

Minutes of the Meeting of the
Monterey Bay Crescent Ocean Research Consortium
November 29, 2000
Moss Landing Marine Labs, Moss Landing, CA

Attendees: Gary Griggs (UCSC), Chris Hasegawa (CSUMB), Carl Thormeyer (FNMOC), Bill Garwood (NPS), Jeannie Frew (FNMOC), Joe Swaykos (FNMOC), Phil Merilees (NRL), Bill Douros (MBNMS), George Boehlert (NMFS), Marcia McNutt (MBARI), Andrea Sanico (MBARI), Mike Carr (USGS), Larry Freeman (USGS), William Head (CSUMB), Dale Cox (USGS), Geoff Wheat (NURP), Charlie Wahle (MPA-SC), Gregg Cailliet (MLML), Mario Tamburri (MBARI/MBNMS), Chris Harrold (MBA), Dave Jessup (CDFG), Churchill Grimes (NMFS), Andrew DeVogelaere (MBNMS), Nicole Crane (MATE), Tom Mercer (NPS Foundation), Michael Shulters (USGS), Robert Diaz (NWS), Marsha Moroh (CSUMB)

The meeting was called to order at 9 am by MB-CORC chair, Marcia McNutt. The MLML host for the meeting, Dr. Greg Cailliet, began the meeting by thanking Lisa Utall and the Friends of Moss Landing Marine Lab for contributing the refreshments for the meeting.

Marine Protected Areas

The first speaker on the agenda was Dr. Charlie Wahle. Dr. Wahle has recently relocated to Santa Cruz from Washington, D.C. to head up the new Science Center for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). His center is co-located with the NOAA Fisheries laboratory near Long Marine Lab. Dr. Wahle reviewed the charge for the Executive Order on Marine Protected Areas. Coordination for marine protected areas will remain with a small office in Washington, D.C., but the science activities will be directed from Dr. Wahle's Santa Cruz office. Their first order of business is simply to inventory all of the marine protected areas in this country, including those under state, federal, local, and native people's jurisdictions. These protected areas include the national marine sanctuaries as well as a number of other marine regions for which more than just the baseline protection is imposed. The Santa Cruz Center for Marine Protected Area Science will support the design and effective management of all MPAs by developing partnerships to fulfill key scientific, technical and policy assessment needs for the national MPA system.

No specific action items resulted from Dr. Wahle's presentation, but the MB-CORC institutions were happy to welcome the MPA Science Center to the Monterey Bay area.

SIMoN

Next Dr. Mario Tamburri of MBARI presented the SIMoN (Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network) proposal that resulted from a two-day workshop attended by many members of MB-CORC institutions, as well as other experts in marine science, ecosystems, and conservation from around the country. The proposal outlines a plan for the Monterey National Marine Sanctuary to undertake a monitoring program of the health

of the Sanctuary such that sound scientific data can guide policy choices. The program builds upon existing monitoring activities already underway, and seeks new funding to fill in critical gaps in what quantities are currently being monitored. Most of the work will actually be done through external grants, thus taking advantage of the large number of experts from a variety of institutions in the Monterey Bay region. The role of NOAA staff will be to provide leadership and coordination, and to facilitate information dissemination. The full document for the SIMoN plan is available at <http://bonita.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Research/simon.index.htm>.

Action Item: A subcommittee of MB-CORC consisting of Churchill Grimes, Greg Cailliet, Gary Griggs, and Marcia McNutt will prepare a first draft of a letter to Bill Douros, Superintendent of the MBNMS, expressing MB-CORC's support for SIMoN. Since the letter will be most useful if available in about one week's time, the subcommittee will circulate the draft to the full membership via email, with a short deadline for responding. A non-response will be interpreted by the subcommittee as approval for the letter as presented.

Marine Ecosystem Health

Dr. Dave Jessup alerted the MB-CORC members to the fact that Dr. Paul Epstein will be visiting Santa Cruz early next year. Dr. Epstein is the principal author of the report *Marine Ecosystems: Emerging Diseases as Indicators of Change*. The report uses historical data to take a retrospective look at the declining health of marine ecosystems along the eastern seaboard of the US. Dr. Jessup is hoping that a similar study can be undertaken in California in the near future.

No specific action items resulted from this agenda item. However, the MB-CORC institutions are encouraged to take advantage of Dr. Epstein's visit and to think about how such a study might be conducted in this region. Dr. Griggs pointed out that a letter proposal for this type of work in the California Current had been submitted to the Packard Foundation, but did not go any further. The University of California is supporting research on coastal environmental water quality in the amount of \$1.5 M/year through a special UC initiative. On account of the relevance of this initiative to Dr. Epstein's work and to SIMoN, MB-CORC requested that Dr. Griggs make a brief presentation at the next MB-CORC meeting on the UC initiative and what sorts of UC faculty projects will be supported by it.

FNMOC Open House

Captain Joe Swaykos presented a proposal for an open house to be held in April, 2001, at Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center (FNMOC) in Monterey. The idea for such an open house was suggested by Congressman Sam Farr, who has agreed to participate in the event. The main focus for the open house will be on the activities at FNMOC and its neighbors, NRL and the National Weather Service, but other MB-CORC institutions are invited to participate as well. The Congressman is quite keen to showcase the collaborative activities in the region as well as FNMOC. The event will likely be held

on a Saturday, with an evening reception for the Congressman and MB-CORC members. Dr. McNutt suggested two possible ways for MB-CORC members to participate: hosting their own booth, or providing materials to be displayed at an MB-CORC booth. The second option would be lower-key and less personnel intensive for organizations which may already host their own open houses each year.

Action Item: MB-CORC institutions wishing to participate should contact Lt. Brian Rivenbark (656-4875; Brian.rivenbark@fnmoc.navy.mil). Dr. McNutt offered to help coordinate those wishing to contribute materials (and about 1 hour of staff time) for an MB-CORC display.

Community Presentation Series

Chris Hasegawa presented a proposal for producing three multimedia shows highlighting marine research in Monterey Bay and showing its relevance to the daily lives of those living in the Salinas Valley. The initial three topics will be Sea Floor/Habitat Mapping, Fisheries, and El Niño/Meteorology. Speakers will be chosen from the MB-CORC institutions. The programs will be available on cable TV and via video cassettes. The program is proposed to begin in the spring of 2001.

There was some discussion about the format for the meeting. Much support was expressed for the lively format with a host moderating questions from students. It was agreed that it would be desirable to present not only the issues, but the people involved in addressing them, with every effort to include under-represented populations.

Action Item: A subcommittee consisting of Bob Diaz, Chris Harrold, Chris Hasegawa, and Marcia McNutt will draft a letter in support of this series to help Dr. Hasegawa secure university support for this initiative. The draft will be circulated to the rest of MB-CORC before being transmitted. Dr. Hasegawa felt that a 30-day turn-around time would be acceptable.

Website

Andrea Sanico displayed the redesigned Web site for MB-CORC. Everyone was quite pleased with the use of Flash to provide a nice look and some action to the site. There was some discussion of what sort of material should be on the site, and what links should be provided to other sites. It was agreed that there should be links on the first page to events and other news items, as well as a “What’s New?” area. Each month, a different MB-CORC institution could submit a news article on latest activities. It was also decided that the MB-CORC document giving information on the various member institutions should be posted on the Web, with information on who to contact to update the information when necessary. The first page of the Web site should also have some statement as to what MB-CORC is and its purpose. That statement can be pulled from the “Objectives” paragraph from the MB-CORC MOU. The website can be viewed at <http://www.mbari.org/~andrea/MBCORC.html>.

Action Item: Andrea Sanico will make the suggested changes to the Web site. A schedule will be generated for which institution is responsible in which month for a news story. Institutions should contact Andrea with requests for links on the first page and how the links should be titled. Each request should be complete with a sunset date – the date when the link should be removed from the Web site and the host institution is no longer responsible for maintaining the website to which the link is directed. Andrea will send out monthly reminders via email that a new story has been posted and reminding the institution responsible for the next month's story.

Area Listings

Dr. Gary Griggs reminded everyone to provide him with updates to the area listings on institutional budgets, research areas, and staffing. His list is somewhat different than the MB-CORC listing, but serves a useful purpose in gauging the marine research activity in this area, regardless of whether the organization has chosen to affiliate with MB-CORC.

Next Meeting

It was agreed that MB-CORC should meet again in late March, a few weeks before the FNMOC open house in order to finalize details and MB-CORC participation. Churchill Grimes volunteered to host the meeting at the new NMFS facility in Santa Cruz.

Action Item: Andrea Sanico will poll the members to find the best date for the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned about 11:30 am.