



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Office Report



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A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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## ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, the 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 5,322 square nautical 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. The 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 NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS

### National Marine Sanctuary Program Receives Funds to Educate Students About Fisheries

The NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program has received a Preserve America Initiative Grant to support the project entitled "Voices of the Bay: A Voyage of Science, Community and Heritage through Local Fisheries Knowledge". The goal of the project is to develop place-based curriculum, lesson plans, and activities that use local fisheries as the context for learning about the marine environment, the ecological and human dimensions of marine resource use, and its management. This curriculum will be used in conjunction with field trips to a working harbor, fishing boats, processing plants and fish markets. The project as a whole will expose students to the rich fishing history of the Monterey Bay area.

### New Sanctuary Program Report Addresses At-Sea Data Collection Standards

The National Marine Sanctuary Program has released a new report that will help scientists better integrate monitoring data collected while at sea. The report, entitled "Standardizing At-sea Monitoring Programs for Marine Birds, Mammals, Other Organisms, Debris, and Vessels, Including Recommendations for West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries," provides guidance to researchers conducting long-term monitoring of seabird and marine mammal populations, taking into account variable funding levels, logistics, vessel platforms and management issues. It was produced through a sanctuary program science mini-grant, "Integration of a Multi-sanctuary Ecosystem Observation Effort: Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries", and received contributions and review from many North Pacific seabird and marine mammal biologists and researchers from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. The report is now available on the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Web site at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/research/pelagichabitat.html>.

### NMSP Staff Assists with Launch of NOAA-Smithsonian Exhibit at San Francisco's Aquarium of the Bay

Sanctuary program staff worked on the launch of the Smithsonian-NOAA poster exhibit, "From Sea to Shining Sea" and activities marking NOAA's 200<sup>th</sup> celebration at the Aquarium of the Bay on Pier 39 in San Francisco. On June 21, a Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary representative attended a media availability on the opening of the exhibit and role of NOAA in commerce and transportation. Personnel from Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary also escorted NOS Deputy Assistant Administrator Bill Corso, NOS Senior Policy Advisor Luke Nachbar, Teresa Christopher of the Office of Coast Survey, and Mita Schaeffer, publicist for the NOAA 200<sup>th</sup> celebration, on a behind-the-scenes tour of The Marine Mammal Center, a marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation facility in the Marin Headlands. For more information, contact [MaryJane.Schramm@noaa.gov](mailto:MaryJane.Schramm@noaa.gov).

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

### **Channel Islands NMS**

The MERITO Academy is a marine education and conservation program for primarily Hispanic 5th - 8th grade students from under-served public schools in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. The 2006-2007 pilot program involved several field trips. On May 21st, twenty-five 5th grade students from Canalino Elementary implemented sand crab and rocky inter tidal monitoring at Carpinteria beaches. On May 29th, sixty-five 5th grade students and 15 parent chaperones from Driffill Elementary of Oxnard participated on a trip to Anacapa Island. On May 30th, thirty 5th grade students from Harding elementary in Santa Barbara participated in a watershed field experience at Santa Barbara's Bonhett Park. On June 2nd, the nine top students of Carpinteria's Canalino Elementary 5th grade class had their final MERITO Academy field experience at Santa Cruz Island, where the students and instructors had close encounters with three Santa Cruz Island Foxes. The MERITO Academy is a partnership program of the sanctuary and Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute, partly funded by a NOAA B-WET grant.

### **Florida Keys NMS**

On July 23, Lower Region Team OCEAN staff members Jacqueline Laverdure and Robert Keeley represented the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary at the first annual Lobster Rodeo at the Florida Keys Community College. This was the first event for the Florida Keys Safe Diving Initiative (FKSDI). Members of the FKSDI include the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the U.S. Coast Guard, Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, Monroe County Sheriff's Office, Lower Keys Medical Center, Key West police and fire departments, and the college. These groups lined up booths layered with informative brochures. Divers and snorkelers were given the opportunity to refresh their skills in the water and learn local regulations. The FKSDI mission is to increase the safety, health, and well-being of snorkelers and SCUBA divers through education and multi-agency outreach. Over two hundred people attended the Lobster Rodeo.

### **Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS**

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary hosted the first meeting of a steering committee which was convened to discuss, plan and outline a proposal for the *First International Conference on Marine Mammal Protected Areas (MPA)*. There are currently over 358 MPAs around the world that were designated for and/or include significant marine mammal habitat. These MPAs share many of the same threats and challenges and the group agreed that a conference that focused on networking managers, scientists and educators, would advance the effectiveness of all marine mammal MPAs, as well as identify potential pathways for the formation of formal Networks of MPAs with shared populations and interests. Participants came from several area NOAA National Marine Sanctuary Program and Fisheries agencies, as well as from: Argentina, Oceania and the United Kingdom. The Steering Committee also includes members from Australia, Brazil, Italy, Mexico, New Zealand and Norway.

### **Monitor NMS**

On June 7th Krista Trono and Jeff Johnston represented the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary in a distance learning program between students at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring and students at NOAA's Great Lakes Maritime Center in Alpena, Michigan. Over 150 students from Maryland, Virginia and Michigan learned about the Monitor and Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuaries through an interactive program. This was the first time that a distance learning event has been bridged between two sanctuaries and headquarters. Students were most interested in differences between the shipwrecks in Thunder Bay and the *Monitor* and asked numerous questions about NOAA data buoys.

### **Olympic Coast NMS**

The Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, the Army Corp of Engineers, and the Makah Tribe have all agreed to sign a "Completion of Work" letter, certifying that the actions taken by Pacific Crossing and Tyco Submarine to remediate the Pacific Crossing PC-1 fiber optic cable in 2006 are satisfactory. No additional requirements beyond those identified in a Settlement Agreement between the parties are necessary. This completed over five years of work to bring the permit into compliance. Although ultimately the cable was not able to be completely buried, all parties are satisfied that efforts made represented "best effort". This points out the difficulty of burying cable in mixed substrate environments and should be considered in any future permits to bury cables within national marine sanctuaries.



## MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



### MANAGEMENT

June 13 – 15, Michael Ketover and Eleazar Velazquez from the Department of Commerce Office of the Inspector General interviewed MBNMS staff, partner agencies, advisory council members and attended the June 15 SAC meeting as part of their overall programmatic assessment of the National Marine Sanctuary Program. During the 3-day visit they met with 8 MBNMS staff, 1 CINMS Staff, 1 West Coast Regional staff, 20 SAC members, the MBNMS OLE Enforcement Officer, the MPA Center and Cal Fish and Game Dept for a total of 32 people interviewed. They debriefed Paul Michel during the SAC meeting lunch and the feedback seemed quite positive.

Paul Michel and Karen Grimmer met with US Coast Guard reps at the Monterey Base on the 10th to discuss co-location alternatives. We are now in discussions on potential space in the administration building, galley and/or barracks, the latter area being preferred by MBNMS.

MBNMS completed the Certification & Accreditation inspection on Thursday, July 12th. All indications are positive as MBNMS continues to work on documents required to fulfill this requirement.

MBNMS hosted a Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) seminar on juvenile rockfishes on Saturday, July 14th in the conference room. Tom Laidig with NMFS gave a very informative presentation to an enthusiastic group of about 12 divers. This is one of a number of events to support REEF's Great Annual Fish Count.

NOAA Corps Officer Sean Finney reported for work at MBNMS on July 16th and will be providing support to Forest Service Volunteer Association and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

On Friday, July 20th, Dawn Hayes, Education Coordinator; Bridget Hoover, Water Quality Protection Program Director; and Gary Conley, Water Quality Analyst; along with staff from the Regional office, met with a Vietnamese Delegation visiting the central coast sanctuaries. The delegation was given presentations about the MBNMS, the Water Quality Protection Program and SIMoN.

### RESEARCH AND MONITORING

From June 4 to 12, 2007, Jean de Marignac, Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network scientist, co-led a research cruise aboard NOAA ship MCARTHUR II off central California. The cruise was a collaborative effort including 22 scientists and technicians from 7 institutions and agencies, and 2 NOAA Teachers at Sea. The cruise consisted of 2 legs. During Leg 1 (June 4-9), oceanographic data was collected at 32 stations along lines 60 and 67 of the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI), a long-term study of the marine environment off the coast of California and the management of its living resources. During Leg 2 (June 9-12), a towed camera sled was used to conduct video transects to assess the recovery of benthic habitats and associated fauna along the central California continental shelf following the cessation of bottom trawling. Data collection was limited during the second leg because of strong winds and high seas. The video data will be compared to video data collected with a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) at the same locations in June 2006 to evaluate and contrast these two sampling tools.

On Friday, June 15th, Andrew DeVogelaere, Deirdre Hall, and Steve Lonhart attended a meeting at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR) to hear presentations on the Tidal Wetlands Project (TWP) and provide initial comments on potential restoration alternatives. Currently there are five alternatives: A1=no action; A2=Reroute the

Elkhorn Slough entrance channel to replicate the historic location, mouth size, and sinuosity of the estuary mouth (perhaps around Bennett Slough) and block the current opening under the Highway 1 Bridge with a structure; A3= Reduce the Elkhorn entrance size using a structure such as an underwater sill under or near the Highway 1 Bridge; A4=Reduce the tidal influence and/or add sediment to restore Parsons Slough; and A5=New ocean inlet at North Harbor with a structure in the Harbor area. Comments provided by the TWP Modeling Advisory Team, TWP Strategic Planning Team, Science Panel and the consulting team of Phil Williams & Associates were also presented and discussed.

On June 15, SIMoN and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation were notified by NOAA's Coastal Service Center (CSC) that SIMoN's funding proposal, 'IOOS Observation Registry: Visualization and Enhancement' was selected to receive funds (\$350,000) from a recent IOOS competitive funding announcement. The Registry project is an on-going effort that SIMoN has been leading with NOAA's CSC since June 2006 and is actively tracking information on ocean observing assets from a majority of the IOOS regions in the U.S. These funds will enable SIMoN to develop the Registry further over the next two years to better serve the needs of IOOS stakeholders.

The MBNMS was awarded a portion of a joint NMFS/Marine Sanctuary Program, Pacific Ecosystem Observation Network (PacEON) grant, at the level of \$110,000. The effort involves making beach cast organism survey data and oceanographic parameters available to the public in a nationally standardized format, and developing an ecosystem model to integrate observatory data in a way to answer resource management questions.

Andrew DeVogelaere (Research Coordinator and SIMoN Director) participated in a teacher workshop sponsored by the Office of Ocean Exploration and the San Diego County Office of Education. Middle school and high school science teachers were exposed to ocean exploration technology and participated in a virtual exploration to Davidson Seamount.

Chad King (SIMoN Data Analyses Specialist) and Sophie DeBeukelaer (GIS Analyst) attended Environmental Systems Research Institute's (ESRI) annual user conference at the San Diego convention center from June 18 through June 21. Over 13,000 professionals, students, and vendors attended this Geographic Information Systems (GIS) conference from the field. Chad and Sophie attended several different types of technical GIS workshops and various presentations focusing on using GIS in the marine environment.

On June 21, Andrew DeVogelaere (Research Coordinator and SIMoN Director), met with Jonathan Phinney of NMFS about coordinating ocean observatory efforts in general, and PacEON specifically. The Sanctuaries have many applied questions in their management plans that can be addressed by ocean observatory efforts, but much stronger links can be made between the science done and products that managers and the public will use.

Sophie De Beukelaer (GIS Analyst) gave a presentation about SIMoN to 20 middle and high school teachers as part of the week long "Lab and Field Explorations in Marine Science" workshop hosted by Moss Landing Marine Labs. The presentation, prepared by Chad King, focused on how SIMoN works, a tour of the SIMoN website, and a lesson plan that relied on Beach COMBERS data, the SIMoN Photo Database, and Special Status Species web page.

Between March and June, the MBNMS BeachCOMBERS program documented increased numbers of horned puffins washing up on beaches throughout the Sanctuary. This coincided with multiple sightings of puffins in nearshore areas by birders and researchers. To date, 27 non-breeding horned puffins and 4 tufted puffins have been found dead on area beaches. An additional 6 horned puffins have been sent to rehab centers where they died shortly thereafter. Horned puffins breed primarily in Alaska and are not typically found in the nearshore waters of California. Eleven horned puffin carcasses have been necropsied and present indications of moderate to severe emaciation and dehydration. Final histopathology reports are pending.

Research staff participated during a week-long training of science divers hosted by UC Santa Cruz and the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO). In June PISCO at UCSC was awarded \$450,000 by the California Ocean Protection Council and the California Department of Fish and Game to conduct baseline monitoring of the newly sited marine protected areas (MPAs) in central California as part of the Marine Life Protection Act. Sanctuary staff taught invertebrate identification and underwater sampling techniques to academic and CDFG divers. SCUBA sampling of the

100 nearshore sites between Santa Cruz and Point Conception began at the end of June and will continue through September 2007.

On July 3rd and 6th research staff assisted with monitoring of erosion sites within Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. In cooperation with NERR researchers, staff collected data at 24 sites to track the loss of marsh banks. Elkhorn Slough is in an erosive state, and several areas show rapid conversion from marshes dominated by pickleweed into mudflats. This collaborative effort between NERR and NMSP has been in place since 2002 and monitoring takes place every 1-2 years.

On July 5th research staff participated in underwater research with our local NOAA Hollings Intern Gabriel Rodriguez. A student at CSU Monterey Bay, Gabe has developed an exciting research program on the invasive Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* in Monterey Harbor. Gabe is following up on an experiment developed by a UC Santa Cruz student to determine effective means of manually removing the kelp, as well as the potential consequences of herbivory on the reproductive output of damaged *Undaria*.

On July 9th research staff conducted two qualitative characterization surveys while diving from the R/V *Fulmar* near Point Lobos. As part of a process to validate the results of a model to characterize nearshore subtidal sites along the Big Sur coast, this project involves staff researchers and science divers from UC Santa Cruz. Divers collect species presence-absence data for invertebrates, algae and fishes. This information complements the quantitative data collected at other sites by the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) and MBNMS staff.

On July 10th research staff joined research divers from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories to explore the northern jetty of Moss Landing harbor and a recently mapped wreck just north of the Moss Landing Power Plant (MLPP). It is not known how old the wreck is, and divers were unable to locate it. As part of a study to characterize the fish assemblages associated with the MLPP thermal outfall, divers surveyed the northern jetty area and determined it was the most suitable choice as a reference site.

On July 11th research staff gave a presentation to the Silicon Valley Dive Club at Diver Dan's SCUBA shop in Santa Clara. Over 40 club members were in attendance and listened to a lecture on invertebrate identification at popular diving locations within the sanctuary. During the course of the hour-long presentation, club members enthusiastically asked questions about organisms and have invited staff to return later this year to discuss the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) and web-based resources SIMoN provides for divers.

Six scientists from California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) have been trained in using and interpreting the Sanctuary's towed camera system for benthic characterization from the Research Vessel FULMAR. This is part of a collaboration between CSUMB and the MBNMS. Graduate students are working on projects to assess the effectiveness of the towed camera compared to ROVs and the Delta submersible; and mapping what areas are appropriate for using the camera based on depth range and habitat type.

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

Sophie De Beukelaer, GIS Analyst, developed a GIS project containing data related to armoring and coastal erosion in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This database serves as a tool for planning and permit review by integrating historical datasets and gives the user the ability to apply spatial analyses. Newly developed related data can easily be added and the GIS project serves as a base to address several of the Coastal Armoring action plan items.

Deirdre Hall, Resource Protection Specialist, attended a meeting in San Francisco on June 12th, entitled "The Future of Coastal Zone Management". This was an effort put forth by NOAA's Coastal States Organization to solicit input from stakeholders and coastal management experts in order to generate innovative techniques and solutions to coastal zone management. The final outcome will be a set of core principles, a suite of options for revising the Coastal Zone

Management Act, and suggestions for other techniques that NOAA and the states may consider implementing for improved coastal management.

Deirdre Hall, Resource Protection Specialist, received a telephone inquiry on June 15th from a representative of General Electric. Evidently General Electric is in the very early stages of considering a project, which would place windmill structures in the ocean for the purpose of energy generation. At this point voicemails have been exchanged but our office has not received any detailed information other than that which is reported here. The MBNMS will continue to coordinate with HQ as we learn more about this proposal.

Deirdre Hall, Permit Coordinator, convened and facilitated a multi-agency meeting with the Santa Cruz Port District. A dozen State, Federal, and local regulatory agencies attended to discuss the myriad of issues related to Santa Cruz dredge disposal operations. Topics ranged from: the presence of endangered fish species in the harbor, human health risks of hydrogen sulfide, plans for summertime dredge disposal, Elkhorn Slough NERR usage of dredged material for marsh restoration, an overview of 06-07 operations, and an update on the pending comprehensive environmental analysis.

On June 19th, 2007 the fifth Sanctuary-wide Walk-N-Talk presentation on storm water and urban runoff took place in Seaside. Resource Issue Education Specialist Lisa Emanuelson and Water Quality Protection Program Manager Bridget Hoover, along with Anna Hudson led members of the public through Seaside neighborhoods and discussed water runoff issues, pollution concerns and the City of Seaside watersheds.

Deirdre Hall, Permit Coordinator, represented the MBNMS at a June 27th meeting of the Monterey Area Regional Water Supply Reliability Collaboration. This group, which has been convened by the Division of Ratepayer Advocates, meets bimonthly to investigate water supply alternatives, such as a regional desalination plant, that are affordable, attainable, and minimize environmental and social impacts.

The final draft of the Salinas Clean Streams monitoring report is complete. The 18 month monitoring program conducted by volunteers on two Salinas streams achieved its goals of identifying sources of water quality impairments from both agriculture and urban land uses. In all seasons, nitrate and turbidity was statistically higher in both streams than the outfalls indicating there is more contribution of sediment and nitrate from agriculture than urban sources. The only statistical difference for E. coli bacteria was in Santa Rita creek which showed that E. coli was higher in samples from the outfalls than the creek demonstrating that urban areas are contributing more bacteria to the surface waters during dry weather months.

On July 20th, Bridget Hoover, Water Quality Protection Program Director, and Gary Conley, Water Quality Analyst, met with representatives from the Ocean Protection Council, State Coastal Conservancy, Regional Water Quality Control Board, Central Coast Long-term Environmental Assessment Network(CCLEAN), and CENCOOS to discuss current activities and future needs related to water quality and data management on the Central Coast. The participants were very interested in the project Gary is working on for the Sanctuary in which water quality data has been compiled from 13 organizations to answer 6 non-point source pollution questions related to condition, trends and management measures.

On July 20th, Gary Conley (Water Quality Analyst) met with staff from the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) to discuss collaboration on a study that will investigate relationships between nutrient inputs and algal blooms in the Monterey Bay. The SIMoN Water Quality Data Synthesis, Assessment, and Management (SAM) Project database houses the most complete nutrients data set that exists on the Central Coast. Researchers at MBARI will compare nutrient data to satellite observations of algal blooms to understand the connections between anthropogenic influences and the spatial distribution, size, frequency, persistence, and type of algal blooms that occur in the Monterey Bay.

On July 27, Sophie De Beukelaer, GIS analyst, attended the Central Coast Joint Data Committee (CCJDC) meeting in Moss Landing. The meeting focused on 2007 aerial imagery collection for the central coast of California which has been made possible by the pooling of funds by local agencies. The data will be georeferenced and will be available for public download in the future. The CCJDC is also sponsoring a mapping of Invasive Species workshop in early September.

## Emergency Response and Enforcement

On Thursday, June 14, Scott Kathey and Officer Bob Yerena attended a meeting between national marine sanctuary emergency response staff in central California and the commander and staff of the Incident Management Division, US Coast Guard Sector Command San Francisco to discuss joint response protocols during small vessel incidents. The Coast Guard clarified their roles and authorities during such incidents and the requirements and constraints associated with USCG utilization of funds from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF). The meeting also helped to clarify NOAA and USCG mission objectives and perspectives during such spills.

On Monday, June 18, Paul Michel, Scott Kathey, Lisa Symons, and Harriet Sopher met with NOAA Office for Law Enforcement (OLE) regional and headquarters staff at Monterey and discussed protocols for OLE enforcement support for Sanctuaries. The group discussed broad concepts for a cooperative relationship, such as a community policing approach, funding transfers, communications, supervision, planning, and operational issues. MBNMS also presented a draft joint enforcement memo that provided a basis for discussion of specific procedures and protocols for NMSP and OLE interactions with regard to Sanctuary enforcement. The group also discussed the status of MBNMS cooperative enforcement arrangements with the State of California and potential future changes.

On June 21, Scott Kathey attended a meeting of the Places of Refuge Subcommittee for the US Coast Guard Central Coast Area Committee. The subcommittee completed developing a draft list of potential anchorages and grounding sites where vessels in distress (of various size categories) could potentially go for repairs or salvage within the MBNMS. Each potential site will subsequently be analyzed for multiple factors, including environmental sensitivity, accessibility, protections from wind and seas, etc. The subcommittee will also groundtruth the potential site list with local mariners. The subcommittee will not recommend any particular place of refuge over another. It was only tasked by Regional Response Team IX to develop a list of possibilities that a Federal On-Scene Commander could consider during an emergency.

On June 23 and 25, Scott Kathey received reports from the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and the US Fish and Wildlife Service that tar patties and oiled birds had been found on the beach and in the nearshore waters of the western Monterey peninsula. In addition, an unusually high number of non-indigenous, offshore bird species (primarily alcids) have also been reported recently in nearshore areas of the MBNMS, such as horned puffins, tufted puffins, rhinoceros auklets, and ancient murrelets. MBNMS beachcombers have collected 8 dead alcid specimens for necropsies. Tests have determined that the birds were extremely emaciated, but none were oiled. A sighting of 8 oiled puffins among a group of 23 was reported in nearshore waters off Spanish Bay on June 23. Officer Bob Yerena and officials from OSPR and the Pebble Beach Company investigated beaches where oiled birds had been reported but found only one dead bird (not oiled) and scattered tar patties. MBNMS is continuing to investigate this incident.

On June 25, Superintendent Paul Michel and Officer Bob Yerena gave a presentation about the MBNMS and wildlife viewing etiquette to a group of 16 children and 2 adults at Monterey Bay Kayaks day camp in Monterey.

On June 30, Officer Bob Yerena was notified that an adult humpback whale had entered Monterey Harbor with netting entangled in its fluke. Officer Yerena notified the Marine Mammal Stranding Network, but no team was available that could arrive before nightfall. The Coast Guard observed the whale for a short period, but lost sight of it in increasing seas. The whale was diving for several minutes at a time when last seen. It has not been sighted since that time.



On June 30, the enforcement support contract between the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and the California Department of Parks and Recreation expired. The Foundation and State Parks are concluding a final agreement to expend the remaining funds from a private grant originally awarded in 1997.

On or about July 4, a white shark was sighted in the vicinity of Moonstone Beach near the southern boundary of the MBNMS. The California Department of Parks and Recreation posted warning signs on state beaches to alert surfers

and windsurfers of the potential threat. Marine mammal populations (elephant seals and harbor seals) have increased significantly in the area over the past several years and could be a factor in such an unusual sighting of a white shark there.

On July 4 and 5, SRS Technologies conducted marine mammal surveys and acoustic data collection during the City of Monterey Independence Day fireworks display as required by a NOAA Fisheries incidental take authorization issued to the MBNMS. MBNMS assumed responsibility and costs for this survey as part of a much larger effort to reduce regulatory burden on local municipalities and civic groups that sponsor fireworks displays within the Sanctuary. SRS Technologies was contracted by the MBNMS to collect and analyze data regarding the impacts of commercial fireworks on marine mammal populations at Monterey Harbor. MBNMS staff provided boat support on both days for marine mammal surveys.

On July 13 at approximately 2300 hours, the 40-ft *F/V ORCA* ran aground at Wreck Beach near Pfeiffer Point (Big Sur). There were no injuries or fatalities and the vessel sustained no observable damage. The *ORCA* had approximately 140 gallons of diesel fuel aboard, was not damaged, and discharged no fuel or other matter according to observers on scene. The response company Pacific Salvage towed the vessel to sea on July 15 and transferred it to Moss Landing Harbor. There were no reported discharges from the vessel during the salvage or transfer.

On July 23, Scott Kathey and Officer Bob Yerena met with Dennis Long (Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation) and Ranger Juvie Ortiz (San Luis Obispo State Park District) to discuss new contract terms for disbursement of the remaining grant funds for State Park enforcement support to the MBNMS. The funds will be exhausted within the next eighteen months. The MBNMS proposed a pay-as-you-go option for future enforcement support in the southern reach of the Sanctuary once the current funding program expires. Under this option, the MBNMS would pay for special call-out of park rangers for Sanctuary response missions as needed.

On July 3, Scott Kathey received complaints that several calls to the NOAA Enforcement Hotline by members of the public to report potential Sanctuary violations were dismissed by hotline dispatchers as irrelevant to NOAA enforcement responsibilities. Scott Kathey notified NOAA OLE of this problem. Stu Corey (NOAA OLE sanctuary liaison) recently contacted the hotline service contractor about the problem and was assured that dispatchers are trained to provide assistance to redirect calls for incidents outside NOAA's jurisdiction. The service provider will look into the complaints and take appropriate corrective action to assure that dispatchers are providing courteous and helpful service, particularly for sanctuary-related incidents that are unique from typical fisheries-related complaints.

On July 23, Scott Kathey received a complaint that a helicopter at Point Piedras Blancas flushed a group of brown pelicans and disturbed about 300 California sea lions as it passed over the point at very low altitude within the MBNMS overflight restriction zone. Officer Bob Yerena has initiated an investigation of the incident and has contacted the responsible party.

## **EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS**

Seaberry Nachbar and Lisa Uttal received a Preserve America Initiative Grant (PAIG) --\$21,500 --to continue to support their project entitled "Voices of the Bay: A Voyage of Science, Community and Heritage Through Local Fisheries Knowledge". The goal of Voices of the Bay is to develop place-based curriculum, lesson plans, and activities that use local fisheries as the context for learning about the marine environment, the ecological and human dimensions of marine resource use, and its management. This curriculum will be used in conjunction with place-based field trips to a working harbor of fishing boats, processing plants and fish markets that were pilot-tested in 2006 and developed with input from commercial and recreational fishermen, educators, and community members. The overall project will expose students to the rich fishing history of the Monterey Bay area.

During the month of June 2007, Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) kicked off its Watershed Academy After-school Program with 9 students at the Salvation Army Youth Center and reached 56 students in existing Watershed Academy After-school Programs. This sanctuary and BWET funded program provides hands-on, inquiry based watershed and ocean science experiences for 5th to 8th grade students that are predominately English

language learners. Activities included an introduction to the MBNMS, a watershed model demonstration, tidepool explorations.

During the week of June 18th- 22nd, 2007, 24 MERITO youth participated in Camp SEA Lab's Waves to Wetlands Residential Camp at Camp Hidden Falls in Soquel, CA. Activities included surf lessons, tidepooling, sand crab monitoring, aquatic invertebrate identification and kayaking. MERITO students were awarded full scholarships to attend the camp that were made possible by a NOAA Environmental Ocean Literacy grant. MERITO staff will be collaborating with Camp SEA Lab over the next three years to continue providing MERITO students with the opportunity to attend Camp Sea Lab summer sessions.



MERITO scholarship winners at Camp SEA Lab, learning how to surf.

**Photo Credit: Sonya Padron**

On June 5, 2007, Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) held an in-service to prepare a leader for the 21st Watershed Academy After School Program of the 2006-2007 year. The Watershed Academy leader was trained in watershed and ocean science environmental education, multicultural teaching pedagogy and in-class activities from the Watershed Academy Activity Guide. A watershed model demonstration and an introduction to the MBNMS were also delivered. The participating site received Marine Science Conservation Kits and the Watershed Academy Activity Guide to facilitate program activities. This sanctuary and BWET funded program provides hands-on, inquiry based watershed and ocean science experiences for 5th to 8th grade students that are predominately English language learners.

On July 9-10 education staff Dawn Hayes and Lisa Uttal met with exhibit designer BIOS in Seattle to review the 80% design on exhibits for the MBNMS Visitor Center. City of Santa Cruz's project manager and consultant joined the meetings. On July 11th, they met with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) Executive Director Lori Arguellas, NMSF Board Members Bob Talbot and Jeffrey Mora and sanctuary superintendent Paul Michel to review the visitor center's project history and answer questions they had on the exhibit plan. The NMSF Board is considering assisting the MBNMS raise funds for the MBNMS Visitor Center exhibits.

On Monday, July 23, Michele Roest joined State Parks interpreter Mike Connolly for a one-hour radio interview on AM 920 radio station KVEC in San Luis Obispo. The interview focused on the upcoming anniversary celebration of the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay, and on the successful partnership between a federal agency and a state agency.



Coastal Discovery Center One Year Anniversary event.  
**Photo Credit: Michele Roest**

On Saturday, July 28, the Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay celebrated one year of operation with an "Oceans Fair" from 11-3. The center first opened its doors on July 22, 2006. In the first year, the center has welcomed over 13,000 visitors, providing information and education about the natural and cultural resources of the southern region of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Partner agencies, including the National Weather Service, the National Estuary Program and California State Parks also attended.

## **SIGNIFICANT NEWS COVERAGE**

06/16/07: Monterey County Herald, “Cal Am cleared for desal plant” by Kevin Howe, Herald Staff Writer

06/17/07: Monterey County Herald, “Marine Sanctuary looks to fill three seats on advisory council”

06/18/07: Santa Cruz Sentinel, “Mayor lobbies Congress for sanctuary center”

06/07: Pebble Beach, The Magazine p.82-88, “Natural Wonders” by Carolyn Snyder

06/14/07: San Francisco Chronicle, “Game Wardens – A Threatened Species” by Tom Raftican, Kim Delfino, Kate Wing

06/23/07: San Luis Obispo Tribune, “Angling for answers on coastal areas” by David Sneed

6/26/07: Monterey Herald, “Work begins on desal plant”

6/20/07: CBS5 News:, “SEASIDE: MARINE SANCTUARY WASTEWATER PROJECT GETS FEDERAL MONEY”

07/03/07: San Mateo County Times, “Lay out the blanket and stare at the sky Legion revives the Fourth of July” By Julia Scott, STAFF WRITER

07/05/07: Monterey County Herald, “Summer workshops to tackle water runoff”

07/09/07: Monterey County Herald, “Flawed Solution”

07/19/07: Monterey County Herald, “Letters to the Editor - Harmful fireworks” by Dale Karr

07/23/07: SFgate.com, “Construction starts on Santa Cruz pilot desalination plant”

07/23/07: Santa Cruz Sentinel, “People in Business-Stephanie Harlan”

07/24/07: San Francisco Chronicle, “Great white shark rips into fisherman's kayak,” by Marisa Lagos, Chronicle Staff Writer

07/24/07: San Jose Mercury News, “Invasion of the jumbo squid in Monterey Bay” by Paul Rogers

07/25/07: ennmagazine.com, “Voracious Seven-Foot Long Jumbo Squid Invade California Waters, Preying on Local Fish”

07/26/07: sacbee.com, “Wildlife officials may fight corps on levee habitat” by Matt Weiser, Bee Staff Writer

07/27/07: Carmel Pine Cone, “Activist to protest pilot plant at energy commission hearing”

## SANCTUARY EVENTS CALENDAR

Date	Event
24 & 25-Aug	MERITO Teacher Workshop. Contact Sonya Padrón at (831) 647-4211.
28-Aug	Staff Retreat. More information coming soon. Contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253
29-Aug-2 Sept	California State Fair, Sacramento. Contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.
3-14-Sep	R/V Fulmar cruise off the Big Sur coast with MBNMS staff and PISCO scientists to begin nearshore MPA monitoring using SCUBA (focus: fishes)
14-Sep	Sanctuary Research Activity Panel (RAP) Meeting, 9am-12pm at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR). Contact Andrew Devogelaere at (831) 647-4213
15-Sep	Coastal Cleanup Day, 9:00-12:00. Contact (800) COAST-4U (262-7848), Sonya Padrón at (831) 647-4211 for Monterey or Michele Roest at (805) 927-2145 for San Simeon.
17-Sep	Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) Meeting, 3:30pm-5:30pm, Monterey Bay Aquarium. Contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256
18-Sep	MBNMS Anniversary
22-Sep	First Flush Training/Dry Run, 9:30-12:00, Half Moon Bay, Gulf of Farallones NMS office, 625 Miramontes St, Ste 106, Half Moon Bay. Contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303
25-Sep	First Flush Training, 6:30-8:30pm, Santa Cruz and Capitola. Contact the Coastal Watershed Council at (831) 464-9200
27-Sep	First Flush Training, 6:30-8:30pm, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Seaside, MBNMS Office, 299 Foam Street, Monterey. Contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303
29-Sep	First Flush "Dry Run" Field Training and Monitoring Event, 9:00am. Monterey area meet at Steinbeck Plaza on Cannery Row and Prescott St. Contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303. Santa Cruz area contact the Coastal Watershed Council at (831) 426-9200
1-Oct - 23-Oct	Camera Sled Cruise on R/V Fulmar. Contact Jean de Marignac at (831) 647-4214.
6-Oct	OceanFest (GFNMS) in San Francisco. Contact Lisa Uttal at (831) 420-3664.
6-Oct	Point Lobos State Park Celebration. Contact Liz Love at (831) 647-4255.
18-Oct	World Monitoring Day
18-Oct	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting in Cambria. Contact Nicole Capps at (831) 647-4206.
?-Oct	Monterey Bay Aquarium's Fiesta del Mar. Contact Sonya Padrón at (831) 647-4211.
?-Oct	First Flush. Contact Birdget Hoover at (831) 883-9303, Lisa Emanuelson at (831) 521-9512, or Michele Roest at (805) 927-2145.
16-Nov	Sanctuary Research Activity Panel (RAP) Meeting, 9am-12pm at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Contact Andrew Devogelaere at (831) 647-4213
26-Nov	Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) Meeting, 3:30pm-5:30pm, MBARI. Contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256

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

### **Recent Updates**

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

- Sanctuary Advisory Council Member Recruitment  
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/new/welcome.html#sac>
- New Sanctuary Superintendent Named  
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/new/2007/040507sup.html>

*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](mailto:andrew.white@noaa.gov).*

## **FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES**

### **Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries**

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

### **NOS Data Explorer**

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/dataexplorer/welcome.html>

### **SIMON**

[www.mbnms-simon.org](http://www.mbnms-simon.org)

### **National Marine Sanctuary Program**

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

### **NOAA National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science**

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

### **National Estuarine Research Reserve System**

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

### **NOAA Ocean Explorer**

<http://oceanexplorer.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/>

## 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 National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP 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  
**Andrew DeVogelaere** – Research Coordinator  
**Erica Burton** – Research Assistant  
**Jennifer Brown** – Research Associate  
**Lorraine Anglin** – Marine Operations Coordinator  
**Steve Lonhart** – SIMoN Scientist  
**Jean de Marignac** – SIMoN Scientist  
**Chad King** – SIMoN Data Analyst  
**Josh Pederson** – SIMoN Outreach Specialist  
**Gary Conley** – SIMoN Water Quality Analyst  
**Dawn Hayes** – Education & Outreach Coordinator  
**Liz Love** – Education Specialist  
**Lisa Emanuelson** – Resource Issue Ed Specialist  
**Sonya Padron** – Bilingual Education Specialist  
**Michele Roest** – Education & Outreach Specialist, San Simeon Office  
**Lisa Uttal** – Education and Outreach Specialist  
**Holly Price** – Resource Protection Coordinator  
**Scott Kathey** – Regulatory Coordinator  
**Deirdre Hall** – Permit Coordinator  
**Brad Damitz** – Environmental Policy Specialist  
**Huff McGonigal** – Environmental Policy Specialist  
**Bridget Dobrowski** – Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator  
**Bridget Hoover** – Water Quality Protection Program Director  
**Anna Holden** – Water Quality Network Coordinator  
**Lisa de Marignac** – Environmental Policy Specialist  
**Karen Grimmer** – Program Operations Coordinator  
**Paul Chetirkin** – Assistant Management Plan Coordinator  
**Raymond Chisolm** – Program Specialist  
**Nicole Capps** – Management Support Specialist  
**Christian Walters** – Administrative Assistant  
**Andrew White** – Network Manager  
**Sophie De Beukelaer** – GIS Analyst  
**David Minard** – R/V Fulmar Captain  
**Chris Willcox** – R/V Fulmar First Mate  
**Amber Szoboszlai** – Sea Grant Fellow

## - Contact Information -

### Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

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