



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



Sanctuary Office Report

Volume 19, Number 1

A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS REPORTING PERIOD: DECEMBER 11, 2021 – FEBRUARY 4, 2022

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

50 years of Ocean and Coastal Conservation

Our ocean and coasts are great places to live, work, and recreate, and drive our nation’s economy. They support a wealth of biodiversity, which is part of our national heritage and character. Fifty years ago, Congress took action to protect the nation’s ocean and coasts, when it passed a set of powerful laws that help form the foundation for the nation’s marine stewardship today: the Clean Water Act, the Coastal Zone Management Act, the Marine Mammal Protection Act, and the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. These laws made a tremendous difference. The clean water we enjoy today, the species that have recovered from historically low population levels, the preserved public access to beaches and coastal waters, the two networks of protected areas that provide conservation, recreation, and economic opportunities to their

communities: these are only some of the benefits we can trace back to these historic laws. But even greater challenges lie ahead. Our special aquatic places and species, and communities need you now more than ever to ensure that our legislative authorities and priorities remain relevant and adaptive to an increasingly dynamic natural and human environment. Visit www.noaa.gov/50-years-ocean-coastal-conservation to learn more. And scroll down to find out just how far we've come...and how far we still have to go.

NOS Recaps Fiscal Year 21 by the Numbers

We did the math so you don’t have to! Our [2021 Year in Review Accomplishments Report](#) features a breakdown of our work by the numbers including navigation safety, coastal resilience efforts, monitoring and detection of harmful algal blooms, advancement of coral restoration efforts and storm response activities.

NOAA Ambassadors Program kicks off

The NOAA Ambassadors Program is an opportunity for employees to engage in NOAA-related outreach, education, and service activities in their communities. There are many ways to be a NOAA Ambassador, including giving a talk in a classroom or community center, joining an environmental event, serving as a judge for a science fair, and more. To learn more about the program and to become a NOAA Ambassador, visit the [website](#) to access easy-to-use training materials and tips on how to communicate NOAA’s mission to the public.

The **FY 22 NOS Zero Waste Action Plan** was intentionally designed to ensure that progress continues whether we’re teleworking or in the office. In comparison to the previous action plans, this one puts greater focus on large goals rather than numerous actions. We invite you to review our FY 22 goals to continue introducing waste reduction practices for NOS operations and future events.

Celebrating 50 Years of Ocean and Coastal Stewardship

Nearly 50 years ago, the U.S. ushered in a new era of ocean conservation by creating the **National Marine Sanctuary System**. Since then, the system has grown into a nationwide network of 15 national marine sanctuaries and two marine national monuments that conserve more than 620,000 square miles of ocean and Great Lakes waters.



Your sanctuary system supports coastal communities and drives local economies by providing jobs and opportunities for people to discover, enjoy, and form lifelong connections with these places. With the help of hundreds of partners — including many across NOAA — thousands of volunteers, and millions of supporters, NOAA is helping safeguard our nation’s underwater resources for future generations.

“From the very beginning, the enthusiasm, creativity, and can-do spirit of our staff, partners, and volunteers have allowed the sanctuary system to become a global leader in advancing marine protected areas as valuable conservation tools for our planet,” said John Armor, director, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS). “As we look at the many issues facing our ocean and coasts in the next 50 years, I’m reassured that our staff, and those who work with us, will continue to meet these challenges and ensure that sanctuaries continue to thrive for future generations.”

Ahead of our 50th anniversary in October 2022, ONMS will reflect upon the past and chart a new course to better meet future challenges and opportunities. In partnership with the **National Marine Sanctuary Foundation**, ONMS invites all its partners to help during ONMS’s “Save Spectacular” campaign to celebrate, discover, explore, and enjoy the unique wonders of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Many of NOAA’s programs have worked with ONMS since the beginning, and we encourage you to help tell our collective conservation story. Together we can ensure these special places are sustained as destinations for adventure, solace, and reflection for the next 50 years.

This coming year provides many opportunities to celebrate and reflect upon our shared conservation legacy, as the Coastal Zone Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Clean Water Act all turn 50. These acts, along with several others implemented by NOAA, form the foundation for much of the marine and Great Lakes-related conservation for the nation. Your help in raising awareness for 50 Years of Ocean and Coastal Conservation (50OCC) will help highlight NOAA and our partners’ efforts to achieve our diverse stewardship mandates.

We invite you to browse our **50th anniversary webpage** to view a new video, poster series, timeline, web stories, upcoming events, and **resources** for our partners to participate in the campaign. This month, **NOAA.gov** will launch a website that will host **50OCC materials** including “50 Ways to Love your Ocean and Coasts” and a new video. Check back often and follow our social media channels as new outreach materials will be regularly posted.

Thanks for helping us “save spectacular” and celebrate 50 years of ocean and coastal conservation and for all you do to help sustain these resources for all to enjoy!



MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



RESEARCH AND MONITORING

MBNMS Research Activity Panel Holds Virtual Meeting

On January 14th, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Research Activity Panel (RAP) met virtually. Agenda items and presentations included: upcoming Deep Sea Exhibit at the Monterey Bay Aquarium; Deep Sea Mining; December Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting; updating List of Major Marine Science Institutions; and 2022 Ricketts Award voting process. The MBNMS Research Activity Panel (RAP) is a working group of the MBNMS Advisory Council (AC). The RAP meets five times per year, and advises AC and sanctuary staff on basic and conservation science issues. <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/rap/rapma.html>

General Atomic/CINMS Marine Debris pilot study

MBNMS assisted CINMS in creating a simulated garbage patch in the Santa Barbara Channel in order to test sensors that will be deployed on military grade drones that will be flown to the north Pacific gyre. The exercise was intended to test multiple sensors at 17,500; 8,500 and 5,000 foot elevations to detect debris floating in the water. The debris was secured to a tow line on the R/V Shearwater and consisted of fishing nets, polypropylene line, buckets, pallets, buoys, water bottles, etc. The experiment seemed successful and was a great collaboration between sanctuary sites. This was a valuable study that will benefit all west coast sanctuaries using remote sensing and in addition, ultimately succeed in identifying large debris in the Pacific gyre that will be removed, thereby saving many marine species from entanglement.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Region 3 Area Contingency Plan being updated

CDFW Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and USCG hosted a meeting to review new oil spill deployment strategies in the Area Contingency Plan that overlaps MBNMS. Many important ecological sites were reviewed and booming strategies updated. A list of sites for on water or table top exercises were identified. It is important to work with partners and prepare for environmental emergencies in order to protect sanctuary resources. Partners rely on sanctuary involvement for area familiarization and identifying sensitive sites.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

MBNMS partners with Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute to place a soundscape exhibit at the Coastal Discovery Center in San Simeon, CA.

MBNMS staff met with MBARI and Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station staff to review and evaluate two Soundbox prototypes to install in MBNMS's Coastal Discovery Center. The content and interactive experience from the original Soundscape exhibit at the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz was replicated and re-purposed into two portable sound exhibits. One of the boxes is going to be installed at the CDC and tested. A visitor approaching these exhibits pushes a button and will see a spectrogram and hear a sound. After a few minutes, there is a reveal of a video of the sound source and some text on the screen. The goal was to have the visitor 'see, hear and feel' a variety of human (eg. Container ships), biological (whales, dolphins) and naturally produced sounds (earthquake, rain) that make up the MBNMS soundscape. This new, more portable version has more buttons than the original exhibit and will allow staff to program additional sounds into the boxes over time. This collaborative effort has the goal of communicating and educating the public about the sanctuary's soundscape and Sanctsound research efforts.

NEWS COVERAGE

[Fair warning: Part II - San Francisco Bay View](#)

San Francisco Bay View

... the Independence not near the Farallon Islands, as many have written, but rather into “what is now the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

[Hand-harvested Big Sur Salts are love letters to the California coast - 7x7 Bay Area](#)

7x7 Bay Area

The water he collects from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is filtered nine times to remove all impurities then evaporated, ..

[Lisa Wooninck named superintendent of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary – Santa ...](#)

Santa Cruz Sentinel

It is one of our nation's largest national marine sanctuaries, and is larger than Yellowstone National Park. The sanctuary is part of America's ...

[Morning Lookout: A gut check for 2022 \(literally!\) and looking at new laws - Lookout Local Santa Cruz](#)

Lookout Santa Cruz

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Check Presentation. Promoted Content. Bay Federal raises nearly \$11,000 for Monterey Bay ...

[Sewage spill closes Asilomar Beach - Monterey Herald](#)

Monterey Herald

Rain advisories are issued following showers because rainwater can carry pollution to beaches, according to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary ..

[Rachel Kippen, Our Ocean Backyard | Monterey Bay Sanctuary promotes safe whale ...](#)

Santa Cruz Sentinel

... Education and Outreach Coordinator for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), ...

[Coast Line | Marine sanctuary seeks alternate advisory council applicants - Santa Cruz Sentinel](#)

Santa Cruz Sentinel

The NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is seeking applicants for three seats on its advisory council, according to a release from the ...

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/3-foot-long-mammoth-tusk-001000188.html>

[The battle to decrease microfibres flowing into the ocean - Monterey Herald](#)

Monterey Herald

“Even though Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a huge marine protected area and is federally protected, we still find relatively high ...

ONMS

[Very necessary protection | Rhetoric & Reason - New Times San Luis Obispo](#)

New Times San Luis Obispo

How will the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary provide economic benefits and environmental protections to the Central Coast?

[USPS Announces 'The Giving Tree' Stamp To Mixed Reviews - Simplemost](#)

Simplemost

... Edmonia Lewis, a Black Heritage stamp; and a National Marine Sanctuaries (stamp set) celebrating 50 years of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

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

☆☆ Check out these MBNMS Advisory Council webpage links! ☆☆

Advisory Council Meeting Agendas & Minutes

<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacma.html>

Advisory Council Actions and Results

<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacact.html>

Advisory Council User Group Newsletters (seats and working groups/sub-committees)

<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/advisory-nwsltr.html>

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.

Follow MBNMS on [Facebook \(https://www.facebook.com/MBNMS\)](https://www.facebook.com/MBNMS), [Instagram \(@mbnms\)](#) and [Twitter \(https://twitter.com/mbnms\)](https://twitter.com/mbnms)

FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

NOS Ocean Facts: Ocean Life

<https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/factspage.php?siteName=oceanfacts&cat=Ocean%20Life>

Caitlin Seaview Survey

<http://www.catlinseaviewsurvey.com>

SIMoN

<https://www.sanctuarysimon.org>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

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

Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries

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

MBNMS STAFF

Lisa Wooninck – Superintendent
Dawn Hayes – Deputy Superintendent

Research

Andrew DeVogelaere – Research Coordinator
Jennifer Brown – SIMoN Ecosystem Scientist
Erica Burton – Research Ecologist
Chad King – Research Ecologist
Steve Lonhart – Research Ecologist

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Lisa Uttal – Education Specialist
Nick Ingram – Exhibits/Facility Specialist (SEC)
Sophia Barwegen - Volunteer Coordinator (SEC)

Resource Protection

Karen Grimmer – Resource Protection Coordinator
Sophie De Beukelaer – GIS Analyst & Permit Coordinator
Lisa Emanuelson – Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator
Bridget Hoover – Water Quality Protection Program Director
Jazmine Mejia-Muños – Resource Protection Specialist
Pamela Krone – Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator
Paul Chetirkin – Resource Protection Specialist

Program Operations

Raymond Chisolm – Program Specialist
Andrew White – Network Manager and Webmaster

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<https://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:
<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/elists.html>

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: <https://www.montereybay.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
<https://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:
<https://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

- Contact Information -

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