

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
1/16/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Linda Krop (EDC), Kristi Birney (EDC), Owen Bailey (EDC), Debra Herring, Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Danni Storz (Gray Whales Count); Kira Redmond (SB Channelkeeper), John Ugoretz (Dept of Defense), Vic Cox, Mary Byrd (SBC APCD)

Staff: Sean Hastings, Michael Murray

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

- A. CINMS/EDC Bren School group project: The students are working to determine what attributes are most valuable to non-consumptive boaters and see how these attributes influences decision making process in terms of sanctuary visitation, activity, and site choice. Students anticipate presenting project results at the March 2013 SAC meeting. The final presentation will take place at the Bren School in April.

- B. MPA implementation activities: (a) Kira reported that Channelkeeper will hold a training session for MPA-Watch on January 29 at 5:30 at their office; (b) Informational signs have been installed in Isla Vista at beach access points; signs will also be installed at UCSB; (c) Central Coast symposium will be held in February to assess five-year results.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. IMO/USCG Rule-Making: At the request of the US delegation, the IMO endorsed modification of Santa Barbara Channel Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS). CINMS and NOAA helped gather and provide data. The IMO system is voluntary; USCG will initiate a domestic rule-making to adopt a federal regulation. Process will include public workshop/hearing, environmental review, and consultation under the Endangered Species Act and National Marine Sanctuary Act. The IMO set June 1 as the date the TSS lanes will move. USCG may be able to present to the SAC in March.

- B. 2012 Season, Updates: September 2012 presentation to the SAC reflects seasonal whale migration and ship speed data. Whale sightings decreased after that. Ship speeds came down a little bit, but unrelated to whale conservation (due to fuel costs, etc). Approximately 50% of ships are still travelling outside the Islands.

In terms of future projections, John mentioned that some ships (that are not stopping elsewhere on the west coast) may travel directly east from Asia to the Ports of LA/LB and avoid our area. Sean also talked about the potential for larger, “super” ships in the future.

Mary mentioned that SBC APCD may be interested in a Bren School group project to address international shipping industry patterns and develop recommended incentives to reduce ship speeds.

Sean reported that the CINMS is working with “Earth and Sea” (which developed the “whale alert” app). The goal is to develop an app that will allow Naturalist Corps (and other?) data to be uploaded in real time.

CINMS and SBC APCD continue to monitor the state’s upcoming cap-and-trade allocation process.

- C. ***Recommendations for SAC action:*** *We discussed various options, and decided that it would be helpful to have the CWG review progress regarding the SAC’s 2009 report and recommendations, identify new and emerging opportunities, and report back to the SAC in March with a recommendation regarding more formal SAC action (e.g., reconvene the SAC subcommittee on whales and shipping, develop a working group, etc.).*

IV. SAC CAMPAIGN OF ENGAGEMENT

- A. **SAC Marketing Subcommittee Update:** The subcommittee met last week and will provide report at SAC meeting.
- B. **SAC Summit report:** The group discussed the connection between Sanctuaries/MPAs and the travel/tourism industry. They also discussed economic benefits, branding, etc. The positive attributes of Sanctuaries (particularly economic) led to support to reactivate the Sanctuary Site Evaluation List (SEL) process. Eric may request that our SAC send a letter of support, to complement the letters sent by some other SACs. In general, CWG members were supportive of sending a letter, but John U. wants to have the SAC vote on the issue in March so that he and Walt can bring the request to DOD. He asked if there are timing considerations; staff will check. Mike noted that boundary changes do not need to go through the SEL process. ***Recommendation for SAC action: if timing is an issue, support sending a letter in January; if timing is not critical consider continuing discussion to March.***

V. OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

- A. **Updates:** Vic shared the recent report, “Frequently Asked Questions: Ocean Acidification.” Kristi advised us that a report is available from the September 2012 Sanctuary workshop on best practices for communicating ocean acidification.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. **William Douros attendance at SAC meeting:** Bill will mainly discuss the Site Evaluation List (see above).

- B. Site Evaluation List: See above.
- C. SAC work topics for 2013: CWG members were provided with the Worksheet and were invited to provide Linda with their input before the SAC meeting.

ADJOURN