

West Coast Region Sanctuary Advisory Councils

West Coast Region Sanctuary Advisory Councils Approve National SAC and MPA FAC Joint Call to Action

In the third quarter of 2014, four of the five west coast sanctuary advisory councils approved the joint “call to action” document entitled *Destination Marine Protected Areas: Sustaining America’s Most Treasured Ocean Places for Recreation and Stewardship*. CBNMSAC approved the “call to action” at their meeting in the second quarter of 2014. The document was presented at a meeting of National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Chairs and the Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Federal Advisory Committee in Galveston, Texas for all advisory councils to review and vote on whether to endorse or not. The overarching call to action reflects a collective commitment to ensure proactive management of growing ocean recreation in these special places in order to sustain their natural and cultural assets. The document highlights actions in four related areas to enhance the ability of MPAs to meet opportunities and challenges with increased recreation activity in our marine and Great Lakes environments:

1. Invite people to play (responsibly) in MPAs
2. Embrace the human dimension of ocean places
3. Sustain MPA ecosystems and values
4. Engage recreational users as ocean stewards

The Chair of the MPA Federal Advisory Committee had already signed the call to action and each SAC Chair are to present this to his/her council to vote on adopting. Once all supportive signatures come through, the document will be forwarded to the heads of Department of Commerce and Department of Interior. This “call to action” should be available on each advisory council’s webpage.

The MBNMS advisory council had more than one council member express concern with item #3 - *Sustain MPA Ecosystems and Values* and its implications to embroil the sanctuaries (specifically “evaluating the adequacy of, and if necessary, adjusting existing management authorities to meet anticipated needs for ecologically sustainable recreation and thereby informing all communities along our coast.”). Basically there was concern about the language used without clear definition of terms. The Chair and past Chair reiterated this call to action was intended to address recreational use only as the objective. There was a suggestion to bring this to the advisory council’s national group.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

September 19, 2014

Marine Shipping Working Group to Begin in Fall 2014

In January 2014 the CINMS Advisory Council unanimously voted to approve formation of a Marine Shipping Working Group, which will address marine shipping impacts and conflicts in the Santa Barbara Channel region, including issues with fatal ship strikes on endangered whales, air pollution emissions, navigational safety concerns, and conflicts with naval operations. At the September 19th SAC meeting conservation seat member Kristi Birney announced that external funding had been identified to help provide support services for the working group, and allow it to convene sometime this fall.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant advisory council actions taken this quarter.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 20, 2014

Advisory Council Votes to Form Climate-Smart Working Group

The Advisory Council voted to support Phase Two of the GFNMS Climate-Smart Adaptation project by forming a working group which would define distinct climate scenarios and develop prioritized adaptation recommendations. The council plans to convene the working group in the beginning of 2015.

Advisory Council Passes a ‘Sense of the SAC’ Regarding the Proposed Northern Expansion

The Advisory Council passed a ‘Sense of the SAC’ statement to affirm their support of an extended public process to determine an appropriate regulatory scheme for the proposed expansion area. The council intends to “proactively establish and move forward with working groups as needed to address unresolved issues in the [proposed] sanctuary boundary expansion and make recommendations to the sanctuary superintendent, regional director and director of ONMS.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

Advisory Council Votes to Hear More About Bringing Crab Pots Back Safely to Shore

The MBNMS Advisory Council learned of issues currently related to crab pots/lines in Monterey Bay. With more and more pots being set, more lines are out and there are issues with numerous pots with no floats. Diving seat Brian Nelson says, “It’s a virtual kelp forest of poly lines down there.” Brian has developed a way to detect the lines underwater and can capture the lines to retrieve the pots (using volunteers). U.S. Fish & Wildlife regulations no longer allow multiple pots on one float – creating the immense increase in poly line. Brian asked to agendaize the issue for the October meeting and feels there is a solution to a real problem. A motion was passed to put the issue on the agenda as well as the proposal for potential actions.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No other significant advisory council actions taken this quarter.
