



GREATER FARALLONES
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Great Hall, San Francisco Zoo
Sloat Blvd. at Great Highway
San Francisco, CA 94132
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
Wednesday December 2, 2015

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

Copies to:

Bill Douros, ONMS West Coast Regional Office
Meeting called to order at: 9:15 AM

Review Agenda

Roll Call

Review Agenda

Swear-in new GFNMS Council Members: Francesca Koe and Lisa Van Atta

GFNMS Superintendent's Report

Maria announced that Dan Basta retired at the end of October.

Maria reported on the COP21 Paris Climate Discussions and mentioned that the SAC's work on climate change, including reports, climate impacts working group, climate indicators report, adaptation working group products are all being highlighted at COP21. Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) proposed a session during COP21 on Natural solutions on coastal resilience (this came from GFNMS). Kathryn Sullivan is leading up panel with representatives from NOAA and the Nature Conservancy, and it will highlight the Bolinas project. The United Nations has a publication to go along with COP21.

Anne Morkill asked for clarification regarding the UN publication, which Maria said would be sent out in a separate email.

Permits

An education permit was issued on September 9th to James Moskito and Lawrence Groth of Great White Adventures to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of ecotourism charters for the public. The permit is effective within GFNMS around the Farallon Islands from Fall 2015-Winter 2016.

A salvage permit was issued to Charles "Tod" Friend of the Tomales Bay Oyster Company on September 23 to remove marine debris from Tomales Bay that is associated with Tomales Bay Oyster Company operations. This permit is a renewal of a previous permit that required the

salvage and removal of 2 illegally constructed fences outside the aquaculture lease area. Through the process of consulting with the California Coastal Commission and the permittee, it was discovered that the permittee had also constructed a “berm”, comprised of PVC pipes, plastic mesh sheeting, and plastic mesh bags near the mouth of Walker Creek with the intent of altering natural sediment and freshwater inflow into the Bay. This salvage permit was issued to include the berm and any other associated marine debris.

An education permit was issued on September 29th to Jane Reifert and Greg Barron of Incredible Adventures to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of its tourism charters for the public. This permit is effective through Fall 2015 in GFNMS waters around the Farallon Islands.

An education permit was issued on September 29th to Chris Welsh (Deep Sub LLC) and Scott Cassell (Undersea Voyager Project) to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of an educational film project. This permit is effective through October 2015 in GFNMS waters around the Farallon Islands.

A research permit was issued on September 29th to Bob Schwemmer and Jim Delgado of the NOAA MHP team to conduct an archaeological site characterization of maritime heritage resources to support MHP Maritime Cultural Landscape initiative. Targets include both shipwrecks and aircraft wrecks in the sanctuary. A Teleydne-owned and operated ROV will be used to collect high definition video, still images and side scan sonar data for analysis. ROV thruster(s) may need to disturb the seabed to remove sediment for visual examination of wrecks. This permit is effective at 9 different locations in GFNMS waters from October 4-14, 2015.

The authorization of a USCG Mission Effectiveness Project (MEP) was issued on October 13th to Griffin Guess and Zoe Lee of Cartel Management to allow the use of 15 Motorized Personal Watercraft by the contest sponsors during the Titans of Mavericks 2015-2016 Surf Contest for surf rescue, transport of competitors, and other event management tasks and the deployment of temporary buoys to demarcate the contest area during the 1-day event. This authorization is effective between November 1st, 2015 and March 21st, 2016, within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, at the Mavericks surf break, offshore of Pillar Point, in Half Moon Bay.

An education permit was issued on October 22nd to John “Chris” Duba of Silver Fox Charters to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of ecotourism charters for the public. The permit is effective within GFNMS waters around the Farallon Islands for fall of 2015.

Under review is an amendment to a permit for Barbara Block (Stanford University, TOPP) and Sal Jorgensen (Monterey Bay Aquarium, TOPP). This would amend their current research permit to use Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) for the purposes of filming their research activities at the Ano Nuevo field site. This amendment would only allow UAS use at Ano Nuevo this season.

An appeal was filed by Jane Reifert of Incredible Adventures, whose permit to attract white sharks for education purposes as part of its tourism charters for the public does not include the use of chum.

Francesca Koe asked Maria for a clarification as to the appeals to white shark attraction permits, which Maria said it was regarding the use of chum.

Health of the Sanctuary

Common Murre Die-Off

A post breeding die-off in Common Murres (COMU) is common from August through October, with a peak in September. This past year, Beach Watch saw record numbers of dead COMU, mostly chicks (young of the year). About 75% of the dead murres were young of the year; usually it is closer 50:50 chicks to juveniles and adults in August and September. The normal post-breeding, dead bird rate in COMU is about 0.5 murres/km surveyed. During past El Nino years (1994, 1997, 1998, 2007, and 2008) the rate of dead murres is around 1-2.5 murres/km surveyed. This past year, post-breeding mortality was approximately 9.5 murres/km surveyed.

All necropsies show that this is a food-related mortality event, with emaciation and related problems as the cause of death. We suspect that prey, although abundant in some areas, was not distributed in the areas where flightless chicks were able to forage or deeper than they could dive.

Northern Fur Seal Die-Offs

This is the time of year when we normally see failure of northern fur seal pups to succeed post-weaning, in other words they cannot make it on their own after they have been weaned. We have already started documenting dead northern fur seal pups.

Vessel Groundings / Incidents

A 20-foot-long, Grady White fishing vessel flipped near Middle Farallon Island on Saturday October 10, 2015. Due to the heavy fog conditions that day, the USCG was not able to mount a helicopter rescue but the whale watching boat Kitty Kat was in the area and was able to save two people from the overturned boat; sadly, a third person perished. As the vessel began to drift extremely close to Southeast Farallon Island, GFNMS was able to work with the West Coast Region and the NOAA's research vessel, the FULMAR, to secure the overturned boat and tow it back to San Francisco where it was transferred to USCG and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Mavericks Surf Contest

The window is now open for the 2015-2016 Titans of Mavericks surf contest. The contest window for this year runs from November 1st to March 31st. This is the second season that Cartel Management, Inc. has been the contest sponsor; last year they received a permit but the surf conditions did not materialize to allow the contest to run. GFNMS staff is working closely with the Cartel group and other public safety and resource agencies and NOAA Office of Law Enforcement to ensure that the usual permit protocols to protect resources are observed, including having wildlife observers on-site and ensuring that the 15 permitted MPWC operators avoid sensitive nearshore areas while operating around the surf break. Due to concerns that charter boats and other craft have been getting too close to the surf break in past years in order to watch the event, the USCG has developed a regulation for the contest that restricts all vessel traffic within a 1,000 yard radius of Sail Rock. As in the past few years, the public will not be allowed access to the beach or bluff areas for both safety and resource protection reasons. Instead, a festival will be held at the Oceano Hotel

parking lot where a live broadcast of the contest will be shown. GFNMS plans to have an education booth at the festival to conduct outreach to the public about the sanctuary.

MBNMS Management Plan Review Update

Presentation available here

Volunteer Appreciation Event

Feb 25th 6:30-930 at the Bay Model in Sausalito

MBNMS Superintendent's Report

A discussion followed in which Paul Michel answered question from the SAC related to the MBNMS Management Plan Review scoping comments. The below are brief summaries of dialogue that followed Paul Michel's presentation.

Kellyx Nelson asked for a clarification on cross-cutting programs. Paul Michel explained that cross-cutting refers to the work between different Sanctuaries, for example work done jointly between Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and GFNMS or Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS).

Richard Charter asked if any comments related to the closure of the Donut Hole appear under cross-cutting. A discussion followed in which Paul Michel clarified the issue. Comments related to the closure of the Donut Hole were categorized under "Miscellaneous Comments," and the issue is expected to be one of significant discussion.

Barbara Emley asked about the anchovy fishery in MBNMS, specifically what kind of fishing and which fishermen are participating in it. Paul Michel was not sure and clarified that comments received on fishing were miscellaneous ones from individuals.

Caleb Rosen asked if an action item is necessary for each of these comments, to which Paul Michel said no, just consideration is necessary at this time.

Francesca Koe asked about the request for a mooring buoy. Paul Michel clarified that a buoy at a couple of sites were proposed, including one at Pinnacles off of Carmel and Canary Row. Francesca further inquired about the suggestions for an artificial reef in the sanctuary, suggesting that the dive community is split on that. She wondered if the comments were solicited or proposed. Paul Michel clarified that the Dive Representative on the MBNMS Advisory Council did a survey from a contact list of 2000 local divers, and found that most divers are against it. The ones that are for it are very vocal. Francesca emphasized that the lion's share of divers are not supportive of artificial reefs.

John Largier inquired about the health of the sanctuary. Paul said it has been a very unusual year with die-off and non-resident species' presence in the Sanctuary. The MBNMS Condition Report is going to the press soon; MBNMS is also going to do a write-up on SIMoN about the unusual year of 2015. SIMoN has a section related to sporadic events, which is to be expanded

to allow for a honing in on rare sightings and occurrences.

Kellyx Nelson made a comment about the popularity and success of Big Blue Live.

Brian Johnson of GFNMS asked for an update on desalination plants or offshore energy as they appeared in the MBNMS scoping meetings. Paul said they were grouped in as miscellaneous comments. There is the proposed Trident Plan off of Morro Bay, but that didn't come up during scoping. There are three desalination proposals so far – MBNMS is the lead on two of them. One proposal has slant intake wells to draw in water from beneath the seafloor. Cal AM is primarily proposing this to deal with the Carmel overdraft issues. This means they are not going to produce more water than they have to, but only what is court ordered. The second project is a deep sea water desalination proposal with a giant ocean intake right off of Moss Landing. The third project is funded by a big developer that has to go back to the drawing table to produce a draft. Either MBNMS or the Army Corps will be the lead on this one.

Lisa Van Atta mentioned the successful removal of the San Clemente Dam, which is a big win for NMFS and a long time coming. This removal reopens steelhead habitat.

CBNMS Superintendent's Report

CBNMS report

Jennifer Stock is producing a program on El Nino to be aired on her Ocean Currents radio program – a monthly program on KWMR in Point Reyes Station. Work continues on the expansion of the visitor center at the Point Reyes lighthouse which will nearly triple the footprint of the existing center. The Ocean Interpretive Center at the Point Reyes Lighthouse should be completed in the spring.

Dani Lipski is currently working on the deployment of a buoy with instrumentation to measure sound in the sanctuary. Data from the buoy will be used to create a baseline soundscape of the area- recording natural (whales) as well as human generated (ships) sound. After two years, data will be downloaded and analyzed.

Two moorings with instruments to record temperature and dissolved oxygen are currently deployed at Cordell Bank. This is the second year that these buoys have been deployed. The 2014 results indicated low oxygen events during a two weeks period over the bank. Through ACCESS cruises, researchers noticed an uptick in the southern species' presence in GFNMS/CBNMS waters this year. This included pelagic red crabs and dolphins.

Video and data analysis has been completed for the 2014 ROV cruise that surveyed the “football” in the northern expansion area of GFNMS. A final report will be completed in about a month and published in the Sanctuary Conservation series. A new species of coral, a catshark nursery and skate nursery area were some of the other discoveries that came out of the cruise. Results from surveys over Cordell Bank will be available in the spring.

Richard Charter asked about the baseline soundscape buoy and if it's a multi-sanctuary network. Michael Carver clarified that this NOAA project is in collaboration with Pacific

Marine Environmental Laboratory and there are currently 11 stations around the country. Several stations are in national marine sanctuaries.

John Largier asked about the significance of the skate and catshark nurseries. Michael said this is the first time they've found skate and catshark egg cases in the sanctuary, and the fact that they were together was a very interesting finding.

Jennifer Phillip asked where hypoxic water occurs, if data is available, and if it is two years' worth of data. John Largier replied that the occurrence is on Cordell Bank; data from last year is available for this location, but not yet for this year. Data from Bodega Head and Greater Farallones from this year is available and last year is available. Low oxygen upwelling has occurred in 2-3 multi-day events this year, which did not occur ten years ago.

Advisory Council Business

Working Group Reports

Climate-Smart Adaptation Working Group Update

Presentation available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/Climate_Working_Group_Update.pdf

A discussion followed about the conservation priorities and what is included in the adaptation recommendations. Sara and Anne clarified that the temporal and spatial recommendations of the working group are diverse; some are recommendations to the Sanctuary, while others are to different agencies. Sara also clarified that the SAC will look at those recommendations for the Sanctuary in February. Kellyx asked what would be an appropriate way to connect the working group's climate messages with conservation priorities for non-marine resources that aren't in the ocean is (i.e. watersheds). Anne Morkill said the recommendations of the working group do extend to these non-marine, upland habitats as well.

A discussion about the role of the SAC at this stage then followed. Maria clarified that the SAC can do whatever they want to do with the recommendations. The Sanctuary will only look at the forwarded recommendations, unless the SAC requests that all the working group materials are forwarded. Anne also mentioned that while it is important to have these discussions, including at the March SAC meeting, there is no obligation to make a decision in March. Sara further emphasized this by mentioning it is a big list of recommendations developed by the working group.

Paul Michel expressed his excitement over the recommendations and mentioned the intended inclusion of a climate change action plan for the new management plan at MBNMS. He hopes this is an approach that MBNMS could follow in developing action plans and recommendations. Maria further mentioned that MBNMS could take a lot of the work GFNMS developed and update it for the MB region, since many species and habitats are similar.

Low Overflights Working Group Update

Presentation available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/Low_Overflights_WG_Update.pdf

A discussion followed about the use of drones, the regulation of drones, and if they will be covered by this working group. Working group chair George Clyde clarified that, under current regulations, drones are considered the same as a Boeing 747 aircraft. However, unmanned crafts like gliders are not the same. The group will not be getting into specific about types of aircrafts but more the geographic regions. Karen Reyna clarified that GFNMS permits the use of unmanned air crafts for research. Several institutions are moving in that direction. There was a survey done in Tomales Bay this past year. Recently, in the San Francisco area the FAA published rules for commercially flown drones, so NOAA is abiding by this proposed rule. This proposed regulation restricts a lot of Sanctuary areas from drones which would apply for research as well. George further mentioned that the working group will look at disturbance from ALL aircraft; although a drone has less noise, it does hover, which in some ways can be more disturbing to marine bird than a louder jet plane.

Karen then clarified the Sanctuary's regulations. The sanctuary has two regulations related to this issue. The first is the overflight regulation- motorized aircraft are presumed to disturb wildlife when flying below 1,000 feet above ground level when one is within these 7 zones within the sanctuary. The second regulation prohibits the take of marine mammals and that includes harassment. The differences between these regulations are that the first regulates activity based on zones. On air nautical charts pilots are required to have updated charts any time they fly. The second regulation requires proof of wildlife harassment and applies everywhere within the Sanctuary.

Karen explained that the secondary goal of the overflights working group is about outreach. The Seabird Protection Network is a very robust education and outreach program that will give a presentation and update to the SAC this year.

Lisa Van Atta mentioned that the Society of Marine Mammology conference starting on Dec 13th includes pre-conference workshops Saturday about Unmanned Air Crafts and the impact on marine mammals. Karen asked her to report on it in March if she attends.

Approve August Meeting Notes (ACTION ITEM)

Motion: John Largier

Second: Richard Charter

Approve: all

Oppose: none

Abstain: none

MOTION PASSES



WCR Quarterly Report

Please find the 2015 3rd Quarter West Coast Region Sanctuary Advisory Council Report [here](#). A discussion followed about the importance of continued funding for the buoy in CBNMS. The SAC may write a thank-you letter to the state at their next meeting that emphasizes the importance of ongoing funding.

2016 Meeting Schedule

March 2nd – Bodega Bay

May 25th Wednesday – Half Moon Bay

August 25th (potential joint meeting with CBNMS) – Point Reyes

November 16th – San Francisco

The GFNMS and MBNMS Executive Committees are scheduled to meet sometime this year in Monterey.

Charter Review/SAC Size and Composition (ACTION ITEM)

A discussion followed regarding the addition of a Mendocino-Sonoma County Community At-Large (primary and alternate) seat to the SAC. The addition received unanimous support, although some members are concerned about the large size of the SAC. The addition of a Mendocino/Sonoma County Community-At-Large voting seat (primary and alternate) to the Advisory Council of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) is recommended in response to the recent geographic and jurisdictional boundary expansion of GFNMS. A Mendocino/Sonoma County Community-At-Large seat on the SAC is needed to represent the interests of this newly included constituency.

Motion: Richard Charter

Second: Barbara Emley

Approve: 9

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSES

Youth-Alternate Application Review Subcommittee

Four applications were received for the vacant youth (alternate) seat on the SAC. An application review subcommittee is needed to assist with recruitment.

Youth Application Review Subcommittee Members:

Caleb, Jennifer, Francesca, Christy, Bruce, Richard, Elizabeth, and Bibit

BREAK

Member Reports

Jennifer Phillips (Ocean Protection Council) –

The review phase of Prop 1 is ongoing. There was a letter due yesterday and the full proposal is

due in early 2016. The California Fourth Climate Assessment is due at the end of this week. The Safe-Guarding California Implementation Plan and public comment is due on December 10th.

Michael Carver (CBNMS) –

The state is deploying the Point Reyes Buoy for another year. Perhaps instead of writing an appeal letter like we previously discussed, we could write a thank you letter to urge continued funding (perhaps at a joint GFNMS/CBNMS meeting).

Caleb Rosen (Youth/Primary) –
None

Dominque Richard (Community At-Large, Marin/Sonoma/Primary) –

On a recent Beach Watch survey, an elk was sighted, which is a good indicator that they are thriving. The Environmental Action Committee of West Marin's director just resigned so they are now doing a search for new candidate.

Barbara Emley (Maritime Activities/Commercial/Primary) –

Domoic acid postponed the Dungeness crab season that should have started Nov 15th. The last report on the domoic acid showed that the San Francisco/Half Moon Bay areas are clean now, but it is the only place on the coast that was. The entire coast needs to be cleared before crabs can be caught.

John Largier asked about the frequency of sampling, which Barbara clarified as once a week. Fishermen and women are waiting for the report from the most recent sampling, but there is little hope of making the make the Christmas market. This is an unheard of occurrence. Crab represents 80% of the local fisheries' income. If the season doesn't start until Jan 1st, all of the big markets are lost as fishing becomes more difficult and the price goes down. There are also some jurisdictional issues, as recreational fishers wanted to be able to start a week before commercial fisherman, which would have postponed us even further.

Richard Charter (Conservation/Primary) –

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary is going through an expansion process with very valid reasons to do it. It has wonderful reefs and banks that should have been in the Sanctuary to begin with; there has been discussion on allowing offshore drilling in the new area. There was a comment period right before Thanksgiving in regards to leaving abandoned oil rig within existing sanctuary. There are extensive comments about how it negates whole point of sanctuary. In Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary, offshore drilling in Canadian Waters near Georges Bank was just approved. The likelihood of oil infrastructure adjacent to Stellwagen seems likely. The Chumash Heritage proposed sanctuary was green-lighted by NOAA to proceed in the nomination process. There is some objection from the Monterey Bay region related to fishing. There is also some opposition in the San Luis Obispo area – saying that the Coastal Commission could ban off shore drilling in Chumash waters, which is not true. *A discussion followed about what is considered "Chumash waters," which Richard clarified extends from Morro Bay down to Camarillo.*

John Largier (Research/Primary) –

The lack of winter weather is keeping the Pacific warm, with a persistent domoic acid algal bloom that is coast-wide but not in our region. It doesn't normally exist here because of upwelling. Bodega Marine Lab's buoys show evidence of low oxygen and other weird occurrences, but there is still uncertainty as to what El Niño will bring. There are plans to continue scheduling the Beyond the Golden Gate Research Symposium with Jan at GFNMS since it could coincide well with the two climate summits this spring. John is traveling to the SAC Chairs summit in January. There is a lot of ongoing research work in Tomales Bay with seagrass and aquaculture as each are affected by ocean acidification.

Christy Walker (Community At-Large, San Francisco/San Mateo/Alternate) –

Kellyx left an update before she left today. The Resource Conservation District in San Mateo (RCD) just removed the two barriers in Pescadero Creek; this creates 62 miles of area for Coho salmon. The RCD has been working on this project for about 8 years! It reached a target of 100 miles of rural roads and will help control sediment. This area is salmon spawning habitat. MBNMS staff monitored water quality at storm water outfalls after the first storm event; they will analyze that data now and will share results soon. Their program now includes outfall pipes in Half Moon Bay.

Paul Michel (Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary): Advisory council meeting is scheduled for next Friday – We will be considering adding a college seat to the advisory council. Also, they will be discussing in depth the USGS El Niño storm prediction and model. Also, upgrades to the Exploration Center in Santa Cruz - will be closed from Dec 8th – 21st for new upgrades, exhibits, come back after the 21st to see new stuff!

George Clyde joined a diving group organized by Flower Garden Bank SAC. He dove on an old oil rig and the dive attracted people from as far away as Mexico. Overall, it was a pretty interesting group. They will be doing it again next year again in late August or September. He also reported on blue fin tuna seen off of Tomales Bay, a rare occurrence, and the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan's success.

Francesca Koe (Conservation/Alternate) –

She mentioned that the US Free Diving Team is an organization that provided all the underwater footage for the new document, *Racing Extinction*. It will be on Discovery Channel tonight and during the Marine Mammal Conference.

Lisa Van Atta (National Marine Fisheries Service/Alternate) –

NOAA Fisheries (NMFS) released the California Coastal Multi-Species Proposed Recovery Plan, which includes the Northern California Steelhead, Central coast steelhead, and Chinook.

Bruce Bowser (Conservation/Alternate) –

Marin County hosted a meeting about sea level rise at Point Reyes Station, which was well-attended. There were two hours of presentations. Attendees viewed maps of Bolinas and Stinson and areas that are going to be threatened over the next few decades by sea level rise. The meeting also went over the necessary steps to prevent damage and great loss of property.

Bruce recently asked for help from sanctuary staff to write a letter about the graffiti walls in Bolinas, adjacent to the sanctuary. Kate, Max and Maria reviewed the letter, which has yet to go to print. There are large chips of paint about a quarter-inch thick flaking off of the sea walls due to battering by the waves. Four students from Tam High interviewed Bruce and Kate for a video on the topic. They will forward it to Bruce once it is complete. Lastly, a commercial fisherman in Bolinas who is very concerned by the shortened crab season is going to turn the season into a fishing derby where the small boats are going to try to compete with the big boats. They are putting their lives on the line to make a living. Why is it not possible to restructure the whole season over a larger/broader time? These intense packaging of crab season is hurting his own livelihood.

Barbara clarified that the whole season is structured around whether crabs are ready for market. The crabs here are ready for market when they have hard shells and are fully filled out.

LT Shannon Anthony (USCG/Alternate) –
USCG recently updated its notification system so users should get faster notifications on things like vessel groundings, search and rescues. If there is something that happens and you don't get a timely notification, please let Shannon know. Shannon also participated in the whale entanglement working group and helped with a fly-over to identify where whales are and where they overlap with Dungeness fishing vessels. There has been some talk to also see if the fly-overs can help identify the location of derelict gear. The USCG is trying to get people up in the air to also map that out. Shannon and the USCG are still working with Lilli (CBNMS) and Max (GFNMS) to continue USCG activities in the expanded areas.

PUBLIC COMMENT

LUNCH

Sanctuary Expansion Implementation

Education Expansion Implementation

Presentation available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/Education_Expansion_Update.pdf

The Point Arena Ocean Film Fest is scheduled for April 9th, 2016.
Coastal Days in Gualala is the first weekend of August.

Maria mentioned that GFNMS received many requests for visitor's centers and signage throughout the expansion area. However, we also have existing signage and exhibits in need of updates. GFNMS needs to prioritize what should be done first. This year our priority is to update our name in existing exhibits. Next year, we need to determine the next priority areas for signs and exhibits. In the future (when the Mendocino/Sonoma County seat is added), the Sanctuary might come back to the SAC and ask for a working group for recommendations for visitor centers, exhibits, and signs.

Christy asked if any additional funds came through for the sanctuary with the expansion. Maria said that we have no budget currently; this year, the best case scenario is a continued resolution for a flat-line budget (operate under the previous year's budget, despite the expansion). This is the first year since 2005 that the Administration is putting in a request for an increase in sanctuaries' budgets thanks to expansions, but we wouldn't see it till 2017/2018.

A discussion followed about the merits of an appeal from the SAC to garner support for additional funds. Francesca put forth the idea of having Greater Farallones Association work on this. The SAC agreed to draft letters offline and come together in March or early next year to discuss this further.

Conservation Science Expansion Implementation

Presentation Available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/Con_Sci_Expansion_Update.pdf

A discussion followed regarding the new beaches added to Beach Watch as a result of the expansion. Jan Roletto clarified that 80 beaches are now included in Beach Watch monitoring, and human use information (including disturbance through trampling) is a part of these surveys. Surveys within MPAs as well as at control sites are often used to collect complementary data.

A brief discussion on monitoring in MPAs followed. There is a series of monitoring workshops scheduled this week (in Gualala, Bodega Bay, and Half Moon Bay) that several Sanctuary staff plan to attend.

Michael Carver asked for clarification of cargo vessel restrictions within the Sanctuary. Maria clarified that the restriction pertains to areas one mile off of the special wildlife protection zone (SWPZ). Previous regulations featured areas of special biological significance; GFNMS created language that was sanctuary-specific so if California changed their language down the line, the sanctuary could maintain those zones. Cargo vessels are not allowed to travel within one nautical mile of a special wildlife protection zone. GFNMS will assess the North Coast, where it is less likely that will be vessels very close to shore.

A discussion followed about the Beach Watch volunteers, their training, and recruitment.

ACCESS:

A discussion followed about ACCESS and how it operates and the data it collects during the cruises. Jan Roletto also clarified the difference between data sets of PISCO and LiMPETS. PISCO collects data sets on population, abundance, distribution, status and trends. The Association and the Sanctuary are looking at how LiMPETS can collect data at a few selected locations. GFNMS is looking at the rocky shore portion of LiMPETS and looking at ways to use that information for some of our management issues like trampling impacts and extraction. GFNMS is trying to find things that kids can document well and ways to integrate that with the PISCO project. There are ways to do that; for example, through a group called MARINE, which is more of a citizen science sampling that is used primarily in Southern CA. The MARINE data

manager is the same data manger that PISCO has and that could be a way for LIMPETS to merge and provide info via that platform. Some LiMPETS sites overlap with PISCO sites.

Deep-Sea Corals & Sponges

A discussion of potential partnerships with the California Academy of Sciences and Monterey Bay Aquarium followed.

Resource Protection Expansion Implementation

Presentation Available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/Resource_Protection_Expansion_Update.pdf

A discussion followed about certifications, and if the list in Karen's presentation is a comprehensive list of all organizations that require a certification. Karen and Maria explained that it is in fact comprehensive.

Motorized Personal Watercraft and Low Overflights

A discussion followed about the limited use of Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWCs) in the Sanctuary, and their benefits to surfing and search and rescue. A consensus was reached that data collection before creating regulations is a better approach.

John Largier asked about estuary zones and if they are included at this time. Maria clarified that GFNMS was not able to address estuaries in the final environmental impact statement since they were not proposed in the draft EIS, action of estuaries didn't go out for public comment, so it couldn't be included in the final action. GFNMS responded on this topic in the next management plan.

A discussion followed on the difference between special closure and special wildlife zone. Special closure is designated by state of CA as no vessel access zone. A special wildlife zone is an area that has high breeding concentration and diversity of seabirds and or white sharks. There are currently seven special wildlife protection zones at this time within the Sanctuary.

A discussion then followed of special wildlife protection zones and their relationship to overflight disturbance. Karen said that in theory, GFNMS could have an overflight prohibition in an area that is not a special wildlife protection zone. At this time, the SAC agreed to see what the overflight working group finds and hear its recommendations.

The SAC recommends the continued staffing of the Overflights Working Group in 2016 with its proposed schedule for recommendations (ACTION ITEM)

Motion: Francesca Koe

Second: Kellyx Nelson

Approve: 8

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSES

A discussion followed at length regarding motorized personal watercraft (MPWC) use within the Sanctuary. When GFNMS tried to create zones during expansion, people were very unhappy; no action was taken at that time. Now, the Sanctuary is taking a step back to determine how to solve the issue (if it needs solving). A debate over creating a working group now or at a later time continued, with several differing opinions. Ultimately, the SAC decided to come back to issue after a year of data of MPWC usage throughout the Sanctuary is available.

The SAC recommends a step-wise process to collect data and evaluate Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC) use and disturbance throughout the expanded Sanctuary and Northern Management Area.

Motion: Francesca Koe

Second: Kellyx Nelson

Approve: 8

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSES

Authorizations

Karen defined authorizations for the SAC as several members are unfamiliar with them.

Authorization authority grants GFNMS the ability to authorize permits from other agencies.

GFNMS has five permit categories; however, MBNMS has an additional permit category.

GFNMS does not currently have the ability to authorize other permits from other agencies.

Authorizations were discussed at length at the 2014 joint meeting with CBNMS. In response to comments, GFNMS said it would bring authorizations to the SAC to consider for a potential working group or subcommittee. Maria requested the SAC to take on this issue now. A lengthy discussion followed by those SAC members highly opposed to authorization authority and the risks it could pose in the future. The majority of the SAC does not want to take on this issue at this time, as they do not see an impending need or situation in which an authorization might be necessary.

Statement: The Advisory council considered and does not recommend a working group or subcommittee for authorizations. (ACTION ITEM)

Motion: Barbara Emley

Second: Dominique Richard

Approve: 8

Oppose: 0

Abstain: 0

MOTION PASSES

A discussion followed on taking further action or more decisive action, but several members feel

that a more measured discussion as well as a presentation on the specifics of authorizations is needed.

Maritime Heritage Expansion Implementation

Presentation Available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/MHP_Expansion_Presentation.pdf

A discussion followed about the significance of the maritime heritage program and its potential for partnerships and public engagement. It is a cross-cutting program within the Sanctuary already (with Conservation Science and Research and Education) and could similarly be so in the local community.

BREAK

Advisory Council Business

2015 Work Plan Summary

Summary Available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/SAC%20Work%20Plan%20SUMMARY%20FY%202015.pdf

2016 Work Plan Prospectus

Prospectus Available at:

http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/pdf/sac/15_12/SAC%20Work%20Plan%20PROSPECTUS%20FY16.pdf

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