

Quarterly Sanctuary Advisory Council Actions

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 26, 2018

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Comments on Draft Proposed Program for Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing

At the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council's public meeting on January 26, the council learned about and engaged in thoughtful discussions focused on the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM's) recently released Draft Proposed Program (DPP) for the 2019-2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing. The council deliberated on creation of a comment letter, working from a draft that had been prepared by conservation seat member Kristen Hislop. Ultimately, the council approved a letter to be submitted to BOEM by a vote of 11 yes and 1 no, with three abstentions. The letter expresses objection to any future oil and gas lease sales within areas that could adversely affect national marine sanctuaries within BOEM's Pacific Region, and cites ecological, economic and ocean use values as rationale for their viewpoint. The letter has been submitted via regulations.gov, and is available online [here](#). For more information about the DPP: boem.gov.

March 16, 2018

Invasive Algae in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Continuing their series of investigations into the emergence of an invasive algae (*Undaria pinnatifida*) within the sanctuary, the council received a field report from David Kushner, Marine Biologist with Channel Islands National Park. Recent SCUBA dive surveys have revealed the continued presence of *Undaria* off the north shore of Anacapa Island. The council also received an update from Roxanne Diaz, a graduate student from the University of California Santa Barbara, about a *Undaria* management recommendations report she has drafted. The council was asked to review and comment on the draft report for two months, and then consider report endorsement at their May 18, 2018 council meeting. The review draft version of the report is available for a limited time, online [here](#).

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 8, 2018

Advisory Council Approved Letter Commenting to the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Draft Proposed Program

At its February 8 meeting, the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) Advisory Council talked about the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) 2019–2024 National Outer Continental Shelf Draft Proposed Program (DPP), after receiving an overview from the Sanctuary Superintendent. BOEM had requested comments on the DPP and sought input for a programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The advisory council approved a letter to BOEM that expressed opposition to the

inclusion in the program of any portion of the Pacific continental shelf region that could impact CBNMS. The letter also requested that BOEM consider, for its programmatic EIS, that increased extraction and use of fossil fuels contributes further to the global problem of warming oceans and ocean acidification. The advisory council requested that the Sanctuary Superintendent submit the letter on the advisory council's behalf to the BOEM docket on Regulations.gov (BOEM-2017-0074), which he did.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 10, 2018

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Takes Several Actions at Recent Meetings

At their January 10, 2018 meeting, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) Advisory Council voted to approve a resolution in response to the call for comments on the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019 through 2024. The resolution stated the council's opposition to include any portion of the Pacific Coast OCS Planning Area in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Leasing Program because of the threats to several National Marine Sanctuaries and the entire California coastal economy.

The GFNMS Advisory Council received recommendations from the Sediment Management Working Group, which will be incorporated into the Sonoma-Marin Regional Sediment Management Report. The council voted to approve the recommendations and recommended that the sanctuary superintendent forward them to the State of California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup.

The GFNMS Advisory Council voted to approve the resolution regarding Coast Guard discharges in sanctuary waters. The council recommended supporting Sewage/Graywater Alternative 3 and Training Alternative 3 – the “no action” alternatives.

The GFNMS Advisory Council voted to establish the Kelp Recovery Working Group to address the issue of bull kelp decline on the Northern California coast. The project is linked to the sanctuary's Climate Action Plan and sanctuary science needs. Francesca Koe, Conservation Alternate, was elected as working group chair.

The GFNMS Advisory Council voted to approve a resolution regarding impacts and mitigations of the proposed Caltrans Highway One realignment at Scotty Creek/Gleason Beach in Sonoma County. The resolution expresses the council's goal of using the project as an opportunity for modeling best practices for site-sensitive planning and mitigation throughout the project location.

February 5, 2018

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Approves Final Sonoma-Marin Regional Sediment Management Report

At their February 5, 2018 webinar meeting, the GFNMS Advisory Council voted to approve the final Sonoma-Marin Regional Sediment Management Report and recommended that the sanctuary superintendent forward the recommendations to the State of California Coastal Sediment Management Workgroup. The report provides 17 overarching regional recommendations and 14 site-specific recommendations for locations in Marin and Sonoma counties, which will inform the statewide Sediment Management Master Plan. The proposed strategies are meant to initiate conversations at the local level to prepare the coast for the next 50 years of sediment management-related activity.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

February 16, 2018

A Comment Letter in Opposition of Offshore Oil Development

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a motion to have the Chair sign a letter to Ms. Kelly Hammerle, (Manager, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's (BOEM) National OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Program) in opposition of offshore oil development and the inclusion of any portion of the Pacific Coast Outer Continental Shelf Planning Area's in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Leasing Program.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

January 25, 2018

As of Jan 24, 2018 Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) was able to begin recruitment for the primary and alternate seats for Tourism, Conservation, and Marine Business. A new SAC recruitment webpage was launched. Social and traditional local media as well as council members reaching out to their constituents was used to inform the public of these vacancies. Five applications were received. The Executive Committee will complete its deliberations in the second quarter of 2018.

February 2, 2018

At their February 2, 2018, the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) Advisory Council voted to approve a resolution in response to the call for comments on the Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program for 2019 through 2024. The resolution stated the council's opposition to include any portion of the Washington Coast OCS Planning Area in BOEM's Draft Proposed Five-Year OCS Leasing Program because of the threats to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary and designated wilderness areas along the coast. Other concerns noted in support of providing public comment were the potential for triggering earthquakes from hydraulic fracturing (fracking), economic impacts associated with potential oil spills from production facilities should leasing be allowed, with associated impacts to biological productivity, and the need to establish grounds for appeal should it become necessary.

The OCNMS Advisory Council approved their 2018 Advisory Council Work Plan, which guides the creation/continuation and efforts of working groups throughout the year. Included in the plan are assisting in recruitment efforts; providing advice on OCNMS 2018 Management Plan implementation priorities; Condition Report working group formation to help identify quantifiable and defensible data streams to include and analyze as well as ecosystem indicators; support RV *Tatoosh* vessel replacement by providing a recommendation letter from council to Sanctuary Superintendent to forward concerns to ONMS and NOAA offices; increase awareness of National Travel and Tourism strategy and develop ways OCNMS can participate and increase SAC engagement in 2018 Get Into Your Sanctuary Day; recommend and/or implement monitoring to assess relative habitat vulnerabilities and impacts/threats from natural disturbances and human activities, including cumulative impacts; support research and community



engagement in understanding environmental impacts of marine debris and use data to promote programs with the potential to reduce its prevalence; and weigh in on BOEM draft proposal for Offshore Leasing.

OCBNS Advisory Council were asked to participate in an instructional webinar and prioritization exercise in preparation for the March 23rd meeting, which would be dedicated to collecting advisory council input on establishing OCNMS priorities over the next few years.

March 23, 2018

At the March 23, 2018, the OCNMS Advisory Council reviewed and discussed the preliminary results of the prioritization exercise, completed an updated seat prioritization exercise, and reviewed the results of the second exercise. These views will be compared with staff input and that of the Intergovernmental Policy Council and will be provided to the OCNMS Superintendent.

