

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting

Friday, January 22th, 2021

9:00 am - 12:30 pm

Online Webinar Session

DRAFT Key Meeting Outcomes

This online public advisory council meeting was not video or audio recorded.

To request a copy of any of the presentation slides shown, contact june.shrestha@noaa.gov.

Administrative Business and Announcements

California Sea Grant Fellow Claire Nasr oriented attendees and advisory council members with introductions regarding sign-in, audio/video set-up, and the protocol for how to participate appropriately and effectively. Sanctuary deputy superintendent Mike Murray confirmed online attendance, revealing the presence of 31 council members representing 19 out of 21 voting seats (Appendix 1). In total, 81 individuals attended the webinar.

Member appointments

Chair Phyllis Grifman welcomed two new incoming council members: **Adam Melerski** (Vandenberg Air Force Base, Department of Defense alternate), and **Lindsay Bonito** (MPA Program Manager with the California Ocean Protection Council, CA Natural Resources Agency seat alternate). Grifman also recognized that current councilmember **Greg Sanders** (U.S. Navy) has moved into the primary member spot for the Department of Defense seat.

November 20th, 2020 Draft Key Outcomes

By unanimous voice vote led by Chair Phyllis Grifman, the council approved the draft key outcomes from the November 20th, 2020 advisory council meeting. A copy of this document is available upon request to june.shrestha@noaa.gov.

Council Member Brief Announcements

Council members shared a variety of announcements about recent events from their respective agencies and groups. Written announcements submitted via a Google Form in advance of the meeting are available (Appendix 2). Michael Cohen presented an update on the sanctuary social media accounts, and Commander Justin Noggle presented an update from the U.S. Coast Guard activities.

Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Sanctuary superintendent Chris Mobley began by addressing the impacts of COVID-19, explaining how it is continuing to affect activities at the sanctuary including mandatory telework and reduced fieldwork. He acknowledged the stress caused by the recent riots in Washington, D.C. at the Capitol and expressed appreciation for the respectful and civil discourse of the advisory council. Mobley then introduced the new California Sea Grant fellow, June Shrestha, who will help support the advisory council, the management plan project, and the sanctuary education and outreach program in 2021. The superintendent also briefly discussed the Fiscal Year 2021 budget and acknowledged that funds will be tight this fiscal year. Mobley shared a couple of highlights from the research team, including: 1) the publication of a paper in Scientific Reports on the effects of climate change on fishes, and 2) sanctuary staff's participation with the California Cooperative Fisheries Investigation (CalCOFI) 2020 State of the

California Current Conference, where project staff led a discussion with many key stakeholders and partners about a conceptual “webenized” CCE website. To conclude, Mobley shared the ONMS Webstory that featured Alicia Cordero, “Elevating Chumash Values and Traditional Ecological Knowledge at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary”, [linked here](#).

Special Guest: John Armor, Director of NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

John Armor, Director of NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), presented an overview of forward-looking key priorities. He discussed a new strategies plan with renewed focus on: 1) justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion, 2) climate change, and 3) tribal & indigenous engagement in anticipation of the ONMS 50th Anniversary in October 2022. Armor also provided an update on the ONMS budget and indicated that available funds for fiscal year 2021 are reduced. He concluded with an engaging discussion session; council members asked him about a) how ONMS leadership will address the global climate crisis, b) operating costs for an expanding sanctuary system, c) the 50th anniversary programming and the inclusion of programming for educators and students, and d) the specifics regarding how ONMS will support justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion in the future. For more information about John Armor’s presentation, please email june.shrestha@noaa.gov.

New Educational Resource: Island Visions

The council learned about the unveiling of a new sanctuary-related educational book resource ([Island Visions](#)) by co-creators Jacob Seigel Brielle and Isaac Seigel-Boettner. The book features stories about the northern Channel Islands by 40 contributors, including several current and former council members. One copy of the book was given away to a council member Greg Sanders following a quiz question. The session was facilitated by Laura Francis, CINMS Education Coordinator. For more information, email laura.francis@noaa.gov.

Public Comment

No public comments arose during this period. Remaining questions from the Island Visions book presentation were answered.

CINMS Management Plan Update Process

Sanctuary Deputy Superintendent for Programs Mike Murray provided a brief update on the current status of the management plan revision process, including a recap of planned Action Plans for the management plan. Claire Nasr then presented information (on behalf of Julie Bursek, CINMS Team Lead for Education and Outreach) on the status of sanctuary signs and visitor centers. Superintendent Chris Mobley spoke about how technology advancements over time might change the way people can receive sanctuary information in the future, and how we might want to consider that when approaching traditional physical signs and visitor center exhibits. He outlined the options we might consider with regard to visitor centers, and a little bit about pros and cons based on experiences at CINMS and other sanctuaries.

Nasr invited council members to provide input, feedback, and questions regarding future sanctuary visitor centers and signs using an online tool called Slido to poll council members and prompt open discussion. Although the informal poll revealed that ~80% of participating council members do not recommend that CINMS pursue a sanctuary-owned visitor center and prefer instead to continue seeing partner facilities prioritized, numerous members pointed out that a human connection provides a valuable component of effective outreach, and they support the continuation of field-based outreach programs (for example, the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps). Many council members supported the continued use of physical sanctuary signs, with the recommendation that signs utilize QR codes and Spanish language to better provide updated access that supports justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion. Council members and the

public also provided ideas for locations where more signs could be installed and potential partners to work with for future signs.

For more information on the management plan revision process or a link to the discussion summary, contact michael.murray@noaa.gov.

Close-Out and Schedule for Future Council Meetings

Chair Phyllis Grifman mentioned the upcoming meeting schedule, offered closing remarks and thanks to all. Claire Nasr mentioned an upcoming informal online connection hour for council members next month, and took a group photo.

Upcoming 2021 Advisory Council meetings:

- Friday, March 19, 2021 (online)
- Friday, May 21, 2021 (online, or Santa Barbara)
- Friday, July 16, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)
- Friday, September 17, 2021 (online, or Santa Barbara)
- Friday, November 19, 2021 (online, or Ventura County)

Appendix 1. Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster for January 22, 2021.

Name	Advisory Council Seat	Attendance
Michael Cohen	Tourism member	Yes
Morgan Coffey	Tourism alternate	Yes
Ben Pitterle	Non-Consumptive Recreation member	Yes
Anthony (Tony) Knight, Ph.D.	Non-Consumptive Recreation alternate	Yes
Giles Pettifor	Business member	Yes
Paul Amaral	Business alternate	No
Kristen Hislop	Conservation member	Yes
Samantha Macks Franz	Conservation alternate	Yes
Kim Selkoe, Ph.D.	Commercial Fishing member	No
Timothy Athens	Commercial Fishing alternate	No
Capt. David Bacon	Recreational Fishing member	Yes
Merit McCrea	Recreational Fishing alternate	No
Cliff Rodrigues	Education member	Yes
Andrea Mills	Education alternate	Yes
Phyllis Grifman	Research member	Yes
Robert Miller, Ph.D.	Research alternate	Yes
Douglas Williams, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Mary Byrd	Public At-Large alternate	Yes
Stuart Kasdin, Ph.D.	Public-At-Large member	Yes
Amanda Allen	Public At-Large alternate	No
Eva Pagaling	Chumash Community member	No
Tano Cabugos	Chumash Community alternate	Yes
Daniel Studt	National Marine Fisheries Service member	Yes
<vacant>	National Marine Fisheries Service alternate	No
Ken Convery	National Park Service member	No
<vacant>	National Park Service alternate	No
CDR Justin Noggle	U.S. Coast Guard member	Yes
LDCR Lee Crusius	U.S. Coast Guard alternate	No
Donna Schroeder	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management member	Yes
Jeremy Potter	Bureau of Ocean Energy Management alternate	No
Greg Sanders	Dept. of Defense member	Yes
Adam Melerski	Dept. of Defense alternate	Yes
Carlos Mireles	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife member	Yes
John Ugoretz	California Dept. of Fish & Wildlife alternate	Yes
Jenn Eckerle	California Natural Resources Agency member	Yes
Lindsay Bonito	California Natural Resources Agency alternate	Yes
Cassidy Teufel	California Coastal Commission member	Yes
Jacqueline Phelps	California Coastal Commission alternate	Yes
Erin Briggs	County of Santa Barbara member	Yes
David Villalobos	County of Santa Barbara alternate	Yes
Danielle Tarr	County of Ventura member	Yes
Mark Sandoval	County of Ventura alternate	Yes
Dawn Hayes	Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	Yes
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay Nat'l Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	No
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones Nat'l Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	No
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary member (non-voting)	Yes
Mike Murray (staff)	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary alternate (non-voting)	Yes
Number of voting seats represented (out of 21)		19

Appendix 2. Copy of written announcements from council members, submitted as of 1/21/21.

<p>Name: Daniel Studt Seat: National Marine Fisheries Service Announcement: Release of updated Eastern North Pacific Gray Whale population assessment Relevant Links: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/feature-story/west-coast-gray-whales-declined-during-unusual-mortality-event-similar-past Photos (add below) Narrative: The population of gray whales that migrate along the West Coast has declined about 24 percent since 2016. It now stands at an estimated 20,580 whales, a new population assessment (PDF, 7 pages) has found. The decline coincides with an ongoing Unusual Mortality Event that NOAA Fisheries declared in 2019 for gray whales. The decline, however, is similar to previous fluctuations in the population.</p>
<p>Name: Daniel Studt Seat: National Marine Fisheries Service Announcement: New groundfish management measures effective Jan 1, 2021 Relevant Links: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/action/amendment-29-pacific-coast-groundfish-fishery-management-plan-2021-2022-harvest Photos (add below) Narrative: A final rule established the 2021–22 harvest specifications for groundfish taken in the U.S. exclusive economic zone off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California. New changes related to the SoCal area include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Non-trawl Rockfish Conservation Area changes South of 34°27' N lat -- Opening of the area between 75 fm and 100 fm boundary lines.- Some trip limits increases for Limited Entry Fixed Gear and Open Access groundfish fisheries.- Recreational bag limits changes --<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Elimination of sub-bag limits for black rockfish, canary rockfish and cabezon within the 10-fish Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling (RCG) complex daily bag limit.- New sub-bag limit for vermilion rockfish changed from 10 fish to 5 fish.
<p>Name: Daniel Studt Seat: National Marine Fisheries Service Announcement: NMFS released an Updated Impact Assessment of the COVID-19 Crisis on the U.S. Commercial Seafood and Recreational For-Hire/Charter Industries January-July 2020 Relevant Links: https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/resource/document/updated-impact-assessment-covid-19-crisis-us-commercial-seafood-and-recreational Photos (add below) Narrative: In April 2020, NOAA Fisheries prepared its first national report on the regional impacts of COVID-19 on the commercial, recreational and aquaculture sectors. This report updates that initial assessment, capturing economic changes experienced by the fishing industry as the country began its phased reopening along with infusion of Federal funding through the CARES Act. NOAA Fisheries will continue to use this information to identify economic hardship where it exists and identify pathways for enhancing the resilience of the U.S. seafood and fisheries industries.</p>
<p>Name: Carlos Mireles Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife Announcement: There was a record high price per pound for California spiny lobster at the start of the 2020-2021 season with a majority of statewide landings coming from Santa Barbara/Ventura Counties Relevant Links: Photos (add below) Narrative: The average (mean) price of spiny lobster gradually increased from the start of the 2020-2021 season in October until reaching a record high average price per pound of \$38.10 at the beginning of 2021. For the period between the season opener in October and January 15, the average price per pound for the 2020-2021 season increased by close to \$10 dollars per pound (avg. price \$23.02) when compared to the same time period for the 2019-2020 season (avg. price \$13.04). This spike in price was due to trade issues between China and other lobster-producing countries; however, we have recently noted a decrease closer to \$20 per pound. In the early weeks of the 2020-2021 lobster season, landings from blocks around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) comprised about 20% of overall landings. Mainland Santa Barbara and Ventura counties contributed a large amount of lobster landings in the early weeks of the</p>

fishery, but landings from those areas gradually decreased while landings from CINMS sanctuary blocks remained relatively constant. Since the 2015-2016 season, the landings from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties have made up 50% or more of statewide landings.

Name: Kim Selkoe, Executive Director, CFSB

Seat: Commercial Fishing

Announcement: Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara has established a seafood donation project with Foodbank of Santa Barbara County and local soup kitchens.

Relevant Links: <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/12/25/949643418/fishermen-team-up-with-food-banks-to-help-hungry-families>

Photos (add below)

Narrative: The Commercial Fishermen of Santa Barbara (CFSB) initiated a seafood donation program that assists two constituencies impacted by the pandemic: fishermen and the food insecure. This past summer, as the beneficiary of \$32,000 in grants from local charities, CFSB hired fishermen to catch and donate 7500 pounds of fish to the Foodbank, which created 17,000 meals. This December CFSB was awarded a \$53,000 grant from the national nonprofit Catch Together to finance another round of seafood donations. So far, we have processed and delivered more than 3000 lbs of local fishermen's catch. In the next 6 weeks we will purchase another 7000 lbs. The project captured the attention of NPR and was featured Christmas morning on its national news show, Morning Edition.

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: 2020 Trap Gear Retrieval Program

Relevant Links: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries>

Photos (add below)

Narrative: This was the first year of implementation for this new program. Seven permits were issued to remove lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab trap gear. Retrieval operations ended up removing 520 lost/abandoned crab traps and another 100 traps through other coordinated efforts. More information can be found on this program at the [Whale Safe Fisheries Web Page](#).

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: Risk Assessment Mitigation Program Implementation (RAMP) to minimize risk of whale entanglement

Relevant Links: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/Whale-Safe-Fisheries>

Photos (add below)

Narrative: The new RAMP regulations became effective Nov. 1, 2020 to minimize the risk of entanglement for Blue whales, Humpback whales and Leatherback sea turtles in the commercial Dungeness crab fishery. Under the new regulations the commercial fishing season was delayed until Dec. 23, 2020 due to high concentrations of Humpback whales in the fishing grounds. The delay was implemented to allow additional time for the seasonal whale migration and minimize potential for co-occurrence with trap gear which could result in an entanglement. More information and to sign-up for updates please visit the [Whale Safe Fisheries Web Page](#).

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: CARES Act implementation

Relevant Links:

Photos (add below)

Narrative: CDFW distributed \$18 Million in relief funds to nearly 3,000 fishermen and fish businesses throughout CA through the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. A second round of relief funding has been provided by the federal government and will be distributed once direction is provided by NOAA Fisheries. All commercial fishery participants are encouraged to check their contact information in the Department's database to ensure they receive application information.

Name: Carlos Mireles

Seat: California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Announcement: Coming soon – Marine Region Year in Review and By The Numbers Reports

Relevant Links:

Photos (add below)

Narrative: These reports provide a great overview of the Marine Region's activities over the past year and summary of key facts and numbers related to recreational and commercial fishing. The reports are anticipated to be published around the end of February.

Name: Dawn Hayes

Seat: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS)

Announcement: MBNMS updated management plan nearing completion

Relevant Links: <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/mp/2015review/welcome.html>

Photos (add below)

Narrative: MBNMS staff are nearing completion of an updated sanctuary management plan. Staff have initiated the NOAA clearance process for the Final Rule supporting the management plan. NOAA headquarters staff will review drafted responses to public comments received on the previously released Draft Management Plan. MBNMS staff expect to submit the sanctuary's Final Management Plan into the NOAA clearance process as early as next week.

Channel Islands Harbor Visioning Public Workshop

Where: Online Zoom Webinar - https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_bbwW0uxeTIW5nC5beu0uHw

When: Thursday, January 28, 2021

Time: 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. (From Danielle Tarr)

Name: Greg Sanders

Seat: Department of Defense (Navy, Point Mugu Sea Range)

Announcement: San Nicolas Island Sea Otter and Kelp Forest Monitoring Information. Contact gregory.s.sanders@navy.mil

Relevant Links: <https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20201115>

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20191147>

<https://pubs.er.usgs.gov/publication/ofr20201091>

Photos (add below)



Narrative: See links for up-to-date Information on the status of sea otters and kelp forest community at San Nicolas Island. Research conducted by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) with funding provided by the U.S. Navy. Note: It may not be long before we see sea otters begin to reoccupy the waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (next 5-10 years?).