

# FLOWER GARDEN BANKS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

## Sanctuary Advisory Council

### Meeting Minutes

November 13, 2013

#### Meeting Attendance Roster:

Jimmie Mack	Recreational Diving	Absent
Jesse Cancelmo	Recreational Diving	Absent
Cher Walker	Diving Operators	Absent
Vacant	Diving Operators	-----
James Wiseman	Oil and Gas Industry	Present
Vacant	Oil and Gas Industry	-----
Scott Hickman	Fishing - Recreational	Present
Keith Love	Fishing - Recreational	Absent
Vacant	Fishing - Commercial	-----
Mike Jennings	Fishing - Commercial	Absent
Will Heyman	Research	Absent
Larry McKinney	Research	Present
Karla Klay	Education	Present
Jacqui Stanley	Education	Absent
Ellis Pickett	Conservation	Present
Jorge Brenner	Conservation	Absent
James Sinclair	BSEE (non-voting)	Absent
Michelle Nannen	BOEMRE (non-voting)	Absent
Jason Brand	U.S. Coast Guard (non-voting)	Present
Rusty Swafford	NOAA Fisheries (non-voting)	Present
Charles Tyer	NOAA OLE (non-voting)	Present
Ben Scaggs	EPA (non-voting)	Absent
G.P. Schmahl	Sanctuary Superintendent (non-voting)	Present

#### Administrative Business

A regular meeting of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) Advisory Council was held on Wednesday, November 13, 2013 at 9:00 AM, at the NOAA Galveston Lab. Council Vice-Chair, James Wiseman presided over the Meeting. Jesse Cancelmo, Council Chair, was absent. He called the meeting to order at 9:09 AM.

G.P. welcomed the council and the public and gave a brief "safety moment". G.P. noted today's light attendance and explained that there would be no voting on actions today.

Additionally, there will be no approval of previous meeting minutes or adoption of an agenda.

G.P. discussed with the council his concern over meeting attendance. Other sites are now starting remote access of meetings, especially without travel funds available. Florida Keys NMS will start streaming meetings. The council discussed options to encourage attendance, such as a deadline to RSVP, use of survey monkey to determine if people will attend, changing the agenda format to include all action items in a set two hour period, and using doodle poll to set meeting dates only a month in advance.

### **Sanctuary Update**

G.P. noted that there is not too much to report on since September, partially due to the government shutdown from October 1-16. Research cruises were postponed. G.P. explained that the NMSF Board meeting scheduled for Houston/Galveston was cancelled. However, a reception at the downtown aquarium did happen and the attendance of some SAC members was much appreciated. A foundation board meeting may be rescheduled for our area in February.

The new Mohawk ROV was received and we now have this tool as a result of enforcement settlement money through the foundation. The inaugural use of the ROV was on October 29-30. G.P. explained the capabilities of the ROV. FGBNMS will have use of it for 30 days. UNC Wilmington will make it available to others with a day-rate that will generate money for maintenance of the ROV.

G.P. also addressed the following topics in his update: staff poster presentations at the GCFI meeting in Corpus Christi, Texas State Aquarium grant for lionfish study and removal; Google maps underwater street view and FGBNMS discussions with Catlin Seaview Survey for inclusion in streetview, review of RV *Manta* operations for 2013, staff participation in AZA meeting, Jacqui Stanley's participation in a presidential delegation to Myanmar as a teacher, Karla Klay's Gulf Guardian award, and Emma Hickerson's selection for the Women Divers Hall of Fame.

### **Lone Star Coastal National Recreation Area**

Bill Kiene has been working with the SSPEED Center and the city of Galveston since Hurricane Ike to use structural and natural efforts to protect the island from storm surge. The National Park Association is also driving an effort to establish the area as a national recreation area. Together (along with Karla Klay) they are looking at the area as a whole and examining tourism. Bill is encouraging FGBNMS participation in this effort as an ambassador for the adjacent Gulf ecosystem. The partnership structure is in place. Jim Baker and John Nau are advocates and Roger Zimmerman is interested in using

the historical aspect of Ft. Crockett to encourage NOAA's involvement. A letter of support or resolution from the SAC is wanted to show our support for developing the recreation area. Karla further explained the benefits and volunteered to draft a SAC letter of support.

#### **Constituent Report: Karla Klay**

Karla, Artist Boat Director, highlighted three things that her organization has done with FGBNMS. She described the involvement in the city of Houston's SPARK art project as well as Project Sit on the seawall for handpainted benches. She is able to include FGBNMS activities in the Artist Boat newsletter and to distribute sanctuary information to students. Artist Boat annual reach is about 10,000.

James Wiseman and Ellis Pickett will provide constituent reports at the next meeting.

#### **Council Charter Subcommittee Report: Larry McKinney**

Although a subcommittee is formed, no action has happened yet. G.P. will provide input and suggestions for changes to the SAC charter.

#### **Gulf and Caribbean Fisheries Institute Meeting Overview: Larry McKinney**

Larry described the 66<sup>th</sup> annual meeting; the first in the US in over 15 years. Thirty seven countries were represented with about 427 in attendance. The main theme was natural vs. artificial reefs. Other topics included lionfish control, data limited stock assessments, MPAs and invertebrate fisheries. Additionally, 40 films were presented at a film festival.

#### **Discussion: SAC Seat Distribution**

A lengthy discussion was held by the council members and lead by G.P.. G.P. noted that no action by the SAC is required for charter changes, but he feels that SAC input is very important. The following points were made during the discussion: other constituent groups may need to be added, recreational diving and recreational fishing are the most important constituent groups using the sanctuary; we have difficulty filling the diving operators and commercial fishing seats; those with fishing violations cannot serve on the SAC; people have applied for the SAC that do not fit any standing seat category; at-large seats are an attractive option; G.P. would like to keep the SAC at 16 seats; reviewing meeting attendance and application history might be helpful; might explore local government seats; broadening the fishing and diving categories may be helpful; and attendance and retention are both problems.

#### **Presentation: International Perspective**

Bill Kiene discussed the recent TriNational workshop involving the US, Mexico and Cuba. The workshop was well-attended by Cubans from their national protected area center. This is an effort to work more closely with our neighbors and breakdown barriers. A Gulf of Mexico sister sanctuary network is being proposed. Bill would like to include Cuba in the GOM network. Currently, Mexico is not included in the SPAW network.

### **Boundary Expansion Update**

G.P. reviewed the stalled status of the expansion effort. A new issue that will present itself is whether or not we should consider submerged cultural sites in addition to natural resource sites. Ewing Bank and the presence of Whale Sharks will also come up as an issue during the expansion process. We currently do not have detailed information about Ewing Bank itself, only the whale shark aggregations. The council engaged in further casual discussion of these issues.

### **Public Comment**

#### Clint Moore:

Clint suggested having two alternates for each stakeholder group; try to create interest from one individual; allow representation from that one person; but don't do all of this initially, but start with one for each group. Clint suggests setting up a wild card type seating process to ensure a quorum. The names of alternates not filling a seat at a given meeting would be put into a hat and drawn to fill the empty seats at a meeting.

In regards to the whale shark map, Clint stated that in the SE in the heavily dotted area is Diaphus Bank, which is too far from our area; Sackett Bank also. Concentrations are at these banks, as well. It is important to understand the basis of this. Eric Hoffmayer has spent more time at Ewing than at the other two banks. Observations at the shelf edge and a data set in terms of size is important as well as the ability to really see where these whale sharks are.

### **Presentation: 2008 Condition Report**

Emma Hickerson referenced a copy of the 2008 report that was distributed. She gave a heads up that we will be updating the condition report. At that time, we will be asking for SAC input. The report provides a summary of the condition of resources, pressures, trends, and responses. The report is a tool to determine if sanctuaries are achieving their resource protection goals. The 2008 report is based on pressure, state, response model. The 2014 report will be based on drivers, pressures, state, ecosystem services, responses (the DPSEER model). Emma requested that the SAC consider the usefulness

of the report and reach out to their constituent base to get feedback for future discussions. G.P. added that the concept of ecosystem services is new.

### **FGBNMS Public Relations**

Kelly Drinnen referred the SAC to the education and outreach action plan and the campaign of engagement. She led a brainstorming session to gain suggestions for “getting the word out” and moving from awareness of the sanctuary to understanding. The hope is that we will begin to engage other areas of the nation and people other than the typical groups. Suggestions were recorded by Kelly for later sharing with the council. Suggestions included: RV *Manta* webcasts, corporate partnerships, media spot on SAC, city council meetings, TV stations, outdoor radio shows, newswire services, Galveston Daily News, local magazines, Houston Zoo, KUHF science Friday, aquaria, outdoors shows, CAST conference, FGB white oval bumper sticker, focus on shipwrecks to attract a different audience, Offshore Technology Conference as a venue for outreach, swag, visitor center.

### **New Business**

G.P. mentioned that recruiting for new SAC members (conservation, diver operators, oil and gas, commercial fishing) will begin next week.

The meeting adjourned.

Minutes approved by advisory council April 23, 2014