

**CINMS CONSERVATION WORKING GROUP**  
**5/13/15 REPORT**  
**Environmental Defense Center Conference Room,**  
**906 Garden Street, Santa Barbara**

**Present:** Kristi Birney (EDC, SAC Conservation Seat), Greg Helms (Ocean Conservancy, SAC Conservation Alternate), Ben Pitterle (SBCK), Debra Herring (SAC Non Consumptive Seat)

**Via Phone:** Walt Schobel (Air Force, SAC DOD Alternate)

**CINMS Staff:** Sean Hastings

**I. INTRODUCTIONS**

**II. MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

A. MPA implementation activities:

- a. Santa Barbara Channel MPA Collaborative members Julie Bursek, Jenna Driscoll, Capt. David Bacon, Luhui Isha Waiya, and Kristi Birney all attended the MPA Collaborative South Coast Forum at Cabrillo Marine Aquarium on April 29, 2015. The goals for the meeting were to network among Southern California MPA collaborative leaders and partner agencies, discuss and develop approaches for effective MPA education and outreach, research and monitoring, and compliance and enforcement, and identify resources needed for sustained success. Several collaborative members were on panels to provide thoughts about MPA Messaging, Intercommunication, and Sustainable Finance. Notes from the meeting will be made available in the near future.
- b. Sean noted that the agencies are well aware of an enforcement hotspot at Footprint Marine Reserve and are frustrated by the lack of compliance.
- c. MPA Enforcement Training: The MPA Collaborative Implementation Project and SB MPA Collaborative will be hosting an MPA Training for officers and allied agencies in Santa Barbara and Ventura. The meeting will be held Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> 9-1 at the Channel Islands Boating Center. This training is for law enforcement and participants must RSVP to: [calla@resrouces.ca.gov](mailto:calla@resrouces.ca.gov)
- d. The Sea Center is hosting World Ocean Day on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Access to the education and NGO booths on the wharf will be free there is a small fee for admission to the Sea Center. Inside the Sea Center there will also be additional activities (science and art activities) that are included with admission. Lots of bang for the buck for this festival fun.
- e. SBCK is moving forward with developing several short videos promoting recreational use in MPAs. Anticipate release in mid-summer.
- f. SBCK is also in the first stages of developing promotion around a Naples Dive Trail to promote scuba diving and snorkeling at Naples. This trail would

be distributed to local dive clubs to promote business. Ben will be coordinating with UCSB to avoid science transects. This effort also brought in the interest of an aspiring Eagle Scouts who may work with his troop to promote this idea and possibly take stewardship of the area and dive trial.

### III. WHALES & SHIPPING

- A. Marine Shipping Working Group: At Friday's SAC meeting Kristi and Phyllis will provide an overview from two webinars where participants discussed the group's intended outcomes and lessons learned from past management efforts. For the first webinar presenters included NOAA General Counsel, Maersk Line, Marine Exchange of Southern California, NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), CINMS, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Meeting topics focused on options for ship-strike reduction, shipping patterns and relevant industry activities. The second webinar focused on the available information and data. Presenters included Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), and scientist Jessica Redfern and John Calambokidis. John and Jessica lead a discussion about the whale data included in SeaSketch and shared how to best use each data set in the MSWG process.

The MSWG, a working group of the Sanctuary Advisory Council, is supported by professional facilitators and sanctuary staff and fellows. Participants include Advisory Council members, outside experts, and representatives from the shipping industry and other agencies. The diverse group of stakeholders will meet several times in 2015, in person and via webinar, to develop recommendations to address regional shipping-related concerns, including ship strikes on endangered whales, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, navigation safety concerns, and conflicts with naval operations. MSWG website with materials can be found [here](#).

- B. Sean noted that the Sanctuary conducted an aerial survey and found 33 whales in the Santa Barbara shipping lanes. The Sanctuary has issued a local notice to mariners (NOTM) asking ships to slow down in a slow speed zone in the SB Shipping Lanes. Walt offered to also transmit the information over Vandenberg's radio broadcast.
- C. Sean noted that NOAA Fisheries is proposing to reclassify humpback whales into 14 distinct population segments and delist several of the DPS segments. More info can be found [here](#).

### IV. SAC AGENDA ITEMS

These items will be discussed in more detail at the Friday SAC meeting.

- A. Navy Fiber Optic Cable Project
- B. Ocean Acidification
- C. Sanctuary Classic
- D. NMS Economic Reports

E. Visit SB

**VI. OTHER ISSUES**

- Debra mentioned that the next “From Shore to Sea” lecture series sponsored by the Channel Islands National Park will host a discussion that furthers understanding about Seal and Sea Lion Populations Trends at the Channel Islands. The lecture is at 7:00 pm May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center, 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor. The program is free and open to the public. This lecture can also be viewed live online at:

<http://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/live-programs.htm>.

Lectures are recorded and posted at:

<http://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/photosmultimedia/from-shore-to-sea-lecture-videos.htm>

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