

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Meeting Minutes  
October 23, 2015  
Cambria**

Agriculture: absent	CA State Parks: Brooke Gutierrez
AMBAG: Ed Smith	Conservation: Geoff Shester
At Large: Margaret “PJ” Webb	Diving: Brian Nelson
At Large: Dan Haifley	Education: Elizabeth (Tucker) Hirsch
At Large: absent	Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
Business & Industry: absent	Harbors: Steve Scheiblaue
CA Coastal Commission: absent	Recreation: Gary Pezzi
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Deb Wilson-Vandenberg	Recreational Fishing: Rich Hughett
CA EPA: absent	Research: absent
CA Resources Agency: Cyndi Dawson	Tourism: absent

The following non-voting members were present as indicated:  
Monterey Bay NMS: Dawn Hayes

Alternates present in audience:  
Gary Hoffman – At Large

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

Call to order at: 9:05AM

District Two Supervisor for San Luis Obispo County, Bruce Gibson made a brief welcome statement to the SAC to start the meeting. He thanked MBNMS and the AC for their contributions to the community.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of August 19, 2015 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

**MOTION: Dan Haifley made motion, Steve Scheiblaue seconded.**

**MOTION: Passed**

(Vote: 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

**II. STANDING ITEM: Superintendent Report**

Dawn reported on the MBNMS Management Plan review. The last public scoping meeting will be held after this October SAC meeting. However, the public comment period is open until October 30<sup>th</sup> and comments can be submitted through regulations.gov or by mail. The scoping meetings provide important input in the development of MBNMS and SAC priorities.

Dawn announced today, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, is the 43<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of the signing of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act.

Dawn was able to participate in the rededication of the Big Sur scenic byway on October 19<sup>th</sup>. The dedication plaque was remade and installed. Speakers and guests included Lucy Johnson and the Honorable Sam Farr.

There has been increased activity with whales in Monterey Bay and San Simeon Bay which has resulted in increased wildlife disturbance. MBNMS staff created a Facebook post to “respect and protect” whales. There was a very positive response to this post. It is MBNMS’ most viewed and most shared post with 832 Shares and 260,810 people reached

Nineteen Davidson Seamount publications were added to the recently launched NOAA’s Deep-Sea Coral Data Portal.. This portal helps broaden the scope of accessibility to MBNMS data.

MBNMS participated in a California Whale Entanglement Discussion meeting with California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Ocean Protection Council and NOAA Fisheries. The goal of this meeting was to begin a dialogue with industry members, exchange information on incidences of whale entanglements along the California coast and discuss short-term and long-term strategies to reduce whale entanglements.

The Sanctuary Exploration Center celebrated its 3<sup>rd</sup> anniversary in July. Over the past three years the center has had over 200,000 visitors, hosted over 120 tour groups, over 100 meetings or events and trained over 100 volunteers who collectively contributed over 23,000 hours of service.

Big Blue Live was a huge success but MBNMS learned a lesson in being able to participate in scripting.

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: What is the process to get the actual number of whale entanglements?

A: There is a whale stranding network, Whale Entanglement Team (WET), which tracks whale sightings and entanglements. Entanglements are classified as a sighted entangled or confirmed entanglement. The stranding network looks at the entanglement locations as well as the gear type involved. However, less than 10% of records can describe where entanglements actually happened. The Ocean Protection Council met and recommended development of a best practices guide and training on how to respond to whale entanglements.

Q: Is there a dominate species of entanglement?

A: Mostly grey whales and humpback whales.

Q: Is there discussion within Oregon and Washington agencies about whale entanglement locations?

A: Most whale entanglements have occurred in California. However, if buoys are not marked, it is impossible to determine the origination of whale entanglement.

Q: Does WET provide training on responding to whale entanglements?

A: No, training is done by NOAA’s National Marine Fisheries Service.

### **III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA**

Amanda Rice – Board Member, Cambria Community Services District.  
Encourage coordination and cooperation among all agencies on the coast.

Leslie Richards – San Simeon Equestrian, resident of Cambria

My name is Leslie Richards, 26 year resident of Cambria. For the past 17 years I have owned and operated an equestrian retirement facility on Rancho San Simeon, directly across from the CCSD [Cambria Community Services District] well-field and current EWS [Emergency Water Supply] Plant. Since January 8, 2015, I have been out of business as a direct result of the operation of the EWS facility.

During several stress tests the plan ran on February 2015 and due to the fact that many of San Luis Obispo Planning Department denied they had no rules or regulations governing the operation standard of the EWS, I was personally forced to document and file formal complaints with the Regional Quality Control Board and County Code Enforcement concerning violations associated with operations of the brine evaporation pond. I had to personally monitor the toxic overspray being omitted by the EWS evaporate pond turbine blower. Since I do not own remote monitoring equipment, I had to hand hold a camera and a DO meter. Over the course of the 4 day stress test I was repeatedly exposed to toxic particulates that were omitted by the blower. After the exposure, my face and hands appeared to be sunburned. I wear glasses so my eyes were protected. Within 24 hours I suffered nose bleeds, fever and a cough that lasted 2 weeks. It took 3 months for the rash on my face to subside.

Currently, the turbine blowers are non-operational; CCSD is proposing to dump this toxic material through the San Simeon CSD outflow into your sanctuary!

Note: In August 2015, County of San Luis Obispo supervisor reviewed a 500+ page report documenting the 5 desal projects to be expanded upon to accommodate future growth in the county. Cambria EWS is included in that list; for a 4 fold increase in the eventual EWS project, thus a 4 fold increase in the toxic outflow.

Morgan Visalli – Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

The Marine Shipping Working Group is a working group of CINMS that is in progress right now. It is a diverse group of stakeholders addressing marine shipping issues in the region. Four of five meetings have occurred and recommendations will be passed on to the CINMS Advisory Council in early 2016. For more information, contact [morgan.visalli@noaa.gov](mailto:morgan.visalli@noaa.gov).

#### **IV. INFO ITEM: SOUTHERN REGION UPDATE**

Carolyn Skinder gave a presentation on the southern region of MBNMS. The Coastal Discovery Center (CDC) in San Simeon offers many services including education programming, wildlife protection activities, park safety and enhancement and citizen science monitoring. The CDC is overseen by Carolyn with the assistance of one half-time program assistant, 25 docents, 2-5 interns per year, and a park aide one day per week. CDC reaches over 18,000 visitors annually including over 1,200 students. The center assists organizations with birds and animals on local beaches and teaches the public about Marine Mammal Protection Act regulations. CDC also is involved with BeachCOMBERS, LiMPETS and beach cleanups. A store was added to the center this year and earned \$2,000 in the past 7 months. \$5,000 was received in donations and \$13,400 was received in grant money.

For the upcoming year, CDC is hoping to double the amount of visitors, add a weather station and hydrophone to the pier and obtain a full-time docent coordinator.

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: How are you integrating programs for different languages?

A: We are not yet doing this but looking into it.

Q: Is weather data not currently collected off the pier?

A: No, not currently. We want to link into several weather stations since there are different microclimates in every cove.

Q: What is the status on *Aplysia* (sea hares)?

A: The sea hares are being seen all the way up to San Francisco Bay. It would be great to have an online blog to identify where beached organisms are being seen.

Q: Do we have a do's/don'ts list for wildlife observing? Do we have recommended distances to stay from seals?

A: We need additional directional signage, enforcement signage and interpretive signage. We also need an interpreter. California State Parks says to stay 100 feet away from seals. In other words, if it's looking at you, you're too close. However, there are no stronger numbers on the ideal distance, just guidelines.

Q: Is there money for school field trips through the center? Do the schools pay for field trips themselves?

A: There is some funding through grants (from Friends of the Elephant Seals), or schools pay for it themselves.

Q: Are there plans to expand the "Don't be that guy" campaign beyond elephant seals?

A: This will be addressed during the wildlife disturbance presentation later today.

Q: Have you applied for a grant with the California Coastal Commission?

A: MBNMS does not qualify for these grants.

Q: Is MBNMS looking for photos of humpback whale and kayaker interactions?

A: No, we have many photos.

Q: Can SAC create a letter of support for more staff in this area?

A: Yes, a letter can be drafted and discussed at the next SAC meeting.

## **V. STANDING ITEM. WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

Conservation: The Conservation Working Group (CWG) will focus on meetings with specific topics instead of meeting every month. The CWG would like to increase involvement and expand to other working groups when needed. Recently, the working group put together a draft letter including a set of priorities for MBNMS Management Plan Review scoping. They went through areas in the Notice of Intent and determined specific focus areas that are higher priority for the Management Plan Review: climate action plan, wildlife disturbance (including entanglement and acoustic), high energy seismic testing, support water quality protection, marine spatial management work, continued focus on desalination.

### Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: Is beach nourishment part of the climate action plan?

A: Not specifically, but it could be included under the umbrella of climate change.

Q: Is the letter signed by the Conservation Working Group (CWG) or by the Conservation Coalition?

A: The intent was to have CWG develop the letter, but for it to be a public submission.

Q: Is there a set membership to the CWG?

A: Not at this time, but it has been more formal historically.

Education: The Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP) has not yet been resurrected. Tucker and Amity have been interviewing MBNMS staff for input on specific needs of the working group. So far it looks as though the SEP should focus on supporting the Sanctuary Exploration Center and the

Coastal Discovery Center. It should also be a project based working group rather than meeting every month. The SEP is hoping to host a large group meeting discussion for input on how to move the working group forward. The SEP is also trying to connect with other SAC constituents to schedule a mixer(s) to learn more about the needs of others. Finally, they hope to touch base with Paul Michel regarding how the SEP can be involved with the Management Plan Review.

Research: No update.

Recreation and Tourism: The Recreation and Tourism Subcommittee (RATS) newsletter is out and readership is doing well. 45% of reading is done on mobile devices. The “Friends of the Sanctuary” (FOTS) program should roll out by the December SAC meeting. The program is designed to help businesses grow, add value and bring in more tourism. A draft of the FOTS application form is circulating through RATS and will soon be sent to the rest of the SAC.

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: This program sounds like the Monterey Bay Green Business Program. Is it similar?

A: Yes. The idea is to build the branding of the sanctuary whale tail logo.

## **VI. INFO ITEM: WILDLIFE DISTURBANCE**

Scott Kathey gave a presentation on wildlife disturbance issues and MBNMS response actions. He discussed types of wildlife disturbance and reasons for increased interactions including shifts in environmental conditions, short-range cell phone camera use, increased hobby unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) use, and social media portrayals of close encounters. Scott talked in depth about UASs. MBNMS regulations have prohibited flying “motorized aircraft” below 1,000 feet within overflight prohibition zones. UASs are used in professional, private and research capacities. To prevent/reduce wildlife disturbance MBNMS is working on a multitude of actions: regulatory zones and permitting, interpretation and outreach, interpretive and regulatory enforcement, shoreline signage, media bulletins, Thank You Ocean campaign, collaborative enforcement with other federal and state agencies.

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: What is the Restricted Overflight Zone (ROZ) boundary distance?

A: Three nautical miles in the southern zone and all of state waters in northern zone..

Q: Is there a gap in the ROZ between Monterey Bay and Elkhorn Slough?

A: Yes, there is no protection in Moss Landing Harbor.

Q: Is any agency able to prosecute violators?

A: Yes but there needs to be ample evidence to do so.

Q: Is a drone violation a violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA)?

A: Yes, it is considered a Level B harassment under the MMPA. It would also be a sanctuary violation if it occurred while the marine mammal(s) is in water.

Q: What is the threshold of proof to prosecute?

A: There are strict liability statutes. For a Level B harassment there must be proof of extreme negligence or malicious intent. If marine mammals become a nuisance to harbors or government officials, NOAA has set guidelines for acceptable ways to deal with the animals (e.g., airsoft guns, pellet guns, cattle prods, boards).

Q: UASs can have GPS software that can limit access in certain areas, known as “geo-fencing”. This method is used in national parks and monuments. Is this something we can address in Management Plan Review?

A: Absolutely.

Q: Is there concern regarding the use of seal bombs by fishermen when used in the vicinity of endangered species?

A: These deterrents are specifically for pinnipeds. MBNMS is working with NOAA Fisheries to get a handle on this.

Q: How many people are actually prosecuted?

A: Not many.

California State Parks Sergeant Rob Chambers gave a brief presentation about their involvement with MBNMS enforcement. State Parks Rangers are the “eyes and ears” of this area. They are the only full time staff in the San Simeon/Cambria area. State Parks Rangers see wildlife disturbances on a daily basis. A local contact for federal regulations is needed. The public takes regulations more serious when citations are handed out.

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion

Q: Do you have joint powers authority?

A: CA State Parks does not have that right now with NOAA. CA State Parks cannot cite for federal violations. It would be beneficial to look through state codes for state regulations that are similar to federal regulations.

Q: Is there any quantification of relative impact in terms of wildlife disturbance? Which animals should be focused more on? Can you prioritize what types of disturbance to look at?

A: Team OCEAN keeps track of disturbances they see. Statistics have been kept since 2001. BayNet has some data in their notes but it’s not as quantified as Team OCEAN’s data. MBNMS created cooperative enforcement programs with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and California State Parks but had to terminate agreement with State Parks.

Q: It’s unfortunate the sanctuary can’t take advantage of the available State Parks officers and that the old agreement wasn’t acceptable. Why is it ok for CDFW to have an agreement with MBNMS but State Parks can’t?

A: NOAA OLE is aligned with CDFW because they also do fisheries enforcement. OLE would have to change their mindset that others can enforce fisheries regulations. State Parks is primarily land management and don’t have the resources to be replacement enforcement for NOAA.

Q: The problem is there aren’t enough resources. Cross jurisdictional needs must be solved at a high level. Do cross-jurisdictional agreements (within resource limitations) need to be made? Also, could the money for MPWC buoy maintenance be used for Team OCEAN funding?

A: No, they are funded under a different mechanism.

Q: Can Bob Yrena’s work now go to Roy Torres?

Scott: Roy is about to retire as well.

#### **VII. ACTION ITEM. Motion to request expedited efforts for recruitment to backfill the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) position in Monterey, California.**

PJ Webb introduced this motion and gave some background of the situation.

A motion was made by Rich Hughett to request expedited efforts for recruitment to backfill the NOAA Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) position in Monterey, California.

Seconded by Ed Smith.

**Motion: PASSED**

(Vote: 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention)

### VIII. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rich Hughett: if anybody is interested in grants between \$8,000 and \$10,000 that benefit wildlife or the community, there is funding through the Monterey County Fish & Game Commission.

Brooke Gutierrez: thanked MBNMS and SAC for the support towards California State Parks.

Deb Wilson-Vandenberg:

MPAs -

- MPA Overview Sheet for all MPAs are now available online at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Overview-Sheets](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Overview-Sheets). Example Pt. Lobos SMR is attached.
- MPA Regulations change package that is expected to go into effect March 1, 2016 - we will be reprinting all 4 regional MPA guides.
- We have migrated over to a new platform (open source software intended to allow management of websites) and have new URLs. No more “dfg”. Now using “wildlife”. Old URLs will continue to work and will be redirected to the new pages. MPA homepage is now [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs).
- We are partnering with State Parks on a new Parks Online Resources for Teachers and Students (PORTS) Program at Pt. Lobos that will discuss California’s MPA Network. PORTS is a free distance learning program that uses the power of interactive videoconferencing to help K-12 schools teach common core state standards in the context of California State Parks. Visit [www.ports.parks.ca.gov](http://www.ports.parks.ca.gov) for more on PORTS.

Updating 2008 Master Plan for Marine Protected Areas -

- Whereas the 2008 Master Plan focused on designing and siting MPAs through a sequential regional planning process, the draft 2015 Master Plan focuses instead on setting a statewide foundation for MPA management, moving forward. The 2008 and 2015 plans are therefore complementary.
- The draft 2015 Master Plan is forward looking. It is not a regulatory document, rather a programmatic guidance document that describes how the Marine Life Protection Plan will undertake management of California’s statewide network of MPAs to meet the goals of the MLPA and MMAIA.
- The draft 2015 Master Plan includes statewide guidance relative to the management, including regional components, and emphasizes the importance of an adaptive and evolving approach to management to meet the goals of the MLPA and MMAIA.
- A preliminary draft has been circulated with Tribes and Tribal governments and we expect to bring a draft to the Commission this December to begin the public scoping process. Hopefully adoption will occur by April 2016.

- Proposed MPA Regulation Amendments
- An adoption hearing is scheduled for December 2015.
- Proposed regulations can be viewed on the Commission's web page
- Ano Nuevo SMCA will become an SMR
- Boundary adjustments to improve accuracy from 1/100 to 1/000 of a minute and some modifications to move the offshore boundaries to reflect new calculation 3 nm line by NOAA along some parts of the coastline.

Anchovy - The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) began advising consumers to not eat commercially or recreationally caught anchovy taken from Monterey and Santa Cruz counties on June 1, 2015 due to detection of dangerous levels of domoic acid. In July of 2015 the advisory was updated to also include Santa Barbara counties. Landings of northern anchovy into Monterey Bay ports continued until approximately June 26th despite the CDPH advisor. Landings of northern anchovy ceased towards the end of June due to the fact that the seine fleet in Monterey Bay shifted their focus to market squid. Fishing efforts shifted back to northern anchovy during the week of September 28th due to a scarcity of squid. Since then an average of 638 metric tons of northern anchovy per week have been landed in Monterey Bay ports. Dealers indicated that they were still able to sell northern anchovy after the issuance of the CDPH's advisory because the catch was being used to fill frozen bait orders. Recent reports are that these bait orders are almost complete. The dealers also have orders for human consumption that they haven't been able to fill due to the continued health advisory. Department staff are working with CDPH staff to collect biological samples for domoic acid testing when requested. As of October 16th, 2015 the CDPH's advisory was still in place. Approximately 50% of this year's 25,000 metric ton annual catch limit has been landed this year.

Several groups including Audubon, Oceana, PEW and Earthjustice are concerned about the status of the northern anchovy stock and will likely request that the Pacific Fishery Management Council ask the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to initiate a full stock assessment for the central subpopulation, to be completed in 2016. More immediately, they will also likely ask that the Council consider interim management measures for this subpopulation.

Hagfish - The Fish and Game Commission is in the process of adopting new regulations for the commercial hagfish fishery. They will allow the use of up to 25 40-gallon barrel traps per vessel, and require that no more than 3 vertical lines per vessel may be used with these traps. The latter was proposed to reduce the potential for whale entanglements, even though the hagfish fishery uses very few vertical lines compared with the Dungeness crab trap fishery. The hagfish regulations will still allow the use of up to 200 5-gallon bucket traps per vessels, but each vessel may use only one type of trap. The hagfish fishery occurs primarily out of the ports of Eureka, Bodega Bay, Morro Bay, Los Angeles, and Oceanside and has about 25 active vessels. Hagfish are exported live to Korea for human consumption.

California Halibut - The Department's Bay-Delta Project determined that the 2015 year class of California halibut in central California is the strongest they have observed in their 35 years of standardized research tows in the SF Bay Estuarine Complex.

Steve Scheiblauber: the harbor has begun testing for next phase of dredging. State of California put out a tsunami playbook specific to harbors which is a good tool for harbors and communities to determine the best evacuation procedures.

Ed Smith: Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau and Monterey County Hospitality Association are targeting 35,000 hospitality workers. They would like to come up with a curriculum intended to education workers on “My Monterey” to equip workers to help sell the community as a 5 star destination. How is this connected to the sanctuary? Videos in the training presentations will show all activities done in the sanctuary. Monterey will be known as a 5 star destination. They are authorized by executive board of both associations for four hours three times a year and online training for workers.

Brian Nelson: was informed Ed Smith would like to join the Recreation and Tourism subcommittee. The City of Monterey has sponsored a beach cleanup. The Dive newsletter is out. A call for action newsletter was also sent out regarding the Management Plan Review. There are a couple more dive club meetings this year. They will be talking about what’s going on in the sanctuary.

Gary Hoffman: it is good to be back from the sea turtle campaign. The Sea Turtle Oversight Program (STOP) website describes 30,000 turtles hatchlings were saved with workers working seven days a week throughout the summer in Florida.

Kathy Fosmark: no new update but asked Deb Wilson-Vandenberg a question regarding the effects of domoic acid on the crab fishery south of Half Moon Bay. She also asked if there had been any exchange of info with the fishing industry. Deb said she would look into it and get back to Kathy.

Gary Pezzi: Surfrider had a recent celebration fundraising for the Santa Cruz chapter. Every first Saturday they have beach cleanup. He noticed in the MBNMS MPR public scoping meetings there was a lot of talk about personal watercrafts and safety issues. The opening ceremony for Mavericks is October 24<sup>th</sup>.

PJ Webb: no new announcements.

Dawn Hayes: a screening of the documentary film “Sand Wars” will be screened at Middlebury Institute of International Studies on November 4<sup>th</sup> from 6:00PM – 9:00PM. A panel discussion will follow the screening.

Geoff Shester: NGOs requested an updated stock assessment of northern anchovy. New information has suggesting the anchovy stock is very low. Regarding the swordfish fishery, the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) set hard caps of endangered whales. Deep set buoy gear in exempted fishing permit stage is showing ability to catch swordfish without as much bycatch. The Fish and Game Commission Marine Resource Committee meeting will be held on November 4th in Ventura. A topic will be the MLMA master plan update establishing bycatch work group for state managed fisheries.

Tucker Hirsch: no new announcements.

Cyndi Dawson: The Ocean Protection Council's (OPC) December meeting was cancelled. The next meeting will be February 3rd, 2016 in Sacramento. OPC's website is a resource for updates [www.opc.ca.gov](http://www.opc.ca.gov). OPC in partnership with the Department of Fish and Wildlife and the Ocean Science Trust has lead the development of a work plan to guide the Marine Protection Area Management Program statewide. The work plan developed by the MPA Statewide Leadership Team lays out priorities for MPA management for the next three years. California State Parks, State Lands, Coastal Commission and Fish and Game Commission are involved. You can find the work plan at [http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda\\_items/20150922/Item5\\_Attach2\\_MPALeadershipTeam\\_Workplan\\_FINALv2.pdf](http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/ftp/pdf/agenda_items/20150922/Item5_Attach2_MPALeadershipTeam_Workplan_FINALv2.pdf)

## **IX. INFO ITEM. WATER QUALITY**

Bridget Hoover gave a presentation summarizing the 2015 Condition Report water quality findings, the multi-year Snapshot Day report and the 2014 Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) results. The MBNMS 2015 Condition Report updates the understanding of the health of the sanctuary, evaluates health of the seamount environment and incorporates new information, expert judgement and review from 50+ regional scientists and partner agencies staff. The Condition Report noted fair/poor water quality in Elkhorn Slough, fair water quality in nearshore waters and fair to good water quality in offshore waters. The multi-year Snapshot Day report calculated trends for *E. coli*, nitrate and orthophosphate. Trends are however difficult to detect with one sample per year. The 2014 ASBS results discussed included trace metals, PAHs, pesticides, bioaccumulation, toxicity and nutrients.

### **Questions/comments:**

Q: Were there any control sites?

A: No, but we are looking to do that. The reference sites for ASBS monitoring were outside Pacific Grove.

Q: Has there been baseline water quality monitoring done to make an evaluation for Davidson Seamount?

A: It was done this year.

Q: Are you utilizing genetic testing to determine the source of microcystin?

A: Yes, to the extent we can but it is also naturally occurring.

Q: Is there a reason why fish are not tested?

A: Bioaccumulation is tested but not for reference sites.

Q: Is there an overall score given in the Condition Report?

A: No, it is focused on persistent pollutants. Influence coming out of rivers does have an impact. In general, research shows it starts offshore and moves in.

A brief discussion followed regarding the presence of microcystin in water supply systems. Microcystin is usually present but it is not always toxic and it is unclear what causes the trigger to turn on/off the toxicity. Municipal water treatment plants do not measure microcystin levels and monitoring permits are not required. Microcystin is treated through disinfection. This year is the highest use of disinfection.

## **X. ADJOURN**

The final public scoping meeting for the MBNMS Management Plan Review will be held following this meeting from 6:00PM – 8:00PM.

Next meeting December 11<sup>th</sup> in Monterey at Heritage Harbor

Adjourn at 4:18PM