

### **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

September 18, 2015

#### **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council unanimously votes to support a NOAA marine debris project proposal**

At the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting, Resource Protection Coordinator Sean Hastings presented on a lobster trap loss prevention and recovery pilot project that may be eligible for funding from the NOAA Marine Debris Program. Sean explained that a goal of the project is to work with the local lobster fishing community to develop and communicate a suite of best practices to prevent the loss of lobster gear. The council discussed the project proposal, noting that lost lobster gear is one of the biggest sources of marine debris in the sanctuary. The council also discussed how this project may fold in with the new California Spiny Lobster Fishery Management Plan, which is currently in review and is expected to be implemented for the 2017/2018 lobster season. Following questions and discussion, the council unanimously voted to support the project. The council's vote of support will be passed on to the NOAA Marine Debris Program for consideration along with the project proposal.

### **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

August 20, 2015

#### **CBNMS Advisory Council Supports Continued State Parks Funding to Scripps for Wave Data Buoy in CBNMS**

The Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP), managed by U.C. San Diego, Scripps Institute of Oceanography, includes in its system of buoys for wave data collection along the coast of California a buoy in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS). The data from the buoy are useful for a number of groups and purposes including: researchers, for a variety of research projects; mariners, for operational planning; and forecasters, for ground-truthing satellite data to produce weather forecasts. The advisory council learned at its August 20 meeting that one of the major funders of CDIP, California State Parks, Division of Boating and Waterways, was considering reducing funds provided to Scripps for the program. Further, one of the buoys that might then be removed from operation is Station 029, the buoy in CBNMS. Deputy Superintendent, Michael Carvery, let the advisory council know he had written a letter to California State Parks to support continued funding for CDIP and for keeping Station 029 operating. The CBNMS Advisory Council unanimously approved having the Chair also write a letter of support for funding the buoy to California State Parks.

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## Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant Advisory Council actions taken this quarter.

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 19, 2015

### **Advisory Councils are Briefed on Upcoming Management Plan Review Process**

At their joint meeting, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils were briefed on the MBNMS Management Plan Review processes, timeline and priorities. The Management Plan Review public scoping period will close October 30th, 2015.

## Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

September 25, 2015

### **Advisory Council Approves Climate Change Working Group Recommendation Letter**

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (advisory council) approved a support letter and final report by Climate Change Working Group (CCWG), identifying the following seven priority recommendations for implementing climate-related activities:

- Engage in Office of National Marine Sanctuary revisions to the Climate Smart Certification process. Continue to pursue Climate Smart Certification as the revised standards become finalized. Ensure information compiled for Climate Smart Sanctuary certification is widely distributed to OCNMS partners and the public;
- Work with partners to propose to NOAA leadership that OCNMS be designated as a NOAA Sentinel Site for Ocean Acidification and Sea Level Rise;
- Determine what climate-related work (e.g., vulnerability studies, adaptation strategy development, coastal resilience, etc.) has been done, is currently on-going, or is planned for coastal and marine areas in or near the sanctuary. Conduct gap analysis to determine areas where the sanctuary can play an active role, then work with the Advisory Council to prioritize and maximize efficiency of sanctuary efforts;
- Support, and actively participate in, a regional conference that includes a theme of climate change vulnerability and adaptation;
- Host workshops and provide training for OCNMS staff and local communities on the outer coast on planning, mitigating for, and managing climate change impacts;
- Utilize Tribal and smaller, local newspapers to share information about the sanctuary and/or climate change-related outreach efforts; and
- Promote education and outreach elements in climate change research projects that occur within OCNMS.

The CCWG spent significant time on the proposal to designate OCNMS as a NOAA sentinel site for ocean acidification and sea level rise. Detailed justification supporting this recommendation

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was provided in the final report and a Sentinel Site nomination letter from the CCWG. The advisory council requested that the Sentinel Site nomination letter be sent to NOAA leadership and that sanctuary staff actively seek letters of support for this initiative from partner organizations and Tribes.

The letter was forwarded from OCNMS Superintendent Carol Bernthal to ONMS Deputy Director John Armor and West Coast Regional Director Bill Douros with a recommendation to send onward to NOAA leadership.

The OCNMS Advisory Council's final letter is available on the advisory council's website at [http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac\\_actions.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_actions.html).

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