



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

Red Barn Classroom
Olema, CA
9:00 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.
Thursday, July 12, 2007

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 Vice Chair, Bob Breen, called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

Roll Call

Barbara Emley	Chair/Maritime Activities/Commercial
Bob Wilson	Conservation
Brenda Donald	At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo
Richard Charter	Conservation
Dominique Richard	At-large/Sonoma and Marin
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities/Recreational
Bob Breen	Education
Webster Otis	At-Large/Sonoma and Marin Alternate
Bruce Bowser	Conservation Alternate
Erin Montgomery	Conservation Alternate
Dorris Welch	Education Alternate
Chris Powell	National Park Service Alternate
Dan Howard	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Robert Frischmuth Liaison, Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Staff

Maria Brown	Sanctuary Superintendent
Brian Johnson	Deputy Superintendent
Kelley Higgason	Sanctuary Advisory Council and SCPP Coordinator
Karen Reyna	Ecosystem Protection Specialist
Jan Roletto	Conservation Science Coordinator

Copies to/Absent:

Brian Baird	California Resources Agency
Amy Boone	California Resources Agency Alternate
Brian O'Neill	National Park Service



Captain David Swatland	United States Coast Guard
Pat Conroy	At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo Alternate
John Largier	Research
Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate
Bill Douros	NMSP West Coast Regional Office

Review Agenda:

Agenda approved with the following change- there will not be an update on Pillar Point signs as Peter Grenell can not attend today's meeting.

Approval of Prior Minutes:

The Advisory Council approved the minutes of April 19, 2007 with the following changes:

- On Pg 7, correspondence reports, delete "we should not ask questions"

Motion: Richard Charter, Conservation

Second: Brenda Donald, At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo

Reports

Member Reports

- Brenda Donald, At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo, reported that Farallon View Elementary School has an "Oceans Week" and she gave a talk on marine debris as a Save Our Shores volunteer. She also attended the MLPA meeting on July 11th and gave public comment on the need for additional enforcement funding.
- Mick Menigoz, Maritime Activities/Recreational, reported he has been fishing daily and the rock cod are healthy. There are many schools everywhere, not just around rocks. It had been sporadic fishing up until a couple days ago. The salmon are also more abundant right now, and are further north, there are none south.
- Dorris Welch, Education Alternate, reported that the Oakland Museum has completed their B-Wet funded program. Three classes from inner city Oakland (Title 9 kids) went out to the Pillar Point tide pools and out on a boat. They were trained to become docents and do guided watershed walks. This has been very successful. They got additional funding to send a group of those kids to Yosemite Institute and the program is funded for next year as well. They will continue to expand and work with the National Park Service through the Yosemite Institute. They are looking forward to working more with the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore. It also looks like they have the funding for the Cordell Bank National marine Sanctuary exhibit. They will be going into design development this fall.
- Bruce Bowser, Conservation Alternate, volunteered at the Marin County Fair at the Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank and Marine Mammal Center booth and felt it was a great experience. He enjoyed working with MJ and he learned a lot. There was a lot of interest, films were available and he has asked MJ to see if we could get a CD Rom of the various organizations presentations.
- Paul Michel, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, introduced himself as the new superintendent for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. He went to his first Monterey Bay Advisory Council meeting in June and has been on the job for about 10 weeks. He just moved from Lucas Valley (where he had been for 13 years) down to Monterey. He was

previously with the EPA for 20 years, and most recently was in the regional office in San Francisco. The majority of his work has been on wetlands protection, and he is looking forward to working together with all three sanctuaries. Paul also reported that he attended a great meeting in Santa Cruz yesterday where fund raising for the Santa Cruz visitors center was discussed. The one-year anniversary of the San Simeon visitors center was on July 28th. There will be a Congressional tour in August, and they will be taken out on the Fulmar to Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey sites.

- Dominique Richard, At-large/Sonoma and Marin, reported that the Tomales Bay Watershed Council has issued a draft of their management plan. It is geared toward mostly water supply and structured to get money from Prop 50. Public comment will be taken through July 20th. More information is available on their website. He is also keeping informed on the MLPA process and has made contact with some of the committee members he knows. With Beach Watch, he is surveying three beaches this summer, and he noted there are more dead than alive pelagic birds close to the shore. Also, the snowy plovers seem to be doing better.
- Webster Otis, At-Large/Sonoma and Marin Alternate, welcomed Gulf of the Farallones to the Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Plan. He can offer assistance with any connections, introductions, and services to this community that would help.
- Bob Wilson, Conservation, reported that he was involved with the recovery efforts for Delta and Dawn, as a representative with the Marine Mammal Center. They did go out to sea after two weeks, and it is questionable whether they had influence on them, but it was good to get the media out there. They were sited half way out to the Farallones. Also, the Marine Mammal Center is still closed, but the construction is going well. They should re-open Spring or Fall of 2008. The Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association (FMSA) has put in an additional fund request for a new sanctuary campus.
- Chris Powell, National Park Service Alternate, reported that Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) has been spending a lot of time with Congressional visits. There has been some discussion about the FY08 budget, and they may end up with another Continuing Resolution this year. They have been going through their general management plan review, and the last plan was done in 1980. They are now talking about the marine environment and sanctuaries, and finding a way to integrate actions on land with the marine environment and vice versa. The plans are usually good for about 20 years. They are also looking at sea level rise, and she would like all of the council members on their mailing list. Also, she went on Irina's geology walk, and feels she is a great resource. Chris suggests that for our council retreat in October, we could include local geology and use Irina as a resource. In regards to the snowy plovers, they have instituted a restriction for the second year to have dogs on leash. They are in the process of getting a rule published in the Federal Registrar. Presently, there is only a 64% compliance rate, and if does not get better we will have to look at closure areas.
- Dan Howard, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, stated that the Cordell Bank office is next door to this meeting room. They have received some money to design an expansion and Gulf of the Farallones will have some office space. Dan reported that Michael Carver is currently out tagging black footed albatross to better understand their local use of sanctuaries. The public can track the birds at www.seaturtle.org. Also, they will be advertising for two Cordell Bank Advisory Council vacancies.
- Erin Montgomery, Conservation Alternate, reported she was a former member of the Central Coast MLPA. She will defer to those who are participating now.

- Richard Charter, Conservation, first thanked Maria and Dan for being nominating him for one of the sanctuary volunteer awards. He received a glass plaque that he feels belongs to everyone on the Council. While at Capital Hill Oceans Week (CHOW), he did not do any lobbying because he was there with NOAA. There have been five fights on offshore oil issues this year. Many were very close votes, but we did win each time except with one. We lost with the Energy and Water Appropriations Commission. \$10 million for seismic surveys was transferred to an area in the Gulf of Mexico. This breaks the “Florida deal.” It is important to move the Woolsey bill (HR 1187) forward. A hearing has been assured, and Mike Thompson has now introduced a bigger sanctuary bill all the way up to the Oregon coast for the designation of a new sanctuary. Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska will be introducing a bill that would allocate 5% of revenues from offshore oil drilling to a series of uses including states with national marine sanctuaries. This could make sanctuaries dependent on oil drilling.

>>Action

- Provide Chris Powell with the Council’s email addresses.
- Karen Reyna can get a link for a plover film produced in Oregon.
- Send out information on horned puffins from Hannah Nevins (from website).

Seabird Colony Protection Program Outreach and Education Working Group

- Bob Breen, Education, attended a working group meeting on June 20th. They were given a tour of Alcatraz Island by biologist and working group member Christian Helwig. The group discussed the program’s new display and display text, also talked about next steps in the action plan. The program displayed at Pacific Coast Dream Machines and was featured on the Half Moon Bay airport’s website. They were also at the Bodega Fisherman’s Festival and the Watsonville Fly-in.

Liaison Report

- Robert Frischmuth, Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council Liaison, reported that the MBNMS Advisory Council met on July 15th in Santa Cruz. Sixteen council members were sworn in for a new term. Some representatives from Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary gave a presentation on the work plan that their council does. Their council is considering doing a work plan as well. They also discussed the Monterey Bay Condition Report and the member’s impressions are that it seems bureaucratic. Their council was concerned about the scientific basis, and that it seems like an over simplification. Deborah Streeter organized a group of churches to discuss the ocean and the importance of sanctuaries. They went out on a cruise on the *Fulmar* in May and saw about 20 humpback whales lunge feeding. It seems the Central Coast MLPA is proceeding well, and he is glad to see four Gulf of the Farallones council members on the stakeholder group for this region.

Superintendent’s Report

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent, handed out the GFNMS Quarterly Superintendent’s Report and reported on the following:



New MBNMS Superintendent

Maria introduced Paul Michel as the new Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent.

Capitol Hill Oceans Week

Representative Lynn Woolsey (D-CA) was honored at the event and many felt she spoke from the heart. A couple panels talked about the legislative agenda for the oceans and there were conversations about reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuary Act. As for the budget, the House has proposed \$78 million, and the Senate \$50 million for the National Marine Sanctuary Program. We have now heard they are looking at doing an omnibus bill. The last time it happened it helped us but it isn't guaranteed.

Institute for Global Climate Solutions (name has since been updated to Climate Solutions Initiative)

We would like this to be a joint partnership on climate change solutions with GGNRA (National Park Service). We will focus on the temperate ocean environment and look for solutions through partnerships and community action. A summit will be held in February 2008 to develop an action plan. We will convene a planning committee for this.

Discussion

- Bob Wilson stated that FMSA could help.
- Richard Charter stated that a conference was held last spring through MBARI on ocean acidification.

Marine Debris Report

FMSA submitted a proposal for the sanctuary to remove derelict crab pots. There are three phases. The first would be to use existing SEAS surveys to identify buoys. We would then remove the pots and return them if possible. The 2nd is using side scan sonar and asking fisherman to circle areas on a map where they have snagged their fishing lines. The 3rd is a strike team, when reports come in a team is called and they will clean the debris. The California Coastal Commission also wants to develop identification cards.

Discussion

Bob Wilson stated we should allow crabbers to call in if they lose a pot.

Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) Update

We have finished the response to comments. The document is 80 pages long. It goes in a packet to the Coastal Commission now. A consistency review hearing is scheduled for either August 9th or 10th. We will submit a letter stating that there are three issues that will be proposed differently. The first is that the state submitted a comment on the discharge regulation stating it was inconsistent with the state. The state bans discharge from all vessels over 300 tons, but we are proposing to expand to cargo ships over 300 tons that have a holding tank. The second is the motorized personal watercraft definition change. We are looking at a zonal alteration at Maverick's. The last is in regards to prohibiting the introduction of an introduced species. We had an exception for Tomales Bay for existing leases, but we received a comment from the California Department of Fish and Game stating they did not support this. They are requesting



the removal of the language in state waters. They proposed a compromise that species must be on a state list and cannot be introduced. We would like to keep the regulation as is, but they can blue line it for state waters. Once the plan goes through the consistency hearing it then goes on to final clearance.

Discussion

- Richard Charter asked if the council could adopt a resolution to help with the hearing?
- Maria Brown stated we would need to wait until we have the final letter for the Coastal Commission. It is still going through clearance at Headquarters.
- Bob Wilson asked if the council could make a general statement in support of the JMPP?

>>Action

Richard Charter will draft a resolution during lunch.

Public Comment

No public comment was given.

Correspondence Reports

Line Item for SAC Coordinator

- Typo- bit should be but in second paragraph
- Change coastal line to coastline
- Change “information to determine priorities and to” to “clarifications”

Increased budget for new management plan

- Change to “Certain support staff will be subject to lay-offs” in second paragraph
- Change coastal line to coastline
- cc Monterey Bay and Cordell Bank Advisory Council chairs

Move to transmit letters to Dan Basta:

Motion– Richard Charter, Conservation

Second- Chris Powell, National Park Service

Motion carried unanimously

The final letters were forwarded to Council members on August 6, 2007.

Recent letters to Dan Basta and Resolutions

A response was received for the council’s January 11, 2007 letter and the April 19, 2007 letter and resolution. The response was distributed to council members.

Overview of GFNMS Condition Report development

- A presentation was given by Jan Roletto, GFNMS Research Coordinator, and is available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.
- The Stellwagen Bank condition report was passed around as an example. The Stellwagen Bank condition report is also available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.
- The report was requested through Congress, to be administered through the Department of Commerce and NOAA.
- Maria Brown stated that the Council could review the report individually or as a Council.

- Bob Wilson asked if there was a big gap that was missed in the JMPR process?
- Jan Roletto stated we are missing data on water quality and on the radio active waste dump site.
- Richard Charter asked if the content will be controlled by Headquarters? He feels it is important that we have input. He also asked if we have considered a paragraph about the *Lukenbach* spill?
- Jan Roletto replied yes it will go through Headquarters but we will have input. We have told them that we want a strong presence from Maria and MJ. We do have a section on the number of oil spills that have occurred and the wildlife affected, and how there has been a reduction.

>>Action

The Council decided to discuss the report at the retreat and review it prior to then. We will have an open public comment period at the retreat, first thing in the morning. The meeting will then be closed after.

Marine Life Protection Act and GFNMS Involvement

Karen Reyna, GFNMS Ecosystem Protection Specialist

Handouts available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>

Discussion

- Erin Montgomery asked how are they handling chairs for the Science Advisory Team?
- Karen Reyna replied there are two co-chairs, Mark Carr and Steve Barrager.
- Bob Wilson stated that the regional profile was a very good time investment, and taking the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG) out on a familiarization tour was very beneficial.
- Richard Charter stated that because the RSG is so large, they have a tight timeline, and will they will not be recommending actions, he would suggest to have this Council meet as a committee as a whole and be the group that interfaces with the RSG (instead of having a separate working group). Also, since we have two primary members and two alternates on the RSG, we could keep the working group for other issues.
- Bob Wilson and Bob Breen agree.
- Karen Reyna asked if the RSG members are providing comments and outreach to their communities?
- Bob Breen answered that it was up to each individual RSG member.
- Maria Brown asked if the Council does want to review and come up with recommendations as a body or individually?

>>Action

The Council agreed to come up with recommendations individually and not as a body.

- Richard Charter stated it is important to keep the Sanctuary mandate and mission separate from the initiative in the public's mind
- Karen Reyna stated we can put out meeting press releases and encourage people to go and speak during public comment.
- Brenda Donald stated that it is good to get the updates from Kelley. The members can forward to others as well.

- Maria Brown stated we can put information in the FMSA newsletter and “Notes to Volunteers.” We will continue sending updates through our listserves as well. To reiterate, the Council will participate through our regular meetings, decisions will be made as whole body as opposed to a working group.
- Karen Reyna stated that she has a document on fisheries management in relation to the MLPA and can provide copies on request.

Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan

- A presentation was given by Karen Reyna, GFNMS Ecosystem Protection Specialist, and is available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.
- The Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan is a component of the vision for the Tomales Bay Protection Plan. It is the first step. This is precursor to what is legally obligated under NEPA and CEQA. There are no regulations in the scoping document.
- Karen Reyna asked if the Council would like to comment on the document individually or as a whole body and if they would like to have representation at the public workshops.

>>Action

The Council decided to individually comment on the scoping document, and that they don’t need representation at the workshops.

- Paul Michel stated that this project sounds right for an EPA wetlands grant. He use to manage this program and it addresses derelict vessels and moorings. They have had success in Washington with reserve and active military to do these kind of projects. He suggested speaking with Pat Rutten at the NOAA Restoration Center and Dan Pingaro with EPA.
- Maria Brown stated that the document will be sent out to everyone and the sanctuary will report back at the December Council meeting. We will provide an update on the timeline then.

Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Plan

- A presentation was given by Karen Reyna, GFNMS Ecosystem Protection Specialist, and Bill Carmen, Consultant, County of Marin Open Space District, and is available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.
- Karen Reyna made a request to establish a Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Working Group.
- Dan Howard asked why we were not using the BALTAC?
- Maria Brown answered we are taking a different approach. Originally the focus was sediment accumulation, but now we are broadening the scoop to look at the health of ecosystem. We would join with the BALTAC and they would join our working group, but we would also have a parallel process.
- Brenda Donald asked do you know what you will do with the dredge?
- Bill Carmen answered that they have not decided that yet. Maria and Karen have been working on a plan though.
- Paul Michel stated it is better to develop ecosystem goals that drive small projects. You get good diversity and something more manageable.
- Maria Brown stated that will be our focus,



- Rowena Forest asked if any of the dredging opens room for invasive species? Aren't a lot of the problems from the agriculture at the top of Pine Gulch? It is the watershed, not the lagoon itself.
- Bruce Bowser volunteered to be on the working group.

>>Action

The Advisory council will form a Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Working Group to develop a preferred plan. Bruce Bowser will be the Council representative.

Motion– Richard Charter, Conservation

Second- Bob Wilson, Conservation

Motion carried unanimously

Election of New Officers- Results

Chair

Richard Charter, Conservation

Vice Chair

Tie between Brenda and Barbara, Kelley will look into protocol for tie

Secretary

Bob Wilson

MBNMS Liaison

Bob Wilson

Review of Action Items and Upcoming Calendar

Resolution for the GFNMS JMPR

- Richard Charter drafted a letter requesting the California Coastal Commission support the final adoption of the *stronger* draft regulations affecting regulation of introduced species promulgated by the draft JMPR in October 2006.

Move to transmit letter to the California Coastal Commission:

Motion- Bob Wilson

Second- Web Otis

Motion carried unanimously

The final letter was forwarded to Council members on July 17, 2007.

Discussion on Fall Retreat

- Maria Brown stated that some options include focusing on global climate change or MLPA.
- Mick Menigoz suggested discussing local geology.
- Richard Charter stated we need to do MLPA and climate change some, but maybe we could discuss geology as a field trip as well.

Upcoming 2007 Meetings- GFNMS

- October 11, 2007 Fall Retreat
- December 13, 2007 Bodega Bay