

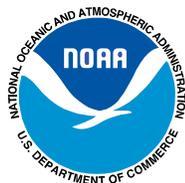
OFFICE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

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# 2008 Sanctuary Advisory Council Annual Report

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January 2009



**U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Ocean Service  
Office of National Marine Sanctuaries**

## **About This Document**

This annual report provides information to interested parties about the activities of National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Councils in 2008.

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## INTRODUCTION

### **Office of National Marine Sanctuaries**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) serves as the trustee for 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The ONMS manages 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument by working cooperatively with the public to protect these marine areas while allowing recreation and commercial activities that are compatible with resource protection. The sanctuary staff works to enhance public awareness of our marine resources and maritime heritage through scientific research, monitoring, exploration, educational programs and outreach.

The sites in the sanctuary system embrace part of our collective riches as a nation. Within their protected waters, giant humpback whales breed and calve their young, coral colonies flourish, and shipwrecks tell stories of our maritime history. Habitats include beautiful rocky reefs, lush kelp forests, whale migration corridors, spectacular deep-sea canyons and underwater archaeological sites. Our nation's sanctuaries and marine national monument can provide a safe habitat for species close to extinction or protect historically significant shipwrecks. Ranging in size from less than one square mile to nearly 140,000 square miles, each site is a unique place needing special protections.

### **Sanctuary Advisory Councils**

Sanctuary advisory councils (Councils) are community-based advisory groups established to provide advice and recommendations to the superintendents of the national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. All fourteen sites have a sanctuary advisory council. Councils provide advice about sanctuary operations and projects, including education and outreach, research and science, regulations and enforcement, and management planning. They are particularly critical in helping a sanctuary during its designation and management plan review process. Council members provide expertise on both the local community and sanctuary resources, strengthen connections with the community, and help build increased stewardship for sanctuary resources.

Individuals with a wide range of perspectives and experiences serve their communities and sanctuaries as members of sanctuary advisory councils and council working groups and subcommittees. Council members include fishers, divers, teachers, boaters, business people, activists, protected area managers, scientists, and elected officials. In 2008 council members and their working groups volunteered nearly 25,000 hours of their time to the ONMS.

The ONMS has eighteen years of experience in working with sanctuary advisory councils. The first council was established for the Florida Keys NMS in 1990, and the Council established was for the *Monitor* NMS in 2005. There are approximately 425 individuals (members and alternates) serving on ONMS sanctuary advisory councils.

**Year Council Established and Number of Members**

<b>Sanctuary</b>	<b>Year Council Established</b>	<b>Total Council Members*</b>
Florida Keys NMS	1990	40
HI Humpback Whale NMS	1992	42
Stellwagen Bank NMS	1992	40
Monterey Bay NMS	1994	42
Olympic Coast NMS	1995	43
Thunder Bay NMS	1997	30
Channel Islands NMS	1998	42
Gray's Reef NMS	1999	15
Gulf of the Farallones NMS	2001	26
Cordell Bank NMS	2001	14
Papahānaumokuākea MNM	2001	38
Flower Garden Banks	2005	19
Fagatele Bay	2005	11
<i>Monitor</i> NMS	2005	17
<b>Total</b>		<b>419</b>

\* Note: "Total members" category includes alternates and vacant seats but does not include sanctuary superintendents and their alternates.

**Sanctuary Advisory Council Roles**

Below are some of the most important roles councils fulfill:

- ❖ Serve as a liaison between the sanctuary and its community, sharing information about the sanctuary with the various constituencies and bringing the concerns of constituents and the public to sanctuary staff.
- ❖ Identify potential partners and constituent groups with which the sanctuary should be working and forge relationships.
- ❖ Help identify and resolve issues and conflicts, including emerging issues of which the ONMS might not be aware.
- ❖ Review and comment on sanctuary management plans, proposals, and products, including prioritizing issues.
- ❖ Participate in sanctuary events, activities and programs.
- ❖ Support sanctuary friends groups and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.
- ❖ Provide technical and background information on issues facing the sanctuary.
- ❖ Validate the accuracy and quality of information that the ONMS uses for decision-making purposes.

## **ONMS Sanctuary Advisory Council Policy Statement**

The ONMS regards community involvement and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to successfully protecting sanctuary resources. One key way to achieve this involvement is the formation of sanctuary advisory councils.

Sanctuary advisory councils bring together diverse community members to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on the management and protection of the sanctuary, or to assist the ONMS in guiding a proposed site through the designation process.

The ONMS is committed to the full support, utilization, and enhancement of councils at all sanctuaries. In order for councils to achieve their full potential, the ONMS will:

- ❖ Provide sufficient individual support to allow each council to operate efficiently and effectively;
- ❖ Provide support and guidance from the national office to help councils operate efficiently and at a basic level of consistency across the system;
- ❖ Promote coordination and communication among councils and among ONMS staff that work closely with councils;
- ❖ Develop training programs appropriate to council officers and members, and sanctuary superintendents and staff; and
- ❖ Conduct an annual meeting for council chairs, council coordinators and other appropriate ONMS staff to promote information exchange, and networking between councils.

## **National Support of Sanctuary Advisory Councils**

The ONMS is unique in the level of support it provides the councils. Each council has an ONMS staff person who provides direct support. Sanctuary superintendents and their staff work very closely with the councils on a regular basis. ONMS also has a dedicated National Advisory Council Coordinator to ensure consistent council operations across the system.

In 2008, the ONMS continued to support councils by:

- ❖ producing numerous council support documents (Council Implementation Handbook, Council Member Directory, Council Annual Report, Council Fact Sheet, etc.)
- ❖ enhancing communication between and among the councils and staff;
- ❖ conducting the week-long 2008 Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting held in Newport News, VA and hosted by the *Monitor* NMS;
- ❖ hosting a delegation of Koreans interested in learning about advisory councils and community involvement in marine protected areas; and
- ❖ providing general council support on policy, procedural, legal and ethics issues.

In 2009 the ONMS will hold the Sanctuary Advisory Council Summit in May in Alpena, Michigan hosted by the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. At the Summit a potential national role for sanctuary advisory council chairs will also be discussed.

## COUNCIL PROFILES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Each council is unique in terms of size, composition, issues it tackles, and annual accomplishments. In the following pages, information is provided on the following aspects of each sanctuary advisory council:

- ❖ **Council Profile** - A brief description of the council
- ❖ **2008 Accomplishments** – Three major accomplishments in the past year. It is impossible to include all the council accomplishments, so submissions were limited to three.
- ❖ **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups** – Lists the subunits of the council.
- ❖ **Council Coordinator Contact Information** – For additional information.
- ❖ **Site Website Address** – For additional information.
- ❖ **Site Council Link** - For additional information.

***“Never doubt that a small group of  
thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”***

***- Margaret Mead***

## **Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1998 to enhance opportunities for public involvement in sanctuary management and to support the process of management plan revision. Council members represent conservation, education, research, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, tourism, non-consumptive recreation, business, Chumash community, the public-at-large, as well as local, state and federal agencies. The council meets bi-monthly.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council unanimously adopted a comprehensive report prepared by their Conservation Working Group: "*Ocean Acidification and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: Cause, Effect, and Response.*" The 43-page report, which was developed through more than a year of literature research and consultation with experts, provides a thorough explanation of ocean acidification, and includes a series of recommendations on steps NOAA can take at the sanctuary to focus research, monitoring and education on ocean acidification, and to exhibit overall leadership on this issue.
2. The Council unanimously adopted a draft plan: *Prevention and Emergency Response Plan for Reducing Ship Strikes on Blue Whales and Other Large Cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.* Designed for use by NOAA and the U.S. Coast Guard, the document is a short term working plan that addresses precautionary actions and preparations for responding to a whale ship strike.
3. The Council reviewed and provided comments on the sanctuary's Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement concerning large vessel graywater and sewage discharge. The Council developed a set of consensus-based shared comments on the document, and also forwarded comments from their Conservation Working Group.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Large Cetaceans and Shipping Subcommittee
- ❖ Chumash Community Working Group
- ❖ Conservation Working Group
- ❖ Commercial Fishing Working Group
- ❖ Recreational Fishing Working Group
- ❖ Research Activities Panel
- ❖ Sanctuary Education Team

### **Contact Information**

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**Channel Islands NMS web site:** <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/>

**Channel Islands NMS Council link:** <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>

## **Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2002 to support the Joint Management Plan Review process for the sanctuary and its neighboring sanctuaries, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries. Council members represent research, conservation, maritime activity, education, the community at-large, as well as federal agency partners. The council holds a minimum of four regular meetings per year, and an annual retreat in the summer.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council continued active involvement in the Joint Management Plan process, and saw the process through to completion of the Joint Management Plan, and the Final Environmental Impact Statements for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries.
2. The Council passed a resolution to state the Council's continued support of the California Krill harvesting ban – to be delivered to the National Marine Fisheries Service.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Climate Change Site Scenario Working Group (Joint Working Group with Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council)
- ❖ Shipping Issues Working Group

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**Cordell Bank NMS web site:** <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/>

**Cordell Bank NMS Council link:** <http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/council/welcome.html>

## **Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in May 2005 in preparation for the management plan review process. Council members represent research, education, fishing, ocean recreation, and community at-large, as well as territorial and federal government agencies. The council meets monthly.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council has been actively involved in the management plan review process. They have received several presentations to familiarize them with the planning process, the communications plan, and the expected timeline. They have also been briefed on the bio-geographic and socio-economic assessments that will be instrumental in making management decisions. In addition, the Council has been advised about the site expansion efforts and they provided core information for the public scoping meetings.
2. Council member Charles Birkeland recently published several reports on marine monitoring in Fagatele Bay. Although the Council was not actively involved in the production of the report, they are aware of the results and will consider the conclusions in the management plan review process. The first, a report on the triennial survey of Fagatele Bay “Long term monitoring of Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Tutuila Island, American Samoa: results of surveys conducted in 2007/8, including a re-survey of the historic Aua Transect” provides the results of the survey conducted in August 2007 indicate that the Fagatele Bay coral community is the healthiest it has been since 1979. The second publication “Geologic Setting and Ecological Functioning of Coral Reefs in American Samoa” appeared in a book on American Samoan Reefs that was released in July 2008.
3. Council member Ephraim Temple developed the Marine Option Program at the American Samoa Community College to help raise awareness of marine resources and their protection. The Council provided support and advice throughout the development process. In addition, several Council members are serving as mentors or providing internship opportunities for students interested in pursuing careers in the marine science field.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ There are no subcommittees or working groups at this time.

### **Contact Information**

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**Fagatele Bay NMS web site:** <http://fagatelebay.noaa.gov/>

**Fagatele Bay NMS Council link:** N/A

## **Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

Established in 1990, the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is the oldest of the councils. Council members cover a wide spectrum of interests in the Florida Keys community, including boating, conservation and environment, diving, education and outreach, South Florida ecosystem restoration, fishing (commercial and recreational), elected county government, submerged cultural resources, research and monitoring, tourism and the community at large. The council meets six times a year.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. In March 2008, a working group of Council members, staff members and interested members of the public organized and held a special Sanctuary Advisory Council public workshop on marine zoning, which was very informative. Comments generated during the afternoon breakout sessions will be utilized by sanctuary staff members when the sanctuary zoning structure is reviewed for effectiveness and for consideration of changes in regulations.
2. The Council passed a resolution early in the fiscal year supporting Miami-Dade County Department of Environmental Resources Management efforts to reduce pollution, impacts to living resources and debris impacts along Card Sound Road; the resolution also encouraged Monroe County to re-establish the Department of Marine Resources to support this. Miami-Dade County and Monroe County personnel subsequently held successful initial cleanups of the area, and law enforcement officers from the sanctuary are working with officers in other agencies with jurisdiction to address the illegal activities affecting sanctuary resources in the area.
3. The Council passed a resolution in the spring supporting the creation and funding of a successor program to the Florida Forever land conservation program by the Florida Legislature. The legislature subsequently passed the Florida Forever Act.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Ballyhoo Working Group
- ❖ Ecosystem Restoration Working Group
- ❖ Education and Outreach Working Group

### **Contact Information**

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**Florida Keys NMS Advisory link:** <http://floridakeys.noaa.gov/sac/welcome.html>

## **Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2005 to enhance opportunities for public involvement in sanctuary management and to support the process of the management plan review. Council members represent various community interests including recreational diving, diving operations, oil and gas industry, recreational fishing, commercial fishing, research, education, conservation and federal government agencies. The council meets quarterly or more frequently as needed during the management plan review process.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council continued their work on the sanctuary's revised management plan by refining and presenting to the full council their action plan recommendations. At the February 2008 meeting, the council voted to adopt the action plans for enforcement, education and outreach, and visitor use, bringing to a close this phase of the management plan review.
2. In March 2008, Council members participated in Ocean Discovery Day sponsored by the sanctuary and NOAA Fisheries Service Galveston Laboratory. Council members shared the message of the Blue Seas Green Communities initiative to visitors at this event designed to illustrate why NOAA programs are relevant to the community.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Sanctuary Advisory Council Charter Revision Subcommittee
- ❖ Blue Seas Green Communities Working Group
- ❖ Boundary Expansion Working Group
- ❖ Fishing Impacts Working Group

### **Contact Information**

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**Flower Garden Banks NMS website:** <http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/>

**Flower Garden Banks NMS Council link:**

[http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/advisory\\_council/council.html](http://flowergarden.noaa.gov/advisory_council/council.html)

## **Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1999 to support the site's management plan review, which began the same year. The council's focus shifted in 2007 to implementation of the newly approved management plan. Council members represent conservation, education, research, recreational fishing and diving, commercial/charter fishing, as well as state and federal agencies. The council meets quarterly.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council and its working group carried out an open, public process to designate a research area in the sanctuary. The outcome is a workable solution allowing needed science and monitoring to be conducted in a restricted area of the sanctuary while minimizing the impacts on users. Environmental review and other documents should be available for public comment later in 2009.
2. The Council's Law Enforcement Working Group solidified agency partnerships, which allowed for the first enforcement cases ever made for the sanctuary.
3. Another key Council achievement was release of the site's Sanctuary Condition Report; a council working group led development of the report. Sanctuary condition reports provide a summary of resources in the sanctuary, pressures on those resources, the current condition and trends, and management responses to the pressures that threaten the integrity of the marine environment.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Executive Subcommittee
- ❖ Research Area Working Group
- ❖ Law Enforcement Working Group

### **Contact Information**

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**Grays Reef NMS website:** <http://graysreef.noaa.gov/>

**Grays Reef NMS Council link:** <http://graysreef.noaa.gov/sac.html>

## **Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2001 to support the joint management plan review process for the Farallones sanctuary and its neighboring sanctuaries, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay. Council members represent the areas of education, research, conservation, maritime activities and the community at-large, as well as state and federal agencies. The council meets quarterly, including an annual meeting with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council, to discuss issues related to the northern management area and overlapping issues.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project Working Group produced a final locally preferred plan titled, *"Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project: Recommendations for Restoration and Management"*.
2. Council members participated on both the Regional Stakeholder Group and Science Advisory Committee for the north central coast California Marine Life Protection Act process. The Council also advised the sanctuary on proposing and supporting special closure areas during this process.
3. The Tomales Bay Vessel Management Working Group drafted two letters to the sanctuary superintendent that were approved and forwarded by the council and began work on the Tomales Bay Vessel Management Plan.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Tomales Bay Vessel Management Working Group
- ❖ Seabird Protection Network Outreach and Education Working Group
- ❖ Seabird Protection Network Enforcement and Coordinated Management Working Group
- ❖ Climate Solutions Initiative Greening Working Group
- ❖ Emergency Response Working Group

### **Contact Information**

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**Gulf of the Farallones NMS website:** <http://farallones.noaa.gov/>

**Gulf of the Farallones NMS Advisory Council link:**  
<http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>

## **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

Established in 1992, the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is one of the older councils and also one of the largest. Council members represent all facets of the sanctuary community, including conservation, education, research, fishing, whale watching, tourism, recreation, shipping, business/commerce, Native Hawaiians, individual counties, the community at-large, and a number of state and federal partners. The council generally meets quarterly.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council devoted a significant amount of time to the management plan review process, including taking part in a one-day visioning session. The visioning session was the first step in the management plan review process, which will begin in 2009.
2. In addition to their regular meetings, the Council held an annual retreat and planning session on Ford Island in Pearl Harbor, the site for the new NOAA Regional Facility. At the retreat, council members planned for the year and heard presentations on pertinent topics.
3. The meeting structure of the Council's education, research, and conservation subcommittees was changed. Each subcommittee now meets monthly and two sanctuary staff members are assigned to work directly with the committee chairs. This has resulted in increased communications among the staff and council.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Education Subcommittee
- ❖ Research Subcommittee
- ❖ Conservation Subcommittee
- ❖ Aquaculture Working Group
- ❖ Blue Seas, Green Communities Working Group

### **Contact Information**

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**Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Council link:**

[http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/management/advisory\\_council.html](http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov/management/advisory_council.html)

## **Monitor National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 2005 in preparation for the management plan review process. Council members represent The Mariners' Museum, recreational diving, heritage tourism, conservation, education, maritime museums, archaeological research and the community at-large, as well as state and federal government agencies. The council meets quarterly and meeting locations alternate between Virginia and North Carolina.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council's main focus for the year was preparing for the launching of and then immersion into the sanctuary's management plan review (MPR) process. The Council was briefed on the MPR process. In preparation for the first phase of MPR, the council participated in a day-long facilitated session to identify the values of and threats to the sanctuary.
2. The Council members held another day-long facilitated session to revisit the values of and threats to the sanctuary and then identify a list of sanctuary stakeholders in preparation for the next phase of MPR. The Council also received a briefing on and held a discussion about the scoping meeting process.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ There are no subcommittees or working groups at this time.

### **Contact Information**

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**Monitor NMS website:** <http://monitor.noaa.gov/welcome.html>

**Monitor NMS Council link:** <http://monitor.noaa.gov/advisory/welcome.html>

## **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is one of the oldest councils, established in 1994. Council members represent such diverse interests as conservation, education, research, commercial and recreational fishing, diving, tourism, recreation (non-extractive), business/industry, agriculture, the community-at-large, as well as local/regional, state and federal government agencies. The Council meets bimonthly throughout the sanctuary's coastal area.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. Following the need decision for marine protected areas (MPAs) in federal waters, site staff announced they would develop the planning process to explore additional marine protected areas in sanctuary waters. The Council established a subcommittee to assist staff with determining the members of the MPAs working group and science panel.
2. The Council sent a letter to Dan Basta regarding the compliance and monitoring of vessel traffic lanes off the west coast.
3. The Council sent a letter to Rod McInnis, Regional Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service, supporting the proposed NOAA Fisheries rule to permanently prevent the harvest of all krill species 3-200 miles off the California, Oregon and Washington coasts.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ MPA Subcommittee
- ❖ Charter Subcommittee
- ❖ Recommendation Subcommittee (Recruitment)
- ❖ Research Activities Panel
- ❖ Conservation Working Group
- ❖ Sanctuary Education Panel
- ❖ Business and Tourism Activities Panel

### **Contact Information**

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**Monterey Bay NMS website:** <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>

**Monterey Bay NMS Council link:** <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory/advisory.html>

## **Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1995. Council members represent conservation, education, research, fishing, tourism, marine business, the community at-large, local governments, and the four Native American tribes of the region, as well as state and federal partners. The council meets bimonthly.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council developed recommendations and comments on the Finavera Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) license application. Finavera is proposing to site four test wave energy buoys off Makah Bay within the waters of the sanctuary and applied to the FERC for a license to develop the project. The Council formed a working group to look at the proposal and conditions proposed by the FERC license application. The full Council examined and adopted the recommendations of the working group, and sent them to the superintendent to forward to FERC. These comments identified specific impacts and the need to develop monitoring programs for these impacts.
2. The Council developed recommendations and comments on the U.S. Navy proposal Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to expand the current test range within the sanctuary to a larger area as well as adding a surf landing zone. The Council formed a working group which developed a set of recommended comments on the DEIS. The full Council considered and adopted the working group recommendations and sent them to the superintendent to forward to the U.S. Navy. The Council made specific comments on sections of the DEIS pertaining to sanctuary resources and recommended the “no action” alternative, leaving the current test range in place with the present exempted activities under the sanctuary’s designation document.
3. The Council undertook several actions in connection with the site’s management plan review. It created a scoping working group to make recommendations on scoping venues and scoping publications; the recommendations were adopted by the full Council. Individual council members gave feedback to the superintendent on the contents of the draft sanctuary condition report. A number of council members also took part in the scoping meetings that were held.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Executive subcommittee
- ❖ Scoping working group
- ❖ Finavera FERC application working group
- ❖ U.S. Navy range expansion DEIS working group
- ❖ Green Communities, Blue Seas working group

### **Contact Information**

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**Olympic Coast NMS website:** <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/>

**Olympic Coast NMS Council link:** <http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/AboutUs/sac/welcome.html>

## **Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument**

### **Council Profile**

The Reserve Advisory Council was established in 2001 to provide advice on the operation of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, now the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM), and the sanctuary designation process. Council members represent a broad spectrum of interest groups, including conservation, education, research, recreational and commercial fishing, tourism, Native Hawaiians, and the community at-large, as well as state and federal agency partners. The council generally meets quarterly.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council spent a significant amount of time reviewing the draft management plan for the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. As part of this effort the Management Plan Subcommittee met to compile recommendations from Council members on the PMNM Draft Management Plan for consideration by the Council.
2. The Council, as a body, submitted recommendations on the PMNM Draft Management Plan during the public comment period for input on the plan.
3. The Council sent a letter to the Reserve Superintendent recommending that the Monument managers implement a monument advisory council.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Management Plan Subcommittee
- ❖ Fishing Subcommittee
- ❖ Goals & Objectives Subcommittee
- ❖ Research Subcommittee
- ❖ Native Hawaiian Working Group

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**Papahānaumokuākea MNM Council link:**

<http://hawaiiireef.noaa.gov/management/council/weclome.html>

## **Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1992. Council members represent a wide spectrum of interests in the region including conservation, education, research, fishing, whale watching, recreational fishing, diving, maritime heritage, business /industry, and the community at-large, as well as state and federal agencies. The Council generally meets four times a year.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council continued to focus on various aspects of management plan review. The Council drafted a letter to ADMR Lautenbacher requesting the release of the Draft Management Plan (DMP) be expedited. Council members and their constituents provided public comment on the DMP (over 25,000 total comments received). The Council requested input into the revision of the ONMS Management Plan Handbook; the Council's experience would highlight valuable lessons learned.
2. The Council chair and council coordinator presented the Northeast and Great Lakes Region's case study, "Marine Mammal Protection in Stellwagen Bank NMS" at the 2008 Annual Council Chair and Coordinator's Meeting.
3. The Council discussed and by consensus, sent a letter to Jack Dunnigan, Administrator of NOS, requesting consideration for reinstatement of large vessel ship time allocation for research and monitoring in the sanctuary.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Blue Seas Greening Communities Subcommittee
- ❖ SAC Leadership Award Subcommittee
- ❖ Zoning Working Group

### **Contact Information**

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**Stellwagen Bank NMS website:** <http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/>

**Stellwagen Bank NMS Council link:**

<http://stellwagen.noaa.gov/management/sac/sachome.html>

## **Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

### **Council Profile**

The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in 1997 to guide the site through the sanctuary designation process, although currently the Council is focused on assisting the sanctuary in the management plan review process. Council members represent education, research, fishing, diving, tourism, cultural resources, economic development, the community at-large, as well as local/regional and tribal government agencies. The council meets bi-monthly, with informal coffees and lunches scheduled for non-meeting months.

### **2008 Accomplishments**

1. The Council's main focus has been the sanctuary's management plan review, which began in 2006. To assist with this process, the council formed six working groups: sanctuary operations, funding, resource protection, boundary expansion, education and outreach, and monitoring. In 2008, each working group presented action plans which were voted on and accepted by the full Council.
2. The Council volunteered hours of their time to the opening of the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center's new exhibits, Thunder Bay Maritime Festival, Thunder Bay Community Boat Building Program, Riverfest, and the Great Lakes Lighthouse Festival. Council members volunteered for education and outreach programs held at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center. Several council members are trained docents and give guided tours of the sanctuary's exhibits and short presentations to visiting groups.
3. The Council formed a working group to discuss a potential National Sanctuary Advisory Council. They will present their recommendations to the Council in December 2008.

### **Council Subcommittees and Working Groups**

- ❖ Advisory Council Application Review Subcommittee
- ❖ Sanctuary Operations Working Group
- ❖ Funding Working Group
- ❖ Resource Protection Working Group
- ❖ Boundary Expansion Working Group
- ❖ Education and Outreach Working Group
- ❖ Research and Monitoring Working Group
- ❖ Blue Seas Green Communities Working Group
- ❖ Proposed National Advisory Council Working Group

### **Contact Information**

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<http://thunderbay.noaa.gov/management/council/welcome.html>

