

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Recreation Fishing Newsletter

The Advisory Council is composed of 21 federally appointed representatives from government agencies, local institutions and user groups concerned with the resources of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The council advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on matters of policy and provides a link between the community and Sanctuary management.



April 2018

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For information on sunrise and sunset times, click here

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2018 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

Dear MBNMS,

Hello and WELCOME to the new recreational fishing online newsletter for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This newsletter will be updated quarterly and emailed to all who send us their email address. It will contain general information about the sanctuary and information about fishing opportunities for recreational fishers who venture out into our beautiful coastal waters.

And, it will include reference materials and valuable information to enhance your fishing experience. Also, a list of contact information for members of the sanctuary council and other organizational contacts will be included.

We also invite groups and individuals to submit information about fishing events to be held in the sanctuary and comments about recreational saltwater fishing in our region.

So again, welcome and thanks for signing on and becoming involved the recreational fishing activities in your sanctuary.

Here's to Tight Lines and Successful Fishing,

Rich Hughett

Recreational Fishing Representative MBNMSAC rlh@redshift.com

Party Boats in the Sanctuary

Half Moon Bay

Half Moon Bay Sportfishing and Tackle Serves Coastal Saltwater Anglers
By Sherry Ingles

Moss Landing Harbor: <u>click here</u> Monterey Harbor: <u>click here</u> Morro Bay Harbor: <u>click here</u>



Sunset over Piedras Blancas, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Photo:
Melinda Mohamed

Our Ocean Backyard

Counteracting changes in ocean chemistry to restore eelgrass, which is food and shelter to numerous fish species
By Dan Haifley

While many in the science community are concerned with

Half Moon Bay Sportfishing and Tackle is located at Pillar Point Harbor, on the coast about 20 miles south of San Francis co.



Whether fishing from a boat, the

piers or the shore, my husband Bob and I have built a reputation for having the one-stop go-to shop on the coast with very reasonable, competitive prices. Our well stocked store has been serving the needs of the coastal saltwater angler for over a dozen years.

We carry all the fishing basics for salmon, rockfish, striped bass and crab to name a few, including a large selection of hooks, lures, sinkers, boat and surf rods, reels including Avet, Diawa and Penn, as well as Xtratuf boots, Dexter knives and much, much more. The care and years of knowledge and experience on the ocean that have gone into the shop makes Half Moon Bay Sportfishing one of the favorite bait and tackle shops in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is open daily from at least 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

With the shop as our home base, our 50' charter boat, the Queen of Hearts, books and takes literally thousands of new and returning anglers alike salmon or rockfishing through the seasons, been operating our boat from the harbor for over 25 years.

Seasons vary year to year with changes to fishery management, but typically the salmon season runs from April through October and rockfishing runs from April through December. During the closed months trips to view the surfers at place.

reducing greenhouse gas emissions in or

der to combat climate change, work is also underway in response to ocean acidification, a change in the pH of the ocean resulting from the ocean's absorption of excess carbon from the atmosphere.

The governments of California, Oregon, Washington and British Columbia are collaborating to

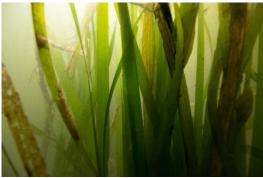


Photo by Eric Heupel

address issues affecting the ocean waters they share. They convened a group of scientists in 2013 that subsequently proposed ways to counteract the effects of the changing chemistry of ocean waters, including an effort to further curb land-based organic pollution that flows seaward.

The California Ocean Protection Council and the Ocean Science Trust have identified lower oxygen levels, known as hypoxia, and acidification as research and action priorities. The latter, evidenced by a minute lowering of the pH level of ocean waters, is a result of the absorption of excess carbon from the atmosphere.

In April 2016 the panel of 20 scientists appointed by the four states released their report. One proposal was the use of seagrass to pull carbon dioxide out of ocean waters. State Sen. Bill Monning's Senate Bill 1363, which largely dealt with the restoration of eelgrass in state waters, was signed by Gov. Jerry Brown at the end of September that year.

Monning's legislation also directs the Ocean Protection Council and California's Coastal Conservancy, which manages access and restoration projects along the shoreline, to establish a program to restore eelgrass in state as well as on Albacore trips when tuna are in range. And, we have waters. In a written statement, Monning said that eelgrass is "... a native California plant that creates a more hospitable environment for other n ative species and helps to mitigate the impact of carbon dioxide on the earth's atmosphere."

Eelgrass is an underwater grass that grows in nearshore waters areas and estuaries. It provides food, shelter from predators and surfaces for spawning. Mavericks and the grey whales that migrate just off our shore take Eelgrass also filters pollution and absorbs excess nutrients - which can hasten algae growth - found in ocean and estuarine waters. It also counteracts the effects of sea level rise by buffering wave energy that threaten land forms at the We are located at 27 Johnson Pier, Half Moon Bay, California 94019. The phone number is 650-728-3377 and our website is



www.hmbfishing.com

Sherry and Bob Ingles own Half Moon Bay Sportfishing.



Great salmon fishing aboard the *Queen of Hearts*.

Santa Cruz

water's edge. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that since the 1850s, 90 percent of California's eelgrass habitat has been destroyed and the remainder is exposed to threats.

The bill also establishes the "Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Reduction Program" that would, according to Monning's office, involve demonstration projects to evaluate the best locations for carbon dioxide removal, including the protection and restoration of eelgrass beds and require the Ocean Protection Council to generate a list of locations "where conservation or restoration of aquatic habitats, including eelgrass, can be successfully applied." SB 1363 also requires that plans for habitat restoration consider elements that remove carbon dioxide.

As a result, the California Ocean Protection Council took up actions to implement the science panel recommendations, and to continue its work with Pacific Coast Collaborative - which includes the four state governments plus Alaska - to take action on acidification worldwide.

Dan Haifley is executive director of O'Neill Sea Odyssey. He can be reached at dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org.



Photo by Chad King

Enjoying Fishing on Monterey Bay!

Fish the Bay the Stagnaro Way! Sailing Out of Santa Cruz Harbor

By Monica Reynolds

The Stagnaro family has been serving the Santa Cruz area for over a century, ever since Italian patriarch Cottardo Stagnaro settled in Santa Cruz in 1879.

This historical landmark business continues to lead the way in ocean fun on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. There is something for everyone: Fishing Trips, Bay Cruises, Whale Watching and Private Charters for any occasion. Whichever your choice, today's fourth generation Stagnaro Charter Boats will make your trip fun and memorable. The Monterey Bay offers a diversity of fish all year round. Our feature fishing trips are for Cod, Sand Dabs, Salmon and Albacore. And, Santa Cruz Whale Watching, operated by Stagnaro's, offers year-round whale watching! Enjoy sightings of Humpbacks, migrating Gray Whales, Blues & Orcas, along with multiple species of dolphin.

Stagnaro's flagship vessel is the charter boat Velocity. The 60 foot yacht was built by Yank Marine, Inc., in Tuckahoe, New Jersey, and completed in California in 2005.

Legacy, at 56 foot, is our newest addition in 2016. Built by Westport Shipyard in Washington State. Both boats are U.S. Coast Guard Certified.

Velocity and Legacy both feature a full-service galley serving breakfast and lunch along with your favorite beverages, including beer and wine service!

Both boats have spacious walk-around decks, interior and exterior seating, a galley and restroom. Our experienced crew is dedicated to making your ocean adventure fun and memorable for the whole family.

Please contact us at 831-427-2334 or email: info@stagnaros.com. We are open from 9:00 a.m.to 4:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Or you can check out our website and book online at www.stagnaros.com or www.santacruzwhalewatching.com

The Whale Watching Capital of the World!

By Peggy Stap

Monterey Bay is not only a great place to go fishing, it's also a whale watcher's paradise! While you enjoy a day of fishing on one of the world's most scenic bodies of water, you will be among an extensive list of whales and dolphins either residing in, or visiting the bay throughout the year, which includes humpback whales, blue whales, gray whales, fin whales, sei whales, beaked whales, orcas (killer whales), bottlenose dolphins, Pacific white-sided dolphins, Risso's dolphins, common dolphins, Northern right-whale dolphins, Dall's porpoise, harbor porpoise, and more.



Spring is an incredible time to whale watch on Monterey Bay. Killer whales are sighted year-round, but more often in the spring during the gray whale northern migration. These magnificent animals are also known as orcas, derived from the species' scientific name Orcinus orca. In fact, killer whales are not classified as large whales at all - they are the considered the largest of the dolphin family. Killer whales capture our imaginations and are intelligent, highly social and extremely powerful. They are top predators that are found in all oceans, but Monterey Bay is a great place to view them in their natural environment.

Visit our office and gift shop at 1718 Brommer St, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. All our trips depart from the Santa Cruz Harbor, Dock F.

Monica Reynolds is Stagnaro's Office Manager.

Moss Landing

Kahuna Offers Coastal Fishing AdventuresBy Carol Jones

Kahuna
Sportfishing is conveniently located in Moss Landing, in the heart of beautiful Monterey Bay, and has been in operation since 1992. There is easy access to the dock, with plenty of parking close to the boat.



The Kahuna

Kahuna is a beautiful, well maintained 50' Delta with the speed to get you on the fish....less running time equals more fishing time! We fish for rockfish, lingcod, salmon, halibut and albacore, depending on the time of year and season. We offer both open party and private charters.

We specialize in long range rockfish trips down the west coast of the Pacific Ocean to bountiful fishing grounds, a trip no one else offers. Our shop carrys rod rentals and tackle specifically for fishing this area. Fishing licenses are also available. Captain Brian Cutting and his crew are highly experienced and dedicated to make your day both productive and memorable. Come check us out and let us impress you!



Marine Life Studies, a local nonprofit out of Moss Landing, conducts research to protect killer whales and other marine life in Monterey Bay through their Research Scientist Program. The organization manages and maintains a boat, their Whale Rescue Research vessel, as a rapid deployment first response vessel accommodating all tools, equipment and personnel needed for Marine Life Studies' Whale Entanglement Team (WET)®. To learn more about Marine Life Studies' programs visit: MarineLifeStudies.org and WhaleEntanglementTeam.org



Peggy Stap is the Executive Director of Marine Life Studies and Co-founder of the Whale Entanglement Team (WET)®.

Kahuna Sportfishing is located at 7881 Sandholdt Road, (Moss Landing, Ca. 95039), in the Moss Landing Boat Harbor. Their phone number is (831)633-2564 and the website is www.kahunasportfishing.com

Carol Jones is the owner of Kahuna Sportfishing.

Special Announcnement!

The *Kahuna* is now in the boatyard being outfitted with new, more powerful engines and will return to service in Monterey Bay at the end of February (this month.)



Super Kahuna catches!

Monterey

J&M Sportfishing Operates Two Boats Out of Monterey By Katlyn Taylor

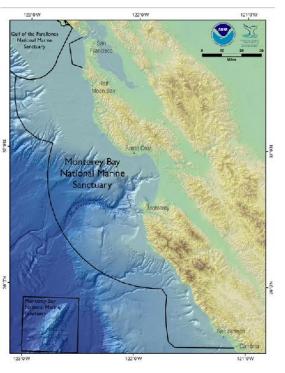
Know your Sanctuary

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 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 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and two marine national monuments, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

By Jen Chiu, lead field scientist for MLML CCFRP

The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) is a partnership of people and communities interested in fisheries sustainability. By combining Located on the historic Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey Harbor, the expertise and ideas of J&M Sport Fishing offers daily fishing adventures throughout the year on our two boats, *Sur Randy* and *Chabasco*. Our trips are resource managers, CCFF

suited for first time anglers, all the way to seasoned veterans. We fish for different species during different seasons.

Typically, April through December is Rockfish and Lingcod season. We will also fish for Salmon in the spring through early summer depending on the defined season each year. During the winter time, we fish



Sur Randy leaving the harbor.

for Sand Dabs and Dungeness Crabs while rockfish and salmon seasons are closed. Trips depart daily at 6:30 a.m. and last seven to nine hours.

We also offer afternoon fishing during the summer time for Rockfish and Lingcod. The afternoon trips are a great way to get a few hours of fishing in and can be a great "warm-up" trip for first timers.

Our crew can clean and fillet fish for you for a fee during the end of the trip when we return to the

dock.
If other

fisheries

become

productive in

the bay, such

as tuna,

halibut, white

sea bass, etc.,

we will op

the expertise and ideas of fishermen, scientists, and resource managers, CCFRP aims to collect valuable data on economically important marine species to evaluate the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) and to provide information for fisheries management.

In order to do so, standardized hook-and-line surveys are used by volunteer anglers to catch



Carol Jones of the *Kahuna* (left) and Jen Chiu with a beautiful Copper Rockfish.

and release nearshore fish species inside MPAs and associated reference sites (REF). Research scientists identify, measure, and tag caught fishes prior to release, while engaging with volunteers to provide information on life history traits of fishes and MPA implementation. Each sampling trip provides information regarding species compositions, sizes, and catch rates of fishes in and around California MPAs that will be used by resource managers to assess stock health and MPA performance.

CCFRP has been conducting surveys along the central California coast since 2007, when the network of MPAs was established in this region. From 2007 to 2016, the research groups from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (CP) utilized 12 Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFV) and more than 900 volunteer anglers over 325 sampling days at sea to tag and release over 82,000 fishes from 52 different species, tagging over 40,000 of those individuals prior to release.

In 2017, after 10 years of data collection, the program has expanded statewide to now include research partners from Humboldt State University, Bodega Marine Laboratories, MLML, CP, UC Santa Barbara, Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

en up trips and notify interested anglers with our Fish Alert system. To sign up, add yourself to the contact form on our website and choose which fisheries you



Fishing aboard Chubasco.

want to be notified about.

We can provide all the necessary equipment and licensing for anglers on our trips. You can also come in and purchase some basic tackle, bait and licenses for fishing activities elsewhere.

To contact J&M Sport Fishing send an email to info@jmsportfishing.com or phone 831-372-7440. We are located at 66 Old Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA 93940. Our website: www.jmsportfishing.com You can also find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/jmsportfishing and Instagram: www.instagram.com/jmsportfishing

Katlyn Taylor is a marine biologist who serves as business manager for both J&M Sportfishing and Discovery Whale Watch.

Integrating stakeholders and the community is one of the maingoals of this project. Collaboration is present in all aspects of the program, from utilizing CPFV captains, resource managers, and scientists to determine which MPAs to survey, to inviting volunteer anglers from the local fishing community to help us sample, and finally to



A Cabezon being measured before release.

combining the expertise of all these stakeholders to analyze the data and disseminate it to the public. This program, and the long-term dataset we are striving to collect, would not be possible without the contribution from each of these groups.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer angler for our 2018 sampling season, please contact us at CCFRP@mlml.calstate.edu or (831) 771-4479, and visit our various sites for more information.

Website: https://seagrant.mlml.calstate.edu/research/ccfrp/Facebook:

https://www.facebook.com/CaCollaborativeFisheriesResearchProgram.CCFRP/Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/ccfrp/

Best Practices for Safe Fish Release: Sport Fishing by the Numbers

By Tom Raftican

"Hey, I'm one guy who fishes a couple of times a year and I only use one hook on my line when I do fish. After watching the giant industrial fishing boats that I see on the videos, my little fishing contribution doesn't even make a speck on the graph when you talk about overfished and depleted fisheries. Right?"



Happy anglers with J & M Sportfishing.

Cambria/Morro Bay

Central Coast Fishing for Rockfish By Jim Webb

The central coast of California is fortunate to have several means of accessing local marine resources. Plentiful rockfish populations exist in suitable habitat throughout the region.

The ports of Morro Bay and San Luis offer trips to interested anglers on Coast Guard certified boats. For the do-ityourself person, many kayak launches can be found and rentals are available Talk to most recreational fishermen about their fishing experience and it's not uncommon to get an answer like this. They don't go fishing all that often and when they do go, they don't take home a lot of fish. If there's overfishing going on, why don't the feds go after the commercial guys and concentrate on the real problem. Somehow it just doesn't make sense for the National Marine Fishery Service to pick on us recreational fishermen who are just out for a little time on the water and want to take home a few fish.

Interestingly, last fall the National Marine Fishery Service (NMFS) released data on recreational fishing and it contained some pretty astounding figures not only about how many of us fish, but importantly, insight into just how we fish. According the NMFS office of external affairs, in 2011, some 10 million marine anglers took 60 million trips and caught about 345 million fish. Suddenly it becomes clear that when counted with the other folks who fish, our one hook and one line can have a significant impact on the overall health of our marine world. However, the truly interesting thing about the way we fish also came out in the NMFS report: we recreational fishermen release nearly 60% of the fish that we catch! This isn't just CPR -catch, photograph and release, the 60% number includes regulatory discards - under or oversized fish, over limits or out of season and recreational bycatch. So if we release 60% of what we catch and keep 40%, that means that we release 150% more fish than we take! Do the math and we release some 200,000,000 fish a year. All of a sudden, when you add all of the little specks on that problem fishery graph together, our recreational fishing contribution shows an immense impact on resources.

"But wait a minute - didn't I just hear that we release 200,000,000 fish every year - don't we get credit for throwing those back?"

Here's the rub. While we release a lot of fish, many, and in some fisheries most of those released fish don't survive. While there are many reasons why released fish do or don't make it, the mortality figures are compiled by marine scientists and become important to regulators who include them in our total catch. Fish released that don't survive are counted the same as those we take home for dinner.

So what are "Best Practices" and why should I even care?

In light of declining fish populations for key recreational fisheries, the health of the 200,000,000 fish that we release each year can have a great affect on the way in which managers regulate fisheries. Many fisheries that we participate

at the local ports. Fishing from shore is legal all year and the catch ranges from rockfish to perch and even striped bass.

A boat ride will cost from \$40.00 to over \$100.00, depending on the length of the trip. Tackle costs about \$20.00 to rent during the trip and a fee is charged to have



Jim Webb (right) and friends after successful fishing trip.

your fish cleaned before you leave the boat.

Buy a license, either online or at the tackle shop, and in season you are ready to fish. Fishing season generally extends from April to the end of December for a party boat excursion. Limits are set by the California Fish and Wildlife Department in conjunction with NMFS (National Marine Fisheries Service) and currently allow anglers ten rockfish and two lingcod over twenty two inches. Rules and regulations are subject to change and need to be verified on line or at the landing. Trips can be in shallow water or out to the maximum depth allowed by law. They can be a half day or twelve hours. Most anglers will return with limits of tasty, and good for you fillets.

Local kayak anglers find the kelp beds an abundant source of rockfish. Watch the weather and come down for an adventure you won't forget.

There are three main landings working on the central coast:

in currently have low survival rates. Best practices tries to look at regional fisheries and employ the tactics that can improve those survival rates. Importantly, when we employ best practices and improve survival rates, we not only help the fish, but we also provide regulators with an opportunity to count less dead fish and potentially increase overall catches. Taking the high road to conservation helps not only our resources, but is clearly in the long term best interest of our fishing and our grandkids fishing.

Here are ways you can help:

Based on discoveries from our Best Practices Workshops here are some steps every angler can take to increase fish survival.

- Know the Situation
- Know the regulations for your area, including seasonal, gear and species restrictions.
- Know how to identify fish species you'll catch.

Have The Tools

Fish with appropriate gear to land fish quickly and without undue stress.

- Use hooks that minimize deep hooking-large hooks or circle hooks are hard to swallow.
- Make sure you have tools ready to speed hook extraction and minimize damage.
- Fish exhibiting barotrauma (gas expansion) have a good survival chance if properly decompressed using available deep release devices.
- Handle with Care
- If fish are deeply hooked, quickly and gently cut the line close to hook and return to the water.
- If possible, leave fish in water while removing hook.
- If you must bring fish aboard, use a knotless mesh landing net and minimize handling.
- Always wet hands before handling any fish.
- Never put hands or fingers in to the gills of a fish you plan to release.
- Practice Proper CPR -Catch, Photograph, Release.
- Recognize that, while a great way to remember your catch, taking photos delays release and increases stress on the fish.
- Consider photographing fish while still in the water,next to boat or shore.
- Support fish's head and body-don't suspend its weight by the jaw.

Virg's Landing -1169 Market Ave, Morro Bay, CA 93442 805-772-1222

Morro Bay Landing -1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay Ca 93442 805-771-5500

Patriot Sportfishing -Port San Luis Pier 3, Avila Beach, CA 93424 805-595-7200

Free Fishing!
By Jim Webb



Jim Webb and a giant Ling cod.

It is hard to believe that in the era of 'no such thing as a free lunch', there could be something as fun as a day on the ocean catching fish at no charge to the lucky volunteer angler. But the California Collaborative Fisheries Research Project, a joint effort between Moss Landing Marine Lab and San Luis Obispo's Cal Poly, offers these trips several times a year to study California central coast Marine Protected Areas (MPA's) and nearby reference sites.

All tackle is provided, though you can bring your own rod and reel, and no license is required. That's about as close to 'free fishing' as you can find today. Each angler participates in a timed drift through randomly selected 'cells' in the areas being studied. Fish are captured in 120' feet or less of water and few suffer barometric trauma as a result.

They are placed in a saltwater tub, measured, identified and tagged, then carefully released. Action can be hot and heavy or slow: it's fishing! The angler must use predetermined gear, supplied at no cost, to limit variables in the data collected. Drifts from the large licensed 'party' boats, last 15 minutes and three are done in each location sampled. Usually four cells are sampled, totaling three hours of fishing.

- Have camera gear ready; don't leave fish sitting on deck while you locate
- Take photos quickly and return fish to water.

For more information: info@sportfishingconservancy.org

Tom Raftican is President of The Sportsfishing Conservancy



Safe Practices Deep Release Devices

CDFW to Host Public Meeting on Ocean Salmon Fisheries

For more information: click here

2018 Advisory Council Meeting Schedule

February 16 - Santa Cruz

April 20 - Moss Landing

June 15 - Cambria

August 17 - Marina

October 19 - Salinas

Information is collected about caught fish, returned tagged fish and other metrics, such as water temperature and clarity, to gain a complete picture of each sampling trip. Next year will mark the twelfth year of this project. The resulting data set is impressive, with over 55,000 fish tagged so far. It is satisfying to see these efforts being used by scientists to better understand the effects of establishing MPA's and how they may differ from adjacent reference sites. And it's hard to beat a free day of fishing!

Jim Webb is a local Cambrian angler who likes all forms of fishing and has been fishing on the central coast for the last 32 years.



December 14 - Monterey

For more information:

2018 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting dates and Information

Quick Links

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Advisory Council Web Page

Council Meeting Agendas

Council Meeting Minutes

Advisory Council Members

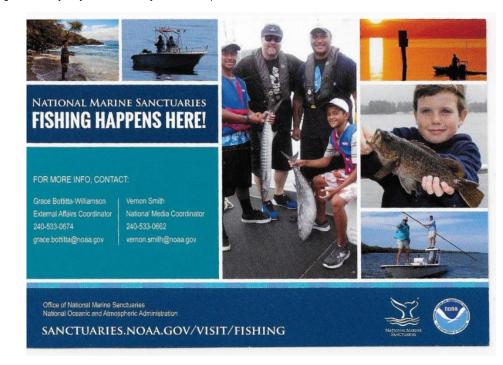
Fishing club links:

www.coastsidefishingclub.com

www.fullspeedfishing.com



Participants in the fisheries research project.



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Forward this email | Update Profile | About our service provider Sent by mbnms.sac@gmail.com in collaboration with

