

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Final Meeting Minutes

February 15, 2019

City of Santa Cruz Police Department Community Room, Santa Cruz, CA

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: absent
AMBAG: absent
At Large: Dan Haifley
At Large: Carol Maehr
At Large: PJ Webb
Business & Industry: Al Budris
CA Coastal Commission: absent
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly
CA EPA: absent
CA Resources Agency: Deborah Halberstadt

CA State Parks: absent
Commercial Fishing: Jim Moser
Conservation: Katherine O’Dea
Diving: Brian Nelson
Education: absent
Harbors: John Haynes
Recreation: Gary Pezzi
Recreational Fishing: absent
Research: Dr. John Hunt
Tourism: Mike Bekker

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: absent
College: Jacob Winnikoff
Cordell Banks NMS: absent
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Dr. Dan Brumbaugh
Greater Farallones NMS: Karen Reyna
Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel
National Marine Fisheries Service: Dr. Steve Lindley
U.S. Coast Guard: CDR Jason Brand

Alternates present in audience:

Cynthia Mathews – At-Large
Christina McGinnis – At-Large
Tom Rowley – Business & Industry
Keith Rootsart – Diving
Bart Selby – Recreation
Dr. Steven Haddock – Research
Dawn Hayes – Monterey Bay NMS

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

Chair Brian Nelson called the meeting to order and Secretary Gary Pezzi attended to roll call.

Cynthia Mathews, City of Santa Cruz councilmember and MBNMS Advisory Council (AC) At-Large alternate, welcomed the AC to Santa Cruz. She highlighted the fundraiser for MBNMS Foundation hosted by Fred Keeley last December. Ginaia Kelly was introduced as the Director and it was a great kickoff locally. She mentioned the city is working hard to make improvements at Cowell Beach to

have it removed from the “Beach Bummer” list. Cynthia also talked about the three objectives established after MBNMS was founded: 1) an education focal point and institution; 2) to create a scenic sanctuary trail; 3) to integrate and promote consciousness within the business community. All of these objectives have or are being addressed through the creation of the Sanctuary Exploration Center, recent groundbreaking for a scenic trail and through the Santa Cruz Visitors’ Guide. Last, she mentioned Dan Haifley retiring from O’Neil Sea Odyssey and his retirement party coming up April 11. It is a free event with live music.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of December 14, 2018 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Dan Haifley introduced a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Seconded by Gary Pezzi.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 10 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)

II. STANDING ITEM: Superintendent Report

Paul Michel first mentioned the impact of the thirty-five day furlough on sanctuary operations. MBNMS staff is picking up where they left off, checking for deadlines and getting operations back up and running. MBNMS received the FY19 budget and the level of funding will be the same as last year. MBNMS Foundation will be helping to fund visitor center programs, water quality programs, Bay Net and Team OCEAN.

The Monterey Bay Ecotourism Summit occurred January 11. MBNMS was not able to participate due to the furlough. MBNMS was, however, able to participate in Whalefest. It was a great event during the last weekend in January. There were great speakers and booths focused on whales and ocean conservation.

NOAA Office of Law Enforcement’s new officer, Sam Smith, is on board but will not be available to MBNMS until approximately June. He will be completing federal law enforcement training, boat school and field training.

There is an agreement between MBNMS and Pebble Beach Company regarding the cleanup of golf balls at Pebble Beach. There will be regular cleanups with rigorous protocols. Pebble Beach Company will fund eighteen dive cleanups for the subtidal and nearshore along with shore cleanups. Approximately 50,000 golf balls have been collected so far.

Lastly, Paul mentioned a petition created by Santa Cruz Waves organization to ban cruise ships in Monterey Bay. They plan to attend the next City of Monterey Council meeting along with Patagonia to provide public comment on the topic.

Karen Reyna, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

LiMPETS (Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students) representatives from Greater Farallones Association, Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary are working to edit the existing LiMPETS rocky intertidal field guide. Updates will include taxa modifications as well as climate curriculum. This will be a program-wide change.

GFNMS recently kicked off the Sanctuary Naturalist Corp. It is a three-month training (two Saturdays per month for three months) on sanctuary habitat and wildlife with naturalist interpretation techniques. Once completed, the naturalists can participate in sanctuary field adventures, visitor center programs and education programs.

The Greater Farallones Ocean Climate Program is hosting the Ocean Climate Summit on April 18 in San Francisco. The goal is to look at accomplishments and challenges over the past ten years and plan for the next ten years of climate action. There is also the Resilience and Living Shoreline Summit on April 2. The focus will be on Tomales Bay and Bolinas Lagoon.

GFNMS' Advisory Council took action to establish the Olympia Native Oyster Restoration Working Group. The goal will be to assemble current knowledge focus, identify data gaps and needs and develop recommendations on native restoration sites to increase Olympia oyster population.

The Beach Watch program just celebrated its 25th anniversary. A commemorative film was produced called "Beach Watch 25" and will premiere at San Francisco Ocean Film Festival March 7-10.

Beach Watch responded to a mystery tar ball event late November. It was determined to be natural Monterey Bay formation seep.

The World Surf League's Mavericks Challenge window is open November 1 through March 31.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

None

IV. INFORMATION ITEM: Monterey Bay Eco-tourism initiative

Shyam Kamath, Dean of the College of Business at CSU Monterey Bay and John Avella, Executive Director of the College of Business Sustainable Hospitality Management Program at CSU Monterey Bay gave a presentation on the Monterey Bay Ecotourism Region (MBETR) initiative goals, achievements and next steps. The MBETR seeks to create jobs and livelihoods for the region's community through profitable and sustainable ecotourism, eco-recreation and wellness business creation. For more information: <https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190215/190215ecotourism-ppt.pdf>

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There was discussion around increasing tourism while not increasing the community's carbon footprint. This eco-tourism initiative is bringing experts together to discuss and increase communication, outreach and stewardship in the tourism industry to reduce the carbon footprint.

There was also discussion regarding the differences in tourism between the Monterey and Santa Cruz communities as well as conservation education not making a difference over the past few decades. Shyam and John ended by requesting the Advisory Council's expertise in moving forward with the eco-tourism initiative.

V. STANDING ITEM: AC Member Announcements

John Hunt, Research primary: The Our Community Reads program of the Friends of the Aptos Library created a series of events around the community's reading of the book *Death & Life of Monterey Bay* by Stephen R. Palumbi and Carolyn Sotka. As part of the series, Sanctuary Advisory Council members Dan Haifley and John Hunt and RAP members Ross Clark and Mark Carr gave presentations on current sanctuary issues and related science.

On January 26 Dan gave a presentation in collaboration with the Aptos History Museum about some of the key historical figures in marine conservation during the middle of the twentieth century.

On January 30 John introduced and facilitated a panel discussion on "Monterey Bay: Today's Heroes," which described current challenges facing the sanctuary and some of the "extraordinary actions by ordinary people" in today's efforts to protect and restore the marine environment. The panel included Ross, who spoke on wetland restoration, Dr. Rick Starr on marine protected areas, Dr. Melissa Miller of sea otters and water pollution by pathogens, and Dr. Jim Barry on ocean

acidification. “Today’s heroes” mentioned by panelists included sanctuary research coordinator Andrew DeVogelaere, as well as the many volunteers for sanctuary-related programs such as Save Our Shores beach cleanups, First Flush and Snapshot Day water quality surveys, Team Ocean and BeachCOMBERS.

On February 21 at Cabrillo College, RAP member Mark Carr will join the book’s authors in the final series speaking event to discuss the history of Monterey Bay and the people who have had an impact on its inhabitants, both human and marine.

Tom Rowley, Business/Industry alternate: Sanctuary staff were involved in preparing a NEPA statement for proposed desal plant. PUC have approved environmental documents - City of Marina has appealed to the California supreme court on the adequacy of the EIR on the slant well technology. So much hinging on getting a sustainable water project. If we do not get a project, 1000 acre feet water reduction and possibility of water reduction in the Monterey Peninsula. Whether it is agriculture or tourism and employees can’t live there and no housing can be built, much less affordable housing this is a problem. If there is no water, it will be hard for tourism to grow.

Paul Reilly, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife: the Rockfish, Cabezon, Greenling complex, and Lingcod season for boat-based anglers will open in the Central Management Area (which ranges from Pigeon Pt. to Pt. Conception) on April 1. Changes in the southern lingcod stock assessment status resulted in a reduction in the recreational bag limit from two to one lingcod south of 40° 10’ N. Lat. (near Cape Mendocino). For more information about the lingcod assessments, CDFW published a blog article at: <https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2019/01/04/california-recreational-groundfish-and-lingcod-fishing-regulation-changes-for-2019/>

The Rockfish Conservation Area, or depth boundary for legal groundfish fishing, will still allow recreational fishing out to 50 fathoms or 300 feet.

Surf anglers continued to report exceptional fishing for Barred and Redtail Surfperch between storms. Anglers targeted Striped Bass in Monterey Bay due to heavy rains which opened sandbars blocking river mouths.

Landings of coastal pelagic species have mostly stopped in Monterey and Moss Landing. Since December, landings in Monterey and Moss Landing consisted mainly of squid with one reported anchovy landing. Poor weather has kept many vessels docked. In December, vessels from Ventura and San Pedro came up to Monterey after hearing about larger squid in the area. However, some have gone back due to poor weather and a decreased presence of squid in Monterey. As of February 11, a total of 34,921.3 st (29.6%) out of the 118,000 st market squid seasonal catch limit has been landed in CA for the 2018/2019 season.

The Department continues to make progress with consultants in designing and launching a web-based Portal which initially will house Enhanced Status Reports for our most important state-managed finfish and invertebrates. These comprehensive ESRs will contain chapters on species life history, the fishery, management and regulations, monitoring and essential fishery information, and future management and research needs.

We have been involved in a federal Preserve America Grant collaboration with NMFS to interview Halibut trawl fishermen and post these interviews to our web site. This is part of a process to document the rich culture, knowledge, and experience of commercial fishermen, many of whom have been fishing their entire adult lives.

The Department will host its annual Salmon Information Meeting Wednesday, Feb. 27 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Sonoma County Water Agency, 404 Aviation Blvd., Santa Rosa. This public meeting

will feature the outlook for this year's sport and commercial ocean salmon fisheries, in addition to a review of last year's salmon fisheries and spawning escapement.

Gary Pezzi, Recreation primary: alerting the SAC / Public that there were high surf advisory warnings in affect. Also, brought up a pending (early April), MPWC Safety Class at the Yacht Club at Pillar Pt-Half Moon Bay, coordinated by Jeff Clark.

Jacob Winnikoff, College primary: Moss Landing Marine Labs is having a marine themed art exhibit in May. Students will present their science. In addition, the Santa Cruz-Monterey subunit of the American Fisheries Society has a program "Trout in the Classroom" providing K-12 students to raise rainbow trout eggs and release them into a local watershed once developed into young trout. Jacob offered to help get any interested party in contact with appropriate person.

Jim Moser, Commercial Fishing alternate: crab season is slow up and down the coast. Santa Cruz Harbor is sanded in. Winter fishing has been rough and slow. He hopes cooler waters will be more productive for salmon over the next few years.

CMD Jason Brand, US Coast Guard primary: slow quarter due to shutdown. They prioritized the safety of the crab fleet at opening so performed surge ops to ensure safety in crab opener. No incidents yet even with the bad weather. He will be attending the Pacific Fishery Management Council meeting in March. There will be large focus on salmon. CDR Brand is also part of the whale entanglement working group and will be attending that meeting today.

Brian Nelson asked about old expired flares that are explosive. CDR Brand said he would get back to Brian about how to dispose them.

Deborah Halberstadt, CA Resources Agency primary: the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) is releasing the Proposition 68 Draft Grant Guidelines. The guidelines outline what projects and applicants are eligible to receive part of the \$56 million for ocean protection and climate change. OPC will host a series of public comment periods for feedback on the guidelines. The first public comment workshop is at Hartnell College in Salinas on February 20. There will be three sessions to accommodate the public. OPC has a large focus on engaging the community and working to reach new areas like Salinas.

Secondly, in 2014 OPC received \$30 million through Proposition 1 for water quality projects. OPC released a last call for applications for the remaining \$10 million. Applications are due March 18.

For more information: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/category/funding-opportunities/>

PJ Webb, At-Large primary: elephant seals are abundant and crossing the Highway 1 in San Simeon. There have also been many oiled birds (grebes) from natural seeps. Coastal Discovery Center has been very busy with speakers and events. On February 24 ONMS West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator Robert Schwemmer will be presenting the history of S.S. *Montebello* at Cambria's Historical Society's Annual Banquet.

Brian Nelson: Diving primary: the dive newsletter is out. Brian and Keith finished the survey and received many good comments from the dive community. Preliminary results show divers want more education and they are already cleaning up large quantities of trash. Diving has been great with clear water between October and January.

Steve Lindley, NMFS primary: the government shutdown affected NMFS. If the NOAA budget/appropriation is approved today, NMFS should be able to deliver the groundfish stock assessment. Secondly, on March 29 at 9:00 PM there will be a public lecture “Migrating Through Change” on raptor, butterfly, whale and fish migrations at the San Mateo County Belmont Library.

Mike Bekker, Tourism primary: Pacific Grove Chamber of Commerce will host the 2019 Annual Membership Luncheon on March 1. Jon Coupal will be speaking about Proposition 13. Also on March 1, the Monterey County Hospitality Association will have its annual dinner and auction.

Dan Haifley, At-Large primary: he introduced Rachel Kippen, as his successor at O’Neill Sea Odyssey.

John Haynes, Harbors – Monterey: in Pillar Point, beach nourishment pilot project in process. They are working with permit regulators. Thanked sanctuary staff on help with that. In Santa Cruz, they are still working hard to dredge the harbor. In Moss Landing, they are working with regulators on dredging. They hope to be dredging by May. In Monterey, *Hawaiian Chieftain* tall ship and *Lady Washington* tall ship will arrive at the end of February and will be in Monterey until March 19.

Dan Brumbaugh, ESNERR alternate: mentioned ESNERR also felt the effects of the shutdown. Dan talked about the “Our Community Reads” speaker series with Aptos Friends of the Aptos Library Community reads program. Mark Silberstein, Executive Director for Elkhorn Slough Foundation, gave a talk earlier this week titled “The Return of the Slough: Fifty years of Conservation at the Heart of Monterey Bay – the story of Elkhorn Slough.” ESNERR will be hosting a couple walks and other events associated with the talks in this series.

Carol Maehr, At-Large alternate: first, she thanked Brian Nelson and whoever else has been looking into the woven polypropylene i.e. PLASTIC sandbags in the harbor area of Moss Landing and how to get the sandbags out of there before the plastic deteriorates further and drifts out to sea. Specs for woven polypropylene sand bags say that they are UV stable for 1600 hours or somewhat longer, depending on what they have been coated with. Their short UV stable life limits their use to a temporary use, not a permanent fix. They should be removed before they begin to deteriorate. That did not happen here. Another disadvantage of woven polypropylene bags is if they are not properly stacked they will fail to stay where they have been placed. This is evident with the bags at Moss Landing as you can see (photo provided). Alternatives to polypropylene bags are burlap and nylon bags. Carol was told the owner of the land has committed to cleaning up the sandbags. She returned there the following Monday to see and so far nothing had changed. If you decide to go to see for yourselves, be sure it is low tide. At high tide you cannot access the beach.

Secondly, she followed up on her comments from two meetings ago regarding education. She has done a little research because she was puzzled about how the sanctuary is meeting its requirement to educate. A quote from the superintendent online states: “MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research and education and public use.” It seems one of the main purposes of educating should be to inspire by introducing and informing about the sanctuary which should lead to an appreciation of its many wonders which, in turn, should lead to greater involvement and broader protection and restoration of the ocean. Santa Cruz has the Exploration Center that I believe was a project of the Sanctuary Education Panel (SEP). It is a nice start although geographically limited. She visited the Visitor’s Center of Monterey, one kayak shop, one dive shop, 2 hotels, the MB Aquarium and NOAA’s website for brochures for Monterey Bay looking for what is out there. The sanctuary

was not mentioned much at any of these locations. She went online to the Discovery Store at the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz and only found T-shirts, a poster, one children's book, but no DIVE brochure. These educational materials should be available for visitors, teachers, students and locals that are looking out over the bay. Many do not know what a sanctuary is while they are looking at it.

Katherine O'Dea, Conservation primary: in November, Santa Cruz County was the first jurisdiction in the country to ban the use of individual shampoo bottles in hotels. A Santa Cruz Supervisor is championing the microfiber topic and how to curtail it in laundromats, large machines and spas. Save Our Shores (SOS) is trying to buy laundry microplastic filters to give to businesses and shops to use for a study. UC Santa Cruz is interested in conducting the study on flushing of microfibers and the success of reducing microfibers in the ocean. There may be a state level bill to further study the issue. SOS continues with their plastic campaign. SOS, Aptos Library and Santa Cruz MPA Collaborative is sponsoring a sanctuary steward series moderated by Mark Carr. Katherine also alerted the group SOS is seeing needles on the beach and it appears to be a major issue.

Keith Rootsart, Diving alternate: attended Whale Fest. Recently, there was a paddle out to a cruise ship. He posted some messages up on social media regarding cruise ships in the sanctuary. Keith is working with Reef Check to study urchin barrens at Lovers Point. Keith also petitioned CA Department of Fish and Wildlife to open up an area outside the MPA to recreational diving to remove urchins.

Bart Selby, Recreation alternate: shared a photo of a Northern Gannett at Pillar Point, which is an Atlantic Ocean bird. He also showed several seabird species with lots of plastic, fishing hooks and line connected to them.

Steve Haddock, Research alternate: mentioned three recent articles there has been much media coverage on. For more information: <https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2019/01/ocean-cleanup-project-could-destroy-neuston/580693/>, <https://earth.gizmodo.com/a-kickstarter-idea-to-clean-the-great-pacific-garbage-p-1832459898>, <http://clarkrichards.org/oceancleanup/2019/01/06/the-physics-of-the-ocean-cleanup/>.

VI. INFORMATION ITEM: SAC Challenge

Paul is challenging the AC members to share with the rest of the council how they are reaching their constituency and promoting the sanctuary. He proposed the SAC Challenge to become a standing topic at the remaining AC meetings with approximately five AC members presenting at each meeting.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Many AC members expressed this was a good idea; a way to share and learn about best practices for reaching out to constituencies. It was requested there be time for discussion to help members solve any problems they come across. It was said AC members should also see what their constituency is doing, making it a two-way conduit.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: State and federal ocean/coast related legislation and issues

Deborah Halberstadt, Executive Director of Ocean Protection Council (OPC), gave a presentation on the OPC and their areas of focus moving forward. The OPC is a council that was established in 2004 with a goal to protect ocean ecosystems while acting as an innovative leader on ocean and coastal policy. They are currently working on the expired 2017 Strategic Plan and there will be a number of changes. The policy issues OPC are focusing on include: marine protected areas (MPAs), marine pollution (debris, water quality, microplastics, contaminants, run-off), sustainable ocean or 'blue' economy. As OPC moves forward they are looking at different economic uses of the ocean including food, renewable energy, aquaculture, etc. and how they can ensure it is used in an environmental and sustainable way. OPC is also considering tourism and public access (impacts of sea level rise on beach access, parks, tourism.) Key topic areas of the updated strategic plan include: 1) climate change (sea level rise and ocean acidification); 2) restoring and protecting marine ecosystems; 3) sustainable fisheries and management; 4) ocean litter strategy (marine plastics and microplastics); 5) pollution including harmful algal blooms; 6) restoration (marine and coastal habitat).

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

The AC and Deborah discussed funding for marine pollution and critical habitat work. Moving forward there will still be funding for work on MPAs but there will also be more focus on other areas now that MPAs are established. There was discussion around the Ocean Science Trust and its purpose to the OPC. The Ocean Science Trust, a 501c3 non-profit organization, serves as a science advisor to the OPC. There was also discussion around the OPC's role in federal policies. The OPC convened state agencies to write nine comment letters regarding the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management's Draft Proposed Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Offshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program. They were submitted as official record through the California Governor's office.

For more information: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/>

Panetta office update- Emmanuel Garcia - Santa Cruz rep

Emmanuel Garcia, representative for Congressman Jimmy Panetta gave a presentation on federal legislation Congressman Panetta has been involved in recently. Congressman Panetta has worked on HR 6300, the National Ocean Policy Act, to mitigate for rolling back sanctuary designations. Congressman Panetta co-sponsored four bills to prevent offshore oil drilling. Congressman Panetta has also worked on the West Coast Ocean Protection Act to help protect against offshore drilling, and the Clean Ocean and Safe Tourism Anti-Drilling Act that amends the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to prohibit a lease for the exploration, development, or production of oil, natural gas in the Mid-Atlantic planning area or the North Atlantic planning area. Congressman Panetta also co-sponsored the Green New Deal, a proposed stimulus program aimed to address climate change and economic inequality. To see new bills and acts, visit: <https://www.congress.gov/>. Emmanuel also encouraged the AC to visit <https://Panetta.house.gov/> to sign up for the congressman's e-newsletter.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

The AC and Emmanuel discussed HR109, the Equal Protection for American Workers Act, a bill that prohibits the Department of Homeland Security from granting work authorization to an alien who has been determined in a valid immigration proceeding to have been at any time unlawfully present in the United States. Emmanuel said it is a non-binding visions document and won't necessarily go into law. He recommended to visit <https://www.congress.gov/> for more information.

IX. INFORMATION ITEM: Advisory Council 2019 Work Plan

The Advisory Council reviewed the draft Advisory Council 2019 Work Plan. The Advisory Council offered a few suggestions for presenters on proposed topics.

DRAFT 2019 MBNMS Advisory Council Work Plan		
Month	Topic	Presentation by ? (suggested)
April	Kelp forest/urchin development	Urchinomics
April	NMS Foundation update	Ginaia Kelly, MBNMSF
April	Seal bombs	Jason Scorse, Middlebury Institute of International Studies
April	Regional soundscape monitoring program	Lindsey Peavey, CINMS, Dr. Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS and John Ryan, MBARI
June	Education & outreach update - visitors centers, and what the SAC can do to help	Amity Wood, MBNMS and Carolyn Skinder, MBNMS
June	Climate change, ocean acidification	
June	Regulation updates on crab gear working group	Karen Grimmer, MBNMS and Geoff Shester, Oceana
August*	Shoreline fishing/gear and pelicans	Bart Selby, Recreation alternate and Dr. Rebecca Duerr, International Bird Rescue Center
October	Report from harbors - harbor sediment projects and beneficial uses of sediment	John Haynes, Harbors – Monterey representative
October	Whale watch operators - follow-up on whale watching ethics plan	Karen Grimmer, MBNMS
October	Plastics recycling/litter prevention - update from cities, report from AMBAG	
December	Regulation updates on crab gear working group	Karen Grimmer, MBNMS and Geoff Shester, Oceana
December	NMS Foundation update	Ginaia Kelly, MBNMSF
December	2020 calendar & work plan topics	Nichole Rodriguez, MBNMS

*Joint meeting with Greater Farallones NMS Advisory Council

X. STANDING ITEM: Working Group Updates

Conservation Working Group (CWG): The next meeting is scheduled for March. Five people have RSVP'd. It has been difficult to find a topic to keep the CWG alive. Co-chair Kevin Miller has moved to Argentina so Katherine is without a co-chair.

Research Activity Panel (RAP): the RAP did not meet at its scheduled time in January because of the government shutdown. The next RAP meeting will be March 8 at the Center for Ocean Health at Long Marine Lab in Santa Cruz. Planned agenda topics include near shore ocean dynamics related to breaching of the Carmel River (presented by Mara Orescanin of the Naval Postgraduate School) and the use of seal bombs in California fisheries (presented by Jason Scorse of the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey).

Sanctuary Tourism and Recreation Working Group (STAR): the STAR did not meet since the last AC meeting due to the government shutdown.

Meeting adjourned at 3:22 PM.