

**MBNMS Research Activity Panel
Meeting Summary
September 8, 2023**

Host: Steve Haddock – Deep-Sea Environment
(Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute)

Location: Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
Pacific Forum
7700 Sandholdt Road
Moss Landing, CA

Virtual option: information available upon request (erica.burton@noaa.gov)

Date: Friday, September 8, 2023; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Members:

	Discipline	Primary/ Alternate	Name	Institution
X	Research Coordinator		DeVogelaere, Andrew	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
X	Biological Oceanography	primary	Ruhl, Henry	Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
X	Biological Oceanography	alternate	Kudela, Raphael	University of California, Santa Cruz
X	Deep-Sea Environment	primary	Cailliet, Greg	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (retired)
X	Deep-Sea Environment	alternate	Haddock, Steve †	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
	Estuarine Environment	primary	Clark, Ross	Central Coast Wetlands Group
	Estuarine Environment	alternate	Wasson, Kerstin	Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation
	Fisheries	primary	Lindley, Steve	NOAA Fisheries Service
X	Fisheries	alternate	Owens, Brian	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
	Marine & Coastal Geology	primary		
X	Marine & Coastal Geology	alternate	Wagner, Amy	California State University, Sacramento
	Marine Conservation Biology	primary	Goldbogen, Jeremy	Hopkins Marine Station
	Marine Conservation Biology	alternate	Micheli, Fiorenza	Hopkins Marine Station
X	Nearshore Environment	primary	Southall, Brandon *	Southall Environmental Associates, Inc.
X	Nearshore Environment	alternate	Carr, Mark	University of California, Santa Cruz
X	Physical Oceanography	primary	Orescanin, Mara	Naval Postgraduate School
	Physical Oceanography	alternate		
	Shelf & Slope Environment	primary	Lindholm, James	California State University, Monterey Bay
	Shelf & Slope Environment	alternate		
	Social Sciences	primary	Pomeroy, Carrie	University of California, Santa Cruz
	Social Sciences	alternate	Scorse, Jason	Middlebury Institute of International Studies
X	Water Quality	primary	Hunt, John	University of California, Davis
X	Water Quality	alternate	Hoover, Bridget	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

*Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Primary)

†Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Alternate)

RAP Coordinator:

X	Burton, Erica	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
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GUESTS:

Allen, Stephen	MBNMS Advisory Council member (At-Large, primary)
Angerer, Keegan	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
De Beukelaer, Sophie	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Chiaroni, Emma	Penn State, Graduate Student
Grimmer, Karen	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
King, Chad	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Lonhart, Steve	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Parker, Haven	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Roest, Michele	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

CONSENT ITEMS

Introductions/Modifications to the Agenda (Brandon Southall)

HOST PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

MBARI Research and Institutional Update (Steve Haddock)

- Steve provided key updates from MBARI, and research on midwater gelatinous organisms.
- MBARI President/CEO Chris Scholin is retiring; recruitment is underway.
- New vessel R/V *David Packard* arriving in November; science operations begin 2024.
- Site preparation continues for Instrumentation Integration and Test Facility (Building G); most work to date underground; construction completion expected Fall 2024.
- Summaries of recent lab research available in [2022 Annual Report](#).

ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Summary of May and August Advisory Council meetings (Brandon Southall and Steve Haddock)

- For meeting minutes, see: <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacma.html>
- **ACTION**: Brandon and Steve will share Advisory Council's draft emergency October meeting letter in response to proposed Chumash Heritage national marine sanctuary draft documents (i.e., proposed rule; draft environmental impact statement; draft management plan).

Research Community Newsletter (Steve Haddock)

- Steve initiated RAP discussion of creating research community newsletter to reach constituents (e.g., research institutions and scientists), similar to what Advisory Council's Diving Member(s) have created and maintained for their constituents using Constant Contact® (email marketing tool).
- RAP briefly discussed purpose, scope, and content.
- RAP chair and vice-chair would take lead.
- RAP suggested further discussion at December RAP meeting.
- **ACTION**: RAP leadership will discuss further, and draft a range of options for discussion at December RAP meeting.

SANCTUARY RESEARCH UPDATE

Climate Vulnerability Assessment (Steve Lonhart/MBNMS)

- Steve reminded RAP of the process for optional RAP review of draft Climate Vulnerability Assessments (CVAs; 48 focal resources).
- RAP members are welcome to review any of the 48 focal resources, either based on subject matter expertise or personal/professional interest.
- New documents will be added on a weekly basis, and every two weeks MBNMS staff (Sea Grant Fellow, Grace Kumaishi) will send an email reminding RAP members that new draft CVAs are available.
- There is no obligation to review any of the drafts, but staff provide this opportunity for the RAP to contribute.
- All drafts will be completed by end of September.
- Comment period will be closed in October, to format, and submit to ONMS.
- CVA expected to be released in Spring 2024.
- CVA will serve as reference tool for next phase of Adaptive Planning.
- Advisory Council subcommittee will be involved with Adaptive Planning; including RAP leadership.

ED RICKETTS AWARD AND LECTURE

Ricketts Award Criteria Revision (Erica Burton)

- In response to suggestions, from RAP members and MBNMS Superintendent, to broaden RAP award criteria and diversity, RAP discussed existing criteria and drafted revised criteria.
- Revised draft award criteria for RAP review:

“The Ed Ricketts Memorial Lecture was created to honor people who have exhibited exemplary work throughout their career and advanced the status of knowledge and appreciation of the marine environment.

This is recognition for lifetime achievement in the fields of marine conservation, science, or education, based in part on Ed Ricketts’ exemplary ability to study natural history and share knowledge in a compelling fashion.

A major criterion of this award is the ability to give an excellent lecture.

Nominees do not have to be local to the Monterey Bay area.

The nomination process shall consider the benefits of awarding traditionally underrepresented groups, to promote the global need for marine conservation.”

- **ACTION**: Erica will share revised draft award criteria with RAP members for final opportunity to comment (via email).

QUICK UPDATES ON NEW HIRES AT INSTITUTIONS, AND FACILITY UPDATES

- No decisions or actions

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- December: Research Community Newsletter

- December: White Shark public education (J.Scorse)
- Offshore wind energy updates

Future Agenda Items (running list):

- MBA’s Conservation and Science Program update
- MPAs as monitors/buffers of climate change (e.g., recent OPC presentation at SAC; Micheli’s recent newspaper article)
- Update on seal bomb issue (requested by J.Scorse)
- WATER QUALITY UPDATES:
 - Update on nitrogen loading in local watersheds (by Holly Bowers/Ross Clark; initially presented March 2022 RAP meeting)
 - Trends in Benthic Community Composition in Monterey Bay: 2001 – 2020; 20-year time series of water and sediment quality monitoring by CCLEAN (requested by J.Hunt)
- SOCIAL SCIENCE TOPICS
 - Jason Scorse: White Shark public education (December 2023)
 - Carrie Pomeroy: Collaborative kelp research; and rock crab fishery closure and impacts
- OFFSHORE WIND UPDATES:
 - Future updates on offshore wind energy (requested by J.Scorse)
 - More offshore wind energy and mapping fishing grounds (requested by C.Pomeroy)
 - Could include recent “Winds of Change” and/or summary of upcoming briefings at CA Coastal Commission, including risk assessment and effects of wind deployments on upwelling (Brandon Southall, Grace Chang, Kaus Ragukhumar could be speakers)
- KELP UPDATES:
 - Funded project on kelp as ecological-social systems in Monterey and Mendocino areas (C.Pomeroy and M.Carr)
 - Keith Rootsart (Diving representative on Advisory Council) would like to present on kelp restoration efforts
 - CDFW kelp management by Dr. Kristen Elsmore (Brian Owens willing to invite)
- eDNA sampling in proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (Steve Palumbi, Hopkins Marine Station)
- Tammy Russell (Nancy Foster Scholar): National Marine Sanctuaries capture enhanced abundance and diversity of the California Current Ecosystem avifauna (Spring 2024)

2023 RAP Meeting Schedule and Locations

Date	Hosts	Location
January 13	Lindley	Virtual Meeting
March 10	Southall	Virtual Meeting
September 8	Haddock	MBARI (with virtual option)
December 8		Virtual Meeting