FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 14, 2006
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

FGBNMS Headquarters/NOAA Fisheries Laboratory
4700 Ave. U., Bldg. 216, Galveston, TX

Distributed materials:
Agenda

Council members present:
Dick Zingula, Recreational Diving
Frank Burek, Recreational Diving (Alternate)
Art Melvin, Diving Operations (Alternate)
Clint Moore, Oil & Gas Production
Tim Gibson, Oil & Gas Production (Alternate)
Irby Basco, Recreational Fishing
John Stout, Recreational Fishing (Alternate)
Ian MacDonald, Research
Kristina Hardwick, Education (Alternate)
Page Williams, Conservation
Heather Young, NOAA Fisheries (Alternate)

Advisory Council Members absent:
Beth Keister, Coast Guard

*Note: The following seat is vacant: Commercial Fishing (Alternate)

FGBNMS Staff Present:
G.P. Schmahl, Manager
Jennifer Morgan, Advisory Council Coordinator
Shelley Du Puy, Education & Outreach Coordinator
Announcements and Sanctuary Update
GP began meeting at 9:10; Irby not yet present
Sanctuary update/calendar
Research season upcoming
Officially in this bldg.; everyone now moved here; still unpacking
Reminder of Jan. cruise and bleaching; May research cruise to check on coral bleaching and disease; disease in remission; few active cases found; disease experts disappointed…not many samples to collect. This disease appears to be acting opposite of others….more active during early part of year in cooler waters. Coral bleaching is recovering

Annual long-term monitoring cruise this week; FGBNMS has one of worlds longest coral monitoring projects; conducted under contract with MMS with PBS&J (environ. Consulting firm). Emma and James Sinclair out with cruise this week. East and West bank llok good so far; found previous stations.

Next week, Stetson monitoring; conduct ourselves; GREAT volunteers work with staff initially to do this; now staff alone. Have data since 1993. Emily Platzer now under contract to work on this data.

June 24-28: DUOY; ongoing since 1996; teacher workshop and cruise; Shelley spoke and described role of summer intern doing evaluation of the program

July: Mooring buoy cruise; most out there now are originals put out in 1980s.; some volunteers from FKNMS will assist.

Regional organization: Executive Team
July: FGBNMS will host ET mtg. week of July 24; eve. Of July 27th event: soft opening; more info to come; would like to have Advisory Council members attend; will have short program and community leaders.
Will have larger gala event in January 2007

Last week of July: Agency/Industry Cruise; Tim Gibson will be organizing this.; July 30 – Aug. 2. Often have openings….may be available to Council members.


Ocean Futures: PBS documentary Americas Underwater Treasures; 2 part series on NMSP; Sept. 20 and 27.; segment on each sanctuary.

John Stout: # of buoys at each bank
GP-12 total at East and West bank right now; 9 currently safe; have other locations in mind; may not get to during upcoming cruise; will end up with several more anchor locations at each bank; may rotate buoys to relieve pressures on
habitat; 5 buoys at Stetson; more boats than buoys at Stetson—a more popular fishing location;
Ian – built in study possibility here; compare places with/without buoys; health of coral/habitat; has this been done?
GP- have looked at incidence of disease; not different; difficult to access areas without buoys; are monitoring sights typical of the whole reef

This week: capitol hill oceans week in DC; try to raise awareness in congress about ocean issues. Intend to get congressional staff and congress to attend events; has been increasing in popularity; this years topics: energy, marine debris, invasive sp. Congress has various caucuses—one now for NMSP;

Presidential proclamation: June 4-10 as National Oceans week

Draft MP for Channel Is. Released in May; has been controversial; esp. in regards to no fishing zones

June 11-12: Christening of replica of USS Monitor in Newport News.
Kristina: invitations to chow events

Adjourned

In session:

GP-situation reports from National level; need to be sent out to Council; get names on email list or have Jen forward sit reps;
Kristina – NMSF emails?
GP-Council members may already be on list
Jen – review Directory info
GP-rec diving alternate and primary have switched places

Irby began leading meeting
Follow RRO order more open; Art-need to follow RRO
Called meeting to order at 10 am

Approval of meeting minutes
Art moved for approval; seconded; approved

Move for approval of agenda; seconded

To discussion of Goals and Objectives:
Goal 1:
Frank Burek: protection objectives; combine?
GP-organize by issue areas or topic (research, ed, etc.)
Art- by repeating “protection” items throughout document it emphasizes this
Frank – clumping them together may provide more impact
John Stout – goal of putting them together? Suggested adding a matrix at end of goals and obj.;
Frank – can better define them by putting them together
Art – performance measure matrix in strategic plan
Irby – suggests that someone make a motion to make this change

Art – obj. 1G; is there a need for this
Irby – commented on demonstrated need; enforcement and to know how many visit the sanctuary
John Stout – is it the same as the obj. in goal 7
Frank Burek – web-based record of visitors to sanctuary needed
Art – 1G is a directive; has this been discussed in open mtg session; have we evaluated the need for this?
Page –
Ian – make 1G more general; develop methodologies for varifying and regulating usage
Kristina – concern about requirements to carry out 1G; need research and study component to this; second idea of keeping it broad
John Stout – in favor of measurement tool to track usage; concern about cost/benefit; support vms
Art-Stellwagen now tracking all vessels that enter sanctuary by acoustic signature
Irby – has anyone witnessed a head boat fishing at FGB?
John – yes
Irby – in favor of vms ; tied to electronic device in order to really monitor; if web-based or phone system then rely on self reporting
Heather – only required on fishing vessels or all?
Irby – commercial vessels at a minimum; then recreational vessels
Kristina – approach objectives by thinking about a desired outcome
Page – repeat Ian’s rewording

Discussion on 1F – concern about “enhancement”; how to change this wording; Ian suggested change (see doc)

Moves made to accept changes to goal 1. goal 2, goal 3

11:45: public invited to comment; none present

Continued discussion thru goal 7 with working lunch

Art began presentation at 2pm.

Jen – explanation of tracking performance measure inputs

GP – scoping timeline
Have funds and support to go thru scoping and get priority issues outlined; work following that does not require much $; just time

Scoping hearings in October; week of Oct. 16th: LA, (new Orleans or Lafayette) Houston/ Galv, CC

John stout – why so far east in Louisiana? GP- divers and researchers out of new Orleans or baton rouge; western parts of LA are sparsely populated and few vessels go out of that area; strong group of interested parties in new Orleans

Contractors (MRAG and Crouch) will do logistics for scoping mtgs (take minutes; compile data)

Start getting word out for scoping meetings; developing lists of contacts and organizations w/ newsletters etc.; follow up emails will request this info from Council members; need deadlines

Shelley – Seaspace-print labels Don’t request mail list; just have orgs send out announcements.

PDF on website regarding scoping for all to access

Ian moves to adopt logo of ray and replace text with SAC Vote: Yea – art, tim clint irby dick frank Kristina, Page,Ian; nay – 0

Provide mock-up of letterhead

Next meeting: Aug. 9th – Plan to have a draft of the conditions report then

Kristina – Flower Garden Banks license plates GP - Nonprofit already in place; flower garden fund/ Gulf of mexico foundation Kristina will research this and report at next meeting

Irby –

Clint – Houston geological society; guest speaker night; go to website; this Sat. night hgs.org

Meeting adjourned at 3:20 pm

9:30 AM FGBNMS Goals & Objectives: Irby Basco
Review of Current Draft--Work Session
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:45 AM</td>
<td>Public Comment Period</td>
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<td>12:00 PM</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1:00 PM</td>
<td>Report on the National Chairs &amp; Coordinators meeting</td>
<td>Art Melvin, Jennifer Morgan</td>
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<td>2:00 PM</td>
<td>NMSP Performance Measures: Tracking and Reporting Council Actions/Inputs</td>
<td>Jennifer Morgan</td>
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<td>2:30 PM</td>
<td>Review of MPR schedule: Scoping</td>
<td>G.P. Schmahl</td>
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<td>3:00 PM</td>
<td>Council Administrative Update: Need for SAC Letterhead</td>
<td>G.P. Schmahl</td>
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<td>3:30 PM</td>
<td>Open Discussion</td>
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