



2010 Sanctuary Advisory Council Annual Report

January 2011

About This Document

**This annual report provides information about the activities of
ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Councils in fiscal year 2010.**

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or sanctuary advisory councils should be directed to:

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INTRODUCTION

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) serves as the trustee for 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The ONMS manages 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by working cooperatively with the public to protect these marine areas while allowing recreation and commercial activities that are compatible with resource protection. The sanctuary staff works to enhance public awareness of our marine resources and maritime heritage through scientific research, monitoring, exploration, educational programs and outreach.

The sites in the sanctuary system embrace part of our collective riches as a nation. Within their protected waters, giant humpback whales breed and calve their young, coral colonies flourish, and shipwrecks tell stories of our maritime history. Habitats include beautiful rocky reefs, lush kelp forests, whale migration corridors, spectacular deep-sea canyons and underwater archaeological sites. Our nation's sanctuaries and marine national monument can provide a safe habitat for species close to extinction or protect historically significant shipwrecks.

Sanctuary Advisory Councils

Sanctuary advisory councils (councils) are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice and recommendations to the superintendents of the national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and to serve as liaisons between their constituents in the community and the sanctuary. All fourteen sites have a sanctuary advisory council. Councils provide advice about sanctuary operations and projects, including education and outreach, research and science, regulations and enforcement, and management planning. They are particularly critical in helping a sanctuary during its designation and management plan review process. Council members provide expertise on both the local community and sanctuary resources, strengthen connections with the community, and help build increased stewardship for sanctuary resources. The ONMS has twenty years of experience in working with sanctuary advisory councils. The first council was established for the Florida Keys NMS in 1990, and the most recent was for the *Monitor* NMS in 2005.

Individuals with a wide range of perspectives and experiences serve their communities and sanctuaries as members of sanctuary advisory councils and council working groups and subcommittees. Council members include fishers, divers, teachers, boaters, business people, conservationists, protected area managers, scientists, and elected officials.

In fiscal year 2010, there were over 731 citizens actively engaged in the ONMS sanctuary advisory councils; that number includes 472 sanctuary advisory council members (and alternates), and over 250 additional individuals serving on council working groups as interested members of the public. Collectively these individuals volunteered over 13,000 hours of their time in fiscal year 2010 to the ONMS.

ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Councils: The FY10 Numbers

Sanctuary	Year Council Established	Total Council Members**	Number of Working Groups	Non-Council Working Group Members
Florida Keys NMS	1990	56	3	27
HI Humpback Whale NMS	1992	49	3	00
Stellwagen Bank NMS	1992	44	4	12
Monterey Bay NMS	1994	46	4	51
Olympic Coast NMS	1995	42	2	27
Thunder Bay NMS	1997	32	1	00
Channel Islands NMS	1998	42	6	55
Gray's Reef NMS	1999	15	4	31
Gulf of the Farallones NMS	2001	26	3*	46*
Cordell Bank NMS	2001	16	1*	15*
Papahānaumokuākea MNM	2001	38	2	00
Flower Garden Banks	2005	21	2	00
Fagatele Bay	2005	22	2	00
Monitor NMS	2005	23	7	10
Sub-Totals		472	44	274
Subtract Joint #s*			-1	-15
Totals			43	259
Grand Total: Individuals actively engaged in ONMS councils in FY09 = 731				

* = Joint working group with another council; joint working groups and joint non-council working group members counted once towards total.

** = "Total members" category includes alternates and vacant seats but does not include sanctuary superintendents or their designees.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Roles

Below are some of the most important roles councils fulfill:

- ❖ Serve as a liaison between the sanctuary and its community, sharing information about the sanctuary with the various constituencies and bringing the concerns of constituents and the public to sanctuary staff.
- ❖ Identify potential partners and constituent groups with which the sanctuary should be working and forge relationships.
- ❖ Help identify and resolve issues and conflicts, including emerging issues of which the ONMS might not be aware.
- ❖ Review and comment on sanctuary management plans, proposals, and products, including prioritizing issues.
- ❖ Participate in sanctuary events, activities and programs.
- ❖ Support sanctuary friends groups and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.
- ❖ Provide technical and background information on issues facing the sanctuary.
- ❖ Validate the accuracy and quality of information that the ONMS uses for decision-making purposes.

ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Policy Statement

The ONMS regards community involvement and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to successfully protecting sanctuary resources. One key way to achieve this involvement is the formation of sanctuary advisory councils.

Sanctuary advisory councils bring together diverse community members to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on the management and protection of the sanctuary, or to assist the ONMS in guiding a proposed site through the designation process.

The ONMS is committed to the full support, utilization, and enhancement of councils at all sanctuaries. In order for councils to achieve their full potential, the ONMS will:

- ❖ Provide sufficient individual support to allow each council to operate efficiently and effectively;
- ❖ Provide support and guidance from the national office to help councils operate efficiently and at a basic level of consistency across the system;
- ❖ Promote coordination and communication among councils and among ONMS staff that work closely with councils; and
- ❖ Conduct an annual meeting for council chairs, council coordinators and other appropriate ONMS staff to promote information exchange, and networking between councils.

National Accomplishments for Sanctuary Advisory Councils

The ONMS is unique in the level of support it provides the councils. Each council has an ONMS staff person who provides direct support—the council coordinator. Sanctuary superintendents and all site staff work very closely with the councils on a regular basis. ONMS also provides a dedicated National Advisory Council Coordinator and National Council Liaison to ensure consistent council operations across the system.

In fiscal year 2010, the ONMS continued to support councils by:

- ❖ formalizing the Council Cross-Cut and establishing the Council Executive Committee, a staffing structure designed to increase the effectiveness and integration of planning and operations of sanctuary advisory council activities within the sanctuary system;
- ❖ developing a policy to limit the number of consecutive terms for non-governmental council members to ensure councils have the benefit of new ideas and diverse perspectives in a manner that ensures the continued effective operation of the council consistent with the original intent and purpose of councils;
- ❖ producing numerous council support documents (Council Member Directory, Council Annual Report, Council One-Pager, etc.);
- ❖ revising the ONMS Council Implementation Handbook to include the most current policies, templates and operational guidelines;
- ❖ enhancing communication between and among the councils and staff;
- ❖ conducting the 2010 Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit and 2010 Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator Meeting held in Port Angeles, Washington and hosted by the Olympic Coast NMS;
- ❖ exploring the improved management of council-related information; and
- ❖ providing general council support on policy, procedural, legal and ethics issues.

In fiscal year 2011 the ONMS will hold the Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit and Council Coordinator Meeting in May in Savannah, Georgia, hosted by the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

COUNCIL PROFILES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each council is unique in terms of size, composition, issues it tackles, and annual accomplishments. In the following pages, information is provided on the following aspects of each sanctuary advisory council:

- ❖ **Council Profile** - A brief description of the council.
- ❖ **Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments** – Three major accomplishments in the past fiscal year. It is impossible to include all the council accomplishments, so submissions were limited to three.
- ❖ **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups** – Lists the subunits of the council.
- ❖ **Council Coordinator Contact Information** – For additional information.
- ❖ **Site Website Address** – For additional information.
- ❖ **Site Council Link** - For additional information.

***“Never doubt that a small group of
thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.
Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”***

- Margaret Mead

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, established in 1998, provides opportunities for public involvement in sanctuary management. Members represent education, conservation, research, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, tourism, non-consumptive recreation, business, the indigenous Chumash community, public-at-large, and ten agencies.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The Council's Sanctuary Education Team (SET) working group planned a series of innovative educational workshops on ocean acidification, which were successfully held October 7th and 23rd. The target audience was hundreds of dedicated volunteers from the sanctuary and partner organizations. The workshops provided scientific background and current research on ocean acidification, case studies about successful education and outreach efforts, and hands-on interactive educational activities. The private company Citrix Online volunteered significant staff time to develop a web page featuring videos of workshop presentations and recommended resources: cisanctuary.org/acidocean. Eight outreach kits were made available to participating organizations.
2. The council unanimously voted to express their support for the Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) program in a letter to Dan Basta, ONMS Director. Their letter expressed appreciation for the MERITO program's successes, such as involving over 2,600 4th-8th grade underserved students, 79 minority-serving teachers, and more than forty organizations over the past five years. The council expressed concern about MERITO being overly reliant upon grant funding and donations, and requested an adjustment to the base budget to assure that, at a minimum, labor costs could be covered. Dan Basta attended a council meeting to acknowledge the concerns, and shared news that he had made available funding to cover MERITO staffing for the remainder of the fiscal year.
3. The council learned of a significant shift in local shipping traffic patterns following passage of a new state air quality law. This raised concerns about potential vessel accidents, spills, and whale ship strikes. The council sent a comment letter to the U.S. Coast Guard regarding a new Port Access Route Study that aims to evaluate altered traffic patterns and potentially recommend safer navigation routes. The council's letter encouraged incorporation of various marine spatial planning considerations.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Chumash Community Working Group
- ❖ Conservation Working Group
- ❖ Commercial Fishing Working Group
- ❖ Recreational Fishing Working Group
- ❖ Research Activities Panel
- ❖ Sanctuary Education Team

Contact Information

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Channel Islands NMS web site: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/>

Channel Islands NMS Council link: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2001 to support the joint management plan review process for the Cordell Bank sanctuary and its neighboring sanctuaries, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay. Council members represent research, conservation, maritime activity, fishing, education, the community at-large, as well as federal agency partners. The council holds a minimum of four regular meetings per year, and an annual retreat in the fall.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones advisory councils unanimously approved the report: "Climate Impacts: Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries". The report was authored by a joint working group of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank advisory councils, and is the outcome of a year and a half of intensive collaboration among local experts representing 16 agencies, organizations, and academic institutions. The report identifies potential climate change impacts to habitats and biological communities along the north-central California coast and provides a foundation for the sanctuaries to develop strategies for addressing climate change. The report was publicly released at the California Academy of Sciences on June 3, 2010.
2. The Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones advisory councils will be forming a joint working group to focus on vessel traffic's potential impacts to sanctuary resources in the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. Potential management issues that the group will address include acoustic levels and ship strikes on marine mammals. The working group will be a collaborative process and will include members from the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuary advisory councils, the conservation community, the shipping industry, and the scientific community to investigate and analyze these issues, and develop a comprehensive report to address management strategies that could include monitoring, research, and education to modified or create new regulations.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Vessel Issues Working Group (joint with GFNMS)

Contact Information

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Cordell Bank NMS web site: <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/>

Cordell Bank NMS Council link: <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/council/welcome.html>

Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in May 2005 in preparation for the management plan review process. Council members represent research, education, fishing, ocean recreation, and community at-large, tourism, business, and youth as well as territorial and federal government agencies. The council meets quarterly.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council added nine new seats to include key constituents and stakeholder groups. The council felt that the additional representatives would connect the council and sanctuary to more sectors of society as well as increase the expertise on the council. The additional government seats represent the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement, NOAA Pacific Islands Regional Office, United States Coast Guard, and the American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency. The additional non-government seats include Tourism, Business/Industry, Community-at-Large: East Side, Community-at-Large: Manu'a Islands, and Youth.
2. The council helped secure stakeholder advocacy during management plan review and site expansion at potential national marine sanctuary sites throughout American Samoa. Council members helped make critical contacts to secure community support and worked hard to promote community awareness for the program and the process. Several villages around Tutuila and the neighboring island have expressed their interest and support for establishing additional sanctuary sites, in part, because of this effort.
3. Council members supported the Dive into Education Ocean Science Workshop help in American Samoa in July 2010. The council education representative reached out to elementary and secondary teachers and encouraged them to participate in the event. She also provided support to teachers and ONMS Educators during the workshop and participated in tours and other events. The education representative has continued to be involved in the teacher program that was developed following the success of the workshop.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Education Working Group

Contact Information

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Fagatele Bay NMS web site: <http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov/>

Fagatele Bay NMS council link: N/A

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

In 1990, The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act was approved, authorizing the establishment of a Sanctuary Advisory Council for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary; the first council meeting took place in February 1992. Council members represent boating, conservation and environment, diving, education and outreach, South Florida ecosystem restoration, fishing (commercial and recreational), elected county government, submerged cultural resources, research and monitoring, tourism and the community at large. The council meets six times a year.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council discussed proposed NOAA marine sanitation device discharge (MSD) regulations for Florida Keys NMS at two meetings following the publication of the draft rule and release of the draft Environmental Assessment. NOAA proposed to remove the exemption in the existing regulations allowing discharge of sewage within sanctuary boundaries and to prohibit having unlocked MSDs or MSDs that allowed discharge within the sanctuary. The council passed a resolution recommending NOAA adopt and enforce the rule, and further recommended NOAA continue to support the installation of pump-out facilities and educate the public about pumping out. As of the end of the fiscal year, the rule was expected to receive final clearance within a few months.
2. Climate change and its impacts on the coral reef ecosystem of the Florida Keys NMS and beyond have been ongoing topics of council conversation. Over the years, the council examined ocean acidification, sea level rise, coral bleaching, etc., and sought to support management efforts to protect and conserve corals. The council passed a resolution supporting development of a climate change action plan for the Florida reef tract, with a goal of providing a framework and set of prioritized actions to ensure a sustainable future reef tract and regional socioeconomic interests. In June 2010, the Florida Reef Resilience Program released the *Climate Change Action Plan for the Florida Reef System 2010-2015*.
3. The council discussed the implications of potential drilling offshore of Florida and the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. The council spent a half day to reviewing the status of proposals to lift a moratorium on mineral leasing offshore of Florida and potential repercussions. The council passed a resolution opposing this possibility and encouraged the development of renewable and sustainable sources of energy. Following the Deepwater Horizon spill, the council spent a half day learning about the spill status, response and communications efforts, and natural resource damage assessment activities related to the spill.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Ballyhoo Working Group
- ❖ Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
- ❖ Education and Outreach Working Group

Contact Information

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Florida Keys NMS web site: <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov>

Florida Keys NMS Advisory link: <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/welcome.html>

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2005 to enhance opportunities for public involvement in sanctuary management and to support the process of management plan review. Council members represent various community interests including recreational diving, diving operations, oil and gas production, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, research, education, conservation and federal government agencies. The council meets four times per year.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. With the completion of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary management plan revision process, 2010 marked a major milestone for the council and sanctuary staff. The council spent significant time following the clearance process and preparing for the public release of the revised plan and proposed regulations.
2. The council recognized both the importance of involving sanctuary users in the public process to consider sanctuary expansion and the lack of information about sanctuary users. Working through the Visitor Use Subcommittee, the council developed a Stakeholder Contact Card to address the need to improve the quantity and quality of visitor information, specifically SCUBA divers and fishermen. Subcommittee members were responsible for wide distribution of the contact card and were aided by university students from Texas A&M in the collection and analysis of information. The subcommittee hopes to develop a useful database of divers and fishermen at the completion of this effort.
3. The council passed a resolution regarding their concern over the potential impacts of ocean acidification on marine resources. The resolution was adopted with a vote of nine in favor and one opposed. The resolution was included with those of the other advisory councils in a system-wide report to NOAA and ONMS.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Blue Seas Green Communities Subcommittee
- ❖ Sanctuary Advisory Council Charter Revision Subcommittee
- ❖ Platform Decommissioning Subcommittee
- ❖ Visitor Use Subcommittee
- ❖ Boundary Expansion Working Group
- ❖ Research Area Working Group

Contact Information

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Flower Garden Banks NMS website: <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/>

Flower Garden Banks NMS Council link:

<http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/advisorycouncil/council.html>

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1999 to support the site's management plan review. Council members represent conservation, education, research, recreational fishing and diving, commercial/charter fishing, as well as state and federal agencies. The council meets quarterly.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. Gray's Reef NMS prohibited all spearfishing in the sanctuary and proposed designation of a no-take research area through ongoing guidance from the council and the public deliberations inspired by council meetings.
2. The council began reviewing the 2006 Gray's Reef NMS Management Plan in preparation for a formal review in 2011.
3. Law enforcement has continued as a priority for the council. The annual law enforcement working group meeting was hosted by Skidaway Institute of Oceanography. The Joint Enforcement Agreement authorizing GADNR law enforcement rangers to enforce sanctuary regulations continues to be viewed as a model partnership throughout the system.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Executive Subcommittee
- ❖ Charter/membership Subcommittee
- ❖ Science Advisory Group
- ❖ Law Enforcement Working Group
- ❖ Visitor Center Working Group
- ❖ Offshore Activities Working Group

Contact Information

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Grays Reef NMS website: <http://graysreef.noaa.gov/>

Grays Reef NMS Council link: <http://graysreef.noaa.gov/management/sac/welcome.html>

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2001 to support the joint management plan review process for the Farallones sanctuary and its neighboring sanctuaries, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay. Council members represent the areas of education, research, conservation, maritime activities and the community at-large, as well as state and federal agencies. The council meets quarterly, including an annual meeting with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, to discuss issues related to the northern management area and overlapping issues.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The joint Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank Climate Change Impacts Report Working Group produced the report, "Climate Change Impacts: Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries." Existing observations and science-based expectations were used to identify an extensive suite of potential climate change impacts to habitats, plants, and animals within the unique ocean and coastal zones of North-central California.
2. The Coastside Visitor Center Working Group made final recommendations to the council on the main interpretive theme; interpretive messages for exhibits and education programs; interpretive topics; and building setting, requirements and site selection criteria for the proposed San Mateo Coastside Visitor Center. These recommendations were used to produce the Coastside Visitor Center Concept Plan.
3. Council working groups forwarded 37 formal recommendations and produced 3 documents. The council approved two resolutions regarding permitted white shark activities within the sanctuary, one joint letter with Monterey Bay NMS requesting a Fisheries Enforcement Officer be dedicated to the Gulf of the Farallones NMS management region (the GFNMS boundaries and the northern coastline of MBNMS), and one joint letter with Cordell Bank NMS encouraging salmon protection and restoration measures to be applied by the agencies of jurisdiction as needed to protect and restore salmon runs in this region.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Tomales Bay Vessel Management Working Group
- ❖ Coastside Visitor Center Working Group
- ❖ Climate Change Impacts Report Working Group (joint with CBNMS)
- ❖ Advisory Council Application Review Subcommittee
- ❖ Executive Subcommittee

Contact Information

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Gulf of the Farallones NMS website: <http://farallones.noaa.gov/>

Gulf of the Farallones NMS Advisory Council link:

<http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

Established in 1992, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is one of the oldest councils and also one of the largest. Council members represent all facets of the sanctuary community, including conservation, education, research, fishing, whale watching, tourism, recreation, shipping, business/commerce, Native Hawaiians, individual counties and islands, youth, the community-at-large, and a number of state and federal partners. The council generally meets quarterly.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council devoted a significant amount of time to the management plan review process and assisted in sponsoring a workshop comprised of cultural practitioners, fishers, surfers, commercial operators, businessmen, conservationists, policy makers and residents of the Hawaiian Islands to reach out to a diverse group of constituents for input on determining the future direction of sanctuary management. Participants were asked to articulate their future vision for the ocean of Hawai'i and the changes that would have to occur within the next 10 years to achieve that vision. The council also assisted in the planning of the public scoping process and constituency-building meetings.
2. The council worked with sanctuary staff and Net Impact Volunteers through the University of Hawaii, Masters of Business Administration Program to identify strategies for marketing sanctuary programs. Hawai'i residents on the North Shore of O`ahu were surveyed to gather baseline information for future marketing projects and to create an adaptable template for implementation elsewhere. Results identified community priorities, opportunities to make the sanctuary more relevant, and topics for engaging communities in future collaborations. This project has potential implications for other sanctuaries as Net Impact Volunteer Chapters are located in every state where mainland sanctuaries are found.
3. The council contributed to several national initiatives including providing recommendations for the Interagency Ocean Policy Task Force on marine spatial planning and emerging issues in the creation of a national policy for the oceans, our coasts, and the Great Lakes; recommendations to NOAA Fisheries on the "Endangered and Threatened Species – Initiation of a Status Review for the Humpback Whale and Request for Information;" and recruited the first youth council member in the ONMS to foster the interest and enthusiasm of our future generation of ocean stewards and leaders.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Education Subcommittee
- ❖ Research Subcommittee
- ❖ Conservation Subcommittee
- ❖ Aquaculture Working Group
- ❖ Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group

Contact Information

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Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS website: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/>

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Council link:

http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/management/advisory_council.html

Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2005 in preparation for the management plan review process. Council members represent The Mariners' Museum, recreational diving, heritage tourism, conservation, education, maritime museums, recreational and commercial fishing, economic development, youth, archaeological research, and the community at-large, as well as state and federal government agencies. The council meets quarterly and meeting locations alternate between Virginia and North Carolina.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council has been actively involved in the management plan review process. As part of the ongoing management plan process, the council formed six working groups, which met numerous times via conference calls and in person at Newport News, VA and Cape Hatteras, NC. The working groups addressed stakeholders concerns and put forth their recommendations to the council.
2. The council authorized the formation of the first ONMS youth working groups. The five members, ages 14 to 16, are committed to initiating a global youth movement aimed at their generation taking meaningful responsibility of our ocean. The students from various schools located in Virginia and North Carolina developed multiple projects and organized several outreach events to share the message that our daily lives can impact the ocean for better or worse. A premier showing of *A Sea Change* was held as the culminating event for 2009-2010 school year.
3. The *Monitor* NMS was the first sanctuary to add a Youth Seat to their council. The purpose of the seat is to advise the council on how best to convey the message of ocean conservation to the youth of today. The youth member will be selected from the applications received and begin serving on the council in FY11.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Education Working Group
- ❖ Archaeology Working Group
- ❖ Human Remains Working Group
- ❖ Permitting/Access/Enforcement Working Group
- ❖ Research Working Group
- ❖ Conservation Working Group
- ❖ Expansion Working Group
- ❖ Youth Working Group

Contact Information

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Monitor NMS website: <http://monitor.noaa.gov/welcome.html>

Monitor NMS Council link: <http://monitor.noaa.gov/advisory/welcome.html>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is one of the oldest councils, established in 1994. Council members represent such diverse interests as conservation, education, research, commercial and recreational fishing, diving, tourism, recreation (non-extractive), business/industry, agriculture, the community-at-large, as well as local/regional, state and federal government agencies. The council meets bimonthly throughout the sanctuary's coastal area.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council is involved in ongoing planning for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) Initiative. A subcommittee was formed to assist MBNMS staff with the EBM Initiative.
2. The advisory council received two presentations on salmon recovery efforts within the sanctuary. Over the course of several meetings the advisory council adopted a resolution expressing their concern over salmon declines. The Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones advisory councils initially adopted a similar resolution. The resolution adopted by the Monterey Bay NMS advisory council was sent to several appropriate agencies.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Ecosystem Based Management Subcommittee
- ❖ Recommendation Subcommittee (Recruitment)
- ❖ Research Activities Panel
- ❖ Conservation Working Group
- ❖ Sanctuary Education Panel
- ❖ Business and Tourism Activity Panel

Contact Information

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Monterey Bay NMS website: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>

Monterey Bay NMS Council link: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory/advisory.html>

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1995. Council members represent conservation, education, research, fishing, tourism, marine business, the community at-large, local governments, and the four Coastal Treaty Tribes of the region, as well as state and federal partners. The council meets bimonthly.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council spent a significant amount of time assisting sanctuary staff with development of a new management plan. The council finished reviewing the recommendations of the management plan review working groups. The council then developed its own suite of recommended strategies and activities for the management plan (based upon those of the working groups), which were forwarded to the OCNMS Superintendent. OCNMS staff compiled all of these recommendations into a suite of 20 preliminary draft action plans. Advisory council members worked with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council and sanctuary staff to review and comment on these 20 action plans, which together will comprise the bulk of the revised OCNMS Draft Management Plan. The advisory council was also briefed regularly on OCNMS staff's progress in developing the Draft Management Plan, developing changes to the OCNMS regulations, and drafting the requisite environmental compliance documentation.
2. The council drafted and approved a letter to ONMS Director Dan Basta emphasizing the need for an improved data management system for OCNMS (and other sanctuaries nationwide). Director Basta responded to the council with a commitment to support hosting a data management workshop for OCNMS and its partners. The council will work with OCNMS staff to coordinate this workshop.
3. The council also formed a working group to draft a letter to Dr. Jane Lubchenco emphasizing the importance of reauthorizing the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. This letter was approved by the council and sent to Dr. Lubchenco via OCNMS Superintendent Carol Bernthal and ONMS Director Dan Basta.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Executive Subcommittee
- ❖ Collaborative Research, Assessments and Monitoring Working Group
- ❖ Living Resource Conservation Working Group
- ❖ National Marine Sanctuaries Act Reauthorization Working Group

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Olympic Coast NMS Council link: <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/welcome.html>

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

Council Profile

The Reserve Advisory Council (RAC) was officially established in early 2001 to provide advice on the operation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, now the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, and the sanctuary designation process. The council has 15 voting members and 10 non-voting members. Council members represent a broad spectrum of interest groups, including conservation, education, research, recreational and commercial fishing, tourism, Native Hawaiians, and the community at-large, as well as state and federal agency partners. The council generally meets quarterly.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council provided recommendations on the development and structure of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument Alliance that is planned for establishment in 2011. The recommendations focused on structure, membership, and a purpose statement for the Alliance. The Alliance will be able to provide input to all Monument co-managers while the RAC only has authority to provide advice to the ONMS.
2. The council submitted a letter to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Ecosystem Reserve about concern over the continuing decline of the Hawaiian monk seal and support of ongoing research and efforts that might lead to the recovery of this species.
3. The council drafted a letter to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve to encourage the ONMS to prioritize the reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Education Subcommittee
- ❖ Research Subcommittee
- ❖ Monument Alliance Subcommittee
- ❖ Charter for the Alliance Working Group
- ❖ Evaluation Working Group

*Native Hawaiian Working Group (led by Co-Trustee)

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Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1992 and consists of 23 members with public representation from four states and eight Congressional districts. Seventeen voting seats represent various facets of the community including conservation, education, research, commercial and recreational fishing, diving, maritime heritage, whale watching, recreation, business/industry and the community-at-large. Six ex-officio seats represent the sanctuary's state and federal partners. The council generally meets four times a year.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council has taken several actions requesting that ONMS consider SBNMS as "sentinel site" for research on ocean acidification. The council is working to encourage NOAA Fisheries to make the sanctuary a "sentinel site" in NOAA's regional ocean acidification plan and develop a coordinated approach to the plan's implementation with the Northeastern Regional Association of Coastal Ocean Observing Systems. Ocean acidification poses a significant threat to the long-term health of the sanctuary and the Gulf of Maine.
2. The Zoning Working Group (ZWG) completed its work and : 1) agreed on a working definition of "ecological integrity"; 2) considered the adequacy of existing zoning in the sanctuary; and, 3) addressed scientific requirements to meet the goals of Ecosystem-based Sanctuary Management. There was no consensus on developing a modified zoning scheme (including consideration of fully protected reserves). The sanctuary is working through the New England Fishery Management Council's Essential Fish Habitat Omnibus Amendment process to consider designating a Sanctuary Ecological Research Area (SERA). To keep the council informed of this process, an ad hoc subcommittee was formed to advise the superintendent on the design and configuration of the SERA prior to its submission to the New England Fishery Management Council for review and adoption.
3. The council agreed to make removal of marine debris in the sanctuary the focus of the work of the Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group. Sanctuary staff members are working in collaboration with the *Stellwagen Alive* Friend's Group to implement a marine debris project designed to identify and remove marine debris, specifically derelict fishing gear, from the sanctuary. The project involves the assistance of commercial and recreational fishermen working out of four ports adjacent to the sanctuary.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ Ad Hoc Subcommittee on proposed SERA
- ❖ Blue Seas, Green Communities Subcommittee
- ❖ Sanctuary Advisory Council Leadership Award Subcommittee
- ❖ Zoning Working Group
- ❖ Executive Subcommittee

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Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Council Profile

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1997 to guide the site through the sanctuary designation process. Council members represent education, research, fishing, diving, tourism, cultural resources, economic development, the community at-large, as well as local/regional and tribal government agencies. The council meets bi-monthly, with informal coffees and lunches scheduled for non-meeting months.

Fiscal Year 2010 Accomplishments

1. The council was presented with a report from the Channel Island NMS Advisory Council Conservation Working Group regarding ocean acidification and the impact on sanctuary resources. The council directed the *Blue Seas Green Communities* working group to meet, review the report, and take action as appropriate. The working group drafted a resolution in support of the Channel Islands report and urging research, outreach and other actions related to ocean acidification. The resolution was presented to the council and approved.
2. The council formed a working group to review, revise and update the Thunder Bay NMS Advisory Council Charter. Staff and working group members spent a significant amount of time reviewing and updating language in the charter. The revised charter was approved by the council.
3. Many council members contributed numerous hours of their time to the Thunder Bay Maritime Festival, Thunder Bay Community Boat Building Program, the MATE ROV Competition, Saturday Morning Physics programs, Sea Story time and other special events hosted at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Several council members are trained docents and give guided tours of the sanctuary's exhibits and short presentations to visiting groups.

Council Subcommittees and Working Groups

- ❖ SAC Charter Working Group
- ❖ Blue Seas Green Communities Working Group

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