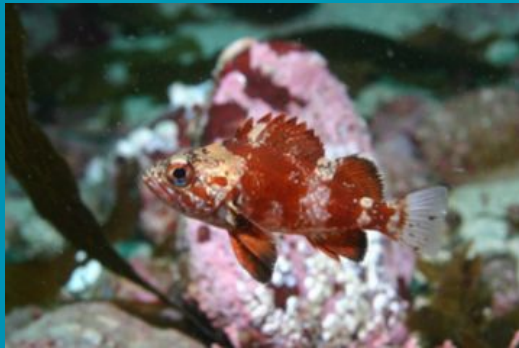




Update on MBNMS Priorities

May 19, 2023

Lisa Wooninck, Superintendent



MBNMS Priorities FY23 - FY27



Threats and Restoration

1. **Marine Debris:** link marine microplastics to land-based plastic pollution, eg ag plastics
2. **Whale Conservation:** address threats noise, ship strikes and entanglements
3. **Iconic Kelp Forests:** assess needs /recovery, restoration and monitoring
4. **Climate Change:** conduct climate vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning
5. **Vessel Incidents:** improve emergency response/salvage and restoration

MBNMS value: enhance community connections/engagement

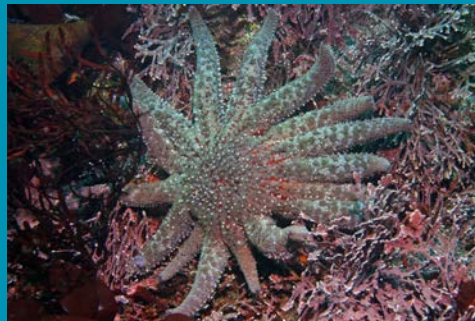
1. **Recreational Fishing:** enhance relationship with this user group
2. **Indigenous Community Engagement:** connect with tribes adjacent to sanctuary
3. **Diversity, Equity, Justice, and Inclusion:** connect and enhance access
4. **Vision for the Southern Region:** Coastal Discovery Center and Liaison
5. **Exhibits and Signage:** New, refresh, maintain at SEC, CDC and along coastal trails

MBNMS AC work plan 2023 (adopted Dec 2022)



1. Iconic Kelp Forests/Habitat – informational and provide advice
2. Vessel Incidents – informational and provide(d) advice
3. Climate – informational and provide advice
4. Whale Conservation – informational and provide advice
5. Diversity Equity and Inclusion – including Indigenous Community Engagement – informational and work by AC subcommittee
6. Marine Debris – informational

Topics of interest to the AC: e.g. discharge from M1W update, WCR update, programmatic updates



Progress thus far: 1. Iconic Kelp Habitat



AC directs RAP to evaluate status of kelp in MBNMS (Dec 9)

AC forwarded the RAP recommendations (16 - 0 in favor; Feb 2023)



Bull kelp (*Merocystis luteicans*)

Sanctuary used the RAP/AC recommendations to inform coordination with key partners: MBAq, UCSC, CDFW, OPC, NMSF/MBNMSF. Regularly meet with partners to ensure integration and awareness.

- Mark Carr/Climate Action Research Initiative, \$2M (in process)
- Malin Pinsky/Internal grant from UCSC for kelp and climate adaptation
- Tanker Reef in second year of study with OPC, CDFW and rec divers
- Seeking funds through NMSF/MBNMSF: infographics funded
- Letter of support to OPC for additional \$5.4 in funding for CA
- Coordinating with CDFW on Kelp Recovery Management Plan
- Future AC working group to develop management recommendations



Giant kelp '*Macrocystis*', the growing edge

Progress thus far: 2. Vessel Incidents



AC convened a subcommittee on vessel incidents (Feb 2022)

AC forwarded 9 recommendations (Oct 2022)/Adopted by super (Dec 2022)

MBNMS and partners (Dan Haifley, Brian Nelson, USCG)

- a. Legislative requirement for insurance - complicated and not at this time
- b. Derelict vessel salvage fund - research on available state funds
- c. Replicating the salvage 'quick response' for towing with caveats
- d. Coordinating with USCG on best practices for salvage and 'dead tow' through NMS (e.g. permit requirement)
- e. Updating mooring permits - in progress



Progress thus far: 3. Climate



AC directs select RAP members to engage in climate vulnerability assessment (16- 0 in favor; Feb 2023)

MBNMS hard at work on CVA, modeled after sanctuaries to the north

- 42 focal taxa/species; 9 habitats; 9 ecosystem services; 2 are unique to MBNMS: black abalone and *salicornia*
- 2 – 3 experts to score the sensitivity, exposure, potential impacts and adaptive capacity = vulnerability; July workshop
- Presentation to AC at August meeting
- Future AC working group for adaptation planning



Progress thus far: 4. Whale Conservation



Ship strike: AC recommends MBNMS participate in a year-round voluntary vessel speed reduction program in collaboration with CINMS, CBNMS, and GFNMS (motion/vote 15 – 1 abstain, in favor).

- MBNMS joined the VSR programs (NOAA and incentive) May 1 – Dec 15
- Incentive-based program no longer offers monetary awards, rather positive press and communications are the incentive
- Coordinating with new partners: air district regions of Monterey and SLO



Progress thus far: 5. Marine Debris



Large Marine Debris Removal Grant (\$14.9 M) in 5 NMS

MBNMS: 4 targets for ~ \$3 M – awarded to NMSF

- (1) A sailing vessel off Santa Cruz;
- (2) A yacht off the Big Sur coastline; and
- (3) MBNMS marine debris from buoys demarking MPWC zones
- (4) A crashed and sunken plane off of Half Moon Bay



Commercially Scalable End-Of-Life Solutions for Ag Field Plastic Films Used in Watersheds Draining to MBNMS, CINMS and proposed CHNMS – \$2.7 M awarded to CA Sea Grant and CMSF

Built on collaborations of MBNMS and partners with the ag sector to develop best practices for removal of mulch film and drip tap in ag fields

Progress thus far: 6. DEI



AC convened a subcommittee on DEI (Feb 2022)

AC forwarded 22 recommendations (Oct 2022)/Adopted by super (Dec 2022)

- Successful recruitment with 11 new members and 6 re-appointed Feb 2023
- 4 members on the AC DEI subcommittee
- Mini grant awarded for DEI training for the AC
- MBNMS has been thoughtfully engaging with local Indigenous Community/Tribal entities and hosting national gatherings



On the horizon



- Meet and greets: AC members, Lisa and Haven
- Sessions on AC charter, protocols and appropriate communications

