



GRAY'S REEF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL WEBINAR – MAY 24, 2016

<u>Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC) Attendees</u>	<u>Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) and Office of National Marine Sanctuary (ONMS) Staff</u>
Michael Denmark, Vice-chair Peter Auster Mark Carson Pat Geer Tim Henkel Amy Hockenberry (for Mike Mastrianni) Warren Hupman Emily Kroutil Capt. Bob Lynn Kevin Mitchell Jene Nissen Mark Padgett Tim Tarver Suzanne VanParreren Susan White	Sarah Fangman Catherine Marzin Jody Patterson Becky Shortland Marlies Tumolo Mandy Harvey (GRNMS Volunteer) <u>GRNMS Foundation</u> Chris Hines <u>NOAA General Counsel</u> Karen Raine
<u>SAC Members Absent</u> Rick DeVictor, Chair Anna George, Secretary Mary Conley Scott Noakes Dustin Rhyan	<u>Public in attendance</u> Bill Cliett Nancy Daves John Pufahl Thomas Wright

Advisory Council Business

Council vice-chair Michael Denmark called the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) Advisory Council webinar to order. He welcomed members, staff and public in attendance. Michael briefly reviewed the agenda and outlined the meeting objectives. The March 3, 2016 council meeting summary was unanimously approved with no changes.

GRNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Charter

Becky Shortland provided an update on the activities on review and revision of the GRNMS Advisory Council Charter. The Executive Committee (council officers Rick DeVictor, Michael Denmark and Anna George) have reviewed a new draft and made suggestions. As discussed during the March meeting, the Charter was last revised in

2011 for a period of five years and therefore needed to be reviewed and potentially updated this year. A draft of the revised charter will be reviewed with council members during either the next SAC webinar in July or the live meeting tentatively planned for September.

National Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit Follow-up – Climate Change

Climate change and the role of sanctuary advisory councils was a key topic during both the annual National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit in January (attended by Rick DeVictor) and the April SAC Chairs webinar (attended by Michael Denmark). Discussion of the topic also occurred during the March 3 GRNMS advisory council meeting. Today's session, led by Catherine Marzin, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Climate Change Team Lead, provided another opportunity to learn more about climate change in general, communicating the topic, as well as more discussion to consider relative to the role for the GRNMS advisory council.

In response to a question from Sarah Fangman, Catherine provided detail on some specific strategies contained within the Greater Farallones NMS planning document highlighted in her presentation, such as working with local communities to determine what steps can be taken to increase the resilience of a lagoon and changing anchoring rules to better protect sea grass beds. Sarah noted that it is important to recognize that these and other strategies cannot be successfully implemented without the support and assistance of local communities and agencies.

As a follow-up, Catherine will send a link to the Greater Farallones document so participants can review in greater detail, as well as a list of the URLs included in her presentation. Marlies Tumolo will provide a link to the climate change profiles developed by Robert Brock. These profiles outline specific actions that Marine Protected Areas (MPA) around the country are taking to address climate change at a local level.

Michael Denmark thanked Catherine for her presentation and participation in the meeting today and suggested that the group continue educational activities focused on climate change.

Recreational Fishing Working Group

The council has been considering the benefits of establishing a recreational fishing working group to find better ways to communicate and promote collaboration with recreational fishing interests, raise awareness of GRNMS, enhance compliance, and obtain more visitor use information. During the March meeting, council members requested additional information regarding other recreational fishing groups that exist to ensure the potential GRNMS working group would not be duplicating efforts. Becky Shortland reported today that there are no other existing groups that fulfill the specific objectives outlined for the GRNMS group.

As such, the council elected to take action to establish the working group. Tim Tarver volunteered to serve as the chair of the working group and Pat Geer volunteered to serve on the committee. Becky will follow-up with Warren Hupman and Dustin Rhyan regarding their interest in serving on the committee. In regard to next steps, staff will work with current working group members on the terms of reference. The terms of reference will be presented during an upcoming council meeting for review and approval. Once approved, solicitation of additional working group members will commence. When the time comes, Pat Geer offered to present the opportunity to the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Coastal Resources Division Marine Fisheries Advisory Council to see if any of its members might be interested in joining the working group.

Resource Protection Program Evaluation Working Group

Sarah Fangman reported that the GRNMS management plan calls for evaluation of sanctuary programs. This evaluation was recently completed for outreach and educational programs. The next area for assessment will be resource protection programs (i.e. law enforcement, permitting, compliance, protection efforts). Working group members have been confirmed and include Mary Conley, Pat Geer, Kevin Mitchell and Tim Tarver from the advisory council, as well as Myra Brouwer, Chip Collier, Todd Recicar, George Sedberry, and Vicki Wedell. Pat Geer

volunteered to serve as the chair of the group. A webinar to kick-off the evaluation process will be conducted on June 1, followed by a 3-day workshop in July or August if committee member schedules allow.

Council Members' Report

Ocean Acidification Workshop Olympic Coast NMS – Becky Shortland reported on behalf of Scott Noakes. Scott is working with the Olympic Coast NMS to establish a working group to take an in-depth look at the monitoring of ocean acidification. To initiate the process, Scott conducted a webinar with Olympic Coast on April 27 highlighting water quality monitoring at GRNMS and how it applies to ocean acidification and will travel to Washington State in September to participate in a workshop to develop terms of reference and a monitoring plan specifically for Olympic Coast.

On a related topic, Becky reported that the GRNMS data buoy was replaced on May 23. The buoy is now equipped with a camera, which will soon be operational. Based upon examples from other monitoring buoy cameras, it appears that the camera will produce a panoramic view by piecing together multiple images and that these views will be posted online approximately every hour. The images can be accessed by the general public.

Soundscape Inventory – Becky Shortland reported Mona Behl has arranged for a Sea Grant intern to inventory acoustically-sensitive species in GRNMS over the summer.

International Training – Sarah Fangman reported on advisory council member participation in two MPA International Capacity Building Programs. Rick DeVictor travelled to South Korea for a five-day workshop on stakeholder engagement and MPA and fisheries issues. Mary Conley and Sarah recently participated in a two-and-a-half-day workshop in Malaysia to aid in the implementation of marine spatial planning in the coastal areas of Malaysia.

Recent SAFMC Advisory Panel Meeting – Pat Geer reported that the effects of sound and seismic testing on fish were discussed during the South Atlantic Fisheries Management Council Habitat & Environmental Protection & Ecosystem-Based Management Advisory Panel Meeting conducted on May 11-12, 2016 in North Charleston, SC. Pat will provide a link to the presentations of interest. A key agreement from the meeting was that behavioral issues related to sound need to be further evaluated.

GRNMS Foundation Update Report

Foundation Update – Foundation Executive Director Chris Hines gave an update on Foundation activities, including new GRNMS informational signs being placed at numerous local marinas and boat ramps. Chris extended an invitation to council members to attend the unveiling of the sign at the Rodney J. Hall boat ramp in Savannah on Saturday, June 25 from 10:30am – 12:00pm. This event is part of a larger national effort entitled "Get into Your Sanctuary Day". The unveiling will be attended by local dignitaries and media. Chris also invited council members to attend the 2016 *A Fishy Affair* event, which will take place at The Landings Plantation Clubhouse in Savannah on Friday, September 23 at 6:00pm. Tickets are now on sale online. (<http://www.graysreefnmsf.org/events/AFishyAffair>).

The Foundation has added two new trustees, bringing the total number of trustees to eleven. The goal is to add one or two more in the near future. Fundraising effort continue to be successful, and Chris reported that the Foundation has received a sizable grant for the design and construction of the GRNMS mobile exhibit. The exhibit is now moving into the design process.

Following several meetings and interactions between Chris, Sarah, and his staff, US representative Buddy Carter has signed onto a letter, organized by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, urging robust funding of National Marine Sanctuaries.

Sarah thanked Chris and the Foundation for hosting the evening event during the ONMS Leadership Team meeting and thanked the advisory members that attended. Michael Denmark thanked Chris for his efforts on getting the Foundation up and running so quickly and so successfully.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be a two-hour webinar tentatively on July 19 from 10:00am – 12:00pm. Proposed topics include the revised council charter, ecological working group update and other working group updates, recreational fishing working group terms of reference, council member reports, strategic communications plan, and another presentation on climate change. Additional suggestions for meeting topics can be emailed to Becky.Shortland@noaa.gov.

Public Comment

Bill Cliett stated that he enjoyed the discussion on climate change and was impressed by the data presented.

The webinar was concluded at 11:35am.