

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 20, 2017

Advisory Council Acknowledges Shipping Industry for Participation in 2016 Vessel Speed Reduction Program

Over 27 tons of smog-forming emissions (nitrogen oxides, or NO_x) from ships were spared from being emitted into the air basins of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and whales were afforded greater protection from possible fatal ship collisions, thanks to the success of an incentivized Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) program that was active from July through mid-November of 2016 within and around the waters of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. On January 20th, at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council's public meeting in Santa Barbara, VSR program results were presented and discussed and several shipping line representatives in attendance were presented with certificates and plaques for their program participation. The 2016 VSR program was a collaborative effort. Ten shipping lines participated, which was three more since the program's inception in 2014. Funding for incentive payments and program operation was provided by the Santa Barbara Air Pollution Control District, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Volgenau Foundation. Staff support and program planning and administration was provided by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS).

Automatic Identification System (AIS) data from ships, analyzed by Starcrest LLC, was used to measure cooperation with requested speed reductions, and indicated that over 80 percent of enrolled transits slowed to the requested 12 knots or less in specified areas along the Santa Barbara Channel and a "western route" just south of the northern Channel Islands. Incentive payment amounts ranged from \$1,500-\$3,750 per qualifying ship transit depending on the historical average speed of each enrolled vessel. Additional bonus incentive payments were provided for transits conducted at 10 knots or less, as well as for the submission of whale sighting reports and the demonstration of schedule adjustments to support normal operating speeds used outside the incentive area. Compared to the initial 2014 VSR program, in 2016 the program attracted four times as many applications from the shipping industry, and air pollution savings were doubled. These successful results and positive feedback from participants has encouraged VSR partners to plan for the program to run again in 2017.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 2, 2017

Advisory Council Expresses Support for Letter to NOAA Administrator Regarding Law Enforcement

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a motion to have the Chair sign a letter to the NOAA Administrator regarding law enforcement in NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System. All advisory councils in the National Marine Sanctuary System were considering or had taken similar action. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries planned to consider action on the letter after all of the advisory councils reached decisions about it.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 1, 2017

Advisory Council Expresses Support for Letter to NOAA Administrator Regarding Law Enforcement

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voted to authorize John Largier, Advisory Council Chair, to sign the letter of support for the National SAC Enforcement Working Group.

Advisory Council Endorses Low Overflights Working Group Recommendations

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council received the final report from the Low Overflights Working Group. To address comments from various overflight processes, Sanctuary staff requested an advisory council working group to re-evaluate the locations and dimensions of NOAA regulated overflight zones within GFNMS, including the GFNMS expansion area and northern Monterey Bay. The goals of the Working Group were to provide consensus recommendations, where feasible, that address first and foremost, the almost two decades of public requests to review the location and dimensions (shape and size) of overflight zones within Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Devil's Slide area of the Northern Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. A secondary goal was to identify outreach, education, resource protection and research/monitoring needs of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to address low-flying aircraft. The Advisory Council voted to endorse the Low Overflights Working Group report and forward it and all the recommendations to GFNMS while noting vote tallies and public comments received, orally and written, specifically the comments from the pilots. The working group recommendations were presented and Advisory Council discussion and comments were noted after each recommendation.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 17, 2017

Advisory Council Approves Recommendations from Working Groups and Subcommittee on Management Plan Review Issues

Advisory Council approves recommendations from Motorized Personal Water Craft Subcommittee to MBNMS Advisory Council. Recommendations that the Management Plan and regulations be changed to allow MPWC use at Mavericks during High Surf Advisory conditions were approved.

Advisory Council approves recommendations from Overflight Working Group (GFNMS) to MBNMS Advisory Council. Recommendations include changing chart markings, reconsidering Class-B airspace, and gathering data were approved.

Advisory Council approves recommendations from Wildlife Disturbance – Approach Issues Working Group to MBNMS Advisory Council. Twelve recommendations regarding various user groups approaching and viewing whales were approved.

Advisory Council approves recommendations from the Conservation Working Group to the MBNMS Advisory Council. The Conservation Working Group recommends four proposed strategies regarding marine debris including policy, data aggregation, education and outreach, and research and monitoring.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 20, 2017

Advisory Council Approves Charter Renewal Subcommittee’s Recommendations and Report

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council (AC) approved a recommendation letter and final report from the Charter Renewal Subcommittee (CRS). The CRS was formed to review and renew, as necessary, the OCNMS AC Charter, which expired December 2, 2016. The CRS presented their report and recommendations to the full council twice (September 23 and November 4, 2016 meetings) before consensus was reached, and successfully submitted a three month extension on the 2011 Advisory Council charter. Overall the recommendations put forth at that meeting were as follows:

1. In the case of primary and alternate availability of members to serve as Executive Subcommittee officers, preference will be given to primary council members. The Advisory Council Chair must be a primary member, while alternate members could serve in the role of Vice chair or Secretary. The primary and alternative member of one seat not allowed to serve simultaneously on Executive Subcommittee.
2. Change the date of elections for AC Executive Subcommittee from January meeting to March meeting to ensure that any potential candidates reapplying to serve another term in his/her seat is re-instated before running.
3. Incorporate 2015 Charter amendment made to change name of Commercial Fishing seat to Fishing seat.
4. Update dates (years) in tables listing seat representation or term ends. Add a quorum chart to depict voting members (non-government and government).
5. Remove U.S. Geological Survey seat on AC, based on their inability to dedicate staff and resources to participate. USGS requested we consult with them again in 5 years during next Charter renewal process in the event they are in a better position to rejoin.
6. Update 2016 AC Charter to reflect changes in National Marine Sanctuaries Advisory Council Handbook.

The letter was forwarded from OCNMS Superintendent Carol Bernthal to ONMS Director John Armor and West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros.

The OCNMS Advisory Council’s final letter and report is available on the advisory council’s website at http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/charterrenewalsubcommittee_letter-report_jan2017.pdf.
