

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**August 19, 2022**

**Meeting Minutes**

**VOTING MEMBERS**

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez  
AMBAG: Jenny McAdams  
At-Large: Dan Haifley  
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann  
At-Large: PJ Webb  
Business & Industry: absent  
CA Coastal Commission: Tami Grove  
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly  
CA EPA: Karen Mogus  
CA Resources Agency: absent

CA State Parks: Eric Abma (A)  
Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark  
Conservation: Rachel Kippen  
Diving: Brian Nelson  
Education: Pamela Neeb Wade  
Harbors: absent  
Recreation: Gary Pezzi  
Recreational Fishing: Jose Montes  
Research: John Hunt  
Tourism: Mike Bekker

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

Channel Islands NMS: Absent  
College: Jacob Winnikoff  
Greater Farallones & Cordell Bank  
NMS: Brian Johnson (A)  
US Coast Guard: LT Devon Zych (A)

Monterey Bay NMS: Lisa Wooninck  
Monterey Bay NMS: Dawn Hayes  
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Absent  
National Marine Fisheries Service: Steven Lindley

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Carol Maehr – At-Large  
Cynthia Matthews – At-Large  
Gwen Kellas – At-Large  
Keith Rootsart – Diving  
Barton Selby – Recreation

Adam Helm – Recreational Fishing  
Steve Haddock – Research  
Tami Grove – CA Coastal Commission  
Chelsea Protasio – CA Dept of Fish & Wildlife  
Dawn Hayes – MBNMS

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

**Approval of June Meeting Minutes:** with editorial suggestions by Paul Reilly  
Motion by Gary Hoffman, seconded by Michael Bekker  
Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstain: 2  
Motion passes

**II. MBNMS Advisory Council Membership**

LT Devon Zych joined the council representing the US Coast Guard, replacing LT Chris Bell in the alternate seat.

**III. SUPERINTENDENT REPORTS**

Lisa Wooninck, Superintendent of MBNMS, shared a Superintendent's Report for MBNMS. Highlights included:

1. Haven Parker hired as new Advisory Council Coordinator
2. USPS First Day of Issuance of Forever Stamps commemorating 50 years of the national marine sanctuary system; ceremony at Sanctuary Exploration Center [Stamps are available for purchase](#)
3. MBNMS worked with Point Blue to do marine animal surveys; first cruise from Pillar Point to Point Pinos 134 linear nautical miles surveyed on Fulmar

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4. Survey conducted over Davidson Seamount to understand connections of pelagic environment and top of the seamount; 350 linear nautical miles surveyed
5. Ed Ricketts Memorial Award honoring Dr. Rick Starr; selected by Research Activity Panel; ceremony on Oct 26, 2022
6. Get Into Your Sanctuary Event held; partnered with Shared Adventures which offers recreational opportunities to peoples with special needs
7. MBNMS Foundation hosting Sea Star Gala on September 17, 2022 [Tickets available for purchase](#)
8. [Sanctuary Fest on Sep 18, 2022](#) Come celebrate MBNMS's 30th Anniversary in Santa Cruz!
9. MBNMS Education expanding operations to pre COVID levels
  - a. Becky Gustafson hired as Education Specialist/Volunteer Coordinator
  - b. Christina Funck hired as Gift Store Manager/ Facility Rental Coordinator
  - c. Coastal Signage Plan - new signs educating sanctuary visitors
10. Resource Protection
  - a. AC Vessel Incident Committee has met with GF SAC Vessel Incident Committee
  - b. 33 ft sailboat ran aground at Capitola Beach in July
  - c. Redeployed 9 MPWC buoys
  - d. Submitted comment letter to BOEM on Morro Bay Proposed Sale Notice for leases
  - e. Coordinating with NOAA Office of Law Enforcement on distribution of flyers on requirements of using sewage pumps at harbors
11. AC Recruitment begins week of Aug 22, 2022
  - a. Public announcements to be made week of Aug 29, 2022
  - b. Recruiting for 9 seats

Agriculture (Alternate)	Conservation (alternate)
At-Large (2 primary)	Recreation (primary and alternate)
College (primary and alternate)	Research (primary)

Brian Johnson, Deputy Superintendent of Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank NMSs, shared their report. Highlights included:

1. Administration and Operations
  - a. COVID 19 low in SF, medium in Marin so returning to in-person operations
  - b. 22' Zodiac Hurricane to support operations in Tomales Bay
2. Conservation Science
  - a. Completed two ACCESS cruises with Point Blue Conservation Science
  - b. CBNMS Condition Report out for peer review
  - c. GFNMS Condition Report Status and Trends Workshops completed
3. Education and Outreach
  - a. Held 2 Get into Your Sanctuary 90 min crab fishing workshops
  - b. Staff participated in Sonoma County teacher workshop
  - c. [SharktobertFest](#) to be held September 24, 2022
  - d. GFNMS Visitor Center scheduled to reopen to public Wednesday, August 24

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4. Resource Protection
  - a. Seabird Protection Network trained US Coast Guard aircrews on reducing wildlife disturbances
  - b. In Tomales Bay staff will go out with California Department of Parks and Recreation and National Parks Service for potential aquaculture lease zones in sanctuary waters
  - c. Staff engaged with K-6 students on Vessel Speed Reduction efforts inspiring action, [student postcards to ships help boost whale survival in the Bay Area](#)
    - i. postcards made for ships slowing
    - ii. MSC donated back \$55,000 reward for slowing
  - d. Ongoing effort to tow American Challenger vessel back to shore

#### IV. WEST COAST REGIONAL OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES UPDATE

William Douros, Director of West Coast Regional National Marine Sanctuaries, shared his report. Adjusting to COVID has resulted in fast fluctuations between remote and on-site working. The Center for Disease Control guides the actions of the Sanctuary's workers. Currently, the COVID community level in Monterey is high. In SF, it is low. In Santa Cruz it is medium. The visitor centers are functioning, vessel and field operations are close to normal because they can be done outdoors, and SAC meetings and other public facing operations are being phased back in.

Various upcoming events were discussed. This year marks the 30th Anniversary of MBNMS and the 50th Anniversary of national marine sanctuaries. A Gala celebrating the milestone will be hosted by the MBNMS Foundation and held on September 17, 2022. There will possibly be another event to mark the achievement in Monterey in October. An additional MBNMS Anniversary Event will be held at the Sanctuary Exploration Center. New logos for MBNMS, a feature on a Netflix series, and a stamp series have been made to celebrate the anniversary.

The National Academy of Public Administration conducted a review of the sanctuary system and provided recommendations on how it can be strengthened. The report is available [here](#). Director Douros also went over the budget picture. Big increases for National Marine Sanctuaries have been proposed by the president in recent years to help sanctuary management. However, less is allocated per acre to marine sanctuaries than to terrestrial protected areas. Funds are first appropriated to the National Marine Sanctuary system, and then budgeted out to individual sites. Currently, the President's operations budget request is \$61 million for 2022 and \$86.7 million for 2023. The President's construction budget request is \$5 million for 2022 and \$4 million for 2023. The current status of markups from the Senate Appropriation Committee is \$70 million for operations and \$7 million for construction. The current status of markups from the House Appropriations Committee is \$68 million for operations and \$10 million for construction.

Director Douros described multilateral priorities of the sanctuary system. The first priority is whale conservation, which consists of reducing strikes through voluntary speed reductions and future regulations. Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is currently using incentives to reduce strikes. The second priority is conserving benthic habitats and deep sea corals. This goal

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consists of providing education and outreach that focuses on the importance of deep sea habitats and its threats. The third priority is climate change adaptation. The sanctuary system is expanding this work, with Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary as the lead. The work focuses on the adaptations that local governments can take to mitigate climate change. The fourth priority is promoting the Blue Economy, which involves labeling or certification opportunities to reward businesses.

The bilateral priorities were also described. The first is kelp forest restoration with GFNMS as the lead and MBNMS as the partner organization. The second is sub adult white shark monitoring with CINMS as the lead and MBNMS as the partner organization. The third is preventing vessel groundings with MBNMS as the lead and GFNMS as the partner organization. The fourth is collaborating with National Marine Fisheries Service on a big watershed project with the West Coast Regional Office as the lead and MBNMS as the partner organization.

Ongoing priorities for the sanctuary system include improved enforcement efforts and facilities planning. New sanctuary designations have been added to the inventory. The new Alaÿuum Kanuux (Heart of the Ocean) proposed designation has been accepted by NOAA. Others are still in the inventory. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary designation process has begun, and NOAA is striving for a release of draft materials by the end of 2022. A total of 27,000 comments were included in the nomination, with the vast majority of comments in favor of the sanctuary. Many issues are to be addressed before designation, including offshore energy, military operation, collaborations with many indigenous communities, and various boundary options.

Gary Hoffman asked how the Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Fund (DARRF) program is funded. Director Douros responded that a normal budget will approve the use of that fund. It is often used for vessels that run aground in order to help prevent oil spills. DARRF is a separate pot of money that MBNMS has access to for vessel removal and response. It is a finite amount of money that gets restored by congress or by national initiative.

PJ Webb commented that the Coastal Discovery system is doing well, with high visitor numbers.

#### **V. INFORMATION ITEM – DIVERSIFICATION OF SAC**

The Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee shared their goals for the upcoming recruitment season. It plans to update the SAC website and application, including a diversity statement for the website and an application question on how the applicant plans to engage diverse and underrepresented communities.

The Subcommittee also determined its outreach strategies for the upcoming SAC member recruitment season, including outlining the benefits of being on the SAC, having MBNMS staff advertise at community events and facilitate partnerships with schools and committees (Ocean Guardian School, broadcast council meeting to schools, etc), hosting “Get to Know You” sessions for interested applicants, providing Spanish language options in various media outlets, expanding travel funds to primaries and alternates, continuing with hybrid in person/remote meetings, and creating a “Buddy Club” for former members to mentor new ones.

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The Subcommittee also described its programmatic recommendations, including stipends for qualified new members, childcare at meetings, resuming member updates, and creating a working group for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging (DEIJB).

After the Subcommittee shared, there was concern that comments from the rest of the SAC were not included in recommendations from the Subcommittee. Members said that it would have been helpful for the rest of the SAC members to see what was submitted as recommendations and given the opportunity to offer amendments (such as expanding the definition of diversity, etc.). Dan Haifley made a motion to withdraw the motion to approve the Subcommittee's recommendations. Mike Bekker seconded the motion. The Action Item then became an Information Action. Members were asked to get their comments to [Haven.Parker@noaa.gov](mailto:Haven.Parker@noaa.gov) in the next two weeks to be distributed with the recommendations. The Subcommittee will then meet and get revisions back to the SAC. Then any comments will go to the entire SAC during the next meeting.

#### **VI. INFORMATION ITEM: RECRUITMENT PLANNING**

Discussion on ideas for bettering recruitment of SAC, highlights include:

1. Newspaper outreach
  - a. Monterey Herald, Cambria and other ads (e-version too)
  - b. Sentinel member profile
2. Outreach to organizations with diverse members
  - a. Hartnell college Ag program
  - b. Be sure to include differently abled individuals
  - c. Targeted outreach to UCSC for college seat
3. Outreach to organizations with stated interest in environmental issues
  - a. Environmental interest groups
  - b. Make announcements in the Diver and Harbor newsletters
  - c. Notify local chambers of commerce and similar associations/groups
4. Outreach electronically
  - a. Environmental interest groups
  - b. Make announcements in the Diver and Harbor newsletters
  - c. Notify local chambers of commerce and similar associations/groups
5. Posts to social media (Facebook, Instagram, TikTok)
  - a. Create social media presence for Advisory Council itself
  - b. Forward MBNMS emails to local media about sanctuary events and recruitment
  - c. Share information with newsletter and network lists and working groups
  - d. Post links to AC webpage
  - e. Create a QR code link for use at events for ease of use
  - f. Link QR code in email signatures

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6. Word of mouth
  - a. Walks and talks
  - b. Invite people to lunches and sanctuary meetings
  - c. Ask people to spread the word
  - d. Have printed application on hand to share
  - e. Create social media presence for Advisory Council itself
  - f. Forward MBNMS emails to local media about sanctuary events and recruitment
  - g. Share information with newsletter and network lists and working groups
  - h. Post links to AC webpage
  - i. Create a QR code link for use at events for ease of use
  - j. Link QR code in email signatures
7. Important messages in outreach
  - a. Make sure applicants are aware of commitment required for SAC members
  - b. Work on dispelling misconceptions about sanctuary and its role
8. Providing Incentives to Applicants
  - a. Have a “bonus” drawing for applicants (event tickets, or some other perk)
  - b. Share about hybrid meeting approach on website

**VII. INFORMATION ITEM: VESSEL INCIDENT COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Gary Hoffman shared that the Subcommittee has been working with GFNMS to present on vessel incidents in GFNMS and explain the responsibilities in different jurisdictions. GFNMS is in the process of making a condition report and a management report update that will have a focus on the definition of deserted vessels.

The Subcommittee has been conversing about issues of boat insurance. It has discussed the possibilities of a sanctuary asset forfeiture fund, which would consist of registering boats in CA as fund source to pay for incidents when they occur. The Subcommittee has also discussed commercial boat inspections to prevent future vessel incidents, as well as working with John Laird to address funding issues for insurance requirements.

1:10 MEETING ADJOURNED