

SLOSEA

San Luis Obispo Science and Ecosystem Alliance

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Meeting Notes

12:00 - 5:00 p.m., Thursday, June 5, 2008
Inn at Morro Bay, 60 State Park Road, Morro Bay, CA

Members Present: Deborah Barker, Dan Berman, Elizabeth Clarke (via phone), Nick Franco, Henriette Groot, Susan Lichtenbaum, Don Maruska, Carole Maurer, Carolyn Moffatt, Christine Pattison, Leslie Rebik, Michelle Roest, Gary Ruggerone, Lars Tomanek, Dean Wendt, Karen Worcester

Guests Present: Jay Carroll, Allison Chan, Annie Gillespie, Ashley Holt, Monica Hunter, Juventino Ortiz, Linwood Pendleton (via phone), John Penvenne, Nick Salafsky, Kristin Sherwood, Debra Stakes, Caroline Stem, John Stephens, Adrienne Verrilli

Members Absent: Rick Algert, Mel de la Motte, Tim Duff, John Field, Steve McGrath, Henry Pontarelli, John Steinbeck,

[Advisory Committee oral comments, questions and suggestions in italics]

Ecosystem Updates by Resource Managers:

During working lunch, resource managers reported current activity areas for their agencies. *Michelle Roest reported on the completed 1st year of the Coastal Discovery Facility at Hearst San Simeon. Sue Lichtenbaum indicated that the new Morro Bay Harbor Walk will open in early July. Gary Ruggerone had no update from the Bay Foundation. Carole Maurer said that Los Osos was still working on a draft EIR, and that the report would be ready in late summer or early fall. John Penvenne reported on the progress being made on the water quality monitoring stations. John Stephens continues to work on the fish assemblages. Carolyn Moffatt had no update from Port San Luis. Annie Gillespie reported that MBNEP is monitoring 12 sites in the creeks, their website contains the final 2007 eelgrass report and the stormwater report. Dan Berman added that they continue to work on the restoration projects and are currently advertising for two open positions: Education Outreach Coordinator & Restoration Ecologist. Jay Carroll reported that Tenera is continuing their work on the trampling study. Debra Stakes indicated that she was using much of the SLOSEA information in her classes at Cuesta College. Christine Pattison had no report from Fish & Game. Karen Worcester mentioned the Central Coast ambient monitoring program. She has been tied up in strategic planning meetings with the RWQCB for the past few days, and will be reporting on more positive activities from the Board in the future. Henriette Groot clarified that she is now representing the Technical Working Group of the MBNEP. Allison Chan & Linwood Pendleton reported that there would be a second summer of coastal user surveys in Morro Bay. They are developing an environmental history database, and are receiving much input from the internet survey. Liz Clarke mentioned a collaborative project with permitted vessels, a new observer coordinator, a new office in SLO county, additional funding for the trap studies, and a future bottom trawl survey in this area.*

Nick Franco reported that this is Hearst Castle's 50th anniversary year, and the bell will ring at noon each day. Juventino Ortiz reported on a joint training program between Fish & Game, the Coast Guard, NOAA, and others, to create consistency in enforcement. Lars Tomanek indicated that he is continuing the study of a non-regulated toxin. Kristin Sherwood is observing the meeting, as well as Packard Intern: Ashley Holt. Monica Hunter hopes for more collaborative work between SLOSEA and the Central Coast Watershed Program. Deb Barker continues to work on coastal watersheds. Adrienne Verrilli is observing the meeting, in order to obtain information for Spitfire Strategies to use in the SLOSEA outreach area. Caroline Stem & Nick Salafsky will act as facilitators for today's meeting/workshop.

SLOSEA Conceptual Model:

Dean Wendt gave an overview of the strategic planning process that is currently underway. Caroline Stem and Nick Salafsky have been facilitating a series of workshops by which a draft conceptual model has been developed, utilizing the input of SLOSEA stakeholders and the Miradi computer program. Eleven key strategies have been identified, which were presented to the group and discussed in plenary. In preparation for ranking of strategies, AC members were asked to keep three criteria in mind: (1) Importance, (2) Fit with SLOSEA, and (3) Feasibility, as well as targets to include decision makers, policy makers, and regulatory staff.

Because of time constraints, we offered AC members two mechanisms for input on the presented strategies. The following represents (a) *oral comments*, (b) written, submitted comments, and (c) volunteers to assist in further refinement of each strategy. Strategies are listed in order of placement during the ranking exercise.

Strategy A: Monitor Pollutants, Sources & Sinks

Oral Comments

- *Who are public & policy? Water purveyors, law makers, direct regulatory staff*
- *Be cognizant of the Basin Plan*
- *Agency involvement is key*

Written Comments

- QAQC – monitoring design
- Timeline is important for Basin Plan
- Work closely with Water Board with Research Plans
- Measure in watershed outside the reach of the tide; add creek flow
- Link/interface to public
- Heart of SLOSEA
- Should include college, discovery institution, and children's museum
- Site for all stormwater management plans & TMDC plans? RWQCB? Or SLOSEA?
- Make sure right policy and decision makers are included in distribution and informed
- Great approach to have scientific research match up with practical change
- Capture current agency-specific regulatory criteria so research flows into regulatory process
- Fund BMP implementation and evaluation; RCD can help landowners implement
- We need flexible funding
- Water quality monitoring is one area that is least likely to occur through any program, new or existing – it is the highest priority

- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Dan Berman, Annie Gillespie, John Penvenne, Gary Ruggerone, Lars Tomanek

Strategy H: Develop Demo of Regional Fishing Management

Oral Comments

- *Question of scope of this strategy as it relates to SLOSEA*
- *Do we provide data only?*
- *Do we create new decision makers?*
- *How to address transitional fleets, seasonality, mobility?*

Written Comments

- Good match to SLOSEA resources
- Expand SLOSEA exhibits at Discovery Center, Children's Museum, others?
- From a scientific standpoint – data collected during the collaborative fishing data program be compared with data being collected in the nearby MLPA areas
- Top
- Small scale of the MB/PSL area CD – make this an exceptional demonstration model given range of impacts from changes in regs since 2000
- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
John Penvenne, Sue Lichtenbaum, Henriette Groot

Strategy C: Expand Research on Tourism Impacts

Oral Comments

- *Recreation vs. Tourism definition*
- *Locals & visitors recreate, while only visitors tour*
- *Focus on use of the environment*
- *Scope of SLOSEA includes the watershed area too*

Written Comments

- Needs to be better defined between economy, research & tourism
- Strategy needs work – define/separate/clarify similarities and differences between “recreation” and “tourism”. As Dean pointed out, the working group focused on primarily tidepools. Remember to add other impacts including kayaker/seal impacts, etc.
- Recreational Tourism
- Might need to expand links (i.e. marine inv.)
- Change name to Recreation, not Tourism
- California Coastal Commission needs to be brought on board
- Focus on Recreation
- Consider inclusion of “bench mark” criteria that triggers significant measurable impacts
- Consider looking at changing trends in types of recreation with changing technologies & popularity & subsequent impacts (mountain biking, kite surfing, personal watercraft)
- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Nick Franco, Gary Ruggerone

Strategy E: Research on Marine Invasives & Actions

Oral Comments

- *400-500 sailboats/year come into Morro Bay from elsewhere*
- *Important focus on knowledge*
- *San Joaquin Delta region has problem with marine invasives on navigation*
- *Santa Margarita Lake does not allow boats from out of our area*

Written Comments

- UC Santa Cruz tracks invasives – John Pearse is contact – 2-year monitoring frequency
- Lay version of Lisa Needles thesis on web and in MBNEP document
- Objective for 2008 is very ambitious!
- Focus on numbers, species, distribution, and effects
- Some analysis needed first
- There are also species that impact navigation
- Consider analysis of any unintended benefit of specific invasives
- “Unlikely to happen” refers to long-term monitoring versus short-term, project-specific monitoring which is more typical. SLOSEA could fill that gap.

- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Dan Berman, Carolyn Moffatt, John Penvenne, Gary Ruggerone

Strategy I: “Eat Local Fish” Awareness Campaign

Oral Comments

- *Buy Local – Buy Fresh*
- *Stabilize – clarify safety & quality*
- *Local outreach opportunity*
- *Oregon farmer-fisher strategies to model*

Written Comments

- Let’s be sure we’re not bio-accumulating nonylphenol
- Local Outreach to protect small local fleets
- Good MIG campaign
- Tap in to local media and farmer’s markets
- Maybe initial SLOSEA effort to inform other existing agencies that emphasize local issues and monitor periodically
- Not really SLOSEA
- Should not be ANY local, only those that can be caught sustainably
- Website: currently available “home grown” food products
- Consider information that includes that local fish is healthier and safer (i.e. local “chemical load” in fish tissue)

- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
John Penvenne, Sue Lichtenbaum, Carolyn Moffatt

Strategy B: Implement Weather Stations

Oral Comments

- *Related to global climate change & possible management of same*
- *Should include sunlight, windspeed, ozone levels*
- *Current monitoring occurring at Air Pollution Control District, Morro Bay Police Station, PG&E, Men's Colony, Landfill, others?*
- *Stakeholders need access to this information*
- *Integrate in form that farmers can use*
- *Important to Economic Indicators research*
- *There is a need to consolidate this information into one source*
- *Important to inventory existing data sources*
- *RWQCB has a new grant in this area*

Written Comments

- Look at compiling and organizing existing live weather data
- Good weather data is essential for economic indicators analysis in the future
- Contact John Lindsey at PG&E for DCPD LT weather data
- Ties into existing WQ stations; collected sensors are a benefit
- Need inventory of all available sources and stations
- SLOSEA can fill a niche as a clearinghouse/integrator of many data sources
- Pretty easy to do; harder to integrate all data
- Suggest that we develop materials for students
- Data needs to be accessible to stakeholders and policy makers
- There is already a lot of data – include that and add where needed
- I think there is an APCD Monitor on the Morro Bay Power Plant
- Tie into existing APCD stations where possible
- Important to assess future effects of global climate change
- Very beneficial for general public and land use planning
- Consider the benefit of WQ info that can influence tourism and recreational use patterns
- Farmers and ranchers monitor weather on their property – some have decades of records – these records could help us get a better long-term, highly localized information base
- Implement irrigation management BMPs
- High priority

- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Annie Gillespie, John Penvenne

Strategy D: Develop Early Detection of Plant Invasives

Oral Comments

- *Need to include land-based invasive species*
- *Permit process is quite laborious*
- *Need analysis of impact of invasives – known threats*
- *Prevention →Eradication*

Written Comments

- We missed results chains for other invasive plants – create one
- Strategy E included major public education campaign – will this be a part of Strategy D?
- Create “watch-list” of invasives that have been identified elsewhere (e.g. SF Bay) and have NEP monitor habitats for those specific plants or animals
- Contact Kathy Ann Miller @ UC Berkeley for Algal invasives
- There is another invasive in Monterey; MBNMS has an eradication program using diver volunteers
- Should be aware of & alert to new invasives to the area
- Should public be advised not to dump aquaria down drain? Community service announcements
- Need to address land-based invasives
- Analysis of real threat needed before inclusion in strategy and effort
- Expand to include terrestrial and other aquatics
- The RCD, NRCS, Ag community, UCCE have pond surveys and have records of infestations of land plant invasives
- Not likely to happen under other programs yet, clearly a priority
- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Dan Berman, Gary Ruggerone, Carolyn Moffatt

Strategy J: Improve Harbor Dredging

Oral Comments

- *Scope of dredging? Back bay too? Or only port lanes? Mouth?*
- *MBNEP & Army Corps of Engineers research dredging in past & decided not to dredge back bay, due to \$\$\$ and ecological reasons*
- *Sediment quality? Where to dump?*
- *State Park Marina area?*

Written Comments

- Assess impact where spoils are placed
- Spoils often cannot be beached because of too fine or too coarse
- Coordinate dredging between harbors
- Harbor entrance & boating channels only
- Other dredging is not environmentally or economically feasible
- Monitor effects of stirring up pollutants
- Look at MBSP Marine dredging – effectiveness, plausible?
- Any habitat enhancements as a result of dredging? Western Snowy Plover? Wetlands?
- Use them for Surf/Fishing Regions
- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Sue Lichtenbaum

Strategy K: Enhancing Non-Fishing Marine Economy

Oral Comments

- *Distinguish what this is – recreation, financial impacts*
- *Outreach components are very necessary on all strategies*

Written Comments

- Recommend to open a sushi take-out stand w/local fish & avocados & a tattoo parlor on the water
- I don't think this strategy should be about "enhancing" the recreational parts as much as reconceptualizing how we think about the marine economy. This will have major implications on the direction of the economic indicators research.
- Annual Kayak festival
- Needs to be better defined between economy, research and tourism
- Outreach is key
- Needs to have broad diverse recreational opportunity
- Identify financial mechanisms and implementing agencies & organizations
- Need to consider recreation and tourism
- Include quantitative economy measure to assess actions = \$

- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Nick Franco, Debra Stakes, Sue Lichtenbaum, Carole Maurer, Carolyn Moffatt

Strategy F: "Scrub Your Bottom" Campaign

Oral Comments

- *A boat yard would be needed to deal with boats coming in*
- *Piggy back on the "Clean Marine" program*
- *Infrastructure?*

Written Comments

- Tie in with the "Clean Marine" program.
- Create a brochure with the criteria for a sailing intro & staying in Morro Bay/Port San Luis – distribute to other marinas
- Need data on number of boats coming in/out of MB/year to determine our capacity to scrub boats in the bay
- We need to include collection of boating activity data in grant renewal proposal
- "Practice Safe Sailing"
- Question is whether there is data confirming that bottom scrubbing is successful at preventing spread of invasives – recognizing that some will be more vigilant than others
- Would tourism be affected by requiring scrubbing in Morro Bay only?
- Good task for student groups
- Need information on website that can be incorporated in coursework
- Highlights need for Boat Yard
- Could use a "quarantine slip" with a bath (chemicals) to catch/soak suspect bottoms
- Most boats actually have bottoms cleaned periodically
- Rank elements of Strategies E, F, G

- Need facilities for scrubbing
- Scope out extent of boat movement outside this area & necessary facilities
- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Debra Stakes, Sue Lichtenbaum, Henriette Groot, Carolyn Moffatt

Strategy G: State/National Legislation on Scrubbing

Oral Comments

- *Difficult to manage*

Written Comments

- Maybe of limited use in marine environment (but not fresh)
- Before going to State/Federal legislation, there will need to be a large body of data supporting scrubbing, clear and easy-to-follow guidelines and techniques, and facilities to properly clean boat hulls.
- Problems of scope and policy
- Need a clear mitigation
- Piggyback on Clean Marina
- Highlights need for Boat Yard
- No way to enforce this and infrastructure not in place
- Include demonstration/data regarding effectiveness of “scrubbing bottoms” & effective impact of this action on combating invasives
- Volunteers to work on strategy development:
Carolyn Moffatt

Miscellaneous Written Comments:

- Climate Change (threat): Strategy → develop science synthesis of local impacts and implications for planning and government
- MBNMS-NMSP will be an interested and involved partner in: extending ecosystem-based monitoring and protection of resource corridors adjacent to sanctuaries. Our own mandates will determine levels of involvement and influence. Look forward to watching the process unfold, seeking opportunities for partnership.
- Public education is critical for many/most of these strategies. SLOSEA derives great value in contribution from agency members. Should not place this at risk by emphasizing advocacy.
- Utilize existing avenues for Public Outreach/Education
- Communication to decision-makers: components should include (1) science/tech info for staff level communication, and (2) resource users and conservation protection groups (constituents in the district of the decision maker)
- Decision makers need to hear from trusted constituent groups as to the importance of the problem and local priority/value for taking action to solve the problem and what the benefit will likely be in a given local/regional context

Final Big Questions (plenary discussion)

Translating Science into Management & Policy requires

- (a) data collection,**
- (b) moving information to public & policymakers, and**
- (c) direct work with resource managers, decision makers & stakeholders, to achieve outcomes.**

1. As an organization, what role(s) do we play to best effect change?
 - *Even low priority items are important, and deserve consideration for action*
 - *Forward ideas that do not fit within SLOSEA to others for action, act as “steward”*
 - *Monitor that others are following through on things distributed to them*
 - *Review RWQCB research-policy report (communication between scientists & policy makers – suggestions & strategies)*
 - *Preserve scientific credibility of SLOSEA by reporting science*
 - *Respect role of agency advisors → science focus*
 - *Avoid conflict of interest for AC members*
 - *Advocate for information*
 - *Suite of options – make aware*
 - *Soft persuasion by participation*
 - *Different roles in different organizations (all roles important to SLOSEA)*
 - *Recommend changes based on facts available*
 - *Partner with other groups to provide advocacy (public support)*
 - *Make connections*

2. What should be our focus within our scope?
(local vs. regional, land-sea)
 - *Include land/sea integration*
 - *Local/Regional should be issue-driven*
 - *Contrast Santa Maria Valley with SLO*

3. Does SLOSEA want to act as an umbrella for all these strategies?
(to what degree does SLOSEA become a coordinator?)
 - *Regional Stewardship includes negatives & positives*
 - *Negatives: overload & burnout, are others willing & interested to work with SLOSEA, natural evolution, many issues, targeted outreach*
 - *Positives: act local – be part of something larger, collect data, benefits of alliances, meetings more “sense of community”*
 - *Which issues to tackle?*

Future Meeting Dates for 2008:

Third Quarter: Thursday, September 4
Fourth Quarter: Thursday, December 4