

MONTROSE SETTLEMENTS RESTORATION PROGRAM
Trustee Council Meeting, Long Beach, CA
October 28, 2014

Day 1, October 28, 2014

The following Trustee Council members / alternates were in attendance:

Jennifer Boyce	NOAA, Montrose Settlements Restoration Program [MSRP]
Kate Faulkner	National Park Service [NPS]
Holly Gellermen	California Department of Fish & Wildlife [CDFW]

Sarah Mongano	California State Lands Commission [CSLC]
Carol Roberts	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Chris Plaisted	NOAA (joined the meeting at 11:45am)
Patty Velez	California Department of Fish & Wildlife
Lisa Wolfe-Kolb	California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Staff

Gabrielle Dorr	MSRP
Annie Little	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]
David Mazurkiewicz	National Park Service
Vanessa Nalle	MSRP Taking notes
Not attending:	David Witting, MSRP

Meeting started at 10:10am

Jennifer Boyce gave a review of the meeting agenda. The afternoon portion of the meeting will include a presentation by Dr. Alfonso Aguirre Munoz on the Baja Seabird Restoration Project.

General Business Items

Approval of 2013 Trustee Council Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Boyce made a motion to approve the minutes from the November 13-14, 2013 Trustee Council meeting. Carol Roberts seconded the motion. Motion carried and the 2013 meeting minutes are ratified.

Account Balances

The estimated balance for the Montrose Settlements Restoration Program [MSRP] is in the range of approximately \$11M. Annie Little and Jennifer Boyce are planning to reconcile what has been spent to date and determine what funds remain in the DOI account and the Trustee agencies. Per Jennifer Boyce, coordination with the Environmental Protection Agency [EPA] has increased by having monthly calls. s. Fish and sediment sampling is continuing. The EPA is moving toward making a final decision about capping or not capping the shelf. The EPA is in the process of restructuring the institutional controls program

Cost Documentation Packages

To date, no MSRP cost packages have been submitted for CY2013. Jennifer Boyce reminded everyone that Council guidelines state that the prior year's cost documents are to be turned in before December 31, 2014 in order to receive administrative funds for CY2015. Per Patty Velez and Annie Little, the CDFW and USFWS have drafts of their 2013 cost documentation ready to submit.

National Park Service Budget Accounting

Kate Faulkner distributed a copy of the letter to Jennifer Boyce from Trish Buffington (NPS) dated September 12, 2014 regarding NPS accounting. This letter was previously sent to all Trustee Council members and discussed on September 15, 2014. For those not on the call, Kate Faulkner gave a re-cap, of the accounting discrepancies identified by the NPS that led them to think they had more money to cover MSRP projects than they actually did. The primary issue was summary information and human errors, as well as the difference in reporting of the calendar year in Microsoft Money and the fiscal year in the NPS accounting system. Fiscal year expenditures were not reported accurately and were not accounted for in the summary reports. The error started in 2002 and carried forward, resulting in a deficit of funding that was not previously realized until now. However, it was also noted (as discussed on a previous memo to the Trustee Council) that these were merely accounting errors and did not result in any Montrose funds being spent improperly.

After some discussion about potential staffing solutions to address this problem, the Trustee Council decided to provide funding for NPS' Cindy Leon to correct the accounting and begin work on the 2013 – 2014 cost packages after she returns from extended leave in January 2015. The line item on the Trustee Council page will be adjusted to add a line for admin/cost doc package assistance for the NPS.

2015 MSRP Budget and Work Plan

Project Updates and 2015 Budget Proposal

Peregrine Falcons – Annie Little

In 2007, the MSRP Trustee Council funded the first major survey of peregrine falcons in the Channel Islands. In 2013 and 2014, the Institute for Wildlife Studies [IWS] conducted additional surveys. Annie Little reminded the council that in 2013, it was agreed that Peregrine Falcon and Bald Eagle projects would be combined into one "Raptor Budget," therefore peregrine falcon projects costs are combined with bald eagles under the IWS contract.

In 2014 there were 48 peregrine falcon occupied territories. The majority (39) are in the Northern Channel Islands due to the seabird prey resources there. In the southern islands, Santa Barbara Island had three pairs, two pairs on Catalina Island, and two on San Nicolas Island.

Peregrine falcon egg incubation starts in late February through early June. Early April to mid-summer is when chick rearing occurs. A video clip provided by IWS showing peregrine falcon banding was shown. Annual surveys are providing additional information of survival and dispersal. IWS collected prey remains that were taken to the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology and adult eggs were processed for their egg contents and are being stored. Eggs were also measured for egg shell thinning.

1992-1993 – 19.4% clutch thinning

2007 - 18.3% clutch thinning

2013 - 12.4 % DDT clutch thinning.
The data did not reflect levels by each island.

Nest success and productivity.
2007 66.7% and 1.46 productivity (35 chicks)
2013 53.7% nest success and 1.34 productivity (55 chicks)
2014 72.9% success and 1.59 (59 chicks)

Average 63.7% nest success and 1.46 productivity. Peregrine falcon surveys will be done through 2017.
There are currently about 100 adult peregrine falcons total over all the Channel Islands.

Conclusions

- The current population exceeded the predicted historic levels
- Productivity and nest success is sufficient to maintain the population
- There is still suitable habitat to support additional territories

Research Questions:

What re the basic population parameters, survival rates, emigration/immigration rates
Is DDE still negatively impacting reproduction?

Bald Eagles – Annie Little

In 2014 there are currently 9 breeding pairs across the northern Channel Islands: 2 on Santa Rosa Island, 6 on Santa Cruz Island and 1 on Anacapa Island. At least 13 eggs were laid in 2014, 10 that hatched (76%). Ten chicks fledged. The Fraser Point (“Princess Cruz” a second generation eagle) had 2 chicks. The pairs nesting in Saucos Canyon and Los Pinos on Santa Cruz Island both failed.

On Catalina Island there is a new breeding pair (called the “Empire” pair, K-15 male and K-03 female) who laid two eggs. One egg disappeared and a raven took the remaining egg. The overall summary for Catalina Island: 7 of 8 pairs bred, 14 eggs were laid (5 chicks hatched, 36% hatch rate). Four chicks fledged; there were several mate switches between the pairs. The “Rattlesnake” nest chick was injured when it fell out of the nesting tree onto the ground

Five of the eight Channel Islands have breeding pairs of eagles. A new nest was discovered on San Clemente Island. Since 2004, 96 chicks have hatched naturally. Nest manipulation stopped in 2009. The goal between 2006 - 2014 was to achieve 65% nesting success, which has been reached.

IWS finalized their 2013 Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon reports. Seth Newsome’s report on stable isotopes and diet was finalized. Outreach efforts are continuing.

Annie Little reviewed each line item of the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon budget for 2015. The proposed 2015 “raptor” budget is \$423,634 which includes the IWS contract, NPA support and eagle cam costs.

Carol Roberts raised a question about the travel line items in the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon budget detail. Annie Little pointed out they are travelling to all eight islands and Peter Sharpe has only based the line item amounts on actual travel they use each year.

California Condors – Annie Little

In November 2013, Jennifer Boyce informed Ventana Wildlife Society [VWS] the Trustee Council's decision to not provide funding of their proposal for nest monitoring and egg management of the California Condor in Big Sur, CA. In April 2014, MSRP Trustee Council agencies received a letter from Congressman Sam Farr asking for support and funding for VWS. Response letters from each trustee agency were sent to Congressman Farr. In September 2014, the MSRP Trustee Council funded \$25,756 (TCR 14-3) for the publication of Myra Finklestein's final report "Examining Long-Range Transport of Montrose DDE Via Marine Mammals: Evaluating Risks to California Condors. The paper should be completed by summer 2015.

A copy of Myra Finklestein's final report was provided to VWS. Annie Little will confirm that Sam Farr received the final report.

Carol Roberts stated that condors were figured prominently into USFWS funding. Some of the USFWS funding went to VWS to conduct nest manipulations. Bob Risboroguh is still working analysis of DDE-PCB ratios in the Southern California Bight.

Patty Velez brought an article to the meeting from the Monterey Times about California Condors. It was noted that some of the USFWS funding went toward lead ammunition buy back.

No additional questions on the raptor budget were noted.

Lunch break at 12:25

Meeting resumed at 1:45pm

Presentation by Alfonso Aguirre of the project partner Conservación de Islas.

The Baja seabird project is a partnership between MSRP and Luckenbach Trustee Councils.

Mr. Aguirre led discussion and presented slides summarizing the seabird restoration work of the Grupo de Ecología y Conservación de Islas on the islands around mainland Mexico and Baja California. The presentation encompassed the following:

- Resources and the social dimension
- From abandonment to healing
- Islands and seabird conservation
- Conclusions

As a geographic context Mr. Aguirre noted there are 2500 islands in mainland and Baja California, most are protected by the Mexican Federal Government. Birds banded on Mexican islands have been found in Florida.

A summary was given of the Baja California Pacific Islands seabird restoration project that is co-funded by MSRP and the Luckenbach Trustee Councils. Objectives and activities include:

- Restoration and monitoring of seabird species

- Habitat restoration
- Reduction of human disturbance
- Boardwalk installation
- Environmental education

The restoration sites are Coronado Sur, Todos Santos Sur, San Martín Island, San Jerónimo, Natividad, San Roque Island, and Asunción. Species include Cassin’s Auklets, Scripps’s Murrelets, Double-crested Cormorants, Pelagic Cormorants, Brown Pelicans.

The boardwalk on San Jerónimo was completed and Cassin’s Auklets are already nesting underneath the structure. A sound system for social attraction is in place on San Martín Island. Brandt’s Cormorant decoys are being used on Todos Santo Sur. Artificial burrows and a field station has been installed on San Roque Island. Mr. Aquirre mentioned collateral benefits to the seabird restoration work include monitoring of non-target species and the first long-term monitoring of flora and fauna on these islands. The project also includes outreach to local schools and communities about seabird conservation and awareness.

2014 Seabird Projects Update – Annie Little

Annie Little discussed the Trilateral Letter of Intent [LOI] which was recently signed at a formal ceremony in Mexico. A copy of the LOI can be found at www.trilat.org. The LOI is for countries to collaborate on the conservation and restoration of islands in the US, Mexico and Canada.

2014 Scorpion Rock, Channel Islands National Park, CA [CINP] – David Mazurkiewicz

The goal for Scorpion Rock was to reestablish a perennial native plant community and provide cover and better edge habitat for nesting Cassin’s Auklets. Approximately 9,000 plants of 19 species were planted between 2008 -2012. During 2013 through 2015, the project is in maintenance mode. 2014 activities included weeding, Cassin’s Auklets monitoring, herbicide treatments and removal of remaining infrastructure. The report “Population monitoring and habitat restoration for Cassin’s Auklets at Scorpion Rock and Prince Island, Channel Islands National Park, California 2009-2011 by Adams et al. was finalized and submitted to the Trustee Council.

The perennial cover on Scorpion Rock is established and doing well.

Historical and current data for Cassin’s Auklets on Scorpion Rock are as follows:

- 2000: 120 max breeding birds
- 2007: 28 breeding birds
- 2008: 62 breeding birds
- 2012: 46 breeding birds, 28 sites
- 2013: 52 breeding birds, 26 sites
- Nesting in 13 artificial burrows, 13 natural burrows
- 2014: 38 breeding birds, 19 sites
- Nesting in 7 artificial burrows, 12 natural burrows

There has been an increase of nesting in natural burrows:

- 2011 - 4 active nest burrows
- 2012 - 5 active nest burrows

2013 – 13 active nest burrows

2014 – 12 active nest burrows were counted*

*however the nest sites are getting hard to find with dense vegetation

2015 Plans for Scorpion Rock

- Year round site maintenance
- Continued herbicide application in certain areas
- Bimonthly Cassin's Auklets nest monitoring, Ashy Storm Petrel mist – netting
- Investigation of micro habitat features in natural burrows
- Social attraction will be deployed February through October
- 2012-2013 report will be finalized and is due December 2014

With the increase in native cover, the predation of Cassin's Auklets by Barn Owls has decreased. Also, Western Gulls have been utilizing the habitat and native shrub cover and are being predated on by Peregrine Falcons.

2015 is the last year of dedicated funding for the Scorpion Rock project in the MSRP Phase 1 Restoration Plan.

Santa Barbara Island [SBI], Channel Islands National Park [CINP], CA

SBI is the smallest of the 5 islands in the CINP, with an area of approximately one square mile. Forty miles offshore, this tiny island and its two offshore islets host 13 species of nesting seabirds.

SBI restoration started in 2007 and the focus is to restore native vegetation where Scripps's Murrelets and Cassin's Auklets nest. In 2014, 5,000 plants were grown in the on-island nursery and will be planted in November 2014. Staff will continue Scripps's Murrelets monitoring and night captures, as well as mist netting for petrels. A new slow-drip water system was installed at the Beacon Hill site and an explanation of the water irrigation system which substantially increased efficiency was given. New grow-out benches were made for the nursery out of pressure treated plywood, half paid for by a grant from Patagonia and half through MSRP funding. In the new grow-out benches, plants soak up the water from the bottom which is more effective than watering from the top. Coconut fiber sheets were installed on the ground for seed retention on the windward side of the island.

There are currently about 7 total acres of restoration sites on Santa Barbara Island. The nursery started as a shade house in 2008 and is now a permanent structure. Water issues have remained a challenge for this project; however, there have been changes in how water is collected for the island. Tanks on the vessel "Ocean Ranger" with increased storage are brought out via long fire hoses and pumped from the ship to a landing craft that can take 11,000 gallons.

There was some progress on the proposed desalinization system at Landing Cove. The NPS internal project review was completed and approved in September 2014. Repairs are underway to the dock after recent hurricanes from Baja California. The next step is to finalize the details and begin the permitting process.

Scripps's Murrelets and Cassin's Auklets monitoring is continuing. There is a small population of Cassin's Auklets at Elephant Seal Point. There were 4 nesting pairs in 2012 at the Landing Cove site. There were prospecting birds in 2014, however, there are no confirmed Cassin's Auklets nesting in Landing Cove at this time. This site is highly predated by Barn Owls.

The SBI project was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation [NFWF]. These funds cover project costs through June 2015. Scott Hall with NFWF visited the site in October 2014; he will reassess any remaining funds and an additional proposal will be submitted in May 2015.

Santa Barbara Island Project Reports

4 reports were finalized in 2014:

- Harvey et al. Scripps's Murrelets 2010-11
- Harvey et al. Scripps's Murrelets 2012
- Thomsen and Harvey 2013 Barn Owl Report
- Thomsen 2012 Barn Owl report

Reports to be finalized in 2015:

- Howard et al. Scripps's Murrelets 2013
- 2007-2013 Habitat Restoration report
- 2014 Habitat Restoration report
- NFWF Interim and Final reports

2015 Plans for Santa Barbara Island

- Seabird monitoring (SCMU, CAAU, ASSP)
- Outplant 5,000 plants
- Invasive plant removal
- Increase restoration sites by .5-1 acre
- Continue monitoring of restoration sites
- Pilot non-native vegetation control study
- Work on the permitting of a desalinization system
- Seek additional funding (NFWF, Patagonia, REI, NPS)
- Collaborate with interested partners (Smithsonian, TNC, Growing Solutions, etc.)

Ashy Storm Petrel 2014 Project Update – David Mazurkiewicz

This project covers Santa Cruz Island sea caves, Orizaba Rock and Santa Barbara Island to restore Ashy Storm Petrels. During 2014, monitoring and mist netting continued. A partnership with Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge resulted in new designs for artificial habitat that were tested to withstand predation from ravens. Ten modules of the new design were installed in 30 sites on Orizaba Rock, and so far they are raven-proof. Natural nests in Bat Cave were fortified. Gull Island was surveyed for Ashy Storm Petrels. The McIver et al. 2012 report was finalized.

2015 Plan for Ashy Storm Petrels

- 1) Conduct nest monitoring on Orizaba Rock and 3 sea caves on Santa Cruz Island
- 2) Install 5 additional nest modules in Bat Cave
- 3) Deploy ARUs in Bat Cave and Orizaba (Feb-Oct)
- 4) Continue Reconyx monitoring in Bat Cave/OR
- 5) Complete 2013 and 2014 reports
- 6) Expand mist netting

Assessment of Anacapa Island

Anacapa Island could be a potential restoration site for Ashy Storm Petrels. Acoustic recording instruments have been used. Scripps's Murrelets monitoring on Anacapa Island is continuing (post rat

eradication after American Trader funded the project). Slides from Darrell Whitworth were shared during the meeting, showing increased Scripps's Murrelets on Anacapa Island, post rat eradication.

Carol Roberts asked if anyone has gone back and looked at the native mouse population on Anacapa Island. Per Kate Faulkner and Annie Little, the mouse population is doing well.

San Nicolas Island Seabird Restoration Project– 2014 update – Annie Little

The U.S. Navy has been helping on continuing bio security for this completed project. Cameras are still deployed and footage is checked. Annie Little will send out the final report from Island Conservation closing out their Cooperative Agreement. There is about \$80,000 in remaining funds related to that contract that will remain with USFWS. Cats that were removed from San Nicolas Island by the Humane Society are doing well.

San Nicolas Island – 2015 Plans

- The U.S. Navy will continue on-going monitoring
- Navy is funding flights and counting of Brandt's Cormorants
- MSRP will cover costs of monitoring Western Gulls – Annie Little will get back to the council with the cost
- This project is now 5 years post project. Grace Smith will be retiring next year. Annie Little requested she pull together all the data before she retires.
-

Seabird Protection Network

The action plan for this project is almost complete. Annie Little is suggesting a mini grant program. Alfonso Aguirre proposed increased collaboration. Holly Gellerman mentioned the CA Seabird Coordination Meeting as a possible resource for partners.

Seabird Projects – 2015 Budget

Annie Little gave a line by line review of the Seabird Restoration 2015 budget items. Questions noted from council members:

Carol Roberts asked for clarification on the helicopter costs. David Mazurkiewicz stated the costs are for the helicopter only, not the crew.

California Institute of Environmental Studies [CIES] manager is Frank Gress who manages all personnel and contract support.

Holly Gellerman also asked for clarification if the data support is the person Marie-Eve brought in to complete reports. She is budgeted at half-time.

An adjustment was made to the budget for the CIES Manager line item (hours were reduced to 400). Data support was increased by the Trustee Council to 1300 hours.

Holly Gellerman asked for clarification on the line item titled "annual cash out." Change was made to this line item, now called "annual leave cash out."

Per Annie Little, the contingency fund is \$15,000. The revised CIES CY15 budget total is \$708,046

Meeting adjourned at 5:20pm

MONTROSE SETTLEMENTS RESTORATION PROGRAM
Trustee Council Meeting, Long Beach, CA
October 29, 2014

Day 2, October 29, 2014

The following Trustee Council members / alternates were in attendance:

Jennifer Boyce	NOAA, Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Manager
Chris Plaisted	NOAA (joined the meeting at 11:45am)
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

Montrose Settlements Restoration Program Staff

Gabrielle Dorr	MSRP
Annie Little	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [USFWS]
David Witting	MSRP
Taking notes:	Vanessa Nalle, MSRP

Meeting started at 9:25am

MSRP Outreach – Gabrielle Dorr

Gabrielle Dorr introduced the MSRP intern Emily Meese to the Trustee Council.

Gabrielle Dorr gave a review of outreach activities completed in 2014.

The Fish ID card has been updated with hazard symbols. The seabird nest matching game was demonstrated. The new game has been well received at outreach events.

Discussion was held on the bald eagle classroom study guide, which was Kevin White's idea to accompany the PBS broadcast version of the DVD "Restoring Bald Eagles to the Channel Islands". The study guide contains seven lesson plans aligned with National grade level standards. Each lesson plan has background information, activities, and a call to action for the students. Distribution of the PBS broadcast DVD is formally discussed below.

Fishing Outreach Events in 2014

Montrose staff attended several outreach events in 2014:

- The Fishing Rodeo on the Belmont Pier – this event is put on by the Southern California Tuna Club
- The Huck Finn Fishing Derby in Huntington Beach at the Huntington Beach Pier
- Seal Beach Pier Fishing Derby at the Seal Beach Pier

- Earth Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific
- King Harbor Sea Fair at SEA Lab in Redondo Beach
- NOAA Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific, taking place on November 15, 2014

Fishing Outreach

The 2013 Youth Fishing Outreach report was finalized. Surveys showed that participants had a 77% higher rate of retention for 9 key messages. Long term youth surveys showed that more than 50% of students retained 7 out of 10 key messages and were taking 5 of the 7 actions relating to these key messages.

Grant amounts increased in 2014 so the number of youth reached also increased. The following Youth Fishing Outreach Programs were completed in 2014:

The Fun Fishing Program- SEA Lab-Los Angeles Conservation Corp-Year 6 (2007-2014)

720 students were reached from 10 Elementary Schools. The program includes a 3-hour hands-on session at SEA Lab to learn about contamination moving up the food chain. Students also learn how to identify fish, how to fish from a pier, and proper filet techniques.

Cabrillo Beach Pier Fishing Program – City of LA Department of Recreations and Parks – Year 4 (2011 – 2014)

630 youth were reached from 21 recreation centers in Los Angeles in 2014. The program includes learning to fish on (the Cabrillo Pier), learning how to identify fish, a tour of the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and playing an interactive game about contamination in the food chain.

Marina del Rey Anglers Youth Fishing Project - Year 3 (2012 – 2014)

More than 700 children ages 10-16 were reached from youth centers in Los Angeles in 2014. This program includes bringing groups of children on a fishing boat, teaching them about fish contamination; learning how to fish, learning how to properly filet a fish.

LA Rod and Reel Club Foundation is a new program in 2014 - Year 1 (2014)

200 youth were reached from youth centers in Los Angeles County in 2014. The program lasts 6 hours, including a private tour of the Aquarium of the Pacific, fishing, and teaching about fish contamination, how to fish, and how to properly filet a fish.

Sport fishing Events Sponsorship

Goal: To promote sport fishing and support sport fishing groups through monetary sponsorship (\$2,500)

Contact sport fishing groups and ask about how we could help with advertising for their event

- In 2013 we found that most youth fishing events do not need additional funds for materials (i.e. fishing rods)
- In 2014 Advertising sponsorships were funded for two local fishing events: the Kids Fishing Rodeo and Huck Finn Fishing Derby. Approximately 1/3 of attendees came to the events after seeing the advertisements.
- In 2015 we would like to offer to pay for event advertising and provide assistance with event promotion

Fishing Outreach Film

3 filming days were completed during the summer months and 2 were completed in October. A rough draft will be ready for review soon.

Kiosk Films

John Dutton (who made the wetlands restoration film) is revising the kiosk films. Kevin White is providing seabird and Bald Eagle footage which has not been delivered yet. John Dutton will use existing footage and the current storyline and create a more youth-centered short film. There is no additional cost to update the content on the kiosks.

Rough draft illustrations of the ranger girl character and her sidekick island fox are being sent around for review by staff. The next step is to work on the script and storyline.

Nesting Seabird Field Cards

- We printed 1,000 cards in 2013
 - Distributed all of the cards to user groups
 - Have received a lot of interest and positive feedback on field cards from user groups and seabird orgs
 - Would like to print revised field cards in for use by the Channel Islands Seabird Protection Network in 2015

MSRP Website

Google Analytics data has been tracked for the website since 2012. Data is collected and added to a reporting document monthly. The data collected shows the following related to the MSRP website:

- Total visitors
- Visitors by country
- Most visited pages
- Time spent on each page
- How visitors arrived at website

Total visitors show a high new and return visitor rate. There is a slight decrease in website visitors in 2014 but we haven't analyzed why this is the case yet. Kate Faulkner suggested the drop could be related to not having the Bald Eagle webcam embedded in the site.

The top three most pages visited between 2012 and 2014 are the Home page, Fish webcam, and Publications respectively.

Fish Webcam Update

14,410 total views with 67 followers

Continuous live streaming since July 2012

Introducing it to teachers as an interactive classroom tool

Links to the fish webcam are now on several webpages including:

- Orange County Coastkeeper
- California Coastal Commission (29 referrals last month)
- Stony Brook University

Social Media Update

In 2013, the number of MSRP Facebook fans increased by 850 fans as a result of the Facebook Ads that we ran. Another 70 fans were added after the Ads were run. In total, the MSRP Facebook page has 1070 fans.

Facebook posting was increased to 4 days per week with more content and relevancy to the audience. This increased the audience reach and engagement.

Emily Meese (intern) presented a summary of MSRP Facebook posts. In 2013/2014, there were different kinds of posts and more frequent posts including: Question and Photo of the Week; Holiday fun photos; Video Clips/Highlights; News articles related to weekly theme; Feature partner of the month.

Classroom Presentations – Gabrielle Dorr

Several local classroom presentations were done in 2014. The presentations teach students about wetlands restoration, Bald Eagle restoration, and contamination moving up through the food chain. The presentations are very multi-media and hands-on showing short restoration videos and then walking the students through a live fish webcam observation. Future presentations will have a post teacher survey. A leave-behind packet with lesson plans is currently being developed.

Bald Eagle Film Study Guide - Outreach Strategy – Gabrielle Dorr

The MSRP intern contacted other organizations and agencies to have them put the link to the MSRP Bald Eagle study guide on their websites. The guide was posted on other Facebook fan pages to also spread the word.

The following organizations currently have a link to the guide on their websites: Palos Verdes Land Conservancy, California Coastal Commission, and the American Eagle Foundation.

Outreach Budget 2015 – Gabrielle Dorr

Recommendations for 2015 are:

- Continue to fund the following programs at suggested levels (\$60,000)
 - Sea Lab Fun fishing program \$20,000
 - Marina Del Anglers Youth Fishing Project \$15,000
 - City of LA Cabrillo Beach Pier Fishing Program \$15,000
 - LA Rod and Reel Club Foundation \$10,000
 - Continue to fund sponsorship of Youth fishing events

- Continue to fund Ad-free Ustream for the Huntington Beach wetlands fish webcam
 - Monthly at \$99/month (\$1188/year) - No contract monthly payments
 - Used more than 100 viewer hours only in September and October 2014
 - Gabrielle will continue to monitor hourly usage for the next few months to see if there is a need to increase to the next plan (\$6,000/year) or find a new provider.

- MSRP Website

The WordPress template for the website is from a 2009 template, even though the website was redone in 2011. There are issues with the old version of the template and the plan is to update the platform that will increase functionality. There is a dedicated NOAA website developer/content manager. There is no cost for this.

The entire DARRP website is being overhauled and this will include the MSRP website. The same format will be retained. Comments noted that the old webpage has a nice look; however the widget boxes are limited. Gabrielle will try to keep the same look.

- CSULB Intern

Continuing in 2015 (\$19,238)

Funds cover 4 interns total. 1 interns each for 20 hours per week for 10 weeks in the spring and fall

1 intern for 20 hours a week over 10 weeks and 1 intern for 30 hours week for 12 weeks in the summer

Intern duties:

Fishcam cleaning, Facebook posts, classroom presentations, google analytics reports

Discussion was held on the MSRP Fishing Outreach Mini grants. Remaining funds in fishing restoration category are \$234, 849. At the current funding rate of \$60,000 per year, MSRP could support four more years of the Fishing Outreach Program. The goal is to have a strategy for extending the life of the program beyond 4 years (i.e. other grants, supply materials for longer, etc.).

Holly Gellerman asked if different age levels are being reached by the youth fishing groups. The age levels participating range from age 7 to age 16.

All groups have matching funds except for SEA Lab. The Marina Del Rey Anglers do their own fundraising and they provide a 1:1 match of the MSRP grant. City of Los Angeles and the LA Rod and Reel Club provide 1:1 matches as well.

Kate Faulkner suggested telling the programs a 50/50 match would be required in upcoming years of the program. Jennifer Boyce proposed having a discussion on how they can extend the programs beyond four years by requesting fewer funds each year and find out if they can come up with a way to fundraise or apply for other grants to cover the remaining portions.

Bald Eagle Video discussion – Chris Plaisted

Chris Plaisted addressed an issue with the two Bald Eagle Videos that MSRP funded. One is a short 13 minute video shown at Channel Island Visitor Center and streaming on YouTube. The 28-minute video was shown on PBS. In the NFWF agreement these were the two deliverables from the producer Kevin White. The educational study guide that Gabrielle Dorr and Kevin White designed accompanies the 28-minute video. Currently those who want to use the study guide (teachers) are required to purchase the video from Kevin White. This raised the issue about having a MSRP product that requires schools to pay to get the copy of the item.

This raised issues of ownership of the materials and the public having to buy a government outreach product from a private vendor. Chris Plaisted noted that it would not be objectionable for the government to pay for materials to be distributed to the public; however, it is potentially problematic to make members of the public pay for a government outreach product.

As a short-term fix, Gabrielle Dorr would see what the demand is for the video and provide free copies upon request from the public (primarily educational institutions). She would also remove the note in the study guide directing video requests to Kevin White. This would apply to the online version and any future printings.

It was noted that the NPS sells educational videos in their visitor centers. NPS pays for the production of the film and the non-profit foundation has permission to sell the DVD. Jen also noted that a similar issue arose in American Trader, where the trustees entered into a written agreement with a filmmaker to permit sales of a trustee-funded video.

Gabrielle will look into a private YouTube channel.

Approving Outreach Items

Jennifer Boyce reviewed each line item for the Outreach budget. Kate Faulkner will get back to Jennifer Boyce if the NPS outreach staff line item should remain.

Discussion was held about press trips with the consensus being there is no need to budget for this unless there is specific interest from a reporter. The budget line item for press trips will be kept in for future reference. .

Fish Projects Update – David Witting

Kelp Forest Restoration – Palos Verdes

Current work on this project is focusing on two sites: Honeymoon Cove and Underwater Arch, both in Palos Verdes. The two sites have approximately 10 acres and 13 acres of urchin barren. To date, about 6.7 acres have been cleared at Honeymoon Cove and 5.9 acres have been cleared at Underwater Arch, for a total of about 16 acres cleared. Three organizations are in the water working on this project: (1) The Bay Foundation (formerly Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation) is doing pre and post monitoring, spending 250 hours in the water and 40 hours doing restoration. Monitoring is important to estimate the number of urchins being removed, which is part of the permit. (2) LA Waterkeeper: largely volunteer divers who have spent 480 hours in the water; (3) Commercial urchin divers. David Witting reported the commercial divers' work is more effective than the volunteer divers. Tom Ford is aware of the situation. Even though they are volunteer divers there is significant funding needed to support the volunteer diving program.

Almost two million urchins have been removed. Pre restoration urchin densities were 34 per square meter at Underwater Arch and 42 per square meter at Honeymoon Cove. The commercially important Red urchin gonads have already increased by 30% in the restoration areas. This increase in gonad size means that the restored areas are now viable fishing areas for commercial urchin divers..

The goals for 2015 are to complete the clearing of Honeymoon Cove and Underwater Arch (about 23 acres) and begin two new sites that total about 35 acres combined: Marguerite which is 12.82 acres and Hawthorne Reef, 22.14 acres.

David Witting shared maps of Honeymoon Cove showing the block guides used by the urchin divers. Post restoration density maps for both sites were shown.

Dan Pondella's group is doing the response monitoring gathering data on possible predators to the urchins. Once the kelp forests are healthy, the abundance of urchin predators will increase. The restored areas will be used to compare with unrestored barrens in marine reserves.

- **LA Times** – August 12, 2013 – “Helping kelp now an urchin matter”
- **KPCC** – August 16, 2013 – “Beachcombing: To grow a new kelp forest, coastal partners remove urchins along Palos Verdes Peninsula”
- **Voice of America** – August 20, 2013 “Scientists work to save disappearing kelp forests”
- **ABC7** – “Sea urchins threatening kelp off Palos Verdes”
- **PV News** – September 5, 2013 – “Restoration effort revives kelp forest”
- **KPCC** – September 9, 2013 – “Genetic study shows once plentiful green abalone could thrive again along Southern California coast”
- **KCRW** – September 16, 2013 – “Divers restore kelp forest off Palos Verdes”
- Palos Verdes Patch – October 18, 2013 – “Work has begun to restore kelp forests”
- **ECO** – January/February 2014 (page 26) – “Kelp Restoration Project Benefits Underwater Life”
- **Belmont Shore Patch** – March 13, 2014 – “Palos Verdes Peninsula: Kelp Bouncing Back After Urchin Purge”
- **KLOS** – April 20, 2014 – “Spotlight on the Community”
- **Bitesize TV** – April 22, 2014 – Ed Begley's “Hollywood Goes Green” Marathon

- *Alert Diver* – May 2014 – “How to (Re)Build a Kelp Forest”
- *NOAA’s Response and Restoration Blog* – June 12, 2014 - See Restoration Action in California’s Kelp Forests
- *Daily Breeze* - August 13th 2014 – “Divers hammer thousands of urchins to save Palos Verdes kelp forests”
- *National Geographic News Watch August 19th 2014* – “Longtime Sea Urchin Diving Partners Lead the Way in Sea Kelp Restoration, Technology and Collaboration”
- *Mother Nature Network* – September 25, 2014 – “Why Divers are restoring California’s Kelp forests”

The project is getting international attention with urchin barren issues in Japan.

Rocky Reef Restoration Project –Bunker Point – Dave Witting

2014 Updates

A recent meeting with the California Coastal Commission went well. The initial site surveys for the Bunker Point project are completed. A kick off meeting with permitting agencies was held. During the meeting, the issue of ownership was raised.

Southern California Marine Institute has agreed to own the reef and they have submitted their lease application to the California State Lands Commission. Discussion was held about processing fees with California State Lands Commission. Sarah Mongano will discuss this project with her agency and requested further discussion regarding the California Environmental Quality Act [CEQA] document. An agreement needs to be reached as to what level of review is required for a joint CEQA/NEPA document. Dave Witting plans to meet early in the process with the Air Quality Management District [AQMD] to discuss air quality impacts of reef construction. A CSLC staff member person needs to be involved in the process of preparing the state and federal regulatory documents. Emissions were calculated for the Belmont Pier Artificial Reef project and this data might be helpful for Bunker Point.

Plans for 2015

- Finalize the terms of the lease agreement
- The major focus will be on the NEPA CEQA document preparation
- Follow up on the results of sediment surveys (risk of burial assessment)
 - Sediment contamination surveys will need to be done so that it will be known that no contaminated sediment will be redistributed. No sediment samples are taken within 30 meters in shore.
- Identify the source of materials for the reef (most probably rock from Catalina however other alternatives will be identified.)
- Plan the construction schedule
- Prepare the reef construction RFP
- Public meetings are targeted for 2015

A detailed kelp budget is available for review.

Jennifer Boyce reviewed the fishing restoration page and line by line budget items. Noted was the advance funding allocated for the Bunker Point Rocky Reef Project in TCR 14-2 on the summary page.

The fish webcam solar panel will need to be replaced. An amount for this is included in the fish budget.

Council members had no questions on the fish budget page.

Question was raised if the CIES seabird page could be separate like the fish budget. Annie Little prefers to keep the level of detail on the seabird page as it is. Patty Velez agreed either way. As long as the seabird info is provided in detail there could be a consistent format. The breakdowns and supporting details will be provided.

Council members appreciated Annie Little's level of detail of the seabird budgets as they are summarized. Only totals for seabird and other details will be provided separately.

Carol Roberts asked about LA Waterkeeper budget stating the dive rate safety officer flat rate unit is unclear. Dave Witting clarified the 12 is for "12 months". There is a minimum for OSHA that requires for scientific diving standards that includes a dive safety officer. AAUS membership fee is included for this reason.

The research vessel operations unit is 72 days. Dave Witting will clarify the units in the budget format. Tom Ford is also looking for other sources of funding to keep the program going.

Kate Faulkner asked if the info from the project will be published. Per Dave Witting, there are 2-3 publications already out and the plan is to publish multiple articles. Tom Ford has started a journal called "Urban Coasts". The project could be a model for future mitigation work.

Belmont Pier Artificial Reef Project

This project currently has no proponent and is longer being pursued.

The City of Long Beach [COLB] voiced a reluctance to own the reef, which creates an existential problem for the project. Clear ownership and financial responsibility must exist in order to get the appropriate permits for this type of project, and this no longer seems feasible. No trustee agencies can take ownership, and Dave Witting has been unable to identify any potential non-governmental owners. Also, the support contract has expired. To bring the project back, a new support contract would need to be drawn up.

Approximately \$250,000 has been spent on this project to date. The project cancellation will allow \$2.5M to be put back into the budget. The consensus was to use the funds for more productive efforts. The Bunker Point Reef project has an active and supportive partner in comparison. Chris Plaisted and Lisa Wolf-Kolbe will review the MSRP Restoration Plan language to address the funding being moved elsewhere.

Chris Plaisted will contact the COLB and officially advise them the project is not moving forward.

Trustee Council 2015 Budget Page – Jennifer Boyce

Jennifer Boyce reviewed the Trustee Council and MSRO Office budgets page, line by line. The following changes were discussed:

CDFW - Reduce the Admin line item from 60 hours to 30 hours

CDFW - Reduce Kathy Verue Slater's hours from 20 hours to 10 hours

CSLC - Suggestion was made to indicate a separate line for the Bunker Point project in the

No other questions noted. Unused funds with the California Department of Parks and Recreation were discussed. Jennifer Boyce will make contact with Suzanne Goode to see about returning the money to the fund.

Jennifer Boyce reviewed the 2015 Budget Summary page, noting money previously distributed with Trustee Council Resolutions. NOAA will use \$1M in carryover funds in 2015.

Annie Little will draft the budget disbursement memo in time to make the January submittal. Trustee Council member signatures will be needed before the holidays in December.

Kate Faulkner stated she would write a NPS staff resolution regarding work on MSRP cost packages. A temporary person will do the work on the Montrose cost packages and the permanent staff will help as needed but will not charge their time against base pay.

The November council call is cancelled. The next call will be in December 2014.

