



---

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

The Red Barn  
Point Reyes National Seashore  
Point Reyes, CA  
9:15 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday November 19, 2014

Note: The following 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.

### ***Copies to:***

Bill Douros, ONMS West Coast Regional Office  
Meeting called to order at 9:30am

### **Review Agenda**

*Roll Call*

*Review Agenda*

Introductions of new members and guests

Bob Wilson and Peter Grenell are stepping down

### **GFNMS Superintendent's Report**

*Swear-In New Members*

#### *Permits*

A research permit was issued to James Delgado of the NOAA Maritime Heritage Program to perform survey activities on the sailing ship Oxford, which sank in Tomales Bay in 1852. The permit allowed for the deployment of up to 30 probes using a 1-inch-in-diameter PVC probe to lightly make contact with the buried structure (but not remove any samples) in order to assess the condition of the historic wreck.

A research permit was renewed to Pat Conroy of the SF Public Utilities Commission to collect up to 50 sediment samples at 15 different sites within GFNMS and MBNMS as part of the long-term monitoring program to assess effects from the Southwest Ocean Outfall (SWOO) which discharges off of Ocean Beach in San Francisco.

An education permit was issued to James Moskito of Great White Adventures to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of tourism charters for the public at the Farallon Islands.

An education permit was issued to Chris Duba of the Silver Fox to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of tourism charters for the public at the Farallon Islands.

A management permit was issued to Marin Department of Public Works to make repairs to 126



linear feet of an existing seawall that runs along the edge of Wharf Road, at the interface of the road with Bolinas Lagoon by attaching 1-inch-thick steel plates along portions of the wall to be secured to through a system of tie backs connected to piers drilled down into the middle of the roadway.

A research permit was issued to Bob Schwemmer of NOAA's Maritime Heritage Program to perform survey activities on several possible historical wrecks off of the Farallon Islands and outside the entrance to SF Bay. This permit was issued to allow for minimal disturbance of the seabed using an ROV to remove sediment in order to assess the condition of the historic wrecks.

A research permit was issued to Tessa Hill of UC Davis to temporarily moor sensors and other equipment in Tomales Bay around four (4) discrete seagrass beds and to collect sediment coring samples in order to study seagrass effects on estuarine acidification and specifically to evaluate how carbonate chemistry changes throughout an estuary and to investigate the possibility of using seagrass to mitigate the effects of acidification.

A management permit was issued to Linda Dahl of Marin County Open Space District to implement the Invasive Spartina Eradication Project in Bolinas Lagoon. The project involves (1) discharge of other material into the sanctuary by applying one type of herbicides (imazapyr), and (2) disturbing the seabed by temporarily deploying tarps to smother invasive Spartina plants and by digging, handpulling, and pruning invasive Spartina hybrid plants for the purpose of eradicating non-native Spartina (cordgrass) vegetation.

A research permit was issued to Kaitlin Gaffney of the Resource Legacy Fund to conduct low overflights within restricted overflight zones in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS or Sanctuary) to demonstrate the use of an unmanned aerial system (UAS), the PUMA, for potential use for resource protection purposes.

A research permit was issued to Barbara Block of Stanford University TOPP for attracting white sharks for research purposes in order to deploy acoustic, satellite (PAT), and stomach tags in order to better understand population abundance and trends, migration patterns, genetic structure, and essential habitat of white sharks. The project would tag and biopsy up to 40 individuals and photograph up to 100. In addition, the project will install one (1) new mooring and receiver near Hopkins Marine Lab to transmit acoustic tag data. Work will take place from Fall 2014 through Spring 2015 within the MBNMS and GFNMS, at the Farallon Islands, Point Reyes, Bodega Head, Ano Nuevo Island, and Piedras Blancas.

An education permit was issued to Jane Reifert of Incredible Adventures to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of tourism charters for the public at the Farallon Island.

An authorization of a USCG Marine Event Permit is under review for Cartel Management Inc. to allow the use of 15-20 MPWC by the contest sponsors during the Titans of Mavericks 2015 Surf Contest for surf rescue, transport of competitors, and other event management tasks and the deployment of temporary buoys to demarcate the contest area during the 1-day event. The event would take place within MBNMS, at the Mavericks surf break, offshore Pillar Point, in Half



---

Moon Bay on one day between January 1, 2015 through March 31, 2015.

A management permit is under review for Grace Kato of the State Lands Commission to authorize the California State Lands Commission to implement the Tomales Bay Vessel Mooring Program, which was established as part of the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan developed by GFNMS in partnership with State Lands. The program sets a limit of the number of moorings and includes specific criteria for mooring locations, required specifications for mooring tackle, and requirements for the inspection and maintenance of moorings. The permit would be good for 10 years to coincide with the CSLC's 10-year lease period.

A research permit is under review for Edwin Grosholz of UC Davis requesting an amendment to his permit to use non-native oysters to study acidification effects. He would also like to deploy non-native oysters to assess how acidification may also affect the presence of non-natives in Tomales Bay in order to assess the current risk of acidification to commercially grown Pacific oysters in Tomales Bay and whether this likelihood of establishment will increase, decrease or remain unchanged in the future as the result of climate change.

#### *GFNMS Emissions Update*

NOAA is converting to a federally mandated energy reporting system called "EPA Energy Star Portfolio Manager." Under the Dec 2013 Presidential Memorandum "Federal Leadership on Energy Management," all federal facilities are required to upload their energy and water consumption into the EPA database. We are currently setting up our GFNMS account, and will report out on the past two years of energy use in 2015.

We did not add facilities or staff in 2013, so we anticipate 2013 emissions will be on par with or less than 2011 and 2012. In 2014 we reduced natural gas consumption by turning off our central heater for several months, and NPS stopped watering the grass due to the drought.

#### **Vessel Groundings**

The following two vessels sank in the sanctuary between August 20 and November 17, 2014:

The first was a 32-foot fishing boat, which sank off Bodega Head on November 1<sup>st</sup> during the opening day of the crab season. The vessel was flipped by large seas and high winds. Five people were thrown overboard; no one was wearing life preservers. Four of them died and one survived by swimming to Bodega (Seal) Rock where the USCG rescued him via helicopter. The vessel was broken up and quickly sank in the rough seas.

The second vessel was a 31-foot skipjack (crab fishing boat), the F/V Alley Cat, which sank on November 17<sup>th</sup> in approximately 100 feet of water about 3 miles southwest of Pillar Point. There was a potential for up to 150 gallons of fuel on-board; the USCG inspected the scene and found no sheen or debris in the water. The three people on board were all rescued by a passing boat.

#### **White Sharks**

GFNMS issued 1-year time extensions for 3 shark tour permits for this season. Thus far, only 1 of the 3 operators has made trips to the Farallones; the others have canceled trips for



this season due to both low reservation numbers and/or the decision to instead conduct more fishing charters. The TOPP program also received a 1-year time extension on their permit to continue long-term research and monitoring on white sharks at various sites within the sanctuary. TOPP wrapped up a month of tagging and photo ID work at the Farallones on October 31<sup>st</sup> and reported it to be a very slow season for sharks there. They are currently continuing work at other sites, primarily at Ano Nuevo and Tomales Point.

On August 22nd, the California Fish and Game Commission officially published its final decision in the California Regulatory Notice Register to adopt the CDFW staff recommendation to not list white sharks under the State ESA. They agreed with NOAA Fisheries status review report findings that the current available science and population modeling do not suggest the population is at risk or declining, but rather is stable or slightly increasing. So, both the shark tour boats and researchers did not need to obtain a take permit from the state for this season (as was the case last year).

### **Mavericks Surf Contest**

There is a new organization managing the event this year, Cartel Management, Inc. GFNMS attended the first public safety meeting in October and met with Cartel to discuss the contest for this season and the history of the sanctuary's role and MPWC's at the Maverick's surf break. The permit has not yet been issued, but GFNMS permitting staff is working with Cartel, other public safety agencies, and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement to ensure that all the usual permit protocols are observed. Due to concerns that charter boats and other craft have been getting too close to the surf break in past years in order to watch the event, the USCG has developed an interim regulation for this year's contest which allows them to restrict all vessel traffic within a larger radius around the break. As in the past few years, also for safety reasons, the public will again not be allowed access to the beach of bluff areas but concentrated within the festival grounds which will be set up at the Oceano Hotel. GFNMS plans to have an education booth at the festival to conduct outreach to the public on the beauty and value of the sanctuary. Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA) is also interested in partnering with Cartel Management this year but is still working out the details for their role in the event.

### **MBNMS Superintendent's Report** (presented by Maria Brown)

Brad Damitz, a contractor with GFNMS and MBNMS, is working on a project to potentially permit beach nourishment and dredge sediment at Pillar Point Harbor within the Monterey Bay Sanctuary.

The motorized personal watercraft (MPWC) subcommittee of the MBNMS advisory council was off to a slow start but it has picked up. It primarily focuses on the Mavericks surf contest. The strategy is to develop solutions that allow MPWCs for lifesaving activities while still working within NOAA mandates. We're working with some of the surfers there to come up with solutions as well.

Carmel River dam removal and the desalination plant have a few Environmental Impact



---

Statements in development and MBNMS is the lead on one of those.

**CBNMS Superintendent's Report** (Dan Howard)

CBNMS staff is moving into new offices in December.

CBNMS had a great field season this year. The ROV dives completed 16 transects on CB

**BREAK**

**Deep Sea Coral Cruise Update**

See presentation at: [http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14\\_11/rovppt.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14_11/rovppt.pdf)

Discussion: The 2010 Okeanos Explorer cruise collected some data and showed higher rocky relief in this area that debunked prior conceptions about the "Football", so staff wanted to verify this. Other rockier features are probably deeper than our ROV could go, but staff was pleasantly surprised by what they saw.

**Member Reports**

*Jackie Dragon*

Jackie welcomed the new SAC members and then noted that she had read about the discovery of the new species of coral from the ROV cruise. This discovery correlates with her current work at Greenpeace to protect areas of the Bering Sea and its canyons.

Greenpeace worked with Lance Morgan at the Marine Conservation Institute and top scientists on a petition to Obama to create more marine protected areas. The United States needs marine reserves in at least 20% of the biologically productive areas of the oceans.

There is a Blue Vision Summit next April which will bring concerned ocean advocates to Washington DC to discuss conservation.

*Patrick Rutten*

The NOAA Habitat Blueprint for the Russian River Basin looks at impacts of potential flooding events, jetties, and other pressure differential between the fresh and saltwater there.

The CA Water Bond passed and will provide \$1 billion for water projects, conservation, and restorations. NOAA is looking at how it can prioritize and leverage this money to see what estuaries can be targeted for a "mini blueprint."

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration is working with NOAA Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) to determine how to re-operate reservoirs, particularly the Mendocino Reservoir and include drought consideration.

*Jaime Jahncke*

Anna Stillwell from SF State University is working on her thesis related to non-resident birds using ACCESS data.



Whale Alert app is up and running and brochures have been printed and disseminated by Point Blue to increase public awareness. Point Blue also reached out to whale watching companies from San Diego to Washington State to increase observation, participation and data collection so we can inform the managers.

Jaime Jahncke was invited to talk about whales, entanglement, strikes, and Whale Alert at CA Academy with groups from NZ and gave a talk about Whale Alert and krill at the Exploratorium

*Abby Mohan*

Abby introduced herself and gave some personal background. No announcements.

*Joshua Russo*

The Watermen's Alliance is rewriting abalone regulations and trying to draft an abalone management plan in collaboration with some Bodega Marine Lab researchers. There is no abalone fishery south of the Golden Gate Bridge so the fishery management is for northern regions. A different plan would be in place for southern California.

*Richard Charter*

Richard has been working on the proposed sanctuary expansion and very much enjoyed the expansion focused retreat in October 2014.

There is a strong push from Mendocino County to create a sanctuary there and Richard is in discussion with Bill Douros and some other groups about this.

The Restore America's Estuaries conference discussed the candidacy and eligibility for new nominated sanctuary sites (nomination process).

*Dominique Richard*

Dominique is part of a group looking at sites threatened by sea level rise and brainstorming solutions to protect communities. They are as yet unnamed.

Dominique's wife is planning a mock SAC meeting at her university to help students understand the complexity of environmental negotiation.

GFNMS needs to update information on the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan on their website and GFNMS should have a Twitter account.

*USCG Shannon Anthony*

Over the last year, the USCG has been working on our Living Marine Resources Program focusing on discharge and jetskis.

The USCG assisted NOAA on a whale disentanglement mission in Monterey Bay by directing the Fulmar to the location of the entangled whale.

The USCG would like to give a presentation to the SAC on enforcement efforts.



---

*Bruce Bowser*

On 11/24/14, several rocky shore naturalists will testify to Marin County Parks about Duxbury Reef access and protections.

Bolinas Museum had a month-long exhibit on ocean wellness and wonders, which went well.

Bruce moderated a panel on marine debris at the Bolinas Community Center. Additionally, his most recent survey did not encounter any tsunami debris, but did encounter a lot of plastic.

*John Largier*

The warming anomaly of the north Pacific has continued throughout the winter, and researchers at Bodega Marine Lab think the absence of upwelling is related to the Cassin's auklet deaths.

-An observed widespread hypoxia phenomenon could linger for years and is likely related to climate change

-Update on sea star wasting disease

-CENCOOS has a new director

-Mendocino Community College's Pt. Arena field station was almost sold to BLM, but it will remain open

*Caleb Rosen*

The San Francisco Ocean Film Festival sounds like a great opportunity for students in our area. Caleb suggested creating a presentation for school assemblies about the sanctuary could be great.

Caleb also suggested that the sanctuary should create a hash tag for the Farallones to enhance coverage of the sanctuary.

*George Clyde*

George just started volunteering with Beach Watch.

The Tomales Bay Watershed Council held a meeting with shellfish TAC and learned a lot about the effort for programmatic permits for expansion of existing oyster leases on Tomales Bay.

*Christy Walker*

No member report.

*Kellyx Nelson*

Kellyx was happy to see so much interest in the open SAC positions.

Last week the San Mateo Resource Conservation District (RCD) had a final meeting in Pescadero to address road flooding and restoration opportunities. The RCD is trying to restore fish passage into the upper watershed.

The RCD received \$4M through the integrated regional water management plan for drought relief to balance demand/restore stream flow in San Gregorio and Pescadero watersheds. The RCD is also working on some in-stream enhancements for fish refuge and foraging areas.



Some RCD volunteers and staff are completing our last harvest for a bio char project that reintroduces bio char to fields to sequester carbon and improve crop yield. Hopefully, this will result in a draft standard that can be funded through the Farm Bill.

The RCD is a Clean Water Partner with Pillar Point Harbor working to implement best management practices for fecal coliform.

### **Public Comment**

*Gordon Bennett, Save Our Seashore:*

Mr. Bennett sent a letter to Maria from SOS urging her to reject shark permits; usually the public cannot appeal as the applicant usually does that but we are going to do so. SOS opposes the speed tracking of the Introduced Species Proposed Regulation. Mr. Bennett urges GFNMS to host a public speaking opportunity after each issuing of proposed regulations. Lastly, there has been a 6-year program organized by the regional board that grants grazing waivers in the Tomales Bay watershed; the number of site visits to determine the efficacy is non-existent, so water quality and oyster aquaculture is suffering. SOS would like some help from the sanctuary.

*Dayna Matthews, NOAA Enforcement:* NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) has some staffing updates. NOAA sites require additional on-site, uniformed officers to patrol and enforce policies. NOAA OLE has two agents in Santa Rosa who took jobs with the EPA, so it's not uncommon for agents to move back and forth between agencies. The Santa Rosa enforcement officer is moving to Hawaii, so SF Bay Area needs some staffing; a new Enforcement Officer is coming in who's very qualified. NOAA OLE also has a new agent in our region that's starting here in December.

### **LUNCH**

*ONMS video viewing:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r9wfOpfMM84>

### **Advisory Council Business**

*Revised Preferred Action for Proposed Expansion*

Presentation available at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14\\_11/expansionupdate\\_ppt.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14_11/expansionupdate_ppt.pdf)

*Name Change Subcommittee Report (**Potential Action Item**)*

Presentation available at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14\\_11/name\\_subcommittee\\_ppt.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14_11/name_subcommittee_ppt.pdf)

The discussion narrowed the candidates down to three major suggestions: Farallones, Golden Gate, and Northern California.



---

Other suggestions included: Redwood Coast, Upwelling

*Approve August meeting notes (Action Item)*

**Motion** Richard Charter

**Second** Bruce Bowser

**Favor** 8

**Oppose** 0

**Abstain** 0

*WCR Quarterly Report*

The West Coast region SAC Actions report can be found at:

[http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pdfs/wcr\\_q4\\_2014.pdf](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pdfs/wcr_q4_2014.pdf)

*Officer Elections (Action Item)*

A vote was held and John Largier was elected new Chair of the council. Kellyx Nelson was elected new Vice Chair of the council and Barbara Emley was re-elected Secretary of the council.

## **BREAK**

*2014 Work Plan Summary*

SAC reviewed their priorities from the previous year and noted both accomplishments and issued that needed continued focus.

*2015 Work Plan Prospectus*

The 2015 Work plan prospectus can be viewed at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14\\_11/15workplanprospectus\\_final.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/14_11/15workplanprospectus_final.pdf)

Edu/Outreach/Youth Involvement

Caleb Rosen volunteered to be Chair of a new Youth Involvement Subcommittee that would meet later this month.

## **ADJOURN**



<b>NAME</b>	<b>SEAT</b>	<b>P/A</b>
Dominique Richard [Council Chair]	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma	P
George Clyde	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma- Alt	P
Kellyx Nelson	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo	P
Christy Walker	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo Alternate	P
Catherine Kuhlman	CA Ocean Protection Council	A
Vacant	CA OPC Alternate	
Richard Charter [Council Vice-Chair]	Conservation	P
Bruce Bowser	Conservation Alternate	P
Vacant	Conservation	
Jackie Dragon	Conservation Alternate	P
Elizabeth Babcock	Education	A
Bibit Traut	Education Alternate	A
Barbara Emley [Council Secretary]	Maritime Activities/ Commercial	A
Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate	A
Joshua Russo	Maritime Activities/Recreational	P
Abby Mohan	Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate	P
John Largier	Research	P
Jaime Jahncke	Research Alternate	P
Caleb Rosen	Youth Primary	P
August Howell	Youth Alternate	A
Cicely Muldoon	National Park Service	A
Frank Dean	National Park Service Alternate	A
Anne Morkill	USFWS	A
Gerry McChesney	USFWS Alternate	A
Joe Giammanco	USCG	A
Shannon Anthony	USCG Alternate	P
Pat Rutten	NMFS [non-voting]	P
Natalie-Constantino Manning	NMFS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Maria Brown	GFNMS [non-voting]	P
Chris Mobley	CINMS [non-voting]	A
Mike Murray	CINMS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Dan Howard	CBNMS [non-voting]	P
Michael Carver	CBNMS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Paul Michel	MBNMS [non-voting]	A
Dawn Hayes	MBNMS Alternate [non-voting]	A