

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 Ilok 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

August: coral spawning cruise 14-18. additional cruise in Sept.

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 caucases—one now for NMSF;

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. 16<sup>th</sup>:  
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. 9<sup>th</sup> –  
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:  
Review of Current Draft--Work Session

*Irby Basco*

11:45 AM	Public Comment Period	
12:00 PM	Lunch	
1:00 PM	Report on the National Chairs & Coordinators meeting	<i>Art Melvin Jennifer Morgan</i>
2:00 PM	NMSP Performance Measures: Tracking and Reporting Council Actions/Inputs	<i>Jennifer Morgan</i>
2:30 PM	Review of MPR schedule: Scoping	<i>G.P. Schmahl</i>
3:00 PM	Council Administrative Update: Need for SAC Letterhead	<i>G.P. Schmahl</i>
3:30 PM	Open Discussion	
4:00 PM	Adjourn	