

CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP
11/13/13 REPORT
Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,
906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara

Present: Kristi Birney (EDC), Debra Herring, Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Michael Smith (Gray Whales Count), Stewart Wilson, Vic Cox, John Ugoretz (Navy), Elena Egorova (Bren Student), and Sarah Sorensen (Bren Student)

Staff: Andrea Dransfield

I. INTRODUCTIONS

II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channelkeeper (SBCK) continues conducting MPA watch.

SBCK reported that the “MPA Splash” event they hosted was a success. The event targeted educating the IV community (including UCSB students) about the campus point MPA. This event may become an annual event for SBCK.

SBCK is also exploring a new initiative that would provide local businesses the financial incentives to incorporate MPA excursions into the suite of recreational opportunities and outings they provide customers. SBCK has partnered with a local six pack dive operator to mobilize awareness about economic opportunities in MPAs and will be seeking additional funding to expand this new initiative to other local businesses.

III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Update & Progress Report on CWG Recommendations: Kristi reported that she will be presenting and providing an update at Friday’s SAC meeting from interviews she conducted with stakeholders to explore opportunities for advancing discussions to address marine shipping issues in the Santa Barbara Channel region. Her presentation will provide a synopsis of the interviews and will cover the following topics: Issues, Interest, Information, and Needs; Other Issues for Consideration; Process; and Proposed Next Steps. Please attend the Friday SAC meeting or e-mail Kristi for more project details.

Vic suggested that there might be consideration of expanding the scope of the working group to include concerns about routing of cruise ships into and out of the Santa Barbara Harbor.

- B. Ben reported that SBCK has been monitoring cruise ship routing patterns into and out of the SB Harbor. John mentioned that AIS data could be used to better understand cruise ship routes and speeds.

- D. John mentioned a letter that was sent by Congresswomen Lois Capps and Julia Brownley addressed to the Navy and the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association (PMSA) encouraging discussions about ship routing through the missile testing range. The Navy and PMSA have responded to the letter and have started having conversations. They have identified the need for more data on whale presence and are exploring options for filling this data gap.

IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

- A. Channel Islands National Park General Management:
 - It was mentioned that Russell Galipeau, NPS Superintendent, will be providing more information about the Parks Management Plan at the Friday SAC meeting.
- B. Federal Government Shutdown:
 - Andrea reported that the following operations were affected by shutdown: Naturalist Corps operations, Research Vessel Operations, and an Education Workshop was cancelled.
 - There was discussion about how we could express concern over the loss of economic, recreational, and educational opportunities that occurred during the federal government shutdown and how we might share these concerns more broadly with legislations or the general public. Kristi suggested that she would explore opportunities for working with an intern to draft a letter from EDC that could possibly be shared as a sign-on letter with other individuals or other organizations.
- C. Ocean Acidification:
 - Andrea had two updates from Laura Francis (CINMS staff):
 - Laura has participated in a NOAA Principal Investigator (PI) meeting and has been in discussions with the UCSB Hofmann Lab about potential collaboration for developing an OA sensor network in the SB Channel region, including the Sanctuary.
 - Laura reported that she is leading an OA networking group that will be creating a webinar series to share effective educational activities related to OA. They hope to start the webinar series early next year. This builds off the efforts started by the OA Communication workshop in Sept 2012
 - Ben reported that SBCK is still exploring opportunities to partner with UCSB researchers at the UCSB Hoffman Lab to expand OA research and data collocation in the SB region.

- D. Graduate Student Mock-Council: Sean Hastings is teaching a UCSB Bren class this semester and students will be participating in a mock-SAC Council Agenda item this Friday. Everyone is encouraged to attend and participate during the public comment period of the exercise.

VI. OTHER SAC ISSUES

- A. Vic reported that there is a new book written by Joan Easton Lentz “Naturalist Guide to the Santa Barbara Region;” there is an emphasis on the Santa Barbara region and a chapter on the Channel Islands. Book signings events will take place locally and more info can be found at: <http://joaneastonlentz.com/>
- B. California Central Coast Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary: Kristi reported that the Northern Chumash Tribal Council is asking organizations to support a proposal for the California Central Coast Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary. The proposal extends from Point Conception to up to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and out to the Western Slope of the Santa Lucia Bank. For more info contact fcollins@northernchumash.org

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