

**Cordell Bank NMS Advisory Council Meeting
September 29, 2005
Minutes**

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Meeting Commenced at 9:30 a.m.

All Present:

James Clemens
Lance Morgan
Doreen Moser
Todd Steiner
Chuck Wise
Carol Keiper
Michael Mery
Tom Lambert
Joe Smith
Dan Howard
Daniel Cohen
Brian Mulvey
Maria Brown

Review Agenda – Carol Keiper

Public Comment Period

Dominic Bouchard introduced himself. He is interested in the Council and was interested in serving as the Community at Large Marin seat. He was on the Point Reyes Field Seminars field trip to Cordell Bank (CBNMS) last weekend, noting the good weather and enjoyable trip to the Bank. He is present to observe the meeting proceedings today.

Review Last Meeting's Minutes – Carol Keiper

Two corrections were made to the 7/7 minutes. Rowena will correct these and bring to the next meeting to approve.

Manager's Report – Dan Howard

Dan read a historic newspaper article from the San Francisco Call in 1887 recounting a fishing trip to Cordell Bank. Dan mentioned the need for historic records of biomass and fish stocks on Cordell Bank. There is a possibility of conducting archival research to assess numbers.

Dan reviewed the September 2005 Delta submersible research cruise. Weather was prohibitive the first three days. Dives were able to commence the fourth day. There were good numbers of rockfish, and schools of Humboldt squid were observed in deeper waters.

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Rikk Kvitek from Cal State University at Monterey Bay is conducting multi beam surveys of Cordell Bank at present. This will provide detailed bathymetric images of Cordell Bank as well as substrate types. Next fiscal year the post-processing of the data will start.

Dan provided an update of the mooring placement for the CBNMS research buoy. Instrumentation of the buoy will be reviewed.

Dan reviewed the September (Pacific Fisheries Management Council) PFMC meeting, which featured a release of the draft regulations for Cordell Bank. At the November meeting the Council will vote on approving the regulations.

The NOAA Budget is still not resolved for 2006. The Senate version of the budget will provide enough for exhibits, etc. The House version would be a reduction and would call for a cut in programs and other measures.

Dan showed a video of Humboldt squid as well as footage from the September 2005 Delta submersible cruise.

The Council asked questions about similar surveys, and observations of other species not seen in video footage. Lance Morgan mentioned an upcoming workshop/conference in Monterey at the NOAA Marine Sciences Center, which addresses benthic-pelagic coupling in Marine Protected Areas (MPA's).

Tom Lambert raised the question and concern of the research buoy causing disturbance and redistribution of species at Cordell Bank. Tom also asked what substrate the buoy will be anchored in. James Clemens/US Coast Guard commented on placement and monitoring.

Council Member Updates – Carol Keiper

Rowena reviewed the procedure for member updates being that Council members contact her ahead of time to reserve a spot on the members updates list. For this meeting the following members signed up ahead:

Josh Churchman – update of the Ecotrust meeting (not present)

Carol Keiper – update of the Black-footed albatross study at Cordell Bank

Brian Mulvey – review of his assignment at Chesapeake Bay

Chuck Wise – review of this years salmon fishing season

Rowena also requested each member give a brief personal introduction and background at this time.

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Additions to the member updates will be:

Doreen Moser – review of the CBNMS Point Reyes Field Seminar weekend workshop

Michael Mery – review of cooperative conservation meeting

Maria Brown introduced herself and announced the upcoming Ocean Festival at Crissy Field, as well as an update of the upcoming Gulf of the Farallones SAC 10/13 retreat which will be open to the public and cover the socio economic state of consumptive and non-consumptive activities in the Sanctuaries. Rowena will get these meeting logistics out to the Council via email.

Carol Keiper – Black-footed albatross tagging project update:

Tagged nine birds in 1.5 days at CBNMS. Carol discussed marine mammal and albatross sightings at CBNMS this season. The data can be viewed on Seaturtle.org. Carol has been working with Jennifer Stock to design curriculum and workshops about marine science and conservation by illustrating research activities as well as species presence at the “Garbage Patch” – a large gyre in the central Pacific, which collects floating garbage and plastics.

Doreen Moser – Update of the Cordell Bank workshop

This seminar included a field trip to Cordell Bank, which was very successful with great weather. There was an abundance of marine mammal and seabird observations.

Michael Mery – Review of National working group involvement with the Tomales Bay Watershed Council:

Federal representatives put together a nationwide conference of Cooperative Conservation. The Tomales Bay Watershed Council was invited and Michael attended for the Council. Michael was pleased with the meeting and organization. Rumsfeld was there as well as the head of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Defense, etc. Presentations were given regarding restoration and conservation on government lands, as well as sessions and workshops. The Department of the Interior will be passing legislation regarding cooperative conservation soon. Michael commented on the presence of non-governmental organizations, agency representatives, Native Americans groups, etc at the conference.

Chuck Wise – Rundown of this year's commercial salmon season:

This year started out well with high numbers, then the problems on the Klamath River started to have an impact. The major fish kills in the past years due to deprivation of water diverted to agriculture has greatly reduced this year's stock and limited the take for each user group. Seasonal and area closures had major impacts on landings this year. This year's catch was half of last year's. Chuck commented on the long-term effects of the continued diversion of water in the Klamath River.

Brian Mulvey – Rotational Assignment at Chesapeake Bay NOAA offices.

Brian participated in a rotational assignment to NOAA's Chesapeake Bay office, which is a combination of NOAA agencies studying and managing the ecosystems of Chesapeake Bay. Brian had the opportunity to work and learn about Chesapeake Bay native oyster restoration efforts and hopes to apply this to Bay Area oyster restoration efforts.

Bathymetric and habitat surveys of each estuary are being conducted at Chesapeake Bay. Brian described the oyster restoration techniques used at these sites.

Break – 11:10-11:25

Constituent Outreach – Rowena Forest

Rowena covered the following:

What is Constituent Outreach and why it's an important function of Sanctuary Advisory Councils

Identifying the constituency for each seat

(organizations, businesses, institutions, user groups, etc..)

Ways to find and reach a constituency

(current boards serving-on, web search, clubs and meetings, PRNS and PRNSA)

Tools for Constituent Outreach

(email lists, presentations: slides and power point, fact sheets and handouts, brochures, etc..)

Media training, communications protocol, NMSP talking points

(as outlined in SAC Charter, training by headquarters 2005/2006)

Rowena demonstrated a general power point presentation that was created for the SAC to use in public outreach

The SAC discussed the following:
Editing and suggestions for the CB SAC power point presentation

Other tools besides power point that can be developed

Hard to define constituencies

Building contact lists

Other outreach ideas

Suggestions for the power point presentation were:
Keep it broad, the individual can tailor it to the event or audience group's needs

The need for a "hook" image and story to add to the presentation, such as a case study, or Sanctuary issue the SAC was involved in and how it unfolded and turned out

For each seat/constituency add a slide with specific emerging issues that apply to that group

Add a slide which explains the importance of a bank ecosystem and what a bank and seamount are

Discussion regarding reaching one's constituency included:
Hold quarterly meetings with updates for your constituency

Reporting back to the SAC and Manager during Constituency Reports at each SAC meeting

Post a calendar of events for Bay Area-wide meetings and events that concern the Sanctuary to the Cordell Bank SAC website, for the public to browse and get involved

Maria Brown, Manager of Gulf of the Farallones NMS, commented that the GF SAC tailors constituency outreach based on what is happening at the Sanctuary

Getting the community invested and fostering a feeling of community ownership for the Sanctuaries. A sense of public investment – “we fund it and benefit from its resources”

The Council and staff agreed that Constituency Outreach is a broad topic that should continue to be discussed and worked-out at future SAC meetings. Rowena will follow up today’s discussion by sending the Council the constituency outreach minutes from the 9/29 meeting, as well as further suggestions on this topic.

Lunch 12:40-1:15

Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program and Similar Monitoring Programs at the at the West Coast Sanctuaries – Peter Pyle

Peter introduced the Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program(CBOMP) and the decision to start the program for CBNMS. It is a once a month check-up on the Sanctuary.

Primary Goal: to increase our understanding of seasonal and inter-annual variations in the ecology of CBNMS.

Secondary Goals: to correlate vertebrate activity with planktonic abundance, to correlate biological observations with physical oceanographic data, to contribute to regional and national integrated ocean-observing systems.

Peter outlined the survey area – a grid over Cordell Bank.

Equipment:

Vessel - C Magister, 36 foot Gaski, with observation deck.

Survey Area: First year is working out the exact survey area, what can be accomplished in a day, direction to follow on the study day to maximize work in unfavorable sea conditions.

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Observation Techniques: three observers – one for mammals, one for birds, one recorder.
Measurement of survey area: whales up to 800m, albatross and small mammals up to 350m, birds up to 200m. Small mammals and whales are observed on both sides of the boat.

Peter discussed observations of differing bird species, as well as rare birds, pinipeds, and mammals in relation to data verification.

Peter described three means to calibrate observers for estimating distance. Pencil method, fishing line with float, reticular binoculars.

Echosounder: to measure back-scatter and planktonic mass in the water.

Weather scoring to interpret data.

CTD: Records salinity, temperature, light-levels (measures chlorophyll). Deployed overboard. Rate of drop and ascent is important. Gives vertical profile of water column conditions.

Data collection

Graphs:

Temperature and Depth: Peter described the thermocline phenomena

Sea-surface Temperature

Seabird Density and Number of Taxa.

Species Occurance

Number of Marine Mammals and number of Taxa

CBOMP Data Acquisition and Database Structure

Expanding the project:

Accounting for feeding flocks and adjusting the transect line through the flock

Photograph whale tails for identification – Cascadia Research Collective

Photographing Orca for identification

Expanding the survey area to Bodega Canyon.

Questions for Peter

The Council asked and discussed the following:

Adjusting/compensate survey days to account for daylight savings, etc

Rotating positions during a cruise to compensate for fatigue

Expanding the number of observers to increase effort, voice recorders, data collection options and problems with them.

Presence of fourth/extra person to help with equipment deployment, etc..

Election of CBNMS Advisory Council Chair and Vice Chair –

Votes were cast by anonymous written ballot. All voting and non-voting members are eligible to vote for Council Officers.

Rowena explained voting procedures, duties of each position, and who was up for the vote.

Ballots were turned in and tallied.

Newly elected Chair is Tom Lambert and Vice Chair is Doreen Moser.

Swearing-in of New Members – Dan Howard

Dan Howard led an oath to swear in all SAC members based on the oath outlined in the Sanctuary Advisory Council Charter.

Motion:

Motion to adjourn the meeting was proposed by Tom Lambert and seconded by Carol Keiper. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 pm