Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area

Criterion 1: Cultural Importance of Cetaceans

- Cetaceans species within the Whale Heritage Area are of exceptional cultural importance and key features of the local community's identity

Indicators:

1.1 Cultural heritage links people to cetaceans demonstrating an understanding and on- going respect for cetaceans and habitats.

- Written, recorded, or illustrated evidence of cetaceans communicated through religious or cultural beliefs.
  - Syuxtun Story Circle on Cabrillo Blvd, Santa Barbara
    Across from Ambassador Park, near West Beach in Santa Barbara, California, a 20-foot-wide mosaic sits on the village site of Syuxtun (also spelled Syuxhtun), the largest Chumash settlement spanning all of the Chumash lands. The story circle features 21 separate panels, depicting aspects of Chumash religion, history, present, and future. The mosaic was a community-based project, emphasizing the importance of togetherness and connection through time and space.
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cImDxSIGQek&t=1s
    https://theclio.com/entry/130791
    https://www.independent.com/2009/11/05/within-syuxtun-story-circle/

- Audio, video or written recordings of local or traditional ecological knowledge.
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's website: 'Elevating Chumash Values and Traditional Ecological Knowledge at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.'
    https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jan21/elevating-chumash-values.htm
  - Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation: The Chumash culture has been considered one of the most unique and advanced in the continent, and there is much to learn from a people who understand the relationship between humankind and earth's natural resources; they both feared and respected the natural world as their greatest teacher of Traditional Knowledge, for they knew then and know now that all our lived depend on it for survival.
    https://www.wishtoyo.org/cp-chumash-history
  - Ethnohistory of the Chumash Islanders with Dr. John Johnson from Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lFcSzA_5_l0

- Documents proving that cultural heritage linked with cetaceans is embedded into school or further education curriculums, or through school outreach programs.
  - Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's 'Maritime on the Move program in Carpinteria. Picture of kids in life size tomol.
  - The Chumash People: Materials for Teachers and Students, including page 23, Chumash uses of Natural Materials
    https://www.sbnature.org/collections-research/publications/14/the-chumash-people-materials-for-teachers-and-students
  - Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Education Programs on Chumash Myths, Games, and Dances. The Swordfish Dance was one of the most important held at ceremonies. The dancer wore an actual swordfish skull decorated with shell inlay, or a headdress to symbolize the 'sword.' The Swordfish was given offerings of beads and other gifts because he was believed to be the chief of all sea animals. When whales were stranded on the shore, they were said to have been

driven ashore by Swordfish as food for the people. In fact, swordfish sometimes are known to attack whales, so this Chumash 'myth' was founded upon direct observation.
https://www.sbnature.org/collections-research/anthropology/chumash-life/myths-games-and-dances

- Evidence of traditional or indigenous culture linking people with cetaceans being recorded and shared.
  - Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's 'Conversation with a Curator: Whales' Tales' Curator of Anthropology John R. Johnson, Ph.D., describes how whales were depicted in Native American art on the West Coast, and how Chumash Indians and other Native Americans interacted with the leviathans of the sea. He shares some of the Museum's related artifacts.
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wZVNNCKjMhU

1.2 The presentation and interpretation of cultural heritage that is linked to cetaceans is respectful and sensitive to those living and working in the Whale Heritage Area

- Promotional materials and/or contracts demonstrating the involvement of local and indigenous communities in developing and delivering cultural heritage experiences.
  - The Chumash People: Our Ancestors' Gift Across Time: A Story of Indigenous Maritime Culture Resurgence"- Pdf uploaded
    https://nmschannelislands.blob.core.windows.net/channelislands-prod/media/archive/maritime/pdfs/chumash.pdf

- Evidence of local participating and feedback on the planning of new (or changes to existing) cultural heritage experiences, interpretation, and presentation linked to cetaceans
  - Public event: "Revisiting Island of the Blue Dolphins" on Aug 15, 2023 at Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
    Welcome to the revisitation of Scott O'Dell's Island of the Blue Dolphins from a variety of critical perspectives that illuminate the story of the historical figure who has been called the Lone Woman of San Nicolas Island.
    https://www.sbnature.org/visit/calendar/7386/revisiting-island-of-the-blue-dolphins

- Written or illustrative guidelines ensure that volunteering and engagement with local people via cultural heritage linked to cetaceans is ethical and does not involve intrusion or exploitation.
  - Cultural Card: A Guide to Build Cultural Awareness. American Indian and Alaska Native. This guide was given to all employees and volunteers at the Channel Islands National Park-July 2023

1.3 Efforts are in place to continually revive, reimagine, and enhance cultural heritage linking people to cetaceans.

- Planning documents describing concepts for new artistic interpretations linking cetaceans and people.
  - Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's exhibit, 'Whales are Superhereos'. Uploaded is a pdf of the exhibit and a two separate word documents of the planning of the exhibit back in 2021-2022.

- Photographs, videos or audio recordings demonstrating contemporary interpretation of cultural heritage linked to cetaceans
  - Channel Islands National Park's website: *Limuw: A Story of Place*
    This Chumash creation describes Limuw (Santa Cruz Island) as the birthplace of the Chumash people. Told by Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, Chumash elder.
    https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/historyculture/limuw.htm
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's website: Chumash Heritage:
    https://channelislands.noaa.gov/maritime/chumash.html

- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's website: Chumash Heritage: *'Homecoming : Journey to Limuw'*
  Every year, members of the Chumash community undertake a tradition tomol journey to their homeland in Limuw, now also known as Santa Cruz Island. "Paddling in, there's no other homecoming like that," says paddler Eva Pagaling. Hear the Chumash paddler's stories in this Story from the Blue.
  https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/wk259-stories-from-the-blue-chumash.html

1.4 The community regularly monitors the impact of the cultural heritage linked to cetaceans and takes action to strengthen that impacted based on the latest evidence.

- A monitoring/feedback system is in place to capture how cultural heritage positively impacts people's relationship and connection to cetaceans and nature.
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) Advisory Council: Chumash Community Working Group
    The CINMS is a community-based body that provides a public forum for consultation and deliberation on resource management issues affecting the waters surrounding the Channel Islands.
    CINMS is a place of important cultural significance for the Chumash people. The Chumash Community Working Group advises and makes recommendations to Sanctuary Advisory Council concerning Chumash community-related issues, activities, or interests at or near the Channel Islands.
    https://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/
- Evidence that the desired outcomes of heritage-based projects are factored into evaluation
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's 2023 Management Plan- two-page summary
    'Enhancing collaboration with Chumash community partners, including respectfully inviting greater involvement and supporting use of traditional ecological knowledge.
    https://channelislands.noaa.gov/manage/plan/

Other References/resources:

1. Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians Education Department
2. Power in Nature: Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary:
   https://www.powerinnature.org/places/chumash-heritage-national-marine-sanctuary/
3. Wishtoyo Chumash Foundation:
   https://www.wishtoyo.org/chumash-cultural-preservation-programs
4. Channel Islands National Park: Native Inhabitants
   https://home.nps.gov/chis/learn/historyculture/nativeinhabitants.htm
5. Museum of Ventura County: In the Spirit of Our Ancestors: Chumash Tour
   https://venturamuseum.org/ventura-museum-tours-group-visits/
6. California Academy of Sciences: California Indian Canoe Traditions
   https://www.calacademy.org/events/programs/california-indian-canoe-traditions#:~:text=Different%20stories%20say%20that%20the,with%20their%20shape%20and%20images.
7. Seattle Art Museum: Object of the Week: Whale Effigy Charm
   https://samblog.seattleartmuseum.org/2018/08/whale-effigy-charm/
8. NPR's Science Friday: Chumash Tribe Champions National Marine Sanctuary
   https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/chumash-tribe-marine-sanctuary/
9. Understanding the Ecological Diversity of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary:
   https://www.lenfestocean.org/en/research-projects/understanding-the-ecological-diversity-of-the-chumash-heritage-national-marine-sanctuary