



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

Point Reyes Station Fire House

Point Reyes Station, CA

9:30 am- 12:45 pm

Point Reyes Seashore Association, Morgan Horse Ranch

Point Reyes Station, CA

12:45 pm- 3:45 pm

Thursday, April 13, 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 and Atmospheric Administration.

CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, REVIEW AGENDA

Advisory Council Chair Barbara Emley called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Roll Call

Barbara Emley	Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial
Bob Wilson	Conservation
Bob Breen	Education
Chris Coburn	Monterey Bay NMS- Alternate
Captain David Swatland	United States Coast Guard
Richard Charter	Conservation
Steve Shimek	Liaison from Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council
Mark Dowie	Community-at-Large

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Staff

Maria Brown	Sanctuary Superintendent
Kelley Higgason	MPR Assistant Coordinator/Program Specialist
Irina Kogan	Resource Protection Specialist

Copies to/Absent

Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial- Alternate
Brian Baird	California Resources Agency
Leah Akins	California Resources Agency- Alternate
Dan Howard	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Karen Grimmer	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Brian O'Neill	National Park Service
Chris Powell	National Park Service- Alternate

Review Agenda:

Agenda approved.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

The Advisory Council approved the minutes of January 12, 2006.

Richard Charter, Conservation -motion

Bob Breen, Education - second

Possible Action: Advisory Council Business

Member Recognition

- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent introduced new member Capt. David Swatland, United States Coast Guard will be filling Coast Guard seat
- Capt. Swatland hopes to reestablish cooperative relationships between all three sanctuaries in SF area, the Coast Guard operates in all of them and would like to make it a cooperative working relationship. He has been in the USCG for 22 ½ years, and in the Bay Area for 7 ½ years, was at air station for 3 years, flew Ed Ueber to Farallones many times, was at district office in Alameda, now at Yerba Buena Island. He has family in Berkeley, and will probably leave the USCG in the next few years. He feels that there is a lot going on with sanctuaries and Bay Area water in general and wants to form additional cooperation. He appreciates the invite from Maria
- Richard Charter, Conservation asked do you fit into an incident command scenerio? If so where do you fit in?
- Capt. Swatland replied yes we are the lead agency for any maritime incident that happens. If a boat sinks, or there is an oil spill or plane crash in the water Coast Guard would be the lead agency for that. Personally he is one of the alternate incident commanders, if there is some other type of incident, i.e. a terrorist incident in the Port of Oakland or big earthquake USCG would be subordinate to the bigger picture incident command center which would probably be set up at the state Office of Emergency Services in Sacramento or someplace other than the Bay Area and USCG would then work for them.

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent reported:

- Julie Barrow will not return as Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator, she will be taking an early retirement disability, she has been diagnosed with terminal cancer. Julie is cancer free now, but she is not fully recovering from chemotherapy, she was also declared cancer free two years ago though. Next Wednesday, April 19 we will hold a retirement lunch in Half Moon Bay, all are invited. Will be presenting her a book on lighthouses. Please contact Christy Walker for details.
- Joanne Mohr was filling in but her contract expired at the end of the fiscal year. GFNMS does not have additional funds to keep her on therefore we do not have a SAC coordinator now. Kelley Higgason, Brian Johnson, and Judith Novak filled in to help to organize this meeting. Maria apologized for not being able to keep up with the Advisory Council, not having the staff has been very hard, and it's been hard on the Advisory Council members as well. Will speak in more detail under Reports.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial will raise issue of lack of support for SAC with Dan Basta at Chair Meeting in Washington D.C. Barbara will stress that more support for the Sanctuary Advisory Council is needed. She would like to discuss how she should go about approaching this with Dan Basta.



- Richard Charter, Conservation feels this is a touchy area due to the fiscal constraints coming down out of Washington. He feels it creates a situation that would argue toward a volunteer staff person supporting the SAC.

Manager's Report

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent discussed Manager's Report now, due to conversation about the proposed SAC budget cut. Maria mentioned that she has been promoted to Superintendent but she will not be taking the salary increase.

- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent handed out GFNMS Quarterly Superintendent's Report and discussed the following budget cuts from page 5, Operations- Building Capacity:
- The President's budget request for the National Marine Sanctuary Program is level funding at \$32 million. This is a 32% budget reduction from \$51 million in fiscal year 2005. This year sanctuary sites got an 18% budget cut, next year it will be 10% more. This will be a 28% budget reduction by fiscal year 2007, and at the same time we are facing increasing operational costs. The council is hearing this information before GFNMS staff. Management and coordinators went over the budget yesterday and looked to how we can reach a balanced budget.
 1. Included in the proposed budget, there are no funds to rehire a Sanctuary Advisory Council coordinator, there would be a 100% cut for the coordinator position. It is a 50% time job.

Discussion

- Bob Wilson, Conservation stated that would be about 1000 hours and asked if the job really requires that much. He also asked if Cordell Bank has a coordinator.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent replied this is how much time it would take to do it adequately. Julie had done the best to her ability considering her health constraints, at that time she was still having the difficulty concentrating, so it took her longer. Maria also replied that Cordell Bank will still have a part time coordinator
- Bob Wilson, Conservation suggested approaching FMSA for a volunteer. Stated 100 hours would be a lot for one volunteer though.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent replied that just to put on this meeting took us 80 hours and this was not at the standard that we would like it to be at.
- Richard Charter, Conservation asked what is Maria suggesting? The alternative is not having a SAC?
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent suggested looking at all the budget cuts before further discussion on the SAC.
 2. Sustainable Fisheries Initiative by 100%
 3. Closing the Half Moon Bay Office 100%
 4. Jet ski bouy maintenance 100%
 5. GFNMS SIMoN 100%- We received money two years ago to expand SIMoN to GFNMS, that will be cut.
 6. At-sea marine mammal and seabird surveys 100%
 7. GFNMS vessel *Phocena* 100%- We will be selling the vessel
 8. Staff promotions 100%- There will be no staff promotions this year.
 9. Ecosystem Protection programmatic costs 50%
 10. Information technology (IT) support and equipment 50%



11. Beach Watch shoreline monitoring by 30%
12. Visitor Center programming and staff by 30%
13. Government vehicles 30%- We will be returning one of our vehicles

Programs that have already been cut:

1. Volunteer coordination 100%- This was cut last year
2. SEALS- Sanctuary Education Awareness and Long-term Stewardship Program 100%

What we are keeping:

1. Beach Watch- will be keeping it, but what we can accomplish will be reduced.
2. Seabird Colony Protection Program- 95% outside funding
3. Oil spill response- this is one of our greatest threats as well as our greatest accomplishment, we've gone from one of the oiliest places in the world to one of the cleanest in terms of oil. We see this program as very important.
4. A World Class Icon for Marine Stewardship- This is our facilities master plan that was presented at last meeting, it will be on hold. We will continue to operate the GFNMS visitor center on Crissy Field.

Discussion:

- Richard Charter, Conservation asked if the facilities master plan was from a different budget and inquired if Cal Academy of Sciences outreach was a different budget as well.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent replied yes, the master plan is funded through a line item for facilities and exhibits (PAC). Cal Academy was an earmark.
 5. Oceans in Every Classroom- This is a National Initiative that we will contribute staff time to but we will not be putting in any other financial resources
 6. Water is Life- This is the Cal Academy exhibit that has been funded and will continue
 7. A Sense of Place Within the Sanctuary- This is the interpretive signage, it is a line item out of our PAC funds. We haven't received funding for this for the past two years. We have 15 signs we are placing now.
 8. Restoring Rocky Shore Habitat- 60% outside funding
 9. California Ocean Stewardship Campaign- We are putting in proposals to fund this

The only program we're keeping with no outside funding is Emergency Response.

Discussion:

- Richard Charter, Conservation asked do you have liability issues associated with internships? If this were Washington there would be interns. Three or four interns could patch together support for the SAC, etc., From the number of calls Richard receives regarding internships he feels there must be many people in the Bay Area that would be willing to do this. He feels the trick is managing interns, it can be labor intensive.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation suggested you could split the duties of the intern, i.e., if Karen could use extra help, or any other programs. There will be turnover but at least the duties get done.

- Richard Charter, Conservation stated he gets many calls from students for internships and jobs and that Stanford has a program that every year at Environmental Defense they get two people for the summer and have to turn down four.
- Bob Breen, Education agreed that there is a huge interest in marine science in San Mateo County. In the past, went to Dean Witter for internship money. They have a foundation and are big on community outreach, especially using youth for community outreach. Their procedures for applying for grants are very simple. If they knew we were bringing in students, they would probably want to work with us.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial asked Maria what she would choose, should she be focusing on finding volunteers for other programs, not for the SAC?
- Bob Wilson, Conservation then asked how much did GFNMS put in for the at-sea surveys versus NOAA general? Did you have to buy boat time? Do you have to pay for fuel cost and vessel time?
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent replied we are now getting the *Fulmar* but we will not be able to run our programs on it. We can loan it out to others to do programs. Fuel cost is covered in an addition to base of \$54,000 which goes straight to operating the *Fulmar*, we don't see that money. We would have to hire staff. In the past we have hired from FMSA Shannon Lyday, Dru Devlin, and Jamie Hall, have also hired Peter Pyle. Even if we get volunteers to go on cruises, we then have to pay for the data processing, data analysis, and the report writing.
- Richard Charter, Conservation asked if donations can be accepted for use of the vessel, how does that work with others using it?
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent replied CBNMS, GFNMS and MBNMS all own the vessel together and their meeting is at the end of the month to decide how the vessel will be allocated. There is some concern over us charging, because it would then be in competition with universities that make money using their vessels.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation stated since the operating costs are already paid for and it's only the staff time we couldn't pay for, that would be a perfect place to look for volunteers to do these surveys.
- Bob Breen, Education commented that the Inland Seas in Redwood City, about a 90ft vessel, is charging \$1600 for a half-day trip with four instructors.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation asked what is happening with the *Phocena* and if staff will be reduced when Half Moon Bay office is closed?
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent answered that the *Phocena* will be sold, because we can't afford to maintain it. The cost will only come out of GFNMS budget. The money from the sale will go back to vessels, it can go to the *Fulmar*. As for staff, she said at this point we are just looking at programmatic cuts.
- When asked what her own thoughts are, Maria Brown replied all of the program coordinators (Education, Research, Ecosystem Protection, and Operations) came together as a group and decided on the cuts, the cuts are equal across all programmatic areas. She felt the staff was amazing, people offered to work four days a week and to not get pay increases (for contractors only). In terms of the Sanctuary Advisory Council, it could be, with the right support, one of our strongest programs. Or it could become something that hurts us if it seems as though we are not giving it adequate support. She does not want it to hurt the sanctuary, she wants it to help the sanctuary and wants to be able to support the SAC members who are volunteering their time the best we can. When asked by Barbara Emley

where the harm to the sanctuary would come from with a lack of support for the SAC, Maria replied if we can't provide adequate support to the members, we may have disgruntled members which then gets out to the larger community.

- Richard Charter, Conservation stated the SAC is analogous to the board of an NGO, except you don't get on the board of an NGO unless you're going to try and raise money. We sit here like the board of an NGO, without the same clout because we are strictly advisory, but something like the FMSA board could be raising money for purposes that benefit the sanctuary, not through federal entities, but through FMSA.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation replied FMSA already has their priorities because they are trying to re-establish the SEALS program which has no funding, and they're getting a 30-50% cut in Beach Watch, plus if they got additional funding they would go for the SIMoN program. It would be very difficult for FMSA to get funding for a SAC coordinator because you can not just get a foundation grant for that. Interns and educational things you can get grants for, they are the easiest grants to get.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent stated FMSA can help with programmatic funding (i.e. sustainable fisheries initiative, SIMoN, seabird surveys, BeachWatch, the visitor's center, and SEALS). When asked by Barbara Emley if the other adjacent sanctuaries were in the same spot, Maria replied all the sanctuaries are facing cuts. One thing about the Gulf of the Farallones is that our site, over the last 10-15 years, wasn't receiving the same budget increases as other sites. If you look at the National Marine Sanctuary life cycle Gulf of the Farallones ranks as a medium site, which is based on size and complexity. If you take into consideration the Northern Management Area, our size doubles and now we would be considered a large sanctuary. If you then look at complexity, we would be one of the most complex sites because we have two sets of regulations, we do the third most permits in the program, we rank high among numbers of violations, and we have the largest population base next to a sanctuary.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation stated it is not good management to give across the board percentage increases to all programs, it is the easy, cheap way out.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial asked if other sanctuaries are faced with losing their SACs, or is all this just causing us to lose ours?
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent answered that she is not sure because this is the week everyone is figuring out their budgets.
- Richard Charter, Conservation stated the irony of all this is that you have an elaborate building remodel, a big new boat, regionalization, and the Cal Academy exhibit. You have to tough this out because you have really good things going on in the middle of a "depression." The challenge to me is that you have to just hold your breath long enough and sell your product this year.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent showed the 25th Anniversary materials that FMSA printed. Materials show what we have been doing the past 25 years, what we are doing in the next 10 years, and ways for the public to get engaged and involved with the sanctuary. Also, the National Foundation is putting together a campaign to raise awareness within Congress about the importance of funding for sanctuaries. The case they are making for California is that it is not just protecting the environment, it's protecting our economy. Ocean economy in California is critical, 700, 000 jobs, 42 billion dollars to our economy is dependent on a healthy, safe ocean environment.

- Richard Charter, Conservation stated depending on how things go in May, we may have oil drilling rigs off the coast of Sonoma and Mendocino, and the sanctuaries may be all we have.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial still wants to bring this up at the Chairs meeting, and the other SAC members agreed.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent wanted to hear the member's thoughts on still having an Advisory Council even if we don't have the funds to support it.
- Richard Charter, Conservation answered the SAC could meet once a year, twice a year, there are things in between completely blowing it away and keeping it at the level it is now. We can buy our own coffee, print our own agendas, maybe we don't need as much "entertainment" or we could find our own.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial if we are going to meet, for example, twice a year we should not include joint meetings. We should have our own business to attend to.
- Chris Coburn, Monterey Bay NMS- Alternate stated that from a staff standpoint he is trying to look at the glass half full. With the budget cuts, it's an opportunity to evaluate priorities, and refocus those priorities. We need the input from the Advisory Council to help guide us. He does feel that the facilities funds versus the staff funds does seem ironic.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation feels that is a long term funding problem that sanctuaries brought on themselves by getting money for facilities and boats and never increasing their staff. They got contractors for additional staff instead and that is what will get cut easily are your contractors.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial feels that Maria needs more site time, instead of spending so much time at other meetings.
- Steve Shimek Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council Liaison stated that Gulf of the Farallones SAC is in a weird place compared to Channel Islands and Monterey Bay SACs because you have been around for awhile, but yet when you look at Monterey they meet every other month and it is a huge SAC, which is the same for Channel Islands. Both of these sanctuaries are taking a different approach, theirs is let's have a big SAC so when it comes time for individual people to lobby for money for our site, we have a big involved constituency. Gulf of the Farallones, because you meet infrequently and are relatively smaller, you are not engaged at that level so now if you go down to only meeting a couple of times per year you are going in a reverse direction of having an engaged group of people that can campaign for money.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial feels that is a good observation but we have made the decision to stay small because we don't want to get into the kinds of issues the larger SACs face.
- Richard Charter, Conservation was suggesting that less frequent meetings was one way to cut down on costs for the SAC, however we are now in a recruitment mode and how much does that cost? Can we keep members on instead of recruiting new ones? We need to have more efficiency. If not fewer meetings, than repopulate the SAC as quickly as we can, have half day meetings, shorter agendas, don't have the dog and pony show's. We should just keep the essentials and just address the major issues.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent answered that the SAC will be doubling in size, and in terms of keeping old members on she can not predetermine who will stay on, but based on who's applying it looks like we will be keeping a lot of the same members. In terms of meetings she would like us to pick two or three issues per year, and that you would

understand that there are lots of issues going on but you could learn about them through the Superintendent's Report and ask for more information if you would like it. To summarize what she has heard, the Advisory Council wants to stay working knowing that we do not have adequate staff support. There may be roles the members will take on, and that we will cover focused issues. She hasn't heard resolution on how often the SAC wants to meet.

- Richard Charter, Conservation feels if he got a one page agenda that said be at the firehouse at 9:30am two weeks in advance that would be good enough for him in terms of staff support.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent stated that we could do abbreviated minutes with motions and action items only. It was decided that council will continue to meet quarterly.
- Bob Breen, Education stated he would be willing to arrange for a place to meet if the council was meeting in San Mateo County.

>>Action Item:

Bob Breen will arrange the meeting location for the July 13th SAC meeting.

- Capt. David Swatland, United States Coast Guard said he could also host meetings at Yerba Buena Island. He agreed to host the retreat there and offered to set up a boat ride. He can't raise money but he can provide logistical support.
- Richard Charter, Conservation stated we need to seriously think of how to use the 25th Anniversary as a way to raise more public awareness of the sanctuary.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation thinks the public needs to be more aware of the lack of federal funding, which would increase the opportunity for donations. One problem that FMSA has when trying to raise money for the sanctuary is people feel it is a federal agency so why does it need money, it should already be paid for by tax payers.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial is sorry to see the Sustainable Fisheries Initiative go because the sanctuary would be working with Pillar Point Harbor, trying to get sanctuary presence in the life of fisherman, and this is very important for the long term.
- Richard Charter, Conservation asked how this will play into the roll out of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent answered that they get a line item, they are not under our budget, they are under coral reef funds currently.

Resolution

Richard Charter, Conservation drafted the following Resolution:

Whereas, the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council recognizes the critical importance of continuing an ongoing relationship between sanctuary stakeholders and the community and sanctuary management, and whereas the Sanctuary Advisory Council acknowledges that severe budgetary constraints have been imposed upon the program by congressional consideration of federal deficit issues, and whereas the Sanctuary Advisory Council continues to support involvement of each of their representative communities in advising the sanctuary superintendent through the conduct of the Sanctuary Advisory Council on matters of importance to the greater community of interests. Now therefore, be it resolved that the current membership of the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council supports continuation of a streamlined Sanctuary Advisory Council process through more efficient use of



existing funding and resources, increased use of volunteer and intern support, and greater volunteer involvement on the part of Sanctuary Advisory Council members.

Motion: Bob Wilson, Conservation moved that the resolution be adopted. The council does not have a quorum at this time so they will stack it until Mark Dowie, Community At-Large arrives. Richard Charter, Conservation moved to withhold the vote on this until later in the day when they do have a quorum. Maria updated Mark Dowie at his 11:15am arrival.

Seconded by: Bob Breen, Education

Vote: Upon Mark Dowie's arrival, there was a consensus to support the motion.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

National Chairs Meeting

- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial stated that the Chairs have an opportunity to meet with Feinstein's Ocean and Fisheries staff, she will discuss budget problems but also wants to ask if the SAC would be willing to pass a resolution stating that the maintenance of small boat fishing/sustainable fishing community is vital to the resources of the sanctuary, therefore we would like Senator Feinstein's support in doing something about the Klamath river. Even though this river does not flow into our waters, there is an ultimate result of losing the salmon fleet.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent stated that since the Council can only advise her, she doesn't think they can do a resolution, they could have a discussion, but not a resolution.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial will be meeting directly with John Watt and would like permission to discuss this issue with him. She got some feeling from Deborah Streeter that there would be unhappiness if she talked to this staff person about a constituent issue instead of SAC issue.
- Richard Charter, Conservation inquired if there was a generic resolution already drafted about the Klamath River. He does feel that this issue is bigger than the sanctuary. Could she try to meet with John Watt at a different time other than this particular meeting?
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent suggested Barbara should call Feinstein's office and ask to meet with John Watts for five minutes after this scheduled meeting.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation stated Barbara can say that this SAC does support the small boat community in our sanctuary.
- Richard Charter, Conservation could support something like that if it weren't framed in the context of this sanctuary. He would like to see a resolution that we could vote on, but not to frame it as we are concerned about small boat fishermen in the sanctuary, but rather the salmon fishermen as a whole and the health of the ocean. He would like a broad resolution that doesn't say just how it affects the sanctuary, but how it affects the small boat fishermen in the entire region.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial was hoping that what they could all agree to was that a small boat sustainable fishery is vital to the sanctuary resources, because without that you have lost one of your constituents.

- Richard Charter, Conservation agrees but he worries about the slippery slope that could be caused by some of the things they do not agree on. He feels that there would be less language word smithing if it were generic to the whole coast.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial does not have a generic resolution. She just wants to be able to tell Deborah Streeter that she does have the ok from the SAC to talk about this.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent stated that she doesn't understand how the SAC Chairs will be able to meet with Feinstein representing the Advisory Councils because that is strictly prohibited, you can meet as an individual.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial answered that Feinstein's office apparently asked to meet with the Chairs of the California sanctuaries.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation stated that she can tell Deborah that there is a general agreement of the SAC that they have no objections to Barbara's request to mention small boat fisheries in her meeting. The minutes can reflect that she does have support from the SAC.

Swearing-In of New Government Seats

- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent announced there will be a Sanctuary Advisory Council new member orientation meeting July 6, 2006 at the GFNMS office from 3:00- 5:00 pm. GFNMS will be re-announcing vacancies in May. It takes approximately one week for clearance, new members will be notified the first week of July, applicants have been asked to reserve this day. GFNMS will be re-advertising for Education, Research, Public at Large, and Maritime Activities/Recreation.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial is willing to do one more term.

Reports

Member Reports

- Bob Wilson, Conservation reported that pupping season for elephant and harbor seals is coming up. The Marine Mammal Center is operating under constraints because most of their facilities are down because of the reconstruction process. There is a campaign to not interfere with harbor seal pups on the beach. In Southern California a couple did pick up a harbor seal pup and brought it home, and for the first time there is a criminal prosecution involved. In terms of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, we hope you can attend the Silver Celebration Gala, it will be filled with notable speakers, awards to Boxer, etc. It will be held on May 31st at the Golden Gate Club in the Presidio. It is a good opportunity to raise public awareness of sanctuary activities, and to get more possible funding sources.
- Bob Breen, Education announced that the National Ocean Science Bowl will be held in Carmel this month. Twenty teams from all over the country will be participating. The Coast Guard sponsors some of it. Marine biology classes at Half Moon Bay high school will be visiting tide pools in San Mateo County, with field trips to Fitzgerald, Pigeon Point, and probably Ano Nuevo. His 12th graders will be giving programs to other students in the high school.
- Richard Charter, Conservation reported "pupping season" has begun in US Congress as well. On May 6th, the House Sub Committee on Interior Appropriations will decide whether or not to include in the interior appropriations bill a continuation for a 26th consecutive year of the congressional moratorium that protects our coast outside of the sanctuaries from offshore

drilling. President Bush put it in his budget in January, but the oil and gas industry has until November to get royalty forgiveness. There will be a full fight in the House the 3rd week of May, and after that we'll know if the sanctuary is all we have left.

- Chris Coburn, MBNMS Alternate requested to be given a heads up on exemption area meetings. There was a public education meeting that happened that he had not been aware of.
- Steve Shimek MBNMS Advisory Council Liaison reported that in Moss Landing a group of sea otters got ploughed through by a recreational fishing boat during salmon opener. It was a small private boat driven by a man out of Manteca. It is not know if it was intentional or not. The man was sited under the Marine Mammal Protection Act, he was driving slowly, but he ploughed through a group of about 40 otters. There is video footage. Friends of the Sea Otter and Defenders of Wildlife have monitors set up as well as and people with video cameras out, there's increasing concern that the salmon opener causes lots of problems with the otters. You can contact Friends of the Sea Otter for video footage, you can also download it on the internet. Steve also stated that because of wet weather more discussion on storm water and storm water treatment has been happening in Monterey.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial reported that the salmon fishery (commercial and recreational) is threatened with no fishing this year as a result of being unable to make a "conservation objective" that is set up in the Salmon Management Plan under the Magnusen Act. This conservation objective is that 35,000 natural spawners must be able to return to the basin on paper. This is not an endangered species, the conservation objective is more of a production goal, rather than a survival goal. This number is about long-term health of the fishery, not a biological necessity. Regardless they are sticking to this. It took a lot of political action to get any fishing allowed at all. There wasn't any concern about the Klamath river fish when the water was diverted for irrigation, now when it comes down to harvest they are taking action. The day after they made the decision, because the Pacific Coast Federation of Fisherman's Associations had won in court about flow requirements on the river, the National Marine Fisheries Service appealed that decision, therefore it seems like they really care about the fish sometimes. The season is very restricted, our industry may not be able to survive. The Commercial Fishermen's Association in Fort Bragg is subsidizing the ice dock, the fuel dock in Fort Bragg is threatening to close down, and there is still no boat yard in Bodega Bay. Even if the fish do begin to recover, it will take three years before there will be any harvestable numbers. They may not have an industry to come back to once this is over.

Discussion:

- Richard Charter, Conservation suggested to raise this issue in Washington with individual Senators.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial stated suddenly salmon fishing is on the White House radar. There is a meeting called the Salmon 2100 Conference and this year the White House sent a representative who announced that you save salmon by curtailing harvest and hatcheries, you don't have to do anything about hydro or habitat. The fishing community was wondering why the White House was suddenly in on this, and the whole process for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council was outside "stuff" and we have not been use to that.
- Mark Dowie, Community-at-Large asked if the inland and tribal fisheries were closed down as well.



- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial answered they get to catch however much was taken September 1st of last year on the Klamath River. We will be allowed to fish below Pigeon Point starting May 1. On June 1st we will be allowed to fish below Point Sur and that will continue until July 26th. After July 26th the coast will be open to Point Arena only. We are only allowed to catch 75 fish per week per boat. For many it would cost more in fuel than they would make from the catch. In a good week of fishing you would normally catch 200-300 fish, some boats can do that every day.

Liaison Reports

Steve Shimek MBNMS Advisory Council Liaison reported:

1. MBNMS SAC was surprised by the number of personal watercraft involved at the Mavericks Surf Contest, which is a paddle in event. He heard this more so from individual members, it has not surfaced as a SAC item.
2. There was a non-profit formed by divers to sink a ship in the Monterey Bay for diving. This plays into the notion that it is ok to put stuff in, but it weakens your hand when you talk about needing to pull cables, oilrigs, and derelict items out. He is bringing this up here because the north coast is their alternate site if they can't put it down in Monterey.

Ad Hoc Estero Working Group

Richard Charter, Conservation stated he missed the meeting of the Soil Conservation District at which they began handing out large amounts of money to the farmers to do voluntary stream restoration.

Ad Hoc Fishing Working Group

- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial reported the group has not met since December 2005, but she would like to get together to work on the December letter again.
- Richard Charter, Conservation said he would be willing to work on it again, but he wants to keep it simple, he feels like they added too much.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial feels the intent of the letter was misunderstood by some members of the conservation community. We were not attacking the Marine Life Protection Act.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent stated that it has also been discussed internally and she has some recommendations for the working group.
- Mark Dowie, Community-at-Large asked if they have reviewed the EIR on the Lawson's Landing of the Dunnes
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent answered yes they have reviewed the Draft EIR and the sanctuary told them it was inadequate. They had to redo it because it did not cover sanctuary regulations. Formal written comments were made.

Ad Hoc SF Exemption WG

Brenda Donald, Research –Alternate was not in attendance.

Emerging Issues



- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent distributed a briefing paper from Joelle Buffa regarding the Ham Radio Operator Visit to Farallon National Wildlife Reserve from February 14-16, 2006. Joelle will be at the July 13th SAC meeting, if you have any questions for her please formulate them now.
- Richard Charter, Conservation handed out a letter from Dr. Leland Yee, Speaker Pro Tempore, California State Assembly to Dale Hall, Director, US Fish and Wildlife Service, expressing his concerns over the Ham Radio Operator visit. He also handed out a copy of the permit that was issued.

Superintendent's Report

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent handed out the GFNMS Quarterly Superintendent's Report. She asked the members to please read through it and to see her with any questions.

Presentation- GFNMS Emergency Response Plan

Given by Irina Kogan, GFNMS, Ecosystem Protection Specialist

See posted presentation at www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html

Irina can not give the entire presentation due to time constraints but she will show an oil spill response drill (Safe Seas) video, that is a partnership between NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard, planned for July and August this year. The sanctuary's roll will come out in this next presentation.

- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent proposed that one of the issues the council focuses on next year be Emergency Response, since this is one of our number one priorities for this site. She is very interested in getting the council's input on the use of dispersants within the sanctuary, because we are one of the only sanctuary sites that does not have an established policy on the use of dispersants within the sanctuary.

Safe Seas 2006

See posted presentation at www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html

- Will be held in San Francisco in July and August
- One thing that makes this drill unique is that the weather and current conditions will be live.
- The Safe Seas drill is applying NOAA's ability to integrate observing, analysis, interpretation, science, and response across programs in real time for a coastal emergency.

Discussion:

- Capt. David Swatland, United States Coast Guard stated that the Incident Command System (ICS) was originally developed by the Forest Service in the 70's in response to big forest fires. It does away with organizational boundaries and deals with functional boundaries instead. Each person is assigned a function and it doesn't matter what agency you are from. It is supposed to do away with the political infighting that has often plagued a lot of these responses. It has been used by the Coast Guard for about 10 years now, and they have many people who are well trained in it. A lot of other federal agencies are way behind though. The FBI, until recently, had refused to use it. The U.S. military does not really want to adopt it either. The Coast Guard has decided to make this Safe Seas drill their big two-year exercise.
- Mark Dowie, Community-at-Large asked where would the actual ICS command be coming from?
- Bob Wilson, Conservation asked do you bring in the forest service tech?

- In response to Mark, Capt. Swatland responded that “command” would be the actual ICS which would be a joint operation with all the major stakeholders, in this case that would be NOAA, the Coast Guard, and a representative from industry, somebody from the commercial side that would have the authority to make decisions regarding the boat and the oil. Coast Guard falls under Homeland Security, if there were a security element the FBI would be a player as well. In response to Bob he replied that the Coast Guard has their own trainers.
- Irina Kogan, GFNMS explained there is a triangle with the Coast Guard at the top, they have 51% of the vote, if the responsible party is not cooperating they can federalize it. She also stated that there will be a table top drill in July and then the full scale exercise will be in August. The difference between table top and functional exercises is that the first deals with sitting at the table verses using GIS for the latter. This will be a huge, multi-agency event involving the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), NOAA, USCG, as well as congressionals and international contingents.
- Bob Breen, Education asked would there be support for local park rangers on the scene? Who would we report to, would we contact the sanctuary directly for resources?
- Irina Kogan, GFNMS answered that one goal is to participate more in the area contingency planning part of it. Sometimes rangers are used to block areas from oil. In terms of help for response, it helps to have developed a relationship with OSPR in advance, so they know what expertise you have and will bring you in.
- Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent stated that the Advisory Council members will be invited to a reception following the drill to hear about how the exercise went and meet the partners.

Presentation- California Marine Life Protection Act Update

Given by Irina Kogan, GFNMS, Ecosystem Protection Specialist

See posted presentation at www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html

- The Blue Ribbon task force came up with their final decision. Out of six proposed packages (3 internal, 3 external) three were moved forward. The three external packages weren't moved forward. Throughout the process all the packages changed.
- The areas within packages 1, 2, and 3 are the same, it's the levels of protection that vary. The sizing and spacing of the MPAs was based on scientific recommendation by scientific advisory teams.
- The three thrown out were B (which was 80% of the study area) A and C. For A and C, one was from PRBO, and one was from the National Resource Defense Council. They merged them together to form AC, but this was thrown out in the end because it was felt that they could give their input into Package 2 (conservation package).
- The three packages that will go forward are 1 (commercial users), 2 (conservation) and 3 (a hybrid).
- The task force also asked the CDFG staff to put together their own package. There was a lot of concern that it would be the preferred alternative. They then asked Package 3 and staff to come up with one package, which was named 3R.
- The task force looked at Package 2 and modified it. So the packages they were voting on were 1, 2R and 3R. 3R passed four to two. Package 1 did not receive any votes but because the commercial interests were united and supported this package and there was a consensus among those users they did take the package.



- Now these packages have gone to the Department of Fish and Game and the CDFG staff and the Blue Ribbon task force will hold a joint meeting for the Fish and Game Commission where they will present the three packages.
- It now will go through a public process with public hearings, comment periods, and EIR. The anticipation is that the final package will end up as a mixture with further compromising.
- Barbara Emley, Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial asked if now that there was this “staff” version, which caused a lot of controversy, is the commercial interest losing participation now?
- Steve Shimek MBNMS Advisory Council Liaison replied that the law states that the Department of Fish and Game shall advance a preferred alternative. The task force, etc. is advisory to CDFG and they then have the ability to advance whatever they want to the Commission. You would still go through this meeting process in the hope that the task force would take into account all of the recommendations. He feels that even if they create their own alternative he still has hope that they will use 3R as the basis for their package. There is a public website: www.marinemap.org/mlpa with all the information in GIS layers.

At 12:45pm the GFNMS Advisory Council reconvened with the CBNMS Advisory Council at the Morgan Horse Ranch in Pt. Reyes National Park.

Presentation- Use and Technology of Dispersants in Spill Response
Given by Yvonne Addassi, Office of Spill Prevention and Response
See posted presentation at www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html

Presentation- NOAA and Fisheries Management Overview of Wiring Diagram
Given by Tom Lambert, CBNMS Chair
See posted wiring diagram at www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html

Presentation- Management Plan Review Update
Given by Kelley Higgason, Management Plan Review Assistant Coordinator
See posted timeline at www.farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html

Upcoming Meetings

- July 6, 2006 Orientation, San Francisco, GFNMS Headquarters
- July 13, 2006 Montara, Montara Lighthouse
- October 19-20, 2006 Fall Retreat
- December 8, 2006 Joint MBNMS, Half Moon Bay (proposed date change to 12/15)