

Email To: LT and Council Coordinators
CC: Karen Brubeck, Elizabeth Moore
Subject: Please distribute to your councils immediately!
Priority: Highest

Dear Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs:

Thank you for the input you provided to the National Marine Sanctuary Program on the agenda, charter and policy topics for the annual meeting. You will receive the final signed Charter and final Agenda in October. Below are the policy topics individual councils proposed for the advice session portion of the annual meeting:

Policy Topic Input from Councils:

Acoustics (CI)
Aquaculture (GF)
Bioprospecting (CB)
Councils support funding (HIHW)
Cruise Ships (HIHW, MB, CB)
DOD exemptions to MMPA/ESA (MB)
Logo use issues (HIHW)
MPRs (CI)
NMSP Funding (HIHW)
Reserves (CI)
Sanctuaries supplement other agencies (HIHW)
Water Quality (CI)

The NMSP used the following criteria to determine which topics to include on the agenda: (1) Urgency of topic; (2) Interest level to the greatest number of sites/councils; and (3) Time constraints on the agenda. The following policy topics will be included on the agenda:

- 1. Cruise Ships: This topic is clearly of interest to the sites, having gotten the most votes, and remains of high interest to the national program as well, with the ongoing development of the policy options paper. It also follows naturally onto our discussion from the Chairs meeting last February.**
- 2. Marine Reserves: Marine reserves have clearly been of interest to both FKNMS and CINMS, and we expect them to be of interest to other sanctuaries during ongoing and upcoming management plan reviews. They can also clearly be one of the most controversial elements of or following a management plan review. Clearly, attention from the Chairs is appropriate.**
- 3. Aquaculture: We believe, especially with the imminent release of the final US Ocean Commission report, that there will be an increasing emphasis on aquaculture in all US waters, including those in sanctuaries. The NMSP is also developing a policy options paper on aquaculture and believe that a discussion with the Chairs would be useful.**

4. Bioprospecting : If time allows, the NMSP would also like to discuss bioprospecting, for a number of the same reasons as aquaculture.

In response to the other suggested topics:

Acoustics and Department of Defense exemptions to the Marine Mammal Protection Act/Endangered Species Act: NOAA Fisheries, Office of Protected Resources is on the agenda to provide a presentation during the meeting. We will ask them to specifically address this issue and take questions.

Logo Use Issues: The NMSP Communications Branch can provide guidelines on this topic.

Management Plan Review: At the Chairs' request, we have included an MPR session on the agenda. This will entail a short presentation on the status of MPRs, lessons learned, the roles councils play in the process, but much of the time will be dedicated to discussion, information exchange, and questions from the Chairs.

NMSP Funding: I will update you on the NMSP budget during my opening remarks at the annual meeting.

Sanctuaries being asked to supplement other agency's activities/responsibilities: This topic will be covered during the MPR session already on the agenda.

Water Quality: Although a very important topic, it is so broad and complex an issue, I do not think we could do the topic justice and have it be an effective use of your time.

Next Steps

Please discuss the four selected policy topics. Any resolutions, voting or other actions to be proposed/taken by your council/chair during the advice session must be identified and to the National Council Coordinator **by November 22**, along with any supporting documentation or language. The goal is to allow the chairs to be as prepared as possible for the meeting and reduce/eliminate any potential "surprises". As before, I recognize the deadlines may not precisely mesh with every council's needs and meeting schedule. However, these deadlines should allow sufficient time for review and discussion. The deadlines are firm, to allow sufficient time for the NMSP to turn around items in a timely manner for your meetings.

Please share this information with your entire Council and include on your meeting agendas. The goal is to allow your Council opportunity to discuss, deliberate and prepare for the annual meeting.

Thank you for you input. I look forward to seeing you in February!

Dan

