



**GREATER FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY**  
**ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING**  
 Thursday, February 18, 2021  
 9:00AM – 2:00PM  
 Virtual via Google Meet



**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 (GFNMS) or the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Copies to: Bill Douros, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, West Coast Regional Director

**Call to Order: Roll call**

Meeting called to order at: 9:00am

VOTING MEMBERS: 13 present (quorum met)

At-Large Marin: Dominique Richard (Chair)	Education: Bibit Traut
At-Large Mendocino/Sonoma: Cea Higgins	Maritime Commercial Activities: John Berge
At-Large SF/San Mateo: Joe Fitting	Maritime Recreation Activities: Abby Mohan (Vice Chair)
California Resources Agency: Michael Esgro (for Mark Gold)	National Parks Service: Ben Becker (for Cicely Muldoon)
Commercial Fishing: Barbara Emley (Secretary)	Research: John Largier
Conservation: Bruce Bowser	U.S. Coast Guard: LT Jacob Joseph
Conservation: Richard Charter	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: absent

Alternates Present: 8 present

At-Large Marin: George Clyde
At-Large Mendocino/Sonoma: Nancy Trissel
At-Large SF/San Mateo: Kris Lannin Liang
Commercial Fishing: Sarah Bates
Conservation: Francesca Koe
Conservation: Kathi George
Research: Jaime Jahncke
U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Chris Bell

NON-VOTING MEMBERS: 6 present

Channel Islands NMS: absent
Cordell Bank NMS: Dan Howard
Cordell Bank NMS: Michael Carver
Monterey Bay NMS: Dawn Hayes
National Marine Fisheries Service: Jennifer Boyce
Youth Primary: Ezra Bergson-Michelson

Youth Alternate: Owen Youngquist

GFNMS staff present: Maria Brown, Superintendent; Brian Johnson, Deputy Superintendent; Alayne Chappell (Affiliate), Advisory Council Coordinator; Olivia Johnson (Affiliate), Administrative Assistant; Jan Roletto, Research Coordinator; Karen Reyna, Resource Protection Coordinator; Max Delany, Permit Coordinator

Other ONMS & NOAA staff present: Kathy Broughton, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; Katie Denman, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries National Advisory Council Coordinator; Daniel Glick and Kynan Barrios, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement

Others present: Tyrone Conner, U.S. Coast Guard; Ellen Hines, member of the public

### **Welcome, Roll Call, Review Agenda**

[View Full Meeting Presentation](#)

### **SAC Business**

Alayne Chappell, SAC Coordinator

### **MOTION: Approve November meeting highlights**

Vote: 10 yes, 0 no, 2 abstain

Motion passes.

### **Officer elections postponed**

Per the council discussion at the November meeting, officer elections are postponed from this meeting to May. Chair and vice chair can serve two 2-year terms; secretary serves 2-year terms but can be re-elected more than twice. Primary members are eligible to serve in officer roles. Nominated primary members will be added to the ballot for the vote in May (which will be done virtually). If you would like to submit a nomination, please be sure to check with that person to confirm they're interested in the position before submitting the nomination.

*Richard Charter: Can you nominate someone whose current term on the council is going to end soon?*

*Alayne: I will check with our national coordinator to confirm, but it is generally not advised that members terming off the council soon be elected to serve as officers. It wouldn't be ideal to have to have another election if and when that person is no longer on the council.*

*Cea Higgins: Can both alternates and primary members submit nominations and vote?*

*Alayne: Only primary members will vote in the election. I will check on whether alternates may submit nominations (in the current council charter and ONMS Advisory Council Handbook, alternates are not permitted to nominate or vote in officer elections). We will double check the procedures and email details prior to the May meeting.*

### **Request for new ship strike working group**

Maria Brown, GFNMS Superintendent

During the 2020 council retreat, the council discussed establishing a working group with the goal of reducing the risk of lethal ship strikes to endangered whales. We would like to bring that to the council today. This action would only be for GFNMS. If the council votes to establish the working group, then it will go to Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) to see if they are interested in supporting this as well and forming a joint working group.

The sanctuaries are requesting the working group to provide input on three conceptual designs to reduce the risk of ship strikes beyond 25%. The Marine Mammal Commission has agreed to fund staffing for the working group.

*Cea Higgins: Who else would be a part of this working group?*

*Maria: The working group chair will meet with the sanctuary and provide a list of members that I would sign off on to ensure there is a balance of representation in member interests on the working group.*

**MOTION: Establish a working group to look into reducing the risk of lethal ship strikes to endangered whales in GFNMS and CBNMS (to be a joint working group if CBNMS AC agrees)**

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion passes.

Julian Rose had indicated during the retreat that he would be interested in chairing the working group. If he is unable, John Berge is available. Council members interested in participating: John Berge, Kathi George, Sarah Bates, Bibit Traut, Jaime Jahncke.

**Request for subcommittee or working group on derelict and abandoned vessel marine debris in the sanctuary**

*Cea Higgins: I've coordinated groups to clean up debris from abandoned vessels in the sanctuary. There doesn't seem to be an established protocol throughout the agencies and land managers. Generally, all the debris is left at the site and it has taken an effort to coordinate a group of people to help remove that debris and preserve sanctuary resources. I'm trying to pull together people to identify solutions; pull together all of the agencies that are involved, look for the problems that exist, and develop something that could be a model so that there are protocols in place. It would be great if when the agencies are there with all the equipment, they can begin to remove the debris, and get volunteers and nonprofits involved so that we can handle these shipwrecks and create something more standardized and coordinated. I propose the council establish a subcommittee or working group to recommend that guidance.*

*Maria: Sanctuary staff will not be available at this time to support subcommittee logistics, because the Advisory Council Coordinator is already supporting two existing subcommittees: a Recreation and Tourism Blue Economy Subcommittee and a Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, as well as the pending vessel strikes working group. It is the council policy to support a maximum of two groups, working groups and/or subcommittees, at a time. If more than two groups are desired by the council, then it will need to coordinate the subcommittee or*

*working group meeting logistics. The SAC Coordinator may be able to support this subcommittee in the future, when the other two subcommittees are completed.*

*Dominique Richard: If the council has interest, maybe we can develop this into a working group in the future when staff has more capacity.*

*Maria: Yes, and the subcommittee could be formed now to begin preparations for a future working group.*

*John Berge: There is a long-standing working group called the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Working Group chaired by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife and U.S. Coast Guard. It includes land managers and law enforcement, and OSPR (Office of Spill Prevention and Response). They are dealing with vessels in Richardson Bay and in the Delta, but they address marine debris as a whole. The problem is lack of adequate funding to address these problems, but they are looking for solutions and funding to coordinate this, so maybe we can start with them.*

*Abby Mohan: There has been a Richardson Bay authority created that deals with boats, so maybe there's a path for cross association with coastal and inland efforts. That might be a good place to tap for some resources. This would need to be an interagency approach; we would need to get other agencies involved.*

*Cea: Maybe the subcommittee could focus on finding funding for this problem. But the issue stems from a lack of coordination from agencies as well.*

*Dominique: I move to establish a subcommittee to consider this topic, and to potentially establish a working group down the line.*

*Richard Charter: Seconds the motion.*

**MOTION: Establish a subcommittee to consider solutions for abandoned and derelict vessel debris in the sanctuary, and/or consider establishing a council working group to dive deeper into the topic and prepare recommendations for the council.**

Vote: 13 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion passes.

The following council members indicated interest in serving on the subcommittee: Cea Higgins, George Clyde, Kris Lannin Liang

### **SAC Subcommittee Updates**

Recreation and Tourism Subcommittee; Dominique Richard, Subcommittee Chair: The subcommittee is planning to bring recommendations to the council at the May meeting.

Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee; Abby Mohan, Subcommittee Chair: The subcommittee has met on a few occasions and is going to meet again in April. We are planning to present a series of recommendations in May related to council recruitment, particularly for the upcoming recruitment period in summer 2021. From there, the subcommittee plans to discuss a broader set of goals. We will have more to share during the May meeting.

### **Charter Renewal (Action Item)**

Dominique Richard, Council Chair

The council reviewed proposed track changes and discussed recommended changes.

*Discussion:*

*George Clyde: Is the preliminary review panel the same as the executive committee?*

*Alayne: No, they are different entities. The application review panel is formed prior to a recruitment period. We make a call for council members who would like to join the review panel, and anyone can volunteer to join.*

*Abby Mohan: Regarding being transparent about topics that are brought to the executive committee but not put on an agenda for any reason: is there a way to communicate that to the council? Maybe in the superintendent's report or SAC business? I just want to make sure there is a mechanism where people know that their interest is being heard.*

*Maria: How about agenda items brought to the executive committee will be shared during SAC business at the following meeting as "items considered but not scheduled?"*

*Dominique Richard: Is there a rule that commercial fishing has to be secretary?*

*Maria: It was encouraged that commercial fishing run for office, but it was not a requirement that commercial fishing be secretary.*

*Cea: Can we have clarification on the officer terms. Did you say that Dominique could not serve again but could switch roles?*

*Alayne: Officers may serve two consecutive 2-year terms. But the caveat is if they are timing out of their third term in their seat and therefore technically terming off of the council (they may apply for another seat on the council if they choose), they would not be eligible for reelection to the officer role. But if there is no issue with an upcoming seat expiration then, yes, they can be reelected to the same officer role for a second term, or elected to a different officer role.*

### **Discussion of proposed changes from George Clyde: Recommendation to allow alternates to serve as officers.**

*George: Thank you to Maria and Alayne and sanctuary staff for considering these issues. The motion is to make alternates qualified to be voted into the executive committee. Last council meeting, we never got to consider this topic as a stand-alone item, we now have it before us as part of the charter renewal. The importance of this is that the officers make up the executive committee and are three people who manage a lot of aspects of the council. The committee should have the best quality and breadth of people available. There are ten people in non-governmental seats who would be qualified for it, but who are alternates. Eliminating those ten qualified people makes no sense. We need input from the alternates as well as the primaries. Of the current primary members, four are up for term limits and it has been the practice not to elect*

*officers who will be termed out in a few months, which only leaves six qualified primaries for the executive committee. Having alternates available as a pool to serve in that capacity is a good idea. Richard has proposed that we create a working group for this, which just tables the issues until the May meeting when we have elections. There is no point in setting up a working group to consider this. I make a motion to approve this resolution.*

*Richard: The role of the executive committee is to determine what we hear and what we don't hear as a council. There is a reason that it is the way this is, and I don't see why we need to change something that isn't broken. I'd like to not see us change the way things have worked so well for so long. I've talked to people at the other sanctuary sites that were mentioned where they did make a similar change. I don't think they are good examples of what works well for us. For example, for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary advisory council, only the chair and vice chair can bring topics to the table, but they have a rule that primaries and alternates must consult before a vote. I think there is a meritorious reason that things are the way they are now, and that we should stick with what's working.*

*Bibit Traut: We had a discussion previously about alternates being able to vote when primaries are present, but we decided not to move forward with that. Elizabeth and I always consulted on what was the best interest for our seat, so what Richard brings up is interesting. I think giving alternates the opportunity to have leadership roles is good, but it seems arbitrary when alternates don't have voting rights. It seems premature.*

*Cea Higgins: There is a level of inconsistency within the charter. If we are going to bring forth this kind of change, don't we need to have consultation with MBNMS because of the northern management portion?*

*Dan Howard: At CBNMS, the council made a resolution a few years ago to make all of our alternate members primaries. We are very fortunate with our SAC that all of our alternates attend our meetings, participate in the discussions, etc. We have fewer members on our advisory council than GFNMS, so we did not exceed the ONMS limit for the number of primary members. We had seven primaries and now we have 14. I don't see a big change in the dynamic at our site since that conversion.*

*Abby Mohan: For the maritime recreation seat, we usually have one consumptive representation member and one non-consumptive member. For our seat, it's been invaluable to have consultation between the primary and alternate. Formalizing that consultation between members like Richard said would be really valuable.*

*Maria: ONMS sets up advisory councils to have primary members that serve on the council; and alternates selected in case a primary cannot attend. GFNMS has provided alternates an expanded role in participating on the council. The purpose of the expanded role is to encourage consensus among that seat's constituency regarding sanctuary issues. Council seats represent the constituents, not yourselves as individuals. Having the mechanism where the alternate and primary are talking and bringing a united point of view is important, and if there isn't a united point of view, then the sanctuary needs to know that as well. Having primaries serve in the executive committee is consistent with how sanctuary advisory councils have been set up across the national program. The national program does not want us to make alternates primaries,*

*because the roles would be inconsistent across the national program. If GFNMS can demonstrate a need to have alternates serve as executive committee members, or serve as primaries, then ONMS would consider a waiver. However ONMS does not want us to move in that direction unless it's necessary. I'm interested in the executive committee having a balance of representation, and at the same time, I don't approve who serves on the executive committee. I am concerned that if alternates serve on the executive committee, the executive committee could be composed of all the same seats (e.g. all conservation), which could send the wrong perspective to other industries (e.g. commercial fishing) if the council executive committee is led by one interest group. I've established the GFNMS advisory council policy that alternates have a seat at the table and can voice their opinion. In other councils, alternates do not sit at the table and are members of the audience as opposed to ours where they are encouraged to share their thoughts and concerns.*

*Cea: We could change lines 390-391 where it states that alternate may nominate not only when acting in the absence of the primary member. We could change that to allow alternates to participate in nominating.*

*Bibit: Thank you, Maria, for how you have included alternates. It seems inconsistent to have alternates serve as chairs of working groups but not being able to vote on the council. That's a little bit awkward.*

*George: I'm happy to withdraw the proposed resolution. But in terms of the composition of the executive committee, the officers are selected by the primaries, so they have a lot of control over whether too many people can be in one seat. I view it as their role to make sure we have good representation on the executive committee.*

*Bibit: Since the executive committee represents leadership for the whole council, I propose a motion to have alternates nominate and vote during officer elections, not just in the absence of the primary.*

**MOTION: Allow alternates to nominate and vote during officer elections, and have this incorporated into the renewed council charter.**

Vote: 12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstain

Motion passes.

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

Maria Brown, GFNMS Superintendent

There was not enough time for verbal superintendents' reports. Written reports for Greater Farallones, Cordell Bank, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries can be viewed on the council meetings webpage: [https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac\\_meetings.html](https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac_meetings.html)

### **Sanctuary Enforcement Update**

Max Delaney, GFNMS; Daniel Glick, NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE); LTJG Chris Bell, USCG

[View slides](#)

## Recent Enforcement Activity

Max Delaney

1. *Starcraft* motorboat grounding (south of Pinnacle Gulch)
  - a. Date of Incident: 12/6/20
  - b. Status: Vessel debris removed by Sonoma County Regional Parks, RP (responsible party), and a local citizen. Incident referred to OLE who assisted with RP and agency communications. No further enforcement action recommended.
2. Chevron Long Wharf pipeline leak (OUTSIDE GFNMS in SF Bay)
  - a. Date of incident: 2/9/2021
  - b. Status: USCG, CDFW, RP, and other agencies responded. No oiled wildlife or tar balls detected within GFNMS.

*Richard Charter: There is currently a lawsuit from Herring Fishermen Group related to that incident. I can share more information.*

## USCG Update

Chris Bell

We are up to our standard operational tempo with 128 patrol hours and 224 rotary patrol hours. We have yielded a couple domestic fisheries incidents: a sockeye recreational fishing vessel with too many rods in the water and a commercial groundfish vessel over daily catch limit. What isn't captured here is the number of fishing vessel termination and violations, but we are tracking this and stopping vessels from having catastrophic events happen.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – *No public comment*

## BREAK

### **Presentation: GFNMS Condition Report**

Kathy Broughton, NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries; Jan Roletto, GFNMS Conservation Science Program Coordinator

[View presentation](#)

#### Presentation Highlights:

- Kathy works at the ONMS headquarters office and helps manage the production of condition reports for all the sanctuaries. <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/condition/>
- All sanctuaries have completed a condition report to date. The last GFNMS Condition Report was released in 2010 before the boundary expansion.
- Condition reports are tools used to develop and inform sanctuary management plans. They are also used to inform and educate community, partners, stakeholders, and the public. It's a reporting mechanism on the health of the sanctuary.
- They assess water quality, living resources, maritime heritage resources, and ecosystem services (cultural, regulating, provisioning).
- They utilize an Incorporating Confidence Scores (evidence + agreement = confidence).
- It is a about a 2-year process to complete this report.
- In the process we consult experts in vetting workshops; this will take place in fall 2021; then indicator and data development in spring 2022 through a status and trends workshop.
- There are two reviews: expert review and peer review.



*Kris Lannin Liang: How will Covid-related impacts be addressed, specifically increased overtake and poaching in intertidal areas like Duxbury and Pillar Point; as well as the Covid-related gaps in data during this period?*

*Kathy: The time series will have plenty of data that proceeds the pandemic. We will highlight the gap in the report though. One of the roles of the report is to highlight data gaps. In terms of human activities, there are four human activities that appear in the report, and we can highlight the influence that the pandemic has had for those activities.*

*Jan Roletto: Pillar Point and Fitzgerald are a part of MBNMS and will not be included in the GFNMS condition report. We will be looking at visitor use patterns. Our Beach Watch data feeds into the MPA Watch data human use information.*

*Abby Mohan: Are you planning on engaging with the Native American tribes that use the sanctuary in the cultural ecosystems section? If you are, is there a budget to compensate for time for expertise and participation? I know that our tribes are interested in being involved in the sanctuary activities but can be budget-constrained for donating time. Thank you; this looks great.*

*Kathy: At Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS), we have worked very closely with the four tribes that are involved, and they have been reviewers and contributors. Their stories are told in the ecosystem services section with heritage and sense of place. At Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), the Chumash Tribe has their own stand-alone assessment document that was added to ours.*

*Maria: We will most likely be following the OCNMS model to involve tribes. We're still exploring. We currently do not have a budget to engage tribes, but it is something we will be considering.*

## **Member Reports**

**Dominique Richard, Community-at-Large, Marin:** I'm working with the Tomales Bay Watershed Council and sampling water once a week for them.

**George Clyde, Community-at-Large, Marin:** No report.

**Abby Mohan, Maritime Recreational Activities:** Covid has kept a lot of the charter boats docked. I've noticed an increase in recreational users in kayaks, paddle boards and sailing races.

**Barbara Emley, Commercial Fishing:** Crab fishing season started January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Sarah Bates, Commercial Fishing:** Crab season has been pretty bad, but it wasn't as bad as in Washington. We are starting to get some preliminary numbers on salmon returns and it's not as good as we expected. We might be able to start commercial salmon fishing on May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Joe Fitting, Community-at-Large, San Francisco/San Mateo:** No report

## Kris Lannin Liang, Community-at-Large, San Francisco/San Mateo:

### Partner/Constituent Groups:

- California Coastal Commission (CCC): Voted unanimously to approve the [San Mateo County \(SMC\) Harbor District's \(SMCHD\) Living Shoreline Project](#) and referred to it as a “model for the country”
- California State Parks: Save the Redwoods League has safeguarded the long-term health of a keystone forest with the [December 2020 purchase](#) of the Cascade Creek property, home to old-growth and mature second-growth redwoods in the Santa Cruz Mountains. The acquisition creates continuous habitat from the mountains to the Pacific Ocean within the ancestral territory of the Quiroste Tribe.
- Mavericks Surf Competition: “[The Best Six Weeks in Mavericks' History](#)” has drawn unprecedented crowds to Pillar Point that have created traffic jams, health and safety hazards, undermined the equal protections associated with holding a (CCC and SMCHD) permitted event (rather than a video contest) and has dramatically increased illegal jet ski, drone and helicopter traffic in the area.
- San Mateo County Harbor District/Commission: Still no sand management plan and some confusion about the difference between a management plan and a coastal erosion plan.
- San Mateo County Marine Protected Area Collaborative: Pillar Point/Mavericks Tidepools experiencing increased legal and illegal take, with illegal activity spilling into the State Marine Conservation Area contained within Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

*GFNMS staff met regarding the take issues at Pillar Point and Duxbury Reef on February 2nd. NOAA will contact the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW) to request enforcement for the reefs during the lowest minus tides on weekends during daylight hours. They will not request all days as they want to be respectful of capacity issues, the months they are targeting will be March, June and July with the lowest tide dates. They'll do it again in the Fall and Winter.*

*They will also bring the take issues at Pillar Point and Duxbury Reef to the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement meeting and recommend they be top enforcement priorities. They are also looking forward to being part of the outreach efforts through the MPA collaborative.*

Several volunteers tested whether a volunteer program would work at the boundary in December. Discussions with CDFW around this issue are ongoing and expected to be discussed during the next meeting on 2/22 at 4:00 pm. Warden presence has increased during extreme low tides and SMC Parks has committed staff to protect the Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) during extreme low tides going forward – resources permitting. Two educational signs have been promised, one has been installed. Meeting scheduled between Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, Duxbury Reef volunteer group and locals interested in creating a new group at Pillar Point later this week by phone.

- San Mateo County Parks
  - Parks Director Nicholas Calderon announced during the last Midcoast Community Council meeting that Fitzgerald Marine Reserve will reopen as soon as open staff positions are filled and natural resources within the unit can be adequately protected. Graffiti has increased inside the closed portion of the reserve, in/around the restrooms and throughout the neighborhood surrounding the reserve. Instances of poaching and dogs inside the reserve are up as well.
  - Off-duty ranger assisted visitors caught in a rip tide off (the closed beach at) Ross' Cove in January and [six people have reportedly been swept out to sea since December](#)
  - Another [cliff rescue at Devils' Slide](#)

- San Mateo County Resources Conservation District: “[Ten Thousand Salmon Swim Free](#)” (at Pescadero Creek)
- Surfrider: Submitted/submitted a letter to the California Coastal Commission in favor of one, permitted Mavericks surf competition.
- Together Bay Area: Should/can we join [this](#) organization?

**Cea Higgins, Community-at-Large, Sonoma/Mendocino:** We are working on developing ways to educate the public locally on the conditions of our coast and safety precautions so we can avoid any more tragedies. We can discuss this more in the Recreation and Tourism Subcommittee.

**Richard Charter, Conservation:**

1. Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Pause: President Biden has issued an Executive Order implementing a pause in new oil and gas leasing of federal lands and waters, while also initiating a process aimed at eventually protecting a total of thirty percent of America’s lands and waters. It would appear that many of the resulting new protected areas could most appropriately begin contiguous to pre-existing protections. (Proximity could potentially create a unique and timely opportunity for completing the designation of a new national marine sanctuary waters within the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area.) President Biden also halted certain oil and gas permits and began a process of reversing other actions undertaken by the previous Administration to roll back environmental protection and safety regulations.
2. Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Nomination Remains Active: With NOAA in late 2020 having retained the active nomination for a new Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary on their formal list of candidate sites for designation of new national marine sanctuaries, this site represents a “shovel-ready” marine protected area for which key initial work has already been done.
3. Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Boundary Expansion: The long-sought boundary expansion of the Flower Garden Banks site off of Texas has now been executed, in a manner which, although it does not represent the largest and most comprehensive of the proposed expansion options, conforms with the “preferred option” as expressed by the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council.
4. New California State Law Banning Brodifacoum Wildlife Poison Took Effect Statewide on January 1, 2021: After being passed by the California State Legislature and signed with much fanfare by Governor Newsom last year, AB 1788 became law in the State of California as of January 1, thereby banning the use, with specialized exceptions, of brodifacoum and certain other second generation anticoagulant rodenticide wildlife poisons, primarily due to the known propensity of these SGAR compounds to spread throughout the ecosystem, move up the food chain, and do serious damage to nontarget species such as mountain lions, bobcats, owls, hawks, and the Pacific fisher. While AB 1788 does not prohibit the use of brodifacoum when used on offshore islands, the implementation of this law sends a strong signal that incidental bykill and sublethal damage to nontarget wildlife is unacceptable to Californians.
5. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Leasing by Bureau of Land Management (BLM): On the very last day of the previous Administration, the Bureau of Land Management awarded leases within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, mostly at the minimum bid price of

\$25 per acre, but major petroleum companies with the financial wherewithal to actually explore and drill leases there were not among the bidders. Only one international oil company actually secured a single lease, and most other leases awarded went to a subset of the State of Alaska which entered the bidding on a speculative basis, apparently hoping to resell its interests at a later date. The Biden Administration is expected to pursue measures that will continue long standing protections within this national treasure.

**Bruce Bowser, Conservation:** Sheltering in place has given rise to many virtual meetings. I have been active in two advisory council subcommittees, the San Francisco-Pacific Exclusion Area Subcommittee and the Recreation and Tourism Committee.

Our Recreation & Tourism Subcommittee last met on December 9, 2020. Chaired by Dominique and joined by Cea Higgins, Francesca Koe and myself for the council, and in consultation with Carol Preston for staff. We have diligently reviewed the sanctuary's 2015 Marketing Plan, making corrections and updates as appropriate. We anticipate a wrap-up meeting in April.

The evening of February 11 was the second of three installments of *An Afternoon at the Lagoon*, Greater Farallones Association (GFA) production. A wonderful homespun virtual presentation of developments in and around Bolinas Lagoon. Hosted by Kate Bimrose, Bolinas Lagoon Program Coordinator and aided by Sara Hutto, Ocean Climate Program Coordinator and Wendy Kordesh, Geological Oceanographer, with cameo appearances and introductions by Maria Brown, GFNMS and Deb Self, GFA. Not flashy just really good information for locals and all lagoon lovers. This episode featured European Green Crab eradication in the Seadrift Lagoon, successes with Kent Island restoration, the North End / Olema-Bolinas Road and Highway 1 re-alignment project and the South End erosion mitigation project. I chaired the SAC committee for a Locally Preferred Plan for Bolinas Lagoon restoration in 2008 shortly after being selected for the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Recent torrential rains sorely tested the Highway 1 culvert drainage with significant flooding at some curves of the road. The road gets steady traffic and there are always concerns about tire and brake pad residue washing into the waters of the lagoon. New research shows that recent changes in tire rubber vulcanization are creating compounds that are detrimental to fin-fish reproduction. More on this in a later report.

*Time Magazine* had a fascinating article on cultivating the ocean waters to grow food to feed the planet. This included harvesting the seeds of eelgrass, *Zostera Marina*, as exotic rice. Surprising new directions in aquaculture to prepare plant-based seafood and appreciation for under-valued delicacies. This is a fascinating article and an entirely new take on cuisine.

<https://time.com/5926780/chef-angel-leon-sea-rice/>

The College of Marin, Bolinas Marine Lab has received its county permits for an entirely new “ground-up” education facility. Demolition of the substandard facility will begin in the spring. For my part as a coastal resident, I have been chairing a town ordained committee on dealing with visitor parking and overnight camping. Bolinas is a cul-de-sac of a town with only one road in or out. There is very limited public parking and no lots. Residents depend on downtown to get their mail, buy groceries, go to yoga or dance classes or pick up a book or video at the library. Visitors who come to spend the night in their vehicles take upper hand to those who arrive from

out of town to visit the beach and directly compete with locals for parking to do essential shopping. Through extensive effort working with the County of Marin and with the tentative blessing of the California Coastal Commission we have a new ordinance in place that prohibits certain types of vehicles between the hours of 11pm and 5am. The ultimate goal of our committee work would be the establishment of a residential permit parking program. Here is a link to a slide presentation explaining our thinking in terms of multiple problems created and possible solutions. [https://bcpud.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Parking-Permits\\_BCPUD-Presentation-PDF-VERS.\\_01\\_2021-1.pdf](https://bcpud.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Parking-Permits_BCPUD-Presentation-PDF-VERS._01_2021-1.pdf)

**Francesca Koe, Conservation:** We didn't have an Oceans Day last year but save the date for a virtual California Ocean Day 2021 on March 9th if you are interested in participating, please email [info@azul.org](mailto:info@azul.org). It's a great opportunity for young people and students!

**Kathi George, Conservation:** We had no confirmed entanglements this calendar year so far.

**Bibit Traut, Education:** I'm seeing a lot more paddle boarders and recreation recently. There has been a heavy impact on harbor seals in the SF Bay because their haul out sites are being trafficked. If you have recommendations on who to contact about that, please share. I'm working with LiMPETS and conducting virtual lessons.

### **John Berge, Maritime Commercial Activities:**

Ship Strike Mitigation – Channel Islands:

The United States has submitted a proposal to the International Maritime Organization (IMO - a specialized agency of the United Nations), to amend the existing Area to Be Avoided (ATBA) and Traffic Separation Scheme (TSS) around the Channel Islands and the Santa Barbara Channel respectively, in an effort to further mitigate impacts on cetaceans from ship strikes. The CBNMS and GFNMS are apparently considering future amendments to the northern California TSS as well.

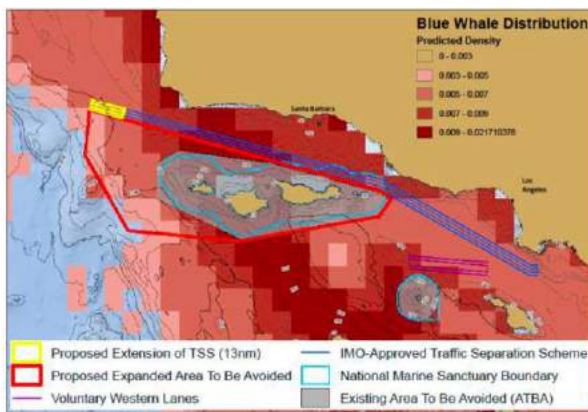
The proposal seeks the following two amendments:

1. Amend the existing ATBA that surrounds the Channel Islands to expand the western portion of the ATBA by approximately 27 nautical miles to encompass and align with the existing voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction zone, making it an area that ships would be precluded from entering.
2. Extend the existing TSS through the Santa Barbara Channel by 13 nautical miles on the northwest end so that the entrance to the TSS aligns with the northwest corner of the proposed expansion of the ATBA.

The submission provides findings that the area of the proposed expansion of the ATBA is an important foraging location for Blue, Fin and Humpback Whales, as is the proposed extended TSS area. The proposal intends to eliminate the colocation of ships and whales in the expanded ATBA. It also intends to reduce the colocation footprint of ships and whales in the extended section of the TSS, by moving the area where ships fan-out from the TSS entrance to an area where whale density is reduced.

The proposal has been submitted to the IMO Sub-Committee on Navigation, Communications and Search and Rescue (NCSR) for their consideration, and asks that they approve the proposal and submit it to the IMO Marine Safety Committee (MSC) for adoption. The changes would take effect six months after adoption.

I do not have a good estimate at this time for when the committees would take this proposal up. The IMO moves slowly, but this may be addressed in this calendar year. Here is a diagram of the proposed amendments:



**Jaime Jahncke, Research:** No report.

**Ezra Bergson-Michelson & Owen Youngquist, Youth:** We are preparing recommendations for youth engagement to bring to the council, with a focus on online education. We have discussed possible unique activities that the program could consider, including interactive online activities to get kids involved like polls, questions, Cahoots, quizzes, and utilizing breakout rooms. We also discussed partnerships. Many different community organizations are looking for more educational opportunities and may be able to provide a broader outreach within different communities. Working with community centers could be a good path forward. Looking for opportunities to do live streaming events is also a good way to engage youth.

**Ben Becker, National Parks Service:** Over the past several years, we've been going through a land management assessment. The environmental impact assessment was finally released and going in front of the California Coastal Commission to get concurrence. There are a few concerns, like water quality discharge. We have a paper in review that has been showing a dramatic decline in fecal coliform from the dairy farms. We are working on an endangered black abalone project with UC Santa Cruz the past few years but have not seen recruits (although some in the Channel Islands). For the Drakes Estero restoration project, we're going to do our fifth year of monitoring this year. Point Reyes just got a new permanent Superintendent, Craig Kenkel, who is a Bay Area native and spent the past 6-7 years in Ohio at a different national park. He'll be the primary for the SAC now. I took a new job with Parks Service a few months ago as a scientific advisor, based at UC Berkeley, managing research programs for the western half of the United States. I plan to stay as involved as possible with the SAC because I think it's a valuable partnership.

**Michael Esgro, CA Natural Resources:** We presented our kelp action plan in partnership with California Department of Fish & Wildlife. It is basically building on the work that was done through the council's Kelp Recovery Working Group and the Greater Farallones' Sonoma bull kelp recovery program, summarizing regional trends. Some projects that are funded or ongoing include: research and monitoring, policy, and community engagement. Our goal is a statewide ecosystem-based kelp restoration management plan. We will be conducting public and tribal

comment over the next couple of months and hope to bring a final plan to the council in spring of next year.

**WRAP UP & ADJOURN: 1:45pm**

*Meeting highlights prepared by Alayne Chappell, Advisory Council Coordinator.*