



GREATER FARALLONES
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Bodega Bay Fire Station
510 Highway One
Bodega Bay, CA
Wednesday March 2nd, 2016
9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

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 Greater 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: 9:10 AM

John is out sick and no other executive committee member is present today – Dominique Richard acted as chair.

Review Agenda

Roll Call

Review Agenda

GFNMS Superintendent's Report

Permits

An amendment was issued to Barbara Block (Stanford University TOPP) and Sal Jorgensen (Monterey Bay Aquarium, TOPP) to their research permit to use a DJI Phantom Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) to conduct low overflights at the Año Nuevo field site. The amendment allows for drone use at 200 feet ASL or higher for educational filming of permitted research activities during no more than eight field days. The amendment requires that the drone not be flown within 500 feet of Año Nuevo Island and that local park managers be notified prior to deployment. This amendment only allows UAS use only at Año Nuevo this season (Fall 2015-Spring 2016).

A letter of authorization under a Superintendent's Permit was issued to Kate Bimrose (GFNMS) and Lighthawk (a volunteer, pilot conservation-based non-profit) to conduct low overflights within low overflight restriction zones at Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Point, both within Marin County, to capture aerial imagery for the Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Project and Tomales Bay that directly supports sanctuary education and resource protection efforts. The permit pertains to Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay from winter 2015 to spring 2016.

A research and education permit was issued to Abby Nickels of Greater Farallones Association to establish two new rocky intertidal monitoring sites in the expanded GFNMS for the LiMPETS

program. This amended permit allows for limited disturbance of the seabed at each of the rocky intertidal sites to conduct monitoring activities, including: a) the installation of three (3) permanent steel bolts and two (2) temporary epoxy markers at Shell Beach; and b) the installation of five (5) permanent steel bolts and three (3) temporary epoxy markers at Carmet Beach. The amendment also allows for the continued maintenance of all bolts and markers at all six (6) LiMPETS rocky intertidal sites. It pertains to a timeframe of winter 2016 to winter 2019. *Francesca Koe asked for clarification as to which of the two Shell Beaches the LiMPETS research permit applied. Maria confirmed it as the Shell Beach in southern Sonoma County.*

A research permit for John Largier and David Dann of UC Davis/Bodega Marine Lab is under review to deploy one (1) mooring and attached instrumentation within the northern portion of MBNMS to study how ocean forcing and upwelling from nearshore Gulf ocean waters affect the health of the San Francisco Bay estuary. The project aims to observe, quantify and understand the spatial extent, temporal duration, and degree of dilution of upwelled water intrusions into the Bay. The study will especially focus on the intrusion of high salinity and low temperature to determine the levels of nitrate, dissolved oxygen, and pH in deep upwelled waters. The moorings would be in place for up to 6 months and removed upon project completion. The permit pertains to Shell Beach and Carmet Beach in Sonoma County, from winter 2016 to winter 2019.

An appeal from Jane Reifert of Incredible Adventures is under review; she appealed the decision of an education permit rejecting the attraction of white sharks for education purposes as part of ecotourism charters for the public near the Farallon Islands.

Emergency Response Update

A 32-foot fiberglass Bertram recreational fishing vessel ran out of gas and beached within a small cove between Bodega Rock and the outer breakwater of Bodega Harbor on February 8, 2016. The U.S. Coast Guard airlifted two people to safety before the vessel was washed onto the beach and suffered extensive damage to the hull. No fuel release or sheen was observed. GFNMS staff was able to coordinate with California State Parks personnel to clean-up a significant amount of debris. Because the owner was uninsured, NOAA then took possession of the vessel and contracted with Parker Diving Services to remove the remainder of the vessel and debris on February 18th using a small helicopter to prevent it from further breaking up in the sanctuary.

George Clyde asked if there has been any analysis of the financial wherewithal of these uninsured boaters to cover the emergency response costs instead of the government. Maria confirmed that GFNMS is working on additional requirements to ensure that all boaters are insured. A discussion followed about the burdens this puts on all federal agencies to deal with the salvage cost. John Berge asked if there is federal state or trust fund available for this. Maria confirmed that the Oil Pollution Act covers oil recovery, but there are no funds for the rest of the debris from a grounded vessel. Those expenses are instead covered by money from oil settlement agreements.

Tomales Bay Vessel Mooring Program Update

The Tomales Bay Mooring Program was initiated in August 2015. The Tomales Bay Mooring Program is a program built out from the guidance of the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan, which was finalized in 2013. The program is being administered jointly by the sanctuary and California State Lands Commission (CSLC) because regulations of both agencies apply in Tomales Bay. While mooring lease applicants will only be dealing with State Lands Commission applications, the conditions that apply to mooring leases in Tomales Bay reflect requirements that were developed collaboratively, over many years, with input from numerous agencies and stakeholders.

Approximately 95 moorings were tagged when the Mooring program was initiated in August. At that time all existing private mooring owners were given 6 months (ending on 2/10/2016), to apply for a State Lands Commission lease to keep their moorings. Of the 95 moorings that were tagged, CSLC received lease applications for 42 of those existing moorings. The remaining moorings will need to be removed. So far only a few people have contacted Max about obtaining a GFNMS salvage permit to remove their moorings. NOAA OLE has been in contact with most owners of moorings that had vessels attached, informing them of the requirements. There are still 3 or 4 vessels where the owners were not identified and did not apply for a mooring lease.

In addition to the existing moorings, so far mooring lease applications were received by CSLC for 8 new moorings (non-existing). The Tomales Bay Mooring Program Requirements, the document that contains all of the policies and criteria for the program, is being updated to remove reference to existing moorings (since the deadline for leasing of pre-existing moorings has past) and also to reflect some minor changes due to CSLC requirements and policies. One of the next steps will be to assess any remaining moorings and vessels that have been abandoned on the bay and work with NOAA OLE to determine how to address these.

FY16 Budget Update

GFNMS received its FY16 budget on Jan 29th, 2016. GFNMS has been level-funded since FY14 at \$1,464K, and received a one-time annual plus-up of 300K for a total operating budget (ORF) of \$1,748K. The plus-up will help maintain staffing levels at status quo, and meet greater travel needs, but not allow for any additional programming in the expansion area aside from what is already ongoing (Beach Watch, LiMPETS, Pt Arena Film Fest, etc.). We also received a 100K facilities budget (PAC). These funds will address deferred maintenance items on campus, with health & safety items taking priority.

A discussion followed regarding the budget process. Elizabeth Babcock asked for clarification on budget process, since we only got \$300,000 more for the expansion area. Maria clarified that the budget for Sanctuaries is three years out, so GFNMS and Cordell put the request in for increased budget for the expansion area, but it won't be until 2018 that GFNMS and CBNMS would see those funds, depending on Congress and if we get it approved. This is also true for a new Sanctuary site that comes online - it would be three years out before it would get funding, however it is a requirement that there be a community partner that can help get it up and running. Sara Allen asked for clarification if programs would be expanded; Maria confirmed we



have not heard yet, but the request has been put in by Dan Howard.

San Francisco/Arena Theater Ocean Film Festivals

San Francisco Ocean Film Festival: March 10th -13th (Cowell Theater, Fort Mason)

Arena Theater Ocean Film Festival Screenings: April 9th (Pt. Arena Theater)

Update on the Notice of Delay of Discharge Requirements for U.S. Coast Guard Activities in Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

NOAA completed the expansion of the Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries with a final rule published on March 12, 2015. The rule entered into effect on June 9, 2015 and included language which postponed the effectiveness of the discharge requirements in both sanctuaries' regulations with regard to U.S. Coast Guard's activities for 6 months. The reason for the exemption was based on comments from the USCG stating that ONMS discharge regulations have the potential to impair the operations of Coast Guard vessels and air craft conducting law enforcement, search and rescue training and other statutorily mandated activities in the sanctuary.

At that time, GFNMS staff and CBNMS staff began working with the West Coast Regional Office, National Headquarters, and the USCG on a separate process to consider how to address Coast Guard's concerns. Because this process completed within 6 months, a second Federal Register Notice was issued on December 1, 2015, which extends the postponement of the discharge requirements for these activities for another 6 months (until June 9, 2016) in order to provide adequate time to develop potential alternatives, complete an environmental document, and a subsequent rulemaking, as appropriate. As noted in the final rule for the expansion project, the public, other federal agencies, and interested stakeholders will be given an opportunity to comment on the various alternatives that may be considered.

Sanctuary Nomination Process Update

On October 7, 2015 NOAA announced that it started the designation process to consider making two new national marine sanctuaries based on community-based nominations for Mallows Bay in Maryland and an area of Wisconsin's Lake Michigan waters. The designation process begins with public scoping where NOAA asks the public for input on potential boundaries, resources that could be protected, issues NOAA should consider, and any information that should be included in the resources analysis.

NOAA held public meetings in November in each area to hear from the public and answer questions, and public comments were collected online until January 15, 2016. NOAA is now reviewing the public comments and starting to talk to state partners at each location as to how to use that input in preparing draft designation documents that would go out for public review. These documents would include a draft management plan, draft environmental impact statement, proposed regulations, and proposed boundaries. Timelines for developing these documents are also in the works now. This designation process should be very familiar, since it is the same steps recently completed to expand GFNMS.



The Sanctuary Nomination Process continues to hear from interested communities that are considering developing nominations. There is currently one nomination under review for the Pennsylvania waters in Lake Erie that has a collection of maritime heritage assets. NOAA also has one nomination currently in the inventory of areas that could be considered for designation - an area south of Monterey Bay NMS that includes ecological, maritime heritage, and cultural resources.

Lighthouse Exhibit Update:

A discussion followed regarding the potential of a field trip out to the Point Reyes Lighthouse exhibit. Brian confirmed that the Cordell Bank SAC plans to do one in August, so it might be possible to join them after the August joint meeting.

MBNMS Superintendent's Report

Management Plan Review Update

Summary

The following is a summary of the discussions and recommendations of the GFNMS Advisory Council regarding comments received during public comment periods of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan Review Process. The SAC only addressed topics or comments relevant to the Northern Management Area and the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area (Donut Hole).

Public Scoping Comments Related to Beach Nourishment

Discussions followed about the breakwater at Perch Beach. The Perch Beach Breakwater filled in the boat launch area with sediment. By contrast, Surfer's Beach (on the other side of the breakwater) is eroding, threatening Highway 1.

Max Delaney confirmed that Caltrans has put in an emergency permit to Coastal Commission for a temporary arming solution that is designed to be above mean high water. Part of that permit is that they are required to develop a long term soft-scape plan. Hoping we can get all the agencies to come up with a long term solution, involve sediment nourishment instead of hard armoring down shore. Discussion followed about the options and consequences of putting sand from perch beach to Surfer's Beach or dredging wet sand from the harbor. A discussion followed as to why the Sanctuary does not allow for beneficial reuse and the consequences of adopting EPA definition of beneficial reuse.

ACTION ITEM: The SAC recommends that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary articulate a definition of beneficial reuse of clean dredged materials from harbors or other appropriate materials from other sources at the San Mateo County Surfer's Beach site. The SAC urges an expeditious response to this because of community concerns.

Motion: Francesca



Second: Josh R

Aye: 7

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

Public Scoping Comments Related to Chumming and Attraction of Seabirds

Francesca asked for clarification as to the recipients of chumming permits. GFNMS only issues chumming permits for research, not for education. A discussion followed as to the significant risks of chumming to sea birds and whether or not the SAC has enough information to make a decision.

ACTION ITEM: The SAC recommends maintaining the existing permitting process regarding seabird disturbance, and maintaining the existing discharge regulations (chumming).

Motion: Francesca

Second: Richard

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion Passes

Public Scoping Comments Related to Boundary Change:

Francesca asked for clarification as to what is recommended for the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area (hereafter, Donut Hole), since discharge is a significant concern here. LT Shannon Anthony confirmed that the Coast Guard is currently addressing discharge with GFNMS and Cordell Bank in the expansion area, and the outcome of that work could help determine what is needed in the Donut Hole. The Coast Guard and shipping communities currently use this area for discharge, with sites outside of the Sanctuary boundaries too far for many vessels to use. The Coast Guard especially does not have the means to discharge outside of the Sanctuary.

A discussion followed as to whether or not the SAC should create a working group to determine if the Donut Hole should be included in either Monterey Bay or Greater Farallones jurisdiction. Jaimie Jahncke pointed out that the UCSB Bren School students already researched the merits of including the Donut Hole in GFNMS jurisdiction. Maria agreed, and added that the Sanctuary would want to do a more in depth analysis and that the three main issues inhibiting the Donut Hole's inclusion (shipping traffic, dredging of the shipping channel, and primary discharge from the San Francisco/Ocean Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant) require this analysis. In regards to the discharge issues, the Sanctuary needs to look at the issues caused by primary discharge versus those of a combined sewage system to avoid setting a precedent of discharge in Sanctuaries. A discussion followed as to what would be the best next step, a working group or the undertaking of a National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process, including Environmental Impact Statements, and the specific limitations of GFNMS staff to handle with another expansion.



ACTION: *The SAC recommends that Greater Farallones NMS proceed with an open, transparent National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) process to address San Francisco Pacifica Exclusion Area (closure of the Donut Hole).*

Motion: Richard

Second: Christy

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion Passes

Public Scoping Comments Related to Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWCs)

The SAC then moved into a discussion regarding the comments received on MPWCs. Maria clarified these issues are specific to Mavericks in the Northern Management area. John Berge asked for clarification on what are the attributes of water craft that caused them to be prohibited. Maria clarified it is their speed and maneuverability that can cause wildlife disturbance, specifically documented cases in Monterey of sea otters being run over and killed. A discussion followed as to what is working well, including the permits for Mavericks surf contest and the public safety training and whether or not the SAC should recommend a working group or better to coordinate with an ongoing MBNMS subcommittee. Josh expressed dissatisfaction that these restrictions were put into place based on the actions of a few irresponsible individuals in another county, and suggested the use of some zones for MPWCs. Elizabeth proposes hearing outcomes from the subcommittee since we already have a GFNMS staff member on their committee.

ACTION: The SAC recommends that GFNMS continue to prioritize training of public safety personal with MPWC and have the MBNMS subcommittee present is outcomes to the GFNMS SAC and have a discussion of our point of view of public usage throughout the Sanctuary.

Motion: Elizabeth Babcock

Second: Richard Charter

Ayes: 8

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

CBNMS Superintendent's Report

None

BREAK

Advisory Council Business

Approve December Meeting Notes (ACTION ITEM)



Motion: Elizabeth Babcock

Second: Richard Charter

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion Passes

2016 SAC Chairs Summit Update

George Clyde confirms Sanctuary system is coming up with a revised strategic national plan and all the chairs are going to be part of the process.

Youth (alternate) Seat Update

A candidate was recently selected, vetted, and approved by both the SAC and ONMS Headquarters. He or she will join us at the May SAC meeting.

SAC Charter Update

The revisions to the 2010 SAC Charter were approved, and a 2015 version is now available.

Mendocino/Sonoma County Community-at-Large Seat Update

The 2010 charter revisions included the creation of a new seat: Mendocino/Sonoma County Community-At-Large. Recruitment for this seat will begin this spring.

SAC Involvement in Maritime Heritage Program (POTENTIAL ACTION ITEM)

This item was postponed to a future meeting.

Climate-Smart Adaptation Working Group (ACTION ITEM)

This agenda item required approximately four hours of the meeting. The discussions, concerns, votes, and changes to the adaptation strategies are summarized in subsequent sections.

At the beginning of the working group's presentation, SAC members expressed a preference for different language of the proposed support statement. Sara Hutto clarified that the mechanism of strategy implementation is not part of this; rather these climate adaptation strategies are very conceptual in nature. Some of these strategies may seem impossible now, but in 10-20 years from now it might be possible, so the working group included it. Areas included are some areas that could work, but would need to be refined for implementation. A discussion about how this vote is going to work, how the categories are arranged ensued.

Section 1: Elizabeth suggested making the document more reader-friendly by including a map of the subtidal and intertidal zones.

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the "Alleviate Climate Impacts" strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency.



Motion: Francesca

Second: Elizabeth

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Dynamic Management Strategies:

Elizabeth proposed adding notes or resources to make sure that quality and safe materials are used for strategy #1. George mentioned that the example of Tomales Bay is not ideal for this strategy. A discussion followed about sediment-starved estuaries and good examples of such water bodies.

Strategy #4: A discussion followed regarding options if armoring can't be removed and changing language to include to the extent practical and as to whether Tomales Bay should be listed as a location.

Strategy #5: Josh and Francesca suggesting taking out all of the locations listed.

Strategy #6: George suggested that potential locations – sediment heavy areas and areas within estuaries –can be portions of these areas mentioned in this strategy. Sarah Allen suggested adding road crossings and parking lots, while Pat Rutten added legacy roads.

Strategy #7: Elizabeth asked if the strategies Excel document is a rubric. She suggested that it might be useful to color code or pull out those strategies that are unlike the others in some way.

Strategy #58: Patrick recommended getting away from active management for estuaries.

Strategy #59: A discussion followed in regards to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) and how realistic or impacting this strategy could be for management. Patrick clarified that TMDLs indicate a sediment-impaired condition, not sediment starved. Elizabeth made an organization recommendation: to create climate-informed sediment management plans.

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Dynamic Management” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency.

Motion: Elizabeth

Second: Christy

Aye: 9

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Tom Roth, private citizen: This is a great process. You are dealing with each individual item separately, somehow you need to declare this needs to be done in a more holistic view. When you are dealing with one resource that is in the Sanctuary, it is connected to something and you don't want to be harming another resource to protect one.

Richard Charter, representing the San Francisco Department of Environment: In the event that recommendations on the eradication of house mice using rodenticide on the Farallones Islands. The Department is strongly opposed to this plan.

Norma Gelson, private citizen: I am a resident of Bodega Bay, and I want to echo what Tom Roth and the city said regarding herbicides and rodenticides. I think that we need to avoid promoting the use of herbicides. Sonoma County does not use things like round up- so we need to be careful if your group is recommending anything like that through this report.

Continuation of Climate-Smart Adaptation Working Group Presentation

Education Strategies:

Strategy #9: Elizabeth suggests that this single strategy is extremely limited and too specific. She recommended the addition of language that encompasses a broader education approach. This includes developing a holistic education public outreach plan to address all of the eleven categories of strategy approaches: partnership with environmental educational organizations, schools and other public entities, social media and other communications strategy, interpretive signage and collaboration with other agencies and public entities to create a goal for climate literacy.

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Education” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency.

Motion: Elizabeth

Second: Richard

Aye: 9

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Habitat Protection and Restoration Strategies:

Strategy #9: Francesca recommended the removal of the mention of bulkheads along Seadrift. She said there is no reason to raise alarm on this issue among residents.

Strategy #12: Josh expressed the importance of language about pathways to beaches, and wanted to ensure the California citizen rights to access the ocean or fishing (Article 1, Section 25).

Richard expressed concern with putting specific locations in this document as this puts a stigma on people’s value of their property by even putting a name on the place. Richard suggested the removal of Gleason Beach.

Strategy #15: Josh asked who would purchase the land and what kind of access would be granted and recommended a clause ensuring public access.

Strategy #19: Elizabeth recommended listing the beach strategy numbers.

Strategy #60: George suggested changing the language to ‘adversely effected’ instead of “destroyed.” A discussion followed regarding eelgrass restoration and the difficulties. George also suggested changing the language to include “human activities such as aquaculture operations.”



Strategy #62: Francesca asked for clarification as to how this strategy would be achieved. A discussion followed as to how this is different than a previous strategy, as it prioritizes how the seabirds are using the cliff.

Josh expressed dissatisfaction as to the presentation format, and asked if the SAC needed to make decisions on all of these strategies now. Maria clarified that it is up to the SAC, but GFNMS would like to have these available at the May 17th Climate Summit. A discussion followed as to time management and strategy prioritization.

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Habitat Protection and Restoration” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency

Motion: Richard Charter

Second: Dominique Richard

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion passes

Human Disturbance Strategies:

Strategy #72: A discussion followed regarding the pros and cons of beach lottery tags and beach reservations. Josh is vehemently against such a program. Francesca points out a success story – Point Lobos and recommends highlighting this as one way to have some areas designated for certain activities, restricted and still maintain public access.

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Human Disturbance” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency

Motion: Richard

Second: Francesca

Aye: 8

Nay: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion passes

Invasive Species Management:

Strategy #23: Richard suggested a clarification as to which type of invasive species is being discussed (aquatic, terrestrial, etc.) A discussion followed as to whether it is better left broad or more specific, invasive versus not native. Sara reinforced Richard’s suggestion that it is hard to distinguish between nonnative and invasive. With all of these uncertainties, it may be premature to say that all California Current species should be managed as native. Richard also suggested some language that differentiates between eradication of plants versus animals.

Strategy #25: Elizabeth suggested leveraging the citizen science programs that exist depending

on how the Sanctuary feels about that data.

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Invasive Species Management” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency

Motion: Christy

Second: Jaime

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Promote Landward Migration Strategies:

Strategy #29: Richard recommended the removal of Gleason Beach as the example.

Elizabeth mentioned that it is not clear how these numbers link up to other objects, and that it might be helpful to have good examples to highlight throughout the report.

Strategy #30: A discussion followed over the language of “relocation human infrastructure”, because in some areas this may or may not work due to the cultural heritage of human infrastructure.

Strategy #31: A discussion followed over “waiving of rights” and whether or not the SAC has these rights in the first place.

Strategy #40: A discussion followed as to what the intention of this strategy is and its dependence on timing.

Strategy #77: A discussion called for the editing of this statement and to take out “rolling easement.”

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Landward Migration” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency

Motion: Dominique

Second: Richard

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Abstain: 1

Motion passes

Invest in Science Needs Strategies:

Strategy #44: A discussion followed regarding the type of opportunities these include in regards to natural, extreme events. Patrick agreed with George that it might be better to remove natural, extreme events.



ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Invest in Science Needs” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency

Motion: Elizabeth

Second: Dominique

Ayes: 9

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Species Protection Strategies:

Strategy #83: Josh suggested the removal of “reduce human harvest.”

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Species Protection” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency

Motion: Josh

Second: Jaime

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Water Quality Management Strategies:

ACTION: The GFNMS Advisory Council recommends the Sanctuary consider the “Water Quality Management” strategies identified for the sanctuary, and for the strategies identified for other agencies, the Council recommends that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the appropriate agency

Motion: Dominique

Second: Richard

Ayes: 7

Nays: 0

Abstain: 0

Motion passes

Member Reports

No member reports due to time constraints.

Enforcement Update

Dayna gave the SAC some background of the tumultuous directorship and direction of NOAA OLE (Office of Law Enforcement) over the last seven years. There is a currently a severe shortage of enforcement officers for Sanctuaries on the West Coast, particularly in California.



Dayna mentioned that the current NOAA OLE Director Landon is undertaking a two-phase plan including quantitative and qualitative analysis. This plan includes a needs assessment that calls for the largest division of NOAA OLE on the West Coast.

Francesca asked about the open enforcement positions mentioned and the reason for their vacancy. Dayna clarified that it is a Work force Management Office and NOAA-wide problem.

A discussion followed as to whether we want to write a letter or do a join letter with Cordell bank. Carolyn Gibson confirmed that SAC chairs were going to consider taking a collective approach to draft a letter of uniform support, but SAC members can reach out to John to have him be involved in drafting the letter and present on it at the next SAC. George confirmed there is an April 14 SAC conference call, and John is unable to attend so someone else from the GFNMS AC will need to fill in for him.

ADJOURN