**Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area**

Criterion 2: Respectful Human-Cetacean Coexistence

- The community working to protect the Whale Heritage Area has developed a responsible framework to manage the relationship between people and cetaceans.

Indicators:

2.1 The community works collaboratively to ensure cetaceans are protected through research, nature conservation, regenerating biodiversity, and safeguarding individual animals from harm.

- Published list of protected sites and assets, indicating type of conservation status and vulnerability.
  - Santa Barbara Channelkeeper's (SBCK) map of Marine Protected Areas in the Santa Barbara Channel. *Map uploaded*
    https://www.sbck.org/our-work/advocacy/marine-protected-areas/
  - SBCK's list of individual MPA, listing conservation status and species assets. Example, Anacapa Island MPAs:
    https://www.sbck.org/explore-your-mpa/anacapa-mpa-profile/
  - Channel Islands National Park's Marine Protected Areas. *Map uploaded*
    https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/nature/marine-protected-areas.htm

- Legislation designed to protect cetaceans from harm
  - NOAA's Fisheries Marine Mammal Protection Act. *Screen grab of homepage uploaded*
    https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/marine-mammal-protection

    https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/topic/laws-policies/marine-mammal-protection-act

- Proof of communication with visitors, local people and other stakeholders to reduce the spread of alien species. *Uploaded screen grab from Channel Islands National Park's website and uploaded a short video*
  - Channel Islands National Park's Biosecurity
    https://www.nps.gov/chis/planyourvisit/biosecurity.htm
  - Channel Islands National Park's Superintendent, Ethan McKinley and Juliana Matos's webinar on 'General and Biosecurity Program Updates for Channel Islands National Park'
    https://vimeo.com/526225670

- Published scientific papers and academic reports describe the conservation of protection of species in relation to impacts or benefits to the broader ecosystem.
  - Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies initiative. By creating seasonal and predictable slow speed zones, this program helps companies protect endangered whales, reduce fuel use and regional greenhouse gas emissions, and improve air quality and human health outcomes. *Uploaded screen grab of home page and link for 7 minute video explaining the program.*
    https://www.bluewhalesblueskies.org/

    Video: Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies
    https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ryrM-PpA2wg&t=6s

    Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Report on 2014 Vessel Speed Reduction Incentive Trail in the Santa Barbara Channel *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://www.ourair.org/wp-content/uploads/VSR-Trial-Report-revApril2016.pdf

- Published paper: 'Evaluating Adherence with Voluntary Slow Speed Initiatives to Protect Endangered Whales' *Uploaded screen grab*
  https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2022.833206/full

- Published paper in Marine Policy: "Managed and unmanaged whale mortality in California Current Ecosystem.
  *Uploaded screen grab*
  https://www.ecomagazine.com/news/policy/to-save-california-s-whales-put-overlooked-threats-into-policy

- Measures or policies designed to achieve conservation objectives take into account animal welfare concerns, and vise versa.
  - Press release from January 2023: New Protection for endangered whales along the California coast adopted. Changes include shipping lane adjustments, expanded area to avoid. *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://www.noaa.gov/news-release/new-protections-for-endangered-whales-along-california-coast-adopted

2.2 The community raises awareness about the protection of cetaceans, including ways for everybody to help contribute to solutions.

- Evidence of education resources and strategy.
  - Website for Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area, already created with information on citizen science opportunities (Happy Whale), whale watching opportunities, and information about the cetaceans of the Santa Barbara Channel. *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://www.sbwhaleheritage.org
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's Outreach, 'Protecting your Channel Islands' Brochure. *Uploaded pdf of brochure*
    https://nmschannelislands.blob.core.windows.net/channelislands-prod/media/docs/2018-protecting-your-channel-islands.pdf
  - Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's 'Whales are Superheroes' exhibit and programs
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://sbmm.org/maritime-museum-exhibits/whales-are-superheroes/

- Evidence that learning about the importance of local cetaceans forms part of the school curriculum.
  - National Marine Sanctuaries' Lesson Plans and Activities for teachers and students to learn and gain a better understanding of whales, the impacts whales face, and the role we have in protecting these species. *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education/teachers/whales/lesson-plans-activites.html
  - Canalino Elementary and Carpinteria Family School's project, 'Whales Come to Life' February 2023
    https://www.coastalview.com/news/canalino-whales-come-to-life/article_06eebf14-a327-11ed-b945-27576ea10c10.html
    Wonderful 8 minute Video, 'Breach'!
    https://vimeo.com/793413789

2.3 The community influences the protection of cetaceans through strategies that are based on practical, scientific, or traditional knowledge.

- Ongoing long-term independent conservation-research delivered by a number of stakeholder, including NGOs, academic institutions, and government bodies

- Cascadia Research Collective's Humpback and Blue Whale Photo-ID Project- US West Coast, including the Santa Barbara Channel. *Uploaded screen grab*
  https://cascadiaresearch.org/project/photo-id/

- Citizen science projects run collaboratively and involving tourism business
  - Whale Alert App *Upload screen grab*
    https://www.whalealert.org/
  - Happy Whale- uploads from Condor Express whale watching trips *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://happywhale.com/org/22
  - Happy Whale-uploads from Island Packers *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://happywhale.com/org/21
  - Benioff Ocean Science Laboratory, University of California-Santa Barbara
    *Uploaded Whale Safe screen grab*
    Mission to restore the health of the ocean by leveraging the power of science, technology, and collaboration to develop replicable and scalable solutions. Their collaborative project-Whale Safe-Preventing fatal ship collisions with endangered whales using AI-powered ocean sensors, big data models, citizen science, and ship tracking data.
    https://bosl.ucsb.edu/

2.4 The community recognizes that there may be differences in opinion, interests, or values related to the protection of cetaceans, and meets this challenge through continual dialogue, collaboration, and mediation where necessary.

- Methods are in place to ensure certain individuals, or elites with greater power, cannot dominate the decision-making process, leading to harmony and wider consensus within the community
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's Advisor Council *Uploaded screen grab*
    The CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council 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.
    https://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/
  - Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Board of Directors and Advisory Council
    SBMM is the fiscal sponsor for the Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://sbmm.org/maritime-museum-board-of-directors/

- Membership of decision making bodies includes increased representation of women and minority groups
  - Steering Committee for Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area- So far we have 14 community and advisory members and 9 are women. *Screen grab of google spreadsheet*
  - Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Board of Trustees
    *Screen grab*
    https://www.sbnature.org/about/board/

2.5 The community supports and implements sustainability and environmental initiatives that have a positive impact on cetaceans and the marine environment.

- Research to understand environmental impacts on cetaceans as part of the efforts to reduce them
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's Soundscape Research
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://channelislands.noaa.gov/research/soundscape.html
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's Water Quality Research
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/sentinel-site-program/channel-islands/water-quality.html

- Channel Islands Cetacean Research Unit (CICRU) *Uploaded screen grab*
  CICRU strives to assess the man-made and natural detriments to whales, dolphins, and porpoises in and around the Santa Barbara Channel.
  https://www.cicru.org/

- Implementation of measures to encourage reduction in energy use and adoption of renewable technologies.
  - City of Santa Barbara Sustainability and Resilience
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://sustainability.santabarbaraca.gov/sb-clean-energy/
  - Environmental Defense Center's Climate and Energy initiatives
    Uploaded screen grab
    https://www.environmentaldefensecenter.org/programs_post_type/climate-energy/
  - Condor Express, whale watching boat in Santa Barbara
    In 2020, the Condor Express was re-powered with four brand new 700 horsepower Scania Diesel engines, making it faster and more efficient. Specifically designed with wildlife in mind, the boat is propelled by 4 large Hamilton jets. There are no propellers or sharp rudders underneath, making the boat completely whale and dolphin safe. *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://www.condorexpress.com/the-condor-express-vessel

- Implementation of measures to reduce plastics, discard fishing gear and other solid waste entering waterways
  - The Log- article, 'More fishing line recycling stations popping up around Southern CA, including Santa Barbara and Ventura harbors.
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://www.thelog.com/local/more-fishing-line-recycling-stations-popping-up-around-southern-california/
  - Support letter from Jamie Diamond, CEO/General Manager of Santa Barbara Landing
    "Santa Barbara Landing recognizes its responsibility as gatekeeper to the world-renowned northern Channel Islands, SBL pledges to maintain sustainable practices among our fleet, prioritizing conservation of our oceans and land. We have repowered three of our five vessels to EPA tier 3 marine engines. We were the first sportfishing boats and landing on the west coast to implement fishing line recycling receptacles. Our boats are stocked with almost entirely recyclable products. We partner with California Department of fish and wildlife, NOAA National Marine Fisheries, NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries, The Nature Conservancy, Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Channel Islands Marine Mammal Institute, and many others to support scientific research, education, and outreach."
    Uploaded Jamie's Support Letter for the designation of SBCWHA

- Evidence that interpretative cetacean/wildlife material has been well researched and is accurate
  - Channel Islands National Park's website-Marine Animals
    Uploaded screen grab
    https://www.nps.gov/chis/learn/nature/marine-animals.htm
  - Santa Barbara Channel Whale Heritage Area's website-Meet the Cetaceans
    Uploaded screen grab
    https://www.sbwhaleheritage.org/meet-our-cetaceans/

- Art and Craft projects utilizing local sustainable sustainable materials.
  - Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Science Night: Whales are Superheroes
    Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's education team participated as an exhibitor in Science Night for 8 different elementary schools in the county during the 2022-2023 school year. Each exhibitor had a classroom to hold an activity and lesson related to their organization. SBMM and over 650

students of all ages made “no-sew whales” from recycled table linens and locally sourced fabric scraps followed by a lesson about whales' importance to our ecosystem. They all went home with ‘Whales Science Night Booklet’. *Uploaded 2 pictures and pdf of bookel*

2.6 The community regularly monitors the health and protection of cetacean populations and adopts strategies based on the latest evidence.

- Evidence of on-going science based monitoring of cetacean populations and the habitats they depend on.
  - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary’s Aircraft Surveys
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://channelislands.noaa.gov/science/field-operations/aircraft-surveys.html
  - Channel Islands Marine and Wildlife Institute- committed to conducting research on the causes and illness and injury to marine mammals.
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://www.cimwi.org/research
  - Whale Safe-2018 and 2019 were the worse years on record for whale-ship collisions off the West Coast of the United States. Using real time information provided by citizen scientists using whale alert app, the goal is using technology-based mapping to prevent fatal ship collisions with whales.
    *Uploaded screen grab*
    https://www.citizenscience.gov/catalog/203/#

- Evidence of citizen-science focused projects encouraging community engagement and feedback
  - Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary’s Naturalist Corps Volunteer program
    *Uploaded screen grabs for both website*
    https://www.nps.gov/chis/getinvolved/supportyourpark/channel-islands-naturalist-corps.htm
    https://channelislands.noaa.gov/involved/apply.html