

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Final Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2017**

**Agricultural Commissioner’s Office Conference Room  
Salinas, CA**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez  
AMBAG: Ed Smith  
At Large: Christina McGinnis  
At Large: Dan Haifley  
At Large: Gary Hoffmann  
Business & Industry: Tom Rowley  
CA Coastal Commission: absent  
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly  
CA EPA: Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso  
CA Resources Agency: absent

CA State Parks: absent  
Conservation: Katherine O’Dea  
Diving: Brian Nelson  
Education: Tucker Hirsch  
Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark  
Harbors: Marian Olin  
Recreation: Bart Selby  
Recreational Fishing: Rich Hughett  
Research: Dr. John Hunt  
Tourism: Mike Bekker

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

Channel Islands NMS: absent  
College: Clifton Hermann  
Cordell Banks NMS: absent  
Elkhorn Slough NERR: absent  
Greater Farallones NMS: Max Delaney  
Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel  
National Marine Fisheries Service: absent  
U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Jason Brand

Alternates present in audience:	Number of audience members 9:00 AM:
Cynthia Mathews – At-Large	4
Kevin Miller – Conservation	Number of audience members 1:00 PM:
Keith Rootsart – Diving	5
Jonathan Hill – Education	

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

Secretary Brian Nelson called the meeting to order and Nichole Rodriguez attended to roll call.

Three new advisory council members were sworn in by Superintendent, Paul Michel. New AC members include: Sarah Lopez (Agriculture alternate), Kevin Miller (Conservation alternate) and Jon Hill (Education alternate). Each of the new members quickly introduced themselves.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of August, 2017 DRAFT Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION: Dan Haifley, Maria de la Paz Carpo-Obeso seconded.**

(Vote: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 5 abstentions)

## II. MBNMS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Paul Michel mentioned the gala celebrating MBNMS's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The gala was held at Monterey Bay Aquarium. The local chapter for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (MBNMSF) was announced. Paul worked to help pull together a steering committee which helped raise nearly \$70,000 with a \$100,000 challenge grant. This local chapter of NMSF is recruiting for an executive director. The first board meeting for the foundation local chapter will be Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>. The new local chapter will be focused on fundraising, unlike the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, which is focused on Marine Protected Areas education and outreach.

The MBNMS Research team has days at sea coming up on E/V *Nautilus*. They will be focusing on characterization and mapping work. There will also be some time spent on NOAA Ship *Bell M. Shimada*.

The CalAm desalination project is taking up a lot of MBNMS staff time. Hundreds of public comments on the draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) were received. The final EIR/EIS will be released in March.

ONMS announced a new category of special use permits that will allow desalination facilities to operate in MBNMS. The category will allow continued presence of a pipeline to transport seawater to or from a desalination facility. It will also allow NOAA to collect administrative fees (recoup of staff costs).

## III. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kathy Fosmark, Commercial Fishing primary: Dungeness crab fishery is closed for the season. She is not sure if the crab will be affected by domoic acid. The program to remove lost crab fishing gear has been very successful.

Bart Selby, Recreation alternate: Today (October 20<sup>th</sup>) is the first big swell of the season. There are twenty foot swells up and down the coast.

Marian Olin, Harbors alternate: Santa Cruz Harbor dredging started in the north harbor on October 9<sup>th</sup>. Material is disposed of through an offshore pipe. Getting ready to start dredging the entrance to the south harbor in mid-November. Crab pots are getting queued up for the opening of the season.

John Hunt, Research primary: Open to discussions and recommendations from Advisory Council members for Santa Cruz County to adapt and protect county against climate change and sea level rise.

Gary Hoffmann, At-Large primary: There has been another entangled humpback whale in Monterey Bay. Photos taken show crab pots as the culprit causing the whale's pectoral fins to be pinned to its sides. The whale entanglement team deployed but could not locate the animal. This issue is going to get worse as crab season starts.

Mike Bekker, Tourism primary: The MBNMS 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala was well put together and well attended.

Ed Smith, AMBAG primary: Looking forward to the beach nourishment discussion in the afternoon. Expressed frustration the MBNMS website has not been updated for some time.

Tom Rowley, Business/Industry alternate: Monterey Conference Center construction expected to be completed in early December (best information available as of October 20). City of Monterey approved "Tidelands" Funds for purchase of Ground Fishing Rights by providing \$583K to MB Fisheries Trust -- important because this will help support local MB fishing industry. Transportation Agency for Monterey County expects to receive \$7.5 million grant from the Cal Transportation Commission to complete funding needed for part of the Monterey Bay Coastal Recreation Trail. The total project cost is \$13.5 million and includes both a bridge and pathway in the Moss Landing area. More information can be found on page 2 of October 20, 2017 Monterey County Herald. Tom also noted the long-term water crisis/threats to bringing a major new water supply project on line for the Monterey Peninsula area is still a major concern for the economic future of both the Monterey Peninsula and Monterey County.

Paul Michel, MBNMS primary: Thank you to Mike Bekker and Dan Haifley. Both helped tremendously with the anniversary gala, getting word out and acquiring auction items.

Brian Nelson, Diving primary: We were invited and spoke at Pro SCUBA in Scotts Valley in September. There was great attendance and questions. The Diving Newsletter was sent out plus three Recreation and Tourism Newsletters were sent to 2,679 email addresses. 32.5% open rate and 6% click through. 36.6% of opens occurred on a mobile device while 63.4% were on a desktop computer.

Keith Rootsart, Diving alternate:

Reef Check:

- Activity (All) sites completed in Monterey Bay
- Activity in Carmel 6 out of 10 completed
- Report on Northern (10) Sites completed outside Gerstle Cove MPA with poor news (see the Newsletter)
- Counts and information are forwarded to CDFW

Katherine O'Dea, Conservation primary: Save Our Shores had a gala on September 23<sup>rd</sup> to celebrate local ocean heroes and rollout their new vision. The vision is focused on clean shores, healthy habitats and living waters. Save Our Shores is also hiring two communications people, a manager and an associate. The job postings can be found on the Save Our Shores website:

<http://saveourshores.org/about/careers/>

Tucker Hirsch, Education primary: Recently joined Save Our Shores as the Education Program Manager. Working on paddle out cleanups in Pajaro River, Salinas River and Elkhorn Slough and looking for in-kind donation. The first one is October 27<sup>th</sup> at Kayak Connection in Moss Landing. The Sanctuary Speaker Series continues on October 27<sup>th</sup> at Alta Organic Coffee & Tea Co. in Santa Cruz with Dr. Rikki Eriksen, Director of the California Marine Protected Areas(MPAs) Program. She will speak about MPAs and living parks. The Board of Directors for The Offset Project will be posting a job opportunity soon for a new Executive Director.

Christina McGinnis, At-Large alternate: Echoed John Hunt and the importance of addressing sea level rise and climate change. Attended a coastal resilience workshop. It was an informative way to

learn about how the local area will be affected by predictions for climate change. For more information see the following presentation: <https://ogilvy.egnyte.com/dl/QcQDPzXkNv>

Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso, CA EPA primary: Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once-Through Cooling Policy) Implementation Activities - The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) Statewide Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Policy) requires owners or operators of existing power plants to implement measures to mitigate interim impingement and entrainment impacts resulting from their cooling water intake structures. Staff reviewed the information provided by the power plants owners and operators to calculate the first annual interim mitigation payments, cycle 2015-2016. Default calculations were made for the Alamitos, Harbor, Haynes, Huntington Beach, Mandalay, Ormond, Redondo Beach, and Scattergood generating stations. Site-specific calculations were developed for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The draft interim payment determinations for these nine facilities were available for public comment, staff responded to comments, and the Executive Director is considering the final determinations. The Encina Power Station draft determination is being developed based on site-specific calculations, and it will be posted for public comments by late November. For more information, please see: [https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/ocean/cwa316/interim\\_mitigation.shtml](https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/cwa316/interim_mitigation.shtml).

Regarding Moss Landing Power, is fully in compliance with the interim mitigation payment, that satisfies the OTC Policy requirements from October 1, 2015, through December 31, 2020, final compliance date for all the Moss Landing units.

OTC- Policy Amendment - The OTC Policy established compliance dates for power plants' retirement and replacement of capacity using then-current electricity planning and procurement processes. The Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures (SACCWIS) conducted an interim study that demonstrated the need of the Encina Power Station to maintain grid reliability in the San Diego area during 2018. Staff proposed to amend the compliance deadline of the Encina Power Station from December 31, 2017, to December 31, 2018. State Water Boards adopted the OTC- Encina Amendment on August 15, 2017, Resolution No. 2017-0047. The Office of Administrative Law received the OTC-Encina Amendment Package on October 6, 2017. We expect the approval on Nov. 20, 2017.

Bacteria Provisions and a Water Quality Standards Variance Policy and Amendment to the Water Quality Control Plan for Ocean Waters of California - The State Water Board is proposing a statewide control program to protect recreational users from the effects of pathogens in California water bodies. The program would be adopted as amendments to both: the Inland Surface Water, Enclosed Bays and Estuaries Plan and the California Ocean Plan. Significant proposed program elements may include: new water quality objectives for both fresh and marine waters based on newly released United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) criteria; a reference beach/natural source exclusion process and high flow exemptions; and revised beach notification requirements. Staff released the Staff Report for public comments on June 30, 2017. Written comments were received on August 16, 2017. Currently, staff is working on the RTC. The State Water Board meeting date for the proposed adoption of the Bacteria Provisions is schedule on December 5, 2017

Paul Reilly, CDFW primary: White seabass made an appearance in southern Monterey Bay in late September and early October. Very large fish made for some exciting fishing for sport anglers and commercial fishermen. The white seabass were likely following schools of squid.

On October 16, the Department announced new restrictions on recreational fishing for groundfish in waters north of Point Conception to the Oregon/California border. Changes to authorized fishing depths described below will remain in place through the rest of 2017. The recreational groundfish fishery depth restrictions in the Sanctuary area will be as follows:

- San Francisco Management Area (Point Arena to Pigeon Point): Take is prohibited seaward of the 30 fathom depth contour (180 feet).
- Central Management Area (Pigeon Point to Point Conception): Take is prohibited seaward of the 40 fathom depth contour (240 feet).

This action was due to recent bycatch estimates for yelloweye rockfish (*Sebastes ruberrimus*) from the California sport fishery. CDFW projected that the harvest guideline specified in federal regulation for 2017 (3.9 metric tons) will be exceeded unless changes were made. Yelloweye rockfish is a long-lived, slow-growing shelf rockfish species that was declared overfished in 2002 and cannot be retained in the recreational fishery. It is currently managed under a strict federal rebuilding plan to allow the population to recover; this has required significant cutbacks to west coast sport and commercial fisheries for more than a decade.

On October 10, the Department made available for public comment the following document: 2018 Master Plan for Fisheries: A Guide for Implementation of the Marine Life Management Act. This is the first revision to the original Master Plan from 2001 and is more responsive to the mandates of the MLMA of 1998. The public comment period will end on November 9. The document can be found via this link: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MLMA/Master-Plan#457711418-upcoming-events](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MLMA/Master-Plan#457711418-upcoming-events).

Written comments may be sent by mail, email, or fax:

*Mailing Address:* ATTN: MLMA Master Plan Review Team  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife  
1933 Cliff Dr., Suite 9 Schedule: 7:00 - 12:00  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

*Email Address:* Subject: MLMA Master Plan Public Comment

[MLMA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:MLMA@wildlife.ca.gov)

*Fax* (805) 568-1235

Verbal comments may be delivered in-person during the Marine Resource Committee meeting on November 9, 2017 at the Marina Branch Public Library, 190 Seaside Circle Marina, CA.

Nearly 7,000 salmon heads have been processed in Santa Rosa's coded-wire tag (CWT) laboratory to date. Most recoveries have been two-year old Mokelumne River Hatchery net pen releases of Fall Run Chinook from Pillar Point Harbor.

Paul also mentioned keeping PJ Webb, Advisory Council Chair, in our thoughts while she is not at the meeting.

Rich Hughett, Recreational Fishing primary: Concerned about the continued problem of plastic straws and suggested that our council study the situation and maybe create a resolution regarding our

concerns. Suggested that this issue be placed on next meeting's agenda and that we receive a presentation about plastic straws and what steps various communities and/or counties are taking to ban their use and also encourage the use of paper straws instead.

Dan Haifley, At-Large primary: Thanked Paul Reilly for mentioning PJ.

Clifton Herrmann, College primary: Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training (LiMPETS) is working with CSUMB and Santa Catalina High School to get students trained to help with monitoring programs.

LCDR Jason Brand, US Coast Guard primary: Participated on the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group. There have been two meetings in the past quarter. The working group is making progress on the draft Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) model. A best practices guide to minimize whale entanglements is available online:  
[http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/\\_media\\_library/2016/08/Whales\\_BestPracticesGuide\\_2017-18.pdf](http://www.opc.ca.gov/webmaster/_media_library/2016/08/Whales_BestPracticesGuide_2017-18.pdf)

Cynthia Mathews, At-Large alternate: Mentioned scheduling a presentation on the use of plastic straws by City of Santa Cruz staff for the Advisory Council.

Sarah Lopez, Agriculture alternate: pending written report from member

Kevin Miller: Monterey Surfrider just built a new water-testing lab; the results will be posted weekly on our website, [monterey.surfrider.org](http://monterey.surfrider.org).

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

None

## **VI. GFNMS SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

### **Beachwatch Volunteers**

Conservation Science staff graduated another class of new Beach Watch volunteers. Beach Watch is a volunteer-based monitoring project that provides valuable information to sanctuaries and partner agencies on a variety of management issues, including compliance with state and federal laws, climate change, wildlife disturbance, and status and trends of coastal wildlife. Later this winter, 20 volunteers will begin surveying 10 beaches, two of which are newly added to the survey program. Formal training ended last week, but the new volunteers will continue to receive about 30 more hours of field training through one-on-one mentorships by the Beach Watch staff. With this new class of volunteers, Beach Watch now surveys 58 beaches every two weeks, from Point Arena in Mendocino County to Año Nuevo in southern San Mateo County and the northern portion of Monterey Bay sanctuary. Surveys include documentation of live and dead birds, mammals, human activities, oil pollution, entanglement, beach wrack deposition, beach erosion and deposition, and status of streams and lagoons contiguous with the ocean. For more information go to [www.beachwatch.farallones.org](http://www.beachwatch.farallones.org) or contact Kirsten Lindquist, [KLindquist@farallones.org](mailto:KLindquist@farallones.org) or [Jan.Roletto@noaa.gov](mailto:Jan.Roletto@noaa.gov)

### **ACCESS completes 50<sup>th</sup> cruise**

Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, and Point Blue Conservation Science, completed the 50th Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) research

cruise of the 14 year program September 23-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017. ACCESS is a collaborative partnership of Point Blue Conservation Science, Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries, which provides ecosystem information for management about resources at risk from ship strikes, ocean acidification, marine debris, and ecosystem health. Sampling included seabird and marine mammal distribution and abundance, zooplankton prey availability, and oceanographic conditions. Highlights included high numbers of large whales compared to the previous September cruises, and good numbers of seabird species that are often uncommon, such as Buller's shearwaters and Northern Fulmars. Catch in the nets was dominated by pyrosomes, which were reported in record amounts on the Pacific Coast to the north and south earlier this year, and other gelatinous zooplankton. The team was joined by several graduate students who are collecting data for their theses on ocean acidification and whale abundance as part of ACCESS. For more information, contact [Danielle.Lipski@noaa.gov](mailto:Danielle.Lipski@noaa.gov) or [Jan.Roletto@noaa.gov](mailto:Jan.Roletto@noaa.gov).

### **Mavericks**

The World Surf League (WSL) will be the new entity running the Mavericks Surf Contest this season. The previous permittee, Cartel Management, went bankrupt and will not be involved. WSL has acquired the San Mateo County Harbor District permit and submitted an application to GFNMS for their NOAA authorization. They still need to obtain permits from the USCG, California Coastal Commission and others prior to the window being able to open, which is traditionally on November 1<sup>st</sup>. This year they have indicated the window will close earlier than in past years (February 28<sup>th</sup> instead of March 31<sup>st</sup>). For more information contact Max Delaney at [max.delaney@noaa.gov](mailto:max.delaney@noaa.gov).

### **Marine Debris Program**

GFNMS staff have continued to implement monthly marine debris surveys monitoring a 100 meter plot of North Point beach at Ano Nuevo. The program has conducted five year of surveys at this location. Compared to all other beach segments monitored with the GFNMS management area, Ano Nuevo is one of the cleanest. That said, over 90% of all the items GFNMS did record from this beach sites were plastic and we have recorded over 1,800 pieces of plastic within our 100 meter plot over the course of the five years.

### **International Ocean Film Festival Calls for Student Films**

The International Ocean Film Festival, co-founded by the Farallones sanctuary, has issued its annual call for entries to the next generation of student filmmakers in grades six to 12. Those who love the ocean, and have an interest in filmmaking will reach audiences of the 15th Annual International Ocean Film Festival waiting to see and hear young people's cinematic stories about the ocean - on the big screen. Submissions should be ocean-related, of any genre, and five minutes or less. Entry is free, and winning filmmakers are eligible for prizes of up to \$500 cash. The top films will be screened during the festival's dedicated Student Film Program in March 2018. Prospective entrants can check out last year's winners for inspiration and access to resources! Deadline for submissions is January 8th, 2018.

## **VII. MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW: REVIEW OF DRAFT RESEARCH & MONITORING ACTION PLAN**

Andrew DeVogelaere, Ph.D. gave a presentation on the draft Research and Monitoring Action Plan. He reviewed the goals of the MBNMS Research Program and gave background information on the current MBNMS Management Plan. He reviewed the seven strategies in the action plan and their

corresponding activities (full presentation will be available here:

<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacma.html>):

- Strategy 1 – Characterize biological and physical features in MBNMS
- Strategy 2 – Maintain and expand the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN)
- Strategy 3 – Support science focused on priority sanctuary needs
- Strategy 4 – Facilitate the flow of science information among academic institutions, government agencies and other institutions
- Strategy 5 – Coordinate with and participate in implementing research components of the ONMS West Coast Regional Office
- Strategy 6 – Coordinate with and participate in implementing policies of the ONMS Conservation Science Program
- Strategy 7 – Interpret select technical science information

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion:

The Advisory Council was supportive of the presentation and inclusion of a stand-alone Research Action Plan into the Management Plan, with research components also included in other Action Plans as necessary.

Suggestions from Advisory Council members included: consider breaking down habitat information within the 4 environments of the Condition Report; the need to focus on long-term monitoring, that there are many local partners (e.g., Save Our Shores) willing to collaborate on climate change issues, and consider including more research updates and natural events in social media posts.

Overall, members were satisfied with the way MBNMS research information is brought to the Advisory Council.

There was significant discussion on the ambitious nature of the Research Action Plan, given staff and funding availability, and the Research Activity Panel (RAP) could play a useful role in prioritizing research needs.

A motion was made by Cynthia Mathews to support including the draft Research and Monitoring Action Plan into the draft Management Plan, acknowledging that it is an ambitious plan, and encourages the involvement of the RAP in establishing research priorities.

Seconded by Maria de la Paz Carpio-Obeso.

**Motion: PASSED**

(Vote: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention)

#### **IX. BEACH NOURISHMENT OPTIONS**

Paul Michel reviewed the MBNMS Harbor and Dredge Disposal Action Plan, gave background information and the needs for beach nourishment and presented the options that could enhance beach nourishment opportunities. He discussed two strategies in the Harbor and Dredge Disposal Action Plan relative to beach nourishment: Strategy 2 – Review Offshore Dredge Disposal Activities and Strategy 5 – Alternative Disposal Methods. Conclusions drawn from reviewing the action plan included dredge and disposal needs are largely met, beach nourishment projects are being authorized and occurring regularly, Surfers Beach needs a beach nourishment project and MBNMS supports the pilot project, need to reopen the Designation Document to revise the prohibition, though clarification may be needed on the regulatory language regarding “dredge material.”



MBNMS has been looking at three options with regard to dredged material disposal/beach nourishment. Option 1 is to do an interpretive rulemaking to clarify what the intent of the prohibition should be: dispose sediments not suitable for beach nourishment, reuse clean sand dredged from harbors for the purposes of beach nourishment. Option 2 (not recommended) is to reopen the Designation Document and initiate rulemaking process to modify MBNMS regulations and terms of designation to allow reuse of dredged material “clean sand” below mean high water (MHW) from harbors for beach nourishment. Option 3 is to take no action and continue existing practices allowing for placement of dredged clean sand (or other sand from upland sources) above MHW and prohibit dredged sand placement below MHW (full presentation will be available here: <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacma.html>).

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There was general discussion to clarify each beach nourishment option and what each option would mean in regards to regulatory changes.

Marian Olin, Santa Cruz Port District Port Director, read the following statement:

Santa Cruz Harbor supports beach nourishment below mean high water. Our dredging program is a beach nourishment program.

All material dredged at Santa Cruz Harbor is tested and deemed clean and suitable for aquatic disposal;

- The vast majority of the material we dredge is sand which:
  - Is not a typical carrier of contaminants
  - Replenishes beaches downcoast
  - Enhances surf areas downcoast of the harbor
  - Prevents erosion and the need for hard facing of the coastline

We also dredge a smaller volume of fine-grain material, which tests clean and supplies sediment to the mid-shelf mudbelt, which supports an important benthic habitat. The material is dredged during the higher energy winter environment, and daily volumes are limited and intended to replicate the natural run-off process.

The harbor itself is man-made. It was dredged out of a lagoon. It is unlikely that the Corps will be dredging out lagoons to create harbors in the future. We need to take care of what we have. I believe that dredging is the least impactful, most environmentally beneficial way to restore the downcoast environment and limit hard facing of the coastline, whether it is termed disposal or placement. Santa Cruz Harbor supports beneficial re-use of sediment below mean high water

#### **X. WORKING GROUP UPDATES**

Conservation Working Group: little hiatus, was active until May or so, lost co-chair (Letise), then not sure what to focus on. New co-chair (Kevin) they have reconvened as a decision making body. Best approach for the group’s focus is to create survey to see what is of interest to whole CWG of what focus should be for CWG. Survey is being reviewed by SAC leadership and should go out to CWG soon. Want to make sure we’re working on something that is of value to SAC.

Research Activity Panel: The Research Activity Panel met on September 8, 2017, at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Monterey. Brian Owens (CDFW) provided an overview of CDFW Marine Region programs, including: Marine Protected Area monitoring and research; permitting in MPAs; fisheries-related research within MBNMS; and broad trends in commercial catches within MBNMS.

### Long-term Monitoring

The RAP discussed recent meetings with Bill Douros and Paul Michel. Both supported the RAP focus on long-term ecosystem monitoring in the sanctuary, and we will continue to exchange ideas on roles and priorities. Initial discussions about information needs for resource management included identifying which organisms, habitats and processes are critical to monitor and why, anticipating the unexpected, and providing timely information to the Advisory Council.

The RAP will continue to develop mechanisms for coordination among partner organizations to identify their (and the sanctuary's) information needs and opportunities for monitoring coordination. The RAP is also interested in using the Sanctuary Condition Report as a vehicle to organize assessments, and sees the Management Plan Update as an important planning opportunity to guide a collaborative approach to long-term monitoring design and implementation.

The RAP is prepared to serve as the forum to drive partnerships with other organizations, and anticipates working with staff to capture the results of workshops and other collaborative activities. Organizations represented on the RAP contribute substantial effort toward improved understanding and management of sanctuary resources, and would like to engage sanctuary managers and staff to leverage these efforts.

Many on the RAP see web portals as the medium for more effective Condition Reports and other information products for decision makers, and the RAP has discussed and brought in speakers to evaluate various approaches to working with partners who are developing these portals.

### RAP Organization and Structure

The RAP discussed membership, meeting schedules and recruitment. We agreed to:

- Hold five meetings per year rather than six;
- Consider subcommittees to maintain continuity on key focus areas, such as:
  - The Research Team Action Plan
  - The Management Plan Update
  - Condition Report updates (with RAP meetings targeting CR habitats)
  - Coordination of Long-term Monitoring

### New RAP Member

We are pleased to announce that Brandon Southall is the new primary member for the nearshore environment. Many of you know that Brandon has been a generous and expert contributor to NOAA efforts to address impacts of noise in the marine environment, and brings substantial expertise on marine mammals. Both areas of expertise will be welcome on the RAP

The next RAP meeting is scheduled for November 3<sup>rd</sup> in Santa Cruz, and all Advisory Council members are encouraged to attend.

Recreation and Tourism Working Group: Four Newsletters with the Anniversary and Sportsfest programs produced and published since the last Advisory Council meeting. Three of the newsletters were also sent to the Diving Newsletter contact list. This month's Recreation and Tourism Newsletter was sent to 577 email addresses with a 29.8% open rate and 12% click through. 28.3% of people opened the newsletter on a mobile device and 71.7% opened it on a desktop computer.  
Adjourned at 2:34 PM