

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

July 22, 2011

Resolution Supporting Ban on Plastic Bags Adopted by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

On July 22nd the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council adopted a resolution in support of a ban on single-use plastic bags. The advisory council had been inspired to consider this action after a similar resolution was adopted this Spring by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, and also noted that several local governments within California have been considering or enacting local ordinances to address growing concerns about the environmental impacts of plastic bags. The advisory council's resolution was approved by a vote of 10-0, with 5 agency seat abstentions, after a thoughtful discussion of many views and ideas. The adopted resolution acknowledges that marine debris has increased drastically over time, that plastic grocery bags are a common source of such debris, that plastic bags pose a threat to wildlife, habitats and human use of marine environments, that the bags never fully biodegrade, that recycling is important but not a sufficient solution, and that alternatives to single-use plastic bags are readily available. The advisory council's resolution encourages that federal and statewide legislative efforts and local ordinances by municipalities and counties to ban the use and distribution of single-use plastic bags. Additionally, the council's resolution supports efforts by local businesses to transition away from single-use plastic bags, and efforts to remove plastic bag litter from the shores and waters of the Sanctuary. For more information: michael.murray@noaa.gov.

September 23, 2011

Launch of Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation Announced

At a public meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Foundation on September 23rd, 2011, Dennis Long announced that operation of the Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation will soon begin. Dennis, who is Executive Director of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation (MBSF), has made arrangements for the MBSF to expand and begin also doing business as the Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation. The news was greeted with enthusiasm by the advisory council and several members of the public attending the meeting. As a next step, Dennis will be recruiting for a liaison position within the Santa Barbara and Ventura county area. The purpose would be to advise the MBSF Board on opportunities and needs to help advance the Channel Islands Sanctuary Foundation. The new Foundation will work to compliment the umbrella role of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, as is done with the MBSF. Media coverage included a positive article in the weekly Santa Barbara Independent: <http://www.independent.com/news/2011/sep/21/helping-government-help-channel-islands/>. For more information, contact Dennis Long at dennis@dennislong.org, or Chris Mobley at chris.mobley@noaa.gov.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

The Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council did not meet publically during this quarter. On September 8, 2011 the council held their annual retreat at the Cypress Grove Research Center on Tomales Bay. Members discussed council membership and developed their 2012 work plan.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 11, 2011

Council Unanimously Votes to Form Youth Involvement Subcommittee

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council received an update on the status of youth involvement in sanctuaries around the nation. The council was impressed by successes at sites such as Monitor and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuaries. They unanimously agreed that including youth in the council process was a necessary and positive direction for the coming year. A subcommittee was formed of five members who will take-on the job of recommending the most appropriate vehicle for youth involvement (such as a Youth Seat or Youth Working Group) to the council. For more information, please contact Leslie.Abramson@noaa.gov.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 18, 2011

Council Visits Sanctuary Exploration Center Site

At their August 2011 meeting, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Advisory Council (advisory council) spent quite a bit of time learning about and visiting the Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC). MBNMS staff provided the advisory council with a presentation on the Capital Campaign to raise funds for the SEC exhibits. Fred Keeley, who chairs the Leadership Committee for the SEC, provided an empowering talk about why the SEC is so important to the Sanctuary and the City of Santa Cruz. Afterwards advisory council members toured the SEC as it stands at this point in construction. Advisory council members were able to step out on the second story deck and experience the Sanctuary from that vantage point for the first time. After the tour, City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency staff provided a presentation on what the City of Santa Cruz will be doing to beautify the building site and surrounding area and MBNMS staff discussed the upcoming launch of the Tail of the Whale (TOW) campaign. The TOW is an effort to garner further support and buy-in from the Santa Cruz community through the sale of engraved tiles to be placed on outdoor benches.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

September 23, 2011

Council Finalizes Recommendations on Revised Advisory Council Charter

The Advisory Council Charter Review Subcommittee recommendations from their review of the Council Charter were presented to the entire Advisory Council and adopted by consensus. Proposed revisions to the Charter include the addition of new seats representing the outer Washington coast marine resources committees, U.S. Geological Survey, and local youth. Term limits for elected Council members and the addition of an annual meeting with the Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council were also recommended. The Council forwarded the revised charter to the Sanctuary Superintendent for consideration.

Council Hosts University of Michigan Graduate Students

A team of four Masters-level graduate students from the University of Michigan's Natural Resources and Environment Program presented to the OCNMS Advisory Council on their research project. The students are developing a joint thesis project focused on collaborative resource management, environmental conflict resolution, and strategies for consensus building with the OCNMS Advisory Council as a model. The graduate students will attend several Council meetings and conduct interviews with Council members and sanctuary staff over the next six months to acquire information for their project. A presentation of their findings is anticipated in spring 2012.
