



GREATER FARALLONES and CORDELL BANK
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES
JOINT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

(SEPARATE GFNMS-ONLY AFTERNOON MEETING)

Red Barn Classroom, 1 Bear Valley Road
Point Reyes Station, CA 94956
Thursday, August 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.

SAC Members Present: Christy Walker, Dominique Richard, George Clyde, Richard Charter, Jackie Dragon, Bruce Bowser, Francesca Koe, Bibit Traut, Barbara Emley, John Berge, Joshua Russo, Abby Mohan, John Largier, Jaime Jahncke, Caleb Rosen, Oliver York, Cicely Muldoon, Jason Brand

Call to Order/Roll Call/Approve May Meeting Notes

Drake's Estero Film: available at

https://www.nps.gov/pore/learn/management/planning_drakesestero_restoration.htm

Farewell to Caleb Rosen, Youth Primary seat. He is heading off to Carleton College and plans to study biology.

Advisory Council Business

- **Low Overflight Working Group Update/Discussion**

George – any aircraft that flies under 1000 ft. is presumed to have disturbed wildlife in the sanctuary low overflight prohibition zones. These zones are now notated on the aviation charts – see warning on the bottom of the chart.

This is the first time a working group has gotten significant input from pilots and the aviation community. The working group did not have a strict mandate of what to look at so they are looking at the whole process. When putting together the working group, George was hoping for four marine scientists and four members from the pilot community. The group involves 3 pilots, one American Airline pilot, one helicopter charter pilot, and one Coast Guard auxiliary pilot. The group also involves Cal Pilots; whose mission it is to preserve air space & airports for pilots. The group has held five meetings since December 2015 and much of the time was spent addressing pilot concerns on why NOAA is dealing with airspace.

The working group was also trying to get stakeholder input to inform the committee. It was originally discussed to have workshops in the various areas, but instead it was decided to have

written comments by designated parties such as the AOPA, Federal Aviation Administration, Environmental Scientists in Sonoma, pilots from Half Moon Bay, and the Half Moon Bay airport manager. Since then, we have drafted zones and took a vote. During the most recent meeting (meeting five) we made significant strides in recommending zones. We still have to take a look at off-shore areas where overflight protection of wildlife concentrations may be warranted (including drones) as well as how pilot outreach and education can be improved. George asks if the advisory council is okay with adjusting the timeline of the working group to allow for discussion of some of these additional topics.

Francesca – with respect to the overflight zones at Devils Slide (not considering drones) understanding pilots association don't want NOAA involved in the air space – do pilots actually need to do something in that area? It seems like it wouldn't even be an issue.

George explained that the existing zones in GFNMS are a mile and a half wide; in Monterey they are three miles wide. The concern from the pilots is that the further out you are from land – the less safe you are. There can be conditions that require you to be at lower altitude than 1000 ft. (such as weather) so they were asking marine scientists how far one must be from wildlife – which would be a mile from the wildlife colony. There was a virtually anonymous agreement that the working group would recommend 1000 ft. high and wide for this zone and that the number could be a precedent for other zones.

Francesca asked what information determined the mile and a half – George clarified it came from the existing zones. The notations of 1000 ft. minimum elevation warning on the aviation charts are what is important and will be taught in flight school.

John added in regards to adjusting the working group timeline that talking about them seems fine, but the tradeoff is between schedules.

Dayna adds that drones are a national issue and there is currently discussion going on at headquarters – would these working group discussions be informed by national discussion or the discussions will be used to inform the national discussions. George said that Matt Pickett is involved so he may have his ear to the ground on that, but we are not trying to act on a national level.

Richard asks about ultra-lights and wildlife disturbance. George says they are not addressing anything besides motorized aircraft which includes ultra-lights.

Maria highlights that if the working group can finalize zones by February we can get it to MBNMS in time for their management review. We may want to coordinate with them on the drone issue as well so there is consistency. We have to have good education as well. Josh asks if there are any incidents of drones affecting the wildlife. George said yes and has pictures. Josh also asked if there would there be some way to provide exclusion for non-disturbing uses. One of the farmers was mentioning these low fly zones would affect how he surveys his farm. George said that if the Sanctuary does create these low-flight zones, it would go through the full regulatory process so there would be the opportunity for these issues to be brought up, however

it does not make sense to do it yet.

Christy asked if we have any data that shows that 1000 ft. would be sufficient in case there is pushback to try to move existing boundaries? Jaime answers that data from Gerry at Devil's Slide Rock makes a point that flights above 1000 ft. have no disturbance, flights from 500ft-1,000ft have some disturbance, below 500 ft. was a lot of disturbance. Sage added that Gerry has started collecting horizontal data in the last three years.

Maria would like to make a request to the working group to look at 1/2 mile from shore to ensure offshore rocks are included in the zone.

Bruce expressed concerns of how this would be enforced. George answered the person would get a letter and there is a fine that varies from \$100 to several thousands of dollars. Richard Charter asked if all emergency response is exempt and it was clarified that it was. Barbara added that we should make sure that we are not over reaching, as the pilots' responses sounded more like they did not want anyone getting in their face.

- **Subcommittee For Recruitment**
 - There is one application for the Mendocino/Sonoma Community-At-Large seat and a recruitment sub-committee was formed with Francesca Koe and Richard Charter.
- **Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit Update:** In January, John Largier attended the Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit in Annapolis. The summit gave him a sense of common purpose. There was discussion as to why we are important; the Sanctuary has a decentralized structure and how to elevate Sanctuaries from “nice to have” to “got to have”. Also discussed was the importance of local funding and the foundation. There is a new strategic plan being developed and will be out at November meeting. John had an informal conversation with John and Matt from NOAA and it reinforced the importance of writing letters and putting things in front of them.
- **2016 Retreat**

It was noted that the retreat should be a community driven bottom-up process, and we should think about what is important, most of the time we talk about managing the sanctuary, and we could be more creative with what we discuss.

The retreat will be held at Bolinas Lagoon and Audubon Canyon Ranch. A Doodle poll will be sent out to confirm a date in October.

MEMBER REPORTS

Abby: A large amount of whales has brought a lot of attention to the Sanctuary and is getting people engaged and excited.

Francesca: There is currently an effort in the ocean conservation community running parallel – coalition of conversation non-profits advocating for saving seamounts. More information at <http://www.californiaseamounts.org/>.



Jaime: There is currently a National Monument proposal to protect Seamounts. Completed work with two students, one used data collected from ACCESS – measure rockfish in a way that is similar to the product that is produced by National Marine Fisheries Service. We have more miles covered in the ACCESS area and we can put together maps of the rockfish are. We are using GLS tags to see where auklet seabirds go during the winter.

Dominique: State of Tomales Bay Conference will be held on September 23, information available here: <http://www.tomalesbaywatershed.org/state-of-tomales-bay-2016.html>. At the last one Dominique made a presentation about the moorings project, do we want to present again? Will we have a poster yet, does GFNMS want to send a staff member?

Bibit: Highlights LiMPETS – Bibit met with Abby and Monika from GFA to talk about quality assurance. The SAC should think more about citizen science within Sanctuary. Funding is always going to be an issue, what are our priorities for the Sanctuary? Do we want to formalize something about rocky beach or intertidal? Would we want Abby from LiMPETS to come talk at the next meeting?

Cicely: NPS is busy with Drake Bay restoration.

John: Beyond the Golden Gate Research Symposium is happening on December 1, 2016. It is an overview of what people are doing in monitoring and research, if you are interested or know people that are let them know. ACCESS is ongoing, hypoxia; Kate Davis is also working with ACCESS and ocean acidification data. Two big proposals were submitted to the National Science Foundation for Long Term Ecosystem Research- a six-year long project. Also, there is a MPA conference in Chile next year.

Chris: Thanked for sitting in on meeting, it helps to give a greater understanding of the US Fish and Wildlife's role on the advisory council. US Fish and Wildlife has a new director: Paul Souza, who started this week and does a lot of collaboration and large park collaborations. Chris hopes to highlight our relationship with the advisory council.

Christy: A few weeks ago was in Half Moon Bay and saw a few whales right of Surfer's Beach and prompted lots of discussion of whales and the ocean, such as what is an appropriate approach distance. MJ provided some information and will be ready to post the fliers sooner next time.

Josh Russo: Several months ago nominated to CA Fish and Wildlife's recreational abalone advisory committee. Currently in the process of rewriting all the abalone management. Also working with Nature Conservancy and pushing to include citizen science into the new MFMP – pushing to get REEF check included. In June, Josh took editors of several magazines out abalone diving. Last Sunday's Chronicle featured the article, also article from a month ago in Press Democrat.

Caleb: Thank you so much, had a fun time!



Bruce: Kent Island has changed a lot, paid contractors made large headway, and unveiled additional large debris. Kate Bimrose is looking for large funding to remove debris, hopefully working with Army Corps to use a large boat to help retrieve this. Also, it was noted that twice this year people have had to be airlifted off the beach and we have to learn how to work with this especially if we are expecting increased visitation.

Barbara Emley: In regards to the seamounts: Fishery management council has protected all the spots as far as trawling is concerned. The only fishing that takes place is on the surface. The fishing community is going to fight this, unless they want to take fishing out of the discussion. Crab season started April 1, and the boat only was half as productive as normal. The fishing association was down a million dollars from the year before. It might be time, with climate change and demoic acid, that we want to look at a different way to take care of our fishing problems like crop insurance. There was little opportunity for salmon this year as the Klamath River was down for the first time in a long time. However, the salmon caught so far have been beautiful fish.

Oliver: Great day, thanks everyone.

Notes from May meeting: John needs to write letter to Jane Reefer, MBNMS – people connect with different topics and was going to follow up on that.

Bottom of page 12- John would like to only write one letter.

Motion to adjourn: Dominique Richard
Second: Bruce Bowser

Ayes: Verbal yes

PUBLIC COMMENT

2015 GFNMS Emissions Inventory

The presentation from Brian Johnson will be deferred to the November Advisory Council Meeting.

ADJOURN