

GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday, May 26, 2022

9:00AM – 3:00PM PT

Red Barn Classroom, Point Reyes National Seashore
and virtual via Google Meet

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the meeting of the Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) 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 CBNMS and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

To view slides from any presentation referenced in this document, please email jordan.gorostiza@noaa.gov.

Welcome, Roll Call, Review Agenda

Chair Abby Mohan welcomed all to the meeting and called roll. The council approved the meeting agenda. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote. Superintendent Maria Brown introduced John Armor, Director of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), and Michelle Burt, Special Assistant to the Director's Office. John and Michelle were visiting the recently merged Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries team.

The council approved the draft meeting highlights from the February 10, 2022 meeting. Bibit Traut offered a motion to approve the highlights which was seconded by Kathi George. Chair Abby Mohan led the vote. There were no oppositions or abstentions to the vote. A copy of the February meeting highlights will be posted online at https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac_meetings.html.

Chair Abby Mohan led the swearing-in ceremony for new Research seat members, Jaime Jahncke and Ellen Hines.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Priorities

Director John Armor provided a presentation overview of ONMS history and plans for the future in celebration of ONMS' 50th Anniversary. John spoke about recent sanctuary designations and nominations, and acknowledged that as the sanctuary system has grown, our capacity/budget has not. John highlighted that moving forward, ONMS priorities include recreation and tourism, Tribal and Indigenous engagement, climate change, and access, equity, diversity, and inclusion. John emphasized that the sanctuary system and its supporters have an opportunity right now to position ONMS to help meet the needs of our nation by supporting 30x30 efforts and contributing to making NOAA the marine conservation leader it was meant to be.

Following John's presentation, council members noted the disparity between the growth of acres managed by ONMS and increase in ONMS budget and inquired about how they can help support budgetary goals. John informed the council that in their roles as advisory council members, they are not allowed to lobby for increased budgets. In their role as private citizens, they are free to do so. Richard James, Community at Large - Marin Alternate, asked for clarification regarding council members' use of social media to lobby and communicate in

their role as private citizens. Director Armor clarified that as long as council members' social media are clearly representing their views as private citizens, that is fine.

Coastal Resilience: Sediment Management Update

Max Delaney, Resource Protection Specialist with GFNMS/CBNMS, provided a presentation on coastal resilience and sediment management within GFNMS. A brief overview of past reports related to the topic were covered by Max. These included the [Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for the North-central California Coast and Ocean](#), [GFNMS Climate Adaptation Plan](#), [Sonoma-Marin Coastal Regional Sediment Management Report](#), and [GFNMS Coastal Resilience Sediment Plan](#). Max emphasized the role that the council played in developing a number of these documents.

Out of the Coastal Resilience Sediment Plan came fifteen identified priority sites for GFNMS to focus management efforts; these sites include Salmon Creek Beach, Bodega Harbor, Doran Park, Estero American, Estero de San Antonio, Marshall, Chicken Ranch Beach, Inverness, Point Reyes Station – Bivalve, Duxbury Reef and Offshore, Bolinas Cliffs, Bolinas Lagoon, Stinson Beach, Muir Beach, and Surfer's Beach. Efforts on the Tomales Bay Living Shoreline Feasibility study, the Stinson Beach Dunes Restoration Project, and Surfer's Beach Pilot Restoration Project were highlighted.

Bibit Traut noted that it had been identified in the Tomales Bay Living Shorelines work that oysters would help build elevation and inquired if such an approach would be feasible at other sites. Max indicated that this strategy is an option and that others are being examined as well. Superintendent Maria Brown pointed out that sanctuary advisory council documents are often used by counties and other agencies to guide their work.

Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Update

Wendy Kordesch, Geological Oceanographer with Greater Farallones Association (GFA) and NOAA Affiliate, briefed the council on GFNMS' response to their recommendations regarding Bolinas Lagoon restoration. Wendy emphasized that wetlands need conservation and restoration because they are important ecologically, economically, and for climate mitigation. Within GFNMS, Bolinas Lagoon is an important site because it is regionally, nationally, and internationally recognized. Greater Farallones Association, in partnership with GFNMS, are working on a three-year feasibility study for a South End Living Shoreline project at Bolinas Lagoon. Again, Wendy highlighted that recommendations from the council were integral in guiding management decisions to get to this point.

Chair Abby Mohan asked about options for infrastructure of the living shoreline. Wendy responded by acknowledging that dealing with development and infrastructure is an issue - living shorelines are a midterm solution, not a final solution.

Bibit Traut asked about other services that would be examined besides carbon sequestration (e.g., will filter system of plants be examined). Wendy emphasized that the project team will be thinking about all ecosystem benefits.

Sarah Bates asked how local residents have responded to this project. Wendy noted that local residents have responded positively and that they have expressed that they want the ecosystem to remain healthy.

Richard James inquired about efforts or plans to address anthropogenic impacts to the lagoon (such as plastic debris, marine debris from fishery operations, and human defecation). Wendy mentioned that there are other



entities working within Bolinas Lagoon who may be addressing some of these concerns, and the Seabird Protection Network has done some work installing fishing line receptacles on charter vessels and at local harbors to reduce debris.

Kelp Restoration Program Update

Rietta Hohman, Kelp Restoration Project Manager with GFA and NOAA Affiliate, gave a presentation on future plans to begin kelp restoration within GFNMS after receiving two million dollars in federally appropriated funds to GFA. In addition to these funds, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission has funded \$228,912 to GFA to defend areas of new kelp forest growth from urchin grazing, the San Francisco Bay Estuary Fund, administered by National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, has awarded \$184,473 to GFA to investigate kelp restoration methods and interconnectivity in coastal habitats, the Environmental Enhancement Fund (EEF) grant program, administered by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), has awarded \$173,642 to GFA for kelp restoration, outplanting and recruitment research in GFNMS.

Rietta overviewed priority sites that were identified for kelp restoration within the [Sonoma-Mendocino Bull Kelp Restoration Plan](#). The plan was created by GFA and integrates recommendations from the GFNMS advisory council. Identified sites included Fort Ross Cove, Timber Cove, Stillwater Cove, and Ocean Cove in Sonoma County. Proposed restoration methods include comprehensive urchin removal and outplanting, defense of new kelp forest growth, research on habitat suitability for kelp outplanting, and exploration of the influence of environmental variables on kelp settlement and growth.

Rietta emphasized that the project was still in its planning phase, and that a process to ensure environmental compliance would occur. Next steps include hiring kelp restoration specialist positions and conducting the environmental compliance process.

Overview of ONMS 50th Anniversary Activities

Jennifer Stock, Education and Outreach Coordinator for GFNMS/CBNMS, provided a presentation on planned GFNMS/CBNMS events in celebration of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 50th Anniversary. Activities include 1) Sea the Future video series, 2) 50 Programs in 50 States Education initiative, 3) a 50th Anniversary film shown at the 2022 International Ocean Film Festival, 4) a family crab fishing workshop in July, 5) a seaweed foraging workshop later this year, 6) Sharktoberfest movie night, and 7) a Volunteer Appreciation and 50th Anniversary Celebration Event to be held on October 22, 2022.

Public Comment

Keith Rootsart congratulated GFA on receiving kelp restoration funding and spoke briefly about the work happening at Tanker's Reef in Monterey Bay.

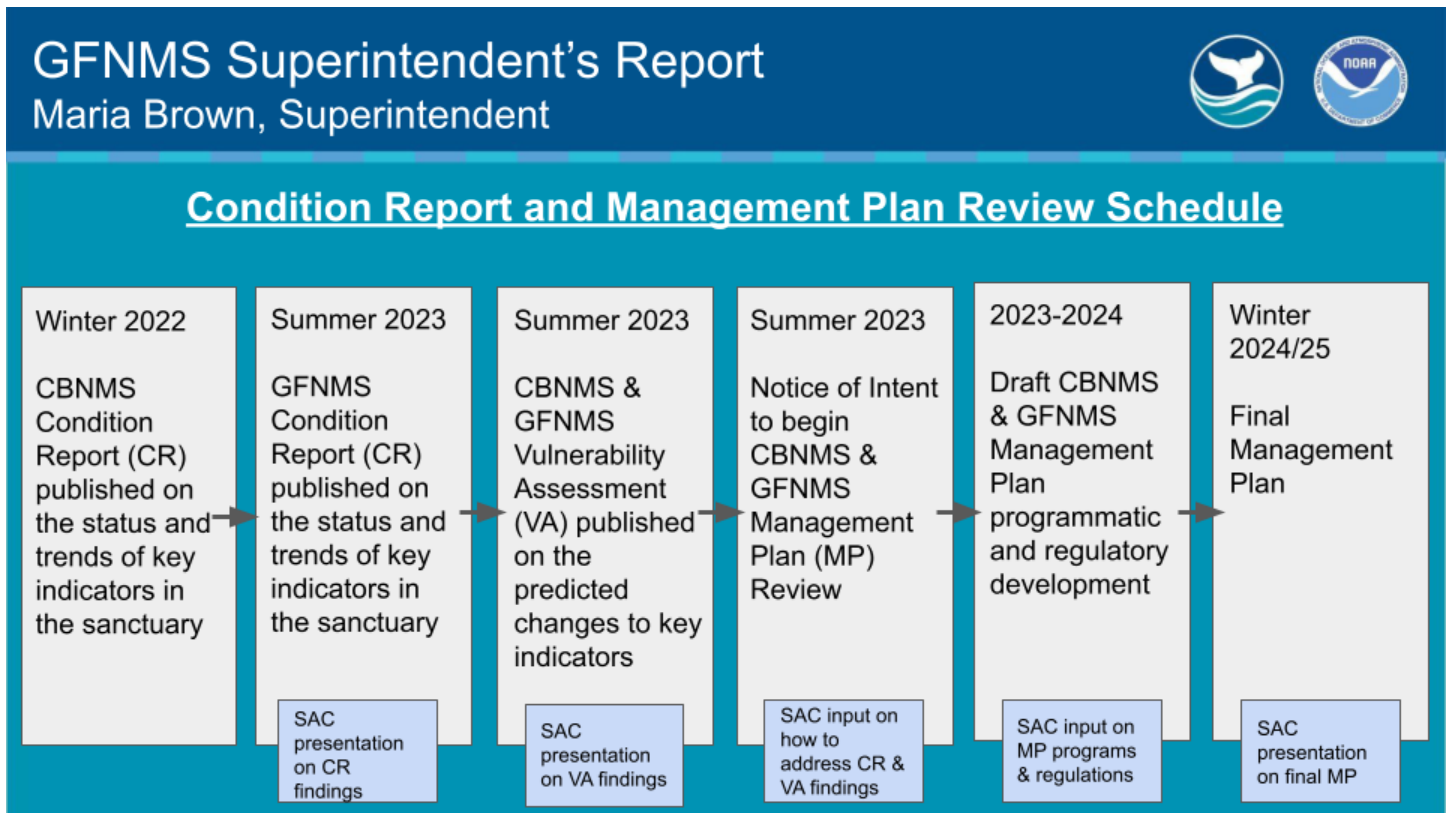
Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Superintendent's Report

Maria Brown, Superintendent of Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMS and CBNMS, respectively), provided updates on GFNMS Operations, Research, Education/Outreach, and Resource Protection program activities since the last council meeting in February.

Highlights from the report included 1) the March Department of Commerce (DOC) Return to Work Notice that directed DOC employees to return to in-person operations by the end of April, 2) sanctuary staff participation in an Emergency Response training led by GFNMS/CBNMS Emergency Response Coordinator, Max Delaney, 3) Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary's loan of its rigid hull inflatable Zodiac Hurricane to GFNMS to

evaluate its utility to support on the water operations in Tomales Bay, 4) sanctuary staff plans for the 2022 Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) cruise season, 5) an update on the progress of the GFNMS Condition Report expert workshops, and 6) the 2022 Vessel Speed Reduction request sent by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the U.S. Coast Guard, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Superintendent Maria Brown also provided the council with an overview and timeline of the Condition Report and Management Plan Review (MPR) processes. See draft timeline below.



Maria walked the council through the sanctuary's recommendation to hold a joint public meeting in August and a joint non-public annual retreat with the CBNMS Advisory Council. The impetus behind these joint affairs would be to cover topics relevant to both councils and sanctuaries. The council supported this recommendation with the caveat that time be made for oral member reports. A number of council members expressed their inability to make the current retreat date. Maria let these members know that Jordan could look at rescheduling to try to accommodate members.

Following Maria's report, Francesca Koe asked if adding more national marine sanctuaries to ONMS affects the capacity/budget of existing sanctuaries. Maria said she would follow up with Director John Armor on this matter and report back.



Sanctuary Enforcement and Response Update

Max provided an overview of active enforcement cases within the sanctuary. These included a sunken commercial fishing vessel (*FV Suzan E*), a possible discharge event (*MV Ocean Hope*), a container ship that lost power 8 nautical miles offshore of Point Reyes (*MV Wan Hai*), and an update on the *American Challenger* salvage operations [salvage contractor prepping vessel (walkways, chain rigging, etc.) for vessel deconstruction and removal].

Richard Ogg mentioned that with the *FV Suzan E* the pump gauge failed when the crew were bringing crab gear in on an older vessel and it backfilled before they could respond. Another vessel rescued the three members of the crew in the water.

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 the featuring of MBNMS in a new Netflix documentary special narrated by Former President Barack Obama called, "Our Great National Parks." Lisa also announced that MBNMS would be hosting an intern over the summer who will focus on helping to draft an indigenous engagement strategy for the site. She noted the recent entanglements of whales in March and April that contributed to the closing of the California commercial crab fishery.

Member and Alternate Reports

See Appendix II for member and alternate reports.

Appendix I. Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting Attendance Roster for May 26, 2022

Name	Seat	Attend.	Agenda Approval	Feb Meeting Highlights
Barbara Emley	Commercial Fishing (Primary)	Y	Y	Y
Sarah Bates	Commercial Fishing (Alternate)	Y	--	--
George Clyde	Community-at-Large Marin (Primary)	N	--	--
Richard James	Community-at-Large Marin (Alternate)	Y	Y	Y
Cea Higgins	Community-at-Large Mendocino-Sonoma (Primary)	N	--	--
Michael Kleeman	Community-at-Large Mendocino-Sonoma (Alternate)	Y	Y	Y
Vacant	Community-at-Large San Francisco-San Mateo (Primary)	--	--	--
Kris Lannin Liang	Community-at-Large San Francisco-San Mateo (Alternate)	N	--	--
Francesca Koe	Conservation (Primary)	Y	Y	Y
Kathi George	Conservation (Primary)	Y	Y	Y
Richard Ogg	Conservation (Alternate)	Y	--	--
Vacant	Conservation (Alternate)	--	--	--
Bibit Traut	Education (Primary)	Y	Y	Y
Mary Miller	Education (Alternate)	Y	--	--
John Berge	Maritime Activities - Commercial (Primary)	N	--	--
Julian Rose	Maritime Activities - Commercial (Alternate)	N	--	--
Abby Mohan	Maritime Activities - Recreation (Primary)	Y	Y	Y
Vacant	Maritime Activities - Recreation (Alternate)	--	--	--
Jaime Jahncke	Research (Primary)	Y	--	--

Ellen Hines	Research (Alternate)	Y	--	--
Ezra Bergson-Michelson	Youth (Primary)	N	--	--
Owen Youngquist	Youth (Alternate)	Y	--	--
Mark Gold	California Department of Natural Resources (Primary)	N	--	--
Michael Esgro	California Department of Natural Resources (Alternate)	Y	--	--
Craig Kenkel	National Park Service (Primary)	Y	Y	Y
Ben Becker	National Park Service (Alternate)	N	--	--
LT Chris Bell	U.S. Coast Guard (Primary)	Y	Y	Y
LT Lelea Lingo	U.S. Coast Guard (Alternate)	N	--	--
Chris Barr	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Primary)	N	--	--
Gerry McChesney	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Alternate)	Y	Y	Y
Jennifer Boyce	National Marine Fisheries Service (Primary)	N	--	--
Vacant	National Marine Fisheries Service (Alternate)	--	--	--
Chris Mobley	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Primary)	N	--	--
Mike Murray	Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Alternate)	N	--	--
Lisa Wooninck	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Primary)	Y	--	--
Dawn Hayes	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Alternate)	N	--	--
Maria Brown	Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (Primary)	Y	--	--
Brian Johnson	Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (Alternate)	Y	--	--



Sanctuary staff present: Maria Brown, Superintendent; Jordan Gorostiza (Affiliate), Advisory Council Coordinator; Tishma Patel (Affiliate), Administrative Assistant; Jennifer Stock, Education and Outreach Coordinator; Michael Carver, Operations Coordinator; Rietta Hohman (Affiliate), Kelp Restoration Project Manager; Max Delaney, Permit, Enforcement, and Emergency Response Coordinator; Lilli Ferguson, Resource Protection Specialist; Brian Johnson, Deputy Superintendent; Jan Roletto, Research Coordinator; Dani Lipski, Research Coordinator

Others present: Deb Self, Greater Farallones Association; Intern from Environmental Action Committee of West Marin; James Moskito, Ocean Safaris