

Quarterly Sanctuary Advisory Council Actions

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

September 21, 2018

Two recurring items the advisory council learned about and discussed at this public meeting, and are expected to be topics of continued focus for the council, involved the issue of visiting cruise ships, and efforts to restore endangered white abalone.

Cruise Ship/Expedition Ship Visits

The advisory council heard a presentation from Rich Reid, a representative from Lindblad Expeditions, about two upcoming trips to the sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park that are planned. Rich explained how the *National Geographic Sea Lion* (65 passengers, 99 gross registered tons) will bring guests to the sanctuary for three days (two separate trips), how they are prepared to follow all sanctuary regulations, how they have just received a Commercial Use Authorization from the National Park Service, and how they are eager to teach their guests more about the sanctuary and the work being done to protect it. Council members asked a variety of questions and encouraged staff to work closely with the company.

White Abalone Restoration

The advisory council received a presentation from Dr. Melissa Neuman, the NOAA Fisheries Western Regional Abalone Recovery Coordinator, who spoke to the council about endangered white abalone. Dr. Neuman shared the historic importance and current status of white abalone in southern California, the steps for recovering white abalone, an overview of the captive propagation program, details about habitat use, and the development of long term monitoring and outplanting methods. Dr. Neuman encouraged council members to consider how their constituents could become involved. In particular, she emphasized a campaign among citizen scientists to look for and report white abalone in and around the sanctuary could help further understanding about habitat use and may even help to identify sites for future outplanting efforts.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant advisory council actions taken this quarter.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 29, 2018

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council voted to establish an Olympia Oyster Working Group to evaluate key information available for Olympia Oysters in Tomales Bay to optimize the selection of oyster enhancement sites for the purpose of creating a more resilient Tomales



Bay for people and the ecosystem, focusing on living shorelines and increasing the native Olympia oyster population. Bibit Traut, Education seat, was nominated as chair.

The Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council recommended that sanctuary staff pursue a possible regulatory change of eliminating Zone 1 of the motorized personal watercraft regulations in the northern sector of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This proposed change is based on the lack of motorized personal watercraft use in Zone 1 based on Beach Watch data and the difficulty and high cost of maintaining zone markers.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant advisory council actions taken this quarter.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

No significant advisory council actions taken this quarter.

