

Conservation Working Group

June 15th, 2004

9:30 - 12:00

Moss Landing Harbor District Office

Meeting minutes

CWG Members attending

Steve Shimek, The Otter Project

Holly Price & Rachel Saunders, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Barb Peichel, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

Steve Webster, At-Large

Cecile Wahle, League of Women Voters

Kaya Pederson, Surfrider

Dave Zaches, Save Our Shores

D'Anne Albers, Friends of the Sea Otter

John Fisher, At-Large

Erin Simmons, Oceana

I. Announcements

The Monterey County Overall Economic Development Commission will consider a resolution at their Thursday, June 17, 2004 meeting proposed by the Alliance of Sustainable Fishing that encourages the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary not to manage or regulate fisheries or fishing vessels. The resolution will be considered under agenda item #5 (at approximately 4:20 p.m.) in the east wing Conference Room of the Salinas Courthouse, 240 Church Street. Their decision will be forwarded to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors as an agenda item for their September meeting. The Commission will allow ten minutes each for group statements for and against the resolution followed by additional time for public comment. It was suggested that Jane DeLay and Steve Webster might be good speakers for the meeting.

AMBAG will solicit proposals for the SAC selection process and conflict of interest for the August 11, 2004, meeting in Marina.

The Monterey County General Plan Update process has been postponed for at least a year.

Surfrider has been officially accepted into the Conservation Working Group (welcome Kaya Pederson).

The PFMC meeting on Thursday, June 17, 2004 will consider adopting a krill ban. The CWG recommends sending a letter of support for nominee Kate Wing as a new PFMC member.

II. CWG JMPR Priorities for August SAC meeting

The Sanctuary would like to prioritize between the many actions in the JMPR due to limitations of staff and resources. The priorities will steer activities for at least the next five (but might be

ten) years. The CWG has been asked to make recommendations on which of the actions in the JMPR are of highest priority at the August 6, 2004 SAC meeting. Steve Shimek, as chair of the meeting, took a preliminary straw poll of CWG members present to see which main items might be priorities. Six items were considered higher priority and seven items were considered lower priority out of the 25 actions in the JMPR. A discussion ensued as to how the priority areas should be identified and what criteria the SAC should use in deciding the priorities.

The July 20, 2004 CWG meeting will focus on the detailed action plan strategies so members are encouraged to review these items at http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/m_reptoad.html. CWG members are also encouraged to send suggestions on the process of selecting priorities to Steve Shimek before July 7, 2004.

III. Sanctuary Report

The Sanctuary had conservation workshops on AMBAG, coastal erosion, desalinization, and urban runoff and water quality. Holly Price met with the Secretary of Resources to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of combining marine protected areas as separate state and federal processes. The other agenda items have been postponed until the July CWG meeting.

The next meeting of the CWG is set for July 20, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at the Moss Landing Harbor District Office.