



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

Diver  
February 2019

## In This Issue

[Emergency Regulation for Urchin Barren Studies](#)

[Tree Ring Coral](#)

[Coral Restoration](#)

[2019 SAC Meeting Schedule](#)

[Choctaw Shipwreck](#)

[Marine Art - REEF Check](#)

[Sanctuary Foundation](#)

[Hyperbaric Chamber Funding](#)

Join Our Mailing List!

Dear MBNMS,

You may have thought that diving before and after the recent storms may be somewhat hampered. We are happy to report the dive reports have been amazing. We hope you get a chance to blow bubbles during this amazing dive season.

MBNMS's office was reduced to emergency staff only during the partial Federal shutdown, but they are up and running once again. Our next meeting is in Santa Cruz and we hope to get some feedback on a couple of issues regarding purple urchins, artificial reefs, and MPWC use in Zone 1 and 5 at Pillar Point.

We will also have a presentations on:

- 1) Monterey Bay Eco Tourism
- 2) Recent State and Federal ocean/coast related legislation
- 3) Finalization of the Advisory's work plan for 2019

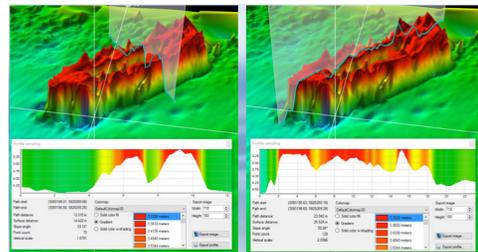
Please keep up with the current Sanctuary Advisory Council agendas and if you see something of interest that you would like us to comment on, please send us an email.

Best Fishes,

Brian and Keith

Prepared by Brian and Keith  
Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

## Choctaw Listed to the National Register of Historic Places



On December 10, 2018, the *Choctaw* was listed on the National Register of Historical Places and joins six other shipwrecks within Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary already listed on the Register.

Launched in 1862 by the Cleveland Ship Building Company, the *Choctaw* was a 267' steel semi-whaleback/monitor vessel that transported coal and iron ore between Lake Superior and lower lake ports. In 1915, after a collision with the Canadian steamer *Wahcondah* while upbound for Marquette, MI with a coal cargo, the *Choctaw* sank eleven miles north northwest of Presque Isle, Michigan in 300' of water.

Only three *Monitor*-style ships were ever built, and *Choctaw's* remains constitute the only known example of the monitor bulk freighter, a vessel type unique to the Great Lakes region and the iron ore industry.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Marine Art Exhibit

Reef Check Volunteer extraordinaire Vince Christian created an art studio in Oakland City Square



that features beautiful artwork donated by Reef Check volunteers where part or all of the proceeds benefit the Reef Check Foundation. The exhibition runs through March 1st.

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## Petition to CFGC for Emergency Regulatory Language for Monterey



A combination of unprecedented environmental and biological stressors has caused the giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) forest, the primary habitat in Monterey for recruitment of young of the year rockfish, to collapse. Today, the once abundant kelp is severely depleted due to openly grazing purple urchins (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*) dominating the nearshore ecosystem. Of the 16 sites in Monterey that Reef Check

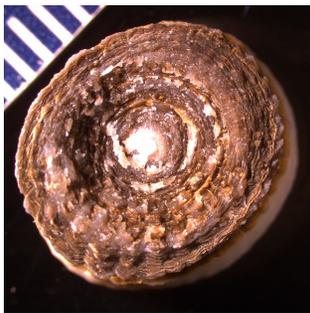
California monitors around the Monterey Peninsula annually, 9 of those have become urchin barrens. This is further complicated by the nearly contiguous network of Marine Protected Areas that prohibit recreational take of urchins in areas accessible from shore and/or not exposed to the typical NW swell.

There are two things to prove this summer: That removing urchins from reefs will restore kelp forests and secondly that recreational divers can do this work. This proposal to the California Fish & Game Commission is to allow licensed recreational divers to clear 40 gallons of urchins per day at a very accessible sandy beach in Monterey.

If this proposal is adopted, which is the same language as was adopted 3 times for the north coast, the plan is to have a large diving event at Del Monte Beach and clear out the urchin barren there. Stay tuned and we will let everybody know when this is approved and a date is set.

[Emergency Proposal](#)

## Tree rings and deep-sea corals: Coral skeletons teach Foster Scholar Carina Fish about the past ocean



Deep-sea corals have some things in common with trees. As their branches grow, corals document the minute details of ocean chemistry in ring patterns like those in tree trunks. And like certain trees, some coral species can live for hundreds or even thousands of years, preserving their recording of past conditions. Dr. Nancy Foster Scholar Carina Fish uncovers the

records kept by deep-sea corals in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary for her Ph.D. at University of California, Davis.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Florida Keys host groundbreaking coral restoration symposium

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Every year, whales and other marine animals become entangled in fishing gear and debris - leading to starvation, strangulation, and drowning. Courageous individuals risk their lives to disentangle these creatures and set them free, and the Foundation is proud to support their crucial efforts. Will you join our team of lifesavers?



The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is dedicated to protecting the long-term health of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary for the communities and species that depend on it. Your donations stay local and support our national marine sanctuary.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has become a premier diving destination, offering some of the most beautiful and pristine diving areas in the country. The City of Pacific Grove, on the Monterey Peninsula, has provided medical treatment to injured divers with its hyperbaric chamber since 1963.

While the City of Pacific Grove provides for many of the chamber's operation needs, diver donations support operations and offset needed repairs that occur from time to time. Please consider a donation to help this much needed, important resource for the dive community that enjoy the sanctuary.

[Donate to the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber Fund](#)



[Donate Now!](#)

Donations for the chamber can be made online using a credit card or a PayPal account. The credit card transaction will be securely handled by PayPal and you



Fighting to Save Coral in the Florida Keys | National Geographic

Reef Futures, the first global conference addressing coral restoration and intervention science took place Dec. 10- 14, 2018 in Key Largo, Florida, bringing together more than 500 leading scientists and experts from nearly 40 countries. Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary staff attended and presented with Superintendent Sarah Fangman delivering the address and a plenary session presentation.

The groundbreaking symposium tackled the challenges facing coral reefs globally by sharing available solutions, promising new research, and experimental techniques. There was also an exciting announcement that the X-PRIZE will feature a multi-million dollar competition to facilitate faster, bigger, and better coral reef restoration.

The gathering provided an excellent opportunity to share information and call for assistance to combat the historic outbreak of stony coral tissues loss disease affecting 22 species along the Florida Reef Tract.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

**Quick Links**

[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[Advisory Council Members](#)



do not need a PayPal account to make a credit card donation. At the end of the credit card transaction you will be presented with an option to print out a receipt for your donation.

Your tax-deductible donation to the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber Fund will go directly towards the facility and its operations.

Payment can also be made by check mailed to:

California Marine  
Sanctuary Foundation  
99 Pacific Street, Suite  
455 A  
Monterey, CA 93940

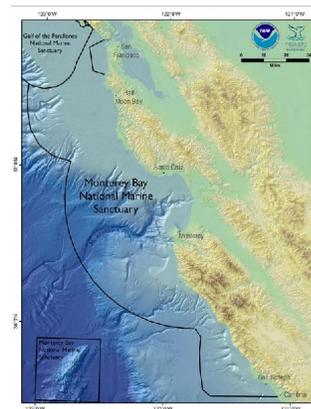
If you have any questions, please email

[cmsf@californiamsf.org](mailto:cmsf@californiamsf.org)

Prepared by Brian and Keith, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

**Know your Sanctuary**

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, MBNMS encompasses a shoreline **length of 276 miles and 6,094 square miles** of ocean.

It is home to one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates

## 2019 SAC Meeting Schedule

February 15th	Santa Cruz
April 19th	Moss Landing
June 21st	Cambria
August 15th	Pillar Point
October 18th	Marina
December 13th	Monterey

For more information:  
[2019 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting  
dates and Information](#)

and plants in a remarkably  
productive coastal environment.

MBNMS was designated in  
1992 for the purpose of resource  
protection, research, education,  
and public use of this national  
treasure. MBNMS is part of a  
system of 14 National Marine  
Sanctuaries and two marine  
national monuments,  
administered by the National  
Oceanic and Atmospheric  
Administration

Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council, 99 Pacific Street, Suite 455a, Monterey, CA 93940

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