

Special Council Meeting Notes: March 24, 2004

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Advisory Council Meeting March 24, 2004
Half Moon Bay Lodge & Conference Center, Half Moon Bay CA

Note: The following meeting notes are an account of discussions at the Advisory Council meeting and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Gulf of the Farallones NMS or NOAA.

Council Members (Seats and Alternates):

Bob Breen	Education Seat/Council Vice Chair
Richard Charter	Conservation Seat
Brenda Donald	Research (Alternate)
Mark Dowie	Community-at-Large (Alternate)
Barbara Emley	Maritime Activities Seat/Council Chair
Gwen Heistand	Education/Alternate
Chris Powell	National Park Service (Alternate)
Bob Wilson	Conservation Seat

Gulf of the Farallones

National Marine Sanctuary Staff:

Julie Barrow	Program Specialist
Maria Brown	Manager
Judith Novak	Office Administrator
Carol Preston	Education Coordinator
Jan Roletto	Research Coordinator
Mary Jane Schramm	Advisory Council Coordinator

JMPR Team

Ruth Howell	Management Plan Review Assistant
Ann Walton	Management Plan Review Coordinator

Guests:

Susan Andres	Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association
Dan Basta	Director, National Marine Sanctuary Program
Paul Chitirkin	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Brady Phillips	National Marine Sanctuary Program
Rachel Saunders	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary MBNMS
Aaron Tinker	

Copies to/Absent:

Peter Grennell	Maritime Activities (Alternate)
James Kelley	Research Seat
Mick Menigoz	Maritime Activities Seat
Brian O'Neill	National Park Service (NPS) Representative

ITEM 1: CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/AGENDA REVIEW/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. Roll was taken, a quorum was present.

ITEM 2: OVERVIEW OF MANAGEMENT PLAN

Sanctuary Manager Maria Brown prefaced the meeting by explaining that the draft Management Plan reflects action plans which encompass only those areas that fall within the current boundaries of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary.

(NOTE: The comments below are linked to the **Draft Management Plan Power Point Presentation**, attached)

ITEM 3: PRESENTATIONS ON DRAFT MANGEMENT ACTION PLANS

Anne Walton advised that today's discussion is based on the second half of the Draft Management Plan document, and contains site specific action plans for the next five years. The Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR) team has dealt separately with Internal Team (IT) and cross cutting recommendations. "Green marked" items indicate cross-cutting potential strategies.

Introduction of GFNMS staff: Maria Brown, Manager; Judith Novak, Office Administrator; Carol Preston, Education Coordinator; Jan Roletto, Research Coordinator; Mary Jane Schramm, Advisory Council Coordinator.

Program Team Leads are:

Administration & Boundary: Maria Brown

Education & Outreach: Carol Preston

Research & Monitoring: Jan Roletto

Resource Protection: To be announced

The Draft Plan reflects reorganization under program areas, and this meeting provides the opportunity to see who the team leads are under various program areas to implement the plan.

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ACTION PLAN:

Carol Preston, Education Coordinator, provided additional information on the Education component of the draft plan. She indicated that everyone in the room will be needed, and their assistance is welcome, to implement this plan. She encouraged the council to bring up additional concerns as needed, as it is an evolving program.

The plan will focus on overall strategies, and look at the audience targeted. We will use education program standard practices, but will use the "continuum" model of "from awareness, to behaviors, to stewardship."

School Programs:

STR ED-1: Educate students K-8 through Visitor Center program. We will use state science standards, and will build on classroom curricula. In out-years, we will develop a Shark Program to give identity to GFNMS, a "Great Catch" for 4-6 grade programs.

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STR ED-2: High School: Educate students by doing rocky intertidal and estuary programs.

STR ED-3: Inner city school programs include summer camp experiences, to bring youths out to the coast. We will increase awareness level, and in doing so we address a huge need. We will also engage visually and hearing impaired children, and ethnic groups. Chinese American schools are targeted.

STR ED-4: Provide professional development for teachers through sandy beach training. We'll use existing venues, such as California Science Teacher's Association (CSTA) meetings, Bay Area Science Alliance (BASA) meetings, and network among professional associations.

STR ED-5: High school stewardship, including interns in summer camp, and Visitor Center programs. They may assist researchers one-on-one, in the Sanctuary Naturalist programs, or LiMPETS program.

STR ED-6: Create stewards of the GFNMS by engaging middle and high school students in a large-scale, long-term monitoring project.

STR ED-7: Volunteer programs: Lee Miao was recently hired to develop the Sanctuary Naturalist Program Plan. We will need to expand to other communities and ethnic groups, and across other demographic lines.

STR ED-8: Lecture series: Using existing lecture series, we will co-sponsor with the San Francisco Naturalists Society or San Francisco Natural History Association, and have our own lecture series. This will make us better able to target audiences of various interests, including possibly a lighthouse lecture series.

STR ED-9: Visitor Center programs and exhibits: 35,000 people came through our Visitor Center last year. "Creature Features" programs are offered on weekends, and an interactive "Science Desk" helps to link youths to the sanctuary. The boathouse facility at GFNMS will ease space limitation for classes.

STR ED-10: Videos for public outreach: These provide a look beneath the waves at sanctuary resources. We have nearly finalized a video that will play at the Bear Valley Visitor Center. Schools will be able to borrow the videos.

STR ED-11: Public outreach will be conducted via media outreach techniques. "Branding" is to be used to increase presence, and be used in flyers, brochures, etc. We will also specifically target certain audiences.

STR ED-12: A larger Visitor Center and increased exhibits will make us the hub for marine science in the Bay Area. Three contiguous sanctuaries outside our urban population of nearly 8 million people provide a great opportunity, and great challenges as well.

STR ED-13: Interpretive signage and exhibits throughout the Bay Area, known as the "California Signage Plan," is already underway. We are planning a small exhibit at Fisherman's Wharf with a real-time weather information kiosk for fishermen, and other displays for tourists. The Point Reyes National Seashore will have new exhibits, and the Pacifica Visitor Center exhibit is being updated.

STR ED-14: Inland/watershed awareness (for out-year applications). In addition to broader goals, this will target certain areas and issues, and focus on certain programs.

Water Quality:

STR WQ-2: Develop effluent awareness in marinas.

STR WQ-9: Educate decision makers on watershed impacts on GFNMS.

Wildlife Disturbance:

STR WD-2: Use volunteer monitoring to document impacts, starting with rock intertidal impacts on wildlife and habitats.

STR WD-4: Stress interpretive enforcement and law enforcement; we're at the research phase now.

STR WD-5: Develop guidelines to minimize impacts, working nationally and locally. There is a May 8th opening of a Respectful Wildlife Observation exhibit at Point Reyes National Seashore, at Drakes Beach.

Bob Wilson posed a question about STR ED-5, and how it will interface with STR WD-4. High school students will combine applications.

STR WD-6: Maximize media venues. This will augment outreach efforts, and raise public awareness of issues. We will identify publication venues and organizational partners, and develop a framework of seasonally occurring wildlife issues, as issues stemming from recreational activity increases.

Introduced Species:

Anne Walton prefaced her remarks with the comment that San Francisco Bay has the most introduced species of any major body of water in the world.

STR IS-5: Develop volunteer base outreach and detection system. An early warning system is needed for more effective abatement. Jarrett Byrnes, the Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) intern, is now doing an assessment of species inventory and distribution maps. We will build a "Dirty Dozen" of invasive species, list like Elkhorn Slough now has.

STR IS-9: Via outreach, inform industry and target audiences on prevention methods. More research will be needed in this area, but aquarium owners, bait shops, and restaurants are potential sources of contamination. One television show triggered many calls to Carol regarding aquarium-originating invasives.

Fishing Activities:

STR FA-5: Raise public awareness of our fishing communities' cultural and historical significance, relationship and reliance on healthy sanctuary standards.

Vessel Spills:

STR VS-10: Conduct mariner outreach regarding compliance with vessel traffic safety and sanctuary regulations, and increase their stewardship.

We will leverage and efficiently use resources, and welcome assistance from many in this room. Please give us your comments on this Draft Plan. It can be built upon and improved. Now is the time for us to have this dialogue.

Anne noted that this plan is ambitious for the next five years, and asked the council to consider how it can partner with us to achieve our objectives in these areas, and help us scrutinize and evaluate how best we can achieve this.

Bob Breen noted concerning STR ED-2, that high school students need multi-tiered programs, to accommodate varied academic skills. Some programs may be too simplistic. For example, Advanced Placement (AP) students need special programs. Also, a math component should be included as biology is increasingly quantifiable. Labs need to be developed, and programs can be made “failure proof” so students always win. Make up a table for the students to work through, and end up with diversity index numbers. He suggested that for teacher training, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) has great summer programs, and similar ones should be developed closer to the Bay Area. Students can use the data in the lab and work through it. Math components must be built into this. Students must be challenged, and advanced teacher training programs must be offered to keep up to increasingly high student standards. This summer MLML will focus on marine biotechnology, with grant funding through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Grant Power.

Carol invited Bob to be on the Education Activity Panel. We must offer various-level programs. We need to incorporate language arts and art itself into the program, and take a cross-discipline approach to be fully effective. She also offered a clarification: “Year One” designation includes projects now underway. This applies to budget items as well. We don’t necessarily have the funds in place at this time. Maria added that we have identified budget needs, but not necessarily budget realities, and we will implement strategies based on the resources are actually at our disposal.

Bob Wilson asked whether anything had been dropped since the last time this was reviewed. Anne indicated nothing has changed except that existing programs were not previously addressed by issue areas. Things have just been reorganized.

Bob Breen, concerning item ED-5, asked if there was a stipend for high school students. Carol responded, not at this time, with the available budget. Bob noted the National Park Service does offer one, along with housing. We will also use community service mandated for students.

Chris Powell noted that the Visitor Center at Crissy Field is not always accessible to all groups, and asked if there was anything more planned for Half Moon Bay, and for the Pacifica Visitor Center. It would be desirable to have future emphasis distributed throughout the Marin and San Mateo County areas.

Carol commented that the current Pacifica Visitor Center exhibit needs to be identified better as belonging to GFNMS. At Crissy Field, we need more Visitor Center exhibits. Also, the California Academy of Sciences will feature GFNMS in its exhibits. This will be a 40 year investment, and will focus on wildlife and ecosystems, with breakout kiosks to update and “freshen” the exhibits.

We will also be offering improved workshops. The Crissy Field Visitor Center (Glass Palace) site is still in the planning stages, but has the size potential for a major Visitor Center for world-class lectures and rotating exhibits. Large productions such as the Ancient Seas Exhibit could be accommodated in a facility this size. We may develop a culinary exhibit, featuring San Francisco's famous seafood.

Julie Barrow noted that the Pigeon Point Lighthouse small exhibit will incorporate information on coasts and sanctuaries. Brenda Donald added that the Pacifica Visitor Center and Montara Lighthouse are also potential sites. We could add Marin City, Daly City, and other more diverse areas to the list.

Richard Charter commented that "branding" requires a common term, a resonant thread that people can recognize to instill a sense of ownership and incorporate it into constituent awareness. Local communities need signage with logos, and unifying and identifying images. Road signs may be permitted in certain locations that indicate, "this is a protected place." Carol stated that the "whale tail" logo and colors will be incorporated and recognized in signage and exhibits.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING ACTION PLAN

Jan Roletto, Research Coordinator, expanded on this component. She noted that we're incorporating goals and objectives from the National Science Plan and other management related issues.

STR RE-1: Beach Watch:

This looks primarily at birds and mammals, and answers questions about which other agencies have asked us. These include erosion, beach profiles, human use, aquaculture impacts, oiled wildlife and seasonal and location-related distribution patterns. We've produced an historical baseline database, focusing on individual site questions. Beach Watch has brought in more than \$23 million over the past ten years in damage assessment funds. Education and stewardship have also resulted from Beach Watch. Many new recruits never knew about the sanctuary before Beach Watch. Now 90% of the new recruits have prior knowledge of GFNMS.

The Ecosystem Dynamics Study (EDS) is part of a pelagic study which we will integrate with the U.S. Oceans Effort on Ocean Observing Systems. We will work with all five west coast sites to reach a long term monitoring program on the pelagic environment, and address a wide variety of questions asked by management, e.g. oil spills.

Rocky Intertidal monitoring is done primarily through PISCO efforts. There is now a long term database for the Farallon Islands and coast, which will be integrated with PISCO data. The National Park Service (NPS) will also contribute data into a web-based format for accessibility. A San Francisco State University intern is now working on this.

Water Quality: We need to determine where assessments are now being done or are needed, and we will use high school students to assist us. The SIMON program and the Center for Integrated Marine Technology has real-time or near real time data on line. The Center for Marine Integrated Technologies (CIMT) is comprised of several independent agencies in the Monterey Area.

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Brenda Donald requested a map of current long term monitoring sites to use for outreach. Jan advised that we will soon finish the Beach Watch website showing those areas, with beach descriptors. Eventually we will augment it with species lists and other information.

STR RE-2: Research permit conditions for white shark viewing regulations. Regulations are now being developed, but permit issuance conditions need to be established, looking at vessel size and numbers. A question was asked if there was a significant issue here on boat parameters, and should money be used in this particular area. Jan said that, based on observed shark behavior, we need guidelines to keep boats at a distance.

If we arrive at an agreed-upon “no approach” area, there could be controversy. We need to determine who will oppose such regulations. Anecdotal evidence should be sufficient, for example, we’ve compiled overflight standards before, and determined where researchers can and cannot fly. This information will give permitted research activities a substantial basis.

STR RE-3: The Biennial Research Workshops will continue to be hosted to make data available through other venues and enhance access to equipment and funding.

Water Quality:

STR WQ-8: Developing an annotated bibliography of water quality programs in GFNMS and watershed.

Wildlife Disturbance:

Easily accessed areas are the most heavily impacted. Monitoring human impacts on the rocky intertidal area will begin at Duxbury Reef and be linked with a long-term monitoring program. A restoration program will be implemented , and its effectiveness evaluated.

STR WD-3: Vessel impacts around breeding seabirds. Currently there are overflight restrictions and seasonal 300 ft. distance restrictions in place. Through the Command restoration, we will coordinate information and gather additional information. This links with the SEALS program, and outreach to local airports will be included in outreach efforts.

Invasive Species

Intern Jarret Byrnes is working on an invasive species (IS) inventory, to be integrated with other databases and into the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMON) eventually. “Introduced” is used synonymously with invasive or exotics. Cheryl Chen is doing a rocky intertidal inventory, from which IS can be identified, and gaps in the data detected.

STR IS-3 & IS-4: Monitor and identify introduced species.

STR IS-5: Institute volunteer early detection system, and identify potential new species. Twelve of the most conspicuous species will be emphasized for greatest coverage, the “Dirty Dozen.”

Fishing Activities:

STR FA-6: Develop resource characterization. Expand into pelagic areas, contribute bird and mammal data, and expand as well into the esteros. We will conduct habitat typing, identify thermoclines, upwelling zones, and trends in circulatory patterns, as well as conduct biological observations.

Vessel Spills:

Develop probable spill trajectories. This will require real time information.

STR VS-6: We will provide data to the ACP (Area Contingency Plan). Bob Breen stated that Tenera Environmental in San Luis Obispo (Scott Kimura) has a program now that can be used. They're doing Fitzgerald Marine Reserve's assessment now. Brenda Donald suggested that, concerning the budget for water quality, regional boards may be able to help out. The program for public official education on non-point source pollution (NEMO) program ties into National Marine Sanctuary Program objectives.

The question was raised as to what kind of oceanographic studies are involved. Jan indicated we are working on staff expertise development at this point. For now, the Center for Marine Integrated Technologies (CIMT), Don Croll's group, formerly Winds to Whales, is doing this. We will integrate this with the Ecosystem Dynamics Study (EDS) for water column assessment using acoustic biomass assessment, and vessel and buoy based information. Point Reyes Bird Observatory and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary are also participants. Tomorrow a two-day meeting will start this process.

Bob Breen mentioned the Algalita Foundation's database on marine debris in Los Angeles area. Although this wasn't a top priority for this in our area, it can be integrated into water quality.

(ITEM 3/DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN PRESENTATION TO BE CONTINUED AFTER LUNCH)

ITEM 4: COUNCIL CHAIRS AND COORDINATOR'S MEETING UPDATE

Council Chair Barbara Emley provided an update on the February Council Chairs and Coordinator's meeting in Savannah, hosted by the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

Regarding Council Input on National Issues, the NMSP can utilize Sanctuary Advisory Councils as an *ad hoc* council, but not as a standing group. The Sanctuary Advisory Council chairs may not necessarily be characteristic of the best candidates to act in this capacity.

At the Savannah meeting, the Council Chairs were authorized for a one-day vote on the cruise ship discharge issue, but no vote was taken, although further information was provided. Bluewater Network and the cruise ship industry made presentations. This issue had been discussed at the GFNMS council's September meeting, which raised the point that cruise ships should not be singled out. There are discharge issues with other class vessels as well.

Dan Basta noted that some councils were acting in an advisory capacity, and were giving good input to the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

Barbara noted that other national policies include aquaculture. Offshore net pens would be other good themes to explore. The radio program, "Living on Earth" quoted a NOAA/NMFS mackerel biologist promoting these.

Dan Basta indicated that there is a working group in the works now. In the FY05 budget, aquaculture has been zeroed out.

Barbara's Case Study presentation covered the joint GF/Monterey Bay boundary issue, which focused on the history of the issue and the process of its resolution. It was well received, and of interest to the other councils.

(CONTINUE PRESENTATION ON DRAFT MANGEMENT PLAN)

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Anne Walton pointed out that resource protection tasks overlap with other program areas. This is about dealing directly with regulatory and management issues, apart from research and outreach. Each strategy was previously placed in another category, and is now under Resource Protection.

A comment was expressed that NOAA staff aren't given credit for the extent of their activities if they continue to be called "Coordinators" – they are implementers, too.

STR RP-1: Track new and emerging issues, evaluate potential impacts and prioritize them (e.g. wave and wind energy, liquefied natural gas/LNG, etc.)

STR RP-2: Communicate with other sites for models and adopt or adapt plans as advisable.

Regulatory development:

STR RP-4: Review program to evaluate effectiveness of current regulations or identify those needed.

Permits: Research, education and managers permits currently allow "violations," if justified. Only negligible or short term impacts could be justified in making exceptions.

Enforcement Plan:

Increase compliance and cooperate with state and other federal statutes.

Emergency Response

Sites will review and revise the existing plans and coordinate with other sites in incident response.

Damage Assessment/Restoration

Oil spills especially are targeted. Sites will cooperate with the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) and other agencies.

Boundary Modifications

Identify and evaluate boundary options, including expanding north and west, and out to Pioneer Seamount. We will address in out-years anything not within current boundaries. Bob Wilson noted that on page 177 it states, areas to the north west and south, including Pioneer Seamount.

Collaborative Planning and Management

Cultivate more partnerships and leverage opportunities.

Radioactive Waste Dump

This working group was scheduled to meet only after another technical working group had met and developed a white paper on the dumpsite status; however, this never happened. This will continue to be on our agenda, and we will hire a contractor to do this. (NOTE: No money is budgeted on this item, see pages 199 and 200 of the draft plan). A target date for action needs to be established. Also, we will formulate a public relations campaign to deal with the public's questions, especially if no action is recommended.

Water quality

STR WQ-1: Integrated water quality program is needed to track estuarine and near shore impacts.

STR WQ-2: Address sources of anthropogenic substances in Bodega Bay and Bolinas Lagoon. Also, develop best management practices.

STR WQ-3: Coordinate with other agencies, and with five state water quality areas in GFNMS, on issues like storm water runoff, aging septic systems, etc.

STR WQ-4: Evaluate state water quality protection areas and possibly implement a "no vessel discharge" policy in these zones.

STR WQ-5: Mussel Watch coordination

STR WQ-6: Standing water quality working group development

STR WQ-9: NEMO (non-point source pollution program). This is needed especially in Bolinas Lagoon where rapid development is an issue. Brenda noted that various regional boards should be coordinated. The San Francisco Bay Region is focused on the Bay itself, and GFNMS is split between two water quality regions.

Wildlife Disturbance

STR WD-4: Use interpretive enforcement.

Introduced species

STR IS-6: Develop an advisory council and partnerships. Ascidiars and dredging are the primary issues now.

STR IS-7: Make rapid response plan and streamline permits to respond to eradication or control efforts.

Fishing Activities:

STR FA-2: Ecotrust is now developing a socioeconomic profile of communities and activities in and near GFNMS. Some data is quite questionable, and some doesn't match with the first hand experiences of fishermen like Barbara. Now fishermen are giving their input to the scientists.

STR FA-3: Evaluate fishing activity impacts on resources.

STR FA-4: Develop policy recommendations to address impacts, and develop a process for addressing them.

STR FA-6: Build consistent and coordinated representation at Pacific Fisheries Management Council meetings.

Ecosystem Protection:

STR FA-1: Develop a Resource Protection Plan or policy, and set areas of protection for sensitive resources, habitats and features.

It was pointed out that there is no money allocated until Year 4 in the flowchart. Maria advised that this starts in Year 2, but staff time will be used in the meantime.

STR EP-2, Standing working group. Some work is now underway, but the needed money doesn't become available until later.

STR EP-2: Create a standing Living Resource & Habitat Protection Working Group.

STR EP-3: Develop strategy to protect habitat "special areas of concern." Now that the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) is unfunded, we have watershed issues that present more imminent threats. Jan asked if there is a plan to develop the esteros as Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS). Anne indicated they may become preserves, or ASBSs. That has not yet been decided.

Vessel Spills

STR VS-1: Expand Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary drift analysis model northward to Mendocino, working with Naval Postgraduate school.

STR VS-2: Improve spill and drift model and increase accuracy.

STR VS-3: Profile all vessel activities of all classes.

STR VS-4: Combine spill and drift model with vessel activity profile.

STR VS-5: Evaluate the International Maritime Organization (IMO) vessel traffic lane routing changes' effectiveness, and look at the northbound and westbound lanes.

STR VS-6: Track species of concern in relation to the drift model.

STR VS-7: Join Regional Response Team and the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) to address the risks.

STR VS-8: Revise the GFNMS in-house emergency plan.

STR VS-9: Improve integration of Beach Watch and EDS study into the ACP. Also link SHIELDS system (the real-time internet accessible information system). This is site-specific, and GFNMS is slated for this year's development of our own system.

STR VS-11: Improve maritime trade industry communications. The Sanctuary Advisory Council charter revisions will address this with new seats.

STR VS-12: Improve activity for existing forums for this issue.

STR VS-13: Standing working groups are to advise on implementation of action proposals. Bob Breen noted that the San Mateo County Sheriff is very responsive. John Quinlan is the Coastside Office/Moss Beach Lieutenant. No formal agreement is in place, but that office writes citations for abalone, poaching, etc.

ADMINISTRATION

Sanctuary Manager Maria Brown presented the Administration Action Plan.

Operations

The main facility needs to be maximized to accommodate the staff and programs. We hope to develop the whole Coast Guard building complex into a complex for GFNMS activities. We will use the boat house for meeting space, lectures, and trainings, but it is not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant. Also, it will be a staging area for oil spills such as the Cape Mohican. Plans are to divide half into a wet lab and an intake site for oiled wildlife in event of emergency response.

The Visitor Center is intended for an upgrade. We will expand exhibits and programming, plus add wayside exhibits when the Visitor Center is closed. We also want to develop a California Region Plan, with Ano Nuevo-to-Bodega Head exhibits.

Fort Ross (outside the sanctuary) is a key maritime center for the sanctuary, bringing in a maritime heritage component. Historically, Native Americans went to the Farallones to seal from this port.

At Bodega Marine Lab we will expand the current exhibit with interactive and interpretive tanks showing GFNMS habitats. We will develop the signage, but do not need to be caretakers for the tide pools and tanks. Students and visiting researchers will get to know about us, to foster future collaborative partnerships.

In the marinas, we want to develop wayside exhibits from Bodega to San Luis Obispo. Sites include Tomales Bay, in the Point Reyes National Seashore, including Bear Valley (400,000 visitors/annum). We've been given a corner in the Visitor Center for slides and videos. In Tomales Bay, at the lighthouse we can have an exhibit "dive-in" virtually get-wet experience.

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Sacramento Landing Education and Science Center: This is Ed Ueber's new project. The dock will be rebuilt, and an enforcement vessel will be berthed there, with monitoring equipment and kayaks.

Duxbury Reef: This has been the pilot site for rocky shores monitoring for 11 years now. We will continue a 2-panel exhibit on the sanctuary and habitat.

Offshore, we will renovate the SE Farallon Island facility with the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Basic amenities and safety issues need to be addressed, and a lab is to be added for processing monitoring samples.

In San Francisco, a major population hub, the Ocean Exploration Center is planned. Lecture venue, exhibits, panel discussions. The Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) gets 1.7 million visitors per year, promotes cultural integration and serves as a "portal" to the National Marine Sanctuary Program. Although we cannot have live animals from the sanctuary to put on exhibit, we can partner with the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) to do so. They can build a 75,000 gallon, three-storey tank and touch-pool area on GFNMS if we can provide design and fabrication money. Terry Gosliner, Provost for CAS, is on the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association board. If we can fund implementation, they agreed to do the upkeep for 20 years.

The Oakland Museum is interested in a California sanctuaries exhibit, to reach inner-city audiences in the East Bay, a new outreach audience. It will serve as an expansion point into the East Bay.

At Fisherman's Wharf, the San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SFMNHP) interactive real time exhibit in visitor center will unveil in late June.

The Pillar Point Harbor will have a maritime cultural model community project with signage, and send a "sustainability" message packaged with GFNMS information.

We are now working with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary on signage for the California coast.

Vessels:

GFNMS now has only a 27 foot powerboat, *Phocoena*, which is unsuited to our sea conditions, plus one zodiac and two kayaks. The National Marine Sanctuary Program is looking for a "Shearwater" class catamaran-style vessel to be stationed in MBNMS, but for joint use by GF and CB as well. The sites will need to work out vessel time schedules for research and education/outreach and enforcement (if needed). Cordell Bank has the vessel, *C. Magister*, a 37-foot craft.

Research Facilities: These include Sacramento Landing and the Southeast Farallon Island field station.

Staffing:

Most staffing changes are in the Education Section due to the extended Ocean Exploration Center timeline. A total of five contractors are planned: Research Specialists (full time), Volunteer Specialist (Beach Watch, Shannon Lyday) Research Specialist. Jamie Hall and Dru Devlin currently do this part time. An Education Specialist/Jacque Hilterman; a Program Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator (Joanne Mohr).

New and Projected Staff:

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- Brady Phillips, on temporary detail as acting Assistant Manager
- NOAA corps billet for Operations
- Office Administrator: Judith Novak
- GIS Specialist: Dave Lott, on loan from NOAA
- Public Outreach (another of Mary Jane Schramm's roles)
- Resource Protection Coordinator
- Enforcement Coordinator
- Resource Specialist (for permits and water quality)

Our goal is to develop an integrated team structure across program areas, based upon ecosystems. We want to become leaders in the field of ecosystem protection.

Partnerships

These include museums, internships, universities, and other sources of funding and in-kind support, including our Advisory Council.

Interagency Coordination

Most partners will be land-based, and we will share resources and exchange information on complementary and supplemental authorities. We may cross-deputize for enforcement with NPS and others. Emergency response coordination is vital.

Planning and Evaluation: All efforts will be goal-oriented and involve performance indicators. These will require staffing and facilities, and funding from various sources. We will identify needs and revisit our progress periodically. Resource protection is our first priority.

It was noted that evaluation of unsuccessful efforts will be helpful for inclusion in performance indicators. Also, if deliverables are concrete, this will be helpful in meeting objectives.

Maria indicated that the Northern Management Area (NMA) administrative plan will be dealt with later.

ITEM 5: THE NEXT STEPS

In summation, Anne Walton stated that Julie Barrow and Brady Phillips will be working on site action plans and cross-cutting plans to incorporate them into the larger plan. Maria will speak on the San Mateo County Coastal Plan.

Last week Anne met at Headquarters on regulations. After reviewing the information with Dan Basta, it will be presented to the Sanctuary Advisory Council again, following the impacts analysis. Anne emphasized that there is a discussion ban during the process of agency clearance and release of information. A general overview will be provided.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement was just given to TetraTech for analysis, and the review will take several months; the schedule is to be announced. The Final Environmental Impact Statement will be issued in spring or summer 2005.

CLOSING REMARKS

Maria Brown announced an All Hands meeting will be held on implementing the Northern Management Area (NMA) decision and programs. Dan Basta has stipulated that there must be an annual joint Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting. For the upcoming meeting, three items should be noted:

First, that this is an excellent chance to work in partnership with the Monterey sanctuary.

Second, we will develop a Northern Management Area (NMA) working group composed of both sites' Sanctuary Advisory Council members.

Third, we have a Public-At-Large seat now open. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Council has two Public-At-Large seats from San Mateo. Their Public-At-Large seat could apply for our seat on the council. Mark Dowie is the current Public-At-Large Alternate for GFNMS. Maria wants to present this proposal at the All Hands meeting. Chris Powell asked for clarification on the legalities involved in posting openings for seats. A Federal Register notice is required.

A question was asked if this will be the only bridge between the two Sanctuary Advisory Councils, and whether the Monterey council would be involved with GFNMS, as well as Northern Management Area (NMA), issues. Working groups could be one way of utilizing both councils' members. GFNMS (e.g. concerning the Marine Protected Area Working Group issue) could lend a member to Monterey Bay's Marine Protected Area Working Group. Maria pointed out that we've already invited Monterey Bay's council to provide a liaison with ours.

Regarding water quality, Brenda noted the need for more focus in this area. Community based interest already exists in the Coastside community for volunteer programs and other means of involvement. Maria noted that Monterey Bay is taking the lead on water quality for the California coast, an expanded area beyond their current scope.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

For questions or comments on the above proceedings, please contact Mary Jane Schramm, Advisory Council Coordinator, at 415/ 561-6622 ext. 205.