

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Final Meeting Minutes  
June 21, 2019  
Coast Unified School District, Cambria, CA**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez  
AMBAG: Ed Smith  
At-Large: Dan Haifley  
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann  
At-Large: PJ Webb  
Business & Industry: Tom Rowley  
CA Coastal Commission: absent  
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Chelsea Protasio  
CA EPA: Julia Dyer  
CA Resources Agency: absent

CA State Parks: Eric Hjelstrom  
Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark  
Conservation: Katherine O’Dea  
Diving: Brian Nelson  
Education: Jon Hill  
Harbors: absent  
Recreation: Gary Pezzi  
Recreational Fishing: Rich Hughett  
Research: John Hunt  
Tourism: Mike Bekker

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

Channel Islands NMS: absent  
College: Jacob Winnikoff  
Cordell Banks NMS: absent  
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Dan Brumbaugh  
Greater Farallones NMS: absent  
Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel  
National Marine Fisheries Service: absent  
U.S. Coast Guard: absent

Alternates present in audience:

Christina McGinnis - At-Large  
Keith Rootsart – Diving  
Bart Selby – Recreation  
Steve 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.

Bruce Gibson, District Two Supervisor for San Luis Obispo County, welcomed the Advisory Council. He briefly talked about a few challenges the community faces and is addressing including climate change, sewer plants and offshore wind farms. He thanked the council for having a meeting in Cambria.

One new advisory council member, Chelsea Protasio was sworn in by Superintendent Paul Michel. Chelsea will be the alternate for CA Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Nichole Rodriguez gave an update on the three recruitment periods currently in various stages. It was asked what the process was for seats that are not regularly attending. Brian Nelson and Paul Michel said this was recently talked about during an Executive Committee meeting and is being addressed by staff.

### **APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES**

Approval of April 19, 2019 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Dan Haifley introduced a motion to approve the April meeting minutes. Seconded by PJ Webb.

#### **MOTION: Passed**

(Vote: 14 in favor, 0 opposed, 3 abstentions)

## **II. STANDING ITEM: Superintendent Report**

MBNMS staff is wrapping up the Management Plan Review. The goal is to have the Draft Management Plan, Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Assessment to ONMS Headquarters by the end of the month for review and comments. The public draft may be available by mid-September. Paul proposed the October AC meeting have a large portion of it dedicated to reviewing these three documents.

On June 17, the City of Monterey and MBNMS co-hosted a public informational session regarding cruise ships. It was a well-attended event. The session included representation from local, state and federal agencies with jurisdiction over cruise ships. There were presentations followed by a question and answer period. They also addressed a recent petition with misinformation.

Get Into Your Sanctuary is coming up on August 3 and 4. MBNMS is partnering with Monterey Bay Kayaks for tours at Del Monte Beach and Elkhorn Slough and there will be a focus on getting veterans into the sanctuary. Congressman Jimmy Panetta will be participating. There will also be special events held at both visitors centers.

Paul has been working with Ginaia Kelly, Executive Director for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation on the annual fundraiser Sea Stars Brunch scheduled for September 22. They will be giving awards for resource protection, outreach, research, business and tourism, watershed and the Sea Star Award. Secretary Leon Panetta (board co-chair) will hand out awards with Hilary Bryant (board co-chair). The Foundation has invited Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet to the event.

#### Advisory Council Member Discussion:

It was asked how the golf ball issue will be addressed in the future. Paul mentioned golf balls in the sanctuary will be reflected in the new management plan. Staff is still finding out what the level of ball deposition is and working with those golf courses. He also mentioned the letter of agreement with Pebble Beach Company is not posted on MBNMS' website but is available to read. It was suggested to recognize the high school students who discovered the golf balls in the bay at the Sea Stars Brunch.

It was asked what the status of the whale watching best practices was. Paul said this is also reflected in the new management plan. It is based on recommendations from the whale approach working group.

It was also asked what the status of the two vessels that ran aground in March. Paul stated one is still an open investigation.

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

Matt Twisselman, Santa Cruz business owner – regarding drug needles on beaches, please take a position or action to encourage city and county governments to do more.

Andrew Christie, Sierra Club – regarding Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary campaign

### **IV. STANDING ITEM: Working Group Updates**

Conservation Working Group (CWG):

Current CWG Activities

- The CWG met on Wednesday, June 19 at the Marine Mammal Center in Moss Landing
- Discussions focused on two issues: Cruise Ships and the Plastic Pollution Resolution submitted for consideration to the SAC
- Members of the CWG have a strong interest in the Cruise Ship issue and may be interested in supporting an effort to:
  - Mandate that a cost benefit/risk assessment be conducted to determine if the economic benefit to the City of Monterey outweighs the potential loss of tourism revenue to all communities along the Bay when the inevitable accident happens.
  - Require all governing bodies representing communities along Monterey Bay be included in decision processes related to allowing cruise ships to enter the bay including when they can enter and how many can anchor.
  - Propose and urge passage of additional regulations on cruise ships to address some identified gaps, e.g., regulating the release of engine cooling waters into the Sanctuary.
  - Prohibiting the cruise lines from distributing plastic water bottles to passengers as they board transport to bring them ashore, recommending each passenger receive a reusable water bottle that will be collected at the end of the cruise, sanitized and reused on future trips for future passengers. This was the measure of most interest to CWG members and could be pursued separately by the CWG while other measures noted here are pursued by other organizations or to be formed coalition of organizations.
- CWG member re-reviewed the resolution based on comments received from John Hunt and Brian Nelson and attempted to further flesh out the “post therefore” recommendations, which were shared during discussion of the resolution earlier in the meeting. Members also recommended adding an additional “whereas” statement to include the recently released MBARI study regarding levels of microplastics found in MBNMS.
- CWG members are interested in continuing to work on plastic pollution reduction actions.

Upcoming Activities

- Next CWG meeting will be scheduled sometime in early July

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

- Primary current concern seems to be cruise ships and what if anything CWG can recommend to or request of the Sanctuary

Assistance or Request of SAC Executive Committee

- Guidance on best way CWG can/should engage on cruise ships

#### Research Activity Panel (RAP):

The May 10<sup>th</sup> RAP meeting was held at the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. There were presentations on Olympia Oyster Restoration Science, the Data Portals of the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), and Progress on Monitoring Indicators for Sanctuary Condition Reports. The next RAP meeting will be September 13 at the NOAA Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz.

This past Monday evening RAP member Brandon Southhall participated in the public meeting at the Monterey Conference Center about the effects of cruise ships on marine life in Monterey Bay. I've been told that Brandon did an excellent job answering 10 or so questions, and that the panel and the public were impressed by his knowledge and answers. Brandon is an internationally recognized expert on the effect of sound on marine mammals and other marine life and brings a lot of expertise and insight to the RAP.

Since the beginning of this year, elevated gray whale strandings have occurred along the west coast of North America from Mexico through Alaska. NOAA Fisheries has declared this event an Unusual Mortality Event under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. As of mid-June, there have been 77 gray whale strandings on the west coast of the US, 37 of them in California. For more information: <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/06/22/opinion/sunday/dead-whales-pacific.html>

An editorial was published in the journal Science and circulated around the RAP. It was authored by Jane Lubchenco, former NOAA Administrator and currently University Distinguished Professor at Oregon State, and Steve Gaines, Dean of Marine Science at UCSB. The title is "A New Narrative for the Ocean." Like many good editorials it boils a very big picture down to some straightforward and actionable guidance, all in one page. The take home message is that the old narrative used to be: The ocean is too big to fail. It was thought to be inexhaustible and immune to damage. In light of late 20<sup>th</sup> Century observations of pollution, declining fish stocks and damaged habitats, the more recent narrative became: The ocean is too big to fix. Lubchenco and Gaines argue that the new narrative must be: The ocean is too big to ignore. "The ocean is so central to our future. It's too important to neglect." For more information: <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/364/6444/911.full>

#### Sanctuary Tourism and Recreation Working Group (STAR):

##### Brochures

Carol Maehr is distributing brochures to businesses. MBNMS is ordering more brochures and posters. First priority for brochures that MBNMS has in stock will be the two visitor centers. Brochures are limited until printed again. Carol is doing a great job distributing brochures but we can't keep refilling multiple businesses due to budget and limits to restocking. Lisa will find out when the brochures will be printed. October printing of more brochures – per Amity Wood and come up with a distribution plan.

##### Newsletter

PJ asked that Piedras Blancas be highlighted.

### Get Into Your Sanctuary (GIYS)

GIYS is coming up August 2-4. Lisa shared the new flier for the Monterey Bay Kayaks event, August 3-4, and requested that everyone distribute to their listservs and businesses as well as promote through social media. Brian will promote at conference center and with city.

### GIYS Photo Contest

In celebration of national GIYS events, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is hosting a photo contest. From Memorial Day (May 27) through Labor Day (September 2nd), send us your best photos of the National Marine Sanctuary System and help us celebrate the beauty and importance of these special places.

Winning photos will be featured in next year's Earth Is Blue Magazine and on the Earth Is Blue social media campaign. Please click on the year to view the winners of the 2016, 2017, and 2018 contests.

Remember to practice good Ocean Etiquette when taking your photos!

For more information: <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/visit/giys.html>

It was mentioned there is a short video on MBNMS created for cruise ships to play. Dawn said it is a repurposed video from MBNMS' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and will be made into a more targeted version if it is well received. Link to the video: <https://youtu.be/MHIGb3Zw-x0>

## V. INFORMATION ITEM: Southern region report

Carolyn Skinder, MBNMS' Southern Region Program Coordinator, gave an update on activities at the Coastal Discovery Center (CDC) in the southern region of MBNMS. She started with an overview of the area and MBNMS's neighbors in San Luis Obispo County including California State Parks, Hearst Ranch, California State MPAs and Bureau of Land Management. Carolyn discussed the many services provided by CDC including education programs and outreach opportunities. For more information: [https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621southernregion\\_update-ppt.pdf](https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621southernregion_update-ppt.pdf)

Bob Schwemmer, NOAA's West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator, gave a presentation on the maritime cultural landscape within MBNMS. He discussed the history and location of various shipwrecks discovered within MBNMS including SS *Sierra Nevada*, British Bark *Harlech Castle*, SS *Casco*, SS *Montebello* and US Revenue Cutter *McCulloch*. For more information:

[https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621southernregion\\_maritime-ppt.pdf](https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621southernregion_maritime-ppt.pdf)

## VI. ACTION ITEM: Anti-plastic pollution resolution

Katherine O'Dea introduced a resolution regarding plastic pollution. The AC recommends MBNMS use a comprehensive approach, at all jurisdictional levels, to plastic pollution mitigation.

A small group met during lunch to edit the resolution. The AC then reviewed the changes and made additional edits. For more information:

[https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621resolution\\_plastics-final.pdf](https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621resolution_plastics-final.pdf)

A motion was made by to Brian Nelson approve the resolution.

Seconded by Dan Haifley.

**MOTION: PASSED**

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

## **VII. INFORMATION ITEM: Wildlife disturbance in MBNMS southern region**

Emma Weitzner presented a current study by Cal Poly's Vertebrate Integrative Physiology Lab on the elephant seal population at Piedras Blancas. She discussed the importance of the study, the research objectives, methods, results and future work. Preliminary results showed weaned males were significantly heavier than weaned females and weaned individuals were significantly heavier at La Tortuga than Arroyo Laguna. For more information:

[https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621e-seal\\_research-ppt.pdf](https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621e-seal_research-ppt.pdf)

Kathleen Curtis presented the work Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES) has been doing for elephant seals at Piedras Blancas. She gave a brief introduction to FES then discussed the northern elephant seal rookery at Piedras Blancas. Kathleen discussed the areas in which there is often disturbance of elephant seals and provided examples of the types of disturbance. She ended by presenting various recommendations to address disturbances at the various beaches including education and outreach, signage, symbolic fencing, directive fencing, training and seasonal assignments for docents and policy/enforcement. For more information:

<https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621wildlifedisturbance-ppt.pdf>

Eric Hjelstrom, Sector Superintendent for CA State Parks, discussed the ways in which CA State Parks is involved and addresses elephant seal disturbance. Eric said CA State Parks is reliant on FES docents to observe these disturbances because it is difficult for a Park Ranger to always be present when a disturbance occurs. He mentioned the information presented today will be taken back to CA State Parks and he will work to translate that into their operations. Eric stated he believes educational efforts are working because although there has been an increase in disturbances, there has not been a need for an increase in law enforcement response. Eric also mentioned he encourages Park Rangers to be proactive in law enforcement; to take action when patrolling. Because human/wildlife disturbance is difficult to enforce and codes are very specific for writing a citation or arresting, law enforcement often needs to be present in order to write a citation/arrest someone.

### Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There was discussion regarding CA State Parks' jurisdiction. State Park Rangers can be cross deputized under a Memo of Understanding in order to enforce the Marine Mammal Protection Act. There is also a Joint Enforcement Agreement between MBNMS and CA Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). MBNMS pays CDFW in order for them to dedicate a certain amount of time to MBNMS enforcement each year.

It was suggested there should be clearer signage and public messaging addressing specific issues like approaching an elephant seal to get a "selfie." Eric Hjelstrom mentioned CA State Parks is working on updating interpretative signage but also stated there is a duty to protect animals while also providing high quality recreation to visitors.

Paul Michel stated there is always a discrepancy between the number of actual violations and what is actually reported. The goal is to build data showing this: number of violations and number of reported incidents.

**VIII. STANDING ITEM: SAC Challenge**

The AMBAG, At-Large (southern region), Conservation, and Recreation all presented the ways in which they communicate with their constituents as well as the ways in which they communicate with fellow AC members and MBNMS staff.

Maura Twomey, AMBAG Executive Director, discussed who AMBAG is, regional collaboration, local jurisdictional support, planning agency relationships and their public input process. For more information: <https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621sacchallenge-ambag-ppt.pdf>

PJ Webb, At-Large (southern region) primary and Christina McGinnis, At-Large (southern region) alternate discussed how they are involved in the community and how they communicate with local officials/agencies, media contacts and Chambers of Commerce. They also discussed how they incorporated their experience and strengths to connect and network with interest groups. For more information: <https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621sacchallenge-atlarge-ppt.pdf>

Katherine O’Dea, Conservation primary, discussed the ways in which she reaches out to and receives input from the community including working through the Conservation Working Group, her work at Save Our Shores and collaborations with MBNMS’ Sanctuary Exploration Center. She also discussed future opportunities to increase outreach including a regular email blast and a monthly or bi-monthly newsletter. For more information:

<https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621sacchallenge-conservation-ppt.pdf>

Gary Pezzi, Recreation primary, and Bart Selby, Recreation alternate discussed the many types of recreators there are in sanctuary, the relative number of each type of recreator and how they are a conduit to these recreators. They also discussed how their personal experiences allow them to connect with their many stakeholders. For more information:

<https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2019/190621/190621sacchallenge-recreation-ppt.pdf>

**IX. STANDING ITEM: Advisory Council member announcements**

Ed Smith, AMBAG alternate: it is great to be back. Thanked everyone who contributed to the cruise ship informational session. A recording of the session is available on the City of Monterey website.

Gary Hoffmann, At-Large (central region):

Mylar balloons – while out on the bay conducting marine mammal surveys with Marine Life Studies, we routinely retrieve Mylar and rubber balloons. Averaging approximately 3-5 retrievals per day.

We expect that number to increase over the next several weeks due to the graduations that were recently conducted throughout the area. Gary and Carol Maehr (At-Large central region alternate) renew our request that the AC consider an action item recommending to the superintendent that MBNMS facilitate creation of a stakeholder working group (or other method) to address the problem of marine debris caused by the purchase of Mylar and rubber balloons from retailers.

Golf ball pollution follow up for AC – during the broadcast of the US Open golf tournament, a special segment was shown featuring Alex Weber, one of the Carmel High School students who made a presentation to the AC on their projects to collect golf balls deposited in the sanctuary from

Pebble Beach Golf Course. It was a well-done segment. She now has a website, [www.theplasticpick-up.org](http://www.theplasticpick-up.org), where you can learn more about what the organization is currently doing. The website indicates they have retrieved over 50,000 golf balls from the ocean off the coast of Pebble Beach, and they are now creating an art piece using those golf balls. We recommend you visit the website to see the great story of what this group of people are accomplishing. The question Gary and Carol have is: are there any ways the AC or the various represented constituencies on the AC can help get greater exposure for this organization and should we help?

Plastic sandbag clean up at Moss Landing Harbor – Gary shared photos Carol took showing the area plastic sandbags were observed before and after the cleanup. There has been significant progress removing the deteriorating sandbags between April and June. However on June 13, Carol and a friend found 17 additional deteriorating sandbags embedded in the sand and dug them out for disposal. This is a positive example showing the system/bureaucracy works. Carol contacted California Coastal Commission and identified the issue and action was taken to remedy the situation. Brochures – Carol continues her efforts to distribute and replenish MBNMS brochures to businesses in the area.

Cigarette butts/trash post US Open – in the days immediately following completion of the US Open golf tournament, Gary cleaned up/collected over 100 cigarette butts from three turnouts along 17 Mile Drive adjacent to Bird Rock in Pebble Beach. The Bird Rock turnout has cigarette butt disposal containers placed along the parking area but none of the other turnoffs from 17 Mile Drive are equipped with the butt containers. Additionally, the trash cans located at each turnout were overflowing with trash. We recommend the AC draft a letter to Pebble Beach Community Services District requesting additional cigarette butt disposal containers be placed at all turnouts where trash cans are placed and additional garbage pick-ups at the turnouts be scheduled during large events in Pebble Beach (AT&T golf tournament, car week, etc.)

Drone use at the US Open – It was apparent from the television coverage of the US Open golf tournament Fox Television used low flying drones over the sanctuary to film the golfers on the course from the ocean perspective. These drones most certainly were flying over areas where sea lion and harbor seals haul out onto rocky shoreline. We recommend the AC draft a letter to the appropriate NOAA/Department of Commerce management expressing the urgent need for regulating drone operations in MBNMS.

Acoustic monitoring of cruise ships in Monterey – Marine Life Studies' (MLS) research boat was out on Monterey Bay this week near Monterey Harbor to monitor the underwater acoustic sounds being emitted from the cruise ship anchored at that location. A hydrophone was placed in the water from the MLS boat and background acoustic sounds were recorded and sounds emitted by the cruise ship were recorded throughout the day the ship anchored. Additionally, temperature and density measurement were collected throughout the day. The use of a submersible to video the impacts to marine life in the area before and after the cruise ship anchored was planned but due to technical difficulties video data was not collected. Anecdotal information from scuba divers when other cruise ships anchored off Monterey suggested fish congregated near the ocean floor in the area around the cruise ship.

Dan Brumbaugh, Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve alternate: new infrastructure projects, especially for visiting education groups, including the construction of an outdoor classroom, a new amphitheater, and the remodeling of our parking lot, should all happen this year. Also, on July 17, at 6pm at the Castroville Branch Library (11160 Speegle Street, Castroville, CA 95012), NOAA will be hosting a public meeting as part of a "312" performance review of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (for more info, see

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/05/24/2019-10855/evaluation-of-elkhorn-slough-national-estuarine-research-reserve-public-meeting>

Jon Hill, Education primary: thanked the council for the appointment to the primary position. Commented on the issue of balloons at graduations. Parents and students would benefit from education regarding the issue. Looks forward to potentially being a part of that solution.

Katherine O’Dea, Conservation primary:

Current Seat Activities

Plastics continue to be a major focal point for the regional conservation community and multiple groups are coordinating and collaborating to seek action from local (City Council) and Regional (Board of Supervisors) legislators. There are also a number of plastics related bills making their way through the state legislature.

Katherine attended the UNWRAPPED conference June 12 – 14 in Scotts Valley with representatives from around the world who gathered to discuss the human impacts of toxins, carcinogens, endocrine disruptors, obeseogens, currently allowed to be integrated into plastic packaging. Studies are alarming and issues are very complex, e.g., high doses of some chemicals are not necessarily worse than low doses, certain chemicals can “transform” during recycling processes and wind up in recycled products with unknown and unexpected consequences. Additionally, the science lags the advocacy groups urgency for action so communicating the known facts accurately can be difficult as we try to create messaging people can relate to.

The conservation community is also very interested in the topic of cruise ships entering and anchoring in the Monterey Bay. Some organization are taking a hard stand against cruise ship visits. Others have not yet taken a public position. A meeting in Monterey on June 17 seeks to inform the public about the issue with perspectives shared by a number of agencies and organizations.

June is World Ocean’s month. In Santa Cruz, Save Our Shores led the community for a series of events during World Ocean’s week (June 2nd – 8th) with a screening of the film Blue followed by a discussion of the movie with panelists Gary Griggs, Dan Haifley, Jason Scorse and Felicia Van Stolk. Save Our Shores also organized a March for the Ocean on the water (via paddle craft) in Monterey and on land from Lighthouse Point to Cowells Beach in Santa Cruz. Event speakers (in Santa Cruz) included Assemblymember Mark Stone, and former state Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird among others.

Save Our Shores as well as the Coastal Watershed Council and Seymour Center, which are also based in Santa Cruz, are recruiting for environmental educator positions. SOS is close to a hire; the others are in early phases of recruitment and still accepting applications.

Efforts across the conservation community to oppose the Trump administration’s/BOEM’s offshore oil and gas drilling plan are in a bit of a holding pattern following Secretary Bernhardt’s announcement to put a final decision regarding locations to be open to new leases on “indefinite” hold. Conservation groups, both locally, regionally and across the state are continuing to monitor the situation and there are efforts underway to get ordinances, similar to the 26 already in place throughout the state that would prohibit the construction of any on-shore infrastructure that would be required to support offshore drilling. AC members Dan Haifley and PJ Webb are working with representatives from community in SLO County to ensure all the communities in SLO have protective ordinance. Other members of the Protect the Pacific Coalition are working in high priority communities in Southern California.

Upcoming Activities

June was a busy month with World Oceans celebrations/events. July appears to be less busy. However, ramp up for Annual Coastal Cleanup day (our local name for International Coastal Cleanup day) begins. With support from a number of other local organization Save Our Shores will host between 65 and 80 cleanup events that day (September 21, 2019).

On June 26, Save Our Shores staff will be attending a NOAA sponsored workshop related to Behavior Change and Marine Debris. Katherine will share more on that in her next report or through the new Conservation Primary if someone else is elected to the seat.

Julia Dyer, CA Environmental Protection Agency alternate: has been working with Dane Harden to fund two sampling stations at Pajaro and Salinas that have been down for a while. She is also working on a voluntary free program to test groundwater for drinking water. This will give them more data points to tell them what is coming off the land and into sanctuary.

Jacob Winnikoff, College primary: on May 11 at the Marine Oceans Colloquium, Dr. Dan Brumbugh, Dr. James Lindholm and Nancy Foster Scholar Emily Aiken sat on a panel Jacob facilitated answering questions from student and post-doc researchers about working with and for local marine conservation organizations such as MBNMS and ESNERR. They are looking forward to future events to encourage academic researchers and future researchers to collaborate with sanctuaries and other local organizations.

Mike Bekker, Tourism primary: regarding wind farms that have been suggested for Monterey and surrounding areas. Wants this to be on the sanctuary's radar.

The US Open was lively and gave the local economy a major boost. Monterey Bay received beautiful television coverage.

Most Mylar balloon vendors come from Central Valley for special events. Should they have city permits? Maybe it can be stopped at the city level.

Chelsea Protasio, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife alternate: the recreational salmon bite was on again/off again. Anglers had success in late April and early May, but most of May was unproductive. However, from May 27 to June 8, average catch rate per angler increased to about 0.5 fish. There were other good fishing opportunities in between periods of unseasonably inclement weather in May. California Halibut abundance has been similar to the previous year, which was the highest we had seen in the previous 5 years. Some Bluefin Tuna appeared during the first week of May. When all else failed, boat anglers continued to find rockfish and Lingcod. Shore anglers targeted surfperch and Striped Bass. On one nice weekend morning, we counted 115 beach anglers fishing from the Pajaro River mouth south to Del Monte Beach in Monterey.

The Pacific Fishery Management Council is meeting this week in San Diego. Among the many agenda items is a review of the quality and quantity of data to support an assessment of the central subpopulation of Northern Anchovy. Commercial catch of Coastal Pelagic Species have been minimal over the last few months with just a handful of Northern Anchovy and Market Squid landings.

Tom Rowley, Business & Industry alternate: 1.) there is a looming critical State Water Resources Control Board deadline for starting construction of a Monterey Peninsula water supply project: September 30, 2019.

Two permits are pending for proposed desal plant using slant wells at CEMEX site in Marina: a.) Coastal Development Permit for slant wells before California Coastal Commission (date unknown at

this time); b.) Permit for desal plant next to Marina landfill scheduled at Monterey County Board of Supervisors on July 9.

In the meantime, two pending lawsuits, contesting Environmental Impact Review/Environmental Impact Statement approved by California Public Utilities Commission in September 2018 at California Supreme Court by City of Marina and Marina Coast Water District.

2.) SB-561 sea level rise study completed for City of Monterey coastline (harbor and beaches). Suggests the AC see the study results at the August or later meeting.

Dan Haifley, At-Large (northern region) primary:

Current Seat Activities

attended cruise ship forum on June 17 – job well done by MBNMS and all participating agencies, including the City of Monterey.

Presented and took questions on the recent MBARI/MBA microfiber study to the Climate Ride on June 11, a Save Our Shores forum on June 6 and a Sanctuary Foundation event on May 24.

Upcoming Activities

1) The Monterey Bay Chapter of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will have its SEA STARS BRUNCH on Sunday, September 22 from 10AM to 1PM at the Sanctuary Beach Resort at 3295 Dunes Drive in Marina. This event will coincide with the 27th anniversary of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. We will present awards to those who have recently contributed significantly to the sanctuary with Secretary Panetta bestowing the Panetta Sea Star Award. Early bird tickets will go on sale July 1 for \$100, and if there are any left after September 1, those will be \$125. Funds raised will support MBNMS education programs. (PASS THEM OUT)

2) If you haven't seen the mural in progress along Mission Street at Bay View Elementary School – check it out! Through a collaboration between the City of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz City Schools, Clean Ocean's International, the Tim Brauch Foundation and the Fresh Walls Collective--led by local artist Taylor Reinhold– the grand-scale mural has begun! There is a GoFundMe page if you'd like to support it.

3) City of SC has awarded Clean Ocean Business awards to 302 businesses. Two of those are DeLaveaga Collision, and Bad Animal Books. Recognized businesses go above and beyond the City's storm water program and sanitary sewer ordinance requirements.

Constituent Challenges and Concerns

Has heard general complaints about cruise ships, PWCs, plastic pollution

Gary Pezzi, Recreation primary: June 15 was the Surfrider Foundation International Surfing Day.

Surfrider Foundation is also now an international foundation. June 21-23 will be Woodies on the Wharf in Santa Cruz. He also encouraged council members to keep an open mind as a member of the Advisory Council and to spread the word about conservation and the sanctuary program.

Keep open mind to what we do here – spread the word of conservation and the sanctuary program

PJ Webb, At-Large (southern region) primary: attended at Capitol Hill Ocean Week (CHOW).

CHOW is the premier conference examining the science and connectedness of our oceans. This year gathered a broad global community to discuss challenges facing oceans worldwide. Expert panels discussed ocean health, climate change, ocean acidification, toxins, whale conservation and resource exploitation. Pressing conservation issues included pollutants, shipping industry impacts, overfishing, and human exploitation in fishing practices. Traceability can ensure sustainability by purchasing ethically harvested seafood that avoids fisheries with human rights violations. The human costs of overfishing in underdeveloped nations resulting in threats to their people and global security was

highlighted. Importantly, solutions for resiliency and advocacy were shared through community success stories and effective communication and policy that gives a voice to the ocean.

Capitol Hill visits - Indigenous Rep. Deb Haaland, Laguna Pueblo and Rep. Sharice Davids, Ho-Chunk; staff of Senate Commerce Committee, House Natural Resources Committee, Senators Dianne Feinstein and Kamala Harris staff, Rep. Raul Grijalva, Jared Huffman and Sen. Maria Cantwell. Had dinner with Rep. Jimmy Panetta, supported by our Rep. Salud Carbajal. Meeting with Deputy NOAA Administrator Rear Admiral Tim Gallaudet and ONMS Director John Armor.

For more information: <https://marinesanctuary.org/event/capitol-hill-ocean-week-2019>

Activities and Relevant Details

Snapshot Day water quality training and testing May 4, 2019, BeachCOMBERS April and May surveys

Constituent Challenges and Concerns

Ongoing concerns about water supply issues for Cambria and San Simeon

Wildlife harassment issues - on today's agenda

Brian Nelson, Diving primary: purple urchin culling and Reef Check activities combined with Citizen Scientists have been making progress on the specific area known as Chase Reef. For more information: <https://reefcheck.org/reef-news/how-and-why-are-urchin-size-frequency-surveys-performed>

Dive Newsletter published with promotion of "Get into your Sanctuary"

Upcoming Activities

Monterey Shoot-Out – Underwater Photo contest REGISTRATION NOW OPEN! EVENT DATES: AUGUST 22-25, 2019

Registration only \$25 - One low price gets you into the Competition, cocktail party and all Seminars  
Contest hours - Fri 7AM to Sat 7PM

Backscatter party on Saturday night at 6PM

For more information: <http://www.montereyshootout.com/>

Dive Industry's only trade-only event, taking place November 13-16 in the West Halls of the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, FL

For more information: <https://www.dema.org/>

Constituent Challenges and Concerns

Lack of Kelp beds has significantly decreased the marine populations dependent on these near shore areas

Assistance or Request of MBNMS Staff

Would MBNMS staff consider writing a letter to CDFW regarding the permitting of an artificial reef in Monterey?

Bart Selby, Recreation alternate: mentioned the seabird/fishing gear agenda topic for the next AC meeting in Half Moon Bay. Thanked staff for getting that topic on the agenda.

The harbor commission in Pillar Point set up a wildlife disturbance committee that he will be helping with.

This has been a bad year for juvenile sea lions. Many of them are dying.

Steve Haddock, Research alternate: during the transit to a blue-water dive 20 miles offshore, we retrieved 27 Mylar balloons. This was a week and a half before graduation, so there are likely *many* more now.

Multi institutional research initiative, with ships and autonomous vehicles

### Upcoming Activities

Upcoming cruise in July including stations offshore and including Sur Ridge SESA.

### Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

High profile paper by Anela Choy and colleagues found microplastics as deep as 1000m and in a variety of organisms sampled. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-019-44117-2>

Keith Rootsart, Diving alternate: just finished up a Reef Check survey off the coast of Big Sur. We counted fish, algae and invertebrates. Observed much less kelp than before and very few young-of-the-year rockfish. They also found Mylar balloons.

He attended the Ocean Protection Council meeting in Sacramento and gave public testimony on the current state of the lack of kelp and dominance of urchins in Monterey. The Reef Check Urchin experiment is in play with urchins manipulated on 20 target sites off Lovers Point. We are seeing interesting fish and invert behavior coming to the targets after culling.

Sarah Lopez, Agriculture alternate: the Central Coast Water Quality Preservation organization runs a water quality monitoring program that is working with the Monterey County Farm Bureau and the Monterey County Vintners and Growers Association writing two proposals: 1.) a regionalized groundwater quality monitoring program; and 2.) a surface water quality proposal.

The agriculture industry is dealing with food safety E. coli outbreak from romaine lettuce. Chlorinated water must be applied to fields but is expensive and complicated.

Meeting adjourned at 4:27 PM.