

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Final Meeting Minutes
April 21, 2017
USGS – Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center
Santa Cruz, CA**

VOTING MEMBERS

- | | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| Agriculture: Kirk Schmidt | CA State Parks: Eric Abma |
| AMBAG: Ed Smith | Conservation: Katherine O’Dea |
| At Large: Gary Hoffmann | Diving: Brian Nelson |
| At Large: Dan Haifley | Education: absent |
| At Large: PJ Webb | Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark |
| Business & Industry: Tom Rowley | Harbors: absent |
| CA Coastal Commission: absent | Recreation: Gary Pezzi |
| CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly | Recreational Fishing: Jose Montes |
| CA EPA: Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso | Research: Dr. John Hunt |
| CA Resources Agency: absent | Tourism: Michael Bekker |

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

- Channel Islands NMS: absent
- College: Clifton Herrmann
- Cordell Banks NMS: absent
- Elkhorn Slough NERR: absent
- Greater Farallones NMS: Max Delaney
- Monterey Bay NMS: Dawn Hayes
- National Marine Fisheries Service: Dr. Steven Lindley
- U.S. Coast Guard: Anna Sanders

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Alternates present in audience: | Number of audience members 9:00 AM: |
| Cynthia Matthews – At-Large | 6 |
| Christina McGinnis – At-Large | Number of audience members 1:00 PM: |
| Megan Rodenbeck – College | 6 |
| Bart Selby – Recreation | |
| Keith Rootsart – Diving | |
| Mindy Mashmeyer – Tourism | |
| Kristen Petersen – AMBAG | |

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, SWEARING-IN AND MEETING MINUTES

Chair PJ Webb called the meeting to order and Secretary Brian Nelson attended to roll call.

Guy Gelfenbaum, Director of Pacific Coastal Marine Science Center, welcomed the Advisory Council (AC). He is happy the center can host the AC meetings and reminded the council USGS has been a part of the Research Activity Panel (RAP) since the sanctuary started. He is glad USGS can

support science in the sanctuary and mentioned it is an honor to provide scientific information and background information.

Cynthia Mathews, City of Santa Cruz Councilmember, also welcomed the Advisory Council to Santa Cruz and USGS. She mentioned the creation of the Exploration Center plays a role in MBNMS and Santa Cruz. Cynthia discussed the early brainstorming that led to these robust education programs. Cynthia noted the message of sanctuaries is fully integrated in the promotion of Santa Cruz. She is looking forward to celebrating the 25th anniversary of MBNMS. Cynthia mentioned the management theme at the Dream Inn is stewardship and the ocean; the Inn has invested in this theme as it has a strong connection to their customers. Cynthia also addressed watershed awareness and said a land-sea connection has increased in Santa Cruz. She noted and thanked many local nonprofits for their help in increasing awareness. Additionally, the City of Santa Cruz is investing millions of dollars to improve and upgrade the entire water system which leads to protecting rivers and water quality. Cynthia mentioned the March for Science which occurred Saturday, April 22nd and Santa Cruz hosted one of 600 science marches around the world. She noted the Santa Cruz visitor guide dedicated one whole page to MBNMS content. A Santa Cruz county wildlife-watching guide mentioned the sanctuary and Monterey Bay. The Coastal Watershed Council announced a Bio-Blast and citizen science project. The Seymour Marine Discovery Center has a monthly lecture series. Save Our Shores is working on the CEMEX sand mine issue. Cynthia concluded by stating MBNMS is both a reflection of and inspiration to our community values.

Three new advisory council members were sworn in by Deputy Superintendent, Dawn Hayes. New AC members include: Keith Rootsart (Diving alternate), Mindy Maschmeyer (Tourism alternate), and Kristen Petersen (AMBAG alternate). Each of the new members quickly introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of February, 2017 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Michael Bekker, Katherine O’Dea seconded.

(Vote: 13 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

II. STANDING ITEM: Superintendent Report

Dawn Hayes discussed MBNMS actions regarding the golf ball issue near Pebble Beach. MBNMS is completing surveys to assess the situation and is characterizing the site. After determining where issues exist the sanctuary will work with Monterey Bay Aquarium for clean-up. Dawn also noted the MBNMS Anniversary Speaker Series upcoming dates. Mark Carr will give the next lecture focusing on coastal ecosystems on May 17th at the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz. Ed Thornton will lecture on May 25th about longshore sediment transfer at the Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History. Dawn announced a save the date for September 16th when MBNMS will have a gala event at the Monterey Tides Hotel for the sanctuary’s 25th anniversary.

Karen Grimmer, MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator, gave an update on desalination in MBNMS. MBNMS is the federal lead for the Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project (Cal-Am). The comment period closed on March 29th and comments are under review. There were approximately 100 comments from agencies, organizations and individuals. MBNMS is working on responses to comments and making changes to the document as necessary. The timeline is on track for release of final EIR/EIS by end of 2017 or early 2018.

MBNMS is also the federal lead for the Monterey Bay Regional Water Project (Deepwater Desalination). The lead agencies are currently working on a draft EIR/EIS. There is a need for additional studies for the analysis of the review. This project is on a longer timeline and is expected to release a draft EIR/EIS in 2017. Karen also addressed the special use permit Federal Register notice and reminded the AC that the public comment period closed in February. There were seven comments and MBNMS is currently reviewing them to reflect some of the changes made based on input. Karen anticipates a final release will be in the next two to three months.

Karen also mentioned recent reports of whale entanglements as there were a couple on incidents in April. A gray whale was sighted with a metal frame around its head and blowhole. The response team may have to use hydraulic clippers to remove the frame. The whale was last sighted offshore of Half Moon Bay. Karen reminded the AC that re-sighting an entangled whale is the most challenging part of the operation. It is important to stay with the whale and call the NOAA entangled whale hotline number which is 1-800 SOS-WHALE or hail the USCG on Channel 16.

On April 19th a humpback whale entangled with crab pots was spotted. A response team was partially successful in removing the crab pots, yet some of the line remained in the whale's mouth. Karen suggested once alerts are sent out, AC members should forward to their networks. Alerts are sent to fishermen and whale tour operators since both are part of the response team.

Max Delaney, Permit Coordinator for GFNMS, gave a report detailing recent happenings in GFNMS. The Overflight Working Group presented recommendations to the GFNMS AC at its meeting on February 1, 2017. The report presented recommendations on pilot education and outreach, changes to the aeronautical charts to make regulations and sensitive areas more clear, and recommendations on altering zones. The GFNMS AC also discussed the emerging issue of unmanned aircraft systems. The Overflight Working Group was formed in 2015 by GFNMS AC as their effort to assist the sanctuary with addressing several years of public requests to review the location and dimensions (shape and size) of NOAA regulated overflight zones in certain areas of San Mateo, Marin and Sonoma Counties. Bart Selby participated on the working group as the MBNMS AC representative. If there are any questions, ask Bart. The Devil's Slide area is one of the areas in MBNMS. The report still has not been officially sent to sanctuary staff since the Advisory Council's motion directed the final report to include all member comments as they relate to each of the recommendations, along with public comments. This is being completed. GFNMS staff hopes to receive the final report after the next AC meeting on May 24th. The AC will determine the final suite of recommendations that will go directly to the Sanctuary Superintendent for consideration. The recommendations may suggest either regulatory or non-regulatory actions, or both. The Superintendent will review and consider the final AC recommendations and report back to the AC regarding any possible actions at a later date.

The Mavericks surf contest window closed March 31st. The best chance they had for the combination of big swell, good weather, and favorable winds was on Superbowl Sunday. However, there was a blackout date from the law enforcement agencies due to not enough staff available for that weekend. The permittee, Cartel Management, Inc. had some financial difficulties over the season and filed for bankruptcy. They re-formed the organization as Titans of Mavericks, LLC. and tried to carry on but were not able to hold the contest. We will see if they are solvent enough next year to continue to run the contest. There have been many management and money issues.

Max reported a summary of the 2016 GFNMS Beach Watch Data. Max announced 2016 was a quiet year for seabird mortality in central California, even though it was an El Niño and there was anomalous warm water in the previous two years. Of note, there was a small increase in dead Surf Scoters Feb-May 2016. This coincided with a much larger die-off of Surf Scoters in southern CA. Many birds were thought to have died, in part, from banjo worm infestations (*Ancanthocephan* parasites in the gut). This was the largest mortality event Beach Watch has documented in Surf Scoters since the 1997-98 El Niño. In 2016, there were also higher numbers of dead Brown Pelicans, Heermann's Gulls and Elegant Terns. Our conservation science staff is currently collaborating on four manuscripts characterizing the unusual mortality events during the anomalous warm water events in 2014-15. Also of highlight in 2016 we added 24 new volunteers, many of whom were placed on established teams and replaced retiring volunteers.

This winter, staff of the Sanctuary's Seabird Protection Network and Education team completed a series of five public presentations at REI stores in the Bay Area. The presentations were geared towards paddlers and the general public wishing to learn more about Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Staff also discussed the ways in which paddlers, boaters and other recreationists can unintentionally disturb sensitive marine wildlife, especially breeding or resting seabirds and marine mammals, and presented wildlife-friendly practices to use while enjoying and exploring the sanctuary. Lastly, Max reminded everyone of the next GFNMS Advisory Council meeting on May 24th in Bodega Bay.

Kristen Hart reminded everyone recruitment for three council seats will begin May 1st. Open seats included: Agriculture (alternate), Conservation (alternate), and Education (alternate). Applications will be available on the MBNMS website on the homepage or by contacting Nichole Rodriguez directly. Applications are due by May 31st. Additionally, Nichole will be returning from maternity leave on May 1st.

Kristen mentioned the AC needed to establish a subcommittee for council nominations. The subcommittee consists of 5-6 people who will get together, discuss applications, rank, and give recommendations to Paul. Subcommittee members cannot be an applicant. Members who volunteered for the subcommittee included Brian Nelson, Christina McGinnis, Michael Bekker, Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, Dan Haifley, and Keith Rootsart (Chair).

Advisory Council Member Discussion

Paul Reilly suggested all members view the video online informing us about the golf ball issue. Michael Bekker asked if golfing fees had changed, Karen said yes and to stay tuned for changes. Katherine O'Dea asked about the role of the sanctuary. Tom Rowley asked if the comments revealed any large missing items from the draft EIR/EIS. Karen mentioned many comments were on water rights and groundwater, they are going to put more information into that section. Katherine asked if they had confirmed if the metal frame on the whale was from oyster aquaculture. Karen said it appeared to be a bedframe but there was no confirmation. Gary Pezzi asked a question about the contract at Mavericks and if they can sell rights to another organization. P.J. Webb, MBNMS AC Chair suggested everyone read the MBNMS office report. P.J. also suggested people take a look at the Overflight Working Group report as it is exhaustive.

III. STANDING ITEM: MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gary Hoffman: Harbor seal pupping season has started particularly in Monterey. BayNet is out enforcing regulations as well as keeping people and their drones from harassing moms and pups. BayNet volunteer Thom Akeman was interviewed by KQED about harassing harbor seals. The article “Drones on Monterey beaches frighten seals during mating season” can be viewed here: <https://ww2.kqed.org/science/2017/03/27/drones-on-monterey-beaches-frighten-seals-during-mating-season/>

Katherine O’Dea, Conservation primary: Save our Shores working on Cemex issue. Full month campaign. Letter writing/postcard station. Bought CEMEX sand at Home Depot

1. We continue to work to get the CEMEX sand mining operation closed down in collaboration with Surfrider Monterey. Our month-long postcard campaign has been very successful we will have well over 1,000 postcards signed and sand scooped to send to the Coastal Commission and State Lands Commission Commissioners. We’ve had protest stations set up in various locations in SC County including at Patagonia and our office at the SC Harbor. We’ve also had pop-up protest stations at various farmers markets, Earth Day events and other tabling events across both SC and Monterey Counties.
2. We got the County of SC Board of Supervisors to submit a letter urging the State Lands Commission to engage on the Cemex issue and collaborate with the Coastal Commission in efforts to close the mine. The City of Monterey also submitted a letter.
3. We and Surfrider Monterey representatives drove up to Berkeley on the 20th to give public comment at the State Lands Commission meeting.
4. Our short documentary on CEMEX, which we debuted at a screening at Patagonia on March 30th and which will also be screened at the Press Club in Seaside on April 26th can be viewed on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/211119054>
5. Save Our Shores will be running 11 clean up events on Earth Day (competing with the Marches for Science). These are at Panther Beach Natural Bridges Beach, Cowell and Main Beach, the San Lorenzo River, Sunny Cove, Hidden Beach, Rancho Moro Cojo Park at Elkhorn, Del Monte Beach, Asilomar Beach and Carmel River Beach.

Eric Abma, CA State Parks primary: State Parks staffing is at a historic low. Visitor and enforcement operations have been affected. The lower part of Monterey Bay is at 50% of lifeguard and enforcement staff.

Clifton Herrmann, College primary: Monterey Area Research Institutions’ Network for Education (MARINE) 2017 Colloquium was held at Moss Landing Marine Labs on April 8th. MARINE is a consortium of seven local research marine research institutions that provides professional development opportunities in ocean science and policy. Their annual colloquium brought together graduate students from the seven participating institutions for a conference-style event with the theme *Make Your Message Matter*. Former Congressman Sam Farr made a guest appearance. The event was a success.

CSUMB’s Ecosystem Electronics Lab headed by Dr. Steve Moore has been working with the Sanctuary Discovery center to build a new Remotely Operated Vehicle for their interactive display. Meetings are taking place to communicate desired specifications and budgetary considerations.

Dan Haifley, At-Large primary: Noted the Santa Cruz March for Science, which occurred April 22nd. Dan also announced Fish Tales, a story telling event at 6:30 at the SC Food Lounge that occurred April 28th. The event was sponsored by Potluck Magazine and the SC Sub-Unit of the American Fisheries Society. It was a sustainable event with sustainable seafood and drinks and focused on art and science.

Ed Smith, AMBAG primary: Appreciated the Advisory Council orientation refresher. The Monterey Bay Aquarium education center is going to be built soon. The open space can be seen near Cannery Row. Construction will be going on over the next year. Monterey is going through a lot of road repair through Measure P and X. Over the next 5 years every roadway in Monterey will be repaired in some way. Monterey Conference Center to re-open in the late summer of this year.

Brian Nelson, Diving primary: Attended listening sessions of an Artificial Reef Meeting Sacramento, CA on April 5th. He sent more information after meeting to the CDFW project director. The Diver eNewsletter was completed and published to constituents on April 18th. The Diving alternate, Keith Rootsart joining the Dive Team. Congratulations! Earth Day and a Beach Clean-up are upcoming in Monterey.

Kathy Fosmark, Commercial Fishing primary: There will be a hearing at Senate Commerce Committee on the oversight of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act during the first week of May. One of the board members will be attending from the Alliance of Communities for Sustainable Fisheries.

Steve Lindley, NMFS primary: There will be no directed sardine fishery in California, only bycatch under certain limits and live bait fishery.

Kirk Schmidt Agriculture primary: wet winter. No workers to pick strawberries because it is too wet. Price of produce is going to skyrocket. Every farm bureau in the state is celebrating its 100th anniversary. Regional Water Quality Control Board adopted a new agricultural waiver/order that doesn't change any of the surface water standards (which is what affects the sanctuary), does change some groundwater oversight.

PJ Webb, At-Large primary: The Coastal Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay is preparing for training new docents. Docent training will be held on May 13th, 20th and 27th. Docents lead nature and history walks, participate in citizen science projects and get to interact with visitors at the center. Thanks to the proximity of Hearst Castle, the CDC is visited by a variety of international as well as local guests.

A "Partners in Protection" event will be held on August 25th at the CDC to celebrate the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's 25th Anniversary. These ocean fairs are very popular for local families as well as visitors from the Central Valley. Saturday, April 22nd marks Earth Day, the March for Science and in Cambria, cars, motorcycles, chili and beer! This is a very popular annual event in our town.

World Heritage Site: The proposed California Current Conservation Complex working group will schedule a meeting in May. A Doodle poll will be sent out to volunteers. The National Park is submitting a list and it is my understanding that the California proposal is on the list. There will be a future Federal Register listing and then a comment period will occur.

Dawn Hayes, MBNMS alternate: Thanked Kirk Schmidt and Phil Sammet for their years of dedication to the Advisory Council.

Tom Rowley, Business alternate: There are many events happening in Monterey: March for Science, Sea Otter Classic and the Monterey International Pop Festival. Tourism is up slightly even with the Highway 1 closed.

Michael Bekker, Tourism primary: Tourism is up in Monterey. He will be fundraising for the MBNMS 25th Anniversary Gala.

Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, CA EPA: Water Quality Control Policy on the use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once Through Cooling Policy) Implementation Activities: The OTC Policy requires owners or operators of existing power plants to implement measures to mitigate the interim impingement and entrainment impacts resulting from their cooling water intake structures. The interim mitigation period began on October 1, 2015 and continues up to and until the owner or operator achieves final compliance, as laid out in the OTC Policy. The interim mitigation payment calculation comprises an entrainment, an impingement, and a management and monitoring fees. Since the calculations for the fees require input values from each OTC facility, the interim mitigation payment will vary by facility and will be set by the State Water Board as part of the process of issuing an NPDES permit for an OTC facility. Staff is reviewing information provided by the power plant owners and operators in an effort to calculate the first annual interim mitigation payments.

Another activity under the OTC Policy is the report of the Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intakes Structures (SACCWIS). The OTC Policy requires the SACCWIS to advise the State Water Board on whether the Policy's compliance schedule takes into account the reliability of California's electricity supply. The earlier closure of San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station in January 2012 and the decision by Southern California Edison to retire it in June 2013 was not anticipated when the State Water Boards set the compliance schedule for several thousand megawatts of OTC facilities to satisfy state and federal statutes. Consequently, concerns have been raised on the San Diego Region, since the current date for Encina Power Station (EPS) to comply with the OTC Policy is December 31, 2017. The energy agencies, California Independent System Operator, California Energy Commission, and California Public Utilities Commission, developed a special study for the EPS. The 2018 Encina Reliability Study was presented and approved by the SACCWIS on Feb. 23, 2017 and presented to the Water Board on March 21, 2017. The report shows the need for capacity at Encina site in summer 2018. SACCWIS recommends deferring the compliance dates for Encina Units 2-5 from December 31, 2017 to December 31, 2018 to maintain grid reliability. It is expected that the Staff Report will be released for public comment on May 22nd, 2017 with an expected State Water Board adoption hearing date scheduled for August 15, 2017. The Draft 2017 SACCWIS Report (on all the remaining OTC facilities) will be presented to the SACCWIS meeting on May 4, 2017; and to the Water Board by June 20, 2017.

Jose Montes, Recreational Fishing alternate: The recreational salmon season opened three weeks ago. It started off slow but started to pick up a bit peaking on Easter Sunday. The salmon caught are averaging 31 inches long and 15 pounds. The fish are moving north. The commercial salmon season opens May 1. The vast majority of recreational fishermen are in favor of artificial reefs. New habitat brings new life.

Anna Sanders, US Coast Guard: Drones are a huge factor that the Coast Guard is taking into consideration. Anna echoed the discussion on whale entanglements. Attempting to schedule flights to identify areas of marine debris, specifically crab pots.

Paul Reilly, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife primary: The sport salmon fishery got off to a slow start in Monterey Bay, with the opening weekend catch per angler averaging only 0.27 fish for boat anglers interviewed by CDFW. However, over the next 6 days, the average catch rate increased to 0.97 fish. During the period April 12-20, 88 interviewed anglers kept 125 king salmon, for an average of 1.42 fish. The fishery will remain open in our area through July 15.

In general salmon fishing regulations will be more restrictive this year. In the Klamath Management Zone, which is the area between the Oregon/California border and Horse Mountain (40° 05' 00" N. latitude), the entire ocean salmon fishery will be closed, as will the fall-run Chinook fishery on both the Klamath and Trinity rivers. Returning stock projections for fall-run Chinook in the Klamath River Basin are the lowest on record.

The commercial salmon season in the Monterey area will run from May 1 through June 30.

Rockfish fishing from boats was decent out of Monterey. New regulations now allow retention of one canary rockfish per angler and our samplers are routinely seeing them brought in. With the extension of the allowable fishing depth to 300 feet this fish, the chances of encountering large canary rockfish have increased

The directed sardine fishery will be closed again this year but there will be an incidental catch allowed in the other coastal pelagic fisheries.

Gary Pezzi, Recreation primary: There will be a beach cleanup Saturday, April 22nd at Seabright Beach with the Surfrider Foundation.

IV: PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Brian Nelson – Diving primary and City of Monterey employee

During the December AC meeting on Water Quality C CLEAN Report by Bridget Hoover and Dane from C CLEAN presented a report on PCB's in Monterey Bay. Subsequent conversations and meetings regarding dredging as a source of PCB's refutes the claims made in the presentations.

V. INFORMATION & ACTION ITEM: Management Plan Review Council Agricultural Water Quality Workshop

Bridget Hoover, Water Quality Protection Program Director for MBNMS, presented on agriculture water quality. The presentation included an overview of outreach conducted to the agriculture community and partners regarding MBNMS's Management Plan Review, water quality conditions in MBNMS, current and future Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AWQA) activities and strategies related to agriculture in the newly proposed Water Quality Action Plan. AWQA was formed to implement the Agriculture and Rural Lands Plan. AWQA's current focus includes: coordinating outreach, research, implementation and technical assistance, raising awareness, identifying opportunities for collaboration and integration, sharing information, resources and tools, building relationships and maintaining communication. AWQA is currently addressing irrigation and nutrient management, best management practice implementation, nutrient modeling, Central Coast Action Tracker and watershed working groups. Strategies in the newly proposed Water Quality Action Plan include: provide outreach and encourage stewardship of water quality, communicate findings of projects and monitoring conducted by the Water Quality Protection Plan (WQPP), facilitate and coordinate regional efforts to improve water quality through the WQPP Committee, AWQA,

stormwater programs and Integrated Regional Water Management programs, understand the land-sea connection, quantify effectiveness of management practices, monitor and reduce pollutant loads flowing into MBNMS.

A motion was made by Dan Haifley to adopt the AWQA recommendations for the Management Plan Review as they were submitted.

Gary Pezzi seconded.

Motion: PASSED

(Vote: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

VI. INFORMATION ITEM: Watsonville Wetlands Watch

Bob Culbertson, Chairman of the Board for Watsonville Wetlands Watch (WWW), gave a presentation on the WWW program detailing how it protects, restores and fosters appreciation for the wetlands of Pajaro Valley. Educating the public about the wetlands' value and uniqueness as well as restoring some of the wetlands with native plants are key ways WWW protects the wetlands. There are 800 acres of fresh water sloughs in and around Watsonville. Saltwater intrusion and sea level rise is affecting these wetlands. WWW holds community events every month to plant native plants including native plant sales to community that are low water tolerant.

Restoration efforts include removing poison hemlock at Fitz Mushroom Farm to create a native habitat. WWW also works with other agencies such as California Conservation Corp (CCC) to restore coastal prairie land. CCC prepared hundreds of holes for community members to plant native plants during a planting event.

WWW works with various local schools such as Pajaro Valley High School and Amesti Elementary School. The Wetlands Stewards program provides training for 250 volunteers including high school students to become docents. WWW pays a stipend to the high school students as incentive. They then visit elementary schools to teach the importance of protecting the local water supply, water quality and agriculture. WWW also coordinates three trips throughout the year to sloughs for Amesti Elementary School. Four stations are setup: an art station, a water station for water quality testing, a birding station and a plant station to gather seeds and plant seeds.

Other WWW activities include participation in the Annual Watsonville Birding Fest. Birders come from all over the world for a chance to observe 225 different bird species in Watsonville, as it is a resting spot for resident and migratory birds. WWW also offers tours in the wetlands. There are seven and a half miles of trail. There is a bi-monthly lecture series, the next lecture will be on May 17th focused on climate change and is free to the public. WWW participates in many other events throughout the year. Subscribe to the WWW e-newsletter for up-to-date information at <http://watsonvillewetlandswatch.org/>. Select the "Subscribe to E-Newsletter" link on the top right of the page.

VII. INFORMATION ITEM: Update on AC Council Chairs meeting

P.J. Webb, MBNMS AC Chair, updated the council on the meeting she attended.

Executive Administration Transition

There is a new Secretary of Commerce, Wilbur Ross, an investment banker. He discussed his priorities that were mostly trade-related. There is not a new NOAA Administrator yet. There may be one by fall of this year or sometime next year.

National Marine Sanctuary Updates

Kristen Sarri is the new President and CEO of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. She is establishing a strategic vision for the foundation to become a more powerful partner for sanctuaries.

The ONMS Revised Strategic Plan Draft is in NOAA clearance and will be published for online public comment for at least 30 days. There will be opportunity at that time for AC members and the public to give input.

ONMS held a Recreational Fishing Summit to consider how recreational fishers perceive sanctuaries and how NOAA can better work with them to develop actions to improve relationship with fishers. Discussion also included enhancement of recreational fishing and resource protection.

The House Committee on Natural Resources' Subcommittee on Water, Power and Oceans held a hearing on marine sanctuaries and marine national monuments. The main emphasis was impacts on local industries (oil & gas, fishermen) as well as the lack of public engagement in designating marine monuments and some sanctuaries.

Sanctuaries Updates

Some sanctuaries have "Friends" groups that function as fundraising entities and may have a non-voting position on the ACs. Some groups are dealing with expansion and are looking at the structure of their AC membership, including adding new seats. Ten ACs have approved the law enforcement letter with similar discussions as MBNMS AC. Others have it on future agendas. Citizen science, education and other science programs were noted as important part of enforcement efforts.

Some interesting sanctuary updates included Thunder Bay NMS using community support and a "Friends" group to double the number of mooring buoys in Lake Huron (so boats can moor to buoys instead of anchoring on shipwrecks), future plans to raise money to pay for community outreach and staff store through grants, donations and store sales. Olympic Coast NMS is seeking to be a sentinel site for seasonal fluctuations of ocean acidification. Monitor NMS is looking at expansion of the sanctuary. They discovered a U-boat from World War II to add to their shipwrecks list. Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS AC has been challenged with addressing their management plan because the state of Hawaii does not accept the plan. There is a transition taking place from a single species management to ecosystem based management.

VIII: STANDING ITEM: Working Group Updates

Conservation Working Group (CWG):

The CWG met twice since the last SAC meeting. They are continuing to work on plastic pollution and with a current focus on data collection and aggregation. Discovered 15 – 17 groups that do cleanups along the MBNMS, of those maybe 5 -7 collect data. In addition to Save Our Shores, the Carmel Residents' Association uses Save Our Shores data cards or App. Surfrider and the other groups collecting data use their own protocols. The Save Our Shores and Surfrider data collection process is fairly similar, but the CWG doesn't know what data others collect. The CWG's goal is to develop one shared data collection protocol so all groups are collecting the same information, which will make it easier to share, compare, and utilize the data.

The CWG also had a guest speaker from the most recent meeting of CENCOOS. He discussed some of the research they are conducting on the flow of debris once it is in the Bay. The CWG would like to identify possible ways to support or collaborate on that research with a goal of understanding how plastic pollution enters the Bay and what happens to it as a result of the littoral flows. It is known from experience that a lot of micro plastic gets trapped in the Kelp Forest along Point Lobos.

On April 10, the Sanctuary Advisory Council CWG met to discuss a number of topics including following up on the recommendations approved by the SAC in February of this year. The group invited Douglas George with CenCOOS to discuss his work and potentially collaborate on developing a model looking at current patterns (spatial and temporal) in order to better understand the movement patterns of marine debris in MBNMS. The group also reviewed the results of a survey to

a dozen beach cleanup organizations to understand if they keep data on their clean ups and if so, what types of data they collect. Follow up includes the development of some research questions for a funding proposal that can be used for multiple grants.

Research Activity Panel (RAP):

The Research Activity Panel met on March 10th at the USGS Coastal & Marine Science Center in Santa Cruz. Olivia Cheriton and Curt Storlazzi of USGS hosted the meeting and presented an update on USGS projects related to marine geologic hazards, seafloor and coastal mapping, shoreline and sediment processes, erosion and seafloor habitats.

The RAP continued its work on the Management Plan update, particularly focusing on Action Plans related to research and long-term monitoring. These are complex topics involving a number of sanctuary partners, and they continue to generate constructive discussions and new approaches.

The RAP convened a work session on the CalAm desalination project. Bridget Hoover provided an overview of the draft EIR/EIS. RAP members were aware of a number of studies that could inform the EIR/EIS and had a number of comments. That information was subsequently delivered in writing to chair John Hunt, who drafted a comment letter to MBNMS staff.

Fiorenza Micheli (RAP member and Professor at Hopkins Marine Station) was presented the Ricketts Award at the Sanctuary Exploration Center on February 10th. Dr. Micheli provided an excellent lecture entitled, “Under pressure: Vulnerability and resilience of coastal systems of the California Current.” In the past the Ricketts lecture has been the keynote of the Sanctuary Currents Symposium, but this year was part of the Speakers Series being developed by Amity Wood and the MBNMS Education and Outreach staff.

During member updates there were a number of announcements about pending hiring freezes, staff cuts and the proposed elimination of whole departments and programs as the White House budget blueprint indicated a massive shift toward military spending and tax cuts for the wealthy and away from science, natural resource management, health and social programs.

On April 22nd, local scientists participated in the national March for Science events starting at 10:00 at the City Hall in Santa Cruz and the Monterey Institute of International Studies in Monterey.

Recreation and Tourism Subcommittee (RATS):

April 11, 2017 Last Meeting

Meeting will be three weeks prior to each scheduled SAC meeting – Next Meeting May 23, 2017

Goals and Objectives of ONMS Recreation and Tourism Advisory Council Outreach

Sanctuary Benefits –

- ✓ Training and Education
- ✓ Green Economy Marketing
- ✓ Consumer Environmental Confidence
- ✓ Brand value (Whale Tail Advertising)

Friends of the Sanctuary Program refinements

Education Outreach to Business Owners, Managers and Employees

eNewsletter - Increasing email contacts

Newsletter completed and published April 18

A motion was made by Katherine O’Dea to make the Recreation and Tourism Subcommittee a working group.

Kirk Schmidt seconded.

Motion: PASSED

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Overflight Working Group:

Working group is done. Questions of drone came up today: the group was really setup to look at geographical areas but group wasn’t specifically looking at drones. A recent study says drones don’t bother marine mammals in ocean but they do bother seabirds and hauled out seals and sea lions.

Wildlife Disturbance - Acoustic Working Group:

The Acoustic Working Group presented recommendations at the last AC meeting in February. The group plans to have a conference call with enforcement representatives regarding the issue of seal bombs. The working group will present updated recommendations or at the next AC meeting in June.

World Heritage Site Subcommittee:

The Subcommittee did not meet yet. P.J. announced she will send out a Doodle poll to schedule a meeting in May. She also mentioned plans to transform the subcommittee to a working group. The National Parks Service is submitting a list including the proposed California Current Conservation Complex (CCCC). That list will be published in the Federal Register. Once the Federal Register is published, nomination can be submitted one year later.

Advisory Council Member Discussion

Ed Smith mentioned the decision regarding UNESCO World Heritage site nomination is of great interest to AMBAG. He would like to know more about UNESCO before MBNMS AC proceeds on this topic. There was clarification made about the purpose of the World Heritage Site Subcommittee as well as the purpose of the Federal Register publication. CCCC made it to the list for proposed nomination. The published Federal Register will allow another round of public input. One site from the nomination list will be chosen to move forward.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM