

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**FINAL Meeting Minutes
December 13, 2019**

Monterey Conference Center, Monterey, CA

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: absent
AMBAG: Steve McShane
At-Large: Dan Haifley
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann
At-Large: PJ Webb
Business & Industry: Tom Rowley
CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly
CA EPA: Julia Dyer
CA Resources Agency: Tova Handelman

CA State Parks: Eric Abma
Commercial Fishing: VACANT
Conservation: Katherine O’Dea
Diving: Brian Nelson
Education: Pamela Neeb Wade
Harbors: John Haynes
Recreation: Bart Selby
Recreational Fishing: Jose Montes
Research: John Hunt
Tourism: absent

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: absent
College: absent
Cordell Bank NMS: absent
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Dan Brumbaugh
Greater Farallones NMS: absent
Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel
National Marine Fisheries Service: Steve Lindley
U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Lee Crusius

Alternates present in audience:

Carol Maehr – At-Large (central region)
Keith Rootsart – Diving
Steve Haddock – Research
Chelsea Protasio – CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Rachel Kippen – Conservation

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND MEETING MINUTES

John Haynes welcomed the Advisory Council to the Monterey Conference Center.

Chair Brian Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM and Vice Chair PJ Webb attended to roll call.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of October 18, 2019 DRAFT Meeting Minutes
Dan Haifley introduced a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Seconded by Steve McShane.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)

II. STANDING ITEM: MBNMS Superintendent Report

Carolyn Skinder is resigning from MBNMS. In the short term, Ali Wolman will be filling in for Carolyn. In the long term, recruitment will hopefully occur to permanently fill the position. Paul Michel recognized Carolyn's phenomenal work and dedication to MBNMS and the Coastal Discovery Center over the past ten plus years.

ONMS Headquarters is currently reviewing the draft Management Plan, draft Proposed Rule and draft Environmental Assessment for clearance. When the drafts are released to the public, MBNMS staff will do public hearings as well as focus an entire AC meeting on the Management Plan (likely the February or April meeting). Hoping to have the process wrapped up by the summer.

Paul recapped the MBNMS staff led research and exploratory mission to the Davidson Seamount aboard the exploration vessel *Nautilus* from October 12-18, 2019. In 2018, they discovered a population of over 1,000 brooding octopuses associated with low-temperature seeps. The first ROV dive of this expedition revisited the octopus garden to establish a minimum population count. The highlights of the dive came near the end when they ran across a whale fall. They also captured video of a baby octopus releasing from an egg.

Paul attended the California Coastal Commission meeting in Half Moon Bay. The meeting allowed for testimony on the proposed CalAm desalination project. The decision on the CalAm project was postponed until March. An estimated 1,000 people were in attendance between Half Moon Bay and a remote location in Marina. The staff recommendation to deny the project was based on the expansion of the Monterey warm water project. MBNMS would have to amend the final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement to include that expansion project.

MBNMS is moving forward on two small boat procurements. One is a rigid hull inflatable day boat for dive operations. The second is a brand new 22-foot Radon-type boat. This will be a two-year process.

WhaleFest will be held at the Monterey Conference Center January 25 and 26. There is the potential for up to 20,000 visitors. It is a great event with presenters and tabling opportunities.

PJ Webb proposed a resolution thanking Carolyn Skinder for her years of service at MBNMS and the Coastal Discovery Center.

Seconded by Brian Nelson.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Marge Brigadier – regarding fishing entanglements

I have been picking up discarded fishing items from the Coast Guard pier in Monterey for over 10 years, and my observations pertain to this pier. Seven years ago, I started documenting what I picked up and as of today I have found:

9354 hooks

5575 pieces of line over 4' long

Longest piece is 720'

1707 lead weights – over 74 pounds of lead

The problem is not just that birds and other wildlife are being hooked by fishers, but there is also a large amount of fishing refuse underwater. There is a scuba diving group that meets every quarter to

remove as much as possible. It is important to have some idea of what is being removed, so about three years ago the divers started giving me what they found. Since that time over 178 pounds of lead have been removed, as well as over 1500 hooks. This bag contains only a portion of the fishing line that has been collected.

When kelp is present it is often intertwined with fishing line. I watched a great egret die when it got entangled. Twice I got kayakers to rescue birds that were caught in the line. And I even witnessed a diver that needed help from the Coast Guard because he was hopelessly ensnared by line.

Sea lions and seals are also far too often impacted by fishing refuse. I have photos of a sea otter eating an urchin with line wrapped around it, and I know that at least one otter has died of entanglement.

I would love to see some serious consideration given to the situation at the Coast Guard pier. It is the best place to see the largest number and variety of wildlife in one place and tourists flock there all year long.

IV. STANDING ITEM: Working Group Updates

Conservation Working Group (CWG):

Current CWG Activities

- The CWG met on Wednesday, December 11, 2019 at the Marine Mammal Center in Moss Landing.
- First, we introduced our new Co-chair Rachel Kippen and people got to know each other a little.
- Katherine reviewed where things stand with the Cruise Ship issue, which continues to be a significant focus for some members of the CWG.
- We had a lengthy conversation about where we could/should focus our energies and generated some new project ideas.
- We discussed doing some work on Marine Debris, although having had our recommendations for dealing with non-point source debris picked up in the Management Plan, and an anti-plastic pollution resolution passed by the AC, we were not sure what other contributions we could make.
- Another suggestion was to contribute to the planning and participate in an NGO Forum on the potential conservation benefits of restorative aquaculture, specifically seaweed, sea vegetable and shellfish farming that Save Our Shores is planning.
- We also discussed the topic of access – access in this case meaning how all our non-profits struggle to be relevant to the diverse populations that live in our community. Most of us do not have bilingual staff and cannot/do not produce any of our materials in at least both English and Spanish, but possible other languages as well.
- The access questions led to the idea of trying to form a collaborative of non-profits who would like provide internships to college students, but do not have enough revenue to pay them. We talked about how a collaborative might be able to find some shared resources so between three or four CWG members could pay an intern a decent stipend and they could rotate across our organizations and gain a broader set of experiences.
- We also talked about maybe being able to provide some input and support to Jason Scorse at MIIS and David Helvarg at Blue Frontiers further develop the concept of a Blue New Deal that they are planning to bring to Congress in the spring.

- The meeting wrapped up by members sharing updates and then agreeing on a regular meeting schedule, set for the second Wednesday of the month from 3:00 – 5:00 alternating live and teleconference meetings.

Upcoming Activities

- Next CWG will be January 8.

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

- Finding the right focus to get more people involved and engaged

Assistance or Request of MBNMS Staff

- Any ideas for how the CWG can continue to add value are welcome.

Research Activity Panel (RAP):

RAP Meeting

The RAP met on November 1 at the Moss Landing Marine Labs. Presentations were given on the activities at MLML, the Davidson Seamount Research Cruise (with video of the Octopus Garden and whalefall), and research use and regulation of drones. A summary is posted on the RAP webpage.

Surveying pits on the deep seafloor off Big Sur

RAP members at MBARI were part of a survey describing thousands of mysterious holes or pits in the seafloor in the area of a proposed wind-energy farm off the Central Coast. They found two different sizes of holes. The larger ones average 175 meters across and five meters deep, and are nearly circular and fairly evenly spaced. Over the last few years, surveys by MBARI and other organizations revealed over 5,200 pits spread out over 1,300 square kilometers, making this area the largest known pockmark field in North America.

<https://www.mbari.org/holes-in-seafloor/>

Workshop on Bar-Built Estuaries

Most estuaries along the California coast are seasonally separated from the ocean by sand berms. These bar-built estuaries provide important habitat for marine species in the sanctuary. On December 4, RAP members participated in a workshop of multiple resource agencies and research institutions to determine ways to better manage these habitats. Participants included representatives from State Parks, MLML, the Naval Post-Graduate School, The Nature Conservancy, University of California, San Francisco Estuary Institute, California State Universities, NMFS, and the Regional Water Quality Control Boards.

RAP Members on Ocean Protection Council working group on MPAs and climate change

The Ocean Protection Council has formed a working group on "California's Marine Protected Area Network as a Climate Resilience Tool." They are charged with producing, by May 2020 "a scientific guidance document that identifies existing science and data gaps, and makes recommendations on the best approach to assess and monitor the ability of California's marine protected area (MPA) network to provide ecosystem resistance and resilience against climate-driven impacts."

A related op-ed was published recently in the San Francisco

Chronicle <https://www.sfchronicle.com/opinion/article/Pacific-Ocean-California-s-secret-weapon-14871661.php>

Ocean Deoxygenation

RAP Members were among the scientists from the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) who recently published a report on Ocean Deoxygenation.

A few statements from the report about dissolved oxygen in the ocean:

"...there is no environmental variable of such ecological importance to marine ecosystems that has changed so drastically in such a short period of time as a result of human activities ...ocean

deoxygenation is starting to progressively alter the balance of life, favoring hypoxia- tolerant species at the expense of hypoxia sensitive ones."

The report by "67 scientific experts from 51 institutes in 17 countries, ... shows the inescapable fact human activities are now driving life sustaining oxygen from our ocean-dominated planet... The loss of oxygen in the ocean can broadly be put down to two overlying causes – eutrophication as a result of nutrient run-off from land and deposition of nitrogen from the burning of fossil fuels, and the heating of ocean waters as a result of climate change,..."

"If you can't breathe, nothing else matters."

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2019-048-En.pdf>

Sanctuary Tourism and Recreation Working Group (STAR):

Newsletter

Tom Rowley suggested including Monterey Fisheries Wharf events. There are many activities for the next few months. PJ likes highlighting one event per region. PJ sends Chamber of Commerce events to Brian.

Brochures and Poster

Carol Maehr has been distributing brochures and maps. Some of the STAR members have requested copies of MBNMS maps. Cynthia suggested some of the docents from the Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC) could distribute posters and brochures and SEC could offer the map for a donation.

Whale Tail Program update

Lisa gave an overview. The MBNMS team looked at possible regulation topics in the context of primary resource protection issues (wildlife etiquette, water quality and ocean trash). Some of the topics that were touched on were balloons, drones and ridding of waste from boats. PJ said drones are being used by realtors and by entities hired by Chamber of Commerce. Planes have been downed because of drones. PBS did a special on the benefits of drones and research. The State has an education program that focus on education for marinas and zero waste programs certification program. Tom will make an inquiry but he is not aware of any educational programs about drones. Lisa stated ONMS leadership is designing and finalizing framework that the Whale Tail program will fit into. Lisa's next activities include doing a couple focus groups to find out what these businesses (hospitality and on-the-water recreation) need. Cynthia will suggest some hoteliers who could be part of a focus group for the Whale Tail program.

Cruise Ships

Tom Rowley mentioned MBNMS and coast guard program is unique in terms of enforcement and what they do for cruise ships. There has been a lot of misinformation out there. How can we get the word out better.

Brian Nelson brought up an incident that occurred in Monterey in November regarding a cruise ship. Protestors led by Brett Allen stationed on top of Anchorage A (a voluntary, yet honored anchor position created to not disturb the shale reef) so the cruise ship had to detour away and anchored where they needed to (still 250 feet away from the reef). The protestors then called MBNMS's Scott Kathey to report the cruise ship was not anchored in the appropriate location. US Coast Guard then had to respond and make sure the anchorage was not blocked by protestors.

LCDR Lee Crusius introduced US Coast Guard Deputy Chief of Waterways for District 11 Tyrone Connor. Deputy Chief Connor explained they are trying to expand outreach to partners out on the water. The office is focused on waterways management. They are also looking at doing a Port Access Route Study, a study reviewing all vessel traffic from Mexico border to Washington/Canada border. They will look at what routes vessels in various industries are taking and hope to publish the

study in the next couple of months. Deputy Chief Connor also said they want to be active partners in the local community and a couple USCG vessels may be resources that can be used in this area.

Steve McShane suggested a one-page document be developed regarding cruise ships in MBNMS. A few talking points would be helpful rather than navigating the large quantity of information available online.

Brian Nelson offered to come speak at AMBAG on the topic and agreed a one-pager would be nice.

Shoreline Fishing/Gear and Threats to Pelicans Sub-Committee:

The sub-committee will have their first brief meeting during lunch at the AC meeting. They are developing a questionnaire and Jose Montes has already interviewed a dozen people on the subject. The sub-committee hopes to wrap up and have recommendations to the AC by April.

V. INFORMATION ITEM: California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group efforts to reduce whale entanglement risk

Karen Grimmer, MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator, and Morgan Ivens-Duran, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife Environmental Scientist, gave a presentation on current whale entanglement numbers, the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group, the Risk Assessment & Mitigation Program (RAMP), working group recommendations and responses to entanglements. Between 2017 and 2018, confirmed entanglements in California, Oregon and Washington combined increased from 32 to 46 with California entanglements increasing from 26 to 30. Seven of those 2018 entanglements in California were confirmed Dungeness crab entanglements. The CA Dungeness Crab Fishery Working Group has conducted risk assessments for entanglements, data collection and analysis to identify overlap whale densities and gear locations, gear innovation and testing projects. They discussed the RAMP process and when the whale entanglement evaluation team is convened. Karen and Morgan discussed data sources used by the whale entanglement working group for their assessments including CDFW aerial survey data, whale watch operator data and vessel surveys. They also discussed recommendations made by the working group to the CDFW Director in regards to the Dungeness crab fishery and best fishing practices.

VI. STANDING ITEM: SAC Challenge

The Recreational Fishing seat presented the ways in which they communicate with their constituents as well as the ways in which they communicate with fellow AC members and MBNMS staff.

Jose Montes, Recreational Fishing primary has started working with Brian Nelson to take over the Recreational Fishing newsletter. He is still learning how to draft the newsletters himself. Jose is participating with Bart on the Shoreline Fishing/Gear and Threats to Pelicans Sub-Committee. He is making contact with constituencies through Coastside Fishing Club and Full Speed Club. He also joined several Facebook groups to put his name out there as the Recreational Fishing representative. He is working to get more subscribers to the newsletter and to educate/correct the misinformation regarding sanctuary regulations and fishing. Jose is part of a California recreational Dungeness crab fishing gear working group. They will be making recommendations on how many pots recreational fishermen should be able to use before and during crab season. They will also be asking for a longer recreational season. Jose is also working on recruiting a Recreational Fishing alternate and has two candidates in mind.

VII. ACTION ITEM: Balloon marine debris in MBNMS resolution

Gary Hoffmann presented the draft resolution addressing balloon marine debris in MBNMS. The Advisory Council reviewed and edited the resolution.

A motion was made after the lunch break and seconded to approve the resolution.

MOTION: PASSED

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Public Comment:

Attached as Appendix A.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: Microplastics

Kyle Van Houtan, Monterey Bay Aquarium Chief Scientist, gave a presentation on quantifying and identifying types of microplastics in the Monterey Bay area. Kyle discussed the impacts of microplastics (and macro plastics) including: entanglements, gastrointestinal tract blockage, caloric loss, material toxins and surface toxins. He mentioned the most toxic plastics contain colorants and plasticizers. Plastics are a very significant problem needing to be eradicated because all species need the resiliency to fight global climate change. Kyle also talked about a new report released by Ocean Wise discussing microfiber pollution, entitles *Me, My Clothes and the Ocean: The role of textiles in microfiber pollution*. Link to the report:

https://assets.ctfassets.net/fsquhe7zbn68/4MQ9y89yx4KeyHv9Svynyq/8434de64585e9d2cfbcd3c46627c7a4a/Research_MicrofibersReport_191004-e.pdf

IX. ACTION ITEM: Needles in MBNMS resolution

Steve Haddock introduced the resolution regarding needles/syringes in MBNMS. Improperly discarded needles directly affect critical habitats, ecosystems and public health within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and those who visit here. It is our duty to protect these areas and those visiting here. The Advisory Council reviewed and edited the resolution. They resolved to raise the awareness of the scale of this issue and to encourage action and devotion of resources to mitigating the problem. Steve Haddock will work on the final wording of the letter and send to Brian Nelson.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution.

MOTION: PASSED

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

X. INFORMATION ITEM: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation update

Paul Michel and Dan Haifley gave a brief update on the foundation and funding during 2019. The foundation was able to raise \$100,000 for three programs: Team OCEAN/Bay Net, whale rescue, and public relations/awareness. Five events occurred during 2019 spanning the length of the sanctuary: a concert, Cannery Row dinner, Sea Stars Brunch in Marina, Westside Santa Cruz BBQ and a holiday reception in Santa Cruz. The foundation used magazines, newspapers, radio, TV, podcasts, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter throughout the year to increase outreach and promote events. Lastly, they mentioned the foundation rebranding with a new logo.

XI. INFORMATION ITEM: Advisory Council 2020 Work Plan

The Advisory Council reviewed the draft Advisory Council 2020 Work Plan. The Advisory Council offered a few suggestions for presenters on proposed topics.

Month	Topic	Suggested presenters
February	An update on CA trash amendments with sanctuary context	Karen Mogus (CA EPA), Karen Grimmer (MBNMS), AMBAG
	Ocean acidification and sea level rise	Tiffany Wise-West (City of SC), Kristy Kroker (UCSC)
April	Kelp/urchin development (included MBNMS/GFNMS proposal for kelp forest monitoring)	Mark Carr student, Keith Rootsart (MBNMS AC)
	Shoreline fishing/gear and pelicans sub-committee recommendations	Bart Selby (MBNMS AC)
June	Treating wetlands with bioreactors to remove nitrates in watershed	Coastal Watershed Group
	Ag plastics	Pam Krone (MBNMS)
	Water quality (HABS, ASBS)	Bridget Hoover (MBNMS)
August	Whale watch/boater approach guidelines, including report out from USCG	Karen Grimmer (MBNMS)
	Drones including positive perspective of drone use	Charlies Endris (ESF)
October	Seal bombs including update on AC sound working group recommendations	Andrew DeVogelaere (MBNMS)
	Status of new sanctuaries within sanctuary system	Bill Douros (WCRO)
	Maritime heritage update	Erica Burton (MBNMS) and Bob Schwemmer (ONMS)
December	Wind farm status	Bill Douros (WCRO)
	Annual update on condition of sanctuary using existing tools and data	Andrew DeVogelaere (MBNMS)

XII. STANDING ITEM: Advisory Council Member Announcements

Paul Reilly, CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife primary: On Nov. 22, the commercial Dungeness crab fishery opener in the Central Management Area (Sonoma County and south) was delayed until Dec. 15 by declaration of the Director to avoid marine life entanglements. At CDFW Director Charlton H. Bonham’s request, the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group was convened on Dec. 4 to review new information and conduct an updated risk assessment. The Working Group provided a consensus recommendation to open the fishery as soon as possible, while providing the fishery sufficient notice prior to Dec. 15. After considering the Working Group’s updated assessment, the Director is proceeding with the Dec. 15 opener. The Central Management Area will open at 12:01 a.m. on Sunday, Dec. 15. This opening is preceded by an 18-hour gear setting period that will begin at 6:01 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14.

Through the course of the crab season, CDFW will engage regularly with the Working Group to review scientific information and advise efforts to minimize the risk of whale and sea turtle

entanglements while maximizing fishing opportunity. Based on that process, CDFW may take additional management actions in response to future risk assessments. For more information related to the risk assessment process or this delay, please visit CDFW's Whale Safe Fisheries page.

For the latest information on the Dungeness crab season, please visit www.wildlife.ca.gov/crab and 2019-2020 Dungeness Crab Fishery Best Practices Guide

Coastal Pelagic Species – From Oct 1 through Dec 7, about 2,100 metric tons of market squid and about 2,800 metric tons of northern anchovy have been landed in the greater Monterey Bay area.

Captains noted the larger sizes of anchovies in the past month and the presence of large jellyfish in their catches nearshore, which has since lessened. In early December, NOAA Fisheries published a final rule implementing new harvest specifications and management measures for Pacific mackerel. An annual catch target (ACT) of 10,109 metric tons (mt) and a harvest guideline of 11,109 mt is set for the 2019-2020 fishing season.

In November, about 3,000 captive-bred endangered white abalone were released in two kelp bed locations off the coast of Southern California, with a goal of increasing the species' chance of reproducing in the wild. This was a collaborative study with NOAA, CDFW, Paua Marine Research Group, UC Davis, and California Sea Grant. The white abalone ranged from 2-5 years in age and 2.5 to 7 cm in length.

Tom Rowley, Business & Industry alternate: attended the California Coastal Commission hearing regarding slant well permits for the desalination permit on November 14. He attended the afternoon remote session in Marina. He heard many lies during the hearing. Tom stated this is a critical issue for the county. If the desalination plant does not move forward, it will cripple the local economy for years to come.

Dan Haifley, At-Large – northern region primary: MBNMSF had a very successful year, capped by a holiday fundraiser last night at Fred Keeley's home in Santa Cruz.

We made grants of \$50,000 Team OCEAN/Bay Net, \$35,000 whale rescue (supplemented by funds from the national foundation), and an \$15,000 for public relations, including sponsorships of the Santa Cruz Warriors, Whalefest, and recorded media to get the word out about MBNMS.

Staff and board also did a number of promotions for the year, including numerous media interviews.

Bart Selby, Recreation alternate: reported there will be no Mavericks event this year. He also mentioned pelicans left a month early this year in the Pillar Point area.

Pamela Neeb Wade, Education primary: thanked Steve Haddock for the syringe presentation and resolution. There are so many non-profits and educators working on these beaches with students.

Dan Brumbaugh, ESNERR alternate:

Current Seat Activities

- ESNERR hosted a successful fourth Elkhorn Slough Science Symposium in mid-October at Moss Landing Marine Labs. The symposium was attended by over 100 people and featured approximately 25 oral and poster presentations on diverse topics ranging from science education, marsh ecology and restoration science, water quality and biogeochemistry research, archaeology and historical ecology, and new understandings about native Olympia oysters and southern sea otters. The program and abstract booklet can be found at http://www.elkhornsloughctp.org/training/show_train_detail.php?TRAIN_ID=EICRRHH

- Several senior staff at ESNERR (including the Manager, and the Research, Stewardship, Education, and Coastal Training Program Coordinators) attended the annual meeting of the National Estuarine Research Reserve System in Charleston, SC in mid-November. The meeting allows for sharing of experiences and prioritization of new initiatives across the national system of 29 NERRs around the country.
- The Reserve's school education programs are back in full swing, including the 5th year of the Estuary Explorers after-school program (2nd to 5th graders from Elkhorn Elementary School), visits to 4th grade classrooms in the Pajaro Valley Union District, regular visits by WATCH (Watsonville Area Teens Conserving Habitats) participants, Teachers on the Reserve workshops, and regular hosting of visiting school field trips.
- The previously announced Outdoor Classroom space located behind our Admin. Building has been completed, providing new covered outdoor space for supporting educational and workshop activities at the reserve.
- Fall plantings continue at the Reserve's Hester Marsh restoration project; Fall bird monitoring recently occurred as well.
- Reserve staff and members of the Amah Mutsen Tribal Band and Land Trust met at the reserve to share their respective and shared interests in land stewardship, including the protection of culturally important sites on the reserve.

Upcoming Activities

- Bids on other planned construction projects including a revamped parking lot and new amphitheater have been coming in over budget due to increased labor and material costs, requiring either plan adjustments or requests for additional funding. Construction of Phase II of the Hester Marsh Project is facing similar challenges.

Katherine O'Dea. Conservation primary:

Current Seat Activities

- Action to reduce plastic pollution continues across our region. The SC County passed a measure to charge 25-cents for to go cups. The Supervisors also asked the County DPW to return in March with an ordinance establishing a take back program for disposable contact lenses and recommendations re: balloons and microfibers. The city of Santa Cruz will take action on a to-go cup ordinance in January. Monterey and PG have pass comprehensive food service ware ordinances in the last few months as well.
- Save Our Shores is planning a restorative aquaculture forum for NGOs in an effort to educate the non-profit community about the potential benefits of this type of aquaculture and build support for it across the central coast of CA. We are early in the planning process but will share more as things gel. The forum will be late March or early April.
- Save Our Shores and a number of other conservation organizations will be tabling/exhibiting at Whale Fest January 25 and 26.
- Save Our Shores held its first S.O.S. WaveMakers youth leadership forum in November. Twenty-two youth from three counties (Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Santa Clara) attended. The focus of the forum was developing solutionary mindsets.

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

- There is still a significant level of concern about cruise ships entering the Bay.

Carol Maehr, At-Large central region alternate: continues to distribute MBNMS brochures. So far, she has gotten to Monterey, Seaside, Pacific Grove, Marina and Moss Landing. This includes 30

establishments and to date 1,535 English brochures and 250 brochures in Spanish have been distributed. New large sanctuary posters are again available and five establishments now have the new one. Smaller posters for the January 2020 Whalefest are also being distributed. She has given out 14 while distributing the brochures. Carmel, Salinas and the Santa Cruz areas need to be added to the list. It would be great if some AC members would like to help. In addition, no schools have been covered. However, libraries have. The furthest Carol has distributed materials is Pigeon Point Lighthouse hostel, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and the Moss Landing Harbor office. Carol requested AC members to contact her if they know of an establishment that should be included. She will make a list and give it to Lisa Uttal who needs to get approval from the chain of command.

Carol mentioned while distributing materials, she is frequently asked about collecting shells, etc. on our beaches. She is at a loss for what to tell them since shelling is occurring but the sanctuary prohibits shelling. (EDITORIAL CLARIFICATION: MBNMS does not prohibit the taking of shells. There is a prohibition on the take of rock with live animals, but not shells. Also, if the shells are above mean high tide, they are outside of the sanctuary's jurisdiction.)

Steve Haddock, Research alternate: A workshop was held December 12 to discuss use of drones for coastal research. The goals were to make connections in the community and to coordinate best practices and permitting. Scientists from around California were joined by representatives from industry, the sanctuary, USFWS and FAA. A Slack team was set up to continue the discussion, and you can join at <http://j.mp/uas-slack>

Paul Michel, MBNMS primary: attended GFNMS AC meeting in November. He gave an update on MBNMS's Management Plan Review process. He received a question regarding the San Francisco Pacific Exclusion Area (closure of the Donut Hole). They made a motion again and set up a sub-committee to look at closing the Donut Hole and whether it should be made part of GFNMS, MBNMS or a new sanctuary.

Brian Nelson, Diving primary: the Diving newsletter was sent out. He requested AC members let him know if they would like to receive the newsletter in the future.

PJ Webb, At-Large southern region: Ali Wolman will be temporarily filling in for Carolyn Skinder at the Coastal Discover Center.

PJ thanked all the Beach COMBERS volunteers working during the winter. The current weather conditions are not ideal.

It is elephant seal season. The Piedras Blancas rookery is getting busy with overflow at San Simeon Beach. PJ recommended for people to call the CalTIP harassment line if they witness any harassment.

John Haynes, Harbors (Monterey): All of the Harbor communities have been hit with the delay of the opening of the Commercial Dungeness crab season. The season was not opened prior to Thanksgiving as was previously customary due to concerns of Whale entanglement.

San Mateo County Harbor District has hired Jim Pruett to serve as their new General Manager. Jim comes from a career of Coast Guard leadership and recently served as legal counsel to the Coast Guard. They also hired a new Harbormaster for Pillar Point Harbor, Chris Tibbe. Chris has a long career in Marina and Boatyard Management. Their lighted boat parade this weekend has been cancelled due to boat traffic concerns with the opening of the crab season.

Santa Cruz Harbor had their lighted boat parade and the O'Neill Sea Odyssey lighthouse decoration lighting last Saturday. The Santa Cruz Port District finished their Atlantic Ave. Sea Wall project, a new restaurant building is the next stage of the project, around 80 new dock piles were replaced and 3 piles at the boatyard ways were repaired to keep the boatyard operational.

Moss Landing Harbor District has extended the deadline with regulators on their dredging project which includes beneficial re-use of materials on local beaches. The project is about 1/3 completed at this time.

Monterey Municipal Harbor had their lighted boat parade on Sunday. They are in the process of abating more than a half dozen old vessels that had been neglected or abandoned.

Eric Abma, CA State Parks alternate: all State Park buildings are open during the holidays and all are decorated.

CA State Parks recently hired a statewide MPA coordinator Erica Delmar and she will be based out of Monterey office.

Steve Lindley, NMFS primary: NMFS has hired Dr. Jarrod Santora as a federal full-time equivalent (FTE).

NMFS is working with CDFW, Trout Unlimited and recreational anglers on a study of striped bass in Monterey Bay estuaries. Striped bass are a non-naive species that preys on threatened steelhead.

More info here: <https://www.tu.org/blog/central-coast-stripped-bass-survey/>.

Julia Dyer, CA EPA alternate:

- Reported for Karen Mogus (CA EPA primary): Ocean Plan Periodic Review – The Board adopted the staff report and workplan for the Ocean Plan Periodic review at their meeting on December 3rd (press release with links to the information are attached). The five highest-ranking projects were 1) defining tribal beneficial uses; 2) bacteria objectives for water contact recreation; 3) reviewing the exceptions to the prohibition of discharge to Areas of Special Biological Significance; 4) desalination implementation provisions; and 5) ocean acidification, hypoxia and climate change impacts.
- Reported for Karen Mogus (CA EPA primary): Once Through Cooling Policy Compliance Deadline Extension Request – The Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures (SACCWIS) recommends the State Water Board extend the Once Through Cooling Policy December 31, 2020 compliance deadlines for two or more years for Alamitos Generating Station and possibly Huntington Beach, Ormond Beach and Redondo Beach. The SACCWIS is comprised of resource protection agencies and energy agencies who meet at least annually to review the reliability of the electrical grid and make recommendations to the State Water Board for any changes to the Once Through Cooling Policy based on energy needs. SACCWIS representatives presented the potential for an extension request as an information item at the November 19 State Water Board meeting. SACCWIS will hold a special meeting in January 2020 to formalize the extension request considering input from the State Water Board and stakeholders. If the SACCWIS approves the extension request, the State Water Board would have to amend the Ocean Plan to provide the extension, which would be done in a formal, public rulemaking process in 2020. More information is available on the SACCWIS webpage at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/cwa316/saccwis/
- Central Coast Water Board Presentation of Groundwater Data – The Central Coast Domestic Well sampling program (<https://sites.google.com/view/ccgroundwater>) has been collecting

groundwater quality samples from unregulated small water systems and private domestic wells since October 2018. At the January 2020 Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board meeting my colleague Mark Davis and I will be presenting the results of the available data collected to date, approximately 250 well points. Once the agenda and Staff Report for the January 2020 Central Coast Water Board meeting are posted I will forward the information to the Advisory Council. Finally, interested parties can view the anonymized data through the Groundwater Ambient Monitoring and Assessment Program (GAMA) website. The majority of the data is out of San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and San Benito counties.

LCDR Lee Crusius, US Coast Guard primary: this past November he attended the Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting. He noted the tabling event of additional scoping for shallow set longline in the Pacific Fishery Management region and groundfish changes to some regions. In December, USCG will initiate flights for the sanctuary. It will be dedicated time towards Monterey Bay and MPAs to include sanctuary surveillance and use information in area. Lcdr Crusius mentioned an active humpback whale entanglement. The whale entanglement team is on station right now.

Tova, CA Natural Resources alternate:

Funding Opportunity – The Ocean Protection Council is pleased to announce a funding opportunity for projects focused on outreach and education to improve compliance with marine protected area (MPA) regulations in California:

2020 Marine Protected Area (MPA) Outreach and Education Small Grants Program

The MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program, funded by the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC) through the Once-Through Cooling (OTC) Interim Mitigation Program and administered by Coastal Quest, is a competitive grant program providing support for projects focused on outreach and education to improve compliance with MPA regulations statewide. Applicants may submit proposals for \$25,000 - \$100,000. A minimum total of \$750,000 will be distributed under the MPA Outreach and Education Small Grants Program's request for proposals (RFP).

For more information on this funding opportunity, please join an optional webinar on December 19, 2019 at 10 am – 11:30 am PST or January 14, 2020 at 5:30 pm - 7 pm PST.

This announcement invites the submission of proposals for projects that:

Increase outreach and education to improve compliance with MPA regulations locally, regionally, and/or statewide;

Can have significant value for the state, such as developing replicable methods and increasing local capacity through project implementation;

Impact geographic scales of 1) statewide and/or 2) from San Diego to Big Sur (near Lucia), including waters around the Channel Islands. A small amount of funds provided by matching philanthropic donors will be available for projects north of Big Sur (near Lucia), with priority given to underserved communities;

Show relevance with the OTC Program's award guidelines and other key resources such as the California MPA Education and Outreach Needs Assessment, the California MPA Network Outreach and Education Guide, the MPA Statewide Leadership Team Work Plan; and

Demonstrate a lasting impact on communities targeted through these projects.

Please see the full RFP for additional details.

For successful applicants, work is expected to begin approximately on June 1, 2020 and must end no later than December 1, 2021. Applications must be submitted no later than 5:00 p.m. PST, January

27, 2020 using the SOAR electronic proposal submission system. Submit RFP and underserved community technical assistance questions to Coastal Quest: Tegan Hoffmann, tegan@coastal-quest.org. Submit questions about state priorities within the MPA Management Program to CA Ocean Protection Council: Scott Shatto, Scott.Shatto@resources.ca.gov

Steve McShane, AMBAG primary: Steve is part of Monterey Bay Community Power. Last month they almost doubled their service area and just voted to add eleven new jurisdictions. This is a carbon free energy source.

For the ninth year, he is organizing a holiday home lighting bus tour of Salinas. He requested AC members to let him know if they would like to attend.

Keith Rootsart, Diving alternate: Keith has done a few talks with dive clubs recently. He has been pairing up with other people to talk about urchin issues.

He attended an urchin science day organized by Steve Lonhart. It was an event for the scientific community to gather and talk about urchins. They discussed what research is happening and what needs to happen.

Keith is also working with GFNMS on culling urchins at two different areas.

Meeting adjourned at 4:14 PM.