

Celebrating 20 Years — 1992 to 2012



Chad King, MBNMS

Two Decades of Actions to Increase Understanding and Protection of the Sanctuary

September 1992

Public ceremonies take place to celebrate the designation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and an office opens headquartered in Monterey, California.

1994

Water Quality Protection Program is launched with an ecosystem-based approach integrating the expertise of regional resource agencies to protect water quality in the sanctuary and its watersheds.

The Sanctuary Advisory Council, the nation's second, convenes with 20 voting members to provide continued public participation in sanctuary management.

1995

NOAA ship *McArthur* visits the sanctuary for the first time to provide a platform for conducting research relevant to sanctuary management. In later years, the ship makes two subsequent visits.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation is established — a non-profit organization providing support for sanctuary research, education and resource protection efforts.

Bay Net program graduates its first group of volunteer docents who provide sanctuary natural history and conservation information for visitors along the shoreline.

1996

Save Our Shores implements Sanctuary Stewards docent program to train volunteers to become educators, activists and citizen experts related to sanctuary conservation issues.

First annual Sanctuary Currents Symposium is held, bringing together scientists, students, teachers and the public to share information about ocean science, conservation and policy.

The MBNMS *Site Characterization*, an in-depth description of the ecology and history of the sanctuary written by regional experts, is made available on the sanctuary's web site.

New regulations providing additional protection for white sharks go into effect.

1997

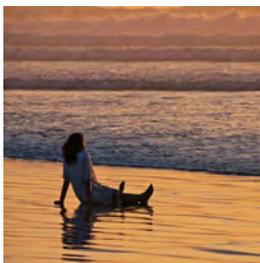
A Natural History of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, a 260-page book is published jointly with the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Urban Watch, a water quality monitoring program gets underway as volunteers collect and analyze water samples from storm drain outfalls to determine what common urban pollutants flow into the sanctuary.

Beach COMBER volunteers' survey beaches for the first time to help scientists better understand causes of seabird and marine mammal mortality. As top predators, their condition is an indicator of ocean health.



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Mike Baird



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1998

The National Oceans Conference and Oceans Fair are held in Monterey, and President Clinton and Vice President Gore visit the Sanctuary raising public awareness about the ocean and marine sanctuaries.

New regulations about the collection of marine jade go into effect ensuring continued protection for this unique resource.

The Model Urban Runoff Program begins with a partner effort to produce strategies for addressing polluted urban runoff that local cities implement today.

Significant management planning and agency coordination related to Big Sur landslide debris disposal gets underway and continues today to improve marine habitat protection.

1999

The first *Ecosystem Observations* report written by regional experts is released to increase understanding of the natural and cultural resources of the sanctuary.

Sustainable Seas Expedition, a deep-water exploration using the *DeepWorker* submersible led by Dr. Sylvia Earle, visits the sanctuary, returning again in 2000.

A new sanctuary office opens in Santa Cruz expanding the presence of sanctuary staff and outreach in the north.

A new educational bathymetric and topographic map for the sanctuary is released.

Agriculture Water Quality Alliance begins as a non-regulatory partnership to reduce run-off, protect sanctuary health and maintain productivity of agricultural lands and receives a Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award in 2005.

2000

The first annual Snapshot Day is held and volunteers monitor water quality throughout sanctuary watersheds. To date, more than 2600 volunteers have monitored 180 sites.

A vessel traffic agreement receives final approval, moving large commercial ships further offshore and reducing the risk of major oil spills close to shore.

SIMoN (Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network) is implemented to coordinate and provide summaries of hundreds of central coast marine research and monitoring projects, as well as interactive maps, photos and other useful public information.

A new southern office in San Simeon opens and staff presence and outreach increases to the south.

Team OCEAN, a volunteer kayaker-outreach program launches to teach responsible wildlife viewing and reduce wildlife disturbance, to date communicating with more than 63,300 visitors.

First annual "First Flush" storm drain monitoring event occurs as volunteers mobilize to collect runoff samples during the first major storm of the season

2001

MERITO is launched to engage Latino communities in a comprehensive multicultural marine conservation education and outreach program.



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A detailed continental shelf map for the sanctuary is released in collaboration with the United States Geological Survey.

The first interpretive exhibit of the Sanctuary Scenic Trail is installed. Eventually the trail will allow visitors to explore the coastline from Santa Cruz to Monterey.

2002

LiMPETS, a student-centered intertidal monitoring program is adopted as a new sanctuary education program.

An agreement is made with cruise ships to a “no discharge policy” and anchoring restrictions within the sanctuary to protect water quality and sensitive habitat.

The sanctuary leads its first multi-institution expedition to characterize the biology of the Davidson Seamount.



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A program to prevent harassment of elephant seals by curious visitors gets underway in San Simeon.

On-going surveys and removal of invasive seaweed *Undaria* begins in Monterey harbor to try to prevent it from spreading in the sanctuary.

2003

The sanctuary leads an expedition to the wreck of the Union Oil tanker SS *Montebello*. A return expedition in 2011 shows there is no risk of oil contamination.

2004

Elkhorn Slough surveys and subsequent management actions begin to stem the problems created by human-induced tidal erosion.



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Bay Watershed Education and Training program (BWET) begins supporting sanctuary environmental education with community and school grants now totaling \$4,858,750.

2005

A working group with state and local partners convenes to facilitate the development of a regional approach to coastal erosion in the southern part of Monterey Bay.

The sanctuary leads an expedition to conduct surveys of the sunken rigid airship USS *Macon*, returning to it again in 2006. It is added to the National Register in 2010.

2006

Central Coast Water Quality Synthesis, Assessment and Management program is initiated to assess water quality conditions and coordinate watershed monitoring.

A new sanctuary interpretive facility, the Coastal Discovery Center opens in San Simeon and volunteer docents begin offering public tours and school programs.

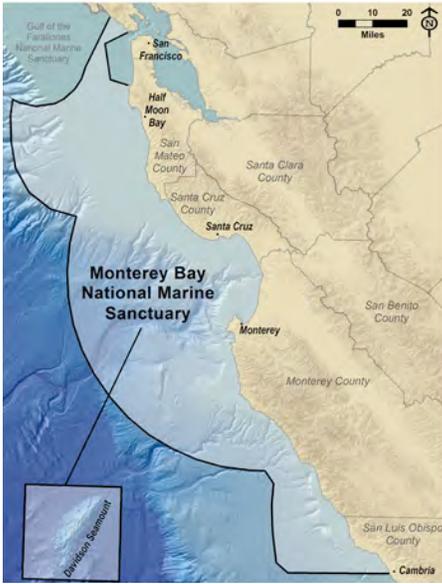
A new sanctuary research vessel, *Fulmar*, is dedicated at its homeport in Monterey to support scientific research and increased understanding of sanctuary resources.



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2007

The first network of state marine protected areas (MPAs) is designated along the central coast and the sanctuary begins supporting MPA outreach and monitoring efforts.



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
 Established September 18, 1992, the nation's largest marine sanctuary spans more than 6,000 square miles of coastal waters off central California. Within its boundaries, a rich variety of habitats teem with an amazing array of life. Rugged rocky shores, lush kelp forests, a towering offshore seamount, steep underwater canyons and other coastal environments host 34 species of marine mammals, more than 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds, over 350 species of fish and an abundance of invertebrates and algae.

Our Mission
 To understand and protect the coastal ecosystem and cultural resources of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

2008

A revised management plan, final rule including regulations and EIS is released. The plan, developed with extensive community participation, contains 28 action plans directing future work in carrying out the sanctuary's mission.

A collaborative effort with PISCO gets underway to monitor the sanctuary's rocky intertidal and kelp forests to inform future management actions for these critical habitats.

A "Voices of the Bay" fisheries curriculum helps students learn about local fisheries and the challenges and complexity of the seafood industry.

2009

A new regulation to protect krill goes into effect prohibiting their harvest off the west coast.

Davidson Seamount is added to the sanctuary with new regulations to protect its remarkable coral and sponge gardens and other natural resources.

A new three-year project to study and remove lost fishing gear from the sanctuary gets underway.

The first "Condition Report" summarizing the health of sanctuary resources is released.

A new web site hosted by CSU Monterey Bay offers the public a way to interact with the data, images and video collected in an on-going study to characterize the biology of the continental shelf.

The U.S. Postal Service unveils a new stamp depicting a sanctuary kelp forest.

2010

A new on-going initiative to improve ecosystem-based management is launched to maintain healthy sanctuary resources while allowing for multiple sustainable uses.

Guidelines and recommendations (developed with other state and local agencies) are released for site selection, design and operation of desalination plants in the sanctuary.

Groundbreaking occurs for the construction of the new Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz across from the famed Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, slated to open in 2012.

Sanctuary sponsors and organizes outreach activities for the first international Blue Ocean film festival held in Monterey.

2011

For the first time ever, sanctuary scientists launch an expedition to study effects of a lost shipping container resting on the sanctuary's seafloor.

Your Sanctuary, a new public television series airs on Access Monterey Peninsula TV.

Monterey Bay region is selected to implement the new White House America's Great Outdoors Initiative to support conservation and public stewardship of the sanctuary's watersheds.

2012

Sanctuary celebrates 20 years of ocean research, education and ecosystem protection!