

DRAFT

National Marine Sanctuary Program Annual Report
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
January 2002-December 2002

Major Achievements and Milestones

- During the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) process the SAC has made a special effort to involve the public and receive their comments. A special public comment period was held the evening before the August 2nd meeting dedicated to JMPR priority issues. The comment period attracted over 60 people; approximately 30 people addressed the Council. Public comment focused primarily on the sanctuary protection for the waters off San Luis Obispo County.
- During the month of September the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary celebrated its tenth anniversary. Four celebrations were held at different locations throughout the Sanctuary. Many SAC members participated.
- PEW Oceans Commission Chair and former Congressman Leon Panetta gave a 90-minute presentation, summarizing the work of the Commission and some of the most pressing ocean issues.

SAC recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

- At the June 7th SAC meeting a discussion was introduced by Holly Price, Resource Protection Coordinator, on Special Use Permits and how they are being granted for fiber optic cables and their maintenance. Kaitilin Gaffney, Conservation alternate, made a motion for the SAC to submit a letter to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries asking it to reconsider whether the Special Use Permits are the appropriate permit to approve fiber optic cable maintenance. The motion was passed and the SAC submitted a letter.
- The August 2nd meeting was dedicated to the Joint Management Plan Priority Issues. The SAC was asked to give comments on the cross-cutting and site-specific issues. Dan Haifley, Recreation primary and SAC Secretary, made a motion to accept Table 4.1, a table showing the placement of all issues under cross-cutting and site-specific, and make amendments to the table. The Council took action and made nine amendments to the table.
- Richard Nutter, Agriculture primary and SAC Vice-Chair, commented that the waiver for non-point source discharges associated with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan is expiring at the beginning of year 2003. He asked the Council to send a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to consider the program that the MBNMS has in place now with the Agricultural industry. The motion was passed and the SAC submitted a letter to the RWQCB asking them to factor in the MBNMS Agricultural Plan as they adopt their TMDL program.

Major Administrative Changes

- The Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator, Karen Grimmer, moved on to her new role as the MERITO Manager. Nicole Capps started as the new Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator. Rachel Saunders, Community and Public Relations Coordinator, also took on duties as a liaison with the Council.
- The resignation of both the primary and alternate Citizen At-Large seat representing the Northern part of the Sanctuary were given at the August meeting. Recruitment for new members began in November.
- The California Department of Fish and Game announced Fred Wendell and Paul Reilly as their primary and alternate members.
- Frank Degnan, Diving primary, George Cook, CA State Parks primary, and Monty Criss, Tourism alternate, were sworn in at the June meeting.