



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Office Report

Volume 10, Number 6



A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: DECEMBER 20, 2012-JANUARY 31, 2013

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, the 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

NOAA Seeks Public Comment on Expanding Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Off Northern California

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has under way a public process to review the boundaries for its Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries off northern California. The agency is soliciting public comments on this boundary review through March 1. The sanctuaries, established by Congress in the 1980s, together protect nearly 2,000 square miles of ocean near the coast of San Francisco. The proposed expansion area is north of the existing sanctuaries and extends from Bodega Bay in Sonoma County to Alder Creek in Mendocino County. This area encompasses Point Arena-North America's most intense "upwelling" site—which is home to diverse species and a productive ecosystem. NOAA will review these comments to determine if an expansion is beneficial, and if so, will prepare a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to assess expansion alternatives. Once a draft EIS is completed, it will be opened for public comment again before final action is taken. "The waters off the northern California coast are incredibly nutrient-rich and drive the entire natural system and, for almost a decade, local communities have been

petitioning their elected officials to expand sanctuary protection to these areas," said Daniel J. Basta, director of the NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. In 2008, during a review of the two sanctuaries' management plans, NOAA was urged to facilitate a public process in the next five years to ensure that sanctuary boundaries were inclusive of the surrounding area's natural resources and ecological qualities. Senator Barbara Boxer and Representative Lynn Woolsey have also introduced legislation in every Congress since 2003 to expand the sanctuaries' boundaries. Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1981, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, designated in 1989, both contribute greatly to ocean and coastal management by engaging in public outreach and education to promote stewardship, conducting scientific and applied research initiatives, and developing and supporting programs that strengthen resource protection for the long-term health of the region.

From Dr. Jane Lubchenco—NOAA's Habitat Blueprint

As a follow-up to Fisheries Assistant Administrator Eric Schwaab's July 2012 introduction of NOAA's Habitat Blueprint, I'd like to share an exciting update that engages all of our NOAA line offices. Once the host of vibrant coho salmon and steelhead runs, the Russian River was a premiere recreational fishing destination. By 2000, coho salmon were virtually extinct from the river, and the remaining habitats are badly degraded. Under the Endangered Species Act, California's coho salmon are now listed as endangered, and steelhead are listed as threatened. Heavy demand for and competing uses of the river's water adds to the stress on fish. As a valuable resource for Sonoma and Mendocino County agriculture and viticulture, as well as domestic water supply, water extraction from the river and tributaries can leave fish stranded during periods of critical demand in the spring, summer, and early fall. Russian River Valley communities are also impacted by frequent flooding. Steep hills and numerous canyons make accurate rainfall predictions and flood forecasts difficult. NOAA's expertise in flood and weather forecasting, integrated monitoring, habitat protection and restoration, stakeholder education, and coastal and ocean planning and management will be critical to addressing the issues that challenge this watershed. Our goals in the Russian River watershed include:

- Rebuilding endangered coho and threatened Chinook and steelhead stocks to sustainable levels;
- Improving rainfall, flooding and frost forecasts in the Russian River watershed; and
- Increasing community resiliency to flood damage and improved planning and water management strategies.

The Russian River effort exemplifies a guiding principle of the Habitat Blueprint: to prioritize resources and activities across NOAA to increase our effectiveness and measurably improve important habitat. This is especially important in our current budget environment. NOAA's Ocean Service, NOAA Fisheries, NOAA Research, and National Weather Service have all begun projects that are expected to yield measurable results in three to five years.

National Marine Sanctuary News

Scoping Meeting on Sanctuary Expansion Garners Support from Local Constituents

On January 24th the first of three public scoping meetings on a proposal to expand the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries took place in Bodega Bay, California. The expansion would add around 2,770 square miles of ocean off the Sonoma and Mendocino counties in northern California. The meeting drew around 72 citizens, federal officials and fishing industry representatives. The comments received were overwhelmingly positive, and included many constructive suggestions.

Just-retired congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, who with Senator Barbara Boxer spearheaded the proposal in every congress since 2004, expressed hope that the expansion would proceed smoothly; it could be completed by July 2014. State Senator Noreen Evans' Environmental Policy Aide Tom Roth, and Sonoma County Supervisor Efren Carrillo spoke in support of the proposal, citing sanctuary prohibition of oil exploration and drilling as a primary benefit. Comments from breakout sessions were supportive of the initiative.

Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary Raises Awareness about Marine Protected Areas at “Underwater Parks Day”

On January 19, 2013, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary participated in two Underwater Parks Day events in Southern California. This fifth annual event educates the public about the benefits of protecting California's prime ocean habitats and a statewide network of marine protected areas, including those established around the Channel Islands. The sanctuary was represented at the Aquarium of the Pacific Underwater Parks Day in Long Beach and at the Ty Warner Sea Center Underwater Parks Day in Santa Barbara. The Aquarium of the Pacific had over 7,000 visitors that day and the Ty Warner Sea Center had 600 visitors.

Third Biennial Ocean Climate Summit Open for Registration

Registration is now open for the "3rd Biennial Ocean Climate Summit: Strength Through Collaboration," to be held on February 20, 2013 in San Francisco. The Summit will provide a forum for resource managers, scientists, educators, and public relations specialists involved in climate change and ocean acidification efforts in the greater GFNMS region to recognize collaborative partnerships and successes; promote dialogue and share new information and tools across disciplines; discuss education and outreach efforts that inspire action within the community, and lead to new collaborations; discuss local collaborations that provide resources for climate adaptation planning/ climate smart conservation; and build upon existing collaborations and forge new partnerships.

Ocean for Life Event Takes Place in New York City

On Wednesday, January 18 the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation hosted an Ocean for Life event at the Penn Club in New York City. Headliner speakers included Former New Jersey Governor Thomas Kean and Jean Michel Cousteau. Governor Kean, a co-chairman of the 9/11 Commission, spoke of Ocean for Life's roots in the tragedy of September 11th and the power of cross cultural programs for a better future. Jean Michel Cousteau's remarks focused on the need for action, by all of us, to save our precious planet as we work together across international boundaries. Additional donors and supporter of the program attended, including Qatar Foundation International which has pledged an additional \$30,000 to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to support two students from the New York Harbor School to participate in Ocean for Life in the upcoming field study this summer.

NOAA IMO shipping lane adjustment announcement yields nationwide news coverage

The West Coast ship strike team distributed press releases to CINMS, CBNMS and GFNMS media lists, coordinated interviews and media coverage. Busy shipping lanes off the California coast, including routes that cross three national marine sanctuaries, will be adjusted to protect endangered whales from ship strikes. The IMO recommendation will go into effect June 1, 2013. Hundreds of news stories nationwide covered the announcement.

Sanctuary Staff Help Build Capacity for Sustainable Fisheries with Indonesian MPA Practitioners

Lisa Wooninck and Gabrielle Johnson represented NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries as lead trainers at the capacity building training "Planning for Sustainable Fisheries in MPAs" in Medan, Sumatra, Indonesia. Twenty-five MPA practitioners and five professional trainers from Indonesia's Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries attended the training to better understand ecosystem-based management approaches to fisheries in a participatory setting. As part of the Coral Triangle Initiative, Indonesia aims to implement a network of MPAs to improve resiliency of marine ecosystems and coastal communities. The training program is funded by USAID-Indonesia.



MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



MANAGEMENT

Forage Species letter and resolution passes at MBNMS SAC meeting

At the December 13 SAC meeting, the SAC members after much deliberation passed two motions related to forage species. The first was approval for a letter to go from MBNMS to PFMC, DFG and FGC expressing support for recently adopted policies on forage species. The final SAC resolution also further expresses support as well as encourages MBNMS to identify opportunities to advance policies and science and work with fishery management bodies on this issue.

SAC Motorized Personal Watercraft subcommittee to meet

As part of the December SAC meeting, a motion was passed to form a subcommittee to “study the Motorized Personal Watercraft rule as it applies to surfer safety.” The committee (with support from staff) will meet at the end of January to discuss this issue and report back to the SAC in February

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Celebration of the James W. Rote Distinguished Professorship

James Rote worked as a science advisor in the California State Legislature, which included a significant role in writing the California Coastal Act. Later in his career, Dr. Rote was instrumental in creating the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB). The James Rote Distinguished Professorship Reception was held this year at the home of new CSUMB President, Eduardo Ochoa, with presentations by Congressman Sam Farr and his wife Shary. Dr. James Lindholm is the current Rote Professor and he spoke about his IfAME lab contributions to linking science to policy. Many of the examples of this work were about collaborations with the Sanctuary Program and both graduate students chosen to speak interpreted their work on MBNMS research topics. Congressman Farr and President Ochoa were very appreciative of Dr. Lindholm and his work with MBNMS.

Sanctuary Research Needs updates on national web site

Research Needs for MBNMS are available on the National Marine Sanctuary web site (<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/science/assessment/mbnms.html>). These provide a source of information for graduate students and NOAA scientists interested in receiving grants related to the Sanctuary Program. Moreover, they provide background to a variety of management issues and guidance on general program needs, complementing the MBNMS Management Plan. This list of 17 research needs has been updated.

Decisions made on future protection priorities for Elkhorn Slough

The Strategic Planning Team for the Elkhorn Slough Tidal Wetland Plan has made some decisions how to move forward with conservation of the Elkhorn Slough. Staff will now move forward on the following recommendations: 1) No management actions will be pursued to modify the location of the mouth of the Elkhorn Slough to influence tidal flow and erosion; 2) Monitoring will continue associated with the new sill at Parsons Slough, and an assessment will be completed to determine if further reduction of the tidal prism in this area is appropriate; 3) A low sill or comparable structure will remain under consideration at the Highway 1 Bridge; 4) A high sill at the Highway 1 Bridge will no longer be considered as a viable management option for addressing tidal erosion in the estuary; 5) Restoration of salt marshes will be pursued through sediment addition where subsidence due to earlier diking; 6) Tidal exchange will be increased in some wetlands where water quality and biodiversity are extremely degraded due to artificial tidal restriction; 7) Additional efforts will be made to reduce nutrient-loading in the Elkhorn Slough Estuary; 8) Further research is necessary to determine the causes of salt marsh dieback in Elkhorn Slough and to identify the factors most likely to contribute to future salt marsh sustainability; 9) Tidal Wetland Plan member organizations and other regional conservation partners will explore the potential for jointly setting goals for habitats and conditions in the current and historical estuarine wetlands of the Elkhorn Slough watershed, so that multiple organizations can implement projects under a shared conservation plan.

Staff revisits the rocky intertidal at the Alder Creek Slide Area

On December 10th, Chad King and Steve Lonhart returned to the rocky intertidal at the Alder Creek land slide, which closed Highway 1 in scenic Big Sur for three months in spring 2011. The intertidal previously consisted of small boulders and cobble, with a few large boulders, and was interspersed with patches of coarse, dark gravel. The intertidal south of the slide has changed dramatically, and is now mostly sand beach. Contract researchers from UC Santa Cruz began intertidal surveys of the area and continued through Dec 12th. These quantitative data will be used to track changes in the biological community through time and by distance from the slide.



Summary of Humboldt Squid Strandings Posted on SIMoN

SIMoN staff posted a summary of the recent Humboldt squid strandings within Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. One of the first observations occurred on October 9 in Pacific Grove, CA. Sightings continued throughout October and November, with beachings at Point Pinos from November 24-26. Volunteers in the Beach COMBERS program noted the squid on several beaches. The largest stranding to date occurred on beaches around Santa Cruz and began on December 9. Hundreds of squid were observed near Pleasure Point, around Hidden Beach in Aptos, and from Seascape Beach to Manresa State Beach. One observer found that most of the stranded squid measured 60-70 cm long including tentacles, and were scattered across the beach in groups of 1-8. Humboldt squid, also called Jumbo squid, have recently expanded their range northward from Baja and southern California, and periodically wash ashore on central California beaches. You can read more, including links to videos at <http://sanctuarysimon.org/news/index.php/2012/12/humboldt-squid-stranding-events-2012-2003>.

SIMoN staff presents remote lecture at the Mystic Aquarium

On January 16th, Dr. Steve Lonhart was the featured speaker for Immersion Learning. Laura Batt, Director of Programs for the JASON Project and Immersion Learning, invited Steve to give a 30 min lecture on rocky intertidal adaptations and kelp forest ecology, key topics covered by educators as part of the Immersion Learning program focused in Monterey Bay. The talk was viewed in the Nautilus Live Theater at Mystic Aquarium in Mystic, Connecticut. Viewers included 23 Boys & Girls Club educators from around the country who are part of the Immersion Mentoring program, an initiative funded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. As part of the training, educators were introduced to the content of the Monterey Bay program as well as some methods of effective mentoring. Participants could see Steve Lonhart via a webcam.

SIMoN staff negotiates disposition of historic slide collection to UCSB

On January 16th, Dr. Steve Lonhart negotiated the transferal of a historic slide collection to the UC Santa Barbara Special Collections Library. In 2011 the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History shipped the collection, which includes about 30 large boxes containing slides, raw data, and results, to MBNMS. These data are part of an extensive study of southern California intertidal macrophyte and macroinvertebrate communities from 1973-1981. The study was under the direction of Dr. Mark M. Littler and Dr. Diane S. Littler, both of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of California Irvine. More recently the Littlers were staff at the Smithsonian, and left the massive collection there upon retiring. Since the data is from southern California, and in many cases near UCSB, librarians at UCSB were excited to receive the collection and make it available to researchers.

MBNMS Research Activity Panel Meets at CSU Monterey Bay

On January 11th, the MBNMS Research Activity Panel (RAP) met at California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), in Seaside, CA. Agenda items included: CSUMB Marine Science Program Update, Ecologically Significant Areas Update, RAP Protocol to Review Issues Requested by SAC and other Working Groups, RAP roles and responsibilities, RAP membership update, and Sanctuary Advisory Council update (including Forage Species Science and Management in the MBNMS).

Lost in the Deep - A Short Documentary About a Research Expedition to a Shipping Container Lost in the Deep Sea

During a transit from San Francisco Bay to the Port of Los Angeles on February 26, 2004, the cargo ship M/V Med Taipei weathered a storm but lost fifteen 40-ft shipping containers in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), and another nine south of the sanctuary. One of these containers was discovered by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. MBNMS staff produced a short documentary entitled, *Lost in the Deep* summarizing a 2011 research expedition, led by Dr. Andrew DeVogelaere of MBNMS, to one of these shipping containers located 4,000 feet below the surface of Monterey Bay. This film is just the first in an upcoming series of short documentaries about select monitoring projects occurring within MBNMS and appearing on the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network website (www.sanctuarysimon.org). You can view this video on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRU2PxMOh1&list=UUjCbFBWEJ0EHMJQ2bY7ffmg&index=1>.

King Tide Photographed in Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Santa Cruz

On December 12th, SIMoN staff photographed the low and high, or "King" tide at three locations around Monterey Bay (Monterey, Pacific Grove, and Santa Cruz). King Tides occur several times a year, but the tides on December 12 and 13 were the highest of the season. Occasional astronomical alignment of the sun and moon working in conjunction with the tilt of the earth's axis, pull the ocean with more force than normal. Tides peaked in Monterey Bay at +7.0 feet, followed by a -1.7 foot tide, producing a dramatic differential in sea level (8.7 feet) in approximately 8 hours. Photos of the tides in Monterey and Pacific Grove can be found on the MBNMS Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.10151289902124916.487309.99323009915&type=1>



Resource Protection

MBNMS leads development of web tool to track regional water quality improvement efforts

On January 10, the MBNMS hosted a meeting with web developers and the planning team of the “Central Coast Action Tracker” (CCAT) project. While many organizations are implementing conservation projects on the Central California Coast, our ability to communicate the extent and assess the impact of these efforts is limited due to inconsistent and insufficient collection of project data. The CCAT is web-based tool addressing this need. Since 2011, MBNMS has led a process with stakeholders and project managers throughout the region to assess data needs and to develop a consensus-based project database. Working with a web development firm, we are now designing an interactive web interface for the project tracker that will ease reporting and present regional project information in a compelling way to multiple audiences. The next step is to beta test the CCAT with members of the project advisory group. Once completed, the CCAT will help MBNMS and our water quality partners in strategic planning, disseminating results, and evaluating our impacts. The CCAT is a collaborative project of the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance and the Greater Monterey County Integrated Regional Water Management Program.

WQPP Supports Watershed Partners through Strategic Planning Efforts

On January 9th, Water Quality Protection Program staff met with a consultant for the Coastal Watershed Council (CWC) working on a strategic plan for the non-profit. The CWC Board of Directors is currently developing a new three-year strategic plan to guide their efforts of watershed protection and contracted with the firm Consulting Within Reach (CWR) to lead this process. During the hour long interview WQPP staff gave comments, opinions and suggestions regarding CWC’s involvement in water quality education and volunteer programs. Significance: The Coastal Watershed Council and the MBNMS’ water quality programs have been partners for the past 15 years. Continuing to nurture a long-standing and strong partnership is important to the mission of MBNMS and its goal in improving water quality in the watersheds draining to the sanctuary.

Full proposal on High Impact Weather Events submitted for Preserve America Program

As part of a collaborative proposal to the Preserve America Program, MBNMS submitted the project: Lessons From the Past: Planning for the Future Using High Impact Weather Events in the Monterey Bay Region, California. Information on these extreme weather related events (severe storms, flooding, coastal erosion and inundation, etc.) exists in a number of scattered locations throughout the region (NOAA National Climate Center, U.S. Geological Survey, local newspaper archives and public library collections) but has never been compiled into a usable and accessible database. MBNMS, SIMoN, UCSC, and NWS will collaborate to develop and launch the information on the SIMoN website.

Stakeholder outreach continues with Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESAs)

On December 13, 2012, MBNMS presented to the Sanctuary Advisory Council a project to identify and establish ecologically significant areas. The SAC was pleased with progress and interested in further engagement using a new online GIS ArcView tool that staff is currently developing for public use. January 11, staff provided an update to the Research Activity Panel and asked members for additional information on research locations that would be useful to the research community. On January 16, staff provided an update to the Conservation Working Group with the same questions. MBNMS continues to coordinate with the WCR office and briefed HQ on 1/17/13.

Three sewage spills occur in Monterey and Santa Cruz

On 12/24, a water leak springing up from a newly installed PG&E pole was reported and on 1/7 was determined to be a sewage release. Fire, public works, PG&E and MBNMS convened on 1/10 to resolve the situation and PG&E was able to repair the pipe and permanently stop the leak into the storm drain and sanctuary. On 12/24, Santa Cruz Sanitation Department called to report a 300 gallon sewage spill. A plugged up sewer line caused the sewage to back up into a manhole and drain into the nearby storm drain and then into the sanctuary. They cleared the debris by flushing the line and were able to get the line flowing again.

On 1/16, Monterey Fire Dispatch reported an estimated 1000 gallon sewage overflow less than one block from Breakwater Cove inside of Monterey Harbor. Sanctuary staff responded. An 8" sewer main plugged due to disposable rags. The Monterey Streets crew unplugged the line, and cleaned the road surface. Because of these recent releases, Monterey City Public Works staff is evaluating the need for private lateral inspection ordinances and more effective tracking of sewage releases in the storm drain system.

Central Coast Water Quality Data Assessment Updated

Through funding from the Integrated Regional Water Management planning grant, the 2008 Central Coast Water Quality Data Assessment has been updated. The initial effort surveyed all of the long-term regional programs conducting water quality monitoring in the watersheds and inventoried the frequency, analytes measured, and site locations for each. That information was then used to populate the SIMoN Water Quality Viewer so that anyone interested could see where monitoring is occurring in the watersheds. The 2012 effort revisited those programs and updated all pertinent information. One program was removed as they are no longer monitoring combined efforts of two programs. Two programs were added to the list. The report includes each program's monitoring objectives, design and data availability. There are currently just over 1000 active monitoring sites included in the Assessment and on the SIMoN Water Quality Viewer. This information will help to formulate a regional monitoring program currently being developed.

MBNMS Staff Testify at Natural Resources Commission Meeting in Pacific Grove

On Tuesday, January 22nd, the Water Quality Protection Program Director testified at the Pacific Grove Natural Resources Commission (NRC) in support of a Greenwood Park wetland treatment project. Sanctuary staff are on the Technical Advisory Council(TAC) for this effort to create a wetland treatment in a 1 acre parcel draining to an Area of Special Biological Significance in Pacific Grove. The wetland will treat surface runoff flowing from a 280 acre portion of the city. The NRC made a bold decision to support the alternative that will provide more water quality treatment rather than the alternative being supported by the neighbors of the park based on the feedback from city staff, the Environmental consultant and the TAC. This project will both improve the quality and quantity of urban runoff flowing into the sanctuary and it will also be a valuable demonstration project for other communities to follow.



EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS



Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay hosts its 100,000th Visitor
As of December 29th, 2012, the National Marine Sanctuary message has been shared with over 100,000 visitors at the Coastal Discovery Center in San Simeon. The 800ft² Center opened in 2006 as a joint effort between Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and California State Parks, and is located near the southern boundary of MBNMS. Over the last six years, dedicated volunteers have answered visitor's questions on a variety of topics, taught over 3,000 students, participated in citizen science programs, tabled at public events and hosted seven Ocean's Fairs! In addition, the Center has partnered with over 20 organizations and agencies in the southern region of MBNMS.

MBNMS' Fishermen in the Classroom Program concludes 2012, reaching over 1,500 students

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Fishermen in the Classroom program wrapped up the 2012 year with a total of 57 presentations reaching 1,512 students. Fisherman in the Classroom provides students a hands-on learning experience of "a day in the life" glimpse into who a modern-day fisherman is and what exactly she or he does. Seven fishermen from Monterey, Santa Cruz, and Pillar Point harbors gave unique presentations in classes throughout Santa Cruz, Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. Providing a face to our commercial fisheries and teaching students of our local fisheries are goals of the Fisherman in the Classroom program.

Sanctuary Exploration Center rings in the New Year by greeting their 40,000th guest

The Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz has been open for over 5 months, opening on July 23rd, 2012. The holiday attendance was high with an estimated 300 people per day during the week before and after Christmas, bringing the total attendance to over 40,000 just after the New Year. Visitors around the holidays included those day tripping from around the Bay Area and many locals bringing family and friends to see the newest addition to the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk area. During the same 5 month timeframe volunteers have logged 4,280 hours at the Center during operational hours.

Sanctuary staff host MIIS students at Sanctuary Exploration Center

On January 14th, eighteen graduate students and guests participating in a two-week course on international maritime law and policy visited the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz. The course was taught by a Senior High Seas Advisor for the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Global Marine and Polar Program. Students and guests were most interested in how regulations are coordinated in the Sanctuary, especially in regard to marine protected areas. The students enjoyed the exhibits and left with a real appreciation of the many resource issues we deal with and the amount of coordination required to protect sanctuary resources.

MERITO Academy kicks off the 2012/2013 field trips with the Moss Landing mudflats.

On December 19th the MERITO Academy sponsored a field trip for 45 5th grade students from Olson Elementary to explore the Moss Landing mudflats. Four Sanctuary Exploration Center Docents assisted in teaching the students about the life that flourishes in the mud. This trip was the first of fifteen field trips the MERITO Academy will lead to the mudflats, tide pools and Elkhorn Slough in the 2012/2013 school year.

IntraSanctuary Docent Exchange

MBNMS docents from Monterey and Santa Cruz spent Saturday 1/12 in San Simeon as part of an in-house MBNMS-wide volunteer exchange effort. With volunteers spread out over 270+ miles in 5 programs, providing the opportunity to "see how the other half lives" is an important experience and promotes a more comprehensive understanding of the Sanctuary's collective mission. Participants from Team OCEAN, Bay Net, the Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network and the Santa Cruz Exploration Center began at the Coastal Discovery Center with a presentation on northern elephant seals, followed by a visit to the Piedras Blancas elephant seal viewing site where all witnessed a live birth! The day ended with a tour of BLM's Piedras Blancas Light Station where the docents learned about local light station history and experienced the beauty of PBLS on a sunny, windless day, complete with sightings of whale blows in the distance.

Sanctuary Exploration Center participates in Underwater Parks Day

On Saturday January 19th, 330 visitors explored the Center and helped celebrate Underwater Parks Day on the Central Coast. Numerous organizations up and down the California Coast promoted the State of California's MPA Network on Saturday the 19th. The Sanctuary Exploration Center, in collaboration with the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and Save our Shores, enhanced the exhibits at the Center by displaying three interpretive panels provided by the Foundation focusing on the Central Coast Network of MPAs. The Center also showed the film dedicated to the understanding of the importance of MPAs, *A Wave of Change* throughout the day. Save our Shores enhanced the day by providing literature at a booth on the whale tail plaza, they also greeted passerby's dancing in jellyfish costumes, increasing the visibility of the Center and the special day promoting our special places.

MBNMS Staff attends National Association of Interpretation Training

MBNMS Staff attended a National Association of Interpretation workshop in Monterey, CA from Jan 14th-Jan 18th 2013. This workshop certified participants to teach Certified Interpretive Guide courses to volunteers, staff, or the general public. The workshop was sponsored by Building Ocean Awareness Together (BOAT), and hosted by the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Over the next 12 months BOAT will also provide participants with teaching toolkits and advanced workshops specifically aimed at interpreting climate change. The MBNMS Exploration Center in Santa Cruz is hoping to be able to offer the Certified Interpretive Guide course to their docents in Fall 2013.

Full proposal submitted for FY13 NOAA Preserve America Initiative Internal Funding

MBNMS staff submitted a full proposal for Preserve America Initiative Internal Funding to update the video featuring the wreck of the SS *Montebello*, currently being run at the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay. A recent mission to the wreck has determined the threat of crude oil leaking from its hull is no longer an issue, contrary to what is outlined in the current video. The development of a new video, using old footage, supplemented with new, will not only tell the story of the SS *Montebello*, but will highlight the technologies (old and new) used to characterize the wreck and how important monitoring these resources are to ocean health.



WEB SITE (<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the MBNMS web site.

- Forage Fish Support Letters
http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2012/121213/121213forage_support_letters.pdf
- Forage Fish Resolution
http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/2012/121213/121213forage_reslution-final.pdf

Follow the MBNMS on Facebook and Twitter!

Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MBNMS>

Twitter <http://twitter.com/mbnms>

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.

FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

NOAA Online Media Library

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/photos>

Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries

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

Oceans Live

<http://www.oceanslive.org/portal/>

SIMoN

www.sanctuarysimon.org

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

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

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

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

Thank You Ocean

<http://www.thankyouocean.org/>

Your Sanctuary- TV Show - AMP Media <http://www.AMPmedia.org>

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:

<http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory.html>

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

The 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: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/internship.html>

Sign up for the MBNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming Sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its Working Groups:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/discussiongroups/disgroups.html>

MBNMS Staff

Paul Michel – Superintendent

Dawn Hayes – Acting Deputy Superintendent

Andrew DeVogelaere – Research Coordinator

Erica Burton – Research Assistant

Jennifer Brown – Research Associate

Steve Lonhart – SIMoN Scientist

Chad King – SIMoN Data Analyst

Liz Love – Acting Education Coordinator

Lisa Utal – Interim Exploration Center Director

Carolyn Skinder – Southern Region Program Coordinator

Chelsea Prindle – Fisheries Education Specialist

Craig Jutson – Exploration Center Operations Specialist

Jeff Rosaler – Exploration Center Education Specialist

Karen Grimmer – Resource Protection Coordinator

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Deirdre Whalen – Community and Government Relations Coordinator

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