

Sean Hastings

Challenges and Successes of Using Citizen Participation in Establishing a National Marine Sanctuary in California

Biography

Sean Hastings is the Resource Protection Coordinator at NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. He is responsible for reviewing and commenting on pressing issues and uses that effect protection of Sanctuary resources i.e. offshore oil development, military activity, commercial and recreational uses of the Sanctuary. Sean has a Master of Marine Affairs Degree with a concentration in coastal zone management from the School of Marine Affairs at the University of Washington and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies , University of California at Santa Cruz. In 1998 Sean was nominated as a Presidential Management Intern and served two years at the Sanctuary office in Santa Barbara, primarily working on a community based process to establish marine reserves.

Presentation Abstract

Marine reserves, or "no take zones" are an increasingly popular resource management and protection tool worldwide. On the west coast of North America, California has emerged as a test case for establishing marine reserves through a suite of processes, including State legislation, federal and state agency actions and citizen inspired proposals. In a new era of ecosystem-based management, it is essential that affected communities are closely involved in reserve creation and that science based methods of design and implementation be employed.

In an effort to bridge sound ecological and economic sciences, community involvement and agency coordination, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and the California Department of Fish and Game initiated a process to consider the establishment of marine reserves in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

The following discussion addresses the fundamental aspects, challenges and successes encountered in the Channel Islands marine reserve process. Careful review of the process will hopefully offer insight to other marine reserves processes. Lessons discussed relate to: consensus building with a stakeholder-based working group; the importance of agency support and flexibility; development of clear goals and objectives; collection and

interpretation of scientific and socio-economic data; outreach to the general public; addressing fears, expectations, uncertainty, trust and communication challenges between and among involved stakeholders.