



bay restoration commission

STEWARDS OF SANTA MONICA BAY

santa monica bay restoration commission 320 west 4th street, ste 200; los angeles, california 90013
213/576-6615 phone 213/576-6646 fax www.smbrc.ca.gov

THE SANTA MONICA BAY RESTORATION COMMISSION MARINE RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

Contact: 310-953-7149 or lprotopapadakis@santamonicaabay.org

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chairman Dan Pondella called the meeting to order on December 19, 2011 at 1:20pm in Malone 460c (the Hill) on the Loyola Marymount University Campus, 1 LMU Drive, Westchester, California. Round robin introductions followed.

TAC Members

Dan Pondella (Chair)	Present
Jim Allen	Absent
Richard Ambrose	Present (Left to take a call from 2-3pm)
Gerald McGowen	Present
Ana Pitchon	Absent
Shelly Walther	Present

Staff Present

Shelley Luce, Executive Director	Lia Protopapadakis, Marine Scientist & Project Manager
Guangyu Wang, Deputy Director	Tom Ford, Director of Marine Programs

Members of the Public

Eric Miller, MBC	Jack Malone, Anchor QEA
Kat Prickett, POLA	Tess Freidenburg, MME

PUBLIC FORUM

Members of the public and representatives of organizations/agencies wishing to comment must fill out a comment card at the meeting and will be allowed up to 3 minutes to address the Committee and to provide public testimony on items not otherwise on the agenda. Speaker time may be reduced depending on the number of speakers or otherwise at the discretion of the TAC Chair.

Tess Freidenburg announced the MME has a new project to develop recommendations for applying best professional judgment to ecosystem assessments. They are using data from the central coast MPA monitoring project to inform this project. They expect the results to be broadly applicable.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Order of the Agenda. No changes were made.
- Approval of Meeting Minutes. Minutes were approved with minor edits.
- Reports from the Chair, Subcommittees, and Staff

Dan reported on the progress the TAC is making on developing habitat health indices for different habitats in the Bay and drafting a framework for monitoring LID projects funded under Prop 84.

Lia reported that the funds for the MPA Data Gap assessment project have finally been depleted. The TAC recommended two new members to be appointed. They are John Dorsey (LMU), and Terri Hogue (UCLA). The Governing Board will consider their appointment in February. Staff is considering creating a working group to focus on social science questions relating to the work of the SMBRC. Burt Jones announced that he will be taking a position at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia effective in January. The TAC will be looking for his replacement next year.

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- d. Member Comment (*TAC members may wish to comment on issues not otherwise on the agenda.*) None.

Public Comment. None.

AGENDA ITEM 4. Developing scientific input on habitat evaluation procedures for Port mitigation

The Port of Los Angeles is currently going through the process of creating an umbrella mitigation bank for planned changes at the Port. NOAA fisheries requested SMBRC's TAC consider writing a white paper on how habitat features other than direct utilization could be included in habitat assessments used in a mitigation bank context. Objective scientific input from the TAC would inform the umbrella mitigation bank and other mitigation processes for specific projects. Bryant Chesney presented at the September MRAC and TAC meetings. The TAC requested the MRAC consider taking on this project and recommended they draft a prospectus that would outline the scope of the project, specify the end products, explain the project timeline, and identify the participants (if any were to be engaged in addition to the MRAC). Dan and Rich worked with staff to develop a draft prospectus.

The MRAC affirmed that they wanted to work on this project. The MRAC and members of the public provided input on the contents of this draft.

Timeline: The scope of the project will be finalized in early January, a draft that can be shared with the umbrella mitigation bank IRT will be complete in March, and a final draft will be complete by May.

Project Scope:

- Identify the key species likely to be affected by the ports project.
- Identify ecosystem functions that are likely to confer benefits to fish and avian resources and select the 2-4 most likely to provide benefits to these resources.
- Conduct literature review for links between wetland habitat types, ecosystem services, and avian and fish resources.
- Describe the benefit/services provided by each habitat type to identified fish and avian resources.
- Identify ways to measure these benefits/services, if possible
- Discuss the degree to which 2-4 different evaluation methods would be able to assess the benefits of these services.

Work Products:

- Literature review of research into links between wetland habitat types, ecosystem services, and avian and fish resources.
- Discussion of the benefits/services provided by each habitat type to identified fish and avian resources, their relative importance, and ways to measure these benefits/services if possible.
- Discussion of the degree to which 2-4 different evaluation methods would be able to assess the benefits of these services.

Participants: The MRAC requested staff consider the addition of 1 or 2 more experts in wetlands and/or ecosystem services to the project participants. Several names were suggested, which staff will take into consideration.

Public Comment. Public comments were incorporated into the discussion.

AGENDA ITEM #5. Methodology for aerial surveys of boater activity along the southern California

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coastline

Tom presented the methods and results from 3 years of aerial surveys flown in partnership with the Santa Monica Baykeeper and Light Hawk. Attempts to capture weekends, weekdays, and key days in important fisheries were made, but the challenges of scheduling staff and pilots, and the fickleness of the weather resulted in a “semi-stratified chaotic sample.” This also creates some limitations to interpreting the survey. For example, flights start at 10am and end around 2pm, which likely misses boaters on their favorite fishing spot. Another challenge in collecting the data is in areas with dense boating activity. The MRAC recommended retaining as much detail as possible in the survey and consider prioritizing this information when in situations where it is impossible to collect it in the time allowed. Cutting detail out would require knowing what questions will be asked and could be asked in the future. The MRAC requested that Tom return in May with some concrete hypothesis that this data could answer. Tom noted that this data could also be used by DFG enforcement (if we notice one MPA is consistently being poached for example). The MRAC recommended asking the local DFG lieutenant what form of information would be helpful for enforcement officers.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING: To be determined.

The meeting adjourned at 4pm.

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