

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 23, 2015

Channel Islands Sanctuary Advisory Council Supports UCSB Graduate Student Project Proposal

On January 23, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (advisory council) heard from graduate students at the University of California Santa Barbara's Bren School for Environmental Science and Management about a group thesis proposal called "Vessel Speed Reduction, Air Pollution, and Whale Strike Tradeoffs in the Santa Barbara Channel Region: Solution-oriented Integration of Health and Ecosystem Service Valuation". After discussing the proposal with students Shannon Walker, Jennifer Bone, and Kendall Mills, the advisory council voted to send a letter of support to the Bren School expressing interest in the project, noting that it will advance a body of work to date, build on existing data, fulfill identified research needs, and contribute to the Sanctuary's mission.

February 25, 2015

Marine Shipping Working Group kicks off in Santa Barbara

On February 25, the first meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council's Marine Shipping Working Group was held in Santa Barbara. The diverse group of stakeholders will meet five times in 2015 to develop recommendations to address regional shipping-related concerns, including ship strikes on endangered whales, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, navigation safety concerns, and conflicts with naval operations. During the introductory meeting, working group members reviewed project objectives and background information; presentations included updates on the 2014 vessel speed reduction trial, a discussion of existing data, and an introduction to SeaSketch, an interactive decision support tool. The Marine Shipping Working Group is supported by professional facilitators, sanctuary staff and fellows. Participants include Sanctuary Advisory Council members, outside experts, and representatives from the shipping industry and other agencies.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant advisory council actions taken this quarter.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 25, 2015

Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council Proposes Name Change for Expanded Sanctuary



During the public hearings for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) expansion, NOAA received public comment requesting the agency to consider new ecosystem-based names for the expanded sanctuary. In response, the GFNMS Advisory Council (advisory council) established a subcommittee composed of the Research Seat, Conservation Seat, and Youth Seat to explore potential names for the expanded sanctuary and to develop criteria for selecting a new name. A collaboration of marketing experts developed a list of potential names, which was presented to the subcommittee. The subcommittee narrowed the list of 30 names to three names and presented the potential names and criteria to the advisory council on November 19, 2014. The advisory council was then tasked with speaking to each member's respective constituency group regarding the potential names. The advisory council members revisited the potential new names and recommended either keeping Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary because the name is familiar and represents the core of the ecosystem or changing the name to the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to indicate that the sanctuary has expanded. Farallones means in Spanish a rock or islet jutting out of the sea, a rock isolated from shore by the action of waves. A feature of the sanctuary and in particular the expanded area is assemblages of rocky outcrops offshore and along the coast. The name recommendation was presented to the Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries for a decision. After much discussion and two rounds of voting, the council recommended two names to the Superintendent to be passed along to Washington DC:

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (no change)
Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

Both of the above names received 10 votes each from council members. No other suggested names received more than 3 votes.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant advisory council actions taken this quarter.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 28, 2015

Advisory Council Writes Support Letter for Intergovernmental Policy Council Habitat Framework

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (advisory council) approved a support letter for Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council (IPC) Habitat Framework initiative. The Habitat Framework initiative is based on a need for a common understanding of all information sources regarding habitat and its role in supporting marine ecosystems, and could be used as a comprehensive catalog supporting regional ecosystem-based management. It will also aid in the identification and protection of important habitats and enhance coastal and marine spatial planning efforts. The Habitat Framework will use NOAA's Coastal Marine Ecological Classification System and would also support OCNMS strategic priorities per the OCNMS Management Plan, such as habitat mapping and classification; populations, communities and ecosystems; and habitat protection. The letter was forwarded from OCNMS

Superintendent Carol Bernthal to ONMS Director Dan Basta and West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros.

The OCNMS Advisory Council's final letter is available on the advisory council's website at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/letter_support_ipc_habitatframework.pdf.

Advisory Council Recommends Priority Locations for NOAA Educational Kiosk

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a support letter evaluating and recommending priority locations for the placement of an educational kiosk for Washington's outer coast. The advisory council voted by consensus on installing the kiosk at Kalaloch Lodge. This location was chosen for its year round visitation rates and ideal geography adjacent to OCNMS. The second priority location identified, or potential back up location, was Forks Visitor Center, which also reaches a large number of visitors and can serve as a gateway to sanctuary visitation. The letter was forwarded from OCNMS Superintendent Carol Bernthal to ONMS Director Dan Basta and West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros. OCNMS has since decided to take the advisory council's recommendations and place one kiosk in each of the locations prioritized, forgoing the installation in its Port Angeles visitor center, Olympic Coast Discovery Center, as originally planned.

The OCNMS Advisory Council's final letter is available on the advisory council's website at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/recommendation_and_report_kiosk_2015.pdf.

Advisory Council Recommends Field-Based Educational Experiences Over Creation of Advisory Council Youth Seat

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a recommendation letter for the sanctuary to focus its youth involvement efforts on field-based educational experiences instead of creating a Youth Seat on the advisory council. The recommendation came after an evaluation of a one-year trial period from youth participation at OCNMS advisory council meetings. Council members believed the hands-on education programs would be more engaging and effective in achieving the Youth Seat goal of providing opportunities for future generations of ocean stewards, users and leaders in sanctuary communities. Through OCNMS led programs, youth will better witness firsthand the challenges of marine resource management and protection. The advisory council voted to continue youth participation at council meetings when appropriate, such as when an opportunistic situation arise.

The letter was forwarded from OCNMS Superintendent Carol Bernthal to ONMS Director Dan Basta and West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros.

The OCNMS Advisory Council's final letter is available on the advisory council's website at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/evaluation_recommend_youth_seat_2015.pdf.

March 26, 2015

Advisory Council Approves Oceanographic Monitoring Group's Recommendation Letter and Report

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council approved a recommendation letter and final report from the Oceanographic Monitoring Group (OMG). The OMG was formed to

assess the most effective and efficient oceanographic moorings deployment by OCNMS under four budget scenarios. Their report and recommendations are summarized as follows:

- Priority locations for mooring deployment should maintain the longest time series and retain deeper moorings on all transects. If more than five moorings can be supported, the priority is to deploy southern moorings at 15m depth and then add moorings at this depth to the north.
- Key monitoring parameters identified include temperature, salinity, and dissolved oxygen – the triplet of parameters used in aragonite saturation models.
- If OCNMS receives increased funding, it was recommended to prioritize obtaining newer, better sensors, to enable real time data delivery with priority at the southern sites and to support staff time to ensure the data is analyzed and shared faster, and published.
- OCNMS should maintain the current mooring design to ensure consistency with the long term dataset and that the Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler should be placed near the Cape Elizabeth 42m mooring.

The letter was forwarded from OCNMS Superintendent Carol Bernthal to ONMS Director Dan Basta and West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros.

The OCNMS Advisory Council's final letter is available on the advisory council's website at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/report_recommend_oceanmonitoring_2015.pdf.
