



## **GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY (GFNMS) ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**

General's Residence  
Upper Fort Mason  
San Francisco, CA 94123  
9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Wednesday May 22, 2013

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

### **CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, REVIEW AGENDA**

#### ***Copies to:***

Bill Douros ONMS West Coast Regional Office

Dominique Richard called the meeting to order at: 9:24 AM

#### **Review Agenda**

Agenda approved at: 9:27 AM

#### **Superintendent's Report:**

##### **Permits:**

The Sanctuary issued a research permit April 1<sup>st</sup> to John Takekawa from USGS for installing stainless steel rods and PVC piping in Bolinas Lagoon to collect sediment cores as part of a project for gathering data on sedimentation rates, hydrology, tidal range, and vegetation. Data will be used to develop models for assessing the vulnerability of nearshore habitats and wildlife to future climate change. Two permits are currently under review; 1) A permit to James Moskito of Great White Adventures for the attracting of white sharks for education purposes as part of public ecotourism charters, and; 2) A permit to Christopher Meyer from the Smithsonian Institute and Rebecca Johnson from the Academy of Science for documenting species found within a cubic-foot area of the intertidal community at Pillar Point. The goal of the project would be to capture representative specimens for photographic portraits and DNA barcoding for overall diversity.

##### **Budget:**

We have a preliminary budget, which is a 12% cut from last year. Federal staff will be furloughed for 5 days, and we will have cuts to programs within GFNMS. We will be working closely with FMSA to make sure there is as little disruption to staffing.

##### **Awards:**

Bruce Bowser is GFNMS volunteer of the year and nominated for the NMSF volunteer of the year!



Additionally, Brian Johnson received the DOC Energy and Environmental Stewardship award for his work on rehabilitating the historical content of our facilities while incorporating green measures. Jan Roletto also received the NOAA bronze medal for her work on natural resource damage assessment for the *Cosco Busan* oil spill.

Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan:

On April 26, 2013 State Lands Commission approved the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan and the "Initial Study", which is the State's version of an Environmental Assessment through California Environmental Quality Act. The initial study has been forwarded to NOAA headquarters for approval, which should be completed this summer. George Clyde and Dominique Richard were instrumental in the process and should be recognized for their efforts on the working group and outreach to local communities.

Kent Island Restoration:

A second restoration project in Bolinas has started! The project will remove invasive plant species from Kent Island using sea water to inundate ice plant and hand removal by volunteers to clear away other nonnative plants. Plant removal will help restore Kent Island back to a naturally moving flood shoal island by releasing sediment capture on the island and improve hydrological function within the lagoon.

Seabird Protection Network:

Since November 2012, staff has worked in collaboration with the U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Aviation, Coast Guard District 11 North Region. The Auxiliary provides critical support to the Seabird Protection Network and GFNMS. The USCG Auxiliary has been instrumental in providing area familiarization of the Northern Expansion Area to GFNMS staff. Staff has participated in four USCG Auxiliary aerial surveys (Jan. 15, Feb. 6, Apr. 11, May 8) of the near-shore sanctuary waters, from the Golden Gate Bridge, north to Fish Rocks, just south of Pt. Arena, and south to Año Nuevo Island. The USCG Auxiliary pilots often patrol sanctuary waters, and help protect the sanctuary by providing reports about activities occurring in the near-shore waters of the sanctuary. A Patrol Guide has been developed to provide details (coordinates, photographs) on targets of interest throughout the sanctuary.

Vessel Groundings:

On March 13<sup>th</sup> a 50 ft. recreational sailing vessel "Serenade" was grounded on Francis State Beach in the City of Half Moon Bay, within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The responsible party was uninsured and unable to retrieve the vessel, which began breaking up within 24 hours of grounding. The beach is an active nesting area for snowy plovers which were observed on-site during the time of the incident. GFNMS worked with Sanctuary headquarters and the NOAA contracts office to expedite the salvage of the vessel, which was removed and disposed of by Parker Diving Services. Additionally, GFNMS coordinated with State Parks to conduct beach clean-up activities of smaller debris.

On May 4<sup>th</sup> a 15-foot recreational boat began to take on water somewhere between Fitzgerald Marine Reserve and Ross's Beach in Half Moon Bay. The Coastside Fire Department rescued the boat operator and brought him to shore and recovered a single gas can from on-board. The USCG did not respond to this incident and the Sanctuary was not notified until several days later. We haven't been able to confirm the location of the boat but presume that it has sunk.



### Essential Fish Habitat:

The Sanctuary is still engaging in the Pacific Fishery Management Council's process to review groundfish Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) designations. The National Marine Fisheries Service released a synthesis report of the data gathered over the past few years during the first phase of the review process, and just recently provided the visual data in the report for viewing and download into GIS systems. Information from our cruise in October was included in this report. On May 1<sup>st</sup>, the Council released a request for proposals to change EFH designations. Over the past few weeks, GFNMS has met with key individuals from the fishing community and other interested stakeholders to review the data from the report and discuss possible new EFH designations. Meetings have been held in San Francisco, Monterey and Ft. Bragg and are planned for Santa Cruz, Half Moon Bay, and Bolinas or Bodega Bay.

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

Michael Carver provided the Cordell Bank report in place of Dan Howard

Link to Cordell Bank Superintendents report can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/CBNMS\\_USCG\\_GFNMS%20SAC%20update.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/CBNMS_USCG_GFNMS%20SAC%20update.pdf)

### **Coast Guard Update**

Lt Cody Dunagan is replacing Lt Bradley Soule as the new primary USCG seat.

The Coast Guard presentation update can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/CBNMS\\_USCG\\_GFNMS%20SAC%20update.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/CBNMS_USCG_GFNMS%20SAC%20update.pdf)

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

*Paul Michel:* Next week, I'll be back in San Francisco for the Alliance for Community conference, the annual national conference for local media channels. As a title sponsor for the event, it will be our platform for promoting the Your Sanctuary TV program. Look for the Your Sanctuary TV channel on YouTube. It's been shown in 150 countries with 90,000 views and we are extremely pleased about that progress so far.

The Exploration Center in Santa Cruz is free and open Wednesday-Sunday. We have had 60,000 visitors so far in less than a year. The Coastal Discovery Center in San Simeon will be having their annual Coastal Fair on July 20, with about 500-600 people expected to attend.

The resource protection teams have been busy on Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESA) work and working with interactive layered GIS maps. The research team is gearing up for deep water cruises including a big exploration to Sur Ridge in 2014, and we hope to get



KQED to film it. The resource team is also involved with EFH, and they are identifying opportunities to protect areas and opportunities to open access for fishing communities. The sanctuary is also embroiled in the projects and politics of desalination in the Monterey peninsula. Finally, Sanctuary Classic is a program wide initiative that MBNMS holds with the sportfishing community to promote recreational fishing in the sanctuaries. It's a summer long photo fishing contest that was hosted by Florida Keys NMS last year, and we are hosting this year. I invite you and friends and family to participate, it starts June 8 and runs throughout the summer.

**BREAK:**

**GF Advisory Council Business**

Dominique Richard and Bob Breen requested changes to their member reports. Kate noted changes.

**Motion to approve the updated January 2013 Meeting Notes**

Motion: Kellyx Nelson

Second: Bob Wilson

Vote: Motion Passed

The updated and finalized notes can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_01/Jan%202013%20SAC%20Notes\\_Final.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_01/Jan%202013%20SAC%20Notes_Final.pdf)

*Education Seat Recruitment (Sub-committee action item)*

We have an open education alternate seat available. On or before August 15<sup>th</sup> all sanctuary advisory councils will hold their first quarterly system wide recruitment for advisory council open positions. Applications for these positions will be September 30<sup>th</sup>. Per our charter a sub-committee should be formed to facilitate the superintendent with applicant review and selection.

Volunteers to form the sub-committee include Bob Breen, Cicely Muldoon, Bruce Bowser, and Kellyx Nelson. Sub-committee members will be notified of next steps in the coming weeks.

*Review Contact Information*

Advisory council members reviewed and updated their contact information for GFNMS records. Contact information is for internal use only and will not be posted on the GFNMS website.

*SAC Summit*

*A summary of the SAC Summit follow up call in March can be found at:*

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/Dom\\_SAC\\_summit.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/Dom_SAC_summit.pdf)

The SAC Summit is a follow up from the chairs meeting in December in Santa Cruz that focused on the Campaign of Engagement with the travel and tourism industry. The voices of the SAC leave a big impression in Washington DC and Dan Basta emphasizes the idea of a “sense of place” for sanctuaries to be remembered by name with special connection like national parks.

Dominique concludes that we don't need to attract tourists to San Francisco, but capture the tourists that are here and direct them to the sanctuary. Maybe the process should be more organic than a marketing or PR campaign so that these people then become advocates promoting something they understand and support. New communities and small businesses that we are not familiar with, or never thought of communicating with, is another point for outreach. We know that GFNMS is involved with America's Cup and the SF Ocean Film Festival, but there are other audiences we need to engage with. Being in West Marin, Dominique was interested in connecting with the Chamber of Commerce, and maybe designing products and reaching out to people traveling in San Francisco. The focus of this should focus on a broader message to bring people in and let them see for themselves how important the place is.

Dominique will be giving another report to the group in July, and suggests scaling the question to the SAC. Suggestions were to create a seat for Tourism, a theme for a SAC retreat or an informational presentation.

#### *Discussion*

*Richard Charter:* In response to the document, I say go to the tourism industry. We should find out where their conferences and retreats are and go to them. We should also invite tourism professionals to present at a SAC meeting. I'm not sure a seat on our SAC is the best route but we should evaluate that option. Years ago we worked with lodging companies to create a tent card to put in hotels about marine sanctuaries so maybe this is something we should revisit.

*Dominique:* There could be great opportunity with the proposed expansion process, to reach out to the tourism communities (diving and commercial fishing) up there. I don't personally advocate another seat.

*Paul Michel:* It's important to understand the context of the campaign is to enhance protection of existing sites, add new sites, and expand the resources of existing sites. I want to reiterate what Richard said about going to them, join visitor bureaus, joining chambers of commerce. We did, and as a result of that we are part of the conversation of branding in the MBNMS region.

*Anne Morkill:* The SF Bay Joint Venture targets the wine industry, making postcards about parks and natural areas surrounding the wine country. Maybe there is a way to tweak this to promote the sanctuary in areas as well. Also I think having a tourism professional present to us about opportunities with the tourism industry could be great.

*Bruce Bowser:* My wife and I own a store in Point Reyes and we are members of the West Marin Chamber of Commerce. I am happy to give a presentation to them about the Sanctuary.

*Maria:* Our action moving forward is to have a tourism professional present at an upcoming SAC meeting about opportunities for engaging with their industry.

*Taylor:* Sarah Qadri, a new FMSA employee, could have some contacts with the tourism industry that may be a good fit to present at one of our future meetings.

### *WCR Quarterly Report*

The WCR 1<sup>st</sup> quarter report can be found at:

[http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pdfs/wcr\\_q1\\_2013.pdf](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/pdfs/wcr_q1_2013.pdf)

### **Proposed Invasive Species Rule (Possible Council Action)**

Presentation about the history and current proposed Introduced Species ruling can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/Introduced%20Species%20for%20SAC.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/Introduced%20Species%20for%20SAC.pdf)

A draft resolution, similar to MBNMS resolution in support of the new proposed ruling, was drafted by Richard Charter and Bob Wilson and read aloud to the council members. Minor changes were made to wording and the resolution was put to a vote.

*Motion to adopt resolution in favor of the new proposed ruling:* Richard Charter

*Second:* Jaime Jahncke

*Favor:* 12

*Abstained:* None

### **Co-occurrence of Large Whales and Fixed Gear Fisheries**

Because maps in the presentation are not finalized for public use the presentation will not be posted. In conjunction with the presentation a National Marine Fisheries Service fixed gear guide can be found at: [http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/psd/fixed\\_gear.htm](http://swr.nmfs.noaa.gov/psd/fixed_gear.htm) and a NOAA Fisheries whale entanglement fact sheet can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/whale\\_entanglement\\_fact\\_sheet.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/whale_entanglement_fact_sheet.pdf)

### Discussion

*Maria:* I've noticed an interest from NOAA and other researchers to put buoys out; is this gear impacting marine life/entanglement debris?

*Lauren Saez:* Yes, potentially. Anything in the water column creates the opportunity for entanglement. Determining if gear is fixed or discarded by fishermen is the million-dollar question; answering it requires inquiry to fisheries to determine the gear's origins. It is difficult to determine the origins as whales are transient and can travel a long way with entangled gear.

*Barbara Emley:* Landing tickets do not tell you very much about where the fishery was taking place. Sometimes the fishery number area is not noted by fisheries so may not be an accurate means of recording data. There are trap limits coming into place this coming crab season, so you should see a big difference in entanglement tracing.

*Michael Carver:* What is the status of recovery/management plans for those more at-risk species for entanglement?

*Lauren:* The “take” we are seeing is not to the level of bringing on management yet. We are working with Oregon and Washington and looking into proactive ways to prevent entanglement by directly working with some fisheries, but we are not ready for management strategies yet. Gear removal is a potential solution.

*Maria:* The slides show that the whales get entangled in dungeness crab gear from October-December, which is when the fishery isn't active.

*Lauren:* Yes, those entanglements occur at the tail end of the quarter. I've tried to correspond the whale data with fishery seasons. My models break the year down differently, so that is why there is some confusion in determining overlap with fishery seasons. The consensus is that entanglements occur with active gear, meaning gear that is not being attended to but recently set and actively catching.

*Richard Charter:* In the next 20 years we will be entertaining proposals for hydrokinetic energy and I'm wondering if there is a take-home message from this data. This seems like a cautionary message for the gear needed for that construction. Is there a way to discourage the whales from interacting in these areas with lots of gear?

*Lauren:* Yes, it should be included. East coast research can hopefully be applied during these times so we don't start from square one.

*Jaime:* Do pingers work or not?

*Lauren:* They have shown to discourage activity with sea lions and some species, but not all. Sperm whales are actually attracted to such noises and to fishing nets as they feed on the catch in the gill nets.

*Paul Michel:* We did a lost-gear project in Monterey to remove gear there; what we saw was just miles of mono-filament line out there. Are whales getting tangled in mono-filament line?

*Lauren:* Mono-filament is more of a problem with pinnipeds than whales.

### **Member Reports**

*Kellyx Nelson:* On June 8th we'll have our final meeting releasing the results from the Pillar Point Harbor Study. We have a number of projects addressing water quality in Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, working with upland land owners on management practices to reduce pollution entering the marine reserve as well as equestrian operations, manure management, and people with gardens on sustainable landscaping. We also have salmon recovery projects, working with San Mateo County Parks that include dam removal and stream crossing and another project involving changes to water storage at San Mateo campgrounds to get water into the creek during

low flow seasons. We are also wrapping up 10 weeks of smoltz population studies in Pescadero to determine salmonid population in that creek and any capacity for restoration there. We've seen mostly steelhead salmon and lampreys. After a robust process we selected a consulting team to look at flooding and restoring fish passage into watersheds.

*Mick:* I can say that at this point GFNMS looks really good with lots of whales, krill, birds feeding, and lots of salmon. Over the last few years the fish were in other locations, but here they've been thicker and better than I've seen in the last 10 years.

*George Clyde:* I am a Cordell Bank SAC member and have been going to meetings for years, but when I missed the April meeting, they elected me Chair.

*Tim Duff:* The Devils Slide tunnel opened March 26 and a ribbon-cutting event was held the day prior with presentations by Congressperson Jackie Speier, State Senator Leland Yee, Assemblyman Jerry Hill, and a crowd of several hundred to celebrate the day. Over 50 years in the making, the twin bore tunnel was ultimately determined to be the best alternative to the original Caltrans plan to construct a six lane inland freeway bypass through state park land that would have required massive cuts and fill over Montara Mountain. For the next 6-12 months that old segment of Highway 1 will be part of the California Coastal trail with 10-12 interpretive panels posted along that trail, hopefully to include information about the sanctuary in at least one of those panels. For more go to <http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2013/03/25/devils-slide-tunnels-set-to-open/>. Monterey County issued a permit for removal of the San Clemente Dam. Finally I had a conversation with the San Mateo County Sheriff's office regarding the volunteer training program for PWC life rescue and the report backs says there has been no interest in volunteers from the coast to join that training.

*Bob Wilson:* We've seen an unusual mortality event with CA sea lions this year that will affect the southern California ecosystems. Over 1000 pups stranded that overloaded southern rehab centers causing large numbers to be sent to The Marine Mammal Center. Many have been rehabilitated and released up at Point Reyes. It appears that last fall, the warming ocean conditions required females to forage further, resulting in underweight body mass and underweight pups getting abandoned too soon. There seem to be El Nino-like conditions in a non-El Nino year. Also, the whale ship-strikes group is presenting at the American Cetacean Society May 28th at 7pm.

*Dominique Richard:* A conference in Berkeley brought people out to Point Reyes to educate the community about upwelling and I was able to talk to everyone about the sanctuary. I also spoke with a group from Dominican university to discuss seabirds and interactions with scientists. I tabled at an event with Dominican university on Earth Day to promote GFNMS and CBNMS.

*Richard Charter:* The proposed northern boundary expansion is on track in DC. In addition to all of the support, the Mendocino county board of supervisors wants to expand even further north to the Humboldt line because of concern about the oil interests off of Pt. Arena. There is a proposed seismic survey in the Mid-Atlantic outer continental shelf for oil and gas, and there is concern among state governors/senators regarding that. This has also been a bad period for

abalone divers with fatalities involving heart attacks and the abalone diving community needs to take preventative actions.

*Barbara Emley:* On a personal note, I will be retiring from fishing but I am working for the SF Community Fishing Association and I notice that most of the salmon are being delivered into our harbor. So far it's been an ok year and the prices are high, with most salmon going to restaurants.

*Bob Breen:* The San Mateo County MPA Implementation Collaborative has met three times and established two working groups; 1) To establish two interpretive kiosks at Pillar Point Harbor. The kiosks will explain MPA boundaries and rules; and, 2) an MPA educational protocols group to establish guidelines for a consistent message within San Mateo MPA's. Work products produced so far are include:

A. The San Mateo MPA Implementation Collaborative, "Tidepool Education Umbrella Guidelines." These are guidelines for visitor and group viewing in the San Mateo MPA intertidal and were developed with the view of mitigating impact as much as possible while still ensuring access and ongoing education. The guidelines include: no collecting shells rocks or marine life, no feeding intertidal animals, no picking things up or turning over rocks, observation in place only, step gently taking care not to walk through the tidepools, and no placing animals into containers.

B. A summary of scientific, educational and resource protection resources available at San Mateo MPA's. The MPA Implementation Collaborative is a pilot stakeholder program established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife that advises the department on local MPA management.

*Anne Morkill:* This is looking to be one of the earliest seabird breeding seasons on record. Early breeding is an indication of abundant prey, and is usually associated with high breeding success. Common Murres had the earliest egg date on record, and Cassin's Auklets are experiencing one of their earliest average egg lay dates ever. Brandt's Cormorant breeding also is a bit early, hopefully a good sign for recovery of a population associated with a population crash and very low breeding success for the last 5 years (2008-2012).

PRBO and USFWS will be conducting two aerial photographic surveys of the Farallon Northern Fur Seal colony this summer (late July to mid-August), funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. Fur seals were historically abundant on the islands but extirpated by seal hunters in early 19th century. They recolonized the islands in 1996 and their population is growing.

USFWS Refuge Law Enforcement and PRBO are interested in working with GFNMS and USCG to get a better handle on bright lights coming from boats anchored off the island. We've had some recent incidences when the lights appeared to affect nocturnal bird activity and PRBO's ability to study nocturnal birds (e.g., storm-petrels) at night for long-term monitoring. Can we put out a notice to mariners or announcements on Channel 16? Any thoughts from the Sanctuary Advisory Council are welcome.



We are beginning to look more closely at private boat use of the two mooring buoys, which are owned and maintained jointly by the USFWS and GFNMS. The buoys are primarily to support USFWS/PRBO and Sanctuary activities, but we allow private boats to use them for safety purposes when not conflicting with our use. However, we occasionally get quite large vessels (>60 ft) tying up to them, which may compromise buoy anchor integrity. In these cases we ask these operators not to use the mooring buoy, but we do not always get voluntary compliance which is causing us to reexamine use by any private boats. Consequently, we are beginning to collect data on private boat use of the mooring buoys to get a handle on frequency of use and who's using them. Any thoughts from the Sanctuary Advisory Council are welcome.

For our Murre Project, like the Farallones, this is looking like an early and good year at our monitored seabird colonies at Pt. Reyes, Devil's Slide, and Castle-Hurricane (Big Sur). Numbers of Common Murres on Devil's Slide Rock appear quite a bit higher than last year. We worked to restore this colony using decoys to attract birds back to the colony, funded with oil spill Natural Resources Damage Assessment and Restoration funds beginning in 1996.

USFWS coordinated with GFNMS staff (Sage Tezak and Mai Maihegan) during the Pacific Coast Dream Machines event April 27-28 at Half Moon Bay Airport in our effort to reduce aircraft disturbance to seabirds at Devil's Slide Rock, which has been a problem at this event in the past. We monitored bird and aircraft activity while GFNMS staff conducted outreach to the pilots at the event. Fog on April 27 prevented low overflights at Devil's Slide. On April 28, fog cleared in the afternoon, but most planes were high enough or far enough offshore. We think this was largely due to pilot outreach efforts at the event, so seems like it was a success. Thank you to GFNMS staff!

Gerry McChesney is working on a report for the California Marine Life Protected Areas' baseline monitoring that will provide updated breeding population estimates of seabirds in the region. Data will be available to Sanctuary for use in the GFNMS Expansion EIS.

We are looking for an August date for the release and public comment of the DEIS for eradication of the invasive House Mouse on the Farallones and wonder if the SAC would like to have a presentation about the findings from that at a future meeting.

*Bruce Bowser:* Last week I was at Duxbury Reef and was shocked to see between 200-250 people out on the reef. My concern is the trampling of the reef, so I will be speaking with Marin County Parks to have a better hold of signing people in and out of the parking lot because the reef cannot handle that amount of traffic. Things are going really nicely on Kent Island and I think we will see some major results.

*Jaime Jahncke:* The seabird season has started early for Cassin's Auklets, with 70% occupancy in the nest boxes as of early April. The first murre egg, the earliest ever, was observed on March 12<sup>th</sup>. There has also been a large amount of Tufted Puffin activity this early in the year. We are expecting our first Common Murre chicks this week. Cassin's auklets chicks recently banded. Brandt's cormorant numbers have been high, however, we have documented a number of individuals kicking eggs out of the nest.

Science section of website updated to 2012. Tentative dates for 2013 cruises have been set for May 25-30 (OR June 22-27), July 24-29 and September 24-29. Kaitlin Jensen, Nancy Foster Fellow, SFSU, Advisor Ellen Hines, worked with Stellwagon Bank NMS staff to learn methodologies around AIS data. Compared 2011 results to 2009 data, and have already seen some interesting things including an increase in the distance traveled by cargo ships in the western shipping lanes for 2011. In 2009, there were about 12,000 nautical miles traveled by cargo ships in the western shipping lanes - whereas 2011 shows over 30,000 nautical miles traveled in these lanes. Along with this, I also noticed a big drop in the number of vessels in the south inbound traffic lane - it decreased from 472 vessels in 2009 to just 280 in 2011. The proportion of these vessels that were cargo ships decreased by 30%. **Is it safe to assume that the 2008 Fuel Rule is responsible for these changes?**

Whale Aware was developed as a way of gathering near “real time” data on where the whales are congregating so marine management agencies can alert ship operators and help prevent collisions with endangered whales in the San Francisco and Channel Islands regions. The Whale Aware aims to increase ocean awareness by 1) promoting opportunities to engage in whale watching activities in central and southern California, 2) educating ‘nature enthusiasts’ about oceans and whales with compelling and interesting information, 3) increasing awareness about existing threats to large whales and actions we can take to help, and 4) giving opportunities to help reduce whale strikes along the west coast of the United States by participating in our program. Whale Aware was formed by PRBO Conservation Science, Conserve.IO (EarthNC), Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries. The Spotter app is the main tool for data collection and is currently being tested on the Farallon Islands and will be tested on the ACCESS cruise next week.

Shortly before the last GFNMS SAC meeting, the ocean climate change indicators were finalized and are being used to develop an Indicators Monitoring working group includes 20 researchers and managers representing agencies with jurisdiction along the North-central CA coast. Our first meeting was held at the Bay Model Visitor Center on April 8. Meeting attendees divided into breakout groups where they provided input about the best available indicator measurements and discussed needed monitoring for each indicator. Additional meetings will be held in June and August, 2013. The current Ocean Climate Indicators project will be completed by the end of September 2013.

*Clare O'Reilly* – report given by Kate - The Ocean Protection Council’s (OPC) March 27 meeting in Sacramento addressed topics including an updated Sea Level Rise Guidance document, Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia and the State of the Central Coast Symposium on California’s Marine Protected Areas. The highlights of our meeting are below (click on “more” tab). For further information, visit the [meetings page](#) to access the meeting minutes and the webcast.

The Council heard about updates made to the Sea Level Rise Guidance document. In 2010, the Coast and Ocean Climate Action Team (CO-CAT) developed Interim Sea Level Rise Guidance to serve state agencies while a robust report by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) was



generated. The NAS report was released in 2012 and the Sea Level Rise Guidance Document was updated by incorporating the new science from that report. The changes in the document were summarized, including slightly different Sea Level Rise projections and discussion of the hazards related with coastal storm impacts, particularly in the next thirty to forty years. The Coastal and Ocean Climate Action Team will continue to conduct outreach and ensure that the Guidance is useful to state agencies.

The Council received a brief update of the state of the science in California along with an update on the California Ocean Acidification Panel. The Ocean Science Trust assembled an Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Science Panel comprised of subject matter experts to address the informational needs on both topics. The panel includes experts from Oregon, Washington and federal level agencies and managers. Dr. Steve Weisberg, an OST SAT member, stated that public interest in ocean acidification and hypoxia is increasing and that that OPC prioritization of this issue has helped increase focus on the issue statewide, linking the science to management needs. Dr. Weisberg described fundamental science related to ocean acidification and hypoxia that is presently under examination.

Mary Small, Deputy Secretary of the State Coastal Conservancy updated OPC on the status of the Grants Program and described the draft grant criteria. The purpose of grant program is to help local governments to update their LCPs to protect important coastal resources. Susan Hansch expressed the California Coastal Commission's support for this item.

The results of the most widespread effort to assess the state of the central coast ocean ecosystem were reported in the Symposium. Together, the Ocean Protection Council, the Ocean Science Trust, the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Fish and Game Commission has developed an internal work plan for marine protected areas in order to divide up the work in meaningful ways to create an understanding of shared goals and shared core values. They committed to a strong partnership for ocean management and particularly for marine protected area management.

Secretary Laird was re-elected Council Chairperson unanimously. For more meeting details, please visit the OPC website: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/meetings/>

## **LUNCH**

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment

## **Essential Fish Habitat Interactive Mapping Tool**

Because the tool is not finalized for public use it will not be posted on the GFNMS Advisory Council website at this time.

### *Discussion*

*Karen:* The request for proposals from the council has come out. On July 31 the period closes. We are trying to get feedback from stakeholders, and deciding what a proposal from us would look like. We are one of many stakeholders, but we are also part of the review committee. If anyone is still interested in being part of the stakeholder process, please feel free to contact me. There will likely be meetings in Santa Cruz, Monterey, Half Moon Bay, and Bolinas.

### **Proposed Northern Boundary Expansion Update**

PDF of Projected Timeline for the Proposed Boundary Expansion can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/Projected%20Sanctuary%20Expansion%20Timeline%20for%20GFNMSAC%205-22-13.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/Projected%20Sanctuary%20Expansion%20Timeline%20for%20GFNMSAC%205-22-13.pdf)

A summary of comments received during the scoping period can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/Brief%20Summary%20Scoping%20Comments%20Proposed%20Expansion%20for%205-22%20SAC%20Mtg.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/Brief%20Summary%20Scoping%20Comments%20Proposed%20Expansion%20for%205-22%20SAC%20Mtg.pdf)

### **San Francisco Pacifica Exclusion Area Final Report and Findings**

Link to final presentation can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/FINAL\\_Golden\\_Gate\\_SAC\\_V3\\_NoScript\\_update5.20.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/FINAL_Golden_Gate_SAC_V3_NoScript_update5.20.pdf)

Link to San Francisco Pacifica Exclusion Area thesis can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/Bren\\_Golden\\_Gate\\_Thesis\\_FINAL.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/Bren_Golden_Gate_Thesis_FINAL.pdf)

### *Discussion:*

*Anne:* Excellent. Within the bay, there is a lot of convergence with the Corps and the BCDC to use dredge material for beneficial use for marsh restoration. I don't know about the scale, but it could be hundreds of millions of cubic material for restoration

*Paul:* When it's said dredging and vessel traffic is not a big deal, and discharge is, but to just work with agencies, it seems like you are closing a donut hole to open another one. In NRDA, why would we exclude ourselves to any harm from damage to resources? There's environmental analysis of the questions, but it's a real policy kind of question- it needs to work with management records and permitting, our ability to effect that process, and those decisions, we need to consider all of that. Just because the EPA has permitted it since 1993, doesn't mean it's the best option, what's special about these places? This is one of those that needs to be considered carefully

*Amy (SFPUC):* I work with SFPUC. The team did a great job, and went through extensive datasets to provide analysis. We are a combined sewer system, and our ability to treat to secondary and tertiary treatment during major storm events is limited.



*Paul:* I don't want to assume that the sanctuary would require more than the EPA for PUC permitting, but to ensure that the sanctuary would be part of that process.

*Leslie:* I would like to see this go national, maybe Dan Basta would like to see this. I want to open it to the council, would you like them to take it beyond this sanctuary and potentially use this presentation and research to assist future expansion processes?

### **“Bad Chemistry” Ocean Acidification Workshops**

Part One of the presentation can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/1%20OA%20Conference%20Summary%20CP.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/1%20OA%20Conference%20Summary%20CP.pdf)

Part Two – Effectively Communicating Ocean Acidification can be found at:

[http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13\\_05/2-OA\\_Comm\\_11\\_05\\_12-CP.pdf](http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/13_05/2-OA_Comm_11_05_12-CP.pdf)

**ADJOURN**



**Meeting Attendance**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>SEAT</b>	<b>P/A</b>
Dominique Richard [Council Chair]	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma	P
Richard Kuehn	Public-At-Large Marin/Sonoma-Alt	A
Kellyx Nelson	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo	P
Tim Duff	Public At-Large SF/San Mateo Alternate	P
Catherine Kuhlman	CA Ocean Protection Council	A
Clare O'Reilly	CA OPC Alternate	A
Richard Charter [ Vice-Chair]	Conservation	P
Bruce Bowser	Conservation Alternate	P
Bob Wilson	Conservation	P
Jackie Dragon	Conservation Alternate	A
Bob Breen	Education	P
Vacant	Education Alternate	-
Barbara Emley [Council Secretary]	Maritime Activities/ Commercial	P
Peter Grenell	Maritime Activities/Commercial Alternate	A
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities/Recreational	P
George Clyde	Maritime Activities/Recreational Alternate	P
John Largier	Research	A
Jaime Jahncke	Research Alternate	P
Cicely Muldoon	National Park Service	P
Frank Dean *Brief introduction	National Park Service Alternate	*P
Anne Morkill	USFWS	P
Gerry McChesney	USFWS Alternate	A
LT Cody Dunagan	USCG	P
LTJG Noelle Kitenko	USCG Alternate	P
Pat Rutten	NMFS [non-voting]	A
Natalie-Cosentino Manning	NMFS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Maria Brown	GFNMS [non-voting]	P
Chris Mobley	CINMS [non-voting]	A
Mike Murray	CINMS Alternate [non-voting]	A
Dan Howard	CBNMS [non-voting]	A
Michael Carver (in place of Kaitlin Graiff)	CBNMS Alternate [non-voting]	P
Paul Michel	MBNMS [non-voting]	P
Karen Grimmer	MBNMS Alternate [non-voting]	A