



GREATER FARALLONES  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Half Moon Bay Yacht Club  
214 Princeton Ave.  
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019  
Wednesday May 25, 2016

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 9:16 AM

**Review Agenda**

Roll Call  
Review Agenda

**GFNMS Superintendent's Report**

**Permits**

An amendment to John Largier's research permit was issued to add the University of California's Vice Chancellor as co-signer to this permit and all future permits. This permit allows for the deployment of one (1) moorings 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.

A salvage permit was issued to Ian Reeves to remove a boat mooring from the mooring field off Teacher's Beach in Tomales Bay. The mooring has been removed.

A salvage permit was issued to Dominic Montagu to a boat mooring from the mooring field off Teacher's Beach in Tomales Bay. The mooring has been removed.

A permit was issued to Graham Groneman of the Marin County Fire Department requesting that long-term, Marin County-wide training activities using rescue water craft (i.e., motorized personal watercraft). Given the immediacy of May 9-12 training and staff transitioning, a short-term permit was issued with specific areas allowed for training to minimize disturbances. There are plans to meet with the applicant to work out a long-term solution to their training needs (also,

this is NOT a MULTI-sanctuary activity. It affects Marin County/GFNMS only).

A permit was issued to Nyssa Silbiger of UC Irvine allowing the Fingerprinting West Coast tide pools to understand drives of pH variability. The experiment will occur at two sites for five days at Asilomar State Beach Park and Bodega Marine Reserve. MBNMS staff took the lead on this permit.

A certification was issued to AT&T to conduct work on two undersea cables and five steel conduits that are part of the Japan-U.S. cable network. Bob Wargo with AT&T requested minor changes, which have been incorporated and this will be signed again soon.

A research permit was issued to John Stein to conduct research bottom trawling for Pacific Groundfish Stock Assessments. The research will occur within West Coast Sanctuary boundaries and includes Specific locations for trawl survey area exclusions based on sensitive habitat; maritime heritage resources and hazards were included.

An amendment to the management permit issued to Jennifer Lucchesi ensures leases can be issued to mooring owners for the duration of 10 years. The original permit ensured that the leases comply with sanctuary regulations applicable to Tomales Bay, in accordance with the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan and all final supporting documentation associated with the plan.

An amendment to Phil Capitolo's permit is under review and drafted for signature. The amendment adds two Special Wildlife Protection Zones in the expansion area (one near Gualala and the other near Jenner) to his existing permit to conduct low overflights for surveying breeding and nesting seabird colonies.

A request for a salvage permit for Don Buickerood is under review. The permit would allow the removal of a mooring from the Marshall mooring field.

A final decision on Jane Reifert's appeal was made May 10, 2016 that the use of a scent attractant to attract white sharks for education purposes is neither warranted nor justified during their proposed adventure tourism research or education tours.

*A discussion followed regarding Jane Reifert's letter to the SAC and her appeal. Kellyx asked if Ms. Reifert knew of the final Federal Registry notice in regards to white sharks and chumming. She reached out to six SAC members individually, had a critical tone of Maria's stance on the issue and did not provide evidence making her case. Council members discussed the best way to respond, either individually, as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting, or by letting her know she can come to the SAC meetings and bring it up during public comment. Kellyx noted she would be uncomfortable to ignore it or have a member handle it individually; she also does not want to gettled in an issue that is already being handled by Sanctuary staff. Richard Charter added that it is a "free country, can lobby if you want", but suggested the Council should also be wary of responding as it might be later included in a legal record. Kellyx suggest we provide Ms. Reifert with information about the regulation and offer an appropriate path to present it to the staff. John is going to write a response to her and will circulate the letter amongst the SAC*

*before sending it.*

*Barbara Emley asked for clarification on the pre-existing cables that are being recertified. Maria said there are three pre-existing cables owned by AT&T that are used to communicate with Japan, and they need to be recorded as pre-existing.*

*Barbara also asked if the research vessel performing SONAR for the shipping containers had to get a permit through the Sanctuary. Maria noted they did not have to get a permit, but we GFNMS is working with them since they would need to get a permit to remove a shipping container if they found one. There are reports from fisherman that the research vessel was operating adjacent to crab pots and the captain was flippant towards the fisherman. Maria gave a brief summary of the Matson Shipping Container incidence in which five shipping containers were knocked overboard in December 2015. Under GFNMS regulations rules, Matson Shipping has to look for and remove containers if found so they hired a research vessel to do SONAR. However, weather this winter postponed it and unfortunately it coincided with the late crab season. After hearing of the issues with the snagged traps, the second trip using SONAR was postponed till after July 15. Barbara added that some fisherman will likely approach or have approached Matson in regards to the lost fishing gear. Bruce noted this must have been one big wave that knocked five containers off the ship, and this “sounds fishy.”*

[In regards to the Vessel Grounding at Cypress Cove and the community involvement]  
*Kellyx acknowledged that one of the volunteers that helped remove the boat is here today, a big thank you!*

*Maria added there was another incidence this past Friday – a bolt carrier began drifting to shore faster than a tug boat could come to assist. The Coast Guard requested they drop the anchor and luckily the anchor held – a pilot boat and two tug boats responded and successfully brought it to shore. Richard asked if the issue happened due to fuel switching. Maria thought they were testing something on the engine. Shannon did not know specifics, but could get it to everyone if they wanted.*

## **2016 Ocean Climate Summit Debrief**

### ***Ocean Climate Summit Draws 141 Attendees to Discuss Climate Adaptation***

Greater Farallones NMS and Association, in partnership with numerous regional entities, convened the Fourth Ocean Climate Summit: Resilience through Climate-Smart Conservation on May 17 in San Francisco. 141 attendees, including regional managers, scientists and educators, representatives from 7 national marine sanctuaries across the nation, and the Acting Director of ONMS, gathered to learn about, discuss, and provide input regarding climate impacts and solutions for the North-central California coast and ocean region. Input from the Summit will be used to inform the development of the Greater Farallones NMS Climate Action Plan and to forge new collaborations to directly address climate impacts to coastal natural resources.

Significance: The Ocean Climate Summit is the only event that brings together regional scientists, coastal and marine resource managers, decision-makers, and educators to advance the use of climate-smart conservation methods and adaptation strategies to enhance coast and ocean resilience to climate change.

### **ACCESS Update**

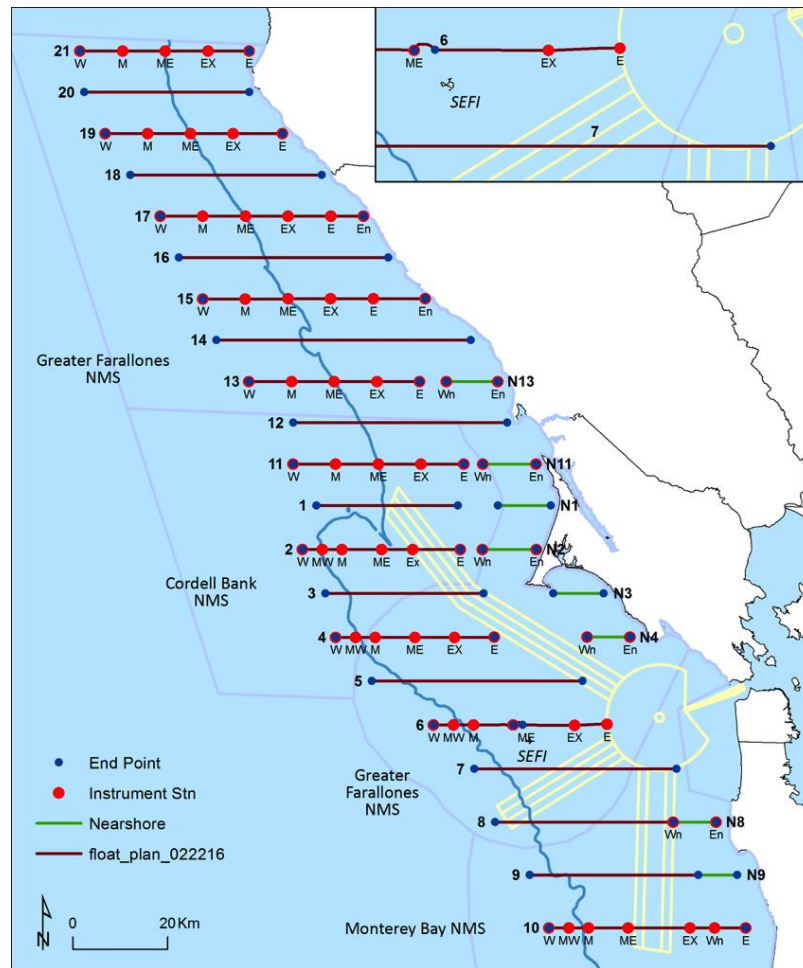
ACCESS is a regional characterization project and monitors the physical and biological components of the pelagic ecosystems of northern Monterey Bay (MBNMS), Cordell Bank (CBNMS) and Greater Farallones (GFNMS) National Marine Sanctuaries. Data are used for habitat modeling, identifying biological hotspots and areas vulnerable to impacts from shipping, oil pollution, disturbance, and extraction. ACCESS studies also include OA sampling and monitoring for HAB and marine debris. This is collaborative partnership with Point Blue Conservation Science, Cordell Bank NMS, GFA, SFSU, and BML.

The primary goal is to better understand the linkages between weather, climate changes and the abundance and distribution of seabirds, marine mammals, and their primary prey species such as zooplankton, i.e. krill.

- Improve conservation of top predators and their food webs,
- Guide human uses to provide protection of the marine ecosystem,
- Document effects of environmental changes on the marine ecosystem,
- Contribute data to support ecosystem-based management, and
- Assess ecosystem effects of freshwater outflow from San Francisco Bay and north-central California watersheds

In 2016 three cruises are planned:

- May 14-22 on board the NOAA ship *Bell M Shimada*
  - This is a 24/7 cruise, with sampling for krill both daytime and nighttime
  - Transects include nearshore and offshore stations (approx. 40 miles offshore) from Pescadero north to Fort Ross
  - Collect video and still imagery for a future fundraising piece
  - Teacher at Sea will be on board as well as two graduate students studying nutrients and OA
- July 18-25 on board the *Fulmar*
  - Transects include nearshore and offshore stations (approx. 40 miles offshore) from Pacifica north to Russian River
  - Collect video and still imagery for a future fundraising piece
  - Two to three graduate students and one post-doc will be on-board studying nutrients, OA and habitat modeling
- Sept. - Six days, dates to be determined, but during the last two weeks of September, on board the *Fulmar*
  - Transects include nearshore and offshore stations (approx. 40 miles offshore) from Pacifica north to Bodega Head
  - Two to three graduate students will be on-board studying nutrients, OA and habitat modeling



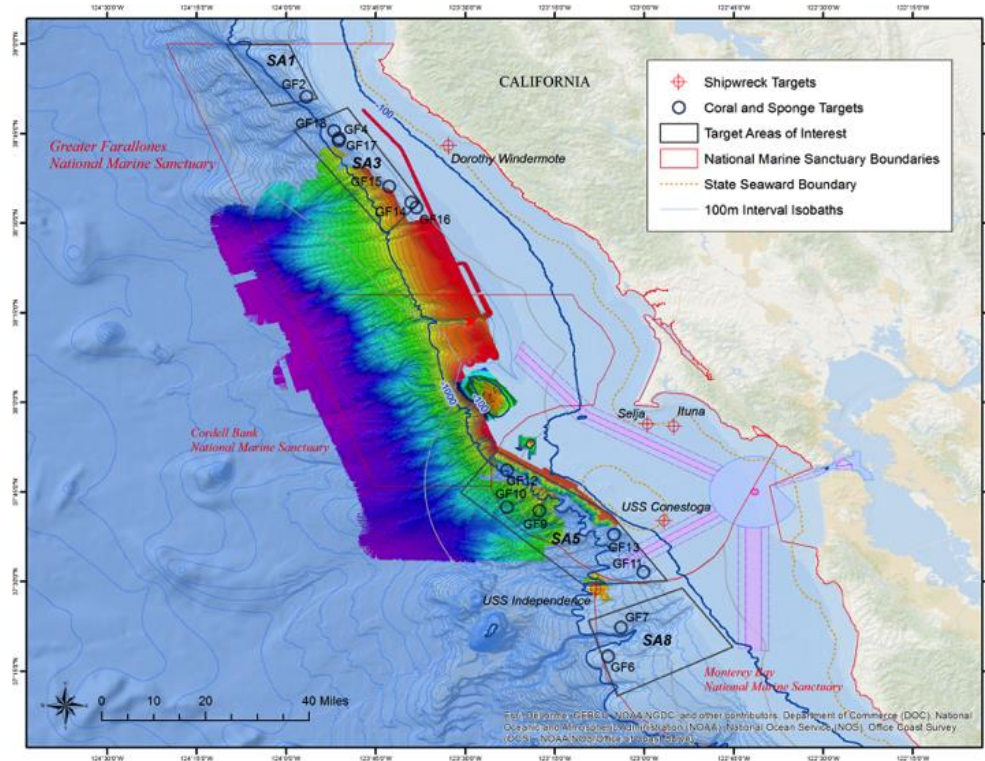
## ACCESS Continued

### *Ocean Exploration Trust Cruise on-board the Nautilus, Aug 19-28*

This expedition will illuminate the incredible array of marine life and the undersea museum that is the sanctuary. This is truly an exploration cruise. Only a few shipwrecks and deep rocky reefs in the sanctuary have been discovered, explored and mapped. The primary objectives are to 1) Explore and map cultural resources (shipwrecks) of the Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, two primary shipwrecks USS Independence and Dorothy Windermote; 2) multibeam and video surveys of the western portion of Pt. Arena Biogenic Area North (about 35 miles west of Pt. Arena), the western portion of Pt. Arena Biogenic Area South (about 35 miles west of Gualala), the western and southern portions of the Farallon Escarpment, and the eastern portion of Pioneer Canyon. There will be three ways you can view the cruise in real time, on line, 1) there will be 2-3 live web casts from the ship with the Exploratorium, Aug 23, Aug 26 DSC and/or Aug 27 Upwelling; 2) Daily, live feeds from the ship and ROV feeds, hosted by OET Science Communication Fellows (our version of Teachers at Sea, live chat during all dives; and 3) Scientists Ashore: scientists from UC Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore Lab, CA Academy of Sciences, NMFS, NCCOS, and other NMSs and HQ. Products will include: more video footage of the shipwreck and DSC and sponges, photomosaic for 3-D



images of the shipwrecks, data for EFH, OA and climate change impacts, much needed multibeam for future DSC research.



### More details for *Nautilus* DSC and MHP cruise

#### Objectives

- Explore and map cultural resources (shipwrecks) of the Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, two primary shipwrecks
  - USS Independence
    - WW II era aircraft carrier, in 1946 it was part of the target fleet for the Bikini Atoll atomic bomb tests, after the test it was still intake and brought back to SF Bay, where the Navy used it in studies of the decontamination process, in 1951 the Navy scuttled it in the Gulf of the Farallones region
  - Dorothy Windermote
    - Dorothy Windermote: a steam freighter that ran aground in fog and heavy seas off the coast of Gualala and Pt. Arena in the 1930s, everyone was saved (including the ship's mascot cat), it sank when the Coast Guard pulled it off the rocks to salvage it
  - Mapping will include photomosaic (3-D imagery) of the USS *Independence* and *Dorothy Windermote*
- Explore and map rocky substrate and associated corals, sponges and fishes in our deep ocean ecosystem
  - 4 study areas for deep sea corals and sponges

- The western portion of Pt. Arena Biogenic Area North (about 35 miles west of Pt. Arena)
- The western portion of Pt. Arena Biogenic Area South (about 35 miles west of Gualala)
- Western and southern portions of the Farallon Escarpment
- Eastern portion of Pioneer Canyon
- Multibeam areas to identify the presence of rocky-high relief habitat, these data are crucial for future studies of deep coral reefs in areas vulnerable to bottom contact gear
- Biological studies of coral reefs will aid in better understanding of OA and impacts from climate change impacts (Geoclimatology through the study of bamboo corals)
- Aid in the location of Habitat Areas of Particular Concern
- Outreach
  - 2-3 live web casts from the ship with the Exploratorium, Aug
  - Daily, live feeds from the ship and ROV feeds, hosted by OET Science Communication Fellows (our version of Teachers at Sea, live chat during all dives)
  - Scientists Ashore: scientists from UC Berkeley, Lawrence Livermore Lab, CA Academy of Sciences, NMFS, NCCOS, and other NMSs and HQ
  - One to two evening lectures in the Bay Area on shipwrecks, with Bob Ballard and Jim Delgado, Aug. 17 and 18

Suggested Scientists Ashore:

- Peter Etnoyer, NCCOS
- Gary Williams, CAS
- Guy Cochrane, USGS
- Tom Laidig, NMFS
- Mary Yoklavich, NMFS
- Tom Hourigan, NMFS
- Sean Rooney, post-doc Uni WA
- Bob Schwemmer, WCR
- Steve Nagiewicz, MHP
- John Lambert, MHP
- Jerry Ostermiller, MHP
- Russ Matthews, MHP
- Kai Vetter, UCB, LLL, rad waste
- Megan Lickliter-Mundon, MHP
- Catherine Marzen, ONMS

*Barbara asked if the team examined currents during the ACCESS cruise. She noted some fishermen were talking of extraordinarily strong currents they have never seen before. Jan said they were looking at biological and chemical implications of upwelling. John Largier added that these currents are usual for this time of year, fisherman may not be used to fishing this late in the season.*

*Maria added that the Nautilus is going to look at the USS Independence and do some radioactivity measurements.*

### **Maritime Heritage Update**

The ONMS Maritime Heritage Program is focusing their attention on two GFNMS projects this year. They will be diving on the USS Independence this summer, aboard Bob Ballard's Nautilus, to shoot high definition film and investigate the state of the wreck. This fall they will spend 5-days aboard the R/V FULMAR investigating the Dog Hole Ports along the Sonoma Coast between Fort Ross and Gualala. That mission will also include a land-based survey component in partnership with CA State Parks. The work will ultimately help in the creation of a maritime cultural landscape report, a National Register of Historic Places nomination for the redwood coast, and of course site management of those areas by GFNMS and CA State Parks.

### **Climate Action Plan Update**

The Ocean Climate Coordinator is working on the Sanctuary's first Climate Action Plan, based on the adaptation strategies that this Council approved at the March meeting. Sanctuary staff are selecting strategies that the Sanctuary is interested in moving forward with to include in this action plan and is currently seeking funding to develop conceptual implementation plans for a few of these. Additionally, a selection of the strategies were showcased at the Summit to solicit input from Summit attendees and [report on outcomes from the Summit regarding strategy stations]. You'll be hearing more about the status of the strategies and the action plan at a future meeting.

### **Permits and SAC Coordinators Update**

We have some changes to staff to report. Max Delaney is on extended leave through October, so Carliane Johnson is filling in as permit coordinator and resource protection specialist. She and Karen Reyna are the points of contact for emergency response and incident updates, permits, and other resource protection issues. As you know, Carolyn Gibson moved to New York City last month but is working remotely on climate and SAC projects until early June. In the meantime, we have Sara Hutto filling in as Coordinator until a new Coordinator is hired.

### **Get Into Your Sanctuary Day**

ONMS' "Get Into Your Sanctuary Day" is scheduled for June 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The goals of the campaign are to increase awareness of sustainable tourism and recreation opportunities within national marine sanctuaries and secondarily for visitors to share their experiences through social media. It also provides an opportunity to build partnerships between tourism purveyors, travelers, community members, and national marine sanctuary staff. National marine sanctuaries also encourage travelers and community members to explore sanctuaries on this day by adding the hashtag #visitsanctuaries. Anybody can share their experience and participate in the campaign. Visit <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/> for more information!

*Bibit added that Elizabeth Babcock offered to help promote GIYS in any way needed.*

### **ONMS Strategic Plan Update**

*Maria did not have any updates on the ONMS strategic plan. She briefly mentioned the early May leadership team meeting and the excitement surrounding the new strategic plan under development.*



### **MBNMS Superintendent's Report**

MBNMS is also promoting "Get Into Your Sanctuary" Events on June 25, including an event at the Exploration Center, Woody on the Wharf, and lots of activities around the visitor center including kayak trips, paddle board rentals, scuba diving expeditions and more.

**Management Plan Review Update:** During its April meeting, the MBNMS Advisory Council discussed a long list of issues raised to date and how the SAC wants to provide input. There are some opportunities for GFNMS AC to participate in working groups, council workshops or SAC meetings. The areas that might be of interest include beach nourishment, boundary changes, climate change, marine debris, MPWC's (proposal to reduce High Surf Warning to High Surf Advisory at Mavericks, add locations for other recreational use - SAC is still resting with, will likely create a working group on that), Water Quality protection (runoff, harmful algal blooms, delve regional water quality program) and Wildlife Disturbance (number one issue brought to attention during public scoping) address harassment from recreational activities, entanglement issues, and address issues of ocean noise. At their June 17th meeting, the MBNMS SAC will schedule out the next 9-10 months of working group and workshop schedule.

*John added this is a great way for us to work with MBNMS and proposes seven volunteers, one for each area of interest, attend the workshops and meetings and report back to GFNMS SAC. Richard asks Paul if there is any push for artificial reef. Paul says that this will be addressed in the management plan; however, there is a lot of work that needs to be done to assess the challenges, disturbances, and possibilities since those reefs would likely occur in State waters, which currently does not have the ability to permit for artificial reefs. The timeline for that policy would likely take years. John asked Maria how GFNMS staff is involved; she said Sara Hutto would work with MBNMS staff and their SAC. GFNMS staff also cohosted a pelagic sea bird workshop with Monterey. Staffs were working together on beach nourishment issues to create a plan moving forward. Also, Max from GFNMS staff attended MPWC working group meetings, although it sounds like this group hasn't met for a year. John proposes the council discuss during the lunch break and post-meeting regarding the volunteer attendees. Abby volunteered to attend meetings with discussions on entanglement issues and wildlife disturbance. Kellyx pointed out that beach nourishment issues requires working across topics to look at efforts to control sediment in the watersheds and the relationship to beach nourishment. Paul said Bridget Hoover would be the best person to contact.*

### **CBNMS Superintendent's Report**

Marine and Terrestrial Protected Area Cooperation with Chile

April 9 -17, 2016

Trip Objectives:

- Convene with USA and Chile protected area staff to identify strengths and challenges managing marine and coastal protected areas of Atacama and Coquimbo in north central Chile. *[identified topics: kelp forest monitoring and management, tourism planning and management, community engagement and outreach, enforcement]*

- Evaluate the interest of marine and coastal protected areas of Atacama and Coquimbo, for the establishment of potential “sister site” arrangements with protected areas (national parks and national marine sanctuaries) of California, with the aim of producing exchanges of experience and permanent partnerships.
- Discuss the idea of initiating and expanding in the future a network of marine and coastal protected areas along the Pacific coast (Pan - American Pacific Marine Network).

The 13<sup>th</sup> San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival concluded in March and included a sold-out gala event on March 10<sup>th</sup> and a successful festival that ran from March 10<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup>. The festival featured 48 films over four days with submissions from 13 countries. Sessions were very well attended and the festival had the highest attendance in 13 years. The student film competition featured the top three middle school films and the top ten high school films. Over 100 entries this year continued a doubling of entries every year since the student film competition began 4 years ago.

There was an Earth Day event on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Oakland Museum of California in conjunction with their Friday night events. These events feature food trucks, music, activities and half-price admission to the Museum. Jenny Stock talked about marine debris and dissected an albatross bolus, while Dan MC'd two short ocean film sessions in the theater. The Oakland Museum of California continues to be a great venue for connecting with East Bay residents.

Research Coordinator Dani Lipski partnered with John Largier at Bodega Marine Laboratory to deploy two moorings with instruments to measure temperature and dissolved oxygen. This is the third year we have deployed the instruments to monitor DO in the sanctuary.

Working with Greater Farallones, CBNMS started its second seasonal voluntary speed reduction on May 1<sup>st</sup>, requesting commercial vessels reduce speed to 10 knots in the traffic separation scheme until November 15<sup>th</sup>. This brackets the period in summer and fall during which peak numbers of whales feed in the sanctuaries. ACCESS just returned from May surveys, during over 30 whales per day were observed; one of the cruise days observed over 70 whales, mostly humpbacks but also some blue and fin whales.

*Dan also mentioned the AIS Data Analysis CBNMS is working on with GFNMS and the Coast Guard in regards to the voluntary speed reduction. They sent out 150 letters that outlined ships trips in the past year and their speeds. Maria added that 2016 is encouraging compared to 2015, since some of the shipping companies have expressed interest in complying. John Berge added that the Coast Guard Traffic Service receives a lot of calls spotting whales in the bay from both commercial and recreational vessels. A discussion followed as to whether these sightings are reported to NOAA; Bibit mentioned the Point Blue Spotter Pro App while Dan explained the difficulties of dynamic management of whale siting and advising ships where to go. Some of the challenges include a lack of resources, since the area to monitor is so large and it is difficult to know “where the whales are not.” Abby added a personal anecdote from a few weeks ago, in which she saw four container ships dead-stop and slow down due to the presence of six whales within the same shipping lane. Shannon added that if we need to set up an official notification*

*about whale siting to let her know.*

**Beach Watch Annual Report: 20 Years of Trends and Impacts of Warm Water Blob and Expected Impacts of El Nino**

Presentation available online at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/16\\_05/BWpresentationSAC.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/16_05/BWpresentationSAC.pdf)

*John Berge asked for clarification on the range of the documented tar balls. Kirsten clarified the occurrence as within the Beach Watch range of monitoring, which starts at Año Nuevo and extends northward to Manchester Beach. Brian asked about the significance of the “young of the year” common murre die-offs increased mortality rates. Kirsten explained that these species are long-lived; several high mortality years will not significantly impact the population overall. Losing “young of the year” is not as significant as removing an adult from the population since the young don’t know about different foraging areas and are not yet as successful as adults at surviving tough conditions.*

*John Largier asked who selects beaches in the expansion area. Kirsten answered that GFNMS staff select the beaches, and take into consideration where volunteers may be available to complete surveys. It is ideal to do two surveys a month on each beach, but this is not always attainable at northern beaches. Four surveys are a mix of rocky and sandy beach, and some bluff-top surveys have been added to provide live human use and wildlife data along a 40-mile stretch with no accessible beaches. We take some very coarse wrack estimates. Richard added that it’s very impressive that Beach Watch covers the northern expansion area so well so rapidly. Chris Kelley then added Beach Watch has a budget gap; if anyone knows of specific donors that we could approach to close that gap, please get them in touch with us. Currently, the \$75,000 gap in funds for this year needs to close rapidly (year runs April 1 to April 1).*

**BREAK**

**Advisory Council Business**

**Approve March Meeting Notes (ACTION ITEM)**

**Motion:**

**Second:**

**Ayes: 5**

**Nays:**

**Abstain:**

**No quorum – so cannot take a vote.**

**Youth (Primary) Application Review Subcommittee**

Caleb will attend one more meeting to overlap with the new alternate, Oliver York. We are currently seeking a new primary member; he or she needs to be 16-18 years old. Bibbit, Christy, and Bruce will serve on a subcommittee. Carolyn will reach out to applicants from last pool to

encourage their re-applying.

### **Mendocino/Sonoma County Community-at-Large Seat (Primary/Alternate) Application Review Subcommittee**

We need volunteers to review applications for this new seat, which will take place in the fall. John, Dominique, Richard will serve on this subcommittee. The new advisory council coordinator will take the lead on these applications.

### **October 2016 Advisory Council Retreat**

Typically, the retreat is a field trip/meeting/social event. The following suggestions were made:

- Pescadero
- Outer coast estuaries and lagoons in our Sanctuary, including Russian River, Tomales Bay, Esteros
- USCG in Alameda to tour the vessels
- Estuaries and climate change tour centered on adaptation strategies – visit multiple locations, or just one and apply generalities
- King Tides tour

### **Future meeting topics**

John let the council know that members can suggest future agenda items and asked what members want to hear about most. Bibit met with LiMPETS, and would like to hear from them at the next meeting regarding new protocols and data. John suggested a climate change-focused meeting. Richard mentioned the Half Moon Bay public meeting that addressed the issues at Surfer's Beach and the impact of the Jetty, suggesting that we may need to hear from some of the experts (Army Corps, USGS, etc.) to help advise Maria. Maria added that we would address our annual work plan at the October retreat. John added that if you have any ideas for future meetings, please send them along to the SAC Coordinator.

### **Update from the Overflight Working Group (provided by George Clyde)**

The working group of 10 includes pilots, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, MBNMS Advisory Council members. So far, the group has been working to bring all members up to speed on the overflight zones and implications; members have established a really great relationship. They are in the process now of developing a solicitation for written information from selected invitees specific to geographic areas of interest. They are looking to develop a very informed decision that is collaborative across interests. The group still plans to present recommendations at the November meeting.

### **Updates from the Chair**

John would like to write two letters:

The first to John Armor about the need for funding from ONMS to adequately expand Sanctuary operations. Richard added that the word "expansion" should not be included as it would be counterproductive and less effective. John asked if there are any other comments to be added; John will write a draft and circulate before the next meeting.

John asked Dayna for updates on the state of law enforcement. Dayna Matthews, the West Coast Enforcement Coordinator, let the council know that a new staffing plan was accepted by the Department of Commerce, and in the last month 58 positions have been advertised nation-wide including 8 in California. This includes the launch of a hiring process for enforcement officers, which should begin this fall. Dayna also provided an update on tagging the non-compliant moorings in Tomales Bay.

*John Berge asked for clarification as to whether or not these are derelict vessels. George Clyde added that the work in Tomales Bay is perceived by many boat owners as the provision of a clear route through the State Lands Commission to get a permit and is a positively accepted process, not an enforcement program but more so an upgrade to the permitting program.*

*Dayna concluded by discussing Nicole Capps' visit to Alameda today, at which she met training eleven district boarding officers. He suggests a field trip to the training facility, adding that a classroom may be available for the SAC to conduct a meeting.*

### **Proposed Notice of Intent on USCG Discharge Rule and Public Scoping Announcement (Potential Action Item)**

Document available at: [http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/16\\_05/SAC\\_USCG\\_reso.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/16_05/SAC_USCG_reso.pdf)

Maria asked the council if there are any other issues or areas of which the Sanctuary should take under consideration. Shannon added that the Coast Guard is looking for a permanent solution and would like to pursue a regulatory change as opposed to a permit. A discussion followed as to whether the issue is local or national. Shannon clarified that this is a bigger Coast Guard issue in all USCG and Sanctuary areas. Richard said this issue arose last year during the expansion and proposed the next step be an Environmental Assessment process that takes into consideration a range of options.

*The advisory council discusses Richard's proposed resolution, which included a permit suggestion and does not coincide with Coast Guard's preference for a long-term solution. John mentioned that the Coast Guard is an important partner of the Sanctuary, and that their discharge impact is probably insignificant and is not setting precedent for other organizations, here or at other sites. Jackie asked if Coast Guard had similar operations and duties within the previous boundaries and what the process was in the past. Shannon clarified that prior to the expansion, the Coast Guard followed the discharge regulations, but the newly expanded Sanctuary is too large to continue that. A discussion followed regarding the possibility of a long-term permit and the allowance of active and adaptive management. Kellyx stressed the importance of accommodation the Coast Guard, and how a long-term permit requires a lot of resources. The council discussed how a regulation could address this and if it would change the Sanctuary's management plan.*

*Maria clarified that the next step is an environmental assessment (EA), and the discussion now is what should be included in the EA. The advisory council then edited Richard's statement,*



*changing the language to include regulation and adaptive management. Kellyx summarize that the EA should include and examine these main issues - geospatial analysis that considers biological, cultural and recreational impacts; how to be constructed to allow for adaptive management, MPA, evaluating regulations versus permits, best practices reviewed, and examine the operational needs of the coast guard. A discussion followed as how to restructure the resolution, and what specifics should be included, such as the location of discharge, the amount, the time of discharge, etc. Shannon added that some of those details are difficult to estimate during response incidents.*

**Motion: Richard Charter**

**Second: Jackie Dragon**

**Ayes: 8**

**Nays: 0**

**Abstentions: 0**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Chris Kelley, Executive Director of Greater Farallones Association

If you are not on the Association's mailing list, please let Chris know. If you have any suggestions for others that should be engaged, please let him know.

### **Member Reports**

Farewell to LT Shannon Anthony, who is transferring to Corpus Christi mid-June! Jason Brand will report in mid-June. The USCG hasn't yet named an alternate.

**Bibit Traut, Education (Alternate):** There is a deep coral exhibit at Cal Academy beginning June 10<sup>th</sup>. Also, Elizabeth is happy to help with the "Get Into Your Sanctuary" campaign.

**Kellyx Nelson, San Francisco/San Mateo County Community-at-Large (Primary):** Kellyx gave an update on the San Mateo Resource Conservation District; there is construction at five different sites for fishery restorations, repairing roads and reducing sediment flow into Pescadero Marsh and onto farmlands. The District is also working with staff at MBNMS on the First Flush Water Quality monitoring to consolidate data.

**John Largier, Research (Primary):** John is busy with the ACCESS cruise, Ocean Climate Summit, and the planning of the Beyond the Golden Gate Research Symposium scheduled for December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at the Romberg Tiburon Center. He is currently looking at the ocean conditions and the warm blob in 2014 and 2015 that gave way to El Nino. Very unusual conditions observed, and it is unclear whether or not this is climate change, it is a good peek at what climate change would look like despite the uncertainty. A monitoring system for ocean acidification is under development.

**Dominique Richard, Marin/Sonoma County Community-At-Large (Primary):** In Point Reyes there are two environmental organizations: one is the Executive Committee of West Marin, with its recently promoted director, and the other is the Tomales Bay Watershed Council,

which has shrunken to focus on water quality. Its new president is trying to revive the group and may reach out to the Sanctuary.

**Barbara Emley, Maritime Activities-Commercial (Primary):** Domoic acid devastated the fishing community this year, and fishermen are facing massive mortgages due the lack of income for four months. The leading edge of this industry will be severely affected by climate change. The drought severely affected salmon fishing this year, and contributed to the blob. The market is about a third of the harvest we saw the previous Novembers.

**Bruce Bowser, Conservation (Alternate):** Bruce worked last Saturday at Kent Island Restoration Work Day and it was well attended. The project is enjoying astounding progress. Two Marine Debris surveys this past month at South Beach, included 95% plastics in collected material, as well as a boat that had been there a few months. A second Debris survey at Drakes Beach found 700 pieces of plastic in 150-meter sector. Bruce also helped Rebecca Johnson at Cal Academy lead 200 school kids from Concord on a monitoring trip. It ended up being too large of a group to manage and he will try to work more with the county in the future to make sure larger groups are received in the way they should be so that there is less trampling at the reef. Bruce also gave an update that Bolinas is overrun with parking issues; a local traffic committee will present the issue to the Coastal Commission.

**Jackie Dragon, Conservation (Primary):** There is an increase of entanglements of whales with late fishing season and the high number of whales in the area. There is currently a new bill proposed for better whale protection and gear retrieval. It would allow crab fisherman to receive aid to retrieve lost gear and is supported by commercial fisherman. Jackie asked Maria to hear more about what is happening around the entanglements and the season.

**Christy Walker, San Francisco/San Mateo Community-At-Large (Alternate):** The Palo Alto Museum and Zoo are in the midst of a redesign and plans for a new building; maybe the Sanctuary is interested in signage or involvement.

**George Clyde, Marin/Sonoma County Community-At-Large (Alternate):** A scuba dive organized by Flower Garden Banks' SAC chair is scheduled for September 10-11. Staff and SAC members are welcome to join. September 23rd is the State of the Bay Session of the Tomales Bay Watershed Council.

John mentions assigning out the MBNMS categories previously discussed.

Return to MBNMS:

- 1) Beach Nourishment – Christy Walker
- 2) Donut Hole – Christy Walker
- 3) Climate – Sara Hutto, Bibit Traut
- 4) Marine Debris – Bruce Bowser
- 5) Water Quality – John Largier, Kellyx Nelson
- 6) Wildlife Disturbance – Abby Mohan, Richard Charter
- 7) MPWC – Richard Charter



John will send out an email with these seven topics and some of the events, contact points and content to bring back to the GFNMS council meetings.

Barbara emphasized the importance of picking up lost traps. Maria added that site scan SONAR picked up a lot of crab pots without their float buoy, which proposes the problem of retrieving crab pots since they are harder to find. Barbara countered that these ropes get loaded with barnacles and sink to the bottom. Dana added that it is important to have the biodegradable panel on the crab pots.

**ADJOURN**