

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Final Meeting Minutes
October 18, 2019**

Monterey Peninsula College, Library Technology Center, Monterey, CA

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez
AMBAG: Steve McShane
At-Large: Dan Haifley
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann
At-Large: PJ Webb
Business & Industry: Al Budris
CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly
CA EPA: Karen Mogus
CA Resources Agency: Tova Handelman

CA State Parks: Matthew Allen
Commercial Fishing: VACANT
Conservation: Rachel Kippen
Diving: Brian Nelson
Education: Jon Hill
Harbors: John Haynes
Recreation: Gary Pezzi
Recreational Fishing: absent
Research: John Hunt
Tourism: Mike Bekker

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: absent
College: Jacob Winnikoff
Cordell Bank NMS: absent
Elkhorn Slough NERR: absent
Greater Farallones NMS: absent
Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel
National Marine Fisheries Service: absent
U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Lee Crusius

Alternates present in audience:

Shandy Carroll – Agriculture
Cynthia Matthews – At-Large (northern region)
Tom Rowley – Business & Industry
Julia Dyer – CA EPA
Keith Rootsart – Diving
Pamela Neeb-Wade – Education
Bart Selby – Recreation

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.

Shandy Carroll was sworn in as the Agriculture alternate.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of August 15, 2019 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Gary Pezzi introduced a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Seconded by John Hunt.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 4 abstentions)

II. STANDING ITEM: Superintendent Report

The 2019 Ed Ricketts Memorial Award was presented to Dr. James Harvey, Director of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories on September 17 at Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Exploration Center. Dr. Harvey gave a free lecture entitled "Research, Teaching, and Mentoring: Musings of a Generalist Optimist" highlighting the foraging ecology of harbor seals, humpback whales, and leatherback turtles.

MBNMS staff led and participated in a research and exploratory mission to the Davidson Seamount aboard the exploration vessel *Nautilus* from October 12-18, 2019. In 2018, they discovered a population of over 1,000 brooding octopuses associated with low-temperature seeps. The first ROV dive of this expedition revisited the octopus garden to establish a minimum population count. The highlights of the dive came near the end when they ran across a whale fall. It is estimated the whale is 5 meters long and had only been there for several months. It was covered in scavengers, including eel pouts, grenadiers, octopus and crustaceans. The bones were covered in thousands of bone-eating worms (*Osedax sp.*).

Last Friday, the *Sounds in the Sanctuary* exhibit public opening took place at the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, CA. Over 160 public members came through the doors after hours to enjoy interacting with the new *Sounds in the Sanctuary* exhibit, which was funded by ONMS. The exhibit was designed, developed and fabricated by MBNMS in collaboration with Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

Regarding CalAm's Monterey Peninsula Water Supply Project, the Monterey Superior Court issued a brief stay to work while California Coastal Commission (CCC) considers an appeal. The appeal to CCC is the City of Marina's denial of CalAM's coastal develop permit. The appeal will be heard at November 14 CCC meeting.

The Sea Star Brunch, hosted by Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, was a success. Paul thanked everyone who attended and contributed to the event which raised almost \$40,000. The 2019 honorees included: Dr. John Ryan - Research, Lisa Emanuelson – Resource Protection, Brian Nelson – Education & Outreach, Cass Schrock – Business & Tourism and PJ Webb – "Panetta Sea Star."

ONMS Headquarters is currently reviewing the draft Management Plan for clearance. The draft Proposed Rule is being reviewed by General Council. The draft Management Plan is in good shape. The draft Environmental Assessment will be changed depending on any changes to the draft Proposed Rule. When the drafts are released to the public, MBNMS staff will do public hearings as well as focus an entire AC meeting on the Management Plan (potentially the February meeting).

Federal government funding is under a Continuing Resolution. For ONMS, the Senate has marked \$55.5 million for operations and \$6 million for facilities. The House of Representatives marked \$56 million for operations and \$5 million for operations (not to be combined with the Senate mark). For context, MBNMS's budget has been about \$3 million.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

An update was requested on golf balls in the sanctuary and if MBNMS staff is working with any golf courses other than Pebble Beach Company. Paul Michel explained this issue is included in the new

management plan and is in the operations plan for this fiscal year. Pebble Beach Company is currently implementing a letter of agreement for education programming.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Dan Haifley, At-Large (northern region) primary; Cynthia Mathews, At-Large (northern region) alternate) earned the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce Lifetime Achievement Award on October 17, 2019. For more than four decades, Cynthia Mathews has made a positive impact on our community through leadership in:

- Planned Parenthood Mar Monte – founded with friends in her kitchen and dining room;
- Museum of Art & History;
- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center;
- local Democratic Party;
- parks and cultural programs;
- Downtown historic district (52 acres);
- Wilder Ranch and Mission Adobe state parks;

and of course, her public service on the Santa Cruz City Council starting 1992, including a few turns as Mayor. She has been and CONTINUES to be a community catalyst. Congratulations.

IV. STANDING ITEM: Working Group Updates

Conservation Working Group (CWG):

Current CWG Activities

- The CWG met on Monday, October 30, at the Marine Mammal Center in Moss Landing.
- Attendance was low with representation only from Surfrider Monterey, the Marine Mammal Center, and an individual who has been part of the CWG for quite a few years.
- Discussions focused again on two issues: cruise ships, and Local and State regulations concerning plastic pollution
- The Coalition formed to work on cruise ship concerns is floundering but there is still widespread interest in taking additional action along the lines of the platform I shared in my last report.
- CWG members are interested in continuing to work on plastic pollution reduction actions.
- No new project ideas emerged
- Katherine is excited to finally have a co-chair as Rachel Kippen joins the AC as our Conservation Alternate. Katherine hopes/expects Rachel will breathe some new energy into the working group, which Katherine thinks is struggling to maintain relevancy.

Upcoming Activities

Next CWG meeting will be scheduled sometime in November.

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

Katherine's biggest concern as CWG Co-Chair is relevancy. She plans to work on this with Rachel as noted above.

Assistance or Request of MBNMS Staff

Any ideas for how the CWG can continue to add value are welcome.

Research Activity Panel (RAP):

The RAP met September 13 at the NOAA Fisheries lab in Santa Cruz. The meeting was well attended and we had some exceptional presentations and discussion. Jarrod Santora of UCSC and NMFS presented an elegant synthesis of a tremendous amount of data relevant to ship strikes and

fishing gear interactions with whales. The title of the presentation was *Marine Heatwave Causes Habitat Compression Impacting Forage Species, Crab Fishery Timing and Record Whale Entanglements*. This presentation provided more detail on the topics discussed at the Advisory Council meeting August in Half Moon Bay. Relevant websites and the series of topics Jarrod covered are appended to the written RAP update that John Hunt gave to Nichole.

Patrick Barnard of the USGS provided an overview of the CoSMoS program entitled *Coastal Impacts in Monterey Bay Due to Storms and Sea Level Rise: Update on Coastal Storm Modeling System*. This was also an extremely data rich presentation and provided a number of websites for more information (Appendix 2).

The RAP and MBNMS staff also discussed drone usage in the sanctuary, including permitting for research and other uses. This is becoming a very big deal and workshops have been planned to explore options. MBNMS staff and RAP will produce a two-page science needs outline.

In other news, on September 17, Jim Harvey, Director of the Moss Landing Marine Labs, was given the annual Rickett's Award and gave a presentation to a packed house at the SEC. The title of Dr. Harvey's presentation was *Research, Teaching, and Mentoring: Musings of a Generalist Optimist*.

Finally, RAP member Mark Carr reports that the prestigious journal *Oceanography* has printed a special issue in which PISCO researchers describe the direct and indirect impacts of the PISCO consortium on science and policy over the past 20 years. PISCO is the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans. Their research covers 1200 miles along the west coast and includes scientists from UC Santa Cruz, UC Santa Barbara, Oregon State and Stanford's Hopkins Marine Station.

Appendix 1

Websites and Topics covered in Jarrod Santora's September RAP meeting presentation: *Marine Heatwave Causes Habitat Compression Impacting Forage Species, Crab Fishery Timing and Record Whale Entanglements*. (Thanks to Erica Burton for documentation.)

- Jarrod provided an overview of recent marine heatwaves
- Tools now available for tracking and monitoring marine heat waves:
<https://www.integratedecosystemassessment.noaa.gov/regions/california-current/cc-projects-blobtracker> (Hobday et al. 2018, *Oceanography*)
- The recent heat wave brought challenges to west coast fisheries management, including:
 - a record outbreak of Harmful Algal Blooms and the Dungeness crab season delay (McCabe et al. 2016, *Geophysical Research Letters*)
 - Increased whale entanglements (primarily humpback whales) in fishing gear (2014-2016, mostly Dungeness crab pots)
- The heat wave caused compression of productive habitat by forcing whales and other species into a narrow band of upwelled water near the coast.
- Habitat compression can be associated with prey-switching and foraging distribution shifts (e.g., seabird Common Murre)
- Crab fishery: Nov-Jul; historically tapers off by March; during 2015/2016, crab peaked April in to May, coinciding with whale forage locations (compression)
- The California Dungeness crab fishing gear workshop group was formed and developed "Best Practices Guide" for tightening up the gear (mandatory/voluntary recommendations)

- The Risk Assessment and Mitigation Program (RAMP) framework is developing, informed by ecological indicators and assessments: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/risk-assessment-and-mitigation-program-ramp/>
- An Infographic was prepared for the NOAA IEA website
- Jarrod shared an additional link: <https://axiomdatascience.com/>

Appendix 2

Websites related to *Coastal Impacts in Monterey Bay Due to Storms and Sea Level Rise: Update on Coastal Storm Modeling System (CoSMoS)* presented by Patrick Barnard (USGS)

- Patrick provided overview of CoSMoS
- State of California sea-level rise guidance document available: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/updates-californias-sea-level-rise-guidance/>
- USGS CoSMoS for central coast to be completed in late 2019
- Tool (Interactive Flood Map): <http://data.pointblue.org/apps/ocof/cms/> Shoreline projections available for all of Monterey Bay
- Tool (USGS Hazard Exposure Reporting and Analytics): www.usgs.gov/apps/hera
- Additional information available at: www.usgs.gov/cosmos

Sanctuary Tourism and Recreation Working Group (STAR):

Newsletter - Brian is willing to do event announcements between newsletters. PJ requested a category in business and recreation for the tourism newsletter highlighting businesses as they join and the sustainable practices they are using.

GIYS/Whale Tail presentation - Lisa Uttal gave a presentation on the Whale Tail Pilot Program for GIYS. There was discussion regarding engaging the media and event swag.

Cruise ship education - Over the last ten years, every cruise ship has emphasized not throwing things over the side of the ship. Most people on cruise ships are conscious about the ocean. Education is the key. It was suggested to get an invitation to have a staff person come on board the cruise ship to be a naturalist and engage with guests while anchored in Monterey. PJ volunteers to do this. Brian is working with the Bar Pilot Association to address passengers throwing litter off the boat. Brian has a three-minute video on MBNMS that is on cruise ships.

Future Monterey visitor center - Discussed the loss of the Maritime Museum. The role of Monterey as a port and fishing community is a critical message for those visiting the area. It is an important addition to the area and it could be brought up at the AC meeting. They discussed the vision of a sanctuary maritime heritage museum.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

John Haynes mentioned the original *Western Flyer* is being restored and would like to be based out of Monterey. A good opportunity for maritime heritage, ocean conservation and ocean research.

PJ Webb suggested a marketing opportunity for cruise ship discharge (throwing items off ships). A “Don’t be that guy” poster may work well.

PJ also mentioned the successful events during Get Into Your Sanctuary in Cambria.

Shoreline Fishing Gear & Pelicans Sub-Committee: will start coordinating a meeting during the AC meeting today. A report out will be given at December AC meeting.

V. INFORMATION ITEM: BeachCOMBERS/CenCOOS Data Portal

Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS Research Coordinator, gave an overview of BeachCOMBERS (Coastal Ocean Mammal/Bird Education and Research Surveys), a collaborative citizen science program, as well as the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (MBON) data portals. There was a collaborative effort to make BeachCOMBERS data publically available on these data portals. Andrew discussed the tiers of data products available including infographics, curated data views and data portals.

For more information:

https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018beachcombers-devogelaere_ppt.pdf

Patrick Daniel, CenCOOS Information and Data Manager, gave an overview of the CeNCOOS program and the focus of the program including forecasting (models), real time oceanographic data collection and providing access to data and value-added products. Patrick spent much of the presentation walking the Advisory Council through the many tools and functions of the data portal found here: data.cencoos.org

For more information:

https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018beachcombers-daniel_ppt.pdf

VI. STANDING ITEM: SAC Challenge

The Agriculture, At-Large (central region), CA Environmental Protection Agency and California Coastal Commission seats 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.

Sarah Lopez, Agriculture primary discussed her involvement with the Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AWQA), the Healthy Soils Program and addressing the use of agricultural plastics.

For more information:

https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018sacchallenge-agriculture_ppt.pdf

Shandy Carroll, Agriculture alternate discussed her involvement with the agriculture industry through her work at the Agricultural Commissioner's Office. She writes a newsletter to communicate different regulations and environmental best practices. She also started a Facebook page which can be a good communication tool.

Gary Hoffmann, At-Large central region primary, described his and Carol Maehr (At-Large central region alternate) seat as the boots on the ground for the sanctuary. Carol made a great effort to have plastic sand bags in Moss Landing and Point Lobos cleaned up. She has also distributed many sanctuary brochures to businesses around Monterey. Gary has worked on Snapshot Day and with TeamOCEAN. He is a trained Elkhorn Slough docent and a first responder on whale entanglement team. He works with the non-profit organization Marine Life Studies. Gary also gets involved in WhaleFest through the sanctuary in past and now with the whale entanglement team.

Karen Mogus CA EPA primary and Julia Dyer CA EPA alternate reviewed the workplan of the Marine Protected Areas Leadership Team, the Statewide Ocean Plan and details of the 2019 review, designation of areas of special biological significance, Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program

and Central Coast Water Board activities. Karen and Julia ended with their commitment the AC as the new representatives of CA EPA.

For more information:

https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018sacchallenge-epa_ppt.pdf

Tami Grove, California Coastal Commission (CCC) alternate gave some background information and history of the CCC. She discussed working with local governments to create local coastal programs for land use planning and regulation implementation. Tami talked about various CCC responsibilities issuing coastal development permits as well as their involvement in activities such as boating and waterways program, coastal beach clean ups and statewide marine plastics. She recognized CCC is not as active with the AC as they would like but the CCC values and supports the AC's work.

VII. INFORMATION ITEM: Ocean Guardian School program update

Seaberry Nachbar, Ocean Guardian School Program Director, gave an overview on the program including the five project pathways for schools participating in hands-on projects including: schoolyard habitats/gardens, refuse/reuse/reduce/rot/recycle/rethink, marine debris, watershed restoration, energy and ocean health. She discussed the requirements schools must meet to be in the program and receive funding as well as the recognition they receive each year of successfully participating in the program.

For more information:

https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018oceanguardian_ppt.pdf

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There were questions and discussion regarding the marine debris toolkit, the NOAA Marine Debris Program website, challenges within different demographics, funding for schools and flexibility in the program for each schools' project pathway.

VIII. ACTION ITEM: Advisory Council 2020 calendar and work plan

Nichole Rodriguez proposed the 2020 Advisory Council calendar. She pointed out there will be six meetings in 2020. The February 21 meeting will be in Santa Cruz. The April 17 meeting will be in Watsonville. The June 19 meeting will be in Salinas. The August 21 meeting will be in Marina. The October 16 meeting will be in Cambria. The December 11 meeting will be in Monterey.

Nichole also discussed drafting a work plan for 2020 meetings. Annual work plans outline issues and projects/actions for the Advisory Council to focus on. The Executive Committee will convene prior to the December 2019 Advisory Council meeting to rank/prioritize topics suggested by the Advisory Council. The proposed work plan will be presented to the Advisory Council at the December meeting to discuss/approve the work plan. Advisory Council members shared their topics of interest for the Executive Committee to consider/prioritize.

For more information:

https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018sac-2020wp_ppt.pdf

IX. INFORMATION ITEM: Balloon marine debris in MBNMS

Gary Hoffmann, At-Large central region primary, gave a presentation introducing the topic of balloons as marine debris. He discussed why it is a problem including how far balloons can travel and effects on the marine environment and animals. He discussed NOAA's role in addressing marine debris and current laws regulating the release of balloons in California. Lastly, he suggested actions

for MBNMS's Advisory Council through a balloon marine debris resolution. For more information: https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018balloon_ppt.pdf

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Steve McShane: supports the resolution

Tova Handleman: supports the resolution

Al Budris: supports the resolution

Shandy Carroll: supports the resolution

Keith Rootsart: supports the resolution but thinks the helium shortage should be mentioned

Mike Bekker: Pacific Grove has banned balloons at public events. Monterey does not have a ban. Because we are "attacking" an industry, would like to have an industry rep be able to speak at a AC meeting. If it was his choice, he would go after cigarette butts and plastic laundry bags before addressing balloons.

Gary Pezzi: supports the resolution but Mike Bekker made good points that should be included in resolution.

Paul Michel: local government really holds the power card in addressing plastic bags and other single use plastics. The sanctuary has supported local ordinances in the past and something we could do this time as well.

Brian Nelson: supports the resolution but weather balloons would need to be an exception.

PJ Webb: supports the resolution but weather balloons would need to be an exception.

Cynthia Mathews: supports the resolution but believes the consumer level will be easier to address than weather balloons.

Rachel Kippen: are we banning the release or banning the product itself?

John Hunt: supports the resolution but is concerned about advocating a ban or prohibition. Public resistance to ordinances is a big deal. Air filled balloons are a concern as well so why are we addressing just helium filled balloons?

John Hill: www.balloonsblow.org - what school districts and other local governments can do, want to discourage release of balloons. Getting school kids on board helps long term. What is the SAC really going to do about this issue?

Jacob Winnikoff: supports the resolution

Paul Reilly: support intent of resolution, but weather balloons would need to be an exception, and wordsmithing needs to happen to support as an agency

John Haynes: supports the resolution with the exception for weather programs

Julia Dyer: supports the resolution but how does this tie into single use plastic resolution?

Tom Rowley: possible phase out of weather balloons? Can we find that out?

Steve Haddock: missed opportunity to mention helium shortage, release of Mylar balloons is already banned in state. Release of balloons may be inadvertent release so education may be best bet.

Cannot support item two in the resolution because of weather balloons.

Gary Hoffmann: purpose of the draft resolution was to put something out there in order to be "massaged." Would really like written edits/suggestions, not just general changes.

X. INFORMATION ITEM: 2020 ONMS West Coast Regional priorities

Paul Michel presented the ONMS west coast priorities for fiscal year 2020. These priorities reflect that of the sites and the regional office and involve at least two sites.

- Reduce whale ship strikes
- Deep sea coral initiative
- Characterization of sound/soundscape

- Climate change
- LiMPETS
- Vessel incidents
- Improve enforcement outcomes
- Blue Economy
- Signage plan
- Veteran engagement

For more information:

https://montereybay.noaa.gov/media/sac/2019/191018/191018wcr-priorities_ppt.pdf

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There were clarifying questions regarding veteran engagement, the new Office of Law Enforcement officers and a sharable document capturing these West Coast Regional priorities.

XI. STANDING ITEM: Advisory Council Member Announcements

Mike Bekker, Tourism primary: mentioned Middlebury Institute of International Studies has reached out to him and is looking for people to be involved in various panels. The AC should make contact with them.

The Big Sur Half Marathon will not be providing bottled water this year nor using balloons as decoration.

Lastly, Mike believes drones are going to be a hot ticket item for Christmas gifts this year.

Tom Rowley, Business & Industry alternate: at the CCC's November 14 meeting, there will be discussion regarding the slant wells permits for CalAm's desalination plant located next to the Marina dump.

The state, under the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (passed about four years ago), has a major plan under preparation to finalize in January which includes a list of projects relating to runoff, nitrates and draining into Monterey Bay.

Monterey County Supervisor Mary Adams has proposed a plastic ban that would apply to all unincorporated Monterey County.

Gary Pezzi, Recreation primary: there was finally a High Surf Advisory and waves are up!

PJ Webb, At-Large (southern region) primary:

Current Seat Activities

- STAR Working Group
 - Support for Coastal Discovery Center -
 - Brainstorming for Docent Recruitment - low docent #s
 - Advertising (CDC Center poster), Newsletter (What's in the Bay), Local Clubs, Handout ¼ sheet for docents to handout to potential new volunteers
 - Advertising taglines - Show up for the ocean/ask me how, Learn while you serve, Protect your own back yard, Teach, learn and advocate for YOUR ocean, What's in the ocean this week? Come find out
- CDC volunteer perks selling points: Continuing education; lecture series; Meet cool people from all over the world...while staying inside with own bathroom and kitchenette; You don't have to get wet to learn about the ocean! Great view of San

Simeon Bay; Choose your own niche; teach, man the center, garden, school programs, Sat pier and beach field trips (only 7? 10 hours/month); Try it out by shadowing first, then mentorship/training;

Possibly add Pass to Monterey Aquarium, discounts on PBLs store and FES store, Light House tours, Avila Lighthouse, Whale watches in Monterey and Morro Bay?

Upcoming Activities

- Local Cambria Scarecrow Festival - lots of tourists coming

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

- Ongoing community concerns about water supply, quality and quantity
- Emergency Water Project - what to do with the brine effluent
- Highway 1 has many problems resulting in interruption and interference with tourism to community and Hearst Castle park and CDC

Assistance or Request of MBNMS Staff

CDC Wish list: Bus money to get students here, education materials, to create bi-lingual log books for school groups, Virtual reality googles of undersea MBNMS, hydrophone, more scopes, to make video to send to schools ahead of time, replica of mammal skulls and full dolphin skeleton, upgrade exhibits, etc., docent coordinator

LCDR Lee Crusius, US Coast Guard primary: Fiscal Year 2020 program hours for operational units are pre-decisional right now. He has requested marine protected resources hours dedicated to sanctuary patrols. One thousand three hundred operational hours across all West Coast Regional sites have been requested with around 300 of that being for MBNMS.

A flyover to assist in surveys is coming up in collaboration with the Dungeness crab working group. He wants to work better with NOAA OLE on reporting events such as ship strikes and downed aircrafts.

Cynthia Mathews, At-Large northern region alternate: the city and county are working on plastic bans, groundwater management reports and seawater retention with water exchanges work. There is a new mural at the north end of Mission Street. It is 600 feet long and was made possible with money from an ocean health organization.

Katherine O'Dea (reported by Rachel Kippen), Conservation primary:

Current Seat Activities

- Annual Coastal Cleanup – our regions moniker for International Coastal Cleanup Day was a huge success. Save Our Shores coordinated 63 cleanups with multiple local environmental groups engaged as site captains and/or site hosts. In aggregate, we collected over 11,000 pounds of trash and recyclables with the majority of it being trash. Save Our Shores can share specific data with interested groups or individuals. Contact me at: katherine@saveourshores.org.
- Plastic pollution seems to remain the top issues among regional conservation groups. Various local and regional organization are working in their jurisdictions to pass legislation that focuses on mitigating plastic litter and waste. In the MBNMS region the two most active are Save Our Shores and Surfrider.
- The state legislature passed some strong environmental bills this year including
 - a ban on cigarette smoking in state parks (coastal and inland),
 - a ban on the distribution of plastic toiletries in the hospitality industry,

- a reusable food container measure that encourages temporary food service vendors to use reusables and allows individuals to bring their own food containers to restaurants
- a measure to rebuild/strengthen the state recycling infrastructure.
- The state failed to pass legislation that would mandate a gradually increasing minimum recycled content in plastic packaging starting at 10% and capping at 50% (legislature passed the measure, Governor vetoed it). The proposed comprehensive packaging waste minimization bills SB54 and AB1080 were pulled on the last day of the legislative session and is now a two-year bill that can be reconsidered as early as January. These measures call for a 75% reduction in packaging waste with a primary focus on source reduction but including reduction via recycling and composting. The measures are quite complex, and the devil is the details of these two identical pieces of legislation.
- Toxins in plastic food packaging is emerging as a hot topic and issue of concern. The science relative to plastic chemistry and its impacts on human health is evolving quickly and beginning to drive local and regional policy. There is now a nation-wide network forming to keep policy-focused organizations informed about both the science and policy implications.

Upcoming Activities

The Center for Blue Economy is hosting an invitation only working forum or summit on ideas for integrating the Blue (i.e. ocean conservation strategies) in the Green New Deal on October 18. Katherine will be attending, and hence could not be at this month AC meeting.

Gary Hoffmann, At-Large (central region) primary: the effort to recover derelict fishing gear is ongoing. Nine crab traps were recovered this week and 900 feet of rope. There will be additional efforts between now and the end of the month. More gear has been identified but need to locate it. The crab fisherman that helped out with recovery believed the gear had been down there for 2-3 years.

Jacob Winnikoff, College primary:

Current Seat Activities

- Regular email outreach continues through both College seats; we are considering transition to a newsletter format.
- UCSC Coastal Sustainability Program and the MARINE network of institutions are holding a Marine Planning Process Workshop at Moss Landing Marine Labs over the weekend of November 9-10. Curricular elements relevant to the SAC include:
 - Addressing Conflict and Compatibility
 - Selecting Management Strategies
 - Crafting Regulatory Language

The workshop will be run by specialists from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment. Thanks to support from the Battelle Foundation, tuition is free for area university students, \$50-75 for others. Please visit and forward the enrollment and information links below.

Related Web Links

Information on the planning workshop hosted by MARINE:

Event logistics: <https://csp.ucsc.edu/marine-network/marine-calendar/>

Curriculum description: <https://sites.nicholas.duke.edu/execed/marine-planning-advancement-training-mpat-courses/>

To enroll, email marine@ucsc.edu.

Paul Reilly, CA Department of Fish & Wildlife primary: CDFW and Strategic Earth hosted a public webinar October 3 to discuss efforts to prioritize CDFW's state-managed finfish and invertebrate species for management attention. Two lists were presented with ranks for 17 commercial and 14 recreational fisheries. Discussion also included the application of considerations of socioeconomics and climate change in determining what type of scaled management approach should be used for these fisheries. A Presentation & Discussion Highlights summary, together with the webinar slide deck and other materials, are available on CDFW's Marine Management News through the following link:

<https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2019/09/24/webinar-invitation-prioritizing-californias-fisheries-for-management-efforts/#more-5431>

California Halibut fishing continued to be excellent in Monterey Bay through September, as several strong year classes have now entered the fishable population (22 inches total length and greater). Monterey ports had a spike in White Seabass effort in mid-September, when some fish over 40 pounds were caught.

Coastal Pelagic Species landings have mostly stopped in Monterey and Moss Landing. Squid landings in the Monterey area peaked in late August with Pacific sardine observed in the squid loads. Although most vessels targeted squid, there were a couple vessels targeting northern anchovy in late August and early September. Fishing activity slowed in September and while boats went out searching for fish, they often came in empty because the fish weren't large enough to be worth catching or they did not see any fish present.

Few squid sightings in Monterey and reports of squid in the Channel Islands have drawn the squid fleet down to Southern California.

Commercial fishing for groundfish continued to be consistent in August and September, with approximately 66,000 pounds of groundfish landed in Monterey Bay, totaling over \$252,000 dollars in ex-vessel value.

John Haynes, Harbors (Monterey): Santa Cruz and Moss Landing harbors have started dredging. Moss Landing would have likely lost northern harbor if dredging had not begun. Both harbors have beach nourishment components. Moss Landing beaches are not owned by the harbor district which hung up dredging. The harbor district has to obtain agreements with property owners to dredge. In Monterey, the *Hawaiian Chieftain* tall ship is scheduled to visit Monterey in November.

Julia Dyer, CA EPA alternate: John Robertson, the Executive Officer of the [Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board](#) has announced his retirement. He will be leaving in Spring of 2020. When the vacancy announcement for his backfill is posted she will forward it to the MBNMS AC. All interested and eligible candidates are encouraged to apply.

Tova Handelman, CA Resources Agency alternate: the Ocean Protection Council (OPC) having a meeting November 13 in Sacramento. Topics include whale entanglement issues, MPA monitoring, and the OPC Strategic (available online). All public comments including that on the strategic plan are due November 11. For more information: <http://www.opc.ca.gov/2019/10/ocean-protection-council-meeting-november-13-2019-sacramento/>

Brian Nelson, Diving primary:
Current Seat Activities

- Urchin culling and Reef Check activities combined with Citizen Scientists have been making progress on the specific area known as Chase Reef. See link below for more information

- Dive Newsletter published with comments about the tragic *Conception* incident in Southern California

Upcoming Activities

- Monterey Shoot-Out was a huge success with 36 HOURS 172 UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHERS. Backscatter Underwater Video & Photo again hosted the largest annual gathering of underwater photographers in the USA. The Monterey Shootout is a four-day weekend of diving, educational seminars, celebration, and a chance to win over \$40,000 in prizes even with the simplest of underwater cameras. This year, 172 participants brought their friends and families to share the fun and see what amazing images can be made in a tight 36-hour window of contest diving and a full four days of fun. We were blessed with pancake flat Monterey Bay and again the Breakwater produced the most award winning videos and photos. For 30+ years divers have gathered to this event in Monterey to photograph invasions of jellies and kelp inhabitants, but this year went to the birds with diving cormorants stealing the spotlight. Frisky sea lions were everywhere and the classic fringeheads and nudibranchs continued to win top honors in the macro category, yet our feathery friends the cormorants were the spectacle underwater.
- 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

Your 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 the CDFW regarding the permitting of an artificial reef in Monterey?

Related Web Links to Member Report

- <http://www.montereyshootout.com/event-results/2019.php>
- <https://www.dema.org/>
- <https://reefcheck.org/reef-news/how-and-why-are-urchin-size-frequency-surveys-performed>

Keith Rootsart, Diving alternate:

Current Seat Activities

- The Giant Kelp Restoration Project (G2KR) urchin experiment has preliminary results. Removing purple urchins to very low densities and maintaining them every few weeks was not successful in recruiting kelp to the targets due to high numbers of remaining red urchins.
- We are requesting to expand the project next spring to include the removal of purple and red urchins on eight additional targets.

Upcoming Activities

- Continued work on the Reef Check California Urchin Experiment, work on analyzing results, and expanding the experiment next spring.
- Keith will be presenting to Pro Scuba Center in Scotts Valley regarding urchin removal opportunities for divers on November 12 at 7:00.

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

- Urchin barrens along a four-mile stretch in Pacific Grove were vacated by urchins as they moved in shore to eat algae in 3-5m. The result is a curious stretch of bull kelp and giant kelp that will be eaten this winter.
- There have been dramatic algae blooms making a warm 63° F brown layer in the first 20 feet over a cold 49° F layer of clear water below. When the wave action is minimal it is cold and dark, but when the wave action increases visibility is reduced to a few feet as it mixes.
- We received a complaint from diver Justin Hofman regarding whale watching boats encroaching on the seal rookery at the breakwater. This is a dangerous and potentially fatal activity due to the common and usual activity of divers along the jetty. It is viewed by many divers as a blatant and unenforced violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.
- Marine Biologist Dan Gotshall, a local diving legend, a respected marine scientist with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and author of 8 marine life reference books passed away July 29 at the age of 89. A Memorial gathering is set for October 27 and condolences may be written to the family at www.bermuderfamilyfunerals.com

Assistance or Request of MBNMS Staff

- Keith will request an amendment to the MBNMS permit to add 8 additional targets to the urchin experiment.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10 PM.