



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Office Report



Volume 12, Number 5

A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or Sanctuary) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, MBNMS encompasses a shoreline of 276 miles and 6,094 square statute miles of ocean.

Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education and public use of this national treasure.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS) NEWS

NOAA declares deaths of large whales in Gulf of Alaska an unusual mortality event

NOAA is declaring the recent deaths of 30 large whales in the western Gulf of Alaska an "unusual mortality event," triggering a focused, expert investigation into the cause. An unusual mortality event is a stranding event that is unexpected, involves a significant die-off of a marine mammal population, and demands immediate response.

Since May 2015, 11 fin whales, 14 humpback whales, one gray whale, and four unidentified cetaceans have stranded around the islands of the western Gulf of Alaska and the southern shoreline of the Alaska Peninsula. To date, this brings the large whale strandings for this region to almost three times the historical average.

<http://alaskafisheries.noaa.gov/newsreleases/2015/whales-ume082015.htm>

NOAA's new Climate Science Strategy aims to reduce effects of climate change on fisheries and living marine resources

As ocean conditions continue to change, putting ocean ecosystems and the communities that rely upon them at risk, today, NOAA took a first step in providing regional fisheries managers and stakeholders with information they need to reduce the effects of climate change and build resilience.

"NOAA just announced that for the globe the month of July — and actually, the entire year so far — was the warmest ever recorded, driven largely by record warm ocean temperatures," said Eileen Sobock, assistant NOAA administrator for fisheries. "Those warmer waters — along with rising seas, coastal droughts and ocean acidification — are already putting people, businesses, and communities at risk. With this strategy, we're taking a proactive approach in providing information on current and future conditions to try and reduce impacts and increase our resilience."

The NOAA Fisheries Climate Science Strategy identifies seven key steps to increase production, delivery, and use of climate-related information to support the management of fish stocks, fisheries, and protected species. The steps focus on how a changing climate affects living marine resources, ecosystems, and the communities that depend on them, and how to respond to those changes. <http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/20150825-noaa-climate-science-strategy-to-reduce-effects-climate-change.html>

El Niño may accelerate nuisance flooding

According to a new NOAA report issued today, many mid-Atlantic and West Coast communities could see the highest number of nuisance flooding days on record through April due to higher sea levels and more frequent storm surge, compounded by the strengthening El Niño, which is likely to continue into the spring.

These communities may experience a 33 to 125 percent increase in the number of nuisance flooding days, the report said. These findings build upon two nuisance flooding reports issued last year led by NOAA scientists William Sweet and John Marra. The previously published reports show coastal communities in the United States have experienced a rapid growth in the frequency of nuisance tidal flooding, a 300 to 925 percent increase since the 1960s, and will likely cross inundation tipping points in the coming decades as tides become higher with sea level rise.

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2015/090915-noaa-report-finds-el-nino-may-accelerate-nuisance-flooding.html>

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

FV Hal grounded off Ocean Shores, CG rescues crew

The US Coast Guard received a mayday call from the FV Hal early in the morning on August 11th. The vessel had run aground off Ocean Shores, WA, seven miles south of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The crew was successfully rescued by US Coast Guard helicopter. The US Coast Guard and Washington State Department of Ecology responded, contracting to have fuel removed from the vessel at low tide. Some amount of fuel was released into the ocean. Contracted salvors were not able to refloat the vessel, which was subsequently demolished and removed at low tide.

Unfortunately this is not an unusual event, with vessels being sunk or grounded in the sanctuary on a regular basis. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is currently compiling information on such events, to analyze causes and to consider policy recommendations to mitigate impacts to sanctuary resources.

Emergency Coral Reattachment at South Carysfort Reef

Members of the FKNMS science and buoy maintenance teams joined forces to permanently reattach the dislodged corals at South Carysfort reef, a Sanctuary Preservation Area (SPA) located approximately 6.5 miles offshore of northernmost Key Largo. The injury occurred in April 2015, when a vessel grounded on South Carysfort reef crushed non-living coral reef framework and dislodged almost two square meters of living coral colonies, primarily mustard hill coral (*Porites astreoides*) and the purple sea fan (*Gorgonia ventalina*). Following the biological injury assessment, the FKNMS science team gathered the dislodged coral heads and placed them upright within a natural crevice in the reef that would afford temporary protection. This excursion was the follow-up to relocate and re-stabilize the loose colonies. Portland cement was used as an adhesive to attach them, resulting in a bond as strong if not stronger than the coral's original attachment. Restabilizing living corals following a vessel grounding is an important step towards ensuring their continued survival, while also expediting the restoration and recovery of this portion of the coral reef ecosystem.

PMNM Announces Discovery of WWI-era Navy Tanker (MH-1.2 & 2.1; CBO-3.1)

On August 28, PMNM held a media availability at NOAA's Daniel K. Inouye Regional Center to announce the discovery of a World War II-era U.S. Navy tanker, USNS *Mission San Miguel*, which sank nearly 60 years ago after running aground on Maro Reef in the Monument. The exciting discovery was made by a team of NOAA scientists and research partners aboard NOAA Ship *Hi'ialakai* during the RAMP expedition to PMNM in August. On October 1, 1957, USNS *Mission San Miguel* departed Apra Harbor, Guam in the Mariana Islands, bound for Seattle, Washington, and ran aground on Maro Reef on October 8 while running at full speed and carrying only ballast. The Navy safely evacuated the 42-member crew. At 523 feet in length, *Mission San Miguel* is the largest ship reported lost in the Monument. All four local TV stations and the state's largest newspaper sent reporters and photographers to interview the Maritime Heritage Team involved with the discovery, as well as the Chief Scientist of the RAMP cruise, the PMNM Superintendent, and U.S. Coast Guard partners. In the first three days of issuing the announcement, the story was picked up by the Associated Press, Huffington Post, Archaeology magazine website, and covered in nearly 200 outlets, for a total calculated publicity value of over \$2.5 Million. Supporting PMNM's mission to plan and carry out coordinated field mapping surveys of selected maritime heritage sites; coordinate and participate in public outreach regarding Monument heritage resources and maritime history.

Safe Haven for Humpback Whales — Announcing the New Caribbean Netherlands “Yarari” Marine Mammal Sanctuary

SBNMS's Sister Sanctuary Program is honored to announce that the Caribbean Netherlands established the “Yarari” Marine Mammal Sanctuary. “Yarari” is a Taíno Indian word meaning “a fine place”. The sanctuary encompasses the waters surrounding the islands of Sint-Eustatius, Saba and Bonaire, including the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). These are areas, commonly defined as critical habitat for marine mammals, of particular importance for the conservation of marine mammals and especially for breeding, calving, feeding, resting, and migration behaviors. “Yarari” will be the fifth nation to become part of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Caribbean Environment Program's Marine Mammal Protected Areas Network and soon to become an SBNMS sister sanctuary partner with the formal signing of an MOU in the near future. With the addition of “Yarari” MMS, the multi-sanctuary, science-based program has increased protection for humpbacks from 2,100 sq km to 661,040 sq km over the past 8 years. For comparison, that is almost twice the size of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (362,073 sq km) -- the single largest fully protected conservation area under the U.S. flag and one of the largest marine conservation areas in the world. With education, conservation and science exchanges, this network of marine mammal sanctuaries is the first such international partnership in the world protecting one of the ocean's most iconic and beloved species throughout its migratory range. As additional sites join, this chain of sister sanctuaries will help to ensure a safer future for the endangered North Atlantic humpback whales—our international citizens.



MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



MANAGEMENT

Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries Hold Joint Advisory Council Meeting

On August 19th, the GFNMS and MBNMS Advisory Councils met and received a series of presentations and updates on whale ship strikes, the Ocean Guardian Program, and MBNMS' Management Plan Review schedule and goals, as well as the Advisory Councils' roles in the MBNMS Management Plan Review. The next Advisory Council meeting will be on October 23rd in Cambria. Sanctuary Advisory Councils are community-based advisory bodies consisting of representatives from various user groups, government agencies and the public at large. The role of the council is to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on the designation and/or operation of a national marine sanctuary.

MBNMS Hosts Public Scoping Meeting for Management Plan Review Process

On Thursday, September 10th in Monterey MBNMS staff hosted the first of four public scoping meetings to receive input on issues local communities feel sanctuary staff should consider while updating the 2008 Management Plan. 28 members of the public attended and after a presentation about the review process, schedule and issues staff had identified, provided input focused primarily on wildlife viewing issues (approach and enforcement); the need to support and improve coordination of volunteer programs; and how to improve interpretive enforcement through signage. Water quality, desalination, citizen science and species of concern were also discussed. Additional scoping meetings are planned for 9/23 in Santa Cruz, 10/14 in Half Moon Bay and 10/24 in Cambria. The public comment period will close 10/30. To access the notice of intent and the issues MBNMS staff have identified as priority, please visit http://montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/mp/2015review/pdf/150827mpr2015_noi.pdf. Please note the correct docket number is NOAA-NOS-2015-0099. Public involvement is an important part of NEPA, and is designed to ensure the public has the opportunity to comment and contribute to those decisions in an environmentally significant way.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

MBNMS Research Activity Panel Meets at Middlebury Institute of International Studies

On September 11th, the MBNMS Research Activity Panel (RAP) met at Middlebury Institute of International Studies, in Monterey, CA. Agenda items included: Social Sciences Update, Sanctuary's Spill Response Plan, Natural Resource Damage Assessment for Refugio Oil Spill, Sanctuary Advisory Council Update, and RAP Priorities and Support for Project Funding. The MBNMS Research Activity Panel (RAP) is a working group of the MBNMS Advisory Council. The RAP meets six times per year, and advises SAC and sanctuary staff on basic and conservation science issues.

Davidson Seamount publications added to recently launched NOAA's Deep-Sea Coral Data Portal

MBNMS staff provided 19 science publications, resulting from deep coral and sponge research at Davidson Seamount, to NOAA's Deep-Sea Coral Research and Technology Program for addition to the recently launched online Deep-Sea Coral Data Portal. The portal includes a map displaying the distribution of more than 300,000 deep-sea corals and sponges, underwater photos, data available for download, and reports that characterize the deep-sea coral and sponge habitats surveyed over the last decade by scientists from NOAA, other agencies, and universities. This is the most comprehensive collection of deep-sea coral and sponge records in U.S. waters. NOAA launched the Deep-Sea Coral Data portal to better serve the data needs of ocean resource managers and scientists. Data portal is available at: <https://deepseacoraldata.noaa.gov/>. Deep-sea corals and sponges provide vital habitat for numerous fish and invertebrate species. NOAA is committed to studying and conserving these areas.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Volunteers Learn More About Marine Protected Areas

On the evening of July 28th, 45 volunteers from Bay Net and Team OCEAN had a presentation on the central California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) by Lisa Emanuelson of the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation and MBNMS, and Captain Don Kelly of California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Volunteers were treated to a thorough description of all central California MPAs along with landmarks, points of interest and talking points about MPAs to help docents educate visitors about MPAs. A lively discussion between volunteers and Captain Kelly ensued over whether picking animals up for discussion with visitors constitutes a “take”. Volunteers are engaging visitors from all walks of life and all countries of the world and are not necessarily seeking out information about the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary or California’s Marine Protected Areas. By providing opportunities for volunteers to broaden their knowledge and meet local game wardens and CDFW Captains, it is hoped that visitors will gain more information about MPAs and any observed illegal activities will be reported.

Resource Protection Staff submits comment letter for Pacific Grove Draft Land Use Plan

City of Pacific Grove has been taking public comments on their draft Land Use Plan, which is a component of the Local Coastal Program, and an important process determining the future management of Pacific Grove’s coastal zone. RP staff reviewed the draft document and submitted a letter with comments, which included requesting some added language and a map regarding federal jurisdictions in the coastal zone such as the CA Coastal National Marine Monument. Also requested was added language regarding the successful and collaborative efforts between agencies to increase protections for harbor seal pupping areas, as well as cite the importance of longterm monitoring efforts for black oystercatchers in the state MPAs. The black oystercatcher is listed as a "species of high concern" in the US, Canadian, Alaskan, and Northern and Southern Pacific shorebird conservation plans. Local Coastal Plans or Programs are guidance documents for local cities and can impact the future management of living marine resources along the coastline. Pacific Grove has one of the most spectacular coastal settings with a number of sensitive species that nest, roost or pup along its beaches. It’s important for coastal agencies, including sanctuaries, to engage in their planning processes to ensure protections are included in the resulting plans.

ONMS invited to participate as a member on the MPA Statewide Leadership Team

Resource Protection Coordinator, Karen Grimmer and the West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros were invited to participate on the MPA Statewide Leadership Team, as representatives for California Sanctuaries. The group was developed to support effective management of the statewide network of MPAs and is identified as a key tool to communicate priorities agreed on by all agencies. This year, the Statewide LT is expanding participation of federal agencies that actively participate in state MPA monitoring, enforcement, education and outreach and may have an involvement at the regulatory level. Quarterly calls/meetings occur at the programmatic level, and two milestone meetings per year are held at the director level. The invitations came following a very positive meeting with the OPC Director regarding collaborative projects and further demonstrate the value of sanctuaries to the state. Collaborating and coordinating with our state partners on MPA management is key to ensuring the successful implementation of the statewide network. Since 2007, ONMS has contributed over \$8M to assist the state with MPA implementation in the areas of research and monitoring, enforcement and compliance, and education and outreach.

MBNMS Participates in Spill Exercise for Elkhorn Slough

On August 5, MBNMS Resource Protection staff participated in a multi-agency table top exercise designed to acquaint regional responders with the complexities of responding to any hazardous material spill into the Elkhorn Slough estuary (a part of MBNMS). A spill “from within” the estuary could be devastating, but past planning has focused primarily on shielding the estuary from a seaward spill “from without”. The purpose of the drill was to convey the number and identity of interested stakeholders, identify stakeholder roles in a spill, identify jurisdictional challenges, and create awareness of an emerging Elkhorn Slough Geographic Response Plan. This exercise was an important step in raising local consciousness of the significant threat and severe consequences of a potential hazardous material spill into Elkhorn Slough from the thousands of railroad cars that pass through the slough each year laden with a variety of hazardous cargos. MBNMS participation in the exercise raised awareness among participants that the slough is included within MBNMS boundaries.

Natural Resource Conservation Service California Leadership Meeting

The MBNMS Water Quality team provided input at the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) California Leadership meeting held in Monterey on 8/20/15. We discussed the ongoing role that MBNMS has played since 1999 in bringing together regional partners to educate growers and support their voluntary efforts to improve agricultural water quality. We provided an overview of the 2015 Sanctuary Condition Report and the activities of the agricultural water quality program, which receives financial support from NRCS. The MBNMS Ag and Rural Lands Action Plan (http://montereybay.noaa.gov/resourcepro/reports/agactioniv_99/ag99_issues.html), developed jointly with partner organizations, was and continues to provide guidance for our collaborative efforts. Continued support from and collaboration with NRCS is important to our ongoing efforts to work with agricultural professionals and growers in the region to improve water quality from agricultural runoff and to help reduce pollution from the watersheds that contribute to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

MBNMS Featured at *Public Water Now* Forum

On Tuesday, August 18th, the WQPP Director gave a presentation to about 50 community members regarding MBNMS regulations and role in the Monterey Bay desalination projects. Even though most were interested in talking about desalination projects, it was an opportunity to educate this group about other sanctuary related activities. There was much discussion and general information sharing. The audience was informed about the upcoming public scoping for both the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project NEPA process as well as the MBNMS management plan update. It is important to take advantage of opportunities to educate and inform diverse groups about the sanctuary program and our regulations. By having an informed community, they have a better understanding about resource protection and the process that is required to permit a desalination facility.

MBNMS participates in a California Whale Entanglement Discussion

On August 20th, a day-long California Whale Entanglement Discussion meeting was hosted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Ocean Protection Council, and NOAA Fisheries at the Elihu M. Harris State Building in Oakland. The goal of the meeting was to begin an open dialogue with industry members of the commercial California Dungeness crab fishery and exchange information on the incidence of whale entanglements off the California coast, including possible short- and long-term strategies to reduce the risk of entanglements. The meeting included morning presentations by CDFW and NMFS on the following topics: an overview of the commercial California Dungeness crab fishery, an overview of whale management and entanglement history in California, whale science and NMFS outreach efforts, understanding recent entanglement activity, and the West Coast marine mammal disentanglement response network. Two additional groups provided presentations – the Whale Entanglement Team who discussed their activities in recent years responding to large numbers of entangled whale reports in California and the California Lost Gear Retrieval Program who provided an overview describing their program, including the role of the Dungeness crab industry in reducing lost gear in California waters. During the afternoon, meeting participants had the opportunity to discuss the topics and themes raised during the morning presentations, and to explore potential options to reduce entanglement risk. The importance of immediate notification about observed entanglements by fishermen was stressed numerous times as rapid reporting will allow for a quicker response. In 2014/15 in California, there has been 35 confirmed entanglements with 14 occurring in Monterey Bay, which has the highest level of entanglements on the west coast. Collaborative solutions are the most likely to succeed in the short term in reducing whale entanglements along the west coast and will hopefully be the outcome of this and future discussions between industry and regulatory agencies.

Monterey MPA Collaborative Meeting hosted at MBNMS Office

On Friday, August 15, members of the Monterey MPA Collaborative met at the MBNMS office to discuss a number of shared priorities. The Monterey MPA Collaborative includes other federal, state and local agencies, scientists, conservation NGOs, and members of the public. Topics included discussion on the recently funded \$10K proposal approved by Resource Legacy Fund to expand state MPA materials into Team Ocean and Bay Net programs and ideas on how to best implement a business ambassador outreach program. Based on the meeting discussion, the Monterey MPA Collaborative will be reaching out to local dive and kayak shops with the assistance of Kerry Nickols' students at CSUMB. This fall, the students will inventory existing outreach materials and approach businesses in the Monterey Bay area to solicit input from businesses owners on an MPA training that includes both Sanctuary and State MPA messaging. The State MPA

Collaborative groups provide a unique opportunity to engage and partner across sectors, but also to meet the diverse needs and interests in the communities and regions more effectively.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Staff contribute to “Ocean Solutions, Earth Solutions” book

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff authored a chapter, “Using GIS Tools to Develop a Collaborative Essential Fish Habitat Proposal” for the research monograph “Ocean Solutions, Earth Solutions” published by Esri in July 2015. “Ocean Solutions, Earth Solutions” includes 16 peer-reviewed papers presented in chapters that showcase the latest and best ocean and coastal science using spatial analysis and GIS. “The mantra of the book is essentially that if the ocean is in crisis, the earth is in crisis,” said Esri chief scientist Dawn J. Wright, the book's editor. “The solutions that we devise to help the ocean will be important in helping the entire earth.” An advance copy of the book “made a splash” at Capitol Hill Oceans Week and was prominently showcased at the 2015 Esri International User Conference. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary’s chapter (Chapter 11) is rooted in the information presented at the inaugural 2013 Esri Ocean GIS Forum and focused on Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary facilitating a successful strategy to collaborate on a proposal with representatives of the trawling industry and conservation. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and public use. The chapter details important collaborations to augment resource protection in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the use of GIS is essential for conveying messages and providing necessary analyses to help make management decisions and Esri is a foremost developer of GIS technology which ensures that their publications reach international audiences, therefore contributing to education. There are several web resources available:

A [video introduction](http://video214.com/play/cD7LIcGEFQdRVzpGfntVxg/s/dark) of the book: <http://video214.com/play/cD7LIcGEFQdRVzpGfntVxg/s/dark>
<https://medium.com/@Esri/ocean-solutions-earth-solutions-bcc97c1d235b>

Click Chapter 11 link below to access the supplemental resources for that chapter.
<http://esripress.esri.com/bookresources/index.cfm?event=catalog.book&id=14>

MBNMS, GFNMS, and CINMS Provide Significant Input at Marine Wildlife Disturbance Summit

On September 9 and 10, Two staff members from MBNMS, one staff member from GFNMS, and one staff member from CINMS delivered presentations on various ongoing wildlife protection projects at the 1st annual CA Marine Wildlife Disturbance Summit in Moss Landing, CA. Four MBNMS staff attended and participated in roundtable problem-solving sessions. Marine mammal and seabird disturbance has increased significantly within MBNMS in concert with a growing eco-tourism industry, increased wildlife television programming with dramatic close-up imagery, and insufficient enforcement field presence, response, and prosecution by NOAA and other resource trustee agencies.

MBNMS Holds Public Scoping Meeting for CalAm’s Proposed Desalination Project

On Thursday, September 10th, MBNMS resource protection staff held a public scoping meeting to solicit comments on the range and significance of issues related to CalAm’s proposed project in Marina, CA. The permit review process is being conducted concurrently with a public process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The public testimony focused on a variety of issues including the brine discharge impacts to the sanctuary, the impacts to businesses on constructing the water delivery pipelines, and general comments about protecting ocean resources. An Ohlone Coastanoan National tribal representative asked the agencies to consider the cumulative impact of all the desal projects along the coast of California, and their potential disturbance to their tribal burial grounds. The public scoping ends on October 2nd and people are directing their comments to Regulations.gov at: <http://www.regulations.gov/#!docketDetail;D=NOAA-NOS-2015-0105> The Monterey Herald attended the meeting, and provided this article:

<http://www.montereyherald.com/environment-and-nature/20150910/joint-desal-project-review-expected-to-take-a-year> Public involvement is an important part of NEPA, and is designed to ensure that the public has the opportunity to comment and contribute to those decisions in an environmentally significant way.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Sanctuary Exploration Center Celebrates 3rd Year Anniversary

July 23rd marked the Sanctuary Exploration Center’s 3rd year anniversary. Over the past three years the Exploration Center has had 201,041 visitors, hosted over 120 tour groups, over 100 meetings or events, trained over 100 volunteers who have

collectively contributed over 23,620 hours of service. This information, along with other interested stats from July 23rd 2012-June 30th 2015 was compiled into the attached info-graphic. On Saturday, July 25th over 50 volunteers, staff, family and friends celebrated their accomplishments over the past year. Awards were given out for # of hour accomplishments with many volunteers receiving 100, 250, and 500 hour recognitions. Additionally, those volunteers who were present at the grand opening event three years ago were honored with a new ONMS pin. The event was a fun filled Luau with BBQ, live music, skits, and a special presentation from Dan Haifley on the history of the Sanctuary designation from his first-hand experience. The Sanctuary Exploration Centers goals are: to educate visitors about the sanctuary's unique and fascinating coastal and marine environment, to foster a more personal connection with the sanctuary and the ocean's relevance in people's daily lives and to encourage stewardship of the sanctuary and a better understanding of how to responsibly enjoy and protect the ocean.

Sanctuary Exploration Center Volunteers Participate in Guided Kayak Tour

On July 22nd 22 Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC) Volunteers and Staff celebrated the SEC's 3rd anniversary with a guided kayak tour of West Cliff. Venture Quest Kayaks in Santa Cruz offered the tour at a discounted rate. This tour gave volunteers and staff an opportunity to be immersed in MBNMS and its wildlife first hand. For several, this was their first time kayaking and gave them a new experience with MBNMS that they can use to inspire visitors. They enjoyed seeing sea otters, egrets, cormorants, and harbor seals. Field-based experiences are an important aspect of MBNMS' volunteer programs for continuing education and retention. The experiences and knowledge volunteers gain from being out in the sanctuary enables them to better interpret information to the public. Additionally, teambuilding experiences such as these, help to build a sense of community and retain volunteers in the program.

Government Affairs Committee of Monterey County Hospitality Association

MBNMS Government and Community Relations Coordinator attended the monthly meeting of the Government Affairs Committee of Monterey County Hospitality Association. This group of business leaders typically discusses issues that are relevant to the area hospitality industry, including water uses, transportation, local events, and other issues. Deirdre Whalen gave a short update to the group at the August 6th meeting highlighting the upcoming Big Blue Live filming of the BBC in MBNMS later this month - an intersection between government, tourism and healthy oceans.

MBNMS Staff Working with BBC on Big Blue Live

MBNMS staff are continuing to collaboratively work with the BBC and Monterey Bay Aquarium in sharing messaging and positively increasing exposure of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as part of the three-day programming for Big Blue Live. This tv show will highlight the wildlife found in MBNMS and will weave a thread of rebounding ecosystems through the episodes. The BBC is able to reach millions worldwide with their gorgeous and dynamic television shows. Spreading the awareness of MBNMS & showcasing wildlife through this venue is an incredible opportunity. This is the biggest outreach and awareness opportunity the MBNMS has ever experienced, and is a fantastic opportunity to educate the public on the amazing wildlife found in the Sanctuary as well as the story of recovery in protected ocean places.

Community Outreach via Traditional & Social Media

MBNMS staff have recently been inundated with calls from the public complaining about whale harassment. Several efforts have been made to convey a 'Protect and Respect' message for whale watching within MBNMS. The past three Septembers have seen increasing numbers of whales feeding, breaching, and loitering close to shore. As expected, certain members of the public are trying to have their own up-close encounters with these animals. In the absence of an enforcement presence, staff are combating the problem with newspaper articles, ([San Jose Mercury News article](#)) radio programs ([NPR with Paul Michel](#)), and social media. Of particular note, a posting on the MBNMS Facebook page asking people to enjoy the majestic humpbacks while keeping at least 100-yards away, has had the most exposure our site has ever received! According to the metrics thus far, it was 'shared' 800 times, and has engagement numbers of more than a quarter million. View it here: [MBNMS Facebook Page](#). The social media posting is spreading quickly and being shared by key influential members of the community, including on Congressman Farr's page, County Visitor Bureau's, PBS and elsewhere. It is an especially helpful tool to both quickly convey information while also inspiring stewardship.

NEWS COVERAGE

[Dan Haifley, Our Ocean Backyard: Ocean currents carry nutrients to marine life](http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/environment-and-nature/20150829/dan-haifley-our-ocean-backyard-ocean-currents-carry-nutrients-to-marine-life)

<http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/environment-and-nature/20150829/dan-haifley-our-ocean-backyard-ocean-currents-carry-nutrients-to-marine-life>

Santa Cruz Sentinel-Aug 29, 2015

[Karen Grimmer: Minke whale rescue was truly a team effort](http://www.montereyherald.com/opinion/20150829/karen-grimmer-minke-whale-rescue-was-truly-a-team-effort)

<http://www.montereyherald.com/opinion/20150829/karen-grimmer-minke-whale-rescue-was-truly-a-team-effort>

Monterey County

[Big Blue Live: Underwater Sea Spectacular Debuts Over Three Nights](http://www.gpb.org/blogs/family/2015/08/31/big-blue-live-underwater-sea-spectacular-debuts-over-three-nights)

<http://www.gpb.org/blogs/family/2015/08/31/big-blue-live-underwater-sea-spectacular-debuts-over-three-nights>

GPB Blogs-Aug 31, 2015

[How Many Fish in the Sea? Genetic Testing Could Answer That](http://ww2.kqed.org/science/2015/08/31/how-many-fish-in-the-sea-genetic-testing-could-answer-that/)

<http://ww2.kqed.org/science/2015/08/31/how-many-fish-in-the-sea-genetic-testing-could-answer-that/>

KQED-Aug 31, 2015

[Monterey Hotel Project Planned Near Aquarium](http://www.meetingsfocus.com/NewsEvents/IndustryNews/IndustryNewsDetails/tabid/138/RegionID/206/ArticleID/26734/Default.aspx)

<http://www.meetingsfocus.com/NewsEvents/IndustryNews/IndustryNewsDetails/tabid/138/RegionID/206/ArticleID/26734/Default.aspx>

Meetings Focus-Sept 1, 2015

[Blue whale halts interview](http://www.castanet.net/news/World/146990/Blue-whale-halts-interview)

<http://www.castanet.net/news/World/146990/Blue-whale-halts-interview>

Castanet.net-Sept 1, 2015

[How we saved Monterey Bay](http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article33220464.html)

<http://www.sacbee.com/opinion/op-ed/soapbox/article33220464.html>

The Sacramento Bee-Sept 1, 2015

[CSULB Shark Lab to be Featured on BBS and PBS Collaboration, Big Blue Live Tuesday Night](http://lbpost.com/life/2000006962-big-blue-live)

<http://lbpost.com/life/2000006962-big-blue-live>

Long Beach Post-Sept 1, 2015

[Trash is eaten by marine life and ending on our plates.](http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/cover/trash-is-eaten-by-marine-life-and-ending-on-our/article_5142f950-51b2-11e5-ae8c-93b515fe897a.html)

http://www.montereycountyweekly.com/news/cover/trash-is-eaten-by-marine-life-and-ending-on-our/article_5142f950-51b2-11e5-ae8c-93b515fe897a.html

Monterey County Weekly-Sept 3, 2015

[Robert Grimes: Hospitality industry's pipeline to water](http://www.montereyherald.com/opinion/20150905/robert-grimes-hospitality-industrys-pipeline-to-water)

<http://www.montereyherald.com/opinion/20150905/robert-grimes-hospitality-industrys-pipeline-to-water>

Monterey County Herald-Sept 5, 2015

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Santa Cruz Sentinel-Sept 12, 2015

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KSBW-Sept 14, 2015

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Vancouver Sun-Sept 15, 2015

Web Site (<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>)

Follow MBNMS on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/MBNMS>) and **Twitter** (<https://twitter.com/mbnms>)

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.
Comments and suggestions can be sent to andrew.white@noaa.gov.*

FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

Caitlin Seaview Survey

<http://www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com>

SIMON

<http://www.sanctuariesimon.org>

Seasons in the Sea

<http://www.seasonsintthesea.com>

Waterlust

<http://www.waterlust.org/about/>

Thank You Ocean

<http://www.thankyouocean.org/>

NOAA Online Media Library

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

Oceans Live

<http://oceanslive.gso.uri.edu/>

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries

<http://www.ocean.com/Library/Encyclopedia/>

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

Your Sanctuary TV

<http://yoursanctuarytv.org/>

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Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary staff in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/advisory.html>

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Visit the ONMS web site at:
<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/getinvolved/welcome.html>

Sign up for the MBNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming Sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Working Groups:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/elists.html>

- Contact Information -

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