

## **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

November 18, 2010

The Advisory Council's meeting on November 18, 2010 was primarily informational in nature. One highlight included an acknowledgement of the hundreds of volunteers assisting the sanctuary and the Channel Islands National Park, including recognition that Council Chair Eric Kett was the recent recipient of a Sanctuary Advisory Council Leadership Award. The Council also enjoyed their first viewing of a portion of the new 29-minute high definition documentary film about the sanctuary: *Beneath the Rainbow Bridge: A Journey Through the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*. The Council also learned about and discussed many aspects of ongoing work on the issue of whale ship strikes, including: viewing a composite map of whales seen in 2010 based on a variety of sources (whale watch vessels, aerial surveys, Cascadia research studies); appreciating the extent of shipping traffic that is now transiting around the northern Channel Islands (75%) instead of using the Santa Barbara Channel (where stricter state emissions laws apply); understanding the relative ship speed differences for various vessel types and routes around the islands; learning about a blue whale that was likely hit by a ship and washed ashore at San Miguel Island; hearing about five other whales recently determined to have been struck by vessels around the Gulf of the Farallones region; and receiving an update on a UC Santa Barbara Bren School graduate team project focused on a cost/benefit analysis of management options for reducing ship strike risk.

## **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

October 21, 2010

The Advisory Council held their annual retreat at the Cypress Grove Research Center located on Tomales Bay. Council members discussed their 2011 work plan and scheduled meeting dates. Sarah Maxwell, Postdoctoral Fellow for the Marine Conservation Biology Institute and University of California Santa Cruz, gave a presentation to the council on the role of top predators in National Marine Sanctuaries and marine spatial planning.

November 18, 2010

The November 18, 2010 meeting provided a breadth of information to council members, including a discussion of the United States Coast Guard proposed modifications to the San Francisco vessel traffic lanes as part of the Port Access Route Study (PARS). Research alternate council member, Jaime Jahncke, updated the council on the preliminary results from the 2010 ACCESS (Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies) field season. Meredith Elliott, PRBO Conservation Science, presented to the council how copepods indicate ocean

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conditions in Central California. Last, council members received a demonstration of NOAA's Science on a Sphere, currently on display at the Point Reyes National Seashore Visitor Center, and learned of the potential for collaborative programs that would focus on National Marine Sanctuaries and National Parks.

## **Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

December 9, 2010

### **Revised Council Charter Finalized by Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

The Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council unanimously approved the final revisions to their council charter, including: the adoption of the ONMS national policy on council term limits, and the creation of a non-voting, government seat for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and a voting, government seat for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. The council also discussed the addition of a youth seat to the advisory council and charter, but agreed to not make this revision now and investigate this option further at a future meeting.

### **New Working Group Formed to Address Water Quality in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary**

The Gulf of the Farallones Advisory Council voted unanimously to address the proposed siting of a gravel mine on the banks of the Estero Americano River. The proposed gravel mine would be located over the old site of the unlined Sonoma County landfill. Re-shaping of the river, along with digging into the old landfill site, could potentially impact the water quality of the Estero Americano, and cause downstream impacts to sanctuary resources. The council agreed to form a working group to investigate and assess these potential impacts and pursue further information to increase the council's knowledge of the proposed mine.

## **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

October 21, 2010

The Advisory Council's meeting on October 21, 2010 resulted in three motions. First, an advisory council member brought a resolution passed by the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuary advisory councils to the attention of the Monterey Bay sanctuary advisory council. The resolution expressed concern over salmon declines and interest in salmon recovery. After discussing this resolution over the course of several meetings, the advisory council made modifications and passed a resolution. Like the GF and CB resolutions, the MB resolution expresses continued and effective enforcement of laws critical to healthy ecosystems and support for educating the public about the importance of the San Francisco Bay-Delta Estuary to salmon. Second, after hearing a presentation on the Coastal Discovery Center (CSC) in San Simeon and the need for additional resources at the CDC, the advisory council passed a motion to draft a letter to request additional support for additional resources for the San Simeon office and CDC. Third, the advisory council passed a motion to draft a letter in support of funding for the Marine Interest Group (MIG), a group of

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community members in the southern region of the MBNMS who discuss marine related topics. The letter was not addressed to any one individual or organization so members of the MIG could provide the letter to whomever necessary.

December 10, 2010

At the December 10, 2010 advisory council meeting the advisory council passed the CDC support letter and the MIG support letter at the October 2010 meeting.

## **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Advisory Council Charter Revisions Underway**

At their November meeting, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council established a subcommittee to begin revisions to their Council Charter. Notable proposed revisions include adopting the ONMS national policy on Council term limits and incorporating outer coast Marine Resource Committees into the Council. The Council will propose a time extension request at their January 2011 meeting and provide a revised draft Charter for discussion at their March 2011 meeting.

### **Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council and OCNMS Advisory Council Hold Joint Meeting**

An inaugural joint meeting of two councils that guide management policy and provide advice to the Sanctuary Superintendent was held in November. The Olympic Coast Intergovernmental Policy Council has representatives from four Coastal Treaty Tribes (Makah, Quileute, and Hoh tribes, and Quinault Indian Nation) and the state of Washington and works with the sanctuary to coordinate activities within the sanctuary and to achieve a shared vision of priorities for understanding and protecting the marine environment and improving the lives of all who depend on the sea. The councils shared their priorities and developed suggestions for future relationship building. A summary of the discussion is available from the November 19, 2010 Advisory Council meeting notes at [http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/sac\\_meetschedule2010.html](http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/sac_meetschedule2010.html).

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