



GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday August 29, 2018

9:00AM – 4:00PM

Half Moon Bay Yacht Club

214 Princeton Ave, Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

**DRAFT MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**



Note: The following notes are an account of discussions at the Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting and do not necessarily reflect the opinion or position of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Present: Dominique Richard, George Clyde, Cea Higgins, Nancy Trissel, Bruce Bowser, Bibit Traut, Barbara Emley, John Berge, Jaime Jahncke, Sandra Chu, CDR Jason Brand, Paul Michel, Michael Carver  
Quorum is 6 voting members.

***Copies to:***

Bill Douros, ONMS West Coast Regional Office

**Call to Order 9:05am**

Swear-in Nancy Trissel, Mendocino/Sonoma Community-At-Large Alternate

Approve May Meeting Minutes

Motion: Cea Higgins

Second: Barbara Emley

*Verbal approval of minutes*

Recognize Dayna Matthews, Office of Law Enforcement, who will be retiring in September.  
Thanks for his efforts to protect sanctuary resources.

**Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent's Report**

Maria Brown, GFNMS Superintendent

**Permits**

A letter of authorization under the Superintendent's Permit was issued to Jan Roletto of GFNMS and an ROV contractor to disturb the seabed with an ROV and to collect coral specimens in order to conduct a search for the location of a sunken drydock.

Two letters of authorization under the Superintendent's Permit (one for GFNMS and one for northern MBNMS) were issued to Jan Roletto of GFNMS and an ROV contractor to discharge Expendable Bathythermograph / Expendable Sound Velocimeter systems (XBT/XSV) to record sound and temperature data and to disturb the seafloor with an ROV in order to survey deep-water benthic habitat. This work was conducted as part of a research cruise aboard the NOAA ship *Bell M. Shimada*.

An education permit was issued to Mr. James Moskito to attract white sharks for the purposes of conducting educational tours. This amendment was issued to 1) change the permittee's company name to Oceanic Safaris, LLC. All educational tours will be conducted aboard the vessel named "Safari."

A research permit was issued to Mr. Andrew Weltz of California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct low overflights with UASs (drones) within the NOAA regulated overflight zone at the mouth of Tomales Bay in order to investigate and assess sport clam fishery impacts to eelgrass habitat.

An education permit was issued to Mr. Chris Duba of Silver Fox Charters to attract white sharks for the purposes of conducting educational tours.

A letter of authorization was issued to Mr. Skip Vilicich to disturb the seabed to place small temporary marker buoys to demarcate mooring anchor locations while they are removed for inspection or servicing consistent with the Tomales Bay Mooring Program (TBMP). Mr. Vilicich is a mooring contractor who has been approved by GFNMS to conduct mooring inspection and maintenance work in Tomales Bay.

Additional multi-site permits with another site as lead within GFNMS:

A research permit was issued to Mr. Bill Hansen of the NOAA National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) to install and maintain eight weather buoys and moorings throughout the west coast sanctuaries. NDBC's coastal weather buoys are spaced roughly evenly along the US west coast to provide full coverage, so the locations of these buoys are important to provide continuous data for forecasts and warnings as well as data directly to mariners operating in the sanctuaries.

A research permit was issued to Mr. Sebastien de Halleaux of Saildrone to temporary discharge up to 5 Saildrones (Unmanned Surface Vehicles) using sail-power technology and solar powered oceanographic sensors for deep ocean data collection.

A research permit was issued to Mr. John Warrick of USGS to use a motorized personal watercraft for mapping nearshore topography and bathymetry in high-resolution using two USGS Coastal Profiling Systems (CPS). The overarching goal of the proposed effort is to build a better understanding of the dynamics of littoral sediment. This permit amendment was issued for mapping work in the nearshore along Surfer's Beach in Half Moon Bay in advance of the Surfer's Beach Pilot Restoration Project.

A research permit was issued to Scott Terrill and David Ainley of H.T. Harvey & Associates to use seabird attractants to conduct an analysis of Seabird population trends in Monterey. The permittees are allowed to use locally caught sardines, anchovies, mackerel, and/or squid on up to twenty-one (21) pelagic seabird research cruises per year.

A permit is under review for Dr. Richard Starr of Moss Landing Marine Labs to deploy a video lander on the sea floor, which is an underwater camera system, to assess the abundance of fishes

and invertebrates in marine areas without conducting extractive sampling. Amendment 1 is being requested to include additional survey sites within CBNMS in 2018.

Permits under review include:

A permit is under review for Josh Russo of the Watermens Alliance to deploy 2 temporary moorings on the Sonoma Coast to allow for a dive boat to anchor, in order to assist the removal of purple sea urchins from nearshore waters.

A permit is under review for Ms. Jane Reifert and Mr. Greg Barron of IA Worldwide Inc. (aka Incredible Adventures) requesting an amendment to an existing permit to attract white sharks for the purposes of conducting educational tours.

A permit is under review for Suzanne Olyarnik of Bodega Marine Reserve and Lab to conduct research activities as part of the Bodega Marine Lab's long-term research program.

A permit is under review for Cynthia Cohen of SFSU for deployment of loggers, bolts, etc. at nine intertidal sites to collect data on Watersipora.

A permit is under review for Dr. Piero Fernandes Mazzini of SFSU to deploy oceanographic moorings for scientific purposes on the inner-shelf (~20 m or less), between Bolinas and Pt Reyes and to measure temperature, salinity and currents. The goal of the project is to further study San Francisco Bay Plume dynamics and interactions with the Gulf of the Farallones.

*Barbara Emley asked if we could have a chart to show how many research buoys there are in the sanctuary.*

Vessel Groundings: None

*Cea Higgins mentioned a vessel grounding near Salmon Creek – the “Miss Anita”. The boat had a responsible captain and was removed within three days. There was also a grounding near Point Reyes National Seashore. Max Delaney will follow up with National Park Service.*

#### Conservation Science Update

Conservation science staff from Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuaries, Point Blue Conservation Science, and Greater Farallones Association completed the 53rd research cruise as part of Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS). Scientists collected seabird and marine mammal data, oceanographic measurements, and sampled for prey availability along predetermined transect lines from Sonoma through San Mateo Counties and offshore to nearly 80 km from San Francisco. Summer upwelling conditions made for rough seas but good ocean productivity indicated by abundant plankton and whales. Most notable were humpback, blue and fin whales foraging over the continental shelf as well as within the shipping lanes, making them more vulnerable to being struck and killed by ships. Updates were posted daily about the research mission at [www.facebook.com/ACCESS.Partnership](http://www.facebook.com/ACCESS.Partnership), as well as blog posts from our Teacher at Sea.

Sanctuary scientists and partners completed mapping and visual surveys of deep-sea habitat in Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries July 30-August 10, 2018. The work took place from Bodega Bay to Año Nuevo, CA on board the NOAA ship *Bell M. Shimada*. Project partners included scientists from NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE), US Geological Survey, California Academy of Sciences, Greater Farallones Association, and Marine Conservation Institute. Approximately 300 km<sup>2</sup> of mapping data and 47 hours of seafloor video were collected. Highlights included the most northern specimens of stony cup corals and a gorgonian coral (likely *Eugorgia* sp.). Many of the surveys were in Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation Areas, some of which are proposed to be newly opened or closed to bottom contact fishing in 2019. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, NOAA Deep Sea Coral Research and Technology Program, and Marine Applied Research and Exploration provided funding.

#### Education Update

To celebrate Get into Your Sanctuary on August 4 & 5, sanctuary staff led two workshops where families caught, examined and released live crabs. Visitors learned about the sanctuary system in the Farallones Visitor Center through an interactive virtual reality dive station and native plant habitat was restored on Bolinas Lagoon's Kent Island. The "Get Into Your Sanctuary" story map went live on the GFNMS website; highlighting 32 special places along the sanctuary coastline. Despite high winds and "lively" sea conditions, five sanctuary partners led special Get Into Your Sanctuary activities. Oceanic Society and SF Whale Tours offered whale watching trips; Watertreks EcoTours and Point Reyes Outdoors offered kayak trips in the sanctuary. Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve staffed a seal station and offered educational games in their visitor center. Although a Sanctuary Explorations Whale Watch with 43 participants, including 11 veterans, was rescheduled for October 21 due to rough seas, 1,147 participants (including 15 veterans) still 'got into' their national marine sanctuary.

#### Updates on Implementation of SAC Recommendations:

##### Bolinas Lagoon Locally Preferred Plan and Climate Action Plan Update

The European green crab removal project was successfully completed this year on Friday, August 17<sup>th</sup>. Results are being compiled, but the population seems to be steady and possibly dropping in Seadrift Lagoon. The project brought in 50 volunteers from surrounding West Marin communities and all crabs were donated to Slide Ranch and Gospel Flats farms. The Kent Island restoration project continues through October of this year. We will host a Coastal Cleanup site at Kent Island on Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> as part of International Coastal Cleanup day. Greater Farallones Association staff are working with consultants at AECOM to develop a preliminary concept for a living shorelines project along Dipsea and Calle del Arroyo roads in Stinson Beach. The project will help address flooding, road safety, and erosion while creating transitional habitat for species and allow space for wildlife to adapt to sea level rise.

##### Sediment Management Report

Four spin-off projects are underway after the publication of the Coastal Regional Sediment Management Report - 1) Sediment in the Sanctuaries, which is funded by California Ocean Protection Council, to develop a coastal resilience and sediment action plan for the Sanctuary, 2)

Stinson Beach Dune Restoration Feasibility Study, funded by the Marin Community Foundation and State Coastal Conservancy, in which staff are working with Marin County to develop dune restoration plans on the public beaches, 3) Bolinas Living Shoreline, funded by private donors in the Seadrift-Stinson Beach area, to develop 3/4 mile long living shoreline to enhance wetlands along the south end of Bolinas Lagoon while protecting infrastructure and access (see item above), and 4) Coastal Geomorphology at Easkoot Creek/Stinson Beach, funded by the National Park Service, to assist the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in assessing park facilities at risk from combined sea level rise and fluvial flooding.

#### Low Overflights Report

Update provided in Seabird Protection Network presentation later in the day.

### **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Superintendent's Report**

Paul Michel, MBNMS Superintendent

MBNMS is looking at performance measures. Proposed regulatory changes are being reviewed by staff and headquarters. They are about a year out from the new management plan being completed.

There have been several science cruises this summer with partners on the NOAA ship *Bell Shimada*. The cruise did water quality work in the sanctuary at Davidson Seamount. They are planning for the *Nautilus* cruise in October exploring the southern coast canyons. It is a busy time for visitor centers; there is a record numbers of visitors at the exploration center. The sanctuary is very interested in sound in the ocean; they are doing a soundscape program with hydrophones and a traveling sound box. Hydrophone studies can help measure the abundance of whales. The MBNMS SAC is concerned with the sounds of seal bombs, a tactic to scare seals away from nets, and is trying to understand them. There is also a portable salmon exhibit, which talks about different types of salmon, management, their life cycle, and the watershed connection. They are also exploring a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

Desalination is a big issue; they are working on the Cal Am project to use a subsurface intake well to collect seawater to desalinate. The goal is to stop drafting fresh water from the Carmel River. It is expected that the California Public Utilities Commission will certify the CEQA document soon.

For Get Into Your Sanctuary, MBNMS hosted veterans on the *Fulmar* in the sanctuary, including Congressman Jimmy Panetta, to do plankton tows. The MBNMS Advisory Council is interested in cruise ships and is planning a field trip to a cruise ship in Monterey.

### **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) Superintendent's Report**

Michael Carver, CBNMS Deputy Superintendent

Jenny Stock, the CBNMS education and outreach coordinator, continues to connect teachers, students and the North Bay communities to their local marine ecosystem so they can become ocean/climate literate and future stewards of sanctuary waters. Jenny has done this recently by participating in a Marin County Office of Education Summer Institute with 40 K-12 teachers to

share Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones national marine sanctuary education resources and opportunities that will help educators deliver Next Generation Science Standards. Jenny will continue to work closely with Marin county teachers throughout the rest of 2018 and 2019, since they were awarded a BWET grant to connect Next Generation Science to the North Bay's Ocean Backyard. As part of this Jenny will be leading some field trips, meeting with teachers helping them deliver curriculums that raise ocean and climate literacy through a connection with local ecosystems. Jenny continues to host her Ocean Currents radio program, now in its 11th year. This month's program highlighted sunscreens impact on reefs, fish gender and beach ecology featuring local guest Dr. Karina Nielson.

The traveling Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary photography exhibit continues to make the rounds. It was recently installed in various coffee shops, restaurants and libraries around the North Bay and recently made its way to the East Bay at the Rockridge library. The mission of the photo exhibit is to bring the sanctuary to the people through photos that inspire awareness and awe about this unique offshore national treasure. To help deliver on this mission, Jenny often works with the venue to promote a talk she gives to open the exhibit.

As part of a Get Into Your Sanctuary, in partnership with the International Ocean Film Festival, Jenny coordinated a film festival at the Arena Theater in Point Arena, the northern-most town closest to GFNMS. Eight films were screened. The community shared their gratitude for making the effort and bringing the films. There was between 50-60 attendees of which 10 were US Veterans. The hope is to make this an annual event.

Dani Lipski, CBNMS research coordinator, continues to support research and monitoring in the sanctuary. Dani does this in collaboration with two contractors and two Nancy Foster scholars. Recently Dani and the rest of the research team, including Jan Roletto and others, completed mapping and visual surveys of deep-sea habitat in Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones, and northern Monterey Bay. They collected approximately 300 square kilometers of mapping data. Using an ROV, 47 hours of seafloor video was collected along 83 transects at depths of 37 meters to 625 meters. Thirty-one specimens were collected for identification, including some specimens that are new observations for the sanctuaries. Many of the surveys were in Essential Fish Habitat and Rockfish Conservation Areas, some of which have been proposed to be either newly opened or closed to fishing in 2019.

CBNMS now has two Nancy Foster scholars helping to advance research in the sanctuary. Both are in Tessa Hill's lab at Bodega Marine Lab. Carina Fish's doctoral studies focus on tracking climate change impacts on the deep ocean, using deep-sea corals as records of changing conditions in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Kate Hewett's doctoral studies will focus on hypoxia in Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. Kate also helped sanctuary staff conduct mooring maintenance. New sensors and hardware were deployed on two oceanographic moorings deployed over Cordell Bank to understand hypoxia conditions and drivers. Cordell Marine Sanctuary Foundation continues to be a critical funding partner. The team will recover the moorings in the fall. A summary report of results to date is available on the CBNMS website.

Dan Howard, Superintendent of CBNMS just returned from a Marine Protected Areas Discussion in Chile. This was Dan's second trip to Chile. Dan traveled to Chile with Marine Protected Area staffer Gonzalo Cid to discuss different aspects of managing Marine Protected Areas. Representatives from the National Park Service also participated in the meeting. The three areas of discussion were management, monitoring and enforcement on each of three days. The sanctuary and park staff shared a few successful strategies to engage with the community.

Michael Carver, Deputy of CBNMS continues to oversee office and field operations and recently completed a detailed emissions inventory of sanctuary operations. He recently worked with the National Marine Fisheries Service to take delivery of 2 barely used ROV's to support benthic science objectives, which will help ensure we are able to deliver on our long-term benthic monitoring research plan.

### **Member Reports**

Bibit Traut: Shared Elizabeth Babcock's report that the Cal Academy of Sciences will be sending volunteers to Sharktoberfest. Bibit had a student attend the *Nautilus* cruise. Bibit is on the LiMPETS scientific advisory council and there are lots of action items to work on; the council is an effective approach to LiMPETS program offerings.

George Clyde: He has gone out salmon fishing a few times. There is a high percentage of small salmon in the water all along the coast, out to 300 feet of water, which is a very good sign for the years to come.

John Berge: Shared information on the U.S. Coast Guard ballast water management rule. The Coast Guard ruling has been active for a number of years, however, there are very few ballast water management systems approved. There are now 9 approved systems and 10 under review. Coast Guard has given extensions to ships, but has told the industry the extensions are over. The requirement is that ships must install an approved system the next time the ship is out of water, about every 5 years. About 20% of fleet will have a system installed within 5-6 years. Systems provide reduction of organisms in ballast water to achieve a 99.9% reduction in aquatic invasive species. This is an improvement for the industrial fleet. The next topic is biofouling; the state of California has adopted biofouling regulations. This link is to the Coast Guard general website, which provides subsequent links to all aspects of the Coast Guard ballast water management rule: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Commercial-Regulations-standards-CG-5PS/Marine-Safety-Center-MSC/Ballast-Water/>.

CDR Jason Brand: There is a surge of Marine Mammal Protection Act calls regarding whales. He went on the NOAA ship *Reuben Lasker* tour. The Coast Guard is joining forces with Sairdron which can assist with transects.

Nancy Trissel: Nothing to report.

Bruce Bowser: Caltrans is moving massive amounts of dirt along Highway 1 from the Lone Tree slide. The highway was supposed to open in June. There is beach erosion in and around Bolinas and Stinson beaches; the beaches look like winter conditions, and they did not have a normal

summer beach this year. There is so much sediment, but no one knows where it is going. Congratulations to the green crab project. Bruce joined a new committee of the Environmental Action Committee, the water monitoring committee with its first meeting on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Bruce went on a kayak trip in Tomales Bay during Get Into Your Sanctuary Day and camped at Marshall Beach. He noticed a lack of facilities on the west side of Tomales Bay as well as lots of algae at Marshall beach, probably from nutrients. Bibit added that she saw a sturgeon that day in the bay.

Dominique Richard: Reminder about the Beach Watch celebration. He had a comment about the mooring program; the inspections are yearly, but the concern was that the moorings were pulled out. There are 2 levels of inspection, the chain and anchor. George added that the chain is what erodes and is inspected and replaced every 3 years. The anchor does not need to be inspected as often; it depends on when the mooring was installed. Less frequent inspections would be ideal. There may be an opportunity to consider modifications to inspections that are sensible for the environment and the mooring owner.

Barbara Emley: Was at the Pacific States Marine Fish Commission, attempted to get a fishing permit but was told that the sanctuary would not allow it. Her understanding is that lawful fishing is allowed in the sanctuary (e.g., Dungeness crab). *Maria clarified that there are not any regulations limiting fishing in the sanctuary; there is an exemption for fishing including crab pots.* [Link to exemption and regulations.](#) Barbara then yielded her time to Sarah Bates. Sarah shared that the whale population (humpbacks) is incredible; there are many breaches and open mouth feeding and many anchovies, squid, small fish and jellyfish, and lots of red water. The San Francisco Crab Owners Association is working with The Nature Conservancy to get untended gear out of the water during the off-season.

Sandra Chu: She is joining the marine biology club at school.

Jaime Jahncke: The ACCESS cruise was in July and the ROV cruise was in August. Overall a good year on the islands for the birds. There was supposed to be a productive year, but was mixed. Point Blue will continue to work on islands through fall and winter. Have been working with Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank on looking at vessel speed reduction rates for whales and creating a report for the sanctuaries. Received funding to work with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary to suggest small changes to shipping lanes and traffic patterns. Participating in Dungeness crab working group, lots of discussion to decrease whale entanglement. At the last meeting they talked about how to decrease risk, who would take what role, and processes. Whales may be more at risk within the next year.

Cea Higgins: Attended the Explore the Coast event at Stornetta Lands in Point Arena in June and educated the public about the sanctuary expansion. September 15<sup>th</sup> is California Coastal Cleanup day; Cea is coordinating for all of Sonoma County. They are working to make it a greener event by using reusable materials. Every county has coordinators planning a cleanup; visit the Coastal Commission website. This event is the largest volunteer event in the world with up to 850,000 people inventorying marine debris and creating positive legislation. It is important to engage in events. There was a red tide on Sonoma coast.



George Clyde requested a short description on agenda items moving forward.

## **BREAK**

### **Office of Law Enforcement Update**

Dayna Matthews, Office of Law Enforcement

A Monterey officer has been approved and is anticipated to start in winter. Completed recruitment for special agents in August with 1200 applicants; hopefully by winter we will have special agents. Dayna is retiring in September after 38 years. Dayna started working with the sanctuary about 20 years ago. One of the first things he did was come down to Carmel to talk with Bill Douros about the situation of de-watering the Carmel River. He has worked with Karen Reyna on the Tomales Bay program for the last few years. Don Tanner will be replacing Dayna. Don has been with us 17 years; he has been in Sacramento. Don is an expert in the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act in the Central Valley, and the Magnuson-Stevens Act. Don will be the liaison for GFNMS, CBNMS, and MBNMS.

### **Native Olympia Oyster Enhancement and Restoration in Tomales Bay**

Karen Reyna, GFNMS Staff

[Presentation available here](#)

Karen gave a presentation on potential Olympia Oyster enhancement and restoration in Tomales Bay and a request for a working group. This project would be timely as there is community interest and would align with various sanctuary and partner reports related to climate adaptation, regional sediment management, and sea level rise adaptation. The request for council action was 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.

*Barbara Emley asked if the oyster farms in Tomales Bay are able to help with this project. Karen responded that Hog Island is experimenting with growing native oysters, but they have not been as successful as the Pacific Oyster. Native oysters tend to be reef builders, which makes a good nexus to use native oysters as a living shoreline.*

*A question was asked if MBNMS is involved with projects in Elkhorn Slough. Steve Lonhart from MBNMS is involved.*

*Marin County has submitted two grant applications for using native oysters to establish living shorelines. There is also a lot of interest in restoring native oysters. George Clyde asked about why the outcome of restoring is secondary. The goal of the working group is to assess the feasibility of using oysters as living shorelines. The success of restoration is based on before and after, and if there is not monitoring going on it is difficult to measure if restoration is achieved. The statement was edited to remove the word "secondary" and list the two goals simultaneously.*

Bibit Traut proposed the working group and volunteered to chair.

**ACTION: The SAC 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.**

Motion: Bibit Traut

Second: Barbara Emley

*Unanimous verbal approval*

### **Motion approved**

George Clyde volunteered to participate on the working group.

Paul Michel is willing to give a presentation on aquaculture/invasive species related to oysters.

### **Presentation on Status of Implementing SAC Whale Ship Strike Recommendations: Vessel Speed Reduction Program**

Michael Carver, Cordell Bank Deputy Superintendent

[Presentation available here](#)

Michael gave a presentation on the vessel speed reduction program. He shared results from the 2017 data analysis, discussed ship strike and acoustic impact risk reduction studies underway, industry engagement, and a new collaboration with the Air Quality Management District.

John Berge noted that there are some shipping companies that rarely come into the bay and that it is difficult to contact them. Paul asked if the shipping industry quantifies the value of what a whale is worth and the cost of reducing the speeds. The biggest cost to the industry is fuel and they are bound to time; however, ships can adjust their schedules to abide by the requests.

A member of the public asked if there were messages going out in various languages. John clarified that someone has to be proficient in English on board the ships.

### **Motorized Personal Watercraft (MPWC) Proposed Zone Change**

Max Delaney, GFNMS Permit Coordinator

[Presentation available here](#)

Cea Higgins asked about the changing definition of personal watercraft. The definitions are different for MBNMS and GFNMS. MBNMS regulations apply in this area. Paul Michel noted that it would be in the MBNMS action plan to study this zone in the Management Plan Review. Dayna Matthews noted that when Zone 1 is open and they get a report there is a watercraft the reports often say that they were in Zone 1 when they were actually in in Zone 5. The excuse that they were in Zone 1 would be eliminated; this would be simpler in the enforcement view. A member of public asked about pushback in the community from surfers. Max clarified that no surf rescue really occurs in Zone 1.

If the SAC supported the action, the next step is that this would be included in the MBNMS Management Plan Review draft regulations, and then go to public comment.

**MOTION: Recommendation for staff to pursue possible regulatory change of eliminating Zone 1 of the MPWC regulations in the Northern Management Area.**

Motion: Barbara Emley

Second: Bruce Bowser

*Verbal approval* with 1 abstention (Cea Higgins)

**Motion approved**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mary Larenas: Thank you to the advisory council.

Bob Wilson: Greater Farallones Association (GFA) applied for and received a grant from the Marine Mammal Commission. GFA published their *2017 Impact Report*. The GFA continues administering subcontracts and contracts.

Ed Larenas: It will be easier to enforce the MPWC zone restrictions with removal of Zone 1; thank you for considering.

Steve McGrath, General Manager of San Mateo County Harbor District: Thanks for all the work related to the Surfers Beach project.

**LUNCH**

**Update on Surfers Beach Project**

Brad Damitz, San Mateo County Harbor District

[Presentation available here](#)

Brad shared an update on the pilot Surfers Beach Restoration Project at Pillar Point Harbor and Surfers Beach, including project background, funding, planning process, engineering, environmental review, permitting and agency consultation, and biological and physical monitoring program.

*Barbara asked if the sanctuary has issues with the sand from the harbor. The Sanctuary is okay with appropriate grain size and cleanliness requirements. The state has made lots of progress with the quality of sand. They are using state and EPA's guidance. There is 97.5% sand when tested at the boat launch site.*

**10-Year Review of Seabird Protection Network (SPN)**

Karen Reyna, GFNMS staff, and Paul Hobi, GFA Staff

[Presentation available here](#)

Karen provided background on the Seabird Protection Network and the action plan with three main focus areas: education and outreach, enforcement and coordinated management, and monitoring. The Seabird Protection Network has presented to pilots on how to fly “seabird safe”, done outreach to pilots through mailings and an e-newsletters, and outreach to boaters through signage and events. They just had their 10-year program evaluation, which reviewed their website and materials. They held pilot and boater stakeholder interviews and focus groups and a final report with a list of specific recommendations was created. The Seabird Protection Network is looking to evaluate disturbance trends, target problem locations, and focus on audiences and outreach strategies.

*John Berge asked if they address impacts from oil spills. No, it is separate; that is part of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. Cea Higgins asked if the SPN is in the expansion area and about drones. There are north coast chapters developed from Bodega Head to Gualala, which is managed by Stewards of the Coast and Redwoods. Cea also noted that the Santa Rosa airport is expanding. We are concerned with small planes and helicopters, which tend to fly lower. The program does work with drones; former NOAA corps and former Channel Islands sanctuary superintendent Matt Pickett works with the pilot community to fly “drone wildlife safe”.*

#### Update on SAC Overflight Report and Recommendations

Karen Reyna, GFNMS Staff

[Presentation available here](#)

Karen reported on the recommendations that the sanctuary has taken action on up to this time. Specific recommendations are laid out in the presentation.

George Clyde noted that it is great to hear that all these recommendations are being done, especially on the outreach side. Maria noted that the pilots were part of the working group which made it successful.

Paul Michel noted there is an explosion of kayaks and stand up paddleboards in Monterey and they are hearing reports of disturbance in the communities. Vendors and owners are aware, however, there is high turnover on line staff; could potentially do more outreach to them. Cea shared that she is part of the email lists for neighborhood groups in Sonoma County. She asked if there is a general message that she can put into general distribution to the groups on the north coast. There is a literature review of impacts of drones to marine mammals and seabirds that the sanctuary can share.

Karen shared that she will be doing a detail with the West Coast Region in Monterey as the West Coast Region Resource Protection Coordinator until January 2019.

Michael Carver will be on detail as Deputy Superintendent at Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

#### Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) Business

Jenn Gamurot, GFNMS Advisory Council Coordinator

### Update on Kelp Recovery Working Group

The first working group meeting was held in April where the group received background on the project and developed the goals. In June, the group held a kelp monitoring methods and technologies webinar where experts shared their use of satellite imagery and aerial surveys to estimate kelp canopy density along the California, Oregon, and Washington coastlines. The second working group meeting was held in early August, where three topic teams were formed: site selection, data and monitoring gaps, and community engagement and outreach. At this meeting, teams developed concepts and ideas to meet goals identified at the first meeting. In two weeks, the third working group meeting will be held, where we start to synthesize the whole groups' collective recommendation to the SAC, and at the November meeting the working group chairs will present the final recommendations to the SAC.

Outside of the working group, there have been several community events focused on purple urchin removals, of which Josh Russo has led a few of them along the north coast. Urchins were a topic of conversation for the second meeting.

### ACCESS Cruise Update

The September ACCESS Cruise will take place in late September. GFNMS SAC members are invited to attend one day of the cruise between September 25-27.

### SAC Recruitment Updates

The following members have been appointed for respective seats:

- Dominique Richard, Community-at-large Marin/Sonoma Primary
- George Clyde, Community at-large Marin/Sonoma Alternate
- John Largier, Research Primary
- Jaime Jahncke, Research Alternate
- Abby Mohan, Maritime Recreation Primary
- Josh Russo, Maritime Recreation Alternate

There are currently six vacancies: Community At Large San Francisco/San Mateo Primary and Alternate, Maritime Activities Commercial Primary and Alternate, and two Conservation Alternates. Thanks to those who have submitted their application for renewal. We will need to establish an application review subcommittee.

Application review subcommittee established: Bruce Bowser and Dominique Richard

### Charter Amendment Update

The charter amendment to add a commercial fishing seat and to modify the name "Community At Large Marin/Sonoma" has been submitted to the West Coast Region for approval. It will then go to ONMS headquarters for review and approval.

**ADJOURN**