



GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (GFNMS)

Bodega Bay Fire Station
510 Highway One
Bodega Bay, CA
9:15 a.m. – 4:15 p.m.
Wednesday May 20, 2015

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

Review Agenda

Roll Call

Called to order at 9:45

*Maria clarified Dan Basta's administrative leave status.

GFNMS Superintendent's Report

Permits

A permit was issued on 4/22/15 to the Marin County Fire Department to conduct life safety and surf rescue training exercises using MPWC. Two training sessions are being conducted: one in April and one in May. The permit allows for the use of six (6) MPWC, all of which are new low-emission and low-noise models with 4-stroke engines. The permit also includes conditions to minimize wildlife disturbance including buffer distances from marine mammals and sensitive seabird sites and not allowing MPWC to enter special closure areas. These trainings will take place at several locations within the GFNMS, including in Bodega Bay, off Dillon Beach, near Tomales Point, along South Beach off Point Reyes, and along Stinson Beach. The permit is effective from April 22-25, 2015 and May 29-31, 2015.

A permit is under review for Shayle Masuda from the California Academy of Sciences to collect sediment samples in order to survey foraminifera at 13 different sampling sites in Bolinas Lagoon for educational purposes. This project is scheduled for Summer 2015. The project will involve a field group of 2 faculty and 6-7 high school students conducting a 1-day trip to learn appropriate benthic micro invertebrate collection techniques and quantitative analysis and to collect data on species occurrence, distribution, diversity and abundance.

A permit is under review for Gerry McChesney (USFWS) to amend his current aerial survey permit to allow for the use of UAS's (drones) to survey northern fur seals at the Farallon Islands. The surveys are conducted during the summer and the current permit is active until 2019.

A permit is under review for Charles Friend (Tomales Bay Oyster Company) amending a permit



that GFNMS issued in early 2015, to remove 2 illegal fencing structures from Tomales Bay; the amendment will include the removal of additional materials including oyster bags, earthen berms, and other debris.

A permit is under review for Grace Kato (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 on 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.

Jane Reifert from Incredible Adventures filed a permit regarding the denial to use scent to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of ecotourism charters for the public. The original permit application was denied.

Save our Seashore filed an appeal on the permit to allow Incredible Adventures to attract white sharks using decoys for education purposes as part of ecotourism charters for the public.

Dan asked for clarification about the California Academy of Sciences' permit for foraminifera surveys. The SAC wants the Superintendent to continue reading out the permits at meetings. A discussion followed regarding the posting of the permits matrix online before or after meetings, which is not possible at this time due to the current limitations of the permit database; the SAC agreed to discuss this at a future meeting.

Get Into Your Sanctuary Day

Goals:

- To increase visibility of national marine sanctuaries as destinations for tourism and recreation through large-scale outreach to sanctuary communities via social media, complete with evaluation of measurable impacts (e.g. trends of Key Performance Indicators, such as # of followers, etc.)
- Public day(s) to be held on the same weekend, across the system, when the sites will invite their districts' members of congress to experience the sanctuary (and ideally engage in some sort of activity – kayaking, diving, birding, etc.)
- National-scale social media campaign to be implemented in a coordinated manner across the sites. (e.g. #VisitSanctuaries)

Expansion Celebration

The GFNMS/CBNMS Sanctuary celebration with the community is scheduled for Sunday, June 28 at the Gualala Arts Center.

President's Speech

The GFNMS Ocean Climate Program's efforts with climate change adaptation and vulnerability assessments will be recognized by President Obama in an upcoming speech highlighting several agencies' efforts to adapt to climate change. The Climate Program will also be recognized as a

model for other nations to use when considering climate change adaptation strategies.

Vessel Groundings

A 22-foot Santana sailboat, which had been sunk in about 10 feet of water next to the Marshall Store in Tomales Bay for the last couple months, was finally removed last week. GFNMS had been working with NOAA OLE to try and locate the owner to take responsibility for the boat but was unsuccessful in making contact with them. So, last week employees from Fisher-Smith Boatworks stepped in as good Samaritans and floated the boat, towed it to their boatyard, and pulled it up onto dry land. NOAA is in the process of working with Fisher-Smith Boatworks on a plan for the final demolition and disposal of the boat.

A 31-foot Sealiner, *the R/V Sea Monkey*, ran out of gas while entering Bodega Bay on Friday evening May 15th. The owner was forced to drop anchor approximately 300 yards off of Doran Beach and awoke in the middle of the night to the vessel half submerged and water up to his bunk. He was able to swim to shore and notify the USCG. Since he was out of gas, the USCG determined there was no fuel threat on-board and no sheen was observed. He reported to the USCG and others that he purchased the boat knowing it was in very dilapidated condition with the intention of restoring it; likely due to the extensive rot found in the structure, it sustained a large hole while at sea which lead it sink. The owner was uninsured but did pay for half of the removal and GFNMS was able to contract with Parker Diving Services to cover the rest. The boat has been towed to shore, demolished, and trucked away for disposal.

Unusual Mortality Event of Pinnipeds (Beach Watch)

An Unusual Mortality Event (UME) for CA sea lions has also been declared for Guadalupe fur seals (GFS), a threatened species. Beach Watch is working with the stranding to collect fur seal carcasses. In Pt Reyes National Seashore there have been 7 GFS collected by the stranding network in the past two weeks, many of which came from BW. When possible, we collect for California Academy of Sciences; if we cannot collect we report, send in photos to verify IDs, and move the carcass to a place where it will not wash away. Within the last two months we have seen more GFS reported than in all of the last 21 years. Because this is a threatened species, we are trying to collect every carcass to better understand the population, DNA, and better understand this UME.

Below is some background information on Guadalupe fur seals:

In the 19th century they were hunted to near extinction, from population established between 20,000 to 100,000 animals, down to just a few hundred. They breed primarily in caves on Isla Guadalupe and Isla Benito Del Este. The 2011 estimated population is approx. 6500-7000. Their Prey is primarily squid (up to 95% stomach and scat contents) dominated by the market squid (*Loligo opalescens*) which made up 65% of the identifiable prey. Stomach contents retrieved from stranded animals included a variety of squid, bony fishes, and crustaceans, including vertically-migrating species. This means that there is little preferred prey available with the CA sea lions.

There is no current estimate as to the impact of this current ENSO on the population, but estimate is that they are being hit hard. The stranding network is not asking the public to call in



dead pinnipeds only live ones to the Marine Mammal Center. We are working hard to assist the Stranding Network in this investigation.

A discussion followed between SAC members and GFNMS staff regarding the mortality event and typical mammal behavior and range.

Tomales Bay Update

The Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan and Mooring plan will be implemented this summer.

Bolinas Lagoon Update

Marin County has hired consultants to develop three project design alternatives for the next big restoration effort at the north end of Bolinas Lagoon. The project includes floodplain restoration for portions of Lewis and Wilkins creeks, which both drain into the lagoon's north basin, as well as wetland and riparian habitat restoration. The project also includes road redesign at the Bolinas "Wye" where Highway 1 and Olema-Bolinas road meet. This project marks a big success in the continued restoration of Bolinas Lagoon and is also an important pilot project for climate change adaptation and green resilient shoreline initiatives.

The Kent Island Restoration Project has started its third year of the volunteer plant removal program. The public is encouraged to attend any of the volunteer dates on the first Friday and third Saturday of every month through October. Volunteers meet at the Bolinas dock and work from 10:00am - 2:00pm.

NOTE: instead of Friday July 3rd volunteers will meet on Friday, July 10th. Bruce Bowser is a dedicated Kent Island volunteer and will talk to us more about the program and potential SAC volunteer opportunities for this removal season.

MBNMS Superintendent's Report

BBC Live Shows this Summer

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, West Coast Regional Office, and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary continue to work with the BBC and PBS planning for BBC/PBS shows on the amazing wildlife and habitats of the CA Central Coast. Shows to air ("live") at end of August.

May Davidson Seamount and SESAs Mission aboard the NOAA Ship Shimada

MBNMS just completed a science mission to the seamount and SESAs 4,5,6,7,8,9,10, and 12. The bird and mammal surveys above and adjacent to the seamount were mostly blown out by strong winds and high seas, but the rest of the mission to carry out night and day time mid-water surveys of fishes went very well. MBNMS also did some oceanographic sampling, including for environmental DNA. For more information on the cruise and for results go to the SIMON website: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/research/monprograms.html>

Get InTo Your Sanctuary

MBNMS and other sites across the country are planning for a social media and community awareness campaign to highlight the many ways people can get in to sanctuaries, mostly recreation oriented. June 27-28 is the target weekend. Please help by posting and sharing on your favorite social media platform,, pictures of yourself and/or others enjoying the sanctuary.

MBNMS Initiating Management Plan Review-Update

Goal: Start to Finish in Three Years. Scope is update and regulation changes, not a complete re-write. Year 1: Review/Analysis and Scoping; Year 2: Writing/Working Groups; Year 3: Finalizing. MBNMS anticipates the Working Group/staff writing process and the NEPA/regulatory work will take the most time. MBNMS is looking at end of summer to begin scoping and may begin at August joint MB-GF SAC. MBNMS will share a synthesis report on scoping and an initial list of needed changes/amendments to plan.

Annual Sanctuary Currents Symposium

MBNMS' annual science symposium, April 25 at California State University, Monterey Bay on Citizen Science was a hit! You will be able to see the lectures soon on YourSanctuaryTV (search on YouTube).

Next SAC Meeting, June 19 in Monterey

Agenda TBD, but focus will be on Management Plan Implementation, Big Changes Likely Needed, and Review Process.

GFNMS staff clarified aspects of the MBNMS BBC special.

CBNMS Superintendent's Report

GFNMS and CBNMS received additional funding from the sanctuary program to support our third ACCESS cruise of the year. This will allow us to maintain the same sampling regime as previous years. As part of the funding allocation, Dan Basta has requested that the ACCESS team establish transect lines in the northern expansion area closer to Point Arena. Point Blue Conservation Science, GFNMS and CBNMS ACCESS members had already developed a sampling template for the expansion area so we will be sampling a couple of lines that they already identified as part of the earlier planning process. This is in addition to transect lines in the southern portion of the expansion area west of Bodega Bay that were sampled last year and will be sampled again this year.

Cordell Bank Research coordinator, Dani Lipski, is working with Bodega Marine Laboratory to put the hypoxia moorings back together so we can deploy in mid-May. Analysis of data from last year's installation indicated two short periods during the summer when we recorded hypoxic conditions on the Bank. These periods of low oxygen are probably linked with stronger upwelling events. Similar to last year we'll be monitoring through the fall before pulling the instruments. Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation is providing funding for this project for the second year.

Pacific Fisheries Management Council met in Rohnert Park in early April and continued their discussion on review of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Cordell Bank is a Conservation Area under EFH and there is a National Marine Fisheries regulation prohibiting the use of bottom contact gear on the Bank. One piece of information from the meeting is that the council will not be modifying any of the existing EFH regulations prohibiting use of bottom contact gear, so the current regulation prohibiting use of bottom contact gear on Cordell Bank will remain in place.

The San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival in early March was a huge success. Returning to the Cowell Theater in lower Fort Mason was really exciting for everyone and the renovated theater was a great venue for the festival. Films were well attended and reaction to the quality of the films has been positive. Other than a tricky location to find the first time, everyone was glad to be back at Cowell. The student film competition was a smashing success, and premiered the top 10 high school films and the top three middle school films. All the student film makers and their families showed up for the session. This included students from Michigan, Texas, and students from two schools in Long Beach along with student film makers from the greater Bay Area. And the highlight as always was the Q&A with the film makers on stage after their films were shown. We are in good hands with bright, creative and hilarious young minds. And local stars for us were middle school film makers from Point Reyes who premiered their film Trashzilla. This is the third year that Cordell Bank NMS has sponsored the student film competition.

Education Coordinator, Jennifer Stock participated in a series of education strategy sessions with the Oakland Museum of California Learning Initiatives team. The museum is addressing the changing landscape of revised Common Core and Next Generation Science Standards in California, and how to creatively integrate new technology into education approaches with school aged children to meet requirements of the new state standards. We are excited about the continued partnership with the museum and opportunities for sanctuaries to engage with the east bay population.

Teacher At Sea has been selected for the July ACCESS cruise: Michael Wing from Drake High School will be one of the crew.

Jennifer Stock has been working with GFNMS on exhibit space at Gualala Point visitor center for a short term exhibit. Regional Park is extremely interested in working with the sanctuary to develop exhibits for the visitor center.

Jan Roletto and other GFNMS staff clarified the itinerary and goals of ACCESS cruises for the SAC, including intended transect lines and the types of data collected.

A discussion followed regarding the productivity of nearshore habitats and the need for further protection of these areas, and agreed to consider the issues of these habitats at a future meeting. SAC members also considered drafting a document to submit to both NMFS and the Pacific Fisheries Management Council in an effort to encourage their consideration of nearshore habitats during their planning phases.

BREAK

Member Reports

Bruce Bowser (Conservation Alternate) –

1) Downed eucalyptus trees are a concern to the Bolinas community and the costs of removal are to be discussed at an upcoming community event.

2) Kent Island workdays: The workdays saw a good turnout on Saturday, May 16th; they took GPS readings on 33 or half of the large treated wood members on the island.

3) Duxbury Reef: joint efforts by California Academy of Sciences and Marin County Parks at low tides on May 7th, 5 docents and park rangers reported to greet early visitors and school groups and instruct on tidepool etiquette. No groups showed up but other dates are set for rocky shore participation.

4) Surfers Overlook: Essential route for public safety access is proceeding with Phase 1 funding in place to repair retaining walls above slide. Phase II is budgeted at \$6 million to structurally shore up sandstone bluff to maintain roadbed. All work is said to occur above Mean Higher High Water and not impacting any sanctuary resources.

5) Graffiti Watch: this is a local effort to stop graffiti artists and to inform them of county ordinances prohibiting spray paints, volatile materials from entering sanctuary waters. There are daily citizen patrols to report sightings and distribution of ordinance and other materials to educate artists.

Dominique Richard (Community At-Large Marin/Sonoma Primary) –

Dominique undertook 5 paleontological surveys in the park in the last two weeks where fossils and some remains of a walrus were found in the area. With Beach Watch 11 dead harbor seal pups were found, with the speculated causes including predation by coyotes at haul-outs on Drake's Beach and in the Estero.

Pat Rutten (National Marine Fisheries Service Primary) –

Pat discussed how NOAA has a \$9 million resiliency grant out (to which both NMFS and NOS are eligible); everyone should be aware of Prop 1 still coming in August. Pat anticipates up to \$100 million becoming available. Pat also mentioned the Refugio/Santa Barbara Pipeline Oil which caused 21,000 gallons to enter the ocean from the land-based pipeline; the spill as of this morning affects 3-4 miles of coastline.

Jackie Dragon (Conservation Alternate) –

Last week, Jackie traveled to Washington, D.C. with Richard Charter for the Blue Summit panel session and participated in several panels with other ocean-involved individuals. The panels focused on positive impacts of MPAs. Jackie also attended 161 meetings with congressional offices on Capitol Hill that focused on poor fishing practices.

Barbara Emley (Maritime Activities/Commercial Primary) –

Barbara discussed the status of salmon season, which has started, but there haven't been many fish caught yet. The weather hasn't been great and the fish that have been caught are small. Some people think that this year's fish haven't arrived yet.

Richard Charter (Conservation Primary) –

Richard discussed the permitting status of oilrigs and decommissioning of those oilrigs. Currently none of the oil companies hold permits. The oil companies are back in Sacramento to try to extend this exemption. The agencies with science backgrounds are not currently involved in the site-by-site evaluations for permitting; State Lands Commission is in charge of everything. In Sonoma County the new state senator, Mike McGuire, moves to close a loophole to prevent oil exploration in state waters.

There is an oil spill ongoing in Santa Barbara and Goleta, and there is now a significant response. It took 6 hours for response (booms) to begin, which Richard says is totally unacceptable.

John Largier (Research Primary) –

There is an ACCESS cruise coming up this weekend. There seem to be another warm "blob" or anomaly in the ocean (based on data from July-February 2014 and 2015) where it's warmer than during El Nino years so efforts are focusing on this anomaly. El Nino didn't happen this year but could happen next year now. Other observations include marine mammal deaths and the presence of unusual planktonic species.

A discussion followed about El Nino and if already occurred or is about to do so. John clarified that there are still many unknowns but it is a distinct possibility.

The Bodega Marine Lab lines for research/ACCESS were used yesterday to deploy oxygen sensors. There are ongoing studies related to ocean acidification in Tomales Bay and San Francisco Bay.

Joshua Russo (Maritime Activities/Recreational Primary) –

The sanctuary boundary expansion has not been met with any backlash from the local fishermen and those up the coast. New abalone regulations are in the works as well.

George Clyde (Public-at-Large Marin/Sonoma Alternate) –

George launched his boat in Tomales Bay and put it on a soon-to-be permitted mooring; that boat is available to anyone if they'd like to use it.

Kellyx Nelson (Public At-Large SF/San Mateo) – Kellyx praised the whales exhibit at California Academy of Sciences. She then reported out on the work of the Resource Conservation District (RCD). The RCD is moving forward with partners to implement integrated solutions to flooding and habitat restoration in Pescadero at the estuary, including restoration of 115 acres of floodplain/ wetlands and managing sediment to reduce inputs into the

marsh. The TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) work in the watershed shows that sediment is an impairment to salmonids. The RCD is also removing the only remaining non-natural barriers to fish passage for coho salmon in Pescadero Creek, restoring unimpaired access to over 60 miles of habitat. They are doing a lot of work to restore stream flows in Pescadero Creek as well (\$5 million in funding to address irrigation efficiency, water storage, and water use management). There's a new manager of the Harbor District who has replaced Peter Grenell. The RCD is partnering with them on water quality and the land-sea connection at the harbor. An increased use of drones for research is double-sided: less flushing of wildlife and more access, but more and more people are now managing resources from the office and not the field. Kellyx emphasized her support of human bodies actively in the field and integrating the technologies rather than relying solely upon them. A discussion followed as to how drones are deployed and used.

Anne Morkill (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Primary) –

USFWS is seeing below-average temperatures that seem to benefit Cassin's auklets, but some of the egg-laying for other observed species appears behind schedule. There was a mystery goo spill in the winter in SF Bay; there is still no insight as to what exactly it is but it is oil-based and some costs were reimbursed; some NGOs are now working on letters of support for SB718 (this bill would allow OSPER to borrow up to \$500,000 for non-petroleum based products impacting resources). The Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge is working with several research institutions/agencies to use drones for northern fur seal counts.

Cicely Muldoon (NPS Primary) –

The estimate of oil spill responders to the spill in Santa Barbara is 21,000; the intertidal monitoring group has samples from April to compare results to the oil spill. The San Francisco Bay Area Network Symposium is tomorrow, 5/21.

A discussion followed regarding the timing and severity of the Santa Barbara oil spill, as well as about MPA MOU.

Elizabeth Babcock (Education Primary) *absent but submitted the following report –

1. The Environmental Literacy Task Force for the State of CA's Department of Education has completed its work. A draft report of recommendations for how to improve access to high quality environmental education for ALL of CA's students is now in the hands of the CA Dept of Education. We are working on a rollout plan to share with the public the recommendations of the committee. Of interest to GFNMS is the fact that the report recommends creating a steering committee to oversee creation of an implementation plan for the Dept of Ed. Also of interest is the emphasis that the plan placed on partnerships between informal learning organizations, natural places, and schools. I will keep you all posted so you get a copy of the report and can participate in any public launch events if they end up in the Bay Area.

2. The CA Science Framework for the Next Generation Science Standards should be available for public comment in October. This is a big deal because these are the actual curricular frameworks off which textbooks, and training for teachers will be based. We will have 60 days to comment. The Academy will be hosting several focus groups of teachers to solicit their public comment. If GFNMS or FMSA wants to attend those or submit their own public comments, that

would be great! Here is a link to the schedule for CA
NGSS. www.cde.ca.gov/ci/sc/cf/sciencefrmwrkevents.asp

3. The Academy continues to feature Whales: Giants of the Deep from the Te Papa Museum in New Zealand. It's being well received. Come see it! On through November 29, 2015:
<http://www.calacademy.org/exhibits/whales-giants-of-the-deep>

4. Excited about the Youth Involvement Working Group! Caleb can give the report.

Caleb Rosen (Youth Primary) –
He will present his report during Advisory Council Business Agenda Item.

Vessel Strikes Update (Action Item):

Presentation available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_05/shipstrike_update_ppt.pdf
http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_05/shipstrike_update_doc.pdf

A discussion followed which covered several topics and areas of interest.

Barbara asked questions about the data and discussed her observations of humpbacks over the years in the sanctuary. Sarah Allen asked if any over-water sightings by USCG or other over-water observations would work, which Leslie and Dan Howard said is not a feasible option at this time. Sarah also asked about the boats in port and if they're more flexible about reducing their speed before leaving the bay; Leslie clarified that the Sanctuary has a strong relationship with vessel traffic control and they do tell outbound vessel masters as soon as whales are in the area to slow down and keep speeds slower.

George asked for clarification as to whether the speed reductions in all shipping lanes indicates an abandonment of the original plans, and if the Sanctuary will ever be able to use real-time monitoring. Maria does not know when and if the Sanctuary will use real-time monitoring due to technical limitations. Leslie then explained the data collection process, and that within 3-5 years the Sanctuary should have enough data to assess the need for a regulation.

Jackie commended the Sanctuary's efforts and passed around a draft position statement asking the Sanctuary/NOAA to pursue the implementation of the recommendations from the working group, which includes trained observers on ship. Richard also recommended an action.

A discussion followed as to what action the SAC recommends to Maria; the below statement resulted:

DRAFT – Position Statement for GFNMS SAC consideration on May 20, 2015

Endangered whales remain extremely vulnerable to ship strikes by the many large vessels transiting in the shipping lanes within our sanctuary waters.

In June, 2012 the GF and CB SACs adopted the recommendations of the Joint Working Group following a year and a half of robust stakeholder meetings with invaluable support from



sanctuary staff and the involvement of the shipping industry and USCG and NOAA representatives.

It is the sense of the SAC that a JWG should be reconvened to address issues related to implementation of the recommendations of the previous JWG.

Since Leslie will be on maternity leave this summer, she will not be able to assist the reinstated working group with meeting support.

Motioned to Approve Sense of the SAC Reinvigoration of JWG: Kellyx Nelson

Seconded: Bruce Bowser

Jackie Dragon will chair the JWG.

Ayes: 7

Nays: 1

Oppose: 0

Motion passes.

Public Comment

James Falbush, local boat captain and Beach Watch volunteer working with Cascadia -

When the Joint Working Group came up with their plan, he was encouraged. The sanctuary is not following through on those recommendations. Region-wide voluntary slow-downs are not a good option. To get data, ships should be used as voluntary platforms. They are an untapped resource with huge potential for observations. He has information and the ability to assist with outreach as well. As a boat operator and technician, James sees whales in all of the lanes and has a lot of close encounters with ships. To move forward and protect the whales, the advice of the JWG should be taken.

Bob Wilson, concerned citizen- On May 5th, a dead humpback washed ashore in Pacifica. The joint working group worked hard; it recommends separation, not speed reduction. Speed reduction will never be the answer. Sanctuaries have tried these methods in the past, including Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Ships are not slowing to 10 knots in the Santa Barbara Channel, and voluntary speed reduction requests don't work.

Superintendent's Response to Public Comment

The Sanctuaries attempted to follow the JWG recommendation to request ships to slow down or use an alternate lane. However, since real-time data was not available to assess which lane to redirect traffic, the Sanctuaries determined it was in the best interest of whales to recommend speed reductions in all of the lanes. As technology and resources become available to assess real-time whale distribution in the Sanctuaries, the Sanctuaries will again attempt recommending vessels use alternate lanes.

LUNCH

Advisory Council Business

Approve February Meeting Notes (**Action Item**)

Motioned: Richard Charter

Seconded: Anne Morkill

Ayes: 6

Nays: 0

Abstain: 2

Motion passes.

WCR Quarterly Report

Not available at this time.

SAC Summit

The 2015 SAC Summit is to be held at Stellwagon Bank National Marine Sanctuary in MA. John Largier or Kelly Nelson will attend.

2015 SAC Retreat

The 2015 SAC Retreat will include a tour of the Northern Management Area, with a tentative date scheduled for October 14th. The tour will include the following stops: Pt. Bonita→Ocean Beach Sewage Outplant→Ocean Beach→Pillar Point Harbor

Other ideas for future retreats or meetings: water quality, estuaries, refresher course on the sanctuary's ecosystems, and ERMA or emergency response course.

SAC Recruitment Update

Maria asked the SAC what they think about members holding seats on both the GFNMS and CBNMS Advisory Councils, as overlap continues. A discussion followed about the pros and cons of having members serve on more than one council, and the council decided it depends on the circumstances (e.g. some overlap is valuable, but more than 50% is too much). To summarize, it is not an issue at this time.

Crab Pot Removal Program

Presentation available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_05/crabpot_seadoc_ppt.pdf

A discussion followed about the types of traps removed (this presentation focuses on crab pots, but other gear is also removed by Sea Doc), the number of traps observed and removed, timelines for the Sea Doc projects, the costs of removal and the difference/effects between ghost-fishing and crab traps as well as the Sanctuary's role in seabed protection and fishing activities.

Essential Fish Habitat Status

Presentation available at: http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_05/efh_options.pdf

A discussion followed about the types of fishing allowed in the Sanctuary, what type of gear restrictions are being considered during the OFMC EFH process and if there was a need for SAC action. The SAC decided not to take action at this time

Advisory Council Business

Youth Involvement Subcommittee Update

Caleb provided an update on the structure of the youth congress and involvement to target youth who can realistically participate.

Beyond the Golden Gate Symposium

Bureau of Land Management, National Estuarine Research Reserve, National and State Parks, and the National Wildlife Refuge will participate in the symposium.

Adaptation Planning Working Group

The Vulnerability assessment is now an official document. Next working group of 20-25 individuals (SAC members participating) and had first workshop on 4/21 and determined what we really need to focus on for climate change adaptation.

Kent Island Volunteer Day

Project is underway again; we meet every month and remove vegetation. We should get the SAC involved to help 9/17 or 10/2 or 10/17! Contact Bruce if you want to participate. Carolyn will also send an email with those dates.

BREAK

Monterey Bay NMS Management Plan Review

Presentation available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_05/mbnms_management_plan_ppt.pdf

To summarize:

- MBNMS Scoping scheduled to begin August 2015
- Joint MB/GF SAC meeting in Half Moon Bay
- Identify issues to address in Northern Management Area

The issues GFNMS and the GFNMS AC could be involved in include beneficial reuse of sediment, motorized personal watercraft, the “donut hole”, overflights and seabird disturbance, and the inclusion of the Northern Management Area and the donut hole into GFNMS instead of MBNMS.

Richard Charter asked Maria what role the Sanctuary Advisory Councils might play, and she also clarified the various roles possible (working group proposals, recommendations, things to consider).

John Largier asked to review the GFNMS management plan to better understand the Northern Management Area.



Kellyx Nelson mentioned the tendency for San Mateo County to work more with Monterey in terms of water quality issues, so she's not sure how that would work out if the donut hole became part of GFNMS (SM County drains into MBNMS).
Maria Brown said there will likely be scoping meetings on 8/19.

Overflight Presentation and Working Group Request (Action Item)

Presentation available at: http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_05/overflights_ppt.pdf

A discussion followed about the overflights issue and working group; several SAC members are very excited about the progress made on this issue and want to participate in the working group. John Largier sought clarification as to the role and functions of the working group and how data collected could be used to justify the creation of protected overflight zones. Karen clarified the role and support of the Half Moon Bay and Princeton communities on this issue. She then clarified the regulatory process GFNMS would undergo should the Sanctuary change its regulations; the MBNMS management plan review NEPA process would not cover the overflight regulation changes.

Motion to Create Working Group: Richard Charter

Seconded:

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

George Clyde will chair; Sarah Allen, Jaime Jahncke, Anne Morkill, and Gerry McChesney volunteered to participate in the working group.

Expansion Update

- The Final Rule published March 12, 2015.
- The expanded boundaries become effective after 45 days of continuous session of Congress (June).
- The U.S. Coast Guard was granted a 6-month stay to comply with discharge regulation.
- The community celebration scheduled for Sunday, June 28 at the Gualala Arts Center (see the Superintendent's report for some additional information).
- Expansion Implementation Strategy
 - Get to know the area
 - Determine community needs and desires
 - Nov. SAC mtg report on findings
 - Establish working groups as necessary

A brief Q&A session followed about the community expansion celebration, during which Maria also announced the name change to Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

ADJOURN



Attendance

NAME	SEAT	P/A
Dominique Richard	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma	P
George Clyde	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma- Alt	P
Kellyx Nelson [Council Vice-Chair]	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo	P
Christy Walker	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo Alternate	A
Catherine Kuhlman	CA Ocean Protection Council	A
Vacant	CA OPC Alternate	
Richard Charter	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	P
Vacant	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate	
Joshua Russo	Maritime Activities/Recreational	A
Abby Mohan	Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate	A
John Largier [Council Chair]	Research	P
Jaime Jahncke	Research Alternate	A
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	P
Gerry McChesney	USFWS Alternate	A
Joe Giammanco	USCG	A
Shannon Anthony	USCG Alternate	A
Pat Rutten	NMFS [non-voting]	P
Lisa Van Atta	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



Gulf of the Farallones
National Marine Sanctuary
Meeting Highlights
