

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

April 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Virtual Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez	CA State Parks: Sean James
AMBAG: Steve McShane	Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
At-Large: Dan Haifley	Conservation: Katherine O'Dea
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann	Diving: Brian Nelson
At-Large: PJ Webb	Education: Pamela Neeb Wade
Business & Industry: Tom Rowley	Harbors: John Haynes
CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove	Recreation: Gary Pezzi
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly	Recreational Fishing: Jose Montes
CA EPA: Julia Dyer	Research: John Hunt
CA Resources Agency: Tova Handelman	Tourism: Mike Bekker

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: absent
College: Jacob Winnikoff
Cordell Bank NMS: absent
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Dan Brumbaugh
Greater Farallones NMS: Max Delaney
Monterey Bay NMS: Dawn Hayes
National Marine Fisheries Service: absent
U.S. Coast Guard: LTJG Christopher Bell

Alternates Present:

Cynthia Mathews – At-Large northern region	Bart Selby – Recreation
Carol Maehr – At-Large central region	Adam Helm – Recreational Fishing
Gwen Kellas – At-Large southern region	Steven Haddock – Research
Victoria Dickey – College	Jenny McAdams - AMBAG
Charlie Lambert – Commercial Fishing	Chelsea Protasio – CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife
Rachel Kippen – Conservation	Marian Olin – Harbors
Keith Rootsart – Diving	LT Jake Joseph – U.S. Coast Guard
Felicia Van Stolk – Education	

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

Chair Brian Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call was taken by Vice Chair Dan Haifley.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes:

Tom Rowley introduced a motion to approve the February meeting minutes. Seconded by John Hunt.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 17 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstention)

Nichole Rodriguez announced recruitment for Agriculture alternate ended March 31 but received no applications. Recruitment will reopen in the next couple of months.

II. STANDING ITEM: MBNMS Superintendent Report

Research highlights:

NOAA is celebrating 10 years of implementing Integrated Ecosystem Assessments (IEA) with the publication of a special issue of the *Coastal Management Journal*, titled “[Ten years of NOAA Integrated Ecosystem Assessment.](#)”

MBNMS microplastics paper, published April 2021 in *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, is the first extensive sampling of MBNMS surface water for microplastics and microfibers.

The endangered black abalone recovery continues. Approximately 200 have been recovered. Staff are scoping locations for out planting.

Resource Protection highlights:

A Superintendent’s notice to move large vessels offshore – MBNMS worked with USCG Sector San Francisco to contact a laden crude oil tanker loitering approximately 5 miles off shore Año Nuevo, the location of an elephant seal rookery. The vessel was awaiting anchorage in the Port of San Francisco which was backed up for arriving vessels. USCG requested the vessel move further offshore and they obliged. This action formed an agreement for oil tankers to stay 50 miles offshore and use the western TSS when entering or leaving San Francisco.

The Agricultural Water Quality Coordinator for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary coordinated two workshops on cover crops for local agricultural interests. A total of 100 people attended the workshops to learn about how cover crops can prevent soil erosion, improve soil health and cycle nitrogen.

Operations and Administration highlights:

Management Plan Review process continues. All documents in second round of internal clearance. Staff continue to make edits to the documents as the review progresses.

Permits:

- Research permit: Partnership for Interdisciplinary Study of Coastal Oceans (PISCO)
- Research permit: Substrate and deep sea invertebrate collections (MBNMS/CINMS)
- Research permit: Monterey Bay Urchin Experiments
 - Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA
 - Tanker Reef
- Education permit: Silverback Films for the project “Our Planet on the Move.”
- Education permit: Wild Space Productions for the Netflix series on National Parks
- Special Use permit: Low overflights in the NOAA regulated overflight zone offshore of Big Sur for the project "All the Old Knives
- Special Use permit: Netflix series on National Parks (Wild Space)

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Carol Maehr, At-Large central region alternate:

My comments this morning are in regard to the former and now vacant NOAA Building called the Southwest Fisheries Science Center located in Pacific Grove very near Point Piños. The

Government Services Administration (GSA) has packaged it with 11 other buildings throughout the United States, to be offered for sale, to a single buyer this summer. A project proposal from COAST, Center for Ocean Art, Science and Technology wants to transform the building into an interdisciplinary center for innovative marine science as well as ocean-inspired art. The full project proposal is available from Ken Parker, at his email: ken@kennethparker.com

This building is one that we should help save. The marine life murals by Ray Troll that adorn the exterior are impressive and irreplaceable and should be preserved. The building's proximity to Point Piños, the Pacific Ocean, The Great Tide Pool and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary make its location unique. Through education, science and art, a multidisciplinary center here could enhance our ability to meet the challenges to the ocean's ecology while educating today's and future generations.

The SAC and the MBNMS should help fulfill the vision of the COAST project in any way we can.

As an aside, I wonder why would this building not be perfect as an office for MBNMS?

John Hunt added this building is bundled with eleven other properties for sale by the federal government. It would have to get unbundled from the sale to consider using it for the COAST project and MBNMS office space.

Gary Hoffmann, At-Large central region primary:

Over the last couple of weeks there have been reports on the news of several gray whale deaths washed ashore in MBNMS around San Francisco Bay. Some were tentatively identified as death by ship strikes. Clearly voluntary the speed reduction zone isn't working and MBNMS should take action to ensure ships reduce speed especially during whale migration. Many of the dead gray whales were female which probably means offspring has died as well. Ship strikes kill more whales than any fishing gear entanglements do. MBNMS and the AC must take action.

John Haynes, Harbors:

In regards to the AC's charter revision and approval, he is disappointed the request for additional terms for alternates moving to primary was rejected by ONMS. John volunteered to draft a letter to ONMS to address this issue and request reconsideration of additional terms for alternates. We want alternates to have the opportunity to serve in the primary position before terming out.

IV. ACTION ITEM: MBNMS office space

Paul Michel, ONMS West Coast Region Policy Coordinator and Andrew Lawson, Dean of CSUMB College of Science presented an opportunity for a new science building at CSUMB to include a wing for MBNMS's main office. Andrew described the benefits this would have to CSUMB including: capstone projects to support NOAA science needs, collaborative faculty research, service learnings to support sanctuary outreach. The discussed the timeline and planning of this project. NOAA's contribution to the \$108,000,000 project would be \$7,000,000. Construction is estimated to be complete June 2024. Paul discussed benefits to MBNMS including: a permanent home office with long-term savings, meeting and conference spaces, collaborations with staff, faculty and students, growing sanctuary awareness and stewardship.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Overall comments were of support and enthusiasm regarding the collaboration between MBNMS and CSUMB.

Public Comment:

Robert Behl:

Strongly supports the collaboration between MBNMS and CSUMB. Recognized how difficult it can be to renegotiate leases or move to new rentals. This is an important opportunity for future MBNMS.

Dan Haifley introduced a motion to move ahead with the letter to President Ochoa. The letter may be used for grant proposals and fundraising to show support from MBNMS AC of collocating office space at CSUMB. Seconded by Steve McShane

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 19 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

V. INFORMATION ITEM: MBNMS AC Virtual Coffee Talk summary

Nichole Rodriguez presented a summary of the MBNMS AC Virtual Coffee Talks conducted between September 2020 and January 2021. The purpose was to receive feedback and recommendations from AC regarding council operations and communications since moving to a virtual setting. Recommendations included:

- Follow up on topics the AC has addressed like golf balls
- Forward more emails to the AC regarding things happening around the sanctuary
- Send more background materials in meeting announcement emails
- Monthly check ins with members to see if they need anything or if the coordinator needs help with anything
- Encouraging more participation in emailed member announcements while we meet virtually
- Collaboration with other ACs – more interaction to learn about activities across the region and system
- In-person AC meetings should be shorter but more frequent
- Have topic themed AC meetings
- Consider a tribal seat
- Limit the amount of time people speak/comment during meetings with courtesy time checks

Next steps for Nichole will include strategizing with MBNMS staff to implement recommendations and report back to AC with progress towards the end of the year.

VI. INFORMATION ITEM: Restoration Aquaculture in MBNMS

Luke Gardner, California Sea Grant Aquaculture Specialist gave a presentation on restoration aquaculture in MBNMS. He started with an introduction to and history of restoration aquaculture. He discussed how aquaculture can be restorative through seaweed aquaculture and bivalve aquaculture. Luke discussed seaweed aquaculture ecosystem services: bioremediation,

buffer ocean acidification via carbon sequestration and habitat forming. Bivalve aquaculture ecosystem services included water filtration, carbon sequestration, habitat forming and shoreline protection. Local restorative aquaculture activities include purple urchin ranching, reducing livestock methane emissions via seaweed, white abalone repopulation, Olympia oyster repopulation and bull kelp repopulation. He ended with discussing future work for restoration aquaculture. **For more information:**

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There were clarifying questions regarding vermiform, genetic diversity and carbon sequestration.

VII. STANDING ITEM: Programmatic update – Education & Outreach

Amity Wood, Education and Outreach Coordinator, Lisa Uttal, Education and Outreach Specialist and Chelsea Prindle, Exploration Center Manager gave an update on MBNMS's Education and Outreach team. The team recently published three web stories for ONMS including: "Lost But Not Forgotten: New Profiles added to Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Shipwreck Database," "Understanding Underwater Noise in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary" and "Shedding Light: Saving Deep-Sea Coral Communities." New exhibits were developed for the Exploration Center including Microplastics in the Ocean and Discovery of the Deep as well as an interactive three-panel exhibit on salmon in the sanctuary. They discussed plans for new signage throughout the sanctuary. An update was given on "Blue Economy" and ONMS Business Recognition Program activities. Since moving to a virtually setting due to Covid, the Education and Outreach team have developed five distance learning programs for second through fifth grade students which can be done live and a staff member or a pre-recorded session. **For more information:**

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There was a comment regarding a potential opportunity between Pebble Beach Company and MBNMS engaging the public as they enter 17 Mile Drive.

It was asked when SEC and CDC plan to reopen. Staff are planning what needs to happen to reopen: refreshing docents, safe buildings, COVID precautions.

Adjourned at 1:03 PM