- ❖ **Resource Education:** Continue having presentations at meetings to help the council learn more about Thunder Bay's shipwrecks and resources, as well as other sanctuary issues.

- ❖ **Constituent Reports:** Continue constituent reports to provide a valuable way for council members to stay in touch with the segment of the community they represent and share that information with the balance of the council and the sanctuary staff.

- ❖ **National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Partnership:** Advisory council to provide input and advice on Thunder Bay NMS's new local chapter of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

- ❖ **Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center:** Advisory council to discuss operating changes after new exhibits have been installed.

- ❖ **Sanctuary Expansion**

- ❖ **Greening Initiative – *Blue Seas, Green Communities***