

## Quarterly Sanctuary Advisory Council Actions

### Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 17, 2017

Although the advisory council took no formal actions at their meeting held in Ventura, California on November 17, 2017, they did spend considerable time learning from a guest speaker that helped advance their understanding of the issue of ship strikes on whales, a topic they have worked on since 2007. Cotton Rockwood, Senior Marine Ecologist from Point Blue, presented findings from new modeling work he and co-authors had recently published (in PLOS-One, [here](#)) that suggests the extent of ship strikes on whales occurring off the California coast might be significantly greater than previous estimates. The council will continue to learn from this type of work and provide advice on its incorporation into the sanctuary's ongoing work to reduce whale ship strike risk.

### Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

December 12, 2017

#### **Advisory Council Passes Motion on Certain Proposed U.S. Coast Guard Discharges**

On November 22, 2017, NOAA released a proposed rule, along with a draft environmental assessment, for Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones national marine sanctuaries (CBNMS and GFNMS), to allow the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to continue to discharge untreated vessel sewage, non-clean graywater and training-related discharges, seaward of approximately three nautical miles from shore, within the sanctuaries' expansion areas. NOAA has postponed effectiveness of the discharge requirements for USCG activities in the expansion areas of GFNMS and CBNMS until December 9, 2018 to allow for completion of a final rule, if appropriate. NOAA accepted public comments on the proposal from 11/22/17 – 1/16/18. The proposed regulatory exceptions would enable the USCG to continue surveillance of activities in GFNMS and CBNMS, conduct monitoring and enforcement activities to uphold the National Marine Sanctuaries Act and its implementing regulations; and conduct other USCG mission activities during non-emergency situations that support sanctuary management. The proposed action would also support the USCG in training personnel to be ready for emergency search and rescue and use of force activities. NOAA's proposed action would enable the USCG to continue its existing discharge practices. If NOAA decided to take no further action on this matter, the sanctuaries' discharge regulations prohibiting the USCG discharges in the expanded portions of the sanctuaries would go into effect later this year. See GFNMS [website](#) for more information.

At its December 12 meeting, the Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a motion recognizing the strong relationship the USCG has with CBNMS and GFNMS and the challenges faced by the USCG to meet their missions. The advisory council recommended to support Sewage/Graywater Alternative 3 and Training Alternative 3 (the no action alternatives). The advisory council noted that permitting would continue to be allowed and would provide the vehicle for the two sanctuaries to assess impacts on the sanctuaries going forward.

The sanctuary superintendent and others within NOAA will review this advice and other comments received during the comment period along with other considerations, including the results of consultations with other agencies, prior to NOAA's selection of a final action.

## Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

November 15, 2017

At its November 15<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council passed the following actions:

- Recognized the persistent and professional work of staff at Greater Farallones, Cordell Bank, and Point Blue Conservation Science on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> ACCESS survey and congratulated them on sustaining the invaluable program.
- Approved the final Low Overflights Report to the Sanctuary.
- Adopted the regional recommendations put forth by the Sonoma/Marin Coastal Regional Sediment Management Working Group. The Working Group brought together stakeholders and agency representatives to address sediment management issues along the Sonoma and Marin coastline. The recommendations laid out concerns and issues, addressed management goals, and suggested strategies for short and long-term sediment management issues.
- Adopted the sediment management recommendations for Marin County put forth by the Sonoma/Marin Coastal Regional Sediment Management Working Group. The Working Group brought together stakeholders and agency representatives to address sediment management issues along the Sonoma and Marin coastline. The recommendations laid out concerns and issues, addressed management goals, and suggested strategies for short and long-term sediment management issues.
- Adopted the sediment management recommendations for Sonoma County put forth by the Sonoma/Marin Coastal Regional Sediment Management Working Group. The Working Group brought together stakeholders and agency representatives to address sediment management issues along the Sonoma and Marin coastline. The recommendations laid out concerns and issues, addressed management goals, and suggested strategies for short and long-term sediment management issues.

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

October 20, 2017

### **MBNMS Advisory Council Supports Including the Draft Research and Monitoring Action Plan into the Draft Management Plan**

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council passed a motion to support including the draft Research and Monitoring Action Plan into the draft Management Plan, acknowledging that it is an ambitious plan, and encourages the involvement of the Research Activities Panel in establishing research priorities.

December 15, 2017

### **Recommendation to MBNMS to Interpret Existing Language Regarding Beneficial Reuse of Clean Dredged Materials**

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recommended that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary interpret existing language regarding beneficial reuse of clean dredged materials, as defined by the Clean Water Act and Ocean Dumping Act. The goal would be to allow placement of such materials from harbors or other sources below mean high water as long as the interpretation does not open the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary designation document.



## Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant actions taken.

