MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
OFFICE REPORT
April 5th – May 23rd, 2001

Management

The first week in April, Dawn Hayes met with representatives from California State Parks, Senator Bruce McPherson's office, Assemblyman Sam Farr's office, Santa Cruz County Supervisor Ellen Piere's office and Santa Cruz County Public Works Department to discuss the possibility of sighting a MBNMS Visitor Center in Santa Cruz and the support behind such an endeavor.

April 13th, Bill Douros, Andrew DeVogelaere, Michele Finn, and Mario Tamburri met with State Parks District Supervisors on developing ways to collaborate with research monitoring efforts and coordinating hazardous materials response.

April 19th, Bill and Michele attended the NOAA Constituents meeting in Washington D.C.

April 25th, Bill Douros, Brady Phillips, and Sean Morton met with Los Padres National Forest management about coordinating their Forest Plan update with the Sanctuary's Management Plan Review. Many opportunities for collaboration were identified given the multiple (6) coastal process management updates going on in the Big Sur area.

April 27th, MBNMS staff submitted three separate NOAA Coastal Impact Assistance Program final proposals ranging in topics from rocky shore, to biological assessments related to landslides and oil spills, to bilingual outreach and education.

Bill Douros and Sean Morton attended the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council meeting on May 23rd, which was solely dedicated to the topic of marine reserves in the Sanctuary. Ninety-two people testified at a meeting attended by over two hundred people. Most speakers supported the designation of marine reserves and urged that at least 30% of the Sanctuary be set aside; opponents asked that no reserves be dedicated, or that a smaller percentage be set aside. Few commercial fishermen testified at the meeting. Virtually all the speakers asked the SAC to make some form of recommendation to the CIMNS manager, rather than just let Fish and Game decide through the MLPA process. The SAC received reports from the marine reserves working group, who could not reach consensus on a network of reserves, as well as, a science panel and socioeconomic panel. The SAC took no action on the issue of reserves, but intends to provide advice to CINMS’ manager at the June 19th meeting.

Education and Outreach

On April 14th, the Research and Education teams completed a fine collaboration by training a new class of Beach COMBERS in the Cambria region. Sixteen new volunteers were trained. After beach assignments, sampling in the area began the first week of May.
April 11th and 12th, Dawn Hayes and Jen Jolly accompanied local State and Regional Parks partners to the National Association for Interpretation's region 9 workshop - Sign Sense in Mill Valley, CA. The workshop covered aspects of development, design and layout of interpretive signage, placement, materials and consultants.

April 26th marked the date for the MBNMS annual Sanctuary Student Summit, a forum to highlight marine research and monitoring projects conducted by local high school science students. Students from five central California high schools gave excellent presentations to an audience of 60 students, educators, and local scientists.

During the first week in May, several classes of kindergarten and first grade students from Santa Cruz County learned about the Sanctuary during a new ranger led class field trip to Seacliff State Park. The new Marine Sanctuary field trip program, created by Jen Jolly and Seacliff State Beach interpretive staff, highlights the sandy beach habitat and what it means to be a Sanctuary, and will become a permanent addition to Seacliff's school education program.

May 16th, MBNMS and GFNMS Education Staff gave presentations on the kelp forest and deep sea habitats for an “Oceans Week” event at Farallon View School in Half Moon Bay.

May 17th, the Sanctuary Education Panel met at Garland Ranch to discuss MBNMS’ Regional Education Plan development.

May 19th, Karen Grimmer presented an oil spill activity from the Sanctuary’s “Land-Sea Connection” teacher curriculum for the Monterey County Office of Education’s Migrant Education Summer Pre-service at Hartnell College.

Michele Finn gave a presentation about NOAA Corps career opportunities to a marine biology class at Cabrillo College in Santa Cruz.

The introduced large kelp, *Undaria*, has found its way from Japan to Santa Barbara. MBNMS has sent out an alert to the region, and divers in particular, to survey harbors where it is most likely to be found. If detected early, this plant can be eradicated from an area.

**Research**


The following report is now available in the National Marine Sanctuary System’s Conservation Series, "A Review of Marine Zones in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, by Jennifer Brown." This report was published by the MBNMS and released to the SAC and public over a year ago. For more information, refer to the website: [http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/special/zoning/zones.html](http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/special/zoning/zones.html)
In April, Mario Tamburri attended the 2nd International Conference on Marine Bioinvasions in New Orleans and presented his work entitled "Ballast Water Deoxygenation Can Prevent Species Introductions While Reducing Ship Corrosion."

On May 2nd and 3rd, MBNMS, GFNMS, NCCOS and headquarters staff met to develop a work plan for the Central and Northern California regional assessment. The final products will be a review report on biogeography in the region; data layers on sanctuary resources; and a GIS tool to query these data to address resource management issues. Forty-three separate MBNMS GIS layers were transferred to NCCOS for the California regional assessment project.

Maps and analyses of kelp canopies for the late summer of 2000 are complete, and statistical comparisons have been made with previous years. MBNMS kelp continues to be an important and healthy habitat, and multiple use conflicts at the Cannery Row area have reduced since kelp management recommendations by MBNMS to the California Department of Fish and Game have been adopted. We appreciate efforts by all users of kelp to help reduce these conflicts.

The Beach COMBERS completed their 5th year of surveys this May. The goals of this program are to obtain baseline information on rates of beach stranding for all species of marine birds and mammals in the Sanctuary, and assist in detecting mortality events. Some highlights of the program include correlating high Common Murre stranding events with a gillnet fishery and showing a link between harmful algal blooms and deaths of California sea lions. This is a collaborative project largely with Moss Landing Marine Labs, but with many other institutions.

Erica Burton co-authored a recent paper with researchers at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, California Department of Fish and Game, and University of California Davis. The paper, entitled "Age determination and validation studies of marine fishes: do deep-dwellers live longer?", is in the April 2001 issue of Experimental Gerontology.

A new ad hoc modeling work group has developed to address tidal erosion in Elkhorn Slough. Institutions involved include MBNMS (Andrew DeVogelaere, Mario Tamburri, Holly Price, Kelly Newton), OCS (Frank Aikman), ONMS (Charly Alexander, Christine Taylor), ESNERR (Kerstin Wasson) and MLML (Larry Breaker).

**Resource Protection**

April 6th, the California Fish and Game Commission meeting in Monterey took final action on the joint effort by the State and the MBNMS to construct a new kelp harvesting management regime. Over 100 local residents showed up at the Commission Hearing to push for even more stringent no-harvest rules than had been worked out in the 18 month public process undertaken by the MBNMS, and the 12 month State public process.

Saturday, April 14, over 120 volunteers turned out for the second annual Snapshot Day, sponsored by the Sanctuary and other partners, with sampling at 140 stations throughout the Sanctuary's watersheds for nitrates, coliform bacteria, turbidity, and basic parameters such as temperature, dissolved oxygen, etc. Bridget Hoover led the overall coordination of the event and will be preparing the data for agency and public review, and Michele Roest hosted a new group of volunteers in Cambria.
On April 30th, the first meeting of the reserves subcommittee of the Community Alliance for Sustainable Fisheries, a group recently formed by the fishing industry, was held at the Sanctuary office with Holly Price and Erica Burton participating. The group agreed to a mission statement regarding evaluating the feasibility and impacts of marine reserves, identified a list of information and tools needed to begin the work, and outlined a next meeting in June. More information will be provided on this item at the next (June 1st) SAC meeting.

The report compiled by Deirdre Hall and Jamie Kum on the Navy's LFA project and marine mammal distribution in our offshore waters is now available on our website at: http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Resourcepro/reports/LFAreport/index.html The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries has sent letters to the Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service, on behalf of all sanctuaries. The letters can be seen on the website at: http://www.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Intro/advisory/sac_agendas/060101agenda.html

Brad Damitz and Scott Kathey initiated a regional review of seawalls within the Sanctuary, towards a goal of eventually developing regional recommendations with the Coastal Commission. Sanctuary staff intended to comment at the State Resources Agency’s public meeting on May 30th, 2001, where a new state policy on coastal erosion will be reviewed. The Conservation Working Group meeting on May 15 included presentations on dredging (Deirdre Hall), coastal armoring, and trawling impacts on the seabed. These issues were identified as being priorities to study further as part of their preparations for the management plan review process.

Scott Kathey investigated two vessel incidents which occurred the week of May 15th. A vessel sunk at its berth in Moss Landing Harbor, and the diesel fuel spilled was contained on site with sorbent materials. Another vessel discharged its oily bilgewater in Monterey Harbor, and containment was more difficult due to the boater's addition of detergents to the bilge.

The MBNMS and NOAA OLE hosted a training workshop for 15 Federal, State, and local enforcement officials on the NMSA, MMPA, MSFCA, ESA, and NOAA prosecution procedures. Selected State peace officers who completed the training will be certified/recertified as Sanctuary Enforcement Officers under an MOA with the state.

MBNMS Enforcement Agent, Carol Teraoka, convened the first meeting of the Sanctuary Law Enforcement Workgroup (SLEW) to improve coordination of environmental enforcement efforts within the boundaries of the Sanctuary.

A final contract was outlined between the Sanctuary Foundation and the Regional Water Quality Control Board for $180,000 to conduct a sediment assessment of the Pajaro watershed and support development of Farm Bureau pilot projects to address erosion, as outlined in the Sanctuary's agricultural plan.

Resource protection staff coordinated with ONMS and GCOS to define a policy response to the Navy's proposed undersea cable repair at Point Sur and the Navy's reluctance to concur with
consultation requirements of the Sanctuary regulations. Sanctuary staff seek to review the Navy’s repair efforts of that cable.

**Special Events**

Approximately 200 people attended the MBNMS reception and public meeting with representatives from the State Fish and Game Commission, Sanctuary Advisory Council, and local fishermen on *The Great Gulf* with author David Dobbs.

April 21st, Andrew DeVogelaere and Dawn Hayes participated in the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center's Open House and Reception. Andrew spoke about SIMoN and MBCORC (Monterey Bay Crescent Ocean Research Consortium). Dawn hosted the MBNMS' traveling exhibit, and was available for information. Speakers at the reception included Congressman Sam Farr and the Oceanographer of the Navy, Rear Admiral Richard West.

Sunday, April 29th, a relay team composed of four Sanctuary staff (Deirdre Hall, Maris Sidenstecker, Bridget Hoover, Michele Finn) competed in the Big Sur Relay.

April 30th, Michele Roest shared information about the Sanctuary for the North Coast Alliance. This is a coalition of north coast environmental groups, primarily concerned about the Hearst Development.

May 12th, Michele Roest exhibited at Rancho el Chorro's Open House, an outdoor educational facility in San Luis Obispo. Many people in the southern region attended the event.

Saturday, May 5th was the Monterey Harbor Underwater Clean Up. Coordinated by SAC member David Clayton, the Monterey Harbor and the Dives Shops of Monterey sponsored the event. Sanctuary staff assisted with shore support, cataloging trash and critter removal, and posted photos of the event on the webpage: http://bonita.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/Visitor/dive/diveevents.html

**Personnel Updates**

April 10th, Sean Morton began work as the MBNMS Management Plan Coordinator.

April 10th, Brad Damitz began work as the MBNMS Management Plan Assistant.

April 26th, Brady Phillips departed MBNMS for Washington D.C. to his new position as liaison for the California joint management plan review.

**Media Coverage**

Media Coverage, April 5th to May 23rd, 2001. These represent only those printed, televised or broadcast stories relating to the Sanctuary or ocean issues that have come to our attention. It is likely there are others.


Interview with Aaron King and Bill Douros (KSMS-TV (Univision 67) about the David Dobbs Seminar.

Monterey Cable TV Public Access coverage of the David Dobbs seminar. (Hebard Olsen).


4/9/01 Maris Sidenstecker was interviewed along with the City of Monterey on the local cable channel. The "Eye On Monterey" segment focused on storm drain pollution, education and outreach efforts and what the public can do.


Great white reported off Capitola; Shark seen devouring seal. (4/11/01). Santa Cruz Sentinel, Dan White. Front page.

Santa Cruz joins Soquel Creek in desalination study. (4/11/01). Santa Cruz Sentinel, Staff. City approves funding for feasibility study.


Harbor improvements will afford visitors a better birds-eye view; Project is funded exclusively with private donations. (4/13/01). Santa Cruz Sentinel, Michael Iacuessa.

Packard gives $2.3 million more for ocean study. (4/14/01). Santa Cruz Sentinel, Staff. New grant for PISCO project.


Budget Will Aid Marine Sanctuary. (4/15/01). Monterey Herald. Article mentions a proposed Budget for the Sanctuary program at $52 million.

Bombing Runs at Hunter Liggett. Should the Navy use the picturesque region for its maneuvers? OP-ED


Drawing a Line in the Surf; Surfers want no-kayak zones written into law. (4/16/01). Santa Cruz Sentinel, Dan White.


Talks on Channel Islands marine reserve hit snag. (4/19/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Leon Drouin Keith (AP). About difficulties within the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Working Group and lack of success in reaching consensus. Mentions NOAA and the CI SAC, but seems to confuse CINMS with CI National Park.

Pigeon Point buildings head for Davenport. (4/19/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals. About San Mateo County coastline preservation effort, involving the removal of some commercial buildings from Pigeon Point.

Bad-boy otter ends up in aquarium quarantine. (4/19/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff. The otter that was sexually assaulting and drowning harbor seal pups is finally behind bars.
KSCO Radio (1340 AM and 1080 AM) Interview with Bridget Hoover on Good Afternoon Monterey Bay (4/20/01) regarding the Snapshot Day Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Efforts.


Editorial feature: And waves for all; Surfers, kayakers must find a way to share the area's best breaks. (4/22/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, sent in by Mark Buckley.

50 Oysters and A Single Focus for Teen Biologist. Highlights Hannah Gray, a high school student with cerebral palsy. She states that her most cherished award is for "Best Student Poster" at the MBNMS Currents Symposium. SLO Tribune, April 23, 2001.


Channel Islands Marine Preserve: Sailing Stormy Waters. Sides Fail to Land Elusive Accord. After 2 years of negotiating, fishermen & environmentalists fail to reach a compromise on what areas to keep off limits to fishing. SLO Tribune, April 19, 2001.

TV news story on the Sanctuary Student Summit. (4/26/01) Channel 46 6:30 news.

Ruling may gut Coastal Commission; State agency violates the principle of checks and balances, judge says. (4/27/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Audrey Cooper (AP) Front page story on the CA Coastal Commission being declared unconstitutional by a CA Superior Court.


Praising No-Harvest Zone. Opinion column in Monterey County Herald. (4/30/01). By Berkley White of Monterey, CA.


Clipped Coastal Commission wings would bring jubilation, trepidation. (4/28/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Dan White. Front page story on local politicos' opinions on last week's ruling on the Coastal Commission .


Environmentalists Sound Off on Navy Sonar System. San Jose Mercury News.

Life at Sea: Awash in Economic Peril. A hardy lot prepares to shove off at the start of salmon season. 5/1/01 Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals. Front page feature with photo on today's opening of commercial salmon season.


California to Consider Squid Regulations. Reuter. (5/1/01).

Salmon aren’t quite running: Poor catch, Bad economics mark 1st day” (May 2) Monterey Herald. Jill Duman.

Surf’s Up. Photo of surfer at Lover’s Point (5/3) Swells were reported to 18ft in Monterey Bay. Monterey Herald

Pacifica dedicates its new sewer plant (May 3) Pacifica Tribune. Chris Hunter

San Pedro Creek Pollution Part 2: Bacteria Levels in Creek and Ocean. (May 2) Pacifica Tribune. Bernard Halloran and Vivian Matuk

Jet-setting squid can shift into high gear” (May 2) The Cambrian. Chet Forrest. A natural history piece by former SAC rep.

Sanctuary expansion seen as threat to space industry. (May 2) SLO Tribune. Staff writer. Concerns over CINMS expansion plans and its potential impact on Vandenburg Air Force Base.

Blown out. (5/2/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel. Photo of moored commercial salmon boats, w/ caption about high winds hampering the first day of the season.

Temporary rules for Rockfish in place. The Tribune. Staff Writer. Two month set of rules imposed on sport rock fishery, amidst already bad weather and low returns.

Salmon fishers play waiting game: High winds, low prices cloud season opening” (May 3) San Mateo County Times. Laura Linden

Focus on the Environment: Suit seeks to save state's imperiled sea turtles ( May 3) San Francisco Chronicle. Mark Martin

Focus on the Environment: Experts fear for squid numbers, Proposed limits called inadequate to protect state's biggest fishery” ( May 3) San Francisco Chronicle. Mark Martin

Voters may decide fate of Coastal Commission: Environmentalists organize to oppose decision (May 3) Half Moon Bay Review. Ben Schnayerson

Volunteer divers sought. (5/2/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Staff Report. Announcement of Saturday's underwater clean-up in Monterey.

Beach posts high bacteria. (5/3/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Staff. Capitola Beach closed, algae bloom blamed.

Feature Editorial: "Enjoy your salmon; The joy of eating freshly caught wild salmon is only made better when you discover that doing so is a good environmental choice.” 5/3/01, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Editor. Highlights the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Seafood Watch Program and plugs for locally-caught wild salmon.

Toxin-laden mud pushes into pristine North Coast Lagoon. The Tribune. Kathe Tanner. Reports the release of betonite into lagoon and lack of permit by drillers.

Salmon season sputters. 5/4/01. Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals. No fish to be found in the first week of commercial season.
Storm-drain stenciling planned, volunteers sought. 5/8/01. Santa Cruz Sentinel, Staff. Announcement for a public awareness event by Santa Cruz Surfriders this weekend.

“Capps Bill seeks to head off north Coast oil drilling.” (May 1) Russian River Monthly. Staff writer. Discussion of moratoriums and a new bill-HR 1066- the Coastal States Protection Act also called the Capps bill)

“Testing the Waters”--Story in Coast Weekly includes quotes from Bridget Hoover on citizen monitoring of beach water quality

“San Pedro Creek Watershed Coalition hosts “Creek Day 2001.” (May 9) Pacifica Tribune. Staff Writer


“Road Plans hit some bumps: property owners resist changes.” (May 10) The Cambrian. Kathe Tanner CalTrans efforts to move road away from ocean’s edge to prevent the need for sidecast is hitting resistance.

“Sewage keeps beaches closed.” (5/10/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Brian Seals. 3,000 gal sewage spill on 5/8 has beaches near Santa Cruz harbor closed. Beaches open again. (5/11/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, staff.

“Navy tests the hearing of beluga whales.” (5/13/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, AP. Studies aimed at studying whether LFA sonar sounds affect whales.

"Thumbs up" to the Santa Cruz Chapter of the Surfrider Foundation for stenciling stormdrains to prevent dumping.” (5/14/01) Santa Cruz Sentinel, Opinion page, As We See It.

“A Rocky Life on the Edge.” (5/15/01) Front Page LA Times by Marla Cone.

”Generator, environmental groups strike deal” Sacramento Bee 5/16. By Tom Knudson. Article about the Duke Power Plant expansion and mitigation funds.

Channel 46 newsclip regarding Duke Power Plant expansion and mitigation funds to environmental groups. Andrew DeVogelaere was MBNMS media rep.