

Montrose Settlements Restoration Program [MSRP]  
Trustee Council Meeting Minutes  
November 13-14, 2013  
Long Beach, CA

Day 1, November 13, 2013

Attending:

Jennifer Boyce	NOAA, Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Program Manager
Annie Little	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]
Chris Plaisted	NOAA
Sarah Mongano	California State Lands Commission [CSLC]
Carol Roberts	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Kate Faulkner	National Park Service [NPS]
Patty Velez	California Department of Fish & Wildlife [CDFW]
Holly Gellermen	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Lisa Wolfe-Kolb	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Rob Ricker	NOAA
David Witting	NOAA, MSRP
David Mazurkiewicz	National Park Service [NPS]

Taking notes: Vanessa Nalle, MSRP

Not attending: Gabrielle Dorr, MSRP

Jennifer Boyce gave a review of the meeting agenda. Noted that the Montrose website name has officially changed and the redirect is not working [old URL:www.montroserestoration.gov, new URL:www.montroserestoration.noaa.gov]. Council members were asked to help spread word about the change.

Approval of Previous Meeting Summaries

Patty Velez noted changes to the 2012 council meeting minutes: Page 2: remove California Fish and Wildlife from list of 2011 outstanding cost doc packages (they had already turned it in); check the document to keep a consistent name, the agency name should be California Department of Fish and Game [CDFG] throughout the document since this meeting occurred before the name change to California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]. With those changes, the 2012 meeting minutes were approved by the council.

Status of Cost Packages

2012 cost packages for the CDFW and USFWS packages have been submitted to Cotton and Co. for review and certification. 2012 cost packages for NOAA and NPS need to be submitted by December 31, 2013, in order to receive administrative funds for 2014. Pursuant to the Trustee Council's cost guidelines, Trustees who have not submitted their 2012 costs by the December 31, 2013, deadline are not eligible to receive 2014 administrative funds until the late costs have been submitted. The Trustees decided to wait until later in December before executing the Council resolution in order to see whether it was likely that the outstanding packages would be submitted. Addendum to the meeting minutes: agencies (NOAA and NPS) with outstanding 2012 cost packages were in compliance with the December 31 deadline, therefore withholding administrative funds for the 2014 budget was not necessary.

### Ratification of Cost Document Packages

- 1) The CY2010 cost package for NOAA in the amount of \$1,206,134.73 was ratified. Motion made by Kate Faulkner, seconded by Carol Roberts. Motion carried.
- 2) The NOAA CY2011 cost package in the amount of \$1,643,319.86 was ratified. Motion made by Carol Roberts, seconded by Patty Velez. Motion carried.
- 3) The CDFW CY2011 cost package in the amount of \$100,760.04 was ratified. Motion made by Jennifer Boyce, seconded by Kate Faulkner. Motion carried.

### Revised Schedule of Budget Approvals

Jennifer Boyce and Annie Little proposed having two budget allocations. One allocation approval would be in July for partial project money only, and a second allocation at the end of the year for additional project money *and* the annual administrative budget. Having project money allocated in July would mean funding will be available for Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon and seabird projects by the end of the calendar year. This will allow adequate time to get the contracts in place before work begins. After brief discussion, the proposal was accepted.

### Status of Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] remedial actions and consequences for swing money

Dave Witting presented the current findings of the EPA remediation studies. The 2009 Record of Decision included the possibility of a small cap that would act as a source control and a second cap that would include a much larger area of the Palos Verdes Shelf. Both capping plans included specific sediment quality objectives. The most recent survey of sediment contamination suggests a dramatic reduction in DDT and PCBs in the superfund site. While the concentration of both DDTs and PCBs appear to have dropped significantly, data from the Los Angeles County Sanitation District also suggests a decline in white croaker contamination, particularly in the area closest to the Whites Point outfall pipes. These decreases in PCB/DDT concentrations suggest that the EPA remediation and sediment quality objectives for the source control cap have already been met. The EPA is planning to do another comprehensive survey in 2014 to confirm the status of contamination in the sediments.

According to the Consent Decree, \$10,000,000 of the \$43,000,000 (the “swing money”) may be used by DTSC for in situ response actions or by the Trustees for natural resource restoration in the absence of an in situ response. The Council agreed it would be helpful to discuss the swing money with the EPA prior to the Record of Decision. Kate Faulkner asked if the MSRP Phase 2 Restoration Plan addressed potential EPA swing money. Per Jennifer Boyce, the MSRP Phase 2 plan was written so that projects are designed to be scalable.

The Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Bunker Point project has the potential for collaboration with the EPA. Rob Ricker asked if sampling was done on the slope of the shelf. Per Dave Witting, the EPA has not sampled the slope.

### SEABIRD RESTORATION

A work plan outlining the activities of the program was previously distributed to the Council by email.

#### Baja Project Year 1:

Annie Little gave the Council a presentation on the Baja California Pacific Islands seabird project. This project is funded with \$1,000,000 from MSRP and \$3,000,000 from the Luckenbach Trustee Council.

2013 Baja Project update:

Invasive plant removal (ice plant) work began with 16 acres cleared on Coronado Island and

17 acres on Todos Santos Island. Experimental treatments are being used for ice plant removal, including a control area to evaluate success. Steep slopes seen in the island photographs were noted, and discussion was held about erosion control.

Artificial nest boxes are being used to target burrowing species: Cassin's Auklets [CAAU], Ashy Storm Petrels [ASSP], Scripps's Murrelets [SCMU] and Black Vented Shearwaters. Thirty nest boxes have been placed on both islands, and they were not occupied in 2013, in part because they were deployed later in the season. Social attraction was not used in 2013 but will be used in 2014. Decoys were used to target Brandt's Cormorants on North Coronado Island. This aspect of the project is being managed by The Audubon Society. Local residents near the islands made the decoys.

The project also includes outreach efforts to reduce disturbance and educate Navy personnel, island users, fishing cooperatives, and students.

#### Baja Project Year 2:

Plans for 2014 include the installation of sound systems and concrete nest boxes, continued monitoring, plant removal, and education. A Conservación de las Islas biologist will participate in the Audubon field training program. The Year 2 budget is \$228,218 which is an amount that is in line with what was proposed for Year 2 of the original 5-year budget that was submitted. The FWS is involved in developing a Letter of Intent for countries to collaborate on the conservation and restoration of islands in the U.S., Mexico and Canada. This idea was presented at last Trilateral meeting in May 2013 and was endorsed by the Trilateral Executive Committee. The Bureau of Land Management, NOAA, NPS are participating. The goal is to have a signed Letter of Intent in early 2014.

#### 2013 Scorpion Rock Seabird Restoration Project

David Mazurkiewicz gave a summary of project highlights to the council. Staff and volunteers have planted approximately 9,000 plants of 19 different species from 2008 through 2012. Currently the project is in maintenance mode (2013-2015). The 2013 maintenance activities included weeding, Cassin's Auklet monitoring and removal of the remaining infrastructure. A draft of the 2009 -2011 project report is near completion and will be sent to the council by early December 2013. Rob Ricker asked if runoff at Scorpion Rock was examined. It was noted that planting could decrease run off and might be a collateral benefit in the near shore area. Rob Ricker suggested documenting stabilization of runoff and sediment impact. Rob Ricker also asked if there are data on plant survivorship. David said survivorship was looked at in certain plots, and there was about 55% survivorship. In 2013, Cassin's Auklets saw an increase in natural burrows, 12 total, (the most so far) 6 of which were near restoration sites. The first documented nest of Scripps's Murrelets on Scorpion Rock was seen in 2013.

The 2014 plans for Scorpion Rock include year-round site maintenance and use of herbicide application in certain areas. There will be bimonthly Cassin's Auklet nest monitoring, and opportunistic mist-netting. Staff will also investigate micro-habitat features in natural burrows, deploy an Autonomous Recording Unit (ARU; February through October 2014) and finalize project reports.

#### Santa Barbara Island [SBI] Seabird Restoration Project

Project updates and highlights were presented. From 2007 through 2013, 20,000 plants were grown on the island and have been out planted. In 2013, 5,000 plants were out planted. Non-native grass and ice plant was removed by hand to promote the growth of the native boxthorn plant which provides good cover for seabirds. Social attraction for Cassin's Auklets was not used in 2013 because of Barn Owl predation and there were no confirmed auklet nests in 2013 in Landing Cove. A new upgraded water system with new tanks was installed and has increased watering efficiency. Restoration plots are located on the north side of the island and total about 5.3 acres. Staff is seeing plants survive to larger sizes and

natural recruitment. The island nursery is producing between 5,000-7,000 plants per year, but the total is water dependent. In 2014, there are plans to replace the nursery grow out tables.

In April 2009 was the first confirmed Cassin's Auklet nest since 1994. There are less than 50 pairs at Elephant Seal Point. There were four nesting pairs in 2012 in the Landing Cove site. The Cassin's Auklets condos at Landing Cove were relocated in 2013.

Graduate student Sarah Thomsen's Master's Degree project is now a PhD project looking at the relationship between Barn Owl predation, Scripps's Murrelets and deer mice. The Barn Owl study showed that mice are more abundant in Scripps's Murrelet habitat than in interior habitats. The non-native grass is a main food source for the mice. The fluctuation of deer mice is linked to rainfall, and seabird numbers as part of the Barn Owl diet were still significant.

#### 2013 Funding Proposals and Reports

A proposal was submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation [NFWF] Seabird Program for matching funds of \$200,000 for the SBI project on August 1, 2013, for seabird work in 2014. This proposal was selected for funding. Kate Faulkner also submitted a proposal to NPS for \$600,000 for continued habitat restoration and Song Sparrow restoration on Santa Barbara Island for 2019. The Council is waiting for a decision on the proposal.

Three seabird project reports were finalized (2008-2009 Scripps' Murrelets, 2011 Barn Owl study, and 2010-2011 Scripps's Murrelets), and one report is still pending (Scripps's Murrelets 2012) with a revised draft due on November 15, 2013.

The plans for 2014 include seabird monitoring (SCMU, CAAU, ASSP), out planting of 5,000 plants, invasive plant removal, increasing restoration sites by one acre, monitoring of restoration sites, a pilot non-native grassland study, a summary report of plant restoration, and permitting of the proposed desalinization system. Social attraction will not be used. Barn Owl Study and NFWF modeling work reports will be finished, as well as 2-3 manuscripts.

#### Barn Owl Cave Proposal

Kate Faulkner discussed a proposal sent out to the Council that will study core samples and identify bones from the Barn Owl cave on SBI. The proposal involves trips to the cave to assess the potential of sediment cores of one meter minimum depth. Using archeological techniques, the cores will be taken back to the Santa Barbara Museum where they will be examined to see how mice and seabird numbers as part of the Barn Owl diet change over time. Sarah Thomsen has seen that when deer mice numbers drop, the Barn Owls starve, indicating the owls are not moving off the island to find food. Genetic samples were taken from the Barn Owls that were banded during Sarah's study. Per Jennifer Boyce, the Barn Owls are an inhibiting factor to the success of restoring seabirds on SBI. Information gained from the proposed sampling would help create a vision of how to restore SBI seabirds and would influence restoration planning. Possible adaptive management tools and funding to deal with Barn Owls were discussed.

Rob Ricker asked if the council funded DNA barcoding of Barn Owl populations to restore greater genetic diversity as a long term look at restoration. Sarah Thomsen has been pursuing leads that are interested in looking into the genetics question.

#### 2013 Santa Cruz Island [SCI] Seabird Restoration Project

Restoration project updates for Ashy Storm Petrels on Santa Cruz Island in 2013 were discussed. During 2013, seabird staff monitored Orizaba Rock (off SCI) and three sea caves on SCI. MSRP partnered with Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge on artificial habitat design to address issues with Common

Ravens destroying the artificial burrows for Ashy Storm Petrels. Oikonos tested several options of burrows and found that ravens had better access to designs that had visible access elements for researchers. Heavier weight designs with small peep holes for research viewing were tested which prevented the ravens from moving them. An increase in raven predation was seen between June and July, with approximately 40 adult Ashy Storm Petrels taken from Bat Cave on SCI. As many as 3-7 ravens were seen at a time in certain locations. Also during 2013, natural nests in Bat Cave were fortified, the Bill McIver et al. 2011 report was finalized, and work began on the draft 2012 report.

The next step is to continue to monitor the raven issue. The Institute for Wildlife Studies will assist in 2014 with installing a video camera system. Other research on ravens will also be considered. The question was raised whether raven numbers went up on Santa Cruz Island with seabird populations and if raven management funds were established in the MSRP Phase 2 Plan. The Council discussed ways in which information on raven issues could be used for adaptive management of ongoing restoration projects.

#### 2014 Santa Cruz Island Seabird Restoration Project Plan

Project goals will be to install new artificial habitat at Orizaba Rock / Santa Cruz Island, conduct nest monitoring on Orizaba Rock and sea caves, deploy ARUs in Bat Cave and Orizaba Rock, install a video camera in Bat Cave, and complete 2012 and 2013 reports. Staff will also examine raven issues and re-analyze the direction of project.

#### Anacapa Island Ashy Storm Petrel Assessment

One ASSP nest was found on West Anacapa Island in 2011. Searching for new nests continued in 2012-13. Plans for 2014 are to assist with SCMU monitoring, mist-net in Ashy Storm Petrel Cove in July, deploy ARUs on Anacapa (February-July) and evaluate the next steps for the project. The American Trader Trustee Council will fund one additional year of monitoring on Anacapa Island as part of the rat eradication project.

#### San Nicolas Island [SNI] Seabird Restoration Project

There are ten cameras remaining on San Nicolas Island for monitoring purposes. No cat sightings were reported in 2013. The Institute for Wildlife Studies completed their 2012 Island Fox Monitoring Report and worked on a draft outline for a partnership manuscript. The U.S. Navy will continue with annual monitoring,(land birds, mice and lizards). The next aerial seabird survey is planned for 2015. The Humane Society of the United States [HSUS] reports that some of the cats were adopted out, but the majority of cats removed from the island remain at The HSUS sanctuary and are very dependent on each other. A preliminary draft report of the Status of Western Gull on SNI (Carter et al.) was submitted to Annie Little in October 2013.

#### Seabird Protection Network

The Seabird Protection Network held their kick-off meeting in March 2013, and included 30 participants ranging from the California Coastal Commission to kayak guides. The meeting was well received and they are in the process of preparing an Action Plan for the Channel Islands Chapter in the spring of 2014.

#### 2014 Seabird Budget

Annie Little discussed line by line budget allocations.

Carol Roberts asked for clarification on the budget amounts for the USGS Botanist and whether they include overhead and all expenses. Per David Mazurkiewicz, the amount budgeted covers everything. The botanist falls under an existing NPS agreement with lower overhead.

Seabird section budget were corrections made. Carol Roberts initiated discussion about project funds being used for California Institute for Environmental Studies (CIES) project managers to travel to and from a project meeting in Ventura. Discussion was held about travel costs. \$2,100 is the amount it would cost for the CIES personnel to travel to Ventura. Jennifer Boyce clarified the need for the CIES program manager to attend an in-person meeting since he is very hands on. Lisa Wolfe-Kolb clarified that as long as what is discussed in the meeting covers the work, there is sufficient nexus for travel funds.

### **PEREGRINE FALCON RESTORATION**

Annie Little gave a review of the Institute for Wildlife Studies Peregrine Falcon Survey in 2013. IWS found a 58% response rate on the first visit to occupied territory using sound broadcast. Their 2013 survey confirmed 45 occupied Peregrine Falcon territories. IWS documented the first confirmed territory on Catalina and San Nicolas Islands. Currently there is an 83% occupancy rate, which is a 67% increase. IWS banded ~50 chicks and collected prey remains and eggshells. Western Foundation has the prey and eggshell samples. According to the data from the 2007 surveys, some territories do still experience eggshell thinning on the Channel Islands. No Council questions on the Peregrine Falcon update.

### **BALD EAGLE RESTORATION**

Annie Little gave a review of the 2013 Bald Eagle breeding season. Seven chicks hatched in the Northern Channel Islands, six fledged. The Fraser Point pair on Santa Cruz Island (eagle A49 [the first natural hatch from 2006] & eagle A64), hatched eagle A89. This bird fledged, representing the second generation of naturally hatched eagles to fledge.

Breeding numbers are getting closer to productivity goals (65%) for nesting success. Catalina has the best success rate as the birds are older. Catalina Island has seven territories with 20-25 eagles. The Northern Channel Islands have 10 territories with 30-35 eagles. There are a total of about 60 eagles on the Channel Islands.

Bald Eagle Outreach: The MSRP Bald Eagle film is still being shown. Kevin White has finished the long version of the film. The premiere aired on the PBS series Natural Heroes on Sunday, December 8, 2013.

IWS proposed to combine Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagles funding for 2014. These budgets are now combined into one "Raptor Budget". Annie Little went over a line by line review of the Raptor Budget section. An adjustment was made to the 2014 Raptor budget.

NPS Administrative support and contract support were zeroed out. The MSRP Phase 2 Plan had allocated \$200,000 for a Peregrine Falcon survey in 2017, but this amount will now be disbursed over the next 4 years and IWS will conduct a yearly Peregrine Falcon survey (\$50,000/year for 4 years). IWS will contribute \$45,000 of its own funds per year as well.

The amount budgeted for the NPS Public Information Officer was reduced to 25 hours. Eagle Cam support has funding through 2017 as part of Phase 2, this amount will cover equipment upgrades and Ventura County Office of Education costs.

Discussion was held about saving some of the footage captured on the eagle cam.

#### **Raven proposal:**

Raven funding should move to the seabird section under NFWF.

## Condors

The Council resumed discussion about contributing possible restoration funds for California Condors. The Phase 2 Restoration Plan identified that the Council was funding a condor data gap study by Myra Finkelstein, and that based on the results, the Council would consider whether more research or restoration activities should be considered in the future. The full results from the study have not been sent to the Council yet, although an update from Myra Finkelstein was provided.

The Council discussed the Ventana Wildlife Society's funding proposal entitled "Restoration and Management of California Condors in Central California" that was submitted in September of 2012. The Council had previously deferred a decision on the proposal since they were awaiting the results of the investigation by Myra Finkelstein regarding Montrose DDE transport in marine mammals and risk to California Condors. Although the Council is still awaiting the full results of Myra's study and written report, they considered the proposal, preliminary results from Myra's study and other relevant information, such as the recent publication in the journal Condor.

While the Council recognizes that California Condors on the central coast are experiencing deleterious eggshell thinning effects potentially due in part to Montrose DDE, the Council decided not to fund the Ventana proposal at this time based on financial commitments and constraints rather than scientific concerns. The primary reason for this decision is that all of the remaining Montrose funds have already been allocated to restoration projects outlined in the Phase 2 Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment. The Council has invested a considerable amount of funding and effort into our current projects, which were designed to address the suite of injuries identified as part of the case and settlement, and these constitute the highest priorities for restoration. As such, the Council has chosen not to re-allocate funds away from these on-going Phase 2 projects.

In addition, significant financial resources would have to be directed to prepare a revised Restoration Plan and going through the public review process again in order to comply with CEQA and NEPA. Diverting these funds toward necessary tasks, but ones that do not directly support restoration, was an additional impetus for the Council to stay the course on the current projects.

However, if settlement funds remain after the Council has completed the Phase 2 commitments, or if new funds are made available, then the Council will reconsider providing funding for California Condor research or restoration at that time.

A proposal was made for MSRP staff to discuss strategy for the remaining funds and how to leverage them to maximize the effectiveness and scope of the restoration projects they support.

Meeting ended at 4:30pm

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Day 2, November 14, 2013

Attending:

Jennifer Boyce	NOAA, MSRP Program Manager
Annie Little	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chris Plaisted	NOAA
Sarah Mongano	California State Lands Commission
Carol Roberts	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Patty Velez	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Holly Gellermen	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Lisa Wolfe-Kolb	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
David Witting	NOAA, MSRP

Trustee Council members not in attendance: Kate Faulkner, National Park Service, Rob Ricker, NOAA  
Taking notes: Vanessa Nalle, MSRP  
Not attending: Gabrielle Dorr, MSRP

Jennifer Boyce led the discussion on a line by line review of the proposed 2014 budget.

2014 Summary Page:

Jennifer Boyce proposed that NOAA carryover funds related to the Belmont Pier Artificial Reef project be used for 2014 funding. This means NOAA will take a \$1.5M carryover and the NOAA disbursement will be \$621,000. NOAA will request money when construction on the project is ready to begin.

Chris Plaisted said to note with language in the budget resolution that money is being repurposed.

The National Park Service [NPS] has \$700,000 in carryover funds from 2013. NPS is budgeted for an additional \$20,000 based on their estimates for 2014. NPS will need to request funds in 2015.

2014 Trustee Council Page

No comments

2014 MSRP Office Page

Carol Roberts had a question about staff travel, which was addressed and answered.

Belmont Pier Artificial Reef Project

Dave Witting explained the project background: MSRP will construct an artificial reef north of the Belmont Pier in Long Beach, CA to enhance fishing opportunities. The subtidal land the reef would occupy was deeded to the City of Long Beach by the California State Lands Commission. This requires the City of Long Beach to be the lead CEQA agency. The City of Long Beach had concerns that the reef project would impact the evaluation process for reconfiguration of the Long Beach break wall. To address their concerns, MSRP did a wave study that evaluated the how the reef would interact with waves under several different break wall reconfiguration scenarios. The study showed either no impact or small levels of beneficial impacts on beach erosion among the different scenarios. The City of Long Beach will receive the study for their review.

Also, the City of Long Beach is planning to rebuild the Aquatic Center and commercial area surrounding the Belmont Pier. This includes the potential to rebuild the pier and/or move it to a different location from its current spot. Two potential options are to rebuild the pier in place or move it to the end of the street just north of the present location. Either pier location will have minimal impacts the reef project

The details of the Memorandum of Understanding with City of Long Beach are still being worked out. Discussion with the California State Lands Commission about ownership of reef materials is required. Per Chris Plaisted, there needs to be clear ownership and evidence of financial responsibility in order to get the Army Corps of Engineers permits.

The next steps for the Belmont Pier Artificial Reef project are to complete a review of the wave study, update the NEPA CEQA document EAIS with a targeted EIR, complete the NEPA/CEQA public process, finalize the EAIS document and initiate the permitting process. The MOU with the City of Long Beach will go forward when the NEPA-CEQA process is done.

#### Bunker Point Reef Project

The MSRP Phase 2 Restoration Plan includes an artificial reef at Bunker Point in Palos Verdes, CA. The goal is to restore low historic reef habitats that have been impacted by scour, sediment and direct burial. Oceanographic surveys for this project will begin in December 2013 and a conceptual design will be made. There are plans to meet with permitting agencies and potential partners once the design is complete (February– March 2014). EPA and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are possible partners on the project.

There are no new funds in the budget for this project. Additional funds will be considered in the July 2014 budget review.

#### Huntington Beach Wetlands

Monitoring was funded to look at the response to restoration for fish habitat. Dave Witting has received the report and will send it out to the Council. Dave is working on several scientific papers resulting from the monitoring that will be out late in 2014.

#### EPA Remediation

The EPA proposed limited fish contamination surveys as part of a 5-year review at the Palos Verdes Shelf Technical Information Exchange Group [PVSTIEG] meeting. Dave Witting put together an outline of what the EPA should do with the fish studies. The EPA will conduct a special study based on Dave's recommendations and also do their original study with Los Angeles County Sanitation District. The decrease in DDT and PCB in sediment matches the decrease in DDT contamination seen in White Croaker, which is also decreasing.

### **KELP RESTORATION**

Work on this project started in September 2013. The first group of commercial urchin harvesters working with non-profit groups started early in November 2013. Rapid kelp growth was seen after the urchins were removed in restoration sites. Purple urchins are removed and the red urchins are left intact. Tom Ford, Director of Marine Programs at the Bay Foundation (formerly the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation [SMBRF]) provided an overview of the work completed to date. Mr. Ford is also a professor at Loyola Marymount University.

In preparation for the project, during 2010, 6.5 linear km of urchin barrens were mapped between Rocky Point and Point Fermin, CA. The largest area impacted is off Pt. Vicente and Abalone Cove in Palos Verdes, CA. Two pilot projects were completed by SMBRF before starting work in Palos Verdes.

In May 2004 - Escondido Beach, Malibu, CA, had low lying reefs that were completely taken over by urchins. A total of 32,428 urchins were removed, bagged, counted, and transported to be scattered over open ocean sandy bottom. This took 75 months and involved 1.5 acres of reef. About 50% red and 50% purple urchins were relocated. Recovery of the area was fast, and kelp grew back by November 2004.

Restoration at Long Point, Palos Verdes, of 3.5 to 4 acres took 34 months of work. A total of 281,710 urchins were removed. Some 90% were purple urchins, with only 10% red urchins. The project was successful; kelp and fish returned within 15 months.

Several options were discussed with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife as to what will happen to the urchins. The final decision was to smash the urchins in place.

Kelp forest restoration has the potential to increase the gonad biomass of the sea urchins that are left in place, which benefits commercial sea urchin divers. The SMBRF looked at the urchin density and size structure. They found over 10 times more purple urchins than red urchins. Kelp forest value increases gonad biomass available to fisheries. There is an 883% increase in red urchin gonad biomass available to fishery per unit area restored.

Kelp Restoration potential has both commercial and recreational value: a 410% increase in kelp bass biomass, a 200% increase in CA sheephead biomass and a 267% increase in total fish biomass.

For the Palos Verdes Kelp Restoration Project the total area pre-monitored was 12,735/m<sup>2</sup>. The estimated urchin abundance in the monitored areas was 533,251 in four quadrants of Palos Verdes area (Honeymoon Cove, Underwater Arch Cove [30m x 30m] x4 per restoration block). The total area cleared will be approximately 3,865/m<sup>2</sup>. The divers are clearing between 120 and 180 square meters per day. The project will use four paid interns in the summer and fall of 2014.

The long term management of urchin barrens would include increasing sheephead bass numbers and bringing back sea otters. Urchin barrens need to be managed to return the ecosystem back to kelp and fish.

#### 2014 Fish Restoration Budget Page

Dave Witting led discussion of a line by line review of the fish restoration budget for 2014. Changes were made to modify the line for overhead on the fish page. A comment was made by Carol Roberts about line items concerning \$700 for volunteer awards under outreach and education. Carol Roberts deferred to Chris Plaisted on the issue, and after some discussion, the group concluded that MSRP should not be providing funds for recognition and awards.

Noted that durable item purchases for the program are problematic (i.e. boat engines). If such items are purchased outright using MSRP funds and have a useful life beyond the length of the project, there should be a provision in the contract addressing those items following completion of the project (e.g., items transferred back to the government, or some other appropriate arrangement).

#### 2014 Outreach Budget

Jennifer Boyce led discussion on a line by line review of the outreach budget for 2014 in the absence of MSRP Outreach Coordinator, Gabrielle Dorr who is on maternity leave.

The recommendation was made to fund the following fishing outreach mini-grants; \$60,000 for Sea Lab of Redondo Beach \$20,000 for Marina del Rey Anglers, \$10,000 for the City of Los Angeles, \$10,000 for the Cabrillo Beach Pier Fishing Program, \$10,000 for the Los Angeles Rod and Reel Club.

Other outreach updates included a review of MSRP publications printed with the new website. A sum of \$2,500 has been budgeted to sponsor sport fishing events. The annual Bald Eagle Festival might include seabirds in 2014 to broaden the scope. A new fish habitat restoration outreach film is being considered. One of the interactive kiosks is being relocated to the Point Vicente Interpretive Center in Palos Verdes, CA.

The "Project Video Updates" amount of \$20,000 was removed from the budget. Annie Little suggested waiting until 2015 when the Scorpion Rock project will be done. Patty Velez asked about Sequoia the Bald Eagle being at Earth Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific. Per Jennifer Boyce, it was not possible to put the NFWF contract in place with the new group who has Sequoia, therefore Sequoia will not be at any outreach events. Annie Little said the Ojai Raptor Group is working with another eagle (Avalon) to be used at outreach events.

#### Wrap Up and Action Items

Jennifer Boyce re-iterated the bi-annual budget and distribution plan. Project budgets will be reviewed twice a year (July and November). Staff, Trustee Council and administrative budgets will be covered at the annual meeting in November. Revisions discussed in the meeting will be made to budget. The 2014 Budget Resolution will be written and sent out for signature.

Discussion was held about changing the monthly trustee council calls to every two months. The Trustees decided to keep the monthly calls on the schedule and Jennifer Boyce will cancel if there is nothing to report. The November and December 2013 calls are cancelled. The next scheduled call is on January 16, 2014 at 10am.

Meeting ended at 1:55pm