Joint Working Group on Vessel Strikes and Acoustic Impacts

- High Industry Engagement
- Balanced Participation
- Reviewed Objectives
- Brainstormed Recommendations
- Began Work on Action Plan
- Formed Expert Teams
Co-Chairs
Lance Morgan, MCBI; CBNMS SAC
Jackie Dragon, Greenpeace; GFNMS SAC alternate

Working Group Members
Michael Jasny, Natural Resources Defense Council
Carol Keiper, Oikonos
John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research
Frances Gulland, The Marine Mammal Center
John Hildebrand, Acoustician Scripps
John Berge, Pacific Marine Shipping Association
Kathy Metcalf, Chamber of Shipping of America
Captain Bill Mahoney, APL Maritime, Ltd.
CDR, Kiley Ross, USCG Inspections and Investigations Branch Chief
Peter Fischel, SW Regional Office NMFS
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CDR, Kiley Ross, USCG Inspections and Investigations Branch Chief
Peter Fischel, SW Regional Office NMFS
Technical Experts/Advisors
Leila Hatch, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary
Captain Bruce Horton, Port Agent SF Bar Pilots
John Largier, Physical Oceanographer, UC Davis, Bodega Marine Lab
Ingrid Overgaard, Ocean Noise and Policy Expert
Expert Teams

1. Policy and Management Team: (Elizabeth Petras, NMFS)
   - Speed Reduction
   - SMAs or DMAs
   - On-Board Observers
   - Incentives for Industry to Change Behavior
   - ATBAs

2. Education and Outreach Team (Kathy Metcalf, Chamber of Shipping of America)
   - Establish a Communication Network (e.g. maritime industry, gov. agencies, ship’s agents and pilots, etc)
   - Learn from Other Sites (East Coast and CINMS)
3. Research and Monitoring Team

1. Spatial (e.g., habitat models, distribution of vessels, whales)
2. Species (Which species are more or less vulnerable?)
3. Whale Behavior (what are whales doing and when are they doing it?)
4. Ship/Whale Interactions (how does speed or noise from ships affect whales?)
Proposed Analyses

- AIS Analysis of Ship Speed
  - Archival
  - Real-Time Data to Inform Management
- Acoustic Profile of Sanctuary
  - John Hildebrand?
- Maps of Whale and Vessel Distribution in Sanctuary
  - Michael Carver, ACCESS
  - Carol Keiper, Biogeographic Assessment
• PARS Recommendations are at HQ in Washington DC
• On-Track for Implementation, but Timing Uncertain
• Public Comment? ANPR (possibly Spring 2012)
• Rulemaking Process will trigger ESA Consultation and a NMFS Biological Opinion (Jeopardy for any species?)
• JWG will consider an interim recommendation to SAC to send USCG a letter of support, urging the initiation of rulemaking process
Other Issues:

• Prioritize Species (Blues, Humpbacks, Fins, Grays)
• Vessels of Opportunity for Monitoring
• Measurable Outcomes (We want ‘em!)
• Correction Factor (How many whales actually get struck by ships in the region?)
• Identify Key Partners
• Recommended Traffic Lanes to Avoid Whales
• Complex Relationship Between Strikes and Noise
• Socio-Economic Impacts
Next Meetings:

January 19 (Acoustic Focus)
March 22
May 17