

**GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

Building #T989, The Presidio, San Francisco CA

San Francisco, California

12:30pm- 6:30pm

January 12, 2006

Note: The following meeting notes 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 Atmospheric Administration.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, REVIEW AGENDA

Advisory Council Chair Barbara Emley called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Advisory Council Members Present (Primary Seats and Alternates)

Barbara Emley	Chair/Maritime Activities
Bob Wilson	Conservation
Bob Breen	Education
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities
Brian O'Neill	National Park Service
Mark Dowie	Community At-Large
Brenda Donald	Research-Alternate
Richard Charter	Conservation
Steve Shimek	Liaison from Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council
Chris Powell	National Park Service- Alternate
Chris Colburn	Monterey Bay NMS- Alternate

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Staff

Maria Brown	Sanctuary Manager
Irina Kogan	Resource Protection Specialist
Brian Johnson	Acting Assistant Manager

JMPR Team

Ann Walton	Management Plan Coordinator
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Guests

Dan Basta	National Marine Sanctuary Program Director
Bill Duros	National Marine Sanctuary Program, Acting Regional Director for the West Coast
Ted Lillestolen	National Marine Sanctuary Program, Deputy Director for Facilities, Vessels and Safety
Matthew Stout	National Marine Sanctuary Program, Director of Communications

Copies to/Absent

Gwen Heistand Education- Alternate
Jim Kelly Research

Review Agenda:

Agenda approved.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

The Advisory Council approved the notes of July 14, 2005.

Dan Basta, National Marine Sanctuary Director, thanked and congratulated the Gulf of the Farallones SAC for doing such a great job. He gave an overview of the history of this SAC and stressed the importance of the Gulf of the Farallones NMS metropolitan area and community in the country, in terms of marine conservation. San Francisco and this site is a special place in the National Marine Program and is committed in an investment here since it is essential in working together. He gave the example of the recent resolutions by the fisheries council. The first resolution was to fully support the goals and objectives of the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) results in those discrete management plans. The second resolution was for the Council to recommend to ban fishing totally in those places which the process had determined held value and importance, including Channel Islands. Dan said he saw that as a sign of a sea change in finding common ground and common purpose between communities and interests that really has wanted the same things but just cannot find a way to communicate. The JMPR process was the critical element in creating the conditions, forums and battles that are necessary and communication which has resulted in that effort.

Dan expressed his belief that SAC forums are key drivers of community involvement and participations which ultimately influence the institutions that never change from within, to change. Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones should be proud of their work, but the work is not completed and the SAC's input is essential to this process. Dan stated despite the budget woes and the war in Iraq, the attention to marine conservation has never been greater and may continue. Other points he mentioned.

- This year the national marine system received its highest allocation of facility dollars ever. For the first time capital money was given to build vessels and that had never happened before.
- The largest concern in D.C. in the marine conservation agenda is the Northwest Hawaiian Islands. The Oval Office wants to deliver to the nation and the world the largest area ever set aside for marine conservation.
- A presentation will be coming soon to the west coast advisory councils, that Bill Duros, Acting Regional Director for the West Coast is organizing, which will bring the staff from the Northwest Hawaiian Islands.

Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities, proposed to the Council to send the resolution to the other sanctuary advisory councils that was agreed and passed at the December Joint Council meeting with Monterey Bay Sanctuary regarding the seismic airgun activity. The

resolution is to send the resolution out to other Sanctuary Advisory Councils and managers.

Richard Charter, Conservation made the following points:

Discussion:

- This is one of the most important precedences facing the sanctuary program today.
- Requirement to do a seismic inventory in all ocean waters including sanctuary waters.
- Olympic has already taken action that is somewhat different than GF and MB.

The Council agreed to send the resolution without a motion to all the other sanctuary managers and Sanctuary Advisory Councils.

- Dan Basta requested that the topic be included in the SAC chair meeting this spring.
- Bill Duros commented that the resolution from the December meeting has not been sent out to Dan Basta yet, but will be immediately.

REPORTS

Council Member Reports: *Round Robin*

- Mick Menigoz, Maritime Activities, reported that fishing is essentially closed, from the sport fishing perspective. He participated in the humpback whale entanglement rescue along with The Marine Mammal Center in December.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation, acknowledged Mick Menigoz effort in the whale rescue and thanked him for his involvement with The Marine Mammal Center in this dramatic event.
- Brenda Donald, Research-Alternate, reported the ad hoc Donut Hole committee of Arleen Navarrat, Chris Powell, and Michael Kellogg met about the presentation she will be presenting later in this meeting. Brenda is no longer the Laboratory Resource Control and Public Outreach Director but is still on the Advisory Council of Save Our Shores and has started graduate school.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities, reported the crab season did not start on time and missed the Thanksgiving holiday altogether. It has been a struggle in this area in keeping the character of the local crab fishing fleet together. The fleet is fighting against forces that are way beyond their ability. The fleet finally went out fishing at the price the fleet wanted which represented a small victory.
- Bob Breen, Education, announced that the Ocean Science Bowl for high school students will be held at the San Mateo Peninsula College this year and is looking for volunteers to help out.
- Richard Charter, Conservation, reported that the final, end of session push to remove the OCS moratorium, the Congressional leadership failed by about two house members votes shortly before Christmas. Their goal was to circumvent the normal legislative process in the Congress and not to have an up or down vote, but to slip it into a non-germane bill. It was very close and Richard thinks they will be back. He thinks we are very close to having the national marine sanctuaries be the only protected areas in

United States waters, not counting the seismic surveys. Richard will be in Washington DC for a national meeting to discuss these issues and talk about how to prevent this. Richard reported he was featured in the Santa Rosa Press Democrat newspaper. The article was on Richard, his family, house and work in conservation (along with photos), and he thought it was amazingly accurate.

- Brian O'Neill, National Park Service, said that the GGNRA Negotiated Rulemaking for Off-leashed Dog Management meetings are beginning.

Liaison Reports

Estero Ad-Hoc Working Group

- Richard Charter, Conservation, reported that there is a new proposal for an even larger rock quarry, even closer, not in the Estero watershed but in the Bodega Bay watershed. He recommended the Council postpone the decision to disband the Estero Watershed group until there is more information on this new proposal.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities, asked Richard to keep the Council updated on developments.

No Emerging Issues

Presentation: Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's Facilities Master Plan: Doug Lowe, Facilities Planning and Consulting

- Doug Lowe presented the Facilities Master Plan reviewing the sanctuary vision as a global leader and fostering marine stewardship, education, conservation and research.
- He referenced studies incorporating historical, preservation and sustainable architecture in developing the facilities plan.
- This plan was developed from the Management Plan Review information, staff workshops and public scoping meeting information.
- The Facilities Master Plan began nine months ago, and is on schedule with the proposed time line.
- Stakeholders need to be invited into this development process, and do not move forward in a vacuum.
- The goals of the Master Plan are:
 1. To make a memorable statement through the buildings
 2. To increase awareness of the sanctuary
 3. To develop a long term partnership with the National Park Service
 4. To support environmental design concerns and conservation
 5. To decentralize the facilities to other sites
 6. To promote responsible wildlife viewing
 7. To utilize advance technology
 8. To enhance marine recreational activities
- After final review of all the criteria, the recommendation of this Facilities Master Plan was to occupy and rehabilitate the existing the National Park buildings in Crissy Field.
- Doug Lowe outlined the plan with the emphasis on the Crissy Field building and growing into the surrounding area's buildings in the future.

- Field offices, exhibits, cultural displays, and visitor centers will be used to step out of the footprint of Crissy Field.
- The facility headquarters operations need about 12,500 sq. ft. of space to house the programs and activities listed in the plan. This projection is through 2010 and is in line with government planning and space requirements.
- The plan of rehabilitation of the main building, the garage, the pier and the resident building will provide a visitor center, lab, children's education area, staff offices emergency response, ecosystem protection and partners.
- The field offices in Half Moon Bay, Point Reyes, Bodega Bay, Tomales Bay and Fort Baker were also looked at in the Facility Master Plan.

The Master Plan was developed in three parts:

1. A presentation "road show" for Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager to present to stakeholders.
2. The spiral bound document, presented at this meeting and distributed once approved.
3. A summary and a leave behind bi-fold document.

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager, asked for the Council's input and comments on the Master Plan and a review. The next step will be to secure funding to take the presentation out to the public, community groups and different agencies.

Brian O'Neill, National Park Service, commented that he will arrange for Maria to present the Facilities Master Plan to senior management team at the National Park Service as well as interested employees. He pointed out that the Crissy Field buildings are some of the most revered and sought after buildings in any National Park in the country. He pointed out that the recommendation of last October should be a bold proposal, and he is pleased with the plan. Brian has met with the occupants of the resident building, located next to the Sanctuary office building, and is working to find an alternate site for them to do their work, and the resident building could be better used to further our marine conservation and education that would justify such a prominent location. He felt it was all very workable.

The final date to go final with the plan will be after the Sanctuary Advisory Council gives input and comments.

Discussion:

- Chris Powell, National Park Service- Alternate, brought up the proposed Half Moon Bay Office location being in the new development, and suggested the sanctuary look for another location. She stated this building development near the harbor has been opposed by the environmental community and has been tied up in court for many years. Since the environmental community is certainly a partner with the sanctuary, the sanctuary will be asked why it is involved with this development, another facility might be a better option. Chris asked that the development be looked into more.

- Richard Charter, Conservation, pointed out the exterior of the Crissy Field is also so welcoming and suggested that the outside area around the campus be utilized to bring people in.
- Brenda Donald, Research-Alternate, suggested the “food” quotient always brings in people and is a draw.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation, commented that the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association submitted a bid on the “Glass Palace” and proposed a restaurant, education facility and more, but did not receive the bid.
- Chris Colburn, Monterey Bay NMS- Alternate, mentioned that the Santa Cruz Visitor Center has opened up in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and encouraged the sharing of any information in the development with the two sanctuaries.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager, asked if the Council wanted to take any action on the Facilities Master Plan Proposal.

There was discussion as to whether the Council could pass a resolution without having it on the agenda. Dan Basta, National Marine Sanctuary Program Director, asked for a resolution from the Council today.

Resolution:

Motion: Richard Charter, Conservation, proposed that the Sanctuary Advisory Council as described in the previous presentation by Doug Lowe, supports, endorses and is fully supportive this Facilities Master Plan.

Seconded by: Bob Wilson, Conservation.

Vote: There was a consensus to support motion

Brian O’Neill, National Park Service, and Chris Powell, National Park Service abstained from the vote until it is presented to the National Park Service staff.

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager, said that since the Facilities Master Plan did receive a resolution of confidence from the Advisory Council, there would be a signing ceremony with Dan Basta, Ted Lillestolen, and Bill Duros.

Manager’s Report

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager, handed out the GFNMS quarterly management report. Important points reported on:

- In 2006 the Sanctuary will celebrate its 25th Anniversary with special programs and events, starting with the Ocean Film Festival January 13-15, 2006 as a sponsor.
- Two major reports will be presented to its advisory Council; a ten-year facilities master plan and the *Profile of Fishing Activities and Communities associated with the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries*.
- In February, the Sanctuary will release a draft Action Plan for the Seabird Colony Protection Program at the Pacific Seabird Group meeting held in Alaska. This is a comprehensive effort to protect seabirds at major rookeries along the California Coast.
- Also in February the Sanctuary will launch the Northern California Ocean Communications Alliance.

- A new interactive sanctuary exhibit will be unveiled at the Aquarium of the Bay in late spring.
- The 25th Anniversary gala will be held May 31, 2006 at the Golden Gate Officers Club in the Presidio to kick off an innovate initiative to bring “oceans into every classroom.”
- The Sanctuary’s Draft Management Plan is scheduled to be released this summer for public comment.
- A new 65-foot catamaran vessel the *Fulmar* will be inaugurated this summer.
- In the fall the Sanctuary plans to introduce a new state/federal partnership at the California and Worlds Oceans conference in Long Beach, California.
- Continuing the 25th Anniversary celebration, OceanFest will engage the community in protecting the ocean environment on Saturday, October 7, 2006. The theme will be “Sustainable Living”.
- At the close of the year the Sanctuary will celebrate the unveiling of an exhibit on maritime heritage at Pigeon Pont Lighthouse during the parade of lights at the Pillar Point Harbor.

Maria then outlined the activities of the last three months.

- Data collected this past winter indicated the Sanctuary has been relatively free of oil. There has been a drop of 80% from the average and a ten-fold drop from the peak between 1997-1998 peak winter rates.
- There were three vessel groundings in Tomales Bay this winter.
- The Visitor Center has had about 6000 visitors this quarter, and 3000 at the Pacific Visitor Center.
- 3000 people participated in OceanFest 2005.
- Congress has awarded \$2.5 million in funds to the Gulf of the Farallones NMS for facilities and exhibits at Cal Academy of Sciences that will feature islands. The exhibit will be centered upon the National Marine Sanctuary. The next phase will be to have Cal Academy be one of the leads in LiMPETS program and eventually get them involved in the management of that program. The Sanctuary Rocky Intertidal docents will be at Cal Academy interpreting the touch tank and the Farallones exhibit.
- In the last three months the Sharkmobile has reached over 400 students and is a very popular program.
- The Sanctuary is now part of the B-WET, *Bay Watershed Education and Training*, and is now part of distributing \$700,000 of grants in Bay Area watershed areas.
- The 2005 Beach Watch class, numbering 28 completed their 80 - hour training.
- The National Marine Sanctuary Program received 32% less funding this year than last year.
- Seagrass Bed Regulatory Update: The Sanctuary has proposed as part of the Management Plan Review, to prohibit anchoring in seagrass beds in Tomales Bay and other near shore areas.
- There is new media policy for NOAA, and the sanctuary needs to allow at least two weeks clearance for media, and all staff needs clearance prior to any interviews.
- Maria thanked the National Park Service for hosting this meeting in a Park building.

Discussion:

- Brian O’Neill, National Park Service, pointed out that the \$2.5 million is a significant amount of money and he suggested that individuals send out “personal thanks” to the local legislators for their support of this funding, Nancy Pelosi, Diane Feinstein and Lynn Woosley.
- Chris Powell, National Park Service- Alternate, confirmed that the media policy also applies to the Sanctuary Advisory Council Agendas and public notice.

Presentation: Harmonizing science, engineering and policy to mitigate erosion at Ocean Beach, San Francisco.

Patrick Barnard, United States Geological Survey (USGS), Coastal and Marine Team, Santa Cruz.

Patrick Barnard presented a detailed presentation on work to mitigate erosion the USGS has done at the mouth of San Francisco Bay and Ocean Beach.

- The goal was to harmonize science, engineering and policy to mitigate erosion at Ocean Beach.

Project summary:

- The project started two and a half years ago and was motivated by an erosion hotspot on the southern portion of Ocean Beach. It had persisted and had reached a critical stage during the 1997-1998 EL Nino winter season, when a sewage out fall pipe was exposed that carried over one third of San Francisco’s treated sewage out to sea.
- The project began as a post doctorate study and he thought it was an opportunity to step in and produce some independent scientific review of the coastal processes and make some suggestions for shoreline damage mitigation to the Park Service, who owns the beach, the City and the Army Corp of Engineers. There was very little scientific work done on Ocean Beach and the mouth of San Francisco Bay up until this time.
- The project evolved from a post doctorate project into an umbrella coastal evolution-modeling program with the USGS.
- The project benefited by collaborated with the National Park Service, the Army Corp of Engineers, City of San Francisco and extensive student involvement from local colleges and universities.
- Study area was the southern area of Ocean Beach.
- The study looked at extremely strong tidal currents, intense bay development, sediment supply and offshore wave climate.

The goal of this project was to analyze the coastal processes along Ocean Beach and the mouth San Francisco Bay and try to determine why that part of the beach was eroding and possibly coming up with a solution to help the Park Service and the Army Corp of Engineers.

- Monthly beach surveys were done with GPS and all terrain vehicles collecting over 30,000 survey points to determine the beach elevation.
- Shore profiles were created through the use of wave runners and echo sounders to look at how the near shore is changing.
- USGS developed a bed sediment digital camera that takes photos of the sediment.

- Multi-beam side scan bottom surveys in high resolution were utilized and it was the first bathymetric survey done since 1956.
- A web cam on top of the Cliff House was used looking south down Ocean Beach, to look at short-term changes of beach morphology, bar location and impacts of storms.
- These observations revealed one of the most incredible sand wave fields anywhere in the world. The scale between individual wavelengths is 100 meters or more with heights of 10 meters.
- Water levels and tidal currents can be predicted from this model.
- Sediment transport during storms was discussed and maps showed that Ocean Beach was relatively protected because of the ebb tidal delta shoals.
- The Army Corps of Engineers have been very progressive with Peter Mahl with protecting the shoreline of Ocean Beach.
- The dredge disposal sediment was relocated off shore from Ocean Beach. Sediment disbursement and dredge disposal sites along Ocean Beach was monitored and evaluated.
- Topography maps were create to look at the disbursement
- Currents are extremely strong, over one meter a second, and indicates this is an extremely complex system to model.

Summary and Recommendations:

- More time is required to evaluate the performance of this dredge disposal.
- There doesn't seem to be any negative environmental impacts.
- Going forward, the sediment needs to be place in the most ideal location to protect Ocean Beach, not only from a recreational standpoint but also from infrastructure standpoint.
- Continue to work with the National Park Service and the Army Corps of Engineers to come up with the most efficient solution for everybody.
- Continue integrating science, engineering and policy.
- Continue to validate models with these instruments.
- Use winter instrument deployment.
- Continue to model this new dredge disposal and find what the best location might be.

Discussion:

- Brian O'Neill, National Parks Service, commented that the Army Corps of Engineers progressive approach was to achieve a beach nourishment program that is affordable and environmentally sound.
- Steve Shimek, Liaison from Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council, asked how 'clean sand' is determined and who monitors it.
- Richard Charter, Conservation, wondered about silt blooms and if the water columns are also being monitored.

Presentation: San Francisco Wastewater and the Sanctuary Exclusion Zone: System Overview, Monitoring Data, and Concerns

Presented by Arleen Navarret and Michael Kellogg, San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, (PUC).

Arleen reviewed the City and County of San Francisco Wastewater and Storm Water Treatment combined sewer system

- Two dry weather plants provide second treatment
- One additional wet weather facility providing only one treatment.
- 900 miles of sewers in the collection system.
- Combined sewer system collects sanitary and industrial wastewater along with street and storm water runoff in the same set of pipes.
- Wet and dry weather flow was reviewed and capacities of area transport sites.
- This is the only place in California where there is a combined sewage system that treats storm water, so the advantage of treating storm water now, taking into consideration non-point pollution is a great advantage.
- Boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exclusion Zone was shown and explained. Arleen stated that the water treated in this zone might be better water quality from the treatment plants because of storm water treatment.
- San Francisco sewer system is regulated by National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, (NPDES) permit program. The facility has a permit that has requirements for the operations of the facility and the quality of the effluent discharge.
- Permit limit levels of effluent requirements were shown and the exclusion zone performance was lower.
- Wet weather sewer overflow control policy takes into consideration, the long term control plan, maximum storage and treatment.
- In 2005 there were 58 storm events last years. A wet weather event is defined as flow to the plant that exceeds 43 million gallons a day.
- The combined sewer overflows and discharges were graphed from 1986-2005, showing a sustainable decrease in overflows (under 10) on the west side of San Francisco and the system is controlled as designed.
- Water quality issues in San Francisco Bay area are being addressed in a new Sewer Master Plan. One of the issues to reduce the amount of discharge that goes into the ocean uses recycled water. There is also a city wide storm water management program to try to capture storm water, to minimize the amount of water that gets into the pipes can be absorbed in the ground, to reduce the number of overflows.

Concerns about the Exclusion Zone:

- Arleen stated she doesn't think the area of the coast in the exclusion zone is any more degraded than anywhere else in the sanctuary.
- There are several prohibitions in the sanctuary. One being in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Regulations, section 922.132 Prohibited or Otherwise Regulated activities: paragraph (f)... the discharge of primary- treated sewage within the sanctuary (except by certification, pursuant to Section 922.47, of valid authorization in existence on January 1, 1993 and issued by other authorities of competent jurisdiction);...
- The fact that San Francisco is a combined sewer system and cannot control the amount of rainfall that falls each year and collected. Therefore SF cannot build a secondary treatment plant to treat all storm water to secondary water treatment standards.

- The secondary biological treatment plant must have a consistent flow of water being fed into the system. The volume a secondary treatment plant can treat has to be somewhat consistent. If there is a large fluctuation of flow, it would wash out the biological treatment process and thereby make the treatment of your system degraded over a longer period of time, because the biological component would have to be built back up. By bypassing the secondary process when there is high volume flow; the water ends up with primary treatment, which is prohibited in the sanctuary.
- The city is interested in partnering with the sanctuary and working together looking at these issues.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Linda Hunter, a board member from the Alliance of Clean Waterfront and a member of the Citizens Advisory Community PUC, commented that the presentation by Arleen Navarret failed to address the environmental justice issues that happen when there are combined overflows that occur in the Bayview and Hunters Point districts. Also she stated there are a number of actions the city could take to reduce the amount of discharge into the Bay, There are simple things like building impervious concrete, build rain gardens and encourage storing rainwater.
- John Largier, UC Davis and the Bodega Marine Lab, stated he has worked on oceanographic issues of both conservation of marine protected areas and sewage outfalls, storm water in Southern California and South Africa. There is a new ocean observing system called CenCOOS in Central and Northern California which is part of a nation wide ocean observing system initiative, looking at surface currents, which has numerous applications. He and his colleagues are interested in observing systems that actually achieve something and their results. He stated a number of people would like to see a greater interaction between the sanctuary and research and he was curious where the research area is in the Facilities Master Plan. Where is the research area and operations and if you want research people in the sanctuary how do you approach that.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager, replied that the main science hub will be located at Bodega Marine Lab.

Mike Kellogg presented the City and County of San Francisco Southwest Ocean Outfall Regional Monitoring Program. The Oceanside discharge is regulated by the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System, (NPDES) permit program is mandated by both the San Francisco Regional Water Quality Control Board and the EPA to monitor the receiving water for potential impacts from the discharge.

An overview of program monitoring including:

- Sediment quality
- Benthic infauna communities
- Demersal fish and epibenthic invertebrate communities
- Bioaccumulation
- Beach water quality

Study areas included:

- Outfall stations
- Reference stations
- Golden Gate stations
- Miscellaneous stations
- Monitoring stations are located at the end of the outfall stations
- Three grabs per station for sediment and benthic infauna analysis

Through graphs and scatter plots Mike presented an overview of benthic infauna showing differences over the 1997-2004 period of BACIP analysis, (Before- After-Control-Impact-Paired). He pointed out the weekly and accelerated monitoring when counts are elevated or discharge occurs.

There is a toll free water quality hotline the public can call and the website: www.beaches.sfwater.org and www.earth911.org that shows the monitoring stations around the city and indicates the water quality of that locality.

Presentation: San Francisco Exemption overview

Presented by Brenda Donald, Research Alternate

Brenda presented the reasons and concerns for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Exclusion Zone (Donut Hole) in the 1993 designation included:

- Dredging
- Vessel traffic was inside the zone at the time.
- San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC).

An overview of the Donut Hole explaining changes over the years including:

- Dredge sites at the time of designation
- The primary water treatment plant, which was inside Golden Gate Park, was operational in the 1930's.
- Shipping lanes were much closer to the near shore and the rocky intertidal environment.
- In 2001, the shipping lines were moved out of the Donut Hole and are now in the Sanctuary.
- SFPUC improvements included eight overflows per year.

So why are we discussing the Donut Hole?

- The constituents in Pacifica were adamant in the Joint Management Review (JMPR) to have the Donut Hole closed up.
- The Donut Hole wasn't adequately addressed in the JMPR process.
- The Pacifica and San Mateo Board of Supervisors in 2004 passed a resolution of support to close the Donut Hole along with Blue Water Network support.
- The San Pedro Watershed Coalition passed a resolution a few months ago of support to close the Donut Hole, along with Pescadero Creek and Save Our Shores.
- Public Scoping from Point Reyes, San Francisco, Half Moon Bay, Pacifica, Santa Cruz, were all in support of Donut Hole closure.
- There were no comments from the scoping groups to have the Donut Hole remain as part of the exclusion zone.

Recommendations for Council and stakeholders:

- More research done
- Review and advise the decision makers

- To educate and inform the public
- To commit and to come to a resolution, both interim and long term

Presentation: Maverick's Surf Contest

Doug Epstein, Co- founder of Evolve Sports

The presentation gave an overview and history of the Mavericks Surf contest including:

- Jeff Clark and Doug Epstein formed the contest in November 2003.
- The first and second Surf Contests were held February 27, 2004, and March 2, 2005.
- The 2006 contest will be called on a 36-hour warning, between January 1 and March 31 window.
- In 2005, there were 30,000 spectators.
- Live web cast, to 70 countries.
- Have an agreement with NBC sports to put the contest on network television. There will be an estimated one-hundred fifty million viewers on television.

Objectives:

- To produce a big wave paddle
- To ensure environmental respect and safety
- To make sure there is an effort to help the community and to cooperate

Partners:

- Clif Bar is a sponsor this year and will facilitate a climate neutral sports event, along with volunteering
- Peninsula Open Space Trust
- Save the Waves have worked in foreign countries to protect surf spots of development

Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary involvement:

- Have been discussing a number of initiatives together.
- A commitment to hold a paddle in event.
- A Letter of Understanding is in progress currently and may be signed shortly to demonstrate the commitment to minimal environmental impact of the area.
- GFNMS will be on site with sanctuary literature distribution.
- Sanctuary volunteers have been asked to volunteer for the event.
- Website cross promotion.
- There has been discussion about educational content development together.

Event Logistics:

- A team of 4 or 5 PWC will be on site primarily for rescue.
- Safety and rescue will be on Harbor Patrol Boats.
- Press will be in helicopters.

Discussion and questions:

- Bob Breen, Education, asked about the harbor seal haul outs at Pillar Point and Ross Cove and will be done to keep the personal water craft (PWC) from disturbance?
- Chris Powell, National Park Service- Alternate, commented that she felt this event is already out of control and only growing. What is being done to regulate the number of people and the impact of this event?

- Steve Shimek, Liaison from Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council, recommended that a letter of understanding be considered now to reserve the right to restrict the number of PWC for this event.
- Richard Charter, Conservation, commented that Evolve Sports is making a killing with this event, but to make sure and use this opportunity to introduce land and sea conservation topics
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager, stated that the goal is to make the Mavericks Surf Contest a zero environmental impact event day.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Josh Churchman, informed the SAC, College of Marin has a functional marine lab in Bolinas, which is in limbo and wanted to point out to the Sanctuary that it may be a perfect opportunity to utilize the lab for education. Once you lose a historical building facility like this, we won't see it again.
- Kate Wing, Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) San Francisco, commented on the letter proposed by the Fishing Working Group on the Marine Life Protection Act, (MLPA). The NRDC has been involved in the MLPA process for many years and have been in this process. She was interested that the Council wanted to comment on this before the MLPA moves anywhere else along the coast. She commented that the Fish and Game Commission has already adopted the MLPA Framework Document. It already addresses many of things mentioned in the Fishing Working Group letter, and explicitly refers to how the public stakeholder input into account, and how they see it occurring. Section 4, for instance addresses how resource managers should take into consideration a particular MLPA and what it is protecting to tailor manage it towards that goal. MLPA Framework Document explicitly addresses it. Kate suggested to the Council, the MLPA and staff to make a full presentation to this body, if it hasn't been already as to where they stand in this process so there can be an opportunity for more dialogue and discussion. She commented that Section 4 only dealt with diversity of seabirds, invertebrate collection and fishing. She was surprised there was nothing on marine mammals. She hoped that the Council would be proactive and use new language.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Recruitment:

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager

- Maria has received the applications from the recruitment process
- All past members needed to have re-applied.
- Maria stated that the federal recruitment for the Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council is closed, but if not enough applications are received we can reopen the process with the federal register, give public notices and so on.
- All the Advisory Council and alternate seats are open except for the invited government positions of Brian O'Neill and Chris Powell from the National Parks Service, and Cordell Bank.
- Cal Resource Agency, Coast Guard, and the National Marine Fisheries are invited government positions. The letters are going out to them now.
- The new Council members seats need to be filled by April 2006.

Discussion:

- Richard Charter, Conservation, pointed out that Brenda Donald missed the application deadline and he is worried the Council will not be able to replace her and her extraordinary expertise on water issues.
- Rowena Forest pointed out that the Council needed to be renewed before Julie Barrows left on leave early summer 2005.

National Advisory Council Recommendation

Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities stated that this topic will be brought up at the National Council Chair Meeting in April and wants to know what the Council's opinion is on the formation of a National Advisory Council and what form it should take.

- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities, can tell Dan Basta wants to form this National Advisory Council, but she doesn't particularly like the idea, and questions how members will be selected. Each sanctuary is site specific, and most decisions are based on local solutions. How do you fold that into a national broad council?
- Mark Dowie, Community At-Large, asked what the powers and responsibility of this National Advisory Council, why not let him form one?
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Manager, pointed out that Dan Basta is looking for recommendations for this Council and reviewed the matrix Options A-G which was discussed at the last meeting.
- "Option A" was discussed which is a National Advisory Council which is a standing group with permanent membership covering diversity of functions and interests, meeting regularly, at least twice a year.
- Chris Powell, National Park Service- Alternate, suggested that the Council make a stipulation to "Option A", that a representative from each SAC, sanctuary or regional area, to make sure there isn't a council formed with all east coast, for example.

Action:

Motion: Richard Charter, Conservation, proposed a resolution that the Sanctuary Advisory Council support "Option A" for the National Advisory Council providing it represents a wide spectrum of disciplines, stakeholders and interests, and a full extent of geographic areas containing marine sanctuaries.

Moved by: Chris Powell, National Park Service

Seconded by: Bob Wilson, Conservation

Vote: There was a consensus to support the motion
Motion passed.

Proposed Joint Advisory Council Meeting with Cordell Bank

- Tom Lambert, CBNMS Chair, proposed that the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones Councils meet together prior to the National Chair meeting on April 23. There will be two panels sessions, one on the impact of noise on marine life, and the other on the sanctuary role in regulating fishing, along with the National

Advisory Council discussion. Tom proposed that it would be a good idea for the two Councils to meet April 13 at the next SAC meeting to discuss these issues.

- Maria pointed out the April meeting topics are presentations on integrating Ocean, SIMoN, regional science plan, and acoustic impacts.
- Cordell Bank has a presentation on disbursements slated on their April agenda.
- Maria stated that at the April meeting the new SAC members will be sworn in and the election of officers will be held.
- It was agreed that the two Councils have their own business meetings in April then come together to share the presentations.
- Ann Walton, Management Plan Coordinator, suggested that the new SAC be given a special orientation and swearing in.
- The general agreement was there would be an orientation, swearing in, and election of GF Council officers at one meeting, and then in April have a joint meeting with presentations with Cordell Bank.
- Richard Charter, Conservation, suggested we get the orientation date set as soon as possible, so past members and new members can attend.

Ad Hoc Fishing Working Group Report

California Marine Life Protection Act Comment Letter

Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities, explained that this letter was never intended to be a comment on what the MLPA or the Blue Ribbon Task Force or any of that process has been. The letter was just indented to express the GFNMS feelings on what the Council would like to see happen. It was never a criticism of what has taken place so far.

Discussion:

- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities, stated the area discussed was from Año Nuevo to Pigeon Point.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation, pointed out that marine mammals were not mentioned in this letter, and the Council needs to take another look at this letter with some word smithing.
- Mick Menigoz, Maritime Activities, pointed out the letter was drafted not to exclude anything, but there were some concerns, and not limited to these concerns. This was Fishing Working Group, not a marine mammal-working group, and these were some of our concerns.
- Steve Shimek, Liaison from Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council, is concerned if this Council is up to speed with the MLPA. Has everyone read the current Master Plan Framework that has been adopted by the Fish and Game Commission? Steve is hard pressed to find a single thing in this letter that isn't already in the Master Plan Framework. Steve suggested taking some time looking at this and you have time. It will not be looked at until November, so get up to speed.

GFNMS Advisory Council Chair, Barbara Emley adjourned the meeting at 6:30.

Upcoming Meetings:

2006 Meeting Dates

April 13, 2006	Point Reyes
July 13, 2006	Pacifica
October 19-20, 2006	Fall Retreat- tentatively
December 8, 2006	Joint MBNMS - Half Moon Bay