



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

Stinson Beach Community Center

Stinson Beach, CA

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. (*Dinner immediately following*)

Thursday, October 11, 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 Chair, Richard Charter, called the meeting to order at 9:30 am.

Roll Call

Barbara Emley	Maritime Activities/Commercial
Bob Wilson	Conservation
Brenda Donald	At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo
Bruce Bowser	Conservation Alternate
Chris Powell	National Park Service Alternate
Dominique Richard	At-large/Sonoma and Marin
John Largier	Research
Jonathan Stern	Research Alternate
Marc Gorelnik	Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities/Recreational
Richard Charter	Chair/Conservation

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Staff

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

Copies to/Absent:

Amy Boone	California Resources Agency Alternate
Bill Douros	NMSP West Coast Regional Office
Bob Breen	Education
Brian Baird	California Resources Agency
Brian O'Neill	National Park Service
Captain David Swatland	United States Coast Guard
Dan Howard	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Dorris Welch	Education Alternate
Erin Montgomery	Conservation Alternate



Pat Conroy	At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo Alternate
Paul Michel	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate
Robert Frischmuth	Liaison, Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council
Webster Otis	At-Large/Sonoma and Marin Alternate

Review Agenda:

Agenda approved.

Public Comment

Matt Cuyler, Tomales Bay Boater's Association, provided the following comments:

The eelgrass in Tomales Bay is healthy. The data used thus far has been from Tasmania. Moorings do not really effect the eel grass. There is aquaculture and trampling, which should be greater concerns. Less than 80% of the moorings present aren't occupied by a boat so they can't disturb the eelgrass. He would like to work with the Advisory Council and the Sanctuary to come to a reasonable regulation for moorings in Tomales Bay, and he would like to participate in the Council's December meeting. He also hopes that someone from their association will be allowed to be on the working group that will be formed.

George Clyde provided the following comments:

He urged the Council to become more actively involved in sanctuary policy making. He currently helps with bird counts, rescue operations, etc. He is a mooring owner and an environmentalist. He welcomes regulation, which is overdue. The key to effective regulation is that the agencies must establish and maintain good relationships, and the sanctuary has not done this so far. They have embarrassed themselves by declaring that most of the moorings are illegal and that all will be removed. They are ignoring a 1999 multi-agency agreement that the sanctuary was a part of establishing. That agreement is not mentioned. They are using studies from Australia. A loss of credibility could have been avoided if the Advisory Council had been involved in actively advising the sanctuary and not just through presentations. Sanctuary staff has responded to criticisms, and extended the comment period as well as added another workshop. The next phase includes a working group that will be established by this council. Tomales Bay will be an important agenda item in December and he will provide comment then again. The sanctuary must take advantage of the advise and information available to them.

Jerry Abbott, Tomales Bay Watershed Council, provided the following comments:

The Tomales Bay Watershed Council is unique. It is the only forum in West Marin where all agencies and stakeholders are represented. They have developed a stewardship plan for the watershed, and have subsequently applied for grants to fund its implementation. They have 72 + projects in the plan. The sanctuary has 2 projects and will probably have more. They have formed a Technical Advisory Committee for boating which we will present formal recommendations to address certain issues such as sites for a pump out station and two dump sites for boats. The report will be finished around November 2nd. We will be looking into a recommendation for permitting moorings. We want to collectively get stakeholders involved with the agencies. He looks forward to presenting the formal recommendations.

Discussion

- Chris Powell, National Park Service, asked if this is on the December meeting agenda, and when does the comment period close.
- Maria Brown, Superintendent, stated that we haven't set the agenda yet, and December 3rd is the close of the comment period. The workshop added is on November 5th and there is also a workshop this Saturday.
- Richard Charter, Conservation/Chair agreed that this should be on the agenda.

New Council Members

- Maria Brown, Superintendent, swore in Marc Gorelnik as the Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate and Jonathan Stern as the Research Alternate.

Council Review of GFNMS Condition Report

Appendix A: Rating Scheme for System-Wide Monitoring Questions was provided to council members.

- Jan Roletto, GFNMS Research Coordinator, stated that the Condition Report workshop results will be discussed today. The workshop gathered a group of experts to advise on sanctuary ratings. Jonathan Stern and John Largier will review the report after the draft process is finished. The report is broken into two parts: estuaries and offshore. Appendix A standardizes questions across the nation, as well as how to provide rankings for each question.
- Jan Roletto presented the status ratings that were given for each question in Appendix A to the Council members.

Discussion

- Barbara Emley, Maritime Activities/Commercial, asked if fishermen can help with this? Was there any input from those that are on the water?
- Chris Powell, National Park Service asked if this will be posted to the web?
- Jan Roletto replied yes, but it will go through internal review first. It will go to the general public as a final draft. The Advisory Council will be part of the internal review.
- Brenda Donald, At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo, asked if we could share this with Surf Rider, etc
- Maria Brown stated that the Institute for Fisheries Resources (IFR) and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) was invited to the workshop. Once a document goes to the Advisory Council it is public, you can receive feedback from your constituents.
- Jan Roletto stated that Bill Keer and Sara Randall did attend as the fisheries experts at the meeting.
- Brenda Donald stated that for the 303(d) listings, there is currently a \$845,000 grant from the San Mateo County Resource Council regarding pollution in Pillar Point. There might be lessons learned from recommendations from that study.

Open Ocean- Question 6

- Bob Wilson, Conservation, asked if the water column was considered for noise impacts?
- Jan Roletto answered that it appears in the "Living Resources" section.
- John Largier, Research, asked what about kelp forests?

- Jan Roletto replied they weren't included because we don't have a lot. Also must consider that some kelp beds are very ephemeral, very "boom and bust."
- John Largier replied that "boom and bust" could be an impact.

Open Ocean- Question 5

- Barbara Emley asked how do you know habitat has improved with the reduction of trawling?
- Jan Roletto replied that James Lindholm and Rick Starr have studied this using ROV's and submersibles. They have mostly done work in Monterey, but you can make comparisons to Gulf of the Farallones.

Open Ocean- Question 7

- Brenda Donald asked if they looked at endocrine disruptors?
- Jan Roletto replied they considered them, but there is not enough information.
- Bob Wilson asked if radioactive barrels were considered?
- Jan Roletto replied that they were, but they didn't change anything. There isn't a lot of recent information. From the limited studies that were done, the sampling site was at the same levels as the baseline on the mainland.

Open Ocean- Question 9

- Bob Wilson asked if seabirds are included?
- Jan Roletto replied yes, some are increasing and some are decreasing. We had several seabird experts at workshop and we considered about 50 key species total (including seabirds).
- Brenda Donald asked if the impact from invasive species was considered?
- Jan Roletto answered, it is addressed in Question 11.

Open Ocean- Maritime Archaeological Resources/Integrity

- Bob Wilson asked how many sunken vessels do we not know about?
- Jan Roletto replied we do not know. The inventory is only from known sinkings.
- Maria Brown stated there are some we know are sunk but do not know the exact location.
- Jan Roletto stated we do have a hard copy list of the cultural resources.

Estuaries-Water/Stressors

- Jan Roletto stated that there was a long-term study in Tomales Bay up to the late 1990s that created a baseline of water quality. We need to follow up and look at the same processes to see how they have changed over the years. We are hoping that best management practices will have a good influence in the future.

Estuaries- Question 5

- Brenda Donald asked when did the loss of eelgrass occur in Bolinas?
- Jan Roletto replied in the 1990s.

Estuaries- Question 11

- Jan Roletto stated there are at least 140 invasive species in the sanctuary. They are mostly invertebrates and algae. Spartina has a large impact as well as green crabs.



Estuaries- Maritime

- Jan Roletto stated we are only counting the schooners in Bolinas, not the dredge barge.

The remainder of the meeting was closed for an Advisory Council Retreat.