



**GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (GFNMS)
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Bodega Marine Lab
Bodega Bay, CA
9:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Thursday, Feb 23, 2012

Note: The following key meeting outcomes are an account of discussions at the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, REVIEW AGENDA

Acting Advisory Council Chair, Barbara Emley, called the meeting to order at 9:30am

Copies to:

Bill Douros ONMS West Coast Regional Office

Review Agenda

Superintendent's Report

Permit Update:

A research permit was issued to Phil Capitolo, from UC Santa Cruz, for annual Oregon to Mexico surveys in collaboration with USFWS.

A research permit was issued to Brad Hanson, from the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for an orca distribution survey in the waters of Olympic Coast, Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

A research permit was issued to Barbara Block, from Stanford University, to maintain acoustic receivers that record data from tagged white sharks at the Farallon Islands, Ano Nuevo, Tomales Point and Point Reyes.

A management permit was issued to Mischon Martin, from Marin County Parks, for invasive cordgrass removal in Bolinas Lagoon.

An authorization permit was issued to Jeff Clark, of Mavericks Invitational Surf Contest, for a big wave, paddle-in surfing contest off Pillar Point.

Michael Chickey, of Iron Cross Productions, applied for two special-use permits for filming “Of Men and Mavericks”. For filming operations on Mavericks Beach, it was determined that a permit was not needed for beach use. Mr. Chickey also applied for a permit for helicopter overflights at elevations between 200-500 feet in the overflight restriction zone. This application was withdrawn.



An education permit is under review for James Moskito, of Great White Adventures, for ecotourism trips for the general public in the waters around Farallon Islands.

An education permit is under review for David Marks for a 3D IMAX film about white sharks in the waters around the Farallon Islands.

Mavericks Surf Contest:

The Sanctuary met with Jeff Clark of Maverick's Invitational Surf Contest. The Sanctuary doesn't anticipate any issues with this permit or the contest this year. The Sanctuary has also made as permit condition that Mr. Clark must supply accurate information about the sanctuary regulations during the contest.

- **Film: "Of Men and Mavericks"**

The sanctuary has not issued any permits to Iron Cross Productions. However, the sanctuary has received a number of reports of potential violations associated with the filming. NOAA-OLE has been on-scene and all of the potential violations are under investigation.

- **Surf Contest**

The contest has not been called yet. The window of opportunity lasts until March 31. There will be 15 Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC or jetskis) for search and rescue, contestant transport, logistics and filming. The offshore area will be closed by US Coast Guard and Mavericks Beach will be closed by sheriff's office. There will be wildlife observers from The Marine Mammal Center. Additionally, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement will be on-scene.

- **Sheriff's Office Volunteer Search and Rescue Program**

The San Mateo County Sheriff's office is in the process of setting up a search and rescue MPWC program. They hired a trainer and purchased MPWCs. This program will likely take a year to get up and running. Currently, the sanctuary is waiting for Sheriff's office to put together a program so we can issue them a permit for training.

Budget:

The sanctuary is hoping to have a budget in the next few days. The expectation is level-funding with a possible cut. The sanctuary will need to reduce some spending, with probable staffing changes.

Overflight restrictions:

On January 26, 2012 a Final Rule on Overflight Regulations for the Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Gulf of Farallones, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries, was issued by NOAA. The final rule does not create a new regulation but clarifies existing overflight restrictions that have been in place for many years, by standardizing the application of existing sanctuary regulations. Superintendent Brown acknowledged and thanked the individuals, organizations and government agencies (many of whom are on the SAC) that wrote to the sanctuary about the importance of protecting wildlife in Tomales Bay and off the Marin and San Mateo coasts.



The majority of comments received requested additional areas for inclusion to designated low overflight restriction zones, within GFNMS, Northern MBNMS and in areas where the Park Service has jurisdictions. The identification of new designated zones was beyond the scope of this rulemaking and requires an Environmental Assessment before any changes to the current size, shape and/ or location of zones can be proposed, or given legal standing.

Right now the sanctuary is involved in two processes. First, it is working with the FAA to determine visual format of the current zones and place them on the aeronautical charts. It is envisioned that depiction on aeronautical charts will significantly increase compliance with the overflight regulations since pilots are required to have the most recent version of the aeronautical sectional charts for any area that they are flying through. Second, the sanctuary is a member of the National Parks Service Air Tour Management Plan development team and is working very closely with the Parks to ensure consistency between any proposed future actions of each of the agencies.

Pending future funding, the next phase will start once the visual format of the current zones is determined and placed on the aeronautical charts. At the June Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting, the sanctuary will provide an update on FAA progress to place the current zones on the aeronautical charts and will present a proposed timeline to address next steps. In order to move forward the sanctuary will need to conduct an environmental assessment that reviews the location, size and shape of the zones, assesses the known information about disturbance, and addresses new information on wildlife hotspots.

Essential Fish Habitat update:

The sanctuary is participating in the Groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) review process of the Pacific Fishery Management Council. Karen Reyna (GFNMS Resource Protection Coordinator) is an alternate on the EFH Review Committee for the Pacific Council and for the last several months has been assisting in gathering information for a report to the Council due in March that will be discussed during April Council Meeting in Seattle, April 1-7, 2012. The report is phase I of the Council process to determine if they will move forward with accepting proposals for changes to current EFH designations. This determination will be made by the Pacific Fishery Management Council at their April meeting and will be based on the information presented in the report, which will include new information regarding:

- The Summary of current EFH, Habitat Areas of Particular Concern (HAPCs), and Ecologically Important Habitat Closed Areas
- Review of new information on EFH for groundfish (compared to 2005)
 - Associations of groundfishes with habitats
 - Data inventory
 - Habitat associations/Habitat Use Database
 - Life history summaries
 - Distribution of seafloor habitat types, including modeling distribution of habitats and distribution of biogenic habitats
- Fishing activities that may affect EFH, by gear type including trawl track maps/data
- Information on prey species
- Recommendations on information and research needs



As Jan Roletto (Research Coordinator for GFNMS) presented at the November SAC meeting, GFNMS worked with NMFS and USGS to gather multi-beam sonar data for Rittenburg Bank, West Fanny Shoals and the Farallon Escarpment, completed in September 2011. This information was given to the Review Committee and will be incorporated into the report. If the Pacific Fisheries Management Council decides to move forward with requesting proposals, GFNMS will be reviewing the report and evaluating current EFH and the new information provided.

Based on that evaluation, the sanctuary may move forward with a proposal, which will likely be due in July. If the sanctuary moves forward with a proposal, a priority will be placed on areas that are currently not protected through EFH conservation measures, are unique, rare and ecologically sensitive either due to geologic features and/or contain known biogenic habitat (i.e. deep sea corals), and are vulnerable to the adverse impacts of fishing on groundfish. GFNMS plans to assess the parameters of a proposal based on strategies in our management plan, and will be looking at potentially ecologically sensitive habitat at Rittenburg Bank, The Farallon Escarpment and West Fanny Shoal. GFNMS plans to utilize the information provided in the report from the EFH Review Committee to the Pacific Council due in March 2012, which should provide information regarding fishing efforts in these areas, known locations of coral, and other physical data and models.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Update (Superintendent Paul Michel)

Education/Outreach

The construction of the new Exploration Center in Santa Cruz is going very well. Monterey Bay Sanctuary staff will be moving into the building by mid-March. All exhibitry should be complete by the end of May. The grand opening should be in early to mid July.

MBNMS will be celebrating its 20 yr anniversary alongside the Blue Ocean Film Festival on September 24, 2012.

“Your Sanctuary” TV show is going well. MBNMS is in production on the 3rd episode.

Resource Protection

Primary focus remains on the Ecosystem Based Management Initiative, and specifically on the Integrated Ecosystem Assessment.

MBNMS will also be participating in the EFH Review process of the Pacific Fisheries Management Council.

Research/Science

MBNMS has been focusing on deepwater characterization work

Member Updates

George Clyde-



Tomales Bay is an impaired water body for mercury and a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) will be determined for the bay. Fortunately, the amount of mercury in the bay is decreasing.

There is action in Marin county to establish a local dump station. The Board of Supervisors will address this issue at their next meeting to install a dump station and improve facilities.

Coho salmon numbers are increasing in the area. There were over 300, at last count.

Boaters in Tomales Bay made an extraordinary rescue of kayakers at TB buoy in the mouth of the bay.

Tomorrow is the final Audubon Canyon Ranch bird count for the season.

Bob Breen-

The Southern California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) went into effect Jan 1, 2012. 350 square miles are now under protection. Additionally, they have started an MPA watch in San Jose, which tries to coordinate monitoring and data collection. Of course, it will be a long time before MPA performance can be evaluated.

Bruce Bowser-

On February 3, 2012, Bruce attended the Bolinas Lagoon Technical Advisory Committee meeting. There are structural changes being made on the council, which is composed of a partnership between Marin County Parks, Golden Gate National Recreation Area and GFNMS. County parks came up with an organizational chart and will take a longer look at the structure.

On Feb 15, 2012, Bruce gave a tour with Karen Reyna and Kate Bimrose to 14 high-ranking officials visiting San Francisco for an international conference of MPA managers. They gave them an hour tour of Bolinas Lagoon and described the restoration plan. The group also went out to Duxbury Reef and talked about the Rocky Shore partnership between GFNMS and Cal Academy of Sciences.

Dominique Richard-

A scientific review of work done around Drakes Estero was recently completed with The Marine Mammal Center. There have been three rounds of comments on this review.

Please fill out Lauren Garske's survey. It should reveal some interesting information on the relationship between science and management in the advisory councils.

Two years ago, the first climate change workshop was held in the Bay Area and an emphasis was placed on the relationship between scientists and managers. Dominique would like to get a follow-up report on this.

From Beach Watch at Drakes, several different elephant seals have been observed on the sandbar, and every year, there are more migrating there. No pups have been observed yet. Last time, there were two male elephant seals, alive and well. If females were to arrive, it would



portend the start of a colony. Currently, north of the Channel Islands, it's all immigration populations.

Jaime Jahncke-

PRBO Conservation Science did studies on Southeast Farallon island to measure the potential ecosystem response to mouse eradication. PRBO concluded with existing data that they can measure the numbers of petrels, owls and salamanders that would be affected by the eradication. Based on feedback from US Fish and Wildlife, PRBO is trying to determine the number of incidental "take" that might occur, and is working within three different scenarios. A species endemic to the island is a cricket in the caves, and PRBO has two grad students working to study them. Others are doing vegetation assessments on the island, and how that overlaps with data of ground nesting birds, and PRBO will try to monitor changes to those nesters.

ACCESS, the sanctuary and PRBO partnership, is now officially a partner of West Coast Ecosystem Based Management Network. PRBO is working to have ACCESS and Beach Watch data on a mapping tool, and has been able to link it with an environmental response tool, so if it works we can link it with spill response.

John Largier-

John suggested the creation of an online list of research that is going on in the sanctuaries.

Barbara Emley-

Barbara would also like to see permits and the follow-up from issued permits on the website.

Superintendent Brown stated that one of the permit conditions for researchers working in the sanctuary is to put information about their work and their data up on SIMoN (See <http://sanctuarysimon.org/index.php>). Unfortunately, the sanctuary does not have a staff person to do the follow-up with the researchers.

Richard Keuhn-

Richard met with representatives from Conservation Lands –a new foundation of the Bureau of Lands Management. Since this Congress has not passed any land use changes, Congressman Mike Thompson is looking at other ways to conserve lands before the end of session, and is thinking of using the Antiquities Act to conserve the land near Alder Creek. This has been a sanctuary issue in the past.

Barbara Emley-

Crab season was very good this year. Although last season was the best in history, this season was "normal-good". The thing that was different was that the crabs weren't ready for market north of this area, and they were barely ready locally. Abundance and food competition could be an issue.

Herring season is good and they are going to catch the quota for the first time in a long time. The season has been pretty busy, with two pumps running at Pier 45. Fishermen are looking forward to the salmon season, which is looking promising.



BREAK

Advisory Council Business (Possible Council Action)

Approval of November 2011 Meeting Notes-

Dominique Richard was present at the November meeting (correction). Edit noted.

Motion to approve:

Motion: Bob Wilson

Second: George Clyde

Vote: All in favor. 3 abstentions.

SAC West Coast Region Quarterly Report-

Please see http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pdfs/wcr_q4_2011.pdf for the Sanctuary Advisory Council West Coast Region SAC Actions for the 4th Quarter of 2011.

SAC Challenge 2012-

Advisory Council members committed to at least one new form of communication to their constituents for the year 2012. Please contact Leslie.Abramson@noaa.gov for more information.

Youth Involvement Subcommittee-

The Youth Involvement Subcommittee reviewed their recommendations, which were discussed and then edited. Please see the final version at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_02/youth_sbcmte.pdf

Motion to adopt the recommendations of the Youth Involvement Subcommittee, as amended

Motion: Bob Wilson

Second: George Clyde

Vote: Unanimous

Subcommittee on SAC Fisheries Issues-

The Subcommittee on Fisheries Issues reviewed their recommendations, which were discussed and then edited. Please see the final version at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_02/final_fisheries_sbcmte.pdf

B-WET Support Letter-

The Council reviewed and discussed the B-WET support letter.

Motion to accept the letter, as written.

Motion: Bob Breen

Second: Bruce Bowser

Discussion followed. Motion is to approve as amended. Bob Breen will make changes, and then send to the SAC.

Vote: Unanimous



Public Comment

Name: Anna Weinstein

Affiliation: West Coast Audobon Society- Marine Lead

Comment: Ms. Weinstein encouraged the council to reach out to low-income populations when recruiting for the youth seat. Additionally, the herring population structure is a problem. There are no more 5 and 6 year old fish left based on CA Fish and Game sampling in the San Francisco Bay, and it's important to have the sanctuary engage more in this issue.

Additionally, Ms. Weinstein brought a copy of a white paper, produced by Audobon on how Monterey Bay Sanctuary can better study and understand the forage base in the sanctuary. It would be easy to take this and expand it into GFNMS. She recommended the council consider it as an agenda item for the June 7 joint meeting between GFNMS and CBNMS.

Affiliation: Oceana

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Conservation Working Group is putting together a proposal to address the groundfish and trawl closures and recent trawl footprint. This covers the entire west coast. If you have questions about that, contact Oceana.

LUNCH

Including the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area (Possible Council Action)

Golden Gate Cetacean Research on Harbor Porpoise

Presentation by Jonathan Stern available here:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_02/harborporpoiseppt.pdf

Aquarium of the Bay Sevenshark Research-

Jon Frawley, President and CEO of the Bay Institute, introduced Christina Slager, Director of Animal Care and Aquatic Exhibits. Mr. Frawley gave an overview on the America's Cup Healthy Oceans Project. He stated that this group is formally aligned to support closing the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusionary Zone, or the "donut hole"

Presentation by Christina Slager available here:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_02/sevensharkppt.pdf

Administrative Process for Boundary Expansion-

Superintendent Maria Brown presented the process for administratively expanding a national marine sanctuary.

Presentation by Maria Brown available here:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_02/administrative_expansionppt.pdf

Discussion:

The council discussed several points relating to potentially closing the donut hole:

- The possible formation of a working group to address this issue



- The possible integration of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Northern Management Area into the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary. It was noted that the public in San Mateo County feels more connected to GFNMS. Additionally, it would be an opportunity for the cities of Pacifica and Half Moon Bay to prove that they have had successes in water quality.
- Creating a new name for the “donut hole”, or for GFNMS
- John Largier stated that from a biophysical functional standpoint, the Northern Management Area should be part of GFNMS. It makes sense biologically and oceanographically.
- The potential of expanding sanctuary boundaries into the San Francisco Bay

Motion that the sanctuary explore the issue of expanding the sanctuary and moving boundaries and report back to us at June meeting.

Motion: Bob Wilson

Second: John Largier

Vote: Unanimous

BREAK

Vessel Spills JWG Update

Jaime Jahncke gave an update on the last meeting of the Vessel Spills Joint Working Group, which focused on toxicity. Some of the points discussed included:

- toxicological effects of dispersants on salmon smolt, fish larvae, abalone larvae, kelp and mycids, as well as bioaccumulation.
- The impacts of oil on herring and herring larvae

The group has now planned two more meetings, one will focus on bio-resources and the last will look at oceanography.

Joint Working Group on Vessel Strikes and Acoustic Impacts Update

Presentation by Leslie Abramson available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/12_02/jwg_whalesppt.pdf

Adjourn. Time: 3:46

Attendance Roster

NAME	SEAT	P/A
Dominique Richard	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma	P
Richard Kuehn	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma-Alt	P
Kellyx Nelson	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo	A
Tim Duff	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo Alternate	A
Secretary John Laird	CA Resources Agency	A



Gulf of the Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary
Advisory Council Key Meeting Outcomes

Vacant	CA Resources Agency Alternate	
Secretary Matt Rodriguez	CA EPA	A
Miriam Barcellona Ingenito	CA EPA Alternate	A
Richard Charter [Council Chair]	Conservation	A
Bruce Bowser	Conservation Alternate	P
Bob Wilson [Council Secretary]	Conservation	P
Jackie Dragon	Conservation Alternate	A
Bob Breen	Education	P
<i>Vacant</i>	Education Alternate	
Barbara Emley [Council Vice-Chair]	Maritime Activities/ Commercial	P
Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate	A
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities/Recreational	A
George Clyde	Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate	P
John Largier	Research	P
Jaime Jahncke	Research Alternate	P
Cicely Muldoon	National Park Service	A
Frank Dean	National Park Service Alternate	A
Mendel Stewart	USFWS	A
Gerry McChesney	USFWS Alternate	A
LT Elisa Garrity	USCG	A
<i>Vacant</i>	USCG Alternate	
Pat Rutten	NMFS [non-voting]	A
Natalie-Cosentino Manning	NMFS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Maria Brown	GFNMS [non-voting]	P
Chris Mobley	CINMS [non-voting]	A
Mike Murray	CINMS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Dan Howard	CBNMS [non-voting]	A
Kaitlin Graiff	CBNMS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Paul Michel	MBNMS [non-voting]	P
John Hunt	MBNMS [non-voting]	A