



**GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (GFNMS)  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

The Red Barn Classroom,  
1 Bear Valley Rd., Point Reyes Station, CA  
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Friday, July 25, 2008

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, Barbara Emley, called the meeting to order at 9:20 am.

**Roll Call**

Barbara Emley	Maritime Activities/Commercial
Bob Breen	Education
Bob Wilson	Conservation (call in)
Brenda Donald	At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo
Brian O'Neill	National Park Service
Bruce Bowser	Conservation Alternate
Capt. Thomas Cullen	United States Coast Guard
Chris Powell	National Park Service Alternate
Dan Howard	Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Dominique Richard	At-large/Sonoma and Marin
John Largier	Research
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities/Recreational
Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate
Richard Charter	Chair/Conservation (call in)

**Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Staff**

Maria Brown	Sanctuary Superintendent
Karen Reyna	Acting Ecosystem Protection Coordinator
Kelley Higgason	Sanctuary Advisory Council and SPN Coordinator
Sage Tezak	Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Coordinator

***Copies to/Absent:***

Amy Boone	California Resources Agency Alternate
Bill Douros	ONMS West Coast Regional Office
Brian Baird	California Resources Agency
Cindy Tuck	California Environmental Protection Agency Alternate
Dorris Welch	Education Alternate
Jonathan Stern	Research Alternate
Marc Gorelnik	Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate



Paul Michel  
Secretary Linda Adams

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
California Environmental Protection Agency

### **Review Agenda:**

Agenda approved with no changes.

### **Approval of Prior Minutes:**

The advisory council approved the minutes of April 14, 2008 with the following changes:

- Page 13- last section should read: from the sand spit and the Bolinas Bluffs (strike rest are coming); add 20% from alluvial sources from the watershed, 80% littoral; clarify there are eucalyptus along Olema/Bolinas Road and strike Hwy 1.
- Next bullet- due to lack of wind/wave action and the depositing of alluvial sediment (not from)
- Add a new bullet for historically Kent Island was dynamic.
- Two historical channels- Bolinas Channel is where they historically tied schooners off Wharf Road.
- Removing Kent Island trees (instead of delta).
- Tidal should be 5.3.
- Page3- 3<sup>rd</sup> bullet down, last month is stated twice

Motion: Bruce Bowser, Conservation Alternate

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

Motion carried unanimously.

### **Review of February 15, 2008 Minutes:**

The Advisory Council reviewed the minutes and had no changes at this time.

### **Reports**

#### **Member Reports**

- Bruce Bowser, Conservation Alternate, stated that over the last three days he participated in part of the training to boom Bolinas Lagoon. They saw a presentation and got technical background information. Wednesday and Thursday was hands on training. There were experts at swift water boom deployment there. This was a multi-agency undertaking, with representatives including the U.S. Coast Guard, Marin Open Space, and the National Park Service. It was great to see this happening. It can't be considered fully successful. The boom didn't get deployed all the way across, but it was a great learning experience. We probably need a yearly training.

#### **Discussion**

- Barbara Emley asked if local fishing boats were in the exercise?
- Bruce Bowser stated it was government agencies getting the training. In an actual emergency, fishermen may come on board. There does need to be local training and involvement, but they were mostly training agencies.
- Barbara Emley replied that commercial and charter boats were used effectively in the San Francisco Bay oil spill. They said they were going to make sure the fishermen were a part of the trainings, but it looks like they have already being forgotten.

### **Reports Cont.**

- Brian O’Neill, National Park Service (NPS), stated the Gorbachev Building has been vacated. They have been trying to figure out the best instrument for the next 5-year period to allow the transfer of funds. There have been some challenges with the sanctuary’s Solicitors Office, we are in jeopardy of losing money that has been appropriated, so we need to get the interagency agreement in place. Maria is working to make sure the money is not taken. We are pressing to get agreements, then we can begin with the upgrade. Mayor Newsom and the NPS have initiated a vision process for the Ocean Beach corridor. We are jointly appointing a vision council to come up with alternative futures. We would like to transform this area into a more vibrant place. Over the next year will have public meetings and workshops to come up with a plan to rehabilitate and improve the corridor (Lands End to Fort Funston). This council may eventually want to offer a point of view.

### **Discussion**

- Barbara Emley asked if the natural environment will be considered?
- Brian O’Neill replied they want to preserve the vitality of the recreational beach, but there will be many intersecting issues, such as endangered species, off leash dog walking, etc.
- Brenda Donald stated the area used to be more family friendly before the late 60’s/early 70’s. She hopes this will be looked at for the future.

### **Reports Cont.**

- Brian O’Neill stated Lands End was a scary place to go to over the last few decades, but funds were raised to transform that area. We have seen a change of use occur over the last year. We want to make these places family friendly. Another item to report on is HR 6305, with this bill Speaker Pelosi, will change the name of Golden Gate National Recreation Area to Golden Gate National Park. Hearings were held last week. The NPS testified with a neutral position. We would operate under the same set of management policies. User groups are concerned about the designation of a National Park. We are working with them and they will be meeting with Pelosi’s office next week. There won’t be a markup, it will appear in a comprehensive Park bill. Most don’t know what a “National Recreation Area” is or that it is a component of the NPS. For marketing services we called it Golden Gate National Park.
- Dominique Richard, At-large/Sonoma and Marin, reported he will be going to a review course for HazMat (Hazardous Materials) training to maintain his certification.
- Peter Grenell, Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate, reported the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is meeting at Pillar Point Harbor on September 11<sup>th</sup>. The day before they will have a tour of the harbor, this is a good opportunity for the harbor to interface with this increasingly influential state body.
- Mick Menigoz, Maritime Activities/Recreational, reported he has spent less time using the sanctuary waters this year than over the last 20. The salmon season is closed. Rock cod is open but between weather issues and the general economy, people are not going out on boats as much. He needs 15 people to break even. On a few occasions out, there appeared to be more krill. Whales are back in their traditional areas. He has seen sea lions eating salmon. Rockfish numbers are down. He is not seeing the school fish, they are not attacking as aggressively. The fish they get are often stuffed with krill, which is different. He talked to the

guys on the Farallon Islands, and took out a Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association whale-watching trip, they are seeing the same thing. The birds seem to be doing well (most, except for the cormorants, which are down). There is a general lack of people out around the islands. The water was cold, but it warmed up quite a bit (3-4 degrees).

#### **Discussion**

- Peter Grenell commented that the Pillar Point Harbor is dead right now. Their revenue projections are down by a couple hundred thousand. The close of the salmon season was a big hit because it is truly a fishing harbor (90% of boats).

#### **Reports Cont.**

- Dan Howard, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), stated that John Butler, has done studies in Southern California that have been well received by the recreational fishing community. He is using acoustics to assess fish biomass. He will be coming up here in October to do the same. He is looking for a second boat for the acoustics. Maybe someone here could be hired out. Also, the National Marine Fisheries Service did a juvenile rockfish cruise. It was the best survey since 1983. CBNMS also did a marine debris removal cruise on the R/V *Fulmar*.

#### **Discussion**

- Barbara Emley stated the management council is doing a new stock assessment. They anticipate bigger numbers and they may reduce the size of the rockfish conservation area but not until 2009.
- Dan Howard stated when it comes time to looking at conservation areas, sanctuaries should promote more sustainable gear types and smaller fishing outfits from local ports. Can we get this in the conversation? Can we promote hook and line?
- Peter Grenell stated the sanctuary's role is in research and knowledge. There could be collaboration between the State and sanctuaries with the OPC.
- Barbara Emley- stated they are looking to the management council to "prefer" certain fishing styles. The sanctuary may be able to weigh in on this down the road.
- Maria Brown stated the management council has just asked sanctuaries to collaborate on research.

#### **Reports Cont.**

- Brenda Donald, At-large/San Francisco and San Mateo, reported that in May, Save Our Shores (SOS) had a cleanup at Pilarcitos Creek. The amount of garbage has decreased. Most of it is still plastic bags and many are cigarette butts. There were also 11 shopping carts. The bridge has helped. The remaining problem is vagrants in the creek. They have become more dangerous. One volunteer was threatened. The mental health issues and homelessness need to be addressed, but this will be very expensive. SOS is looking at a creek cleanup in Canada Verde creek in August. We will see if the data is similar.
- Bob Breen, Education, reported the Fish and Game Commission is forming groups for the Southern California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) process. They have selected the Regional Stakeholder Group members, and are currently looking for Science Advisory Team members. The first meeting is in September. Four North Central Coast MLPA proposals were submitted to the Blue Ribbon Task Force and the Fish and Game Commission. They adopted the Integrated Preferred Alternative.
- John Largier, Research, stated it would be nice to do an inventory of research in the sanctuary and present this at a future council meeting. Bodega Marine Lab has been looking

at the ebb tide delta with GGNRA. They are looking at the fate of the outflow, and what will happen if an oil spill occurs under winter conditions or there is a relaxation from upwelling conditions in other seasons – both scenarios in which the oil is likely to impact every beach to the north? They are doing ongoing work on high frequency radars and have had an increasing focus on climate change, particularly ecosystem response. He is working with Bill Sydeman, looking at changing conditions and determining how much is climate change and if they can explain the change from year to year? He is also looking at ecosystem based management: What does that mean? How do you do it?

### **Discussion**

- Bob Breen stated there is 45 years of data at Moss Beach. There have been noticeable changes in the intertidal. There are now new species moving in. They have baseline transects and quadrates from the 1970s.
- John Largier stated they are also looking at marine debris- where does it go, what happens to it? This is a research agenda to develop. Currently Oikonos is doing some work on this.

### **Reports Cont.**

- Robert Frischmuth Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Liaison, reported they are currently considering marine protected areas (MPA's) in federal waters within MBNMS. This has taken most of the council's time. The decision was made by the sanctuary office to proceed with these areas in federal waters. They currently have state MPA's. They have had a working group on this since 2001. They could not reach a consensus, so it has now been taken up by entire council. On the MBNMS website Paul Michel has posted a memorandum on this.
- Barbara Emley, Maritime Activities/Commercial, reported there is no salmon season so the harbor has been quiet. They fished crab longer than normal, and at the end the crab were very large. The sport guys in the Bay were catching halibut. Some of their guys drifted from Pier 39 to Crissy Field and caught 23 halibut. 70% of Monterey Bay is currently off limits for fishing and they now want more.
- Richard Charter, Conservation, could not attend this portion of the meeting, but supplied the following report in writing:
  - President Bush last week lifted his father's executive Outer Continental Shelf leasing deferrals for all federal waters, including all areas off of the California coast. In the same motion, the President has altered the executive directive originally made by Bill Clinton in 1998 to permanently preclude offshore drilling in all marine sanctuaries, weakening this protection so that it's no longer permanent, but instead in place for an "indeterminate period". It is our understanding that this executive action by the White House to weaken protection for our sanctuaries does not alter the designation document nor the regulations of any individual sanctuary.
  - Congress is engaged in a pitched and partisan battle over whether or not to renew the 27-year legislative Outer Continental Shelf moratorium for another year, and the oil industry has spent tens of millions of dollars on a nationwide advertising campaign to try to convince the public that drilling in sensitive coastal areas will somehow lower gasoline prices at the pump. As Congress prepares to adjourn next week for the August recess, the offshore drilling moratorium has not been lost, but September promises to bring even more confrontation on this issue when Congress reconvenes for the end of this year's session. Senator John McCain

has made a campaign pledge to open the Outer Continental Shelf to offshore drilling, while Senator Obama has committed to continued protection of our coasts and a move toward energy conservation and renewables. The ultimate decision about the where and when of offshore drilling is likely to be made by whoever wins the Presidency.

- HR 1187, Rep. Woolsey's bill to expand the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary boundaries northward to Pt. Arena passed the House of Representatives earlier this spring and was successfully marked up in the U.S. Senate Commerce Committee during May. Senator Boxer is still seeking to access a Senate legislative vehicle that will lead to final enactment of this boundary expansion this year, but the effort is complicated by the same partisan fight over expanded offshore drilling previously mentioned. There still remains, however, a reasonable, but not certain, probability that this bill can still be enacted this year.

- The Sonoma County Water Agency was denied their earlier permit application for a wave energy permit extending the length of the Sonoma Coast and 12 miles seaward by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), with FERC stating that the County needed to submit new applications for "smaller" footprints. The Sonoma County Water Agency has since released a preliminary set of three proposed maps of planned wave array permit applications to the FERC, either for the purpose of pre-empting these sites from instead being sought by commercial developers, or else for actually developing the sites for the Water Agency itself. The Water Agency proposed wave array permit sites are located off of Bodega Head, overlapping most of the recently negotiated California Marine Life Protection Act marine protected area there, and north of the Russian River, overlapping a marine conservation area proposed there under the MLPA, and also near Stewarts Point, again interfacing with a proposed marine protected area there. The Bodega Bay Marine Lab has issued a letter objecting to the proposed Bodega Head wave array FERC permit site. It does appear that the Water Agency is now delaying their permit applications for these controversial sites pending further review and refinement by Water Agency staff and their internal Water Agency stakeholders' group, which had not had an adequate opportunity to review and comment on the configuration of these preliminary permit application maps.

- Barbara Emley passed out maps of these proposed sites, they are in two proposed marine reserves.
- Capt. Thomas Cullen, U.S. Coast Guard, reported he took over for Capt. Swatland, but they are still deciding the most appropriate replacement for the council representative. Capt. Swatland's recommendation was to take a look at whether this should be at the district level, but he will come to the next few meetings.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Maria Brown, Sanctuary Superintendent, reported on the following:

Irina Kogan had her baby last Thursday. She was two weeks late with a little boy. They are both healthy and well. While she is out (three months off, then three months part time) we have hired Brad Damitz, who was a resource specialist at MBNMS, and has been contracting with sanctuaries. He will be helping with permits and San Mateo issues (beach nourishment, air force water discharge, etc.) Karen Reyna is the acting Resource Protection Coordinator.

### ***Cosco Busan Update***

We are still in response mode. We have been signing off on sanctuary beaches in partnership with other resource managers. We have signed off on all except Rodeo Beach, but a cleanup crew was sent out. Bolinas Lagoon still needs to be surveyed, and they will still be monitoring Rodeo. Beach Watch volunteers are reporting if they see any oil.

### **Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW)**

In June, Maria attended the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Capitol Hill Oceans Week (CHOW). This is an annual event to educate staff and members of Congress on ocean issues. This is the same time as the annual awards dinner, and our Beach Watch volunteer Mary Cantinni, received the national volunteer of the year award for her efforts with the *Cosco Busan* spill. We are the only sanctuary to have received this award twice. The theme this year was climate change. Senator John Kerry spoke, as well as Gilchrist, Sam Farr, and others. Maria presented on our local summit. We got great information from the climate summit that we will be able to use and implement. We will be putting together an action plan and working groups. Kelley Higgason will be the half-time coordinator for the climate change initiative beginning in August.

### **Sanctuary Expansion Bill**

We heard information on this from Richard. It is looking good but still not done. Two changes were made to the bill. The authorization for appropriations was removed and in the House bill, they took out that the sanctuary will look into the need for regulations on mariculture. Ralph Nadar's group thought it meant we were promoting mariculture. Because of their outcry, the language was removed. We can say no to aquaculture if it will disturb the seabed. Also, the National Marine Sanctuary Reauthorization Act was in the House Subcommittee for a hearing yesterday.

### **Budget and Facilities Master Plan**

We are moving forward. The building is empty, but we are working on a permit to occupy it. We have money this fiscal year to rehabilitate it, but the National Weather Service is short funds and they want to take all facility money from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. We will have an additional 6% budget cut next year.

### **Beach Renourishment in Half Moon Bay**

Peter Grenell and Maria have not met yet so she does not have a report at this time

- Peter Grenell reported they have spoken with the Army Corp of Engineers, the lead agency on the demonstration project. They need to do an initial assessment. They are finalizing the purchase of rock for breakwater repair. This will be resolved this month. In the mean time, Maria and Peter will meet to discuss what the sanctuary will need to see to be consistent with sanctuary policies and to also form a working group. The OPC recently funded a regional sediment management study in San Diego county. There is a potential source of money here. Part of the September tour will look at Surfers Beach.

The community is eager and very interested. He has been assuring them there is movement.

- Bob Breen asked if the County Parks would be on this working group?
- Peter Grenell replied, yes, any stakeholder is welcome.
- Brenda Donald asked if there is funding for the initial assessment?
- Peter Grenell replied there is money in the Army Corps budget for the Pillar Point Harbor repair.
- Chris Powell asked how long will the assessment take?
- Peter Grenell replied it would not take long. They did one on the Princeton side and it took about four months.

### **JMPR Update**

We are still in it. We received the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to review, and it is now going up the chain of command.

### **Health of the Sanctuary**

- There has been a harbor porpoise die off. Dead harbor porpoises have been found along the shore. There were 16 found dead in a 21-day period. Beach Watch data indicates this is a two to three fold increase in stranding rates for this area. We are working with The Marine Mammal Center, California Academy of Sciences, and the Department of Public Health to investigate possible causes of the deaths.
- A new seabird breeding colony has established on Bird Island off of Point Bonita. This spring, the sanctuary's SEAS-Beach Watch (Sanctuary Ecosystem Assessment Survey) and SEAS- Pelagic Surveys, discovered murrens attending Bird Island. An estimated 500 birds have been seen there since at least early May, and murre eggs were seen on June 7<sup>th</sup>. Brandt's Cormorants are also breeding on Bird Island for the first time in over 10 years. The sanctuary is working with the NPS and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to track the success of the breeding murrens and cormorants.
- David Ainley did a 20-year study on offshore bird populations in the Gulf of the Farallones region, of 11 birds monitored, 6 of 11 have been in decline. Preliminary information suggests a connection between the success of breeding and oceanic conditions/food availability.

### **Oil Spill Preparedness**

Sanctuary staff is working with natural resource trustee agencies to identify sensitive resources for the Area Contingency Plan Potential Places of Refuge effort. Participants included the NPS, USFWS, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Department of the Interior, and the California Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response. This natural resource information will be added to a database used by the U.S. Coast Guard to evaluate the appropriateness of using Drakes Bay as a potential place of refuge for deep-draft vessels in distress.

- Capt. Cullen explained that identifying proposed ports of refuge does not mean that the closet port of refuge will be selected. It will be handled case by case.

### **Education**

The sanctuary served 834,000 people directly through our education programs this year.



### **Public Comment**

Jackie Dragon, Seaflow, wants to thank the council and the sanctuary and appreciates all of their work. Seaflow is working on the issue of ocean noise pollution. We are currently focused on noise pollution from shipping. They will be launching a sanctuaries campaign that discusses what the impacts of shipping are. Shipping is the number one source of noise pollution. Shipping also accounts for pollution on land. 130,000 metric tons of soot comes from shipping. Slowing down ships would reduce carbon emissions. They support this idea. They want to encourage the council to engage in this work. There is a real possibility there will be more oil exploration with many sound and noise issues. We should consider a working group on impacts of shipping in sanctuaries.

- Chris Powell asked for more information about Seaflow.
- Jackie Dragon replied it began in 1999 in the West Marin Area due to sonar issues. We have launched a vessel watch campaign. We take people to the Farallon Islands for whale watching. We bring hydrophones and make the public aware of the acoustic environment.

### **Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project (Council Action)**

Sage Tezak, Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Coordinator, gave a presentation that is available online at: <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.

- Sage stated she is presenting recommendations from a locally preferred plan and asking for comments and suggestions from the council. The recommendations are in no order of priority.

### **Discussion**

- John Largier stated he is confused on Objective 1. Was this combined?
- Sage Tezak answered, yes, two objectives were combined.
- Bruce Bowser replied the Pine Gulch Creek Delta has become a major deterrent of tidal ebb of the lagoon. Compared to the 1960's, it is about 60% larger. Pine Gulch Creek is one of the most seriously considered areas. The Bolinas "Y" is an access road from Hwy 1 to get to Bolinas that channels the Lewis Creek floodplain. The Seadrift spit and Bolinas Bluffs are not included, but we were asked to draft a letter to Marin County to look at these.
- Peter Grenell asked if they have identified beneficial uses for sediment removal?
- Sage Tezak replied that will be the next step included in the EIS.
- Brenda Donald asked if all the septic tanks were not having an impact? Has the group addressed this?
- Bruce Bowser replied the Seadrift spit is on septic, but downtown Bolinas is on a sewer system (about 200 houses). The Bolinas mesa is on septic systems also. We couldn't attribute septic problems to water quality issues, but it probably does exist.
- Bob Breen stated there is a 2008 paper that did water quality sampling of Bolinas Lagoon in connection with a Stinson Beach study. Nitrates were really high. There was a 3-1 ratio of nitrogen to silicate. Many researches indicate groundwater discharge is an important part of pollution in estuaries. The sub-marine groundwater discharge at Bolinas was really high. The

paper recommends monitoring groundwater discharge. The wells can be monitored. The paper gives good descriptions of methods that can be used.

- Bruce Bowser replied public education is a large component of a successful restoration project.
- Brenda Donald stated she would like to see more investigation into domestic disposal impacts. Were public utilities involved at all? Information can be obtained from the Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 1.
- Maria Brown stated there are two recommendations on water quality. One is to investigate water quality violations with septic tanks and the other is to monitor groundwater discharge into the lagoon.
- John Largier stated many of these issues are statewide. There could be public health concerns, but the public health issue is not what we are discussing here. However, eutrophication is an ecological health concern and we should see if this is an issue. High nitrogen levels inside the lagoon would be an issue.
- Brenda Donald stated that 18% of waste in Seattle came from garbage disposals.
- Dan Howard asked if Tom Lambert had commented at all? He grew up in Stinson. His observation was that there was a disproportionate amount of sedimentation occurring during extreme weather events, was this incorporated?
- Sage Tezak replied they did identify the 1982 and 1983 storms as bringing a huge amount of sediment into Pine Gulch Creek.
- Bill Carmen stated a study is looking at groundwater movement with the addition of fresh water from septic tanks. Big storms release a huge proportion of the amount of sediment. There is an effort to restore the flood plain to its natural state. Naturally during storms, sediment would be deposited up on the banks and not in the lagoon.
- Gordon Bennett stated the cumulative impact of properly functioning septic systems should be followed up on.
- John Largier stated he likes the approach the group took on sediment.
- Bob Breen asked if the list of plant species included invasive aquatic species?
- Sage Tezak stated it is mentioned in text, but not in the table.
- Bob Breen asked if there is a species list from the 1970's to compare to?
- Sage Tezak replied the plan has touched on this, but the methods needed are time consuming.
- Bill Carmen stated we have a species list but species have changed, it is hard to get an actual abundance. We are considering this as we develop a monitoring plan, and asking what keystone species we should look at.
- John Largier asked what was being recommended for Kent Island? How much of Pine Creek Delta should be dug out?
- Sage Tezak stated the working group recommends removing introduced species, and removing the beach grass roots also. They recommend further studies on how much to dig out, and they also suggest different scenarios.
- Gordon Bennet stated the question of how much sediment to remove was viciously fought within the community. The group compromised with a joint plan that is long term and sustainable.
- Brian O'Neill asked, what was the nature of the major comments at the public meeting? Could these be summarized?

- Sage Tezak replied subtidal and fish habitat, the function of Eskoot Creek, the Bolinas groin, the Stinson Beach spit, the timing of sediment removal, the Bolinas channel, tree removal, how the recommendations are prioritized, and eelgrass. We also heard from many of the organic growers in Paradise Valley.
- Bill Carmen stated in the back of the plan (pg 56), we summarized the comments into categories and we then responded to those.
- Bruce Bowser stated we could potentially go straight to the county owned properties to do remedial work (e.g. Pine Gulch Creek Delta and Kent Island).
- Sage Tezak stated we held a public meeting that about 65 people attended. We received about 80 comments total. Supervisor Steve Kinsey was there as well. We broke into groups to receive comments. People were pleased with the process, and the comments fell into about 11 categories.
- Maria Brown stated our thoughts for the Bolinas Channel was to remove Pine Gulch Creek and in turn this would have an affect on the channel. If that doesn't work, we would look at additional options like removing the neck of Kent Island.
- Sage Tezak stated the sanctuary will be a cooperating agency on the EIS.
- Bill Carmen stated the California Coastal Conservancy is the other partner.
- John Largier asked if adaptive management is considered? What will be monitored?
- Sage Tezak replied we included an adaptive management framework for now.

Bruce Bowser put forward a motion to approve the final plan and forward the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project: Recommendations for Restoration and Management to the GFNMS Superintendent with the following changes:

- Water quality recommendations summed up by Maria earlier.
- Include a list of aquatic invertebrate invasive species.

Motion- Bruce Bowser, Conservation Alternate

Second- John Largier, Research

Motion carried unanimously

Bruce Bowser presented the council with a letter to Marin County Open Space District.

- Bill Carmen asked if they have jurisdiction over the bluffs? There was a coastal geologist on the working group who said armoring at Seadrift didn't have an affect on the amount of sediment coming in. This is the same as the Phil Williams and Associates report. He thought the working group said Bolinas Bluffs was a natural process.
- Bruce Bowser replied the geologist pointed out he felt the sediment was coming from further south. He took a comment from a fisherman that was convinced the sediment was coming from the spit. It seems we should address this concern. Is the letter properly directed? Who else would we send it to?
- Gordon Bennett stated erosion from the Bolinas Bluffs was a homeowners concern. It doesn't really have to do with the lagoon. They are just trying to get money. The working group said this was not our problem. He is concerned this letter is attached to the Bolinas Lagoon funding.

- Bruce Bowser stated the bluffs are constantly eroding. During yesterday's boom deployment, you could see sediment washing in. He would like to see this further researched.
- Chris Powell asked if the council could vote on this if there is disagreement.
- Gordon Bennet stated he is a member of the working group and he doesn't agree with this.
- John Largier stated if this comes from the working group then he supports it. Any time you ask for an investigation opportunity there will be a cost. He is on the fence because every tide brings sediment in and out. Typically there is a supply of sediment on the marine side. He doesn't know if he could say yes or no, but he would support it if it came from the working group.
- Maria Brown stated that this is in the document. It says the working group will write a letter of concern to Marin County and the Coastal Commission regarding this issue. This is in the response to comments on page 58. The group recommended doing this in response to public comment. The group didn't feel strongly about this issue or that it was part of what they were looking at, but the community is concerned with this so they wanted to refer it to the county. We can change the letter to reflect this more directly or wait on the letter.
- John Largier concurs this is a community concern. He thinks it's appropriate to send forward.
- Dan Howard asked why this was outside of the scope of the working group?
- Bruce Bowser replied we confined our discussions to what was immediately in and around the lagoon. During public comment there was a lot of concern with these issues. At the last working group meeting we discussed we would draft a letter. It could have a more focused direction as to who it goes to.
- Maria Brown stated the working group as a whole didn't think the bluffs were contributing a significant amount of sediment, but the community was concerned and wanted studies.
- Peter Grenell stated this should be articulated more clearly in the letter.
- Dan Howard stated you could consider outside of the mouth, or another watershed or source of sediment.
- Bill Carmen stated the working group didn't feel this was outside their purview; there was an 80% agreement that it is a natural source of sediment and that's why we didn't focus on it.
- Barbara Emley stated the letter maybe should be discussed with the working group before sending it.
- Bruce Bowser thought he had the go ahead, but he will table it and consult further with the working group.

The letter will not be approved by the council at this time; it will be tabled to a later meeting with changes.

### **MLPA Update and Discussion**

Karen Reyna, GFNMS Ecosystem Protection Specialist, gave a presentation that is available online at: <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.

- Karen Reyna state she and Irina Kogan participated on the Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG). Three options were put forward to the Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF). The BRTF forwarded the three options plus the integrated preferred alternative to the Fish and Game Commissioners.
- Richard Charter stated the original designation for the sanctuary was based on birds and marine mammals. The RSG spent 20-30 hours on this issue, as a result special closure areas were produced. He encourages the council to support a majority opinion for the GFNMS Superintendent to write a letter of support for the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA).

### **Discussion**

- Mick Menigoz asked if the closure at Stormy Stack was to keep out boats or people? Also are special closures in the IPA?
- Karen Reyna replied boats. Monitoring data shows people haven't been the problem there. Also, special closures are in the IPA.
- Maria Brown state the sanctuary has received a letter from California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on consultation. It is customary we will respond back on their California Environmental Quality (CEQA) document. The sanctuary is asking for guidance on the response letter.
- Barbara Emley stated the commercial fisherman did not have a problem with special closures.
- Mick Menigoz stated the recreational fishermen can live with them. He doesn't agree with one, but he can live with it.

A resolution in support of special closures only was approved. The final resolution is available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.

Motion- John Largier, Research

Second- Bob Breen, Education

Motion carried unanimously

### **Guidance to the Sanctuary from the Council**

- Maria Brown stated the timeline is that the CEQA document will come out at the public meeting in October, and in December they will adopt it. We may not have a meeting before the adoption.
- John Largier stated he supports the process.
- Barbara Emley stated there was not consensus on the IPA.
- Chris Powel asked if there are particular areas the council can provide recommendation on?
- Maria Brown stated the sanctuary is happy with the IPA special closures.
- Barbara Emley stated what she has heard was that the fishing community felt 2XA met all the requirements of the Science Advisory Team and provided the least amount of socioeconomic impact. There was no reason not to choose it. Politics came into play.
- Bob Wilson stated that the areas within GFNMS are part of 2XA.
- Maria Brown asked if the council was suggesting that a comment be made that in the GFNMS region the council supports the integrated preferred alternative?

- Barbara Emley stated this is a way for Bob to say the council supports the IPA even though all of the council doesn't approve. It is not a good idea to pick an alternative. She like John's suggestion.
- Bob Wilson stated we could get a majority and minority opinion. We have an obligation to write a letter.
- John Largier stated we have not given this due consideration. Most here have not read all of the documents. We can't really express an opinion. CDFG doesn't need more than this from us.
- Bob Wilson stated they do need something from the sanctuary.
- Chris Powell asked if we can recommend the sanctuary discusses with CDFG the alternative that has the best protection for GFNMS?
- Barbara Emley asked, how can Maria know?
- Maria Brown stated we would look at what was most positive for the sanctuary region.
- Mick Menigoz stated this is bigger than the Farallones. We can't only represent this small part.
- Barbara Emley stated the fishermen got tired and allowed the reserve at the north islands, but the community is not happy with this.
- Brenda Donald stated a minority opinion might be the best way.
- Bob Wilson stated the RSG never had consensus. The integrated preferred alternative is a composite of all the proposals, but we will never have complete agreement on this.
- Barbara Emley stated we should stay with John's suggestion, and not impose a majority opinion.
- John Largier stated that to go beyond the process, we could ask staff to develop an opinion. How does the IPA help the aims of the sanctuary?
- Chris Powell stated the council could recommend next options to the sanctuary.
- Bob Wilson stated the sanctuary could report back to the council on which advice was taken and why.
- Karen Reyna stated we can look at the IPA, our mandate, and our regulations and say how the IPA is consistent. Not whether or not we would choose the integrated preferred alternative.
- John Largier asked which actions are valuable to the sanctuary?
- Barbara Emley asked if it could mention that there is opposition in the fishing industry?
- Maria Brown stated we would have to balance that statement with where there is support.
- Karen Reyna stated she was not comfortable doing that kind of analysis.
- Bob Wilson stated the conservation community is the most upset. They have compromised a lot.
- John Largier asked Karen and Maria to look at the aim of the sanctuary and how does the integrated preferred alternative help.
- Barbara Emley asked for this to be done with each proposal.
- Maria Brown stated 2XA is the IPA in the sanctuary. We will not comment outside of the sanctuary. She agrees with John, the council can support the process where there is benefit to the sanctuary. Special closures would be the focus.
- Barbara Emley stated wave energy locations could be in two reserves on the Sonoma coast and the Commission can't stop these. Reserves don't provide a lot of protection as this machinery will anchor to the bottom.

Sage and Karen will draft a MLPA Resolution on advisory guidance to the sanctuary and this will be re-visited later in the meeting.

### **Permitting in the Sanctuary**

Karen Reyna, Acting GFNMS Ecosystem Protection Coordinator, gave a presentation that is available online at: <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>

### **Discussion on buoy permits**

- Barbara Emley stated research buoys that are 300 lb weights, 25 ft from the ocean floor, 15 miles east and west, 15 ½ miles apart, and covering a 7 mile area would interfere with fishing operations. They could cause damage to equipment and injuries. She has asked for these to be marked at the surface with another buoy. There needs to be outreach to ports and publications. One researcher said they were not inclined to mark them with buoys on the surface. This equipment is owned by Pacific Ocean Shelf Tracking and researchers can lease or buy it. It is a way to track salmon smolts, and the outfit would benefit by having acoustic curtains from Alaska to Mexico. In the permitting process can the sanctuary assess the value of the information?
- John Largier stated the aim is to see where the salmon go, is there a risky time in their life?
- Barbara Emley replied they do the most damage to salmon fishermen and they tangle with crab gear. Why would the scientists not have to talk with fishing industry?
- Karen Reyna stated as part of our permit review, we required consultation with fishermen.
- Maria Brown stated this came from a council meeting where Barbara requested that fishermen be consulted on proposed buoys. NMFS met with Barbara to work out the recommendations. The permit conditions requires an education component, and they must publish the findings in three publications. There is a one-year trial period. We will see if gear gets hung up, etc. and determine if these should be removed, modified, etc.
- Barbara Emley stated there is a report that says 47 of these were deployed in Washington and immediately four were lost to interactions with crab gear.
- Maria Brown asked if there is a recommendation from the council to the sanctuary?
- Barbara Emley replied the sanctuary did what they were supposed to do, but they should have required marking at the surface.
- Brenda Donald asked if there were more permits now?
- Karen Reyna replied there are 3-10 research permits per year.
- Jan Roletto stated there are other units that will receive these transmitters that are smaller and closer to the bottom, we can look into using these devices instead.
- Barbara Emley asked if the sanctuary can require different equipment?
- Maria Brown stated, yes we can.

The council chose to take no action at this time.

### **Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan**

Karen Reyna, Acting GFNMS Ecosystem Protection Coordinator, and Dominique Richard, Working Group Chair, gave a presentation that is available online at:

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

- Maria Brown stated there are two letters in everyone's packets. Please review these and we will discuss them after the presentation. The working group meeting was yesterday and the letters were drafted then.

### **Discussion**

- Brenda Donald stated this is all very good. She is pleased there is a community septic system on the east shore.
- Maria Brown stated it is opening today at 3:00 pm.
- Bob Wilson referred to Action 6 and said cost should be part of the study, it should not determine the study.
- Jan Roletto asked about Action 4, have you formed your seagrass expert group?
- Dominique Richard replied they have been invited.
- Karen Reyna stated there is a short list of people, but the meeting date has not been set yet.
- Jan Roletto stated this group should also start considering actions in #6. This research has been done in other areas, and a lot of that information can be used. They should include the NOAA Restoration Center and CeNCOOS (Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System).
- Dominique Richard stated some working group members feel they didn't get good information on seagrass. There were two studies in Australia, if there is something nearby to compare to that would be good.
- Jan Roletto stated there could be some potential restoration projects from *Cosco Busan*.
- Karen Reyna stated the letters and Action 6 is timely. We need the council's approval/guidance for Actions 1,3 and 6.
- Chris Powell stated that both letters are written to other agencies, but the first sentence of the second paragraph should just say that the council recommends, or the council urges the sanctuary to contact Marin County, etc. We should make this a letter to the sanctuary.
- John Largier stated he is happy with the letters. In terms of fecal bacterial contamination, there should be a pump out station. Also, are moorings the primary concern for seagrass beds?
- Maria Brown stated it is an illegal activity in the sanctuary. To make it legal it must be shown that there is no impact. Seagrass is where we would see the greatest impact.
- Barbara Emley asked what about shading? Are you assuming the boats will always be in one spot?
- Dominique Richard replied the shadow will move, but there will be a footprint.

There was a motion for the council to send both letters to the sanctuary superintendent, advising the superintendent to forward the working group recommendations to the Marin County Environmental Health Department and the California Boating and Waterways Commission. The letters are available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.

Motion- Brian O'Neill, National Park Service

Second- John Largier, Research

Motion carried unanimously



**The following recommendation were made for Action 6:**

- There is no need for \$2000 to be part of the recommendation.
- Karen Reyna suggested splitting it into two Requests for Proposals (RFP's), and linking science to part 4.
- A body of scientific knowledge should be added as an addendum to the RFP.
- Maria Brown reiterated that cost should be part of the study not the determination. The seagrass expert panel should be consulted on the RFP for the tackle test.
- What is known about moorings and seagrass should be an addendum.
- Environmental impacts should also be an addendum.

Recommendations have been noted in the record.

**Conservation Science Update**

Jan Roletto, GFNMS Conservation Science Coordinator provided the following update:

**Condition Report**

We are waiting for comments from NMFS. They are not only commenting, but also writing additional text. Comments received so far ask to beef up the citations for justification of the report. She is not sure where we are in our timeline. The final report should be ready by the end of this year. They received comments from Barbara that pertained to language in the questions. We will consider these in the next round of reports. We will revamp the sanctuary system wide monitoring program in about five years.

**SEA Surveys- Pelagic Habitat**

Jan Roletto, GFNMS Conservation Science Coordinator, gave a presentation that is available online at: <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.

This is a new program similar to Beach Watch monitoring, but it has many parameters, not just birds and mammals and it is conducted in nearshore and offshore areas.

**Discussion**

- The rockfish conservation area in the sanctuary extends much further in shore to between 20-30 fathoms. (Please have Tim check this area on the SEAS map.)

**MLPA Resolution on Advisory Council Guidance to the Sanctuary**

The resolution in support of MLPA implementation within the GFNMS was tabled until this time.

- Barbara Emley stated it sounds like the council is supporting marine projected areas in the last sentence.
- Mick Menigoz stated the sentence says the council is only supporting this in sanctuary waters.

A motion was passed to approve the amended resolution. The final resolution is available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>.

Motion- Bob Breen, Education

Second- Brian O'Neill, National Park Service

Motion carried unanimously

### **Advisory Council Business**

Kelley Higgason, GFNMS Advisory Council Coordinator

### **October 2008 Council Retreat**

- It was agreed that Audubon Canyon Ranch: Cypress Grove Research Center on Tomales Bay will be the site.
- Bob Breen stated we could get a seagrass speaker from the Romberg Tiburon Center
- Karen Reyna stated there are people who can talk on both climate change and estuarine restoration.
- Brian O'Neill stated it would be a shame to be on Tomales Bay and not learn about the resources there.
- John Largier stated there are many people doing research on climate change in Tomales Bay.
- We should do a fusion of these two topics at the retreat.

### **2008 Upcoming Meetings**

- October 9, 2008                      Council Retreat
- December 11, 2008                San Francisco