

**MONITOR NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting**

MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2019

1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Meeting Location: ECU Coastal Studies Institute

850 NC 345

Wanchese, NC 27981

Conference call in: 1-866-873-2206, Passcode: 4282677#

Meeting Objectives: (1) Reports; (2) SAC Action Items.

Attendance: (see attached attendance roster)

8 community seats present (of 12 filled seats)

4 government seats present (of 8 filled seats (not including alternates))

2 sanctuary staff members present (of 8 staff)

Meeting Notes

Administrative Business and Announcements

★ Chair's Welcome

Jim Tobin welcomed everyone to the meeting and to those on the phone. Jim thanked CSI for hosting the venue for the meeting. Will Sassorossi took roll call and welcomed Ernie Foster to his 3rd term as Rec/Commercial Fishing seat.

★ Approval of Draft Minutes from previous meeting (6/13/2019)

David Sybert motioned for approval of minutes as is, Will Hoffman seconded. All in favor, motion to accept minutes into record passed.

★ Brief Council Member Update

Debby Boyce gave an update from her time at the Diving Equipment and Marketing Association (DEMA) event held in Orlando, FL in November. She sat on a panel with John Armor, Director of NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, discussing role of NOAA and interactions between agency and dive shop. She received lots of good questions and interest about the relationship and continues to advocate for opportunities to work with

partners like NOAA. Joe Poe mentioned that while there was no direct talk about the dive boat *Conception* fire that claimed 34 divers lives, it still hung over much of the DEMA convention. Donations came in to help the families and risk mitigation was discussed a lot at the convention as a result of this event.

Public Comment Period

None.

Reports

★ Superintendent's Update

Dave Alberg began his update by describing the “Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019” (Senate bill 133) had made its way through the Senate for final approval. The bill awards a Congressional Gold medal, collectively, to the United States merchant marines of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II. Following the award of the medal, it shall be given to the American Merchant Marine Museum, where it shall be available for display and research.

Dave continued by describing the National Marines Fisheries Service (NMFS) put in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent to repeal an existing prohibition which restricts all fishing within the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (MNMS) regardless of species. Current regulations at MNMS under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act allows for some types of fishing, however, under existing Magnuson Stevens Act prohibitions, all fishing was restricted. These two laws were at odds with each other and NMFS is attempting to repeal its law to allow for fishing and was seeking public comment. Jim Tobin asked if there was any pushback to this and Dave replied that he had not heard of any. Ernie Foster said he was happy this clarification was in the works. Jim Tobin agreed and felt that, in a small part, peoples fishing related concerns had been acknowledged. Steve Poland asked if there had been any comments made from either the South Atlantic Fishing Management Council (SAFMC) or the Mid-Atlantic Fishing Management Council (MAFMC), to which Dave replied that public comment period would be open later that day and run for 30 days..

Dave continued his report by updating on staff changes at MNMS. Joe Hoyt, who had been with MNMS for many years as the staff archaeologist, was leaving to become the Maritime Heritage Coordinator at headquarters up in Silver Spring, MD. Continuing with changes, Tane Casserley would become the Resource Protection and Permit Coordinator and Will Sassorossi would be the new Research Coordinator (along with Advisory and Volunteer Coordinator).

Dave finished his update with highlights to the sanctuary system. Mallows Bay was now officially the newest National Marine Sanctuary and Florida Keys was in the process of releasing a proposal for coral restoration. At MNMS, expansion documents would be sent out to partners for review. Anticipating to hear back with comments in mid to late January and hoping to begin presenting to public in early spring.

★ Field Work Update

Will Sassorossi gave a quick report for upcoming 2020 field season, beginning with work with the Battle of the Atlantic Research and Expedition Group (BAREG). BAREG plans to work on a site called *Atlas*, operating out of Beaufort, NC. Dave Alberg added that Tane Casserley will be working with National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) again this season as well as putting together a large telepresence event in August. More details about this event and other plans will come at the next meeting.

★ Conservation Update

Will Hoffman described some of the efforts being done on individual pieces of the collection, specifically the port gun carriage and the steam condenser. The last weeks of February and March, 2020, the guns will be bored out. Also, the Mariners' Museum dropped its admission price to \$1 and will keep it at that level, thanks to a \$10 million dollar endowment made by the Batten Foundation.

★ Recruitment/Volunteer Update

Will Sassorossi opened his update by stating applications for the open Economic Development seat had come in and a finalist was being reviewed by headquarters. Still need to fill some "alternative" seats for the government positions but otherwise, Advisory Council Roster is set to be filled for 2020. Will continued report stating that he anticipates having two internship positions available at MNSM over the next two years, one IT related and the other history based. Will let others know that if there were volunteer needs at respective institutions, he would help coordinate and share with volunteers from MNMS roster.

★ SAC Action Items

Dave Alberg stated that as the expansion process continues, there may be a need for the Advisory Council to meet prior to next scheduled meeting in March 2020. Also, Dave asked if Ernie Foster could help put together another "Fishing Summit" with local recreational watermen, it would be appreciated. Ernie said he would be happy to do so.

Meeting Close-Out

★ New Business

None.

★ Next Council Event/Meeting

Next meeting scheduled for March 19, 2020 at East Carolina University.

Adjourn

Will Hoffman motioned to adjourn, seconded by David Sybert. Meeting adjourned.

Meeting Close-Out		
<u>Actions to Take:</u>		
✓	Send out NMFS Federal Register notice for review and comment.	
✓	Continue the recruitment process for expired SAC seats.	
✓	Fill remaining vacant SAC seats for governmental positions.	

Attendance Roster:

Community Members		
Jim Tobin	Citizen-at-Large	Present
Kim Kenyon	Conservation	Absent
PENDING	Economic Development	-----
David Sybert	Education	Present
Andre Nabors	Heritage Tourism	Absent
Nathan Richards	Maritime Archaeological Research	Present
Ernie Foster	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Present
Rom Whitaker	Recreational/Commercial Fishing	Absent
Matt Landrum	Recreational Diving	Absent
Joe Poe	Recreational Diving	Present
Debby Boyce	Ocean Sports	Present
Will Hoffman	The Mariners' Museum	Present
OPEN	The Mariners' Museum (Alt)	-----
Jenna Hartley	Student Seat (Non-Voting)	Present
Government Members		
Dave Hallac	NPS (Primary)	Absent
OPEN	NPS (Alternate)	-----
Chris Southerly	NC DCR (Primary)	Present
OPEN	NC DCR (Alternate)	-----
Jason Peters	NC Dept. Environmental Quality	Present
Steve Poland	NC Dept. Environmental Quality (Alt)	Present
Everette Newton	NC Local Gov't – Town of Beaufort	Present
OPEN	NC Local Gov't – Town of Beaufort (Alt)	-----
Bobby Outten	NC Local Gov't – Dare County	Absent
Drew Pearson	NC Local Gov't – Dare county (Alt)	Absent
LCDR David Stutt	US Coast Guard	Absent
Kate Moore	US Coast Guard (Alt)	Absent
Robert Neyland	US Navy	Present
Alexis Catsambis	US Navy (Alt)	Absent
Samantha Henderson	VA DHR	Absent
Greg LaBudde	VA DHR (Alt)	Absent

Sanctuary Staff		
David Alberg	Sanctuary Superintendent	Present
Paul Ticco	Northeast Regional Coordinator	Absent
Joe Hoyt	Maritime Archaeologist	Absent
Tane Casserley	Research Coordinator	Absent
Will Sassorossi	SAC Coordinator	Present
David Dodsworth	IT Coordinator	Absent
Shannon Ricles	Education/Outreach Coordinator	Absent
Sean Cimilluca	NOAA Corp Officer	Absent
Others/Public		