

**Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary
Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
March 21, 2001
Skidaway Institute of Oceanography
Savannah, GA**

Attendance:

SAC Members Present: Jim Henry, Judy Wright, Doug Rader, Bing Phillips, Henry Ansley, Dave Cinalli, Joe Kimmel, Matt Gilligan, Patty McIntosh, Ann Frick, George Sedberry

NOAA Gray's Reef staff in attendance: Reed Bohne, Marcy Lee, Cathy Sakas, Becky Shortland, Alex Score, and Ralph Rogers

Other NOAA staff in attendance: Tom Culliton, Tim Goodspeed

Public in Attendance: None

Distributed Materials: One packet including

- * Agenda
- * January 23, 2001 meeting minutes
- * Strategy evaluation matrix
- * Criteria
- * Criteria definitions
- * Gray's Reef Goals and Objectives
- * List of Prohibited Activities
- * Chair's comments at SAC workshop
- * Visitors center brochure
- * Research coordinators workshop report
- * MPA update

Chairman Jim Henry called the meeting to order and minutes were approved from the January 23, 2001, SAC meeting. The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes or additions.

Strategy Evaluation

Reed Bohne reviewed the proposed purposes and methods to evaluate the strategies that have been compiled from the Sanctuary Habitat Conservation and Sanctuary Species Conservation workshops. Tom Culliton and Tim Goodspeed will facilitate the exercise, which is expected to take up the majority of the day. In order, to better prepare for the upcoming research workshop, some strategies may not be discussed today that pertain to education and enforcement.

Tim Goodspeed explained the worksheets and asked SAC members for any corrections or additions. SAC members believed that two criteria should be added to the worksheet: Institutional Complexity and Visibility.

Becky Shortland read each strategy and offered some additional guidance on the intent of each idea. Tom Culliton led the SAC members through each question/criteria asking SAC members to assign a value in each box on the worksheet. Staff emphasized that the exercise of scoring was

primarily to promote discussion about the strategies. The actual scores themselves are much less important in the overall evaluation.

Due to an unexpected appointment, Chairman Jim Henry left the meeting soon after lunch; Vice-chair Matt Gilligan continued the meeting as the remainder of strategies were reviewed and evaluated.

Old Business

Matt Gilligan then moved to address old business on the agenda. Tim Goodspeed spoke highly of the SAC chairs/coordinators workshop held at the end of January. Reed Bohne noted that the report from the Research Coordinators Workshop was included in distributed materials, and Becky Shortland also mentioned that an update on NOAA's Marine Protected Areas initiative was also included. The group discussed the upcoming programmatic workshops and their content. The research workshop is scheduled for April 11-12, 2001, in Savannah. The education workshop is tentatively scheduled for May 17, and the enforcement workshop for May 24; locations and other logistics have not been determined.

Reed Bohne gave a brief update on the status of the visitor's center concept for Savannah. There continues to be a great deal of support for the concept among Savannah leaders.

Reed Bohne also noted that the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council would be hosting scoping meetings in May to gain public input on potential marine protected areas. Meetings are scheduled for May 15th in Brunswick, and May 16th in Savannah. Meetings will also be held in South Carolina, Florida and North Carolina.

Becky Shortland updated the group on Rod Ehler's socioeconomic profile. Thanks are due to Doug Rader for encouraging a group of Duke University graduate students (to study) in Gray's Reef. The students have proposed a survey of recreational fishermen to gather additional user information that is important for the profile. Reed Bohne mentioned the possibility of combining efforts with Savannah State University.

Cathy Sakas announced the Gray's Reef Ocean Festival slated for April 28th on River Street in Savannah. She also mentioned the outreach efforts on local radio stations, as well as the Rivers to Reef series on public radio.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Matt Gilligan announced that SSU Intern Michelle Duncan is attending the "Expanding Opportunities in Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences" conference at Jackson State to promote minority participation in marine sciences.

Tim Goodspeed and Tom Culliton thanked all SAC members for a very productive meeting.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, June 28, 2001. The location will be determined soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m.