



GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING  
Wednesday, December 7, 2022  
9:00AM – 3:00PM  
San Francisco Zoo and Online via Google Meet

**MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council for Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS). The council is an advisory body to the sanctuary superintendent. The opinions and findings of this publication do not necessarily reflect the position of GFNMS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

To view slides from any presentation referenced in this document, please email [jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov](mailto:jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov).

**Welcome, Roll Call, Review Agenda**

Chair Abby Mohan welcomed all to the meeting and called roll.

**Sanctuary Advisory Council Business**

The council approved the draft meeting highlights from the August 2022 council meeting. Community-at-Large Marin County member George Clyde put forward a motion to approve the highlights. Education seat Mary Miller seconded.

MOTION: Approve August 2022 meeting highlights

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

A copy of the meeting highlights is available upon request to [jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov](mailto:jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov), and it will be posted online at [https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac\\_meetings.html](https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac_meetings.html).

The council then reviewed and discussed the 2023 GFNMS Advisory Council Work Plan. Council Coordinator Jordan Gorostiza reiterated that all council meetings in 2023 would be held jointly with the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) Advisory Council given significant overlap in topical areas as the two sanctuaries head into management plan review.

Education alternate Mary Miller asked about how annual council topics/priorities are set. Maria informed Mary that council members help to inform annual council priority topics by proposing topics or issues to the council executive committee (council chair, vice chair, and secretary).

Conservation member Francesca Koe requested that there be a post-annual retreat webinar briefing for those council members who cannot be present at the retreat. Chair Abby Mohan agreed with this idea and suggested that ten minutes be allocated on the July agenda to allow members who cannot attend an opportunity to bring forward topics of interest.

National Park Service member Craig Kenkel motioned to approve the work plan which was seconded by George Clyde.

MOTION: Approve 2023 GFNMS Advisory Council Work Plan

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Jordan provided a reminder to the council that officer nominations would be taking place at the next meeting in February 2023.

Superintendent Maria Brown recognized departing council members John Berge (Maritime Commercial Activities) and Barbara Emley (Commercial Fishing) and thanked them for their invaluable service to the sanctuary as council members.

Community-at-Large Mendocino/Sonoma member Cea Higgins also informed the council that she would need to resign from her seat due to inability to make any of the scheduled 2023 meeting dates. She would vacate the seat once final recommendations from the Vessel Incidents Subcommittee were brought forth for the full council's consideration. Maria and council members commended Cea for all of her hard work and dedication as a member of the council.

**GFNMS and CBNMS Superintendent's Report**

Maria Brown, Superintendent of GFNMS and CBNMS, provided updates on GFNMS and CBNMS Operations, Research, Education/Outreach, and Resource Protection program activities since the last council meeting in August.

Highlights included 1) the onboarding of a new Research Operations Specialist, Monisha Sugla, 2) completion of the 2022 Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies season, 3) updates on the GFNMS and CBNMS Condition Reports, 4) recent dives by the Bay Area Underwater Explorers on Cordell Bank, 5) Science staff are preparing to return to Southeast Farallon Island to conduct rocky intertidal monitoring, 6) the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) West Coast Regional Office submitted comments on the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Port Access Route Study, and 7) the 2021 Ocean Climate Indicators Report was published.

Regarding the council's support letter for the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Restoration Blueprint, which was approved by the council at their August 2022 meeting, Maria informed the council that she had submitted the letter on their behalf.

Maria also informed the council that she is requesting that council members attend at least two public meetings in person and that the non-public annual planning retreat occur in person moving forward. She also requested that council members RSVP to meetings at least one week prior to each meeting.

**Sanctuary Enforcement and Response Update**

Karen Reyna, GFNMS/CBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator, informed the council that there was only one vessel incident within the sanctuary since their last meeting in August. It was a recreational sailing vessel that lost both of its masts. The U.S. Coast Guard was notified, and the vessel was able to make it to port. Unfortunately, both masts were lost within the sanctuary.

## **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent's Report**

Lisa Wooninck, Superintendent of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), provided a brief report on recent and upcoming events at the sanctuary. Highlights included an update on how the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network is addressing MBNMS research needs, announcement of a new MPA-focused trifold brochure (which would be shared with GFNMS council members), California Coastal Commission approval of the California American Water (Cal Am) desalination project in Marina, NOAA consideration of adding eFoils under the MBNMS regulatory definition of Motorized Personal Watercrafts, and a vessel incident regarding a grounded 30 foot sailboat at Cowell's Beach.

## **Public Comment**

Michael Agis, Morro Bay: "Council Members! My wife and I recently moved to Morro Bay from Marin. I miss the Farallon Islands! Please advise on upcoming conservation efforts where I can support on-site. Or remotely (i.e., research, data analysis, etc.). My background is technology, data & analytics, as well as conservation efforts in Sacramento supporting the California Ocean Protection Council (in the Capitol, volunteer capacity). Looking forward to the meeting."

Mary Jane Schramm, Marin Audubon Society: "I'm Mary Jane Schramm, formerly with Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, but today speaking for the Marin Audubon Society on the US Fish & Wildlife Service Farallon Islands Mouse Eradication Plan. It will restore Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge biodiversity, and benefit the marine sanctuary as well. Last February I gave you an update; today I'll address the urgency of the issue, and why contraception cannot achieve mouse eradication. You may recall, this science-based plan using rodenticide to remove invasive mice has already received the California Coastal Commission's Conditional Determination of Consistency with the Coastal Act. Additional safeguards to ensure its safety and other details are now being finalized. The scientific community supports this as the only proven successful method. Its side-impacts, if any, can be minimized but its benefits will be great. The presence of 50,000 house mice is causing direct and indirect damage to several Farallon species, including endangered Ashy Storm-Petrels. The abundant mice cause Burrowing Owls to stay on the islands year-round, and prey on Storm-Petrels and other native species. A recent study shows that Ashy Storm Petrels declined an alarming 32% between 2007 and 2019. Owl predation and other mouse impacts must not continue at their present rate!

As this Point Blue Conservation slide shows, the mice do eat seabirds - the light blue wedge denotes seabirds in their diet. They also eat native vegetation the birds need for their nests, plus rare salamanders, crickets, and other species. Now, Farallon mice actively killing seabirds isn't photo-documented - perhaps the tooth-marked bones and eggs have been scavenged. But there is photo evidence of mice preying on seabird chicks in the Channel Islands. And, it's happening right now on Midway Atoll in the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. We can't let it happen here.

About mouse contraception: The drug developer admits it won't achieve 100% eradication. Repeat dosing is required, like the human "Pill." Spotty replenishment on steep terrain will lead to uneven dosing, and ensure some fertile mice remain to breed.

And no approved drug is yet available — whereas hundreds of successful island eradications using professionally applied rodenticide have been accomplished with minimal by-kill.

Further, contraception poses a new, permanent problem: After initial aerial drop, follow-up bait station drug replenishment must continue year-round and indefinitely, creating chronic wildlife disturbances, especially during seabird, seal and sea lion breeding seasons.

Ultimately, it will fail the 100% eradication test, and the disruptions will destroy the very “refuge” nature of the islands. Marin Audubon Society supports the Fish & Wildlife Service solution to restoring balance and resilience to the Farallones ecosystem. For more information, see [restorethefarallones.org](http://restorethefarallones.org). Thank you, and have a great holiday season!”

**Information item: Vessel Incidents Subcommittee Update**

Cea Higgins, Vessel Incidents Subcommittee Chair, let the council know that the subcommittee would be meeting in January 2023 to discuss and finalize non-regulatory recommendations for the full council’s consideration. These recommendations will be brought to the council at their next meeting on February 24, 2023.

**Information item: Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 2022-2027 Strategic Plan**

Anne-Marie Runfola, Senior Advisor for ONMS, provided an overview of the recently released ONMS 2022-2027 Strategic Plan. Anne-Marie highlighted areas of change in the new plan from older strategic plans. She emphasized increased attention towards Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work, both internally at ONMS and within our partnerships with sanctuary communities.

Chair Abby Mohan asked Anne-Marie if this plan details a path towards hiring more full-time federal staff. Anne-Marie stated that the new infrastructure goal includes staffing and that leadership would be looking into how to strategically meet the needs of the system, including utilizing partnerships.

Mary Miller inquired about system efforts to increase collaboration with other agencies on topics such as offshore wind development. Abby appreciated this question and expressed a desire for these types of issues to be examined at a national level with information being shared from ONMS on these topics versus each advisory council having to stand up their own working groups, for example.

Abby inquired if there was any structure in place to allow for regional working groups to leverage staff capacity at sites. Superintendent Brown informed Abby that there was not currently such a structure.

**Discussion item: Proposed Draft GFNMS/CBNMS Goals**

Maria Brown, Superintendent of GFNMS and CBNMS, led a discussion on proposed goals for GFNMS and CBNMS for the upcoming management plan. Maria reminded the councils that there would be one management plan for both sites, and these goals would be for both GFNMS and CBNMS. The CBNMS Advisory Council discussed and made suggestions to these goals at their meeting in November 2022.

The council discussed and suggested edits to the goals.

**Information item: Benthic Habitat Planning**

Karen Reyna, GFNMS/CBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator, provided an overview of the *Draft Restoration Plan and NEPA Evaluation for the YFD-70 Dry Dock* for the Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries.

Karen informed the council that the plan could be accessed at both [farallones.noaa.gov](http://farallones.noaa.gov) and [montereybay.noaa.gov](http://montereybay.noaa.gov), and that public comment would be accepted until January 5, 2023.

**Member and Alternate Reports**

See Appendix II for member and alternate reports.

*Meeting highlights prepared by Jordan Gorostiza, Advisory Council Coordinator.*

**Appendix 1. Attendance for the December 2022 GFNMS Advisory Council Meeting**

| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Seat</b>  | <b>Attendance</b> |
|---------------|--|-------------------|
| Barbara Emley | Commercial Fishing (Member)                            | Y                 |
| Sarah Bates   | Commercial Fishing (Alternate)                         | N                 |
| George Clyde  | Community-at-Large Marin (Member)                      | Y                 |
| Richard James | Community-at-Large Marin (Alternate)                   | Y                 |
| Cea Higgins   | Community-at-Large Mendocino-Sonoma (Member)           | Y                 |
| Vacant        | Community-at-Large Mendocino-Sonoma (Alternate)        | --                |
| Vacant        | Community-at-Large San Francisco-San Mateo (Member)    | --                |
| Vacant        | Community-at-Large San Francisco-San Mateo (Alternate) | --                |
| Francesca Koe | Conservation (Member)                                  | Y                 |
| Kathi George  | Conservation (Member)                                  | Y                 |

|               |  |    |
|---------------|--|----|
| Richard Ogg   | Conservation (Alternate)                     | Y  |
| Vacant        | Conservation (Alternate)                     | -- |
| Bibit Traut   | Education (Member)                           | N  |
| Mary Miller   | Education (Alternate)                        | Y  |
| John Berge    | Maritime Commercial Activities (Member)      | N  |
| Julian Rose   | Maritime Commercial Activities (Alternate)   | Y  |
| Abby Mohan    | Maritime Recreational Activities (Member)    | Y  |
| Vacant        | Maritime Recreational Activities (Alternate) | -- |
| Jaime Jahncke | Research (Member)                            | Y  |
| Ellen Hines   | Research (Alternate)                         | Y  |
| Vacant        | Youth (Member)                               | -- |
| Vacant        | Youth (Alternate)                            | -- |

|                  |  |    |
|------------------|--|----|
| Jenn Eckerle     | California Department of Natural Resources (Member)    | N  |
| Michael Esgro    | California Department of Natural Resources (Alternate) | N  |
| Craig Kenkel     | National Park Service (Member)                         | Y  |
| Ben Becker       | National Park Service (Alternate)                      | N  |
| LT Lelea Lingo   | U.S. Coast Guard (Member)                              | N  |
| LTJG Andrew Kang | U.S. Coast Guard (Alternate)                           | N  |
| Matthew Brown    | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Member)                | Y  |
| Gerry McChesney  | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alternate)             | Y  |
| Jennifer Boyce   | National Marine Fisheries Service (Member)             | Y  |
| Vacant           | National Marine Fisheries Service (Alternate)          | -- |
| Chris Mobley     | Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Member)     | N  |
| Mike Murray      | Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Alternate)  | N  |
| Lisa Wooninck    | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Member)        | Y  |



|   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| Dawn Hayes  | Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary<br>(Alternate) | N |
| <p><b>Sanctuary staff present:</b> Maria Brown; Jordan Gorostiza (Affiliate); Tishma Patel (Affiliate); Justin Holl; Karen Reyna; Jenny Stock; Jan Roletto; Lilli Ferguson; Brian Johnson; Rietta Hohman (Affiliate); Dani Lipski; Sage Tezak (Affiliate); Sara Hutto (Affiliate)</p> |   |   |
| <p><b>Others present:</b> Ericka Hailstocke-Johnson; Kynan Barrios; Michael Agis; Summer Traylor; Paul Forward; Mary Jane Schramm; Haven Parker; Anne-Marie Runfola; Gwendolyn McCarthy; Jessi Doerpinghaus; Brett Wiedoff; Lynn Massey</p>   |   |   |