



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Recreation Fishing Newsletter



The Advisory Council is composed of 21 federally appointed representatives from government agencies, local institutions and user groups concerned with the resources of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The council advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on matters of policy and provides a link between the community and Sanctuary management.

## February 2018

### In This Issue

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Party Boats in the Sanctuary](#)

[Helpful Links](#)

[Our Ocean Backyard](#)

[Enjoying Fishing in Monterey Bay!](#)

[Know Your Sanctuary](#)

[The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program](#)

[CDFW Seeks Input on 2018 Recreational Pacific Halibut Season Dates](#)

[CDFW to Host Public Meeting on Ocean Salmon Fisheries](#)

[2018 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule](#)

### Helpful Links

#### Tides, Sunrise and Sunset

For information on tides and currents, [click here](#)

For information on sunrise and sunset times, [click here](#)

#### Boat Launching Ramp Locations

Half Moon Bay/Pillar Point Harbor: [click here](#)

Santa Cruz Harbor: [click here](#)

Moss Landing Harbor: [click here](#)

Monterey Harbor: [click here](#)

Morro Bay Harbor: [click here](#)

Dear MBNMS,

Hello and WELCOME to the new recreational fishing online newsletter for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This newsletter will be updated quarterly and emailed to all who send us their email address. It will contain general information about the sanctuary and information about fishing opportunities for recreational fishers who venture out into our beautiful coastal waters.

And, it will include reference materials and valuable information to enhance your fishing experience. Also, a list of contact information for members of the sanctuary council and other organizational contacts will be included.

We also invite groups and individuals to submit information about fishing events to be held in the sanctuary and comments about recreational saltwater fishing in our region.

So again, welcome and thanks for signing on and becoming involved the recreational fishing activities in your sanctuary.

Here's to Tight Lines and Successful Fishing,

## ***Rich Hughtt***

Recreational Fishing Representative  
MBNMSAC  
rlh@redshift.com

## **Party Boats in the Sanctuary**

### **Half Moon Bay**

#### **Half Moon Bay Sportfishing and Tackle Serves Coastal Saltwater Anglers**

By Sherry Ingles

Half Moon Bay Sportfishing and Tackle is located at Pillar Point Harbor, on the coast about 20 miles south of San Francisco.



Whether fishing from a boat, the piers or the shore, my husband Bob and I have built a reputation for having the one-stop go-to shop on the coast with very reasonable, competitive prices. Our well stocked store has been serving the needs of the coastal saltwater angler for over a dozen years.

We carry all the fishing basics for salmon, rockfish, striped bass and crab to name a few, including a large selection of hooks, lures, sinkers, boat and surf rods, reels including Avet, Diawa and Penn, as well as Xtratuf boots, Dexter knives and much, much more. The care and years of knowledge and experience on the ocean that have gone into the shop makes Half Moon Bay Sportfishing one of the favorite bait and tackle shops in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is open daily from at least 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

With the shop as our home base, our 50' charter boat, the Queen of Hearts, books and takes literally thousands of new and returning anglers alike salmon or rockfishing through the seasons, as well as on Albacore trips when tuna are in range. And, we have been operating our boat from the harbor for over 25 years.

Seasons vary year to year with changes to fishery management, but typically the salmon season runs from

April through October and rockfishing runs from April through December. During the closed months trips to view the surfers at Mavericks and the grey whales that migrate just off our shore take place.



Sunset over Piedras Blancas, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Photo: Melinda Mohamed

## **Our Ocean Backyard**

### **Counteracting changes in ocean chemistry to restore eelgrass, which is food and shelter to numerous fish species**

By Dan Haifley

While many in the science community are concerned with reducing greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat climate change, work is also underway in response to ocean acidification, a change in the pH of the ocean resulting from the ocean's absorption of excess carbon from the atmosphere.

The governments of California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia are collaborating to address issues affecting the ocean waters they share. They convened a group of scientists in 2013 that subsequently proposed ways to counteract the effects of the changing chemistry of ocean waters, including an effort to further curb land-based organic pollution that flows seaward.

The California Ocean Protection Council and the Ocean Science Trust have identified lower oxygen levels, known as hypoxia, and acidification as research and action priorities. The latter, evidenced by a minute lowering of the pH level of ocean waters, is a result of the absorption of excess carbon from the atmosphere.

In April 2016 the panel of 20 scientists appointed by the four states released their report. One proposal was the use of seagrass to pull carbon dioxide out of ocean waters. State Sen. Bill Monning's Senate Bill 1363, which largely dealt with the restoration of eelgrass in state waters, was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown at the end of September that year.

Monning's legislation also directs the Ocean Protection Council and California's Coastal Conservancy, which manages access and restoration projects along the shoreline, to establish a program to restore eelgrass in state



Photo by Eric Heupel

We are located at 27 Johnson Pier, Half Moon Bay, California 94019. The phone number is 650-728-3377 and our website is [www.hmbfishing.com](http://www.hmbfishing.com)

*Sherry and Bob Ingles own Half Moon Bay Sportfishing.*



**Great salmon fishing aboard the *Queen of Hearts*.**

**Moss Landing**

**Kahuna Offers Coastal Fishing Adventures**

By Carol Jones

Kahuna Sportfishing is conveniently located in Moss Landing, in the heart of beautiful Monterey Bay, and has been in operation since 1992. There is easy access to the dock, with plenty of parking close to the boat.



**The *Kahuna***

*Kahuna* is a beautiful, well maintained 50' Delta with the speed to get you on the fish....less running time equals more fishing time! We fish for rockfish, lingcod, salmon, halibut and albacore, depending on the time of year and season. We offer both open party and private charters.

We specialize in long range rockfish trips down the west coast of the Pacific Ocean to bountiful fishing grounds, a trip no one else offers. Our shop carries rod rentals and tackle specifically for fishing this area. Fishing licenses are also available. Captain Brian Cutting and his crew are highly experienced and dedicated to make your day both productive and memorable. Come check us out and let us impress you!

Kahuna Sportfishing is located at 7881 Sandholdt Road, (Moss Landing, Ca. 95039), in the Moss Landing Boat Harbor. Their phone number is (831)633-2564 and the website is [www.kahunasportfishing.com](http://www.kahunasportfishing.com)

waters. In a written statement, Monning said that eelgrass is "... a native California plant that creates a more hospitable environment for other native species and helps to mitigate the impact of carbon dioxide on the earth's atmosphere."

Eelgrass is an underwater grass that grows in nearshore waters areas and estuaries. It provides food, shelter from predators and surfaces for spawning. Eelgrass also filters pollution and absorbs excess nutrients - which can hasten algae growth - found in ocean and estuarine waters. It also counteracts the effects of sea level rise by buffering wave energy that threaten land forms at the water's edge. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that since the 1850s, 90 percent of California's eelgrass habitat has been destroyed and the remainder is exposed to threats.

The bill also establishes the "Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program" that would, according to Monning's office, involve demonstration projects to evaluate the best locations for carbon dioxide removal, including the protection and restoration of eelgrass beds and require the Ocean Protection Council to generate a list of locations "where conservation or restoration of aquatic habitats, including eelgrass, can be successfully applied." SB 1363 also requires that plans for habitat restoration consider elements that remove carbon dioxide.

As a result, the California Ocean Protection Council took up actions to implement the science panel recommendations, and to continue its work with Pacific Coast Collaborative - which includes the four state governments plus Alaska - to take action on acidification worldwide.

*Dan Haifley is executive director of O'Neill Sea Odyssey. He can be reached at [dhafley@oneillseaodyssey.org](mailto:dhafley@oneillseaodyssey.org).*



**Photo by Chad King**

**Enjoying Fishing on Monterey Bay!**

**The Whale Watching Capital of the World!**

By Peggy Stap

Monterey Bay is not only a great place to go fishing, it's also a whale watcher's paradise! While you enjoy a day of fishing on one of the world's most scenic bodies of water, you will be among an extensive list of whales and dolphins either residing in, or visiting the bay throughout the year, which includes humpback whales, blue whales, gray whales, fin whales, sei whales, beaked whales, orcas (killer whales), bottlenose dolphins, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Risso's dolphins, common dolphins, Northern right-whale dolphins, Dall's porpoise, harbor porpoise, and more.

*Carol Jones is the owner of Kahuna Sportfishing.*

**Special Announcement!**  
The *Kahuna* is now in the boatyard being outfitted with new, more powerful engines and will return to service in Monterey Bay at the end of February (this month.)



**Super Kahuna catches!**



Spring is an incredible time to whale watch on Monterey Bay. Killer whales are sighted year-round, but more often in the spring during the gray whale northern migration. These magnificent animals are also known as orcas, derived from the species' scientific name *Orcinus orca*. In fact, killer whales are not classified as large whales at all - they are considered the largest of the dolphin family. Killer whales capture our imaginations and are intelligent, highly social and extremely powerful. They are top predators that are found in all oceans, but Monterey Bay is a great place to view them in their natural environment.



Peggy Stap / Marine Life Studies - NMFS Permit 1094-1034

## Monterey

### **J&M Sportfishing Operates Two Boats Out of Monterey** By Katlyn Taylor

Located on the historic Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey Harbor, J&M Sport Fishing offers daily fishing adventures throughout the year on our two boats, *Sur Randy* and *Chabasco*. Our trips are suited for first time anglers, all the way to seasoned veterans. We fish for different species during different seasons.



***Sur Randy* leaving the harbor.**

Typically, April through December is Rockfish and Lingcod season. We will also fish for Salmon in the spring through early summer depending on the defined season each year. During the winter time, we fish for Sand Dabs and Dungeness Crabs while rockfish and salmon seasons are closed. Trips depart daily at 6:30 a.m. and last seven to nine hours.

We also offer afternoon fishing during the summer time for Rockfish and Lingcod. The afternoon trips are a great way to get a few hours of fishing in and can be a great "warm-up" trip for first timers.

Our crew can clean and fillet fish for you for a fee during the end of the trip when we return to the

Marine Life Studies, a local nonprofit out of Moss Landing, conducts research to protect killer whales and other marine life in Monterey Bay through their Research Scientist Program. The organization manages and maintains a boat, their Whale Rescue Research vessel, as a rapid deployment first response vessel accommodating all tools, equipment and personnel needed for Marine Life Studies' Whale Entanglement Team (WET)®. To learn more about Marine Life Studies' programs visit: [MarineLifeStudies.org](http://MarineLifeStudies.org) and [WhaleEntanglementTeam.org](http://WhaleEntanglementTeam.org)



MarineLifeStudies.org | Stephanie Marcus / NOAA/NMFS 1423

*Peggy Stap is the Executive Director of Marine Life Studies and Co-founder of the Whale Entanglement Team (WET)®.*

dock. If other fisheries become productive in the bay, such as tuna, halibut, white sea bass, etc., we will open up trips and notify interested anglers with our Fish Alert system. To sign up, add yourself to the contact form on our website and choose which fisheries you want to be notified about.



Fishing aboard *Chubasco*.

We can provide all the necessary equipment and licensing for anglers on our trips. You can also come in and purchase some basic tackle, bait and licenses for fishing activities elsewhere.

To contact J&M Sport Fishing send an email to [info@jmsportfishing.com](mailto:info@jmsportfishing.com) or phone 831-372-7440. We are located at 66 Old Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA 93940. Our website: [www.jmsportfishing.com](http://www.jmsportfishing.com) You can also find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/jmsportfishing](http://www.facebook.com/jmsportfishing) and Instagram: [www.instagram.com/jmsportfishing](http://www.instagram.com/jmsportfishing).

*Katlyn Taylor is a marine biologist who serves as business manager for both J&M Sportfishing and Discovery Whale Watch.*

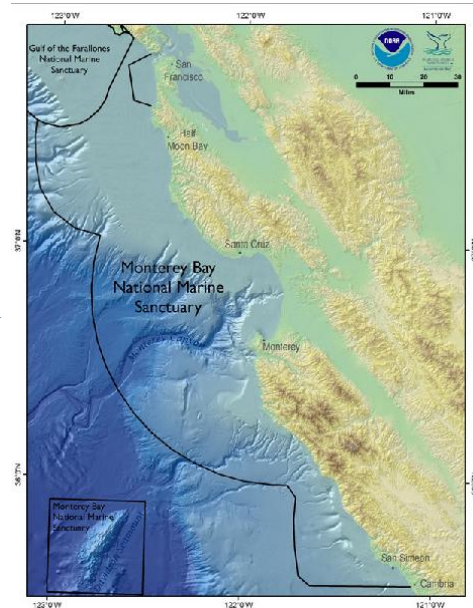
## Know your Sanctuary

### Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

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

It is home to one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment.

MBNMS was designated in 1992 for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and public use of this national treasure. MBNMS is part of a system of 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and two marine national monuments, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



### The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

**The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP)**  
By Jen Chiu, lead field scientist for MLML CCFRP

The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) is a partnership of people and communities interested in fisheries sustainability. By combining the expertise and ideas of fishermen, scientists, and resource managers, CCFRP aims to collect valuable data on economically important marine species to evaluate the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) and to provide information for fisheries management.



Carol Jones of the *Kahuna* (left) and Jen Chiu with a beautiful Copper Rockfish.

In order to do so, standardized hook-and-line surveys are used by volunteer anglers to catch and release nearshore fish species inside MPAs and associated reference sites (REF). Research scientists identify, measure, and tag caught fishes prior to release, while engaging with volunteers to provide information on life history traits of fishes and MPA implementation. Each sampling trip provides information regarding species compositions, sizes, and catch rates of fishes in and around California MPAs that will be used by resource managers to assess stock health and MPA performance.

CCFRP has been conducting surveys along the central California coast since 2007, when the network of MPAs was established in this region. From 2007 to 2016, the research groups from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (CP) utilized 12 Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFV) and more than 900 volunteer anglers over 325 sampling days at sea to tag and release over 82,000 fishes from 52 different species, tagging over 40,000 of those individuals prior to release.



Happy anglers with J & M Sportfishing.

### Cambria/Morro Bay

#### Central Coast Fishing for Rockfish

By Jim Webb

The central coast of California is fortunate to have several means of accessing local marine resources. Plentiful rockfish populations exist in suitable habitat throughout the region.

The ports of Morro Bay and San Luis offer trips to interested anglers on Coast Guard certified boats. For the do-it-yourself person, many kayak launches can be found and rentals are available at the local ports. Fishing from shore is legal all year and the catch ranges from rockfish to perch and even striped bass.



Jim Webb (right) and friends after successful fishing trip.

A boat ride will cost from \$40.00 to over \$100.00, depending on the length of the trip. Tackle costs about \$20.00 to rent during the trip and a fee is charged to have your fish cleaned before you leave the boat.

Buy a license, either online or at the tackle shop, and in season you are ready to fish. Fishing season generally extends from April to the end of December for a party boat excursion. Limits are set by the California Fish and Wildlife Department in conjunction with NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) and currently allow anglers ten rockfish and two lingcod over twenty two inches. Rules and regulations are subject to change and need to be verified on line or at the landing. Trips can be in shallow water or out to the maximum depth allowed by law. They can be a half day or twelve hours. Most anglers will return with limits of tasty, and good for you fillets.

Local kayak anglers find the kelp beds an abundant source of rockfish. Watch the weather and come down for an adventure you won't forget.

**There are three main landings working on the central coast:**

**Virg's Landing -**  
1169 Market Ave,  
Morro Bay, CA 93442  
805-772-1222

**Morro Bay Landing -**  
1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay Ca 93442  
805-771-5500

**Patriot Sportfishing -**  
Port San Luis Pier 3, Avila Beach, CA 93424  
805-595-7200

**Free Fishing!**  
By Jim Webb

It is hard to believe that in the era of 'no such thing as a free lunch', there could be something as fun as a day on the ocean catching fish at no charge to the lucky volunteer angler. But the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Project, a joint effort

In 2017, after 10 years of data collection, the program has expanded statewide to now include research partners from Humboldt State University, Bodega Marine Laboratories, MLML, CP, UC Santa Barbara, Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

Integrating stakeholders and the community is one of the main goals of this project. Collaboration is present in all aspects of the program, from utilizing CPFV captains, resource managers, and scientists to determine which MPAs to survey, to inviting volunteer anglers from the local fishing community to help us sample, and finally to combining the expertise of all these stakeholders to analyze the data and disseminate it to the public. This program, and the long-term dataset we are striving to collect, would not be possible without the contribution from each of these groups.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer angler for our 2018 sampling season, please contact us at [seagrant@mlml.calstate.edu](mailto:seagrant@mlml.calstate.edu) or (831) 771-4479, and visit our various sites for more information.

Website: <https://seagrant.mlml.calstate.edu/research/ccfrp/>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/CaCollaborativeFisheriesResearchProgram.CCFRP/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/ccfrp/>



A Cabezon being measured before release.



Jim Webb and a giant Ling cod.

## CDFW Seeks Input on 2018 Recreational Pacific Halibut Season Dates

For more information: [click here](#)

## CDFW to Host Public Meeting on Ocean Salmon Fisheries

For more information: [click here](#)

## 2018 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

February 16 - Santa Cruz

April 20 - Moss Landing

June 15 - Cambria

August 17 - Marina

October 19 - Salinas

December 14 - Monterey

For more information:

[2018 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting dates and Information](#)

## Quick Links

between Moss Landing Marine Lab and San Luis Obispo's Cal Poly, offers these trips several times a year to study California central coast Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) and nearby reference sites.

All tackle is provided, though you can bring your own rod and reel, and no license is required. That's about as close to 'free fishing' as you can find today. Each angler participates in a timed drift through randomly selected 'cells' in the areas being studied. Fish are captured in 120' feet or less of water and few suffer barometric trauma as a result.

They are placed in a saltwater tub, measured, identified and tagged, then carefully released. Action can be hot and heavy or slow: it's fishing! The angler must use predetermined gear, supplied at no cost, to limit variables in the data collected. Drifts from the large licensed 'party' boats, last 15 minutes and three are done in each location sampled. Usually four cells are sampled, totaling three hours of fishing.

Information is collected about caught fish, returned tagged fish and other metrics, such as water temperature and clarity, to gain a complete picture of each sampling trip. Next year will mark the eighth year of this project. The resulting data set is impressive, with over 55,000 fish tagged so far. It is satisfying to see these efforts being used by scientists to better understand the effects of establishing MPA's and how they may differ from adjacent reference sites. And it's hard to beat a free day of fishing!

*Jim Webb is a local Cambrian angler who likes all forms of fishing and has been fishing on the central coast for the last 32 years.*

[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[Advisory Council Members](#)

**NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES  
FISHING HAPPENS HERE!**

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT:

Grace Bottitta-Williamson External Affairs Coordinator 240-533-0574 grace.bottitta@noaa.gov	Vernon Smith National Media Coordinator 240-533-0662 vernon.smith@noaa.gov
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Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
[SANCTUARIES.NOAA.GOV/VISIT/FISHING](http://SANCTUARIES.NOAA.GOV/VISIT/FISHING)

Join Our Mailing List!



Participants in the fisheries research project.



Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council | 99 Pacific Street | Suite 455a | Monterey | CA | 93940