

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
ADVISORY COUNCIL**

**Final Meeting Minutes
February 21, 2020**

USGS – Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center, Santa Cruz, CA

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez
AMBAG: Steve McShane
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: Paul Reilly
CA EPA: Karen Mogus
CA Resources Agency: absent

CA State Parks: absent
Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
Conservation: absent
Diving: Brian Nelson
Education: Pamela Neeb Wade
Harbors: John Haynes
Recreation: Gary Pezzi
Recreational Fishing: absent
Research: John Hunt
Tourism: Mike Bekker

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: absent
College: Victoria Dickey
Cordell Bank 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: LCDR Lee Crusius

Alternates present in audience:

Cynthia Mathews – At-Large northern region
Gwen Kellas – At-Large southern region
Charles Lambert – Commercial Fishing
Bart Selby – Recreation
Dawn Hayes - MBNMS

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

Chair Brian Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:11 AM and Vice Chair PJ Webb attended to roll call.

The meeting opened with a welcome from Santa Cruz Mayor Justin Cummings. He appreciated the council’s work on ocean issues.

Guy Gelfinbaum, Director at the USGS, welcomed the AC to USGS’s Pacific Coastal & Marine Science Center.

Brian Nelson discussed the AC's work plan and the need to have the work plan topics related to the things the council can attempt to affect some change. All of the topics are interesting, but there is a need to identify what the council can do with the information presented.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Approval of December 13, 2019 DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Dan Haifley introduced a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Seconded by Steve McShane.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 11 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions)

Swear in of Gwen Kellas and Charles Lambert.

Dawn Hayes established an AC member application review panel consisting of John Hunt, Dan Brumbaugh and PJ Webb.

Dawn also established a sub-committee to review the expiring MBNMS AC Charter. The sub-committee is Brian Nelson, Keith Rootsart, Carol Maehr and PJ Webb.

II. STANDING ITEM: MBNMS Superintendent Report

Paul Michel reminded the council to see the office report (embedded in the agenda on the website) and shared two new publications 1) Davidson Seamount: A National Treasure and 2) 2019 MBNMS Accomplishments Report. Both full of great information to share about all we do and about recent explorations.

All the draft documents of the Draft Management Plan are in clearance. The goal is to roll out in April.

Whalefest was a great public event highlighting MBNMS. Paul commended Mary Alice Fettis who really makes this event about the sanctuary. Exhibitors, speakers and films were well received and over 20,000 people attended.

Paul commended Karen Grimmer and her team on the finalization of the Essential Fish Habitat plan. This plan closed additional special areas while opening up historically productive fishing areas. This went into effect January 1, 2020 and is held as a model for public engagement.

The science team is busy with several research missions this year on the Nautilus, with MBARI and on the R/V *Fulmar*. We will be enhancing the on-the-water presence with a new day boat as well.

The April 17 AC meeting will have half of the meeting dedicated to the Management Plan and the second half to the proposed offshore wind energy development off Pt. Piedras Blancas. There will be presentations and public comments.

ACTION PROPOSED: Tom Rowley moved to send a thank you to Mary Alice and the Wharf Association for their efforts at WhaleFest and the prominence MBNMS plays in their programming. Seconded by Brian Nelson.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 15 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions)

Q: Will there be public hearings down in Moro Bay for the Management Plan?

A: Yes! There will be hearings along the coast.

Comment: There was concern about the amendment for the Wildspace filming permit. The permit amendment requests an expansion of the harbor seal “take” from 30 to 300.

Response: This refers to the use of a drone with potential to disturb. This is a NMFS permit and is open for public comment. A meeting with the production company and several agencies was productive - and the request will be amended. The area of concern, at Hopkins and along PG, will be avoided. This production company’s request includes underwater work. This is under the City’s jurisdiction, and they were holding off on any approvals until they knew more about the filming goals. The goal is not actually to film the harbor seals, but the pink flowering ice plant from Lovers Point to Point Piños.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No comments in person.

One comment read from an email sent to the office.

Dear Monterey Bay Sanctuary Advisory Board Members,

Recreational crab fishing should abide by the same rules as commercial fishermen to avoid more entanglements put water proof GPS on all crab pot buoys so if and when a whale gets entangled someone is alerted to come and rescue the whale. Ask fishermen to devise slipknots in their gear that would allow for the whales to immediately release even if no one is there. We do it with horses so I know it’s possible.

Limit the size of cruise ships in our harbor. The carnival line is too big to accommodate the dock at Monterey harbor. Which is also a sea otter nursery. I know because I live there. Unloading up to 5000 people is too hard on our resources especially our sanctuary. We have water shortages sewage spills and bad air pollution already. If Savannah, Georgia can stop cruise ship madness with parking issues, we can and must stop the escalation of ships into our harbor. These ships carry 250 tons of dirty bunker fuel and burn that much a day when traveling. If there were a spill or fire no amount of booms could save our sanctuary in bringing them into the harbor so close to shore with unpredictable sea conditions is pure madness governed by greed and commerce. Our bay becomes so polluted with constant coming and going of the tenders that it’s hard to breathe. New studies are being done to reveal what effect this is having on our sea life at these times. There are no cameras under the hulls and these ships or the tenders to witness what they’re doing to sea life but we do know whales get caught under their hulls.

-Lorna Moffat

IV. STANDING ITEM: Working Group Updates

Conservation Working Group (CWG):

Current CWG Activities

- The CWG is now meeting the 2nd Thursday of each month from 3:00 to 5:00. Meetings will be at the Marine Mammal Center in Moss Landing. A Zoom meeting call-in number is available for all meetings and can be found on the calendar invitation that was sent to all members.
- CWG members drafted a letter intended for school and college/university leaders that requests they discourage (or ban) the use of balloons at all school events/activities especially

graduations and are asking for approval to have the letter sent from the AC and signed by the Chair (Brian Nelson).

- CWG members are still exploring the possibility of supporting a shared intern with the intent to open up more internships to students/youth from underserved communities. Typically, CWG member organizations cannot afford to pay interns and therefore, underserved youth are not able to take an internship with one of our organizations. They are hoping by pooling resources and possibly sharing one or more interns across our organizations, while also finding some creating solutions (like asking if some of our local universities can provide free housing for these interns) they could attract a more diverse set of candidates for the intern positions we have.

Upcoming Activities

Next CWG will be March 9, 2020.

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

Their biggest challenge and concern continues to be finding the right focus to get more people involved and engaged

Assistance or Request of MBNMS Staff

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

Research Activity Panel (RAP):

RAP Meeting

The RAP met on January 10 at the Moss Landing Marine Labs. The host presentation was given by Scott Hamilton, professor of Ichthyology at MLML. It covered a fascinating and extensive set of lab experiments and field work by several researchers on the Effects of Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia on Juvenile Rockfish. Much of this work is covered in the following journal article:

<https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0169670>

Research Coordinator Andrew DeVogelaere gave an update on a key priority for the RAP with his presentation titled: *Streamlining Ecosystem Assessment: New Tools to Quickly Generate Management Information from Ocean Monitoring Data*.

This presentation covered work by MBNMS staff and partners such as CeNCOOS, Beach COMBERS, and the Marine Biodiversity Observation Network. They are making substantial progress toward using monitoring data, web tools, interactive infographics and data portals to produce Condition Reports and other assessments in timely online formats.

The RAP discussed interactions between the sanctuary and the research community and explored opportunities to increase two-way communication. We also did some planning to facilitate RAP input on the Management Plan Update during the public comment period.

In other research news around the sanctuary:

Webinar Series on Research Related to Renewable Energy off the U.S. West Coast

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is hosting a series of webinars about scientific research offshore of California, Oregon, and Washington that will inform decisions about the planning, leasing, and development of ocean renewable energy. Webinars are scheduled for March 11, May 13, July 8, and September 9, 2020.

www.boem.gov/west-coast-renewable-energy-science-exchange.

Journal Article on Whale Entanglements

The Advisory Council and the RAP have recently heard from scientists regarding whale entanglements. Much of that research is covered in a recent journal article entitled:

Title: *Habitat compression and ecosystem shifts as potential links between marine heatwave and record whale entanglements.*

Authors: Jarrod A. Santora, Nathan J. Mantua, Isaac D. Schroeder, John C. Field, Elliott L. Hazen, Steven J. Bogra³, William J. Sydeman, Brian K. Wells, John Calambokidis, Lauren Saez, Dan Lawson, Karin A. Forney

NATURE COMMUNICATIONS (2020) 11:536

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-019-14215-w>

www.nature.com/naturecommunications

Abstract:

Climate change and increased variability and intensity of climate events, in combination with recovering protected species populations and highly capitalized fisheries, are posing new challenges for fisheries management. We examine socio-ecological features of the unprecedented 2014–2016 northeast Pacific marine heatwave to understand the potential causes for record numbers of whale entanglements in the central California Current crab fishery. We observed habitat compression of coastal upwelling, changes in availability of forage species (krill and anchovy), and shoreward distribution shift of foraging whales. We propose that these ecosystem changes, combined with recovering whale populations, contributed to the exacerbation of entanglements throughout the marine heatwave. In 2016, domoic acid contamination prompted an unprecedented delay in the opening of California’s Dungeness crab fishery that inadvertently intensified the spatial overlap between whales and crab fishery gear. We present a retroactive assessment of entanglements to demonstrate that cooperation of fishers, resource managers, and scientists could mitigate future entanglement risk by developing climate-ready fisheries approaches, while supporting thriving fishing communities.

Sanctuary Tourism and Recreation Working Group (STAR):

Whale tail business recognition program is something national wants to do across the program, and wants to standardize a program. They are hoping for a guidance document from them by year’s end. They will phase in the program with one the water businesses and then expand to hotels and other programs. Will work with CSUMB’s business recognition program to expand and support this program.

Shoreline Fishing/Gear and Threats to Pelicans Sub-Committee:

They are making progress in data collection- Bart interviewed two rehabbers recently, Dani Nicholson and Carolyn Skinder. Both interviews yielded many good insights from their wealth of experience.

Dani has rehabbed thousands of seabirds and has backyard pelicans she uses to do educational outreach to schools. She/they were featured in Judy Irving’s *Pelican Dreams*. She worked with Carolyn Skinder on these issues. Carolyn ran the Coastal Discovery Center near San Simeon, which is adjacent to a pier and hooked birds were an ongoing problem, so they developed some solutions for that may work in other places. She has seen and worked actual entanglements and their aftermaths, and described them to Bart.

They have half a dozen more leads in progress, including more pier managers and state park folks. They use this pop-up webpage to inform people they talk to.

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/EBefSRGwhK3m1/>

PJ completed an analysis of legal options and responsibilities they can use to shape our recommendations.

Cynthia Mathews was kind enough to introduce us to the Santa Cruz Parks department management and they quickly responded. Katherine and I, and if he can Jose, will meet with them in the next two weeks.

Jose continues to be active with other fishermen, and his street cred is invaluable.

They are leaning towards getting a group of experts to meet and review our findings, Folks like Dr. Duerr and Dan Anderson from UC Davis; the latter is the dean of pelican biologists and also a hunter and fisherman

One task looking for a champion is benchmarking other entities efforts on similar problems.

They hope they will have enough data to start talking about solutions in two months.

V. INFORMATION ITEM: Marine debris update

Karen Mogus, State Water Resources Control Board Deputy Director of Water Quality, overviewed the Water Boards efforts in addressing trash including what has been done regional and statewide. In 2015, the State Water Resources Control Board adopted statewide trash provisions that implemented a statewide trash prohibition, are applicable to all inland surface waters and ocean, provide regulatory consistency among the regional water boards and provide compliance options for stormwater discharges. Karen discussed statewide implementation of trash provisions including requirements for permittees by December 2030. She also discussed successes from the trash prohibition implementation including actual capture of ~6 million pounds of trash per year in the Los Angeles River Watershed and 90% permittee compliance with 80% trash reduction goals in the San Francisco Bay Region.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

Q: Do you consider the costs to the municipalities?

A: Costs for stormwater is a huge issue. They are trying to determine the actual costs for compliance and reporting. EPA is looking at this and considering a fee structure (like a utility) to fund the needed work with the permittees and address stormwater. The board is recommending looking at prop 218 to look at stormwater as a utility. Do the municipalities have any influence? Cleaning out the catchment systems is a daily thing for municipalities.

Q: Are there microplastics in drinking water?

A: Yes - the biggest source is actually the lid - taking it on and off creates small particles each time.

Q: Is anyone looking at things like these caps and changing this?

A: Leashing caps

Comment: Contractors are requested to filter their stormwater, this doesn't seem to happen all the time. Check out the Aussie Plastics dilemma on YouTube.

Comment: The push to develop high density housing will result in more sold trash and less recycling (due to mixed waste stream contamination). This may impact the mission.

Q: What is the science behind the plan for extracting microplastics from drinking water.

A: Have a science lead on the microplastics work who is working on this.

Comment: Not all microplastics are equal. Microfibers are the biggest issue - it's atomized and settles in waterways and reservoirs. It is released through washing (and passes through reclaim action systems).

Q: How can they do a better job of tracing compliance and reporting on the TMDLs and the reductions?

A: Part of the requirements are to report out (reductions/increases). The MS4 permits will be reported on in May to the Board. Most of the state is in early stages. An annual report to the AC was requested.

Q: The City of Salinas is the only city over 100,000, which is on the permit now, but will other Cities will be operating under the new, upcoming statewide stormwater permit?

A: Yes.

Q: How was the baseline established for any of these?

A: There is no natural source - the baseline is zero. The development of methods for standardized assessment of water bodies is under development.

VI. STANDING ITEM: SAC Challenge

The Business & Industry, College and Tourism seats 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.

Tom Rowley, Business & Industry alternate shared his summary of activities. He stressed the importance of networking and described how he is an active participant in many groups or organizations usually meeting on a monthly schedule including:

- MPCC (Monterey Peninsula Chamber of Commerce) -- Member of Gov't Affairs Committee (GAC)/Recipient of Robert C. Littlefield Lifetime Achievement Award/One of 5 Top Policy Issues for the Chamber: "BEACH AND OCEAN RESOURCES."
- MCHA (Monterey County Hospitality Assoc.) -- Member of GAC and GAC Executive Committee/
- participant in annual fund-raiser and bi-monthly general membership luncheons
- MCAR (Monterey County Assoc. of Realtors) -- Member of Local Gov't Relations (LGR) Committee/former Chair of the LGR and member of numerous ad hoc sub-committees
- City of Monterey and Neighborhood -- Current President of Fishermen Flats Homeowner's & Residents Assoc. and current rep to City of Monterey NCIP (Neighborhood & Community Improvement Program) Committee since 1986
- SAC -- Member of STAR Committee/program to distribute framed Sanctuary maps to community organizations and Cities in Monterey County

Victoria Dickey, College alternate is new to the seat and shared what she and Jacob are doing to reach out. There are eight higher institutions in the region. Conducting outreach by emails about sanctuary happenings. Jacob has been focused on the MARINE (Marine Area Research Institutions Network for Education) group of schools and are the primary audience. They are working with the clubs at the colleges. One of the challenges with emails is students already get so many emails, so they are not sure how effective this mode of communication is. Jacob has done in-person outreach events and they both want to try to do this more. They are brainstorming more technological ways to

get a more personal message out to constituents. They created a Twitter Account @StudentsBay. This should be effective, efficient and targeted. The council encouraged this and Paul suggested they both come in to meet with Amity Wood to coordinate

Mike Bekker, Tourism primary passed out Cannery Row Company (CRC) promotional pamphlets and the employee newsletter sharing. CRC has hotels, restaurants and other businesses and is connected with many local associations. He stays informed by attending many meetings such as council meetings, local coastal planning meetings, plastics meetings, drone meetings. He voices his opinion and the ACs opinion at these many meetings and at many levels. CRC is a holding company for 13 businesses. The Cannery Row Visitor’s guide has a one-page exposé of MBNMS and the newsletter carries MBNMS’ Seasons of the Sea information. Staff are oriented about the sanctuary. They have also built a transfer station for their trash, to reduce noise, spillage and slop that the local garbage company could not handle. They use the sanctuary in their marketing, and they market internationally. They host up to 5.5 million people on Cannery Row and manage to keep it clean.

VII. INFORMATION ITEM: Review Advisory Council 2020 Work Plan

The Advisory Council reviewed the 2020 Work Plan and determined the goal/objective for each topic.

Month	Location	Topic	Goal/objective
February	Santa Cruz	An update on CA trash amendments with sanctuary context	Informational
		Agricultural Plastics	Informational
April	Salinas	Management Plan Review - review draft Management Plan, draft Environmental Assessment and draft Proposed Rule	Provide feedback to MBNMS staff
		Offshore wind - commenting on new planning concepts	Public comment
June	Watsonville	Shoreline fishing/gear and pelicans sub-committee recommendations	Action item - discuss potential recommendations
		Treating wetlands with bioreactors to remove nitrates in watershed	Resolution of support
		Sea Level Rise	Informational with potential recommendation
		Water quality (HABs, ASBS)	Informational and potential recommendation on policy and increasing participation.
August	Marina	Whale watch/boater approach guidelines, including report out from USCG	Informational, provide input
		Kelp/urchin development (included MBNMS/GFNMS proposal for kelp forest monitoring)	Support for monitoring/assessment

			, receive advice from RAP
		Drones including positive perspective of drone use	Recommendations to local coastal cities re: drone use
October	Cambria	MBNMS Soundscape including update on AC sound working group recommendations re: seal bombs, cruise ships	Include cruise ship sounds? Informational with potential for recommendations.
		Status of new sanctuaries within sanctuary system	Informational
		Maritime heritage update	Informational
December	Monterey	Wind farm status update	Informational
		Ocean acidification - trends	Informational with potential for recommendations, support letter for focused monitoring
		Annual update on condition of sanctuary using existing tools and data	Update only

VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (MBNMSF) update

Ginaia Kelly, Executive Director for the foundation discussed the successes of 2020. The foundation met all their goals and exceeded revenue budgeted for the year. Goals included launching the foundation, spreading the word in the community, creating awareness about the sanctuary and the foundation and to raise funds. They were able to add an assistant and had multiple interns throughout the year. Now located into new office.

This year the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation was rebranded. MBNMSF sponsored the Santa Cruz Warriors Basketball slam-dunk contest. The foundation also created a press presence through print media, podcasts and community TV. There were several community engagement events, combined fundraising and outreach. Fundraising was very successful, raising \$100,000 for BayNet, Team OCEAN, and whale rescue network.

Q: Can a donor direct funds?

A: Yes. The sanctuary staff have developed a menu of funding needs.

An endowment is an ultimate goal for the foundation. Please feel free to mention legacy gifts to your friends!

IX. INFORMATION ITEM: Agricultural plastics

Pam Krone, Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator for MBNMS gave a presentation on issues and solutions for agricultural plastics. One issue regarding plastics in the ocean is plastic is difficult to remove. She discussed agricultural plastic use as it relates to an MBARI study on microplastics in Monterey Bay and how agricultural plastic is used in Monterey. Agricultural plastic is important to the industry because it increases the length of the growing season, increases yield and reduces

weeding, reduces reliance on herbicides, increases water efficiency and controls diseases and pests. Pam also talked about plastics on stream banks and microplastics in local streams and drainage outlets as well as biodegradable plastic mulch use in strawberry fields. She ended with discussing solutions moving forward such as policy, consumer choices, sustainability indices and collaboration.

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There were clarifying questions regarding compostable mediums and wildlife contamination of produce. Exclusion fencing and removal of vegetation (bare ground buffers around fields) are used to address wildlife contamination. A comment was made about the need for education as a solution for the issue of agriculture plastics. A suggestion was made to draft a resolution stating the importance of this work and the need for grants to continue the work.

X. STANDING ITEM: Advisory Council Member Announcements

Steve McShane, AMBAG primary: involved in the development of jurisdictional numbers for housing, process to conclude this summer.

Victoria Dickey, College alternate: follow the new Twitter account (@StudentsBay). It is being used to keep constituents up to date with news.

Katy Fosmark, Commercial Fishing alternate: salmon fishery meeting in Santa Rosa coming up. Crab fishery started and did well in the north. Domoic acid affected the fishery again, so a late start again in some sectors, impacting the holiday revenues. Some issues with tuna staying offshore, but looks good in south. Drift Gill net fishery permits are now required, but not available.

LCDR Lee Crusius, USCG primary: in FY19, the US Coast Guard executed approximately four hours of dedicated Sanctuary flight time within California. In FY20, they have surged our tasking and are currently at approximately 43 planned flight hours for all California Sanctuaries with over 80 total patrol hours when incorporating domestic fisheries flights.

In November, they tested the use of the C27 in support of the Dungeness Crab Working Group as an ancillary flight option for transect surveys. While the asset is not an ideal platform, the tested interoperability and capability showed as an additional resource for the complexities of DC management.

Starting in this fiscal year, the CG began supporting NOAA and CDFW E/O flights. Again, the demonstration of interoperability and SME from primary E/O partners aboard long-range assets is an enhancement over previous years, ensuring qualified E/O's access to coastal regions. This type of interagency action enhances CG overall ability to conduct enforcement, carrying specialized officers with expanded jurisdiction. For NOAA OLE, the enforcement capabilities are obvious. However, CDFW Wardens bring both state enforcement capability as well as JEA reach in MSFCA as well as NMSA.

Surface enforcement has expanded in FY20 as well. They have executed approximately 200hrs of Sanctuary Patrol efforts independent from our MSFCA responsibilities. These patrols include enforcement capable officers executing our Marine Protected Resource Mission Operations, targeting specific violations of the NMSA.

Future Actions:

-They are looking to standardize our reporting per CG policies for the Sanctuary System. This include patrol efforts and some outcomes organized through NOAA OLE/State Partners.

- Expand and integrate Captain of the Port to the Sanctuary Process.
- Include Waterways and Prevention staffing from our offices to the SAC.

John Haynes, Harbors (Monterey): Monterey waterfront put on WhaleFest. Moss Landing Harbor District concluded marina dredging. Now having issues with navigation channel, so working with Army Corps of Engineers. Funding issues with this action. Santa Cruz dredging coming well, a lot of material moved. Blake Anderson appointed Harbormaster for Santa Cruz. San Mateo County has a new General Manager and Harbormaster.

Gary Pezzi, Recreation primary: thanked the AC for his get-well card.

Tom Rowley, Business & Industry alternate: delay of Desal permit is concerning. Monterey Bay Aquarium had two million visitors in 2019, steady. New education building is very successful. Salinas saltwater intrusion - Groundwater sustainability plan and project plan to solve intrusion issues has been developed. Major funding for the Pajaro River runoff? Saw a video at the California Coastal Commission meeting on sea level rise in Moss Landing and potential impacts on existing and future infrastructure.

Mike Bekker, Tourism primary: survived Pebble Beach ProAm. One thousand five hundred people hired for the events. Suggested advertising on the trollies for MBNMS.

Katherine O’Dea, Conservation primary:
Current Seat Activities

- Several organizations are ramping up for the 50th anniversary of Earth Day, which will be April 22, 2020. Multiple celebrations are happening across Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, not all of them on Earth Day but throughout the week during which Earth Day falls. Several schools are planning events with opportunities for non-profits to table. Local youth leaders in Santa Cruz are organizing a climate strike to coincide with the next global climate strike to be held on April 22. More information can be found on the Youth for Climate Justice, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network, and Save Our Shores websites.
- The Santa Cruz County Office of Education’s Board of Directors passed a resolution to support youth who want to take civic action to call attention to our climate crisis. Going forward, the County will allow youth to “walk out” on climate strike days to participate in planned marches and rallies. The absences will be excused, and the activities treated as fieldtrips.
- Save Our Shores is organizing and leading an anti-plastic pollution rally at the County offices (700 Ocean Avenue, Santa Cruz) on March 10 from 8:00AM – 9:00AM. They will provide signs and lead chants and hopefully draw media coverage. Rally participants will be encouraged to “march” into the County Board of Supervisors meeting when it starts at 9:00AM and to speak during the public comment period for items not on the agenda. Additional anti-plastic pollution measures were to be on the March 10 agenda but have been postponed until the March 24 or April 14 agenda. If the discussion is scheduled for the April 14 meeting, they will organize and lead a second rally that morning. They will not try to do two rallies within two weeks, however.
- Save Our Shores is also about to launch a petition drive to show public support for a ban on the sale of any single serve beverage in a plastic bottle mandating that such beverages be sold only in BPA/BPS-free aluminum or glass containers. The petition will cover the five

jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County (including the unincorporated area). If it proves successful, they will organize a petition drive in Monterey County as well.

- Monterey, and Santa Clara attended. The focus of the forum was developing solutionary mindsets.

PJ Webb, At-Large (southern region) primary: ONMS releases new Chumash tomol crossing short film “Homecoming: Journey to Limuw” – <https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/earthisblue/wk259-stories-from-the-blue-chumash.html>

The Sanctuary and Friends of the Elephant Seals - A collaborative connection to share education and outreach materials is scheduled for March. Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES) President Dr. Kathleen Curtis; Amity Wood MBNMS Education and Outreach Coordinator and SAC members Gwen Kellas and P.J. Webb will meet. From Dr. Curtis, “In addition to the materials, they are also supporting our Winter Guide program with positive social media messaging to promote awareness and respectful and safe viewing at San Simeon. “ The FES Guides have been volunteering at the William Randolph Hearst beach while northern elephant seals hauled out during the winter on our very busy beach.

Marine Research in the Southern End - Cal Poly San Luis Obispo started a marine biology major three years ago. They have expanded their research efforts with a marine science pier in Port San Luis that was donated by Chevron. The local abalone farm will also be developed into a Cal Poly research unit.

Brian Nelson, Diving primary: Keith is working on a petition to work on the purple urchin culling. Clear waters locally, but not downcoast. Dive newsletter is out (rec and tourism too).

Paul Michel, MBNMS primary: presentation tonight at the SEC - a 2 year, all female journey doing marine plastics research will be topics.

John Hunt, Research primary:

Climate Action Manager

On January 28 the Santa Cruz Board of Supervisors voted to create the position of county Climate Action Manager. The purpose of this high-level position is to lead and coordinate efforts to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and prepare the County for climate change adaptation. This position will implement the County’s Climate Action Strategy. This is a forward-thinking step for a county that is facing well over \$2B in estimated current and future damages from fires, floods, and sea level rise.

Storm Water Resource Planning

Three members of the sanctuary RAP (Ross Clark, Bridget Hoover and John) led development of the Storm Water Resource Plan for greater Monterey County. The plan evaluates projects and identifies opportunities to capture and treat storm water to improve water quality in tributaries to the sanctuary. Storm water projects are also designed to increase water supply, manage flooding, restore and protect wetlands and provide community benefits of open space, recreation, employment and education. They will be presenting the plan to the Monterey County Board of Supervisors on March 17.

Pamela Neeb-Wade, Education primary: hosting winter math and science conference, focus on STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). MBA Teacher professional development applications open now. Encourage cohorts of teachers to apply and a stipend is offered. NOAA is hosting the Students for Zero Waste Week in K-12 schools March 16 – April 24. Schools

can be an Ocean Guardian School but it is not necessary to participate. Santa Cruz County Office of Education passed a resolution in support of climate strike days (permitted absence).

Gary Hoffman, At-Large (central region) primary: last week he saw approximately 100 Pacific right whale dolphins. Organized an elephant seal trip at Año Nuevo. Was impressed by the organization. State Water Resources Control Board - Public workshop on Feb 28, in Sacramento from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM at the CA EPA offices.

Dan Haifley, At-Large (northern region) primary: Coast Dairies became part of the California Coastal National Monument. Now doing a planning process for public access and use and protection. Public comment period COTOcoastdairies.blm. Wed March 4, 1492 Pine Flat Rd, other at Loudon Nelson Center.

Paul Reilly, CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife primary: CDFW will host its annual Salmon Information Meeting Thursday, Feb. 27 in Santa Rosa. The 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. The meeting marks the beginning of a 2-month long public process used to develop annual sport and commercial ocean salmon fishing recommendations. The Pacific Fishery Management Council will finalize the recommended season dates at its April 4-10 meeting in Vancouver, Wash.

CPS landings in the Monterey area have consisted of anchovies from mid-December through February. Captains reported larger anchovies in late December, early January, and early February. Anchovy schools were mixed with Pacific sardines of various sizes. Captains also reported anchovies were schooling in deeper waters and have observed jellyfish coming into the Bay. Weather and the lack of large fish kept captains docked in late January. Observers have reported squid in anchovy loads, but captains have not seen any squid schools in the Bay. However, the captains are hopeful for a productive squid season.

The commercial Dungeness crab season opened on December 15 south of the Sonoma-Mendocino county line and December 30 to the north. Landings in the three-port Monterey Bay area in January were 98,900 lb, compared with 24,500 lb in January 2019.

The California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group conducted assessments of entanglement risk on January 8th and February 7th; in both cases, the Working Group concluded entanglement risk was low and no management actions were taken.

The Department is currently scoping regulation change proposals for the recreational crab fishery to help minimize entanglement risk to whales and sea turtles. An update on outreach efforts will be provided to the Fish and Game Commission on February 21.

Charlie Lambert, Commercial Fishing alternate: exciting to see sardines coming back in. Salmon season has positive energy for local fishermen. Crab issue is painful, seeing the delayed season. Concerns with numbers of humpback whales close in shore. The value of a crab permit has plummeted, from a much more valuable permit (used to be the "retirement plan" for fishermen). Excited to move into summer months and see uptick on fisheries catch.

Bart Selby, Recreation alternate: ocean is quiet now. In SF Bay, no herring. 60 whales offshore Pt. Lobos feeding off anchovies last week.

Keith Rootsart, Diving alternate: missed the February 21 meeting of the SAC because he was speaking at the Fish and Game Commission (FGC) in Sacramento on that day to submit his petition 2020-001. The petition seeks to raise the bag limit of urchins to 40 gallons per diver per day at two sites in Monterey: Tanker's Reef and the Edward F Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area. This was similar to the petition he submitted last year that was denied. He presented to the Commission new data and the reason for the increased area of removal. He also pointed out that CDFW has indicated that they will recommend denial of the petition because they are concentrating their removal activities on the north coast. The board accepted the petition as submitted and Dr. Craig Shuman said CDFW would apply lessons learned on the north coast to other areas like Monterey in the future. He feels this isn't acceptable and urged concerned constituents to write to the FGC at fgc@fgc.ca.gov to tell them how they feel about the situation. He asked representatives of the AC to write in as well. He reached out to about 10,000 contacts and knows of about 25 letters that were written, but there are probably much more.

At that same meeting the FGC unanimously approved an emergency regulatory language change to allow recreational divers to smash an unlimited amount of purple urchins at Caspar Cove in Mendocino County. On February 26 the Ocean Protection Council unanimously approved the disbursement of almost \$500k of Prop 68 funds to Reef Check California to survey and monitor the effects of the recreational diver culling at Caspar Cove and also commercial red urchin fisherman removal efforts at Noyo Harbor and Portuguese Beach in Mendocino County.

In addition to posting about changes to the regulations at g2kr.com, he is finishing up the annual report for the Scientific Collecting Permit to determine the threshold density of urchins where kelp will return at the Pacific Grove Gardens State Marine Conservation Area. On January 29 and again on February 26 he will speak to the Monterey Bay Sea Otters Dive club on the subject of purple urchins. On April 15 he will speak to the Flipper Dippers dive club in San Jose about the Sanctuary and the urchin situation. It is going to be a long day because he will also be in Sacramento in the morning to seek approval of Petition 2020-001. He hopes to give the good news at the next SAC meeting.

Jose Montes, Recreational Fishing primary: Recreational crabbing/Whale entanglement working group continuing its discussions and meetings with CDFW and F&G Commission. Issues are using one system of gear regulations for both Commercial as well as Recreational when they are actually two distinct fisheries. Recreational crabbing is responsible for a minor amount of the entanglements, use lighter gear and their gear normally isn't deployed permanently through the season. Regulations should be established in the next month or two.

Bird entanglements working group continues its research. It appears the vast majority of bird entanglements occur on piers rather than from fishing boats. Also rate of rescues and releases for birds is much higher with fishing boat entanglements. I will be posting best practices and recommendations on fishing websites as soon as they have formulated them.

Currently working on putting out next Recreational Fishing newsletter and setting up a method for anglers to self-subscribe for the newsletter.

Ocean Salmon season predictions for 2020 look optimistic with salmon numbers returning to the ocean 25% higher(473,200 in Sacramento river) than last year, which was a very good year. Informational meeting will be held Feb. 27 in Santa Rosa and PFMC meetings will be held March 3-9 in Rohnert Park and April 4-9 in Vancouver, WA.

Monterey Bay Veterans annual Salmon Derby will be held May 16, 2020. I will be participating by volunteering my boat for the event.

Karen Mogus, CA EPA primary: The Statewide Advisory Committee on Cooling Water Intake Structures (SACCWIS) is comprised of agencies with responsibility over electrical grid reliability (PUC, CEC, CalISO) and environmental protection (Coastal Commission, State Water Board, State Lands Commission, Air Resources Board). The SACCWIS met on January 23 to consider a recommendation for extending the Once Through Cooling Policy compliance deadlines for some power plants to address grid reliability issues through 2023. The SACCWIS approved the report that recommends extending the compliance dates as summarized below. The report is available at https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/ocean/cwa316/saccwis/docs/final_report.pdf

- Alamitos Units 3, 4, and 5 for three years (through December 31, 2023),
- Huntington Beach Unit 2 for three years (through December 31, 2023),
- Ormond Beach Units 1 and 2 for three years (through December 31, 2023), and
- Redondo Beach Units 5, 6, and 8 for one year (through December 31, 2021)

The State Water Board will consider these recommendations for changes to the Once Through Cooling Policy as a public rulemaking in 2020. State Water Board staff are preparing a staff report and proposed changes that will be released for a public comment period on March 24. The comment period will close on May 11. Staff plan to release the final draft amendment with responses to comments on July 11 and hold a meeting for the State Water Board to consider adopting the proposed changes at their public meeting on July 21.

Sarah Lopez, Agriculture primary:

Current Seat Activities

Began farm water quality visits for two focused watershed outreach efforts; two additional watersheds may be added soon.

Attended an Expert Panel review of the surface water monitoring program for a Central Valley Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program coalition. The review is not officially “precedential,” but could affect the Central Coast’s program depending on the Panel’s findings.

Continuing karmic restoration re: plastics... Attended a UC-Cooperative Extension workshop on Biodegradable Mulch (i.e. replacement for the sheets of plastic used to cover crop beds). Learned that even synthetically-derived materials can be biodegradable, and some plant-based materials are NOT biodegradable... what matters is whether the material breaks all the way down into CO₂ and Biomass. Both strawberry and outdoor hemp growers seem interested, and the research and economic feasibility seem promising.

Upcoming Activities

Comment on the Draft Ag Order 4.0 (Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program for the Central Coast)... Draft is due out any minute/hour/day now and there will be a 45-day comment period followed by two Regional Water Board meetings in May.

Continue farm visits for focused watershed outreach.

Your Constituent Challenges and Concerns

Market competition from low-priced produce imports, coupled with insufficient labor availability and high labor costs. Farmworkers in the US are paid at about nine times the rate of workers in Mexico. Many small- and medium-sized farmers do not see a future in labor-intensive agriculture due to low profit margins. The H-2A guest worker visa program is not very user-friendly, affordable, nor reliable. (Source: Farm Focus, MCFB)

Meeting adjourned approximately 4:30 PM.