

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Conservation Working Group
September 17, 2002 Meeting Minutes

Attendance

K. Gaffney, H. Price, H. McGonigal, M. Lopuch, E. Simmons, J. Fischer, S. Shimek, F. O'Neill, D. Streeter, P. Matejcek, D. Goodboe, J. Wickham

Sanctuary Report

- Holly gave an update on the numerous Sanctuary anniversary events. Deborah Streeter described the interfaith blessing of the Sanctuary that will occur at the Oceans Fair.
- Holly described recent vessel grounds in the Sanctuary and the broader issue of how state and federal agencies can best address groundings in the long-term. The CWG expressed concern about this issue, particularly given the likely increase in small and medium vessel traffic in nearer shore waters given the shelf closure.
- Holly informed the CWG about Sanctuary activities to address the undaria infestation of the Monterey harbor.
- Holly provided an update on desal; the CWG discussed the relative problems and merits of regional versus community scaled plants.
- The City of Pacific Grove had a sewage spill last week. The MBNMS will be developing a Water Quality Plan for beach closures.
- Holly will give a presentation on the status of the CalTrans Big Sur highway landslide disposal plan.

Code of Conduct on Aquaculture

Huff gave a presentation on NMFS' recently released draft Code of Conduct. The CWG discussed the various environmental concerns associated with aquaculture operations. Kaitilin informed the CWG that TOC is submitting comments on this issue and will make them available to those who are interested.

Joint Management Plan Review Update

- Holly gave an update on the JMPR.
- Steve Shimek was disappointed with the language on trawling and expressed his view that the Sanctuary needs to take a stronger line since the adverse impacts of trawling are well documented.
- Kaitilin noted that the CWG had supported consideration of including the Davidson Seamount within Sanctuary boundaries but that this issue was inadvertently left out of the CWG's original letter. The CWG agreed to continue to support this issue in future SAC discussions on the JMPR.
- Erin agreed to circulate some information on underwater sound, the DOD exemption efforts, and the NEPA exemption efforts.

Fair Market Value for Cables

Kaitilin gave an update on NOAA's recently released final report on Cable fees.

Fisheries Updates

- CDFG recently released its Nearshore Fisheries Management Plan
- The CINMS DFG vote on marine reserves is expected in Oct.
- DFG released an Ab management plan that includes as a goal restoring the commercial ab fishery.

Cruise Ship Update

The next cruise ship will arrive Sept. 18. The City of PG has a cruise ship resolution on their agenda for Sept. 18.