

Conservation Working Group
Minutes of Meeting - May 21, 2002

Attendance

K. Gaffney (TOC) A. Graves & Crescent (SOS), J. Tang (Keeley), H. Price (MBNMS), J. Fisher, J.Wickham (SC), P. Matejcek (SC), D.Ebert (BTAP), M.Radakovich (BAYNET), S. Morton (MBNMS),

Announcements

- J. Fisher gave an update on water district/desal activities on the Peninsula
- The Highlands Inn and Highlands Assn. Are scheduled to connect to the Carmel Wastewater Plant by Spring 2003, resolving the recent Wildcat Cove sewage issues
- Reauth of Magnuson Act is going in for markup and the Marine Fish Conservation Network asking for additional time to provide input to the bill.
- The request for military exemptions from environmental laws is expected to be acted on by the House in the next few weeks. An action alert on this issue is available on the TOC website.

Sanctuary Report

- Sanctuary is working with the new staffer for the BLM Coastal monument (HQ'd in the MBNMS offices). Holly will invite the BLM staff to the next CWG meeting to give a brief presentation.
- The Sanctuary is participating in a research trip to the Davidson Seamount this week.
- NOAA enforcement officer Carol Takaka is leaving to go back to school.
- Snapshot Day 2002 results will be available soon. The Sanctuary will be involved in a coastwide extension of Snapshot Day in 2003.
- Mystery Spill – the Sanctuary is working with other agencies to address a plan for removing the remaining oil from the sunken vessel off the Farallones.
- K. Gaffney distributed the text on the CWG for the 2001 Annual report and asked for comments by the end of the week.
- Team Ocean kayak docents will begin the summer season soon and target kayakers and wildlife interactions in Monterey and Elkhorn Slough. The Sanctuary is seeking advice as to how to evaluate this program.
- Special use permits: The CWG discussed NOAA's request for public comments regarding the special use permit process and directed K.aitilin to draft a letter to the SAC/MBNMS recommending that fiber optic cable maintenance not be treated under the special use permit provisions based on their potential for harming Sanctuary resources.

Cruise Ships

- Princess Cruise lines got blown out on May 7 and did not unload passengers in Monterey.
- RCCL and Crystal Cruise Lines have also voluntarily agreed to zero discharge in the Sanctuary.
- The City of Monterey adopted as City policy that Cruise Ships landing in Monterey would be expected to comply with a zero discharge policy and if they

- violated this policy, the line (or possibly just the ship) would not be allowed back in Monterey.
- Eric Russell of the Aquatic Protection Agency monitored ocean waters behind the Star Princess by taking samples and did not find any samples violating fecal coliform action levels.
 - The Cruise Ship issue is on the June 7 SAC meeting agenda where K. Gaffney will present the CWG's recommendations contained in the March 12 letter to the SAC and the MBNMS.

JMPR

S. Morton gave an update on the JMPR process. The Sanctuaries expect to release a list of priority issues, both cross cutting and sanctuary specific by mid-June. A Draft work plan will be developed and issues will be addressed either through working groups, interagency coordination efforts, or ongoing processes. The workplan process is expected to begin in August and end by January 2003.