

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez
At-Large: Rebecca Cenicerros (Alternate)
At-Large: Dan Haifley
At-Large: Steve Allen
Business/Industry: Monica Lal (Alternate)
Commercial Fishing: absent
Conservation: Rachel Kippen
Diving: Keith Rootsart
Education: Pamela Neeb Wade
Recreation: Tony Elliot
Recreational Fishing: Adam Helm
Research: Steven Haddock (Alternate)

AMBAG: Kristen Brown
CA Coastal Commission: Kevin Kahn (Alternate)
CA Department of Fish and Wildlife: Paul Reilly
CA Environmental Protection Agency: Peter Von Langen (Alternate)
CA Resources Agency: Elyse Goin (Alternate)
CA State Parks: Eric Gestrum (Alternate)
Harbors: Brian Nelson

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

College: Cindy Matuch
Greater Farallones & Cordell Bank
NMS: Maria Brown
US Coast Guard: absent

Monterey Bay NMS: Lisa Wooninck
Channel Islands NMS: absent
Elkhorn Slough NERR Dan Brumbaugh (Alternate)
National Marine Fisheries Service: Steve Lindley

ALTERNATES PRESENT

Marieke Desmond - Agriculture
Cynthia Mathews - At Large
Jennifer Abbott - Conservation
Felicia Van Stolk - Education
Nicholas Wilson - Recreation
Josie Wrinkle - College

Chelsea Protasio - CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Dawn Hayes - Monterey Bay NMS
John Haynes - Harbors

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Welcome to Cambria, CA from former Advisory Council Chair PJ Webb
Roll Call

Approval of February Meeting Minutes: with editorial suggestions by Paul Reilly, Felicia Van Stolk, Tom Rowley, Dan Haifley, Jennifer Abbott, and Steven Haddock
Motion to approve minutes by Brian Nelson, seconded by Monica Lal
Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 3
Motion passes

II. STANDING ITEM: SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

Lisa Wooninck, shared her Superintendent's Report for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). Highlights included:

1. Program Operations:
 - MBNMS staff held a retreat at Elkhorn Slough. Thank you Dan Brumbaugh and Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve for hosting the retreat which focused on team commitment to MBNMS priorities, with 26 staff participating.
 - An Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) \$5,000 mini grant was awarded to support diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts of the MBNMS Advisory Council (AC), specifically in relation to recruitment, growth, and maintenance of DEI. Funding will support two presentations on DEI as well as three one-hour DEI training sessions from a third party during council meetings.
2. Education:
 - The education team is building capacity through volunteer trainings for new Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC) and Coastal Discovery Center (CDC) docents as well as new Bay Net and TEAMOcean volunteers.
 - There is a new SEC manager, April Hunter, as of April 10, 2023.
 - The Coastal Signage Project has instituted 40 new designs in the cities of Santa Cruz, Monterey, and Pacific Grove as well as in CA State Parks and local harbor districts. Thank you to Amity Wood for stretching the money available to MBNMS.
 - A few exciting events are coming up. May 27 is Dia de la Comunidad at the SEC for fourth and fifth graders to share with their parents what they have learned at the SEC. June 2 is First Friday at the SEC, featuring artist Steve Mandel. June 10 is Plankton Exploration Day at the SEC with a University of California at Santa Cruz popup. July 29 is Get Into Your Sanctuary Day at the SEC and CDC, which was made possible with a mini grant awarded to MBNMS staff member Lisa Uttal, Celebrating and Protecting CA Salmon, that highlights recreational fishing in MBNMS.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

3. Research:

- Multiple observatory cruises are conducted each year to Sur Ridge to better understand how deep sea corals behave, their life cycles, etc.
- MBNMS staff participated in the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) cruise to collect data on oceanography and phytoplankton along the California Current. Researchers were able to expand the number of stations to 116 between San Diego and Point Reyes.
- Travis Legget is a fellow in the graduate program at California State University at Monterey Bay. In April he attended a conference at the American Academy of Underwater Sciences and won the Best Student Paper award. He collected imagery using stereo-video to better understand the benthic habitat of the sanctuary.

4. Resource Protection:

- Because of the illegal discharge of Monterey One Water, a sampling program has been formed to link information collected in Moss Landing and Elkhorn Slough. Brian Nelson, Harbors Seat, voiced his desire for an update on this topic. An update was originally scheduled for this meeting, but a more extensive update will likely be a discussion item for the August AC meeting.
- At the recommendation of the AC, MBNMS has joined the Vessel Speed Reduction program. There will be more of an update in the next presentation.
- A grant was awarded to five national marine sanctuaries, including MBNMS, for the removal of marine debris. There will be more details in the next presentation.
- A grant for commercially scalable end of life solutions for agricultural field plastic films is to be used in watersheds draining to MBNMS.
- A brochure was created to educate people about respecting sea otters rafting near the Monterey Bay Aquarium. MBNMS partnered with kayak shops, divers, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and Sea Otter Savvy.
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Maria Brown, Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries (GFNMS and CBNMS) Superintendent, shared their report. Highlights included:

1. Help for the Kelp!

- A 4.9 million grant was awarded to restore kelp in GFNMS. This is in response to a 90% loss of kelp.

2. Conservation Science

- Staff are close to finishing the CBNMS Condition Report, which will be released to the public soon and will share observed changes due to climate change.
- The Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) cruise was completed on May 16 in partnership with the National Marine Fisheries Service

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

(NMFS) Rockfish Recruitment Ecosystem Assessment Surveys. This was the first cruise on the Bell M. Shimada vessel, which allows for more extensive cruises.

3. Education and Outreach

- The Sea Urchin Soiree was held on March 18, spotlighting sea urchins as beneficial to the marine ecosystem as well as detrimental when population numbers get out of control.
- For the past year, students at Hatch Elementary school in Half Moon Bay, California have been using sanctuary habitats as the context for their science and art curriculum.
- GFNMS/CBNMS attended the 20th Annual International Ocean Film Festival in San Francisco this past weekend.

4. Resource Protection

- An eelgrass assessment was completed, and mooring surveys resumed on Tomales Bay. There has been success in permitting moorings and observing recovery of eelgrass.
- GFNMS provided comment on the State Marine Protected Area (MPA) decadal review to the CA Fish and Game Commission. AC meetings have been focused on this review.
- Letters were sent to request ships to slow down during the period of May 1 to December 15.
- The comment period is now closed for the Draft Dry Dock Restoration Plan shared with Pacific Fishery Management Council working groups. The first workshop in partnership with MBNMS will occur this Monday.

5. Emergency Response and Enforcement Update

- A chemical tanker, TAKEO GALAXY, lost power in four of six of its engines. The incident was resolved, and sanctuary staff recommend no further action.

Marieke Desmond, Agriculture alternate, asked if the public meeting on deep sea corals will be open to the public. Maria Brown responded that it would not because it is an expert meeting.

Brian Nelson clarified that his question about Monterey One Water was not about how the funds were going to be used, but more about how to ensure it does not happen again. This is the largest raw sewage spill MBNMS has ever had. Lisa Wooninck responded that there will be a presentation on that at the August meeting. Peter Von Langen, CA Environmental Protection Agency, shared that the alarm system failed. Brian Nelson responded that Peter's purview is very broad so would like to hear specific mechanics.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

III. INFORMATION ITEM: UPDATE ON MBNMS PRIORITIES

Lisa Wooninck, MBNMS Superintendent, shared an update on the priorities outlined for MBNMS and the AC work plan. The update was designed to help explain how AC recommendations have been received. Superintendent Wooninck would like to start doing this update at the May and December meetings. She reviewed the sanctuary's priorities: Marine Debris, Whale Conservation, Iconic Kelp Forests, Climate Change, Vessel Incidents, and Community Connections. She then discussed the MBNMS AC Work Plan 2023 (adopted December 2022) Progress:

1. Iconic Kelp Forests/Habitat - AC informational role and provide advice
Thus far, the AC has directed the RAP to evaluate the status of kelp in MBNMS (December 9, 2022). The AC forwarded the RAP recommendations to sanctuary staff (16 - 0 in favor; February 2023). MBNMS used the RAP/AC recommendations to inform coordination with key partners: Monterey Bay Aquarium, University of California at Santa Cruz, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Ocean Protection Council, National Marine Sanctuary Foundation/Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. MBNMS staff regularly meet with partners to ensure integration and awareness.
2. Vessel Incidents - AC informational role and provide(d) advice
Thus far, the AC convened a subcommittee on vessel incidents (February 2022) and forwarded nine recommendations to sanctuary staff (October 2022), which were adopted by the Superintendent in December 2022.
3. Climate - AC informational role and provide advice
Thus far, the AC directed select RAP members to engage in a climate vulnerability assessment (16 - 0 in favor; February 2023). MBNMS is hard at work on the CVA, which is modeled after sanctuaries in the north.
4. Whale Conservation - informational role and provide advice
Thus far, the AC recommended MBNMS participate in a year-round voluntary vessel speed reduction (VSR) program in collaboration with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), CBNMS, and GFNMS (15 in favor - 1 abstention). MBNMS joined the NOAA and incentive VSR programs.
5. DEI - including Indigenous Community Engagement, informational and advice by AC subcommittee
The AC convened a subcommittee on DEI in February 2022. The AC then forwarded 22 recommendations in October 2022 that were then adopted by the Superintendent in December 2022. MBNMS AC welcomed 11 new members and six re-appointed members in February of 2023. Four members are on the AC DEI

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

subcommittee. A mini grant was awarded for DEI training for the AC. MBNMS has been thoughtfully engaging with local Indigenous Communities.

6. Marine Debris - AC informational role

Five national marine sanctuaries received a large marine debris removal grant of \$14.9 million. In MBNMs there are four targets for roughly \$3 million.

Looking forward, Haven will be reaching out to members to arrange meet and greets with Superintendent Wooninck.

Jennifer Abbott, Conservation Alternate, shared that she used to be affiliated with a group that was looking to divert waste from agricultural plastic mulching. Superintendent Wooninck said that she would connect Jazmine Mejia-Munoz, MBNMS staff, with Jennifer to look into partnerships.

Rebecca Cenicerros, At-Large Alternate, asked why the summer dates were chosen for the VSR program. Superintendent Wooninck responded that it is the peak time for highly endangered whales present in the sanctuary, although some are here year-round.

PJ Webb, former AC Chair, shared that Representative Carbohol has been active in reducing air pollution from marine vessels and using this as a public relations angle. Superintendent Wooninck responded that the incentive-based program has found that shipping companies usually do not take the monetary incentives and instead give it back to the program. This is the first year that no monetary award will be given, but positive press will incentivize the program. Brian Nelson, Harbors seat, responded by saying that shipping companies have historically worked with MBNMS and extending the VSR program to be year-round could damage this respectful relationship. A year-round VSR would protect gray whales that are not endangered and is not necessary.

Jennifer Abbott, Conservation alternate, said that Karen Grimmer, MBNMS staff, brought up in the Conservation Working Group meeting that there should be one concise app to record beach cleanup data: the Clean Swell app from the Ocean Conservancy. Superintendent Wooninck said that Karen Grimmer would be providing an update with further information on this as well.

IV. INFORMATION ITEM: UPDATE ON KEY ISSUES AND ACTIVITIES IN THE WEST COAST REGION

West Coast Regional Director, Bill Douros, presented an update on the west coast region with specific focus on the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Director Douros shared the nine priorities across west coast sanctuaries, which have common themes with MBNMS priorities:

- Whale Conservation
- Benthic Habitat Conservation
- Kelp Forest Monitoring & Restoration
- Web Interface for Condition Reports
- “Big Watershed” United States Forestry Service and NOAA Sanctuaries Collaborations
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Marine Debris
- Vessel Incidents
- Blue Economy

Resources have increased, as ONMS funding has gone up 20% in the past two years. Some extra funds go to new designations, and ONMS is able to get funding beyond its own base budget through associations and partners (such as the foundations).

Director Douros then shared an update on new sanctuaries going through the designation processes. Communities demonstrate broad based support to nominate areas to become new designations. There has been an explosion of direction from administrations and the House Appropriations Committee to get these created. It must be acknowledged that more sanctuaries will need more resources to manage and that the designations cannot happen all at the same time. It is helpful to maintain the designations so that the designation process can be sequenced.

The designation process for Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary has been underway since November. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary shoreward boundary would begin where the southern boundary of MBNMS ends and extend to Gavoiita, CA. It is important to remember why sanctuaries are designated in the first place. Sanctuaries celebrate important culturally and environmentally significant resources and guide protection of these resources. The Sierra Club and all Chumash tribal bands have done a lot of work to promote the sanctuary, including comprehensive ecosystem-based focus, recognition and aid in raising awareness of tribal history, and a plan for why the sanctuary is there. A management plan, which guides what a sanctuary does, is being developed. The management plan looks at the impacts of designating the sanctuary on physical resources and human uses. The goal has been to get the documents out in spring 2023, and if not, early summer. After they are released, there will be a public review process, and NOAA will make the final decision to designate a year from now. Recently, CA congressional representatives sent a letter of support for the designation of the sanctuary (see Appendix I).

Director Douros then discussed the need for the designation. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is located in a nationally significant ecological transition zone. It forms a recirculating pattern that is a transition zone of species. Its coastline creates an important upwelling area. Additionally, hundreds of shipwrecks have been documented in this area, including native American vessels. Some are known to be significant, and there are likely

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

submerged village sites (paleoshorelines). There are also potential and existing energy projects in the proposed sanctuary. Offshore oil and gas, wind energy, and coastal oil and gas development has driven the development of boundary alternatives.

There are still actions to be taken in the designation process. The National Environmental Policy Act requires a reasonable range of alternatives. Ten issue-specific workshops have been held on issues that arose during the scoping process. A framework for tribal collaborative management has been developed. Regulations and a management plan (non-regulatory actions) tailored to issues and threats specific to this sanctuary need to be developed. The proposed rule is undergoing federal interagency review, and NOAA is striving for release by late spring. ONMS is anticipating public workshops, followed by public comment meetings this summer after the documents are released.

Steve Allen, Southern At Large seat, asked what is going on with the opposition to the proposed sanctuary. Director Douros responded that there are platforms for individuals to bring forth their concerns. Some fishermen, harbors, and wind industry individuals have expressed concern about the designation. Director Douros has not heard of a concerted body in opposition to the sanctuary but is not ruling out the possibility. The designation process is designed to listen to proponents and opponents and find solutions to issues brought forth.

John Haynes, Harbors alternate, asked about plans for dredging in the sanctuary. Director Douros said that he needs to steer clear about confirming or denying that, as the plans are currently being developed.

A question was asked about plans to mitigate carbon. Director Douros shared that most west coast efforts are focused on enhancing the natural species. However, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will likely look to models like the CVAs developed by other sanctuaries in attempts to monitor and mitigate carbon.

Dan Haifley, At Large seat, asked about how existing activities (e.g. dredging) in the sanctuary can be handled in the designation. Director Douros explained that there are processes to certify existing development that allows certain activities to be grandfathered in.

Sarah Lopez, Agriculture seat, asked about how water quality, which was featured in the Director's presentation as a possible part of the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary's management plan, will be addressed?

Director Douros said that all focuses outlined in the Powerpoint are just under consideration, but by looking at the successful aspects of MBNMS management, it is likely that Chumash will use similar strategies that have been proven to work. Although water quality programs are dependent

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

on staff and may take several years to develop, over time as staff resources become available programming can grow much like the MBNMS water quality program did.

A question was asked about how the large number of comments are going to be processed. Director Douros stated that ONMS is going to use Artificial Intelligence to organize the comments in a manner easier to digest. This will make the formulaic comments easier to go through. Public workshops can help inform the public so that they can better develop their comments beforehand as well.

PJ Webb, former Chair, encouraged everyone to participate in the public comment process. Director Douros encouraged everyone to read the letter from CA Congressional Organization for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary.

V. INFORMATION ITEM: COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR CONSTITUENCY

Brian Nelson, Harbors seat, presented on strategies for advisory council members to connect with their diverse communities.

When connecting with your constituency, the goal is to connect with all, including people who are not like you. The recreational uses of the sanctuary bring in a lot of people with a range of interests. Generally, there is a misunderstanding of what the sanctuary is. It is important for AC members to communicate what the sanctuary actually does, such as the various activities put on by the sanctuary (MBNMS events, the Foundation's sponsorships) and its proposals (Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, wind farms). Connecting with your constituency involves developing a plan to reach people. Good strategies include keeping up with gatherings (club meetings, etc), looking to working groups as a way to draw people from your interest group in, utilizing Constant Contact to build your email list, and distributing newsletters. Brian stated that the AC has room for improvement in getting things out of the meetings and into the public discourse.

PJ Webb, former Chair, made a comment that the presentation was very informative and provided many strategies that can assist new members. Brian said that recruitment announcements for AC seats can go in the newsletters as well.

Lisa Wooninck made a comment that Brian Nelson and Keith Rootsart have demonstrated the gold standard of communication, and if new members need help from them or MBNMS staff, please reach out. AC members are our conduit to the rest of the community, and the more that we can communicate to our networks the more we can protect this resource.

Keith Rootsart shared that Facebook groups are a good resource. Brian agreed that younger crowds can be reached better through social media.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

PJ Webb thanked everyone for coming.

VI. INFORMATION ITEM: MBNMS RESOURCE PROTECTION TEAM UPDATE

Karen Grimmer, MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator, provided an update on the MBNMS Resource Protection Program.

The Resource Protection Program works with community and stakeholders to create a collaborative management approach (used in the water quality program and permitting for regulated activities). The resource protection team also responds to emergency events such as spills and vessel groundings. A current focus is upon marine debris, specifically plasticulture prevention. The Resource Protection team is seeking to reduce the 20 million pounds of agriculture plastics used across Monterey County and to find end of life solutions to plastics used. Jazmine Mejia-Munoz, MBNMS staff, presented at an international conference on this industry-driven effort to reduce agriculture plastics.

The resource protection team also coordinates with volunteers to conduct citizen science. Recently, it held its 23rd annual Snapshot Day, during which 95 volunteers participated. Water samples for pollutants were collected at 85 total sites and were compared to the last few years. The First Flush events' 21-year trend report found that water quality has generally improved over the last 21 years. Urban watch and microbial source tracking is continuing in Salinas to assess dry weather flows and summer discharges and monitor E.coli.

Two grants were awarded to MBNMS from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and NOAA's Climate-Ready Coasts Initiative: \$2.7 million Commercially Scalable End-of-Life Solutions for Agriculture Field Plastic Films Used in Watersheds Draining to MBNMS grant and \$2.9 million Large Marine Debris Removal Grant to the National Marine Sanctuary Foundations for removal of marine debris in MBNMS.

Permits have been distributed to assist with the goals of the resource protection team. MBNMS is processing an amendment for Monterey Bay Aquarium's intake pipeline support retrofit project. New white shark tagging permits have been issued to California State University Monterey Bay.

The resource protection team has also worked on whale disentanglement efforts. There were 30 entangled whales off the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, or off the coast of other countries and states but entangled in U.S. west coast commercial fishing gear. Of the 30, 12 were confirmed in the Central Coast region.

In its emergency response efforts, the resource protection team responded to three incidents that resulted in catastrophic groundings or sinkings in the sanctuary, three near miss incidents, and

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

two other incidents. The team responded to 13 spills in total, ten sewage, one petroleum, one large vessel bilge dump, and one oil spill.

The resource protection team responded to wildlife disturbances. Large sea otter rafts in Monterey Bay are especially nervous about being approached. There have been outreach efforts to the public on this issue. A harbor seal report is coming out on noise. It had the objective to look at the last two years of survey data and get a magnitude of frequency for the noise disturbance that the seals are exposed to. The results indicate that the land-based noise has a correlation with altered seal behavior (e.g. pup success rate). New signs have been put up for each harbor designating the jet ski revised zones, as well as corridors to get to the zones and best practices for operating jet skis in those zones. A study is to be conducted this summer to better understand the use of the zones. Additionally, a new NOAA Corps officer will be joining MBNMS staff by the next AC meeting. Finally, the resource protection team is responding to an uptick of poaching of black abalone.

Marieke Desmond, Agriculture alternate, asked about specific fishing gear that has been associated with whale entanglement. Karen Grimmer responded that there is a mix but MBNMS staff has seen a lot of Dungeness crab gear that has been entangling primarily humpbacks. A working group has been created to work on this.

Brian Nelson asked about hydrofoils and how they relate to motorized personal watercrafts (MPWCs) that fall under the sanctuary's MPWC regulations versus unregulated watercrafts. Karen Grimmer said that the general council has given guidance on the fact that efoils do fall under MPWC regulation. There is a memo to the record to clarify this, and it is on the new signs. Brian Nelson, Harbors seat, would like to know when the draft is going to be completed so that he can get the information out to his constituency. Karen stated that he would be informed as soon as the draft is ready. Superintendent Wooninck said that there needs to be an outreach campaign to potential efoil users so that there can be an info exchange to educate the potential user group. Brian Nelson offered that a discharge flyer would be a useful resource to spread on websites, launch ramps, etc. Brian Nelson, Harbors seat, asked if MPWC regulations are in all sanctuaries or just MBNMS? Karen Grimmer stated that she believes that Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary also have this regulation. MBNMS has the most extensive definition, as it also covers efoils. Tony Elliot, Recreation seat, shared that a lot of recreational stakeholders are concerned about this. He asked if estandup paddle boards would be included. Karen Grimmer stated that she was unsure because a standup board with a propeller underneath could potentially be included but it would depend on the configuration. Tony Elliot said there will be support from the surfing community and City of Santa Cruz for designating them as MPWCs.

Dan Haifley asked about the study of MPWC zones. Karen said staff are hoping to start the study in June and run it through summer. There is a need for volunteers willing to help on weekends.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

The study seeks to understand if there are any jet skiers using the zones because it takes lots of time and money to keep the buoys that demark the edges of the zone in place. It would be more cost effective to move to a digital demarcation approach. MBNMS staff are hearing different things about the need and use of these zones. MBNMS staff want to understand if and how they are being used. Steven Haddock, Research alternate, stated that it is necessary to go to the manufacturers. The product should communicate that you cannot use these in the sanctuaries. Superintendent Wooninck compared this suggestion with the attempts by the regulators to go to drone manufacturers with the regulations on unmanned aerial systems.

Keith Rootsart shared that coming south there is a billboard in Prunedale that has a picture of a sea otter that says “Adore Responsibly”. He asked if MBNMS had something to do with that. Monica Lal stated that it is the Monterey County Convention and Visitors Center. Jennifer Abbott suggested writing a thank you letter.

VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: SOUTHERN REGION UPDATE

Sophia Barwegen, Coastal Discovery Center (CDC) Volunteer Program Coordinator, shared updates from the southern region of MBNMS. Highlights included:

Sophia shared a background of the CDC in San Simeon Bay, CA. The CDC was established in the summer of 2006 and is the base of operations for Michele Roest, Southern Region Program Coordinator and Community Liaison, and Sophia. It is open Friday through Sunday from 11:00am to 5:00pm. The CDC was developed in partnership with CA State Parks and San Luis Obispo Coast District to highlight “the relationship between the land and sea”. Currently, there is a new exhibit highlighting sounds in the sanctuary.

Since opening on May 27, 2022, the CDC has greeted 10,090 guests. Thus far in May, there have been 207 visitors. CDC volunteers serve as docents in the visitor center, education assistants on field trips, and ambassadors of MBNMS. The 16 volunteers commit to a minimum of six months of service with seven hours of volunteering per month. Volunteers are Cambria and San Luis Obispo residents and California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo (Cal Poly) students.

The CDC hosts 13 in-person educational programs and 24 virtual programs. The CDC also provides public programming events, such as CCSPA Retail Pop-Up, State Parks Biodiversity Day, 50th Anniversary of NOAA, Snapshot Day- Southern Region Hub, and Get Into Your Sanctuary.

Nearby the CDC, W.R. Hearst Memorial Beach is the temporary home of male northern elephant seals. Their management is assisted by the Elephant Seal Advisory Group and the Elephant Seal

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Social Media Campaign Partnership with State Parks, National Park Service, Friends of the Elephant Seal, and Cal Poly.

Dan Haifley, At Large seat, asked about funding barriers to central valley schools transporting students to CDC in-person programming. Sophia responded that it depends on the school. Some apply for grants to fund transportation, but she has found that schools that utilize parents drivers rather than bus drivers have had an easier time coming to the CDC.

Keith Rootsart asked about the commitment of volunteers and whether some take on more than others. Sophia stated that across the board her volunteers deliver more than the seven hours expected of them. Those who live in Cambria may have more bandwidth than those at Cal Poly, but they all go above and beyond.

Jennifer Abbott asked about how schools reach her. Sophia stated that she gets cold calls from local schools and she reaches out to schools as well. Email is the best way to reach her for setting up school programming.

Sarah Lopez asked about outreach to Spanish speakers. Sophia stated that she has three Spanish speaking docents creating a museum guide for Spanish speakers. The CDC's summer guide is going to have Spanish translation, and all of the exhibits currently do.

Superintendent Wooninck pointed out that she wants more connection between the CDC and Sanctuary Exploration Center. She wants a visitor program that spans both centers. The noise exhibit in both centers is a first step in this collaborative initiative. Superintendent Wooninck also stated that she was excited about the great success story of elephant seals in the sanctuary. Elephant seals have expanded further south and been delisted by the Endangered Species Act. Superintendent Wooninck stated this demonstrated how the sanctuary is a venue to come up with common sense solutions.

Sophia shared that there is a CDC newsletter with Ocean Guardian School program information for applying to be Ocean Ambassador School. Monica Lal, Business/Industry alternate, shared that there are resources for coastal communities impacted by the storms through this program as well.

IX. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORKING GROUP REPORT OUTS

See Appendix III.

ADJOURN AT 4:00PM

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Appendix I. Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary Support Letter

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2023

The Honorable Gina Raimondo
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

Dear Secretary Raimondo:

We write to convey our continued strong support for the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, and to ask that you prioritize the completion of the sanctuary designation process this year as previously scheduled. As you know, the people of the Central Coast of California have pursued this sanctuary designation for decades, and celebrated the decision to move the nomination forward in 2021. It has now been more than a year since the public scoping process concluded, and it is crucial that this momentum toward designation continue without delay, with the publication of the draft designation documents this spring and a final designation this year.

We are mindful of the many competing needs and decisions pending before your Department. In the case of the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary, you have an opportunity to address multiple administration priorities at once. The Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary will establish protections for a biologically diverse and ecologically productive region, including feeding grounds for numerous species of whales and dolphins, sea otter populations, kelp forests, and other endangered marine life, including abalone. Located between the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands marine sanctuaries, the proposed sanctuary is home to vital commercial and recreational fisheries. Designating this area as a marine sanctuary would ensure we continue to be good stewards of these natural resources, while maintaining sustainable access for commercial and recreational fishing.

These abundant waters are essential to the heritage of ocean-going First People of the Pacific Coast. As we wrote in 2021 and 2022, creating a unique, co-management relationship between the management of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians and with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, while bringing in the historical and cultural knowledge and practices of the broader indigenous community will strengthen the conservation of this one-of-a-kind place on the California coastline. Through the application of traditional ecological knowledge, we can better understand climate change and build resilience to protect the biodiversity, cultural values, and economy of the Central Coast of California.

Finally, the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary's designation will play an important role in the protection of marine resources off the Central Coast that contribute to California's \$1.7 trillion coastal economy. The long-standing relationship of coastal communities with these waters extends to the present with a sustainable commercial and recreational fishery and a vibrant tourism industry recognized nationally as a destination vacation – and where the ecological and economic devastation from oil spills is all too familiar.

Thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to celebrating the designation with you of a unique sanctuary to protect the past, present and future of California's waters off the Central Coast. Please do not hesitate to contact our offices should you have any questions.

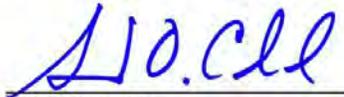
Sincerely,

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Page 2



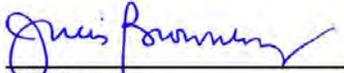
Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress



Dianne Feinstein
United States Senator



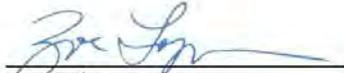
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress



Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress



Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress



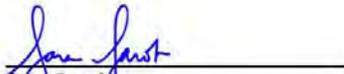
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



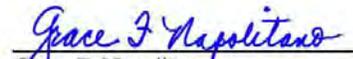
Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



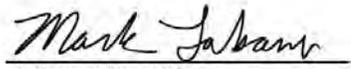
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
May 19, 2023
FINAL Meeting Minutes

Page 3


Jared Huffman
Member of Congress


Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress


MARK TAKANO
Member of Congress


Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress

Appendix II. Outreach Letter from Conservation Working Group

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council
May 19, 2023
FINAL Meeting Minutes

6/13/23, 11:26 AM

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Mail - Balloon Free Seas Campaign Materials for Mother's Day



Haven Parker - NOAA Affiliate <haven.parker@noaa.gov>

Balloon Free Seas Campaign Materials for Mother's Day

1 message

Haven Parker - NOAA Affiliate <haven.parker@noaa.gov>
To: mbnms.sac@noaa.gov

Fri, May 12, 2023 at 11:52 AM

Hello MBNMS Advisory Council Members,

Mother's Day is this Sunday and school graduations in May and June make for lots of wonderful celebrations this time of year. Unfortunately, during this season we note an uptick in hazardous balloon pollution in MBNMS and along California's coast.

Meg DeCoite, Balloon Free Seas coordinator, has come up with some great bilingual graphics, copied with instructions below, that we encourage you to share with your constituencies for Mother's Day and graduation.

Additionally, our Conservation Working Group is distributing our attached letter and flyers (made by our friend Marina Maze at Monterey Bay Eco Tours) to school and community contacts to encourage balloon free graduations which we also welcome you to share. Please help us get the word out about reducing balloon pollution in our sanctuaries!

Please share the graphics in the attached drive.

Help us track your impact, please use the hashtag **#balloonfreeseas** and/or you can tag California Ocean Alliance (@californiaoceanalliance) in the **photo**.

Thank you!
Haven
--
Haven Parker
Program Support Specialist
Contractor with Lynker Technologies LLC in support of
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
831-419-8251

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=faed990a8f&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-a:r-8666223729665991725%7Cmsg-a:r-77506916029227406...> 1/1

Appendix III. Advisory Council Member Announcements

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Name: Dan Haifley

Seat: Northern At Large Primary

Announcements: Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will hold its Sea Stars Gala at 5 PM on Saturday, August 5 at the Tehama Golf Club in Carmel. Tickets will be available soon at montereybayfoundation.org.

Since the last SAC meeting, I have attended foundation related events such as the One Ride at a Time kickoff in collaboration with Santa Cruz Metro to encourage bus ridership, raise funds for MBNMS projects and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, a board meeting, a meeting with the CEO of Santa Cruz Metro, and the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce dinner. I also worked on a video with the Dream Inn and its role with the foundation and area environmental nonprofits, recorded a KSQD-FM show on the proposed Chumash NMS and on west coast sanctuaries, published an Op Ed in the Santa Cruz Sentinel on marine sanctuaries and climate resiliency, was interviewed by KSBW TV on wildlife etiquette, and published an article in Lookout Santa Cruz on the proposed UN High Seas treaty and its relationship to marine sanctuaries.

Former Congressman Sam Farr and I spoke in MBNMS Research Coordinator Andrew DeVogelaere's marine conservation biology class at Cal State Monterey Bay, and Cynthia Mathews and I met with SAC education alternate Felicia Van Stolk on various localized MBNMS issues.

Relevant Links:

Sea Stars Gala tickets available soon at <https://montereybayfoundation.org>

One Ride At A Time Campaign: <https://www.scmttd.com/en/onerideatotime>

KSBW news story on wildlife etiquette: <https://www.ksbw.com/article/harassment-of-coastal-wildlife-rising-on-the-central-coast-experts-say/43455869>

KSQD FM radio show on Chumash Heritage NMS and west coast sanctuaries: <https://ksqd.org/the-chumash-heritage-national-marine-sanctuary-what-it-means-for-californias-coastal-communities/>

Photos:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes



Name: Adam Helm

Seat: Recreational Fishing

Announcements: The 2023 RCG fishing season opened the 1st of May. We are working on conveying the new rules and regulations to the general public. The new rules are creating quite the backlash within the fishing community. Shorter fishing season and new depth restrictions. Many are concerned of unsafe boating practices after the inshore fishing season ends September 30th, at which point you will have to fish at a depth seaward of the 50 fathom RCA.

Also, with the new regulations there will be more fish that become “floaters” (fish that come up too fast from deeper depths causing their swim bladder to expand due to the pressure change causing barotrauma. We are working with the public and helping them find free descenders or giving the links to build their own.

Relevant Links: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=185052&inline>
<https://myodfw.com/articles/rockfish-recompression>

Name: Karen Mogus

Seat: CalEPA

Announcements: State Water Board staff held a workshop on May 18th to identify and discuss immediate actions the State Water Board could take to incentivize wastewater agencies

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

to evaluate the feasibility of reducing nutrients as part of their future planning for facility upgrades including recycled water projects. State Water Board staff are very concerned about the impacts from human sources of nutrients on water quality in inland and coastal waters across California. Nutrients are a factor in the increasing incidence of harmful algal blooms across the state and acidification of ocean waters along the coast. While it will take several years to establish regulatory standards for nutrients for the state, immediate action is needed to address impacts from nutrients and to take advantage of infrastructure funding available now..

Relevant Links: [State Water Board Nutrient Management Workshop Public Notice](#)

Name: Karen Mogus

Seat: CalEPA

Announcements: State Water Board staff are proposing to amend the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once-Through Cooling or OTC Policy) to extend the compliance dates for Alamitos, Huntington Beach, Ormond Beach, and Scattergood generating stations and Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant. The proposed OTC Policy Amendment would extend the compliance dates for Alamitos, Huntington Beach, and Ormond Beach generating stations for three years, through December 31, 2026, to serve as a part of the Electric Reliability Strategic Reserve Program and to support system-wide grid reliability. The proposed OTC Policy Amendment would also extend the compliance date for Scattergood Generating Station by five years, through December 31, 2029, to support local grid reliability. Additionally, the proposed OTC Policy Amendment includes a change without regulatory effect to revise the compliance date for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant to October 31, 2030, to reflect the extension established in Senate Bill 846. The State Water Board released the draft OTC Policy Amendment and Staff Report for public comment on January 31, 2023. The public comment period closed at noon on March 17, 2023.

Relevant Links: [CWA 316\(b\) Thermal Discharges-Cooling Water Intake Structures | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)

Name: Karen Mogus

Seat: CalEPA

Announcements: State Water Board staff is preparing a proposed resolution for the State Board's consideration that would revise the calculation used to determine annual interim mitigation payments for facilities in accordance with the Water Quality Control Policy on the Use of Coastal and Estuarine Waters for Power Plant Cooling (Once-Through Cooling or OTC Policy). This proposal will include revising the default cost of entrainment, site-specific cost

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

of entrainment for Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant, the cost of impingement, and the annual escalator for inflation to ensure the interim mitigation payments are compensatory. The State Water Board is collaborating with the Ocean Protection Council to contract an expert to evaluate and recommend revisions to the interim mitigation payment calculation.

Relevant Links: [CWA 316\(b\) Thermal Discharges-Cooling Water Intake Structures | California State Water Resources Control Board](#)

Name: Monica Lal

Seat: Business/Industry Alternate

Announcements: The banking industry's failures have had some impact in market confidence, but the local community banks have communicated frequently and well to their clients, and some have seen an increase in business. The rising interest rates continue to impact the real estate market and add to some hesitancy with bank lending and business expansion. General sense is "proceed with caution".

The impact of the atmospheric rivers and storm related power outages had a significant impact on the hospitality industry on the Peninsula and a reported \$600 million dollar impact on the agricultural community. Greatest impact in Pajaro Valley with 20,000 acres flooded. However, 90% of land was not flooded, just saturated. Strawberries, leafy greens, artichokes affected. Flooded fields - soil evaluation, remediation may be needed. Silt needs to be analyzed. Most likely no spring crop from those fields. There will be market impacts with supply and/or price. This does not include storm related damage to small communities and unincorporated areas throughout the county.

The reports on road closures in the first quarter of the year impacted the drive market and group business, and the continued closure of Hwy 1 proves to be communication/marketing and business challenge for Big Sur, which remains open.

2022 hotel revenue significantly surpassed 2019, yet restaurant spending is significantly below pre-pandemic levels. This suggests that the destination's visitor mix remains out of balance with an over-reliance on drive market visitors who are known to bring their food and beverage and spend less in restaurants. Group and meetings hotel revenue spending in Monterey County is up 47% in 2023 year-over-year. International visitors from Canada, Mexico and parts of Europe are returning to California, however, high-value markets in Asia lag in recovery. In the first quarter of 2023, Monterey County experienced setbacks including severe storms in the first quarter of the year causing a two-fold economic impact.

First, January through March travel levels were below 2022. Secondly, the extensive snowfall in the Sierra Nevada range is expected to lengthen the ski season into July creating further competitive pressure. Visit Responsibly Campaign active.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

The Monterey County Fairgrounds have many private events booked, the new Monterey Motorsports Festival during car week and RV bookings are up approximately 16% in the first quarter 2023. MST (Monterey-Salinas Transit) will operate for the summer beginning Memorial Day Weekend and continues its work on the SURF project.

The City of Seaside anticipates construction of mixed-use development for the Ascent on Broadway Project, Parker Flats Apartments Project, and the much larger Campus Town Development adjacent to the CSUMB campus. It has been a leader in investigating best practices and encouraging construction of Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs). At the Bayonet

Blackhorse Golf Course, construction of houses is happening at The Enclave Project and construction of timeshare villas is planned for the Seaside Resort Development. A Grand Hyat hotel is also planned for construction at the Bayonet Blackhorse Golf Course.

The recent attendance at Big Sur International Marathon was excellent and it was the windiest marathon since its inception. Sea Otter Classis Bike race was held in April. Annual Events all on calendar: Motul Course de Monterey (IMSA) 5/12/14 at County owned Weather Tech Raceway Laguna Seca; Artichoke Festival 6/10-11; Monterey Jazz Festival (9/22-24) among others

New Event: 7/5-7/ The 78th U.S. Women's Open will be hosted in Pebble Beach for the first time ever. Players from around the world travel to compete in the oldest Major championship in women's professional golf.

The high rate of Inflation, especially increases in food costs and higher fuel costs, continues to hamper long-term economic growth. There is some reported stabilization with the workforce. Businesses report higher fulfillment of key positions and management level positions. Concern remains for long term forecast growth of job market, particularly with housing being the critical concern. Scarcity on all levels of housing demand drives many conversations throughout many industries and impacts the ability to attract new industries and talent.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management (MPWMD) continues to move forward with response to Measure J -- the proposed public takeover of Cal-Am Water. Many Cities and the Counties are updating their respective Housing Elements by the end of this calendar year; they will be using the periodic Regional Housing Needs Allocation (RHNA) for all the Cities and the Counties in the Monterey Bay region -- this was "finalized" by AMBAG in October 2022. However -- the amount of new water available on the Monterey Peninsula from CAW continues to be a limiting factor. City Councils are now moving into the outreach phase with community meetings regarding outreach and identified, proposed building sites.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

The storm related power outages significantly affected many peninsula cities as noted previously. The fallen trees and damage to buildings, coupled with days and in some cases, weeks of power outages has driven a few business organizations to request a formal response from PG&E. Several City Managers are meeting with the utility.

Name: Paul Reilly

Seat: California Department Fish and Wildlife

Announcements: Recreational boat fishing Monterey Bay

Fishing effort was low from late February through the end of March due to inclement weather, but for those that did fish, targets were Pacific sanddab and Dungeness crab. By early April the weather had improved and California halibut was added to the list of target species. In mid-April Dungeness crab fishing was excellent out of Moss Landing. The May 1 opener for rockfish, lingcod, and cabezon fishing was less than spectacular due to relatively poor ocean conditions. Department samplers counted only 12 boats in Santa Cruz and two boats in Monterey harbor, and observed catches included brown and yellowtail rockfish and a barred sand bass. However, fishing improved the following week, with deeper water rockfish species such as greenstriped, greenspotted, and chilipepper being caught.

On May 17 the Fish and Game Commission approved emergency regulations proposed by CDFW for the California halibut fishery north of Point Sur, reducing the daily bag and possession limit from three fish to two fish. The regulations became effective June 2. This was prompted by concerns from CPFV and private boat anglers that an effort shift due to the salmon fishery closure would put more pressure on the halibut resource, particularly in San Francisco Bay.

Ocean salmon

At the annual Salmon Information Meeting held virtually on March 1, state and federal fishery scientists presented the numbers of spawning salmon that returned to California's rivers late in 2022 and announced the abundance forecasts for key California stocks. The 2023 projection for Sacramento River fall Chinook, the predominant stock harvested in California's fisheries, is estimated at 169,767 adults, one of the lowest forecasts since 2008 when the current assessment method began. While low and disappointing, this forecast is not the lowest recorded; in 2009, it was 122,200 and in 2017.

Salmon numbers are episodic over time and life cycles, which is generally a three year period from birth as eggs hatching to returning adults from the ocean. For example, in 2022 ocean commercial catch was considerably greater than preseason expectations. The data also indicates in years following wetter hydrologic years that abundance is higher. For example, the

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

2010 above average rainfall year resulted in higher stock forecasts of California adult Chinook in 2012 and 2013.

Conversely drier years regularly result in lower abundance three years later. Three years ago, in 2020, conditions were particularly severe with drought. The current wetter weather in California is good news. Relatively higher returns in 2019 and 2020 may help boost the number of spawning adults returning to the Sacramento Basin in 2023, as fish hatched in 2019 and 2020 will be returning this year. Even though this boost will be moderated by evolving ocean conditions and ongoing climate disruption, there are bright spots and reasons for caution heading into 2023 and beyond. Rebuilding plans have been developed for the Sacramento River Fall Chinook and Klamath River Fall Chinook stocks after multi-agency collaboration between the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC), CDFW, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tribes and industry representatives.

The Salmon Information Meeting was attended by fishing industry participants, conservation organizations and other interested parties. During the meeting, ocean and in-river recreational anglers and commercial salmon trollers asked questions about the latest numbers and provided comments during a public listening session that followed the informational presentations. To access materials and information presented at the March 1 meeting or to learn more about the salmon season setting process, please visit CDFW's [Salmon Preseason Process web page](#). General ocean salmon fishing information can be found on CDFW's [Ocean Salmon Project web page](#) or by calling the CDFW Ocean Salmon Hotline at (707) 576-3429.

In 2022, returns of Sacramento River fall Chinook fell well short of conservation objectives, and now may be approaching an overfished condition after being declared rebuilt in 2021. In response, federal and state agencies took a conservative approach when considering 2023 salmon seasons to provide additional protective measures to these stocks.

On March 10, on recommendation from California and Oregon agency representatives and industry advisors, NMFS [took in-season action](#) to cancel ocean salmon fishery openers that were scheduled between Cape Falcon, Ore., and the U.S./Mexico border through May 15. The sport fishery had been scheduled to open off California in most areas on April 1. The actions were taken to protect Sacramento River fall Chinook, which returned to the Central Valley in 2022 at [near-record low numbers](#), and Klamath River fall Chinook, which had the second lowest abundance forecast since the current assessment method began in 1997.

PFMC has [produced three regulatory options](#) for the May 16, 2023, through May 15, 2024, time period. None of the three options would authorize commercial or ocean salmon sport

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

fishing off California until April 2024. The alternatives were approved by PFMC for public review.

On March 21, 2023, PFMC held a public hearing in Santa Rosa to receive public comment on the three proposed regulatory alternatives. PFMC then met April 1-7 in Foster City to adopt final regulations. More information regarding PFMC meetings and options can be found on the PFMC website at www.pcouncil.org.

Dungeness crab

On March 30, 2023 CDFW announced closure of the commercial Dungeness crab fishery in Fishing Zones 3-6 (south of the Sonoma/Mendocino county line) at noon on April 15, 2023 and authorized gear recovery under the Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval Program in that area as of 6 a.m. on April 21, 2023. On May 2, 2023 CDFW announced a prohibition on recreational use of crab traps in Fishing Zones 3-6 as of noon on May 15, 2023. Recreational take of Dungeness crab by other methods, including hoop nets and crab snares, is allowed through the close of the season on June 30, 2023.

During 2022, nearly 800 lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab traps were retrieved statewide, with 70% coming from Fishing Zones 3 and 4 (Sonoma/Mendocino county line to Lopez Point). CDFW has issued permits for the 2023 program to entities based in San Francisco and Half Moon Bay and will issue additional permits on a rolling basis through the early fall. A summary of the 2022 program is available on [CDFW's Whale Safe Fisheries page](#).

Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS)

CPS landings in Monterey Bay have been low since February due to the inclement weather. Most of the fleet focused on maintenance but the stronger storms towards the end of February and beginning of March did hamper some of the fishing. This led to very little of any CPS caught and landed in Monterey Bay. The milder weather towards the end of March to April allowed the fishing fleet to land northern anchovy. Northern anchovy landings have decreased in May and the fleet is now waiting for market squid to show up in Monterey Bay.

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

On March 15 at the Management Review Forum held in Monterey, nearly 300 participants representing state agencies, California Tribes, researchers, environmental groups, commercial and recreational fisheries, and others joined together to discuss the first 10 years of California's globally recognized Marine Protected Area Network. Presented to the California

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Fish and Game Commission in February, [the MPA Decadal Management Review](#) report is the first comprehensive statewide review of California's MPA Network and Management Program.

Panelists at the forum engaged with participants in lively discussions across [the four pillars of the MPA Management Program](#), which include research and monitoring, enforcement and compliance, outreach and education, and policy and permitting.

The discussions at the forum informed the next steps, which were considered at the [March 16 Marine Resources Committee meeting \(PDF\)](#) of the Commission, where members of the public could provide comments and reflections on the review and recommendations. In April 2023, the Commission will begin considering which adaptive management recommendations from the review and the public will be prioritized for the next 10 years of the [adaptive management review cycle](#).

In 1999, the State Legislature passed the historic [Marine Life Protection Act](#) (MLPA) to protect California's marine biodiversity, habitats and ecosystems. The MLPA required the establishment of a statewide, science-based network of MPAs. From 2004-2012, planning took place through a science-based, policy-guided, stakeholder-driven process, resulting in 124 MPAs. Today, the MPA Network encompasses 852 square miles (16 percent) of state waters, making California home to one of the largest ecologically connected networks in the world.

To access the video of the forum or to learn more about California's MPA Management Program please visit [CDFW's MPA Decadal Review webpage](#).

Name: Rachel Kippen

Seat: Conservation Primary

Announcements: Graduation is primarily happening next week, the week of the 22nd and into the weekend. Sharing the balloon pollution reduction message is much appreciated. Black Surf Santa Cruz will host our annual Liberation Paddle Out 2023 on Sunday, June 18th from Noon to 4pm. Donations both cash and in-kind are still being accepted. The County BOS passed a tobacco product waste resolution that aligns with similar resolutions passed by the City of Santa Cruz and City of Watsonville, however this focuses specifically on cigarette butts. The City of Santa Cruz engaged in a multi-month community meeting process to determine tobacco product waste policy direction but has yet to determine that direction. The County BOS resolution will ask the board for a draft ordinance to consider in January 2025. It also called on collaborative efforts with other local jurisdictions as many have been considering but not moving on TPW policies. Rachel and Tara Leonard will be presenting to the Tobacco

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Product Waste conference on May 30 in Sacramento about central coast efforts to address tobacco product waste including policy considerations alongside former assm Mark Stone who will keynote the event. Similarly, Rachel and the COE has been working with El Nido alternative education high school in Watsonville in partnership with the City of Watsonville on projects to address tobacco waste. El Nido students will make their pitch to Watsonville city council about the plague of tobacco product waste in the City's plaza at the council mtg on Tuesday, May 23rd.

Relevant Links: Balloon graphics created by Balloon Free Seas Coordinator Meg DeCoite: [drive](#); Link to support Black Surf Santa Cruz's 2023 LPO: <https://bit.ly/LPOdonate2023>. I wrote a column about plastics, balloons, Mother's Day and graduation quoting PVUSD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rodriguez:

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/05/13/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-we-each-have-a-role-to-play-in-ending-the-plastic-pollution-epidemic>.

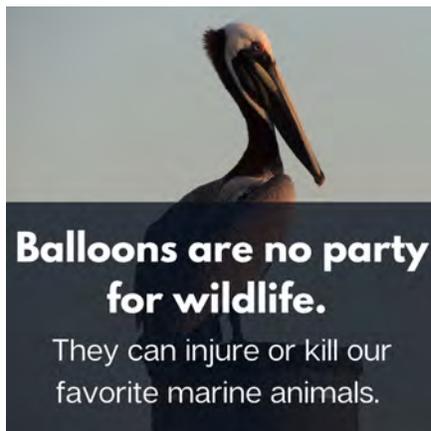
Photos (add below):



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes



Narrative: The Conservation Working Group met on Wednesday, April 12th in Moss Landing. In attendance: Karen Grimmer, Rachel Kippen, Marina Maze, Haven Parker, Keith Rooseart, Jenn Abbot, Nick Wilson. The agenda included introductions, including introducing Jenn as co-chair to the group, a brief history of the CWG, balloon pollution campaign, items from the floor, and member updates. The vast majority of the meeting was spent discussing balloon strategy. Marina offered to make some flyers (above), we discussed strategy for writing bullets and spreading the word, etc, Rachel updated the letter and shared the graphics and sample email messages with the team and included a document of places to reach out to. Rachel reached out to Santa Cruz County wide schools including coordination with Dr. Faris Sabbah. Faris confirmed that he sent the balloon pollution messages to all school site administrators in the County, public and private, education centers, and charter schools. Rachel sent to all alternative education sites. Faris also put the balloon pollution agenda item on the council meeting between superintendents. Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rodriguez of PVUSD shared the messages via her weekly update and was quoted confirming that PVUSD

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

continues to ban balloons during school graduations. After the publication of the column, community members reached out wanting the balloon letter and graphic. Jeff Condit, of Monterey County and their stormwater permit, shared the balloon letter and graphics with their stormwater permit education contacts, a list of schools and educators in Monterey County. Rachel shared the graphics with organizations such as MMC, SOS, BSSC, Bird School Project, Seymour Center, Watsonville Wetlands Watch, Monterey Bay Aquarium, Coastal Watershed Council, Regeneration PV Climate Action. Monterey Bay Eco Tours shared the graphics. Jenn shared with Marine Life Studies and posted to her Facebook; Rachel shared with groups such as electeds, County of SC commission on the environment, and local sustainability offices. Tony Elliot shared that the City will be adding language to their permit for City events that balloon releases are illegal.

Name: Elyse Goin

Seat: California Natural Resources Agency Alternate

Announcements:

- **OPC is hiring a Deputy Director:** The Deputy Director will provide executive-level leadership and will lead OPC administrative functions and operations including management of organizational and program budgets; driving and tracking progress towards strategic plan priorities (climate change, equity, biodiversity, sustainable blue economy); oversight and management of staff; and hiring and workforce planning. The Deputy Director will also work closely with the Executive Director and OPC's seven-member Council to protect California's coast and ocean by advancing innovative science-based policy, strategic investments, and catalyzing action through partnerships and collaboration. The application deadline is June 1, 2023. Please visit OPC's [webpage](#) for more details.
- **New Funding Available to support Offshore Wind Environmental Monitoring Guidance:** OPC is seeking applications to develop comprehensive environmental monitoring guidance for offshore wind development in California. The primary goal of this guidance document is to provide a clear and practical resource for regulators, developers, and other stakeholders involved in offshore wind projects in California to ensure that environmental impacts of offshore wind development are properly monitored, evaluated, and mitigated throughout the project lifecycle. Please see the [Request for Proposals](#) for details of this funding opportunity. Full proposals are due July 3, 2023, 5:00 PM PT.
- **30x30:** OPC has launched a dedicated [30x30 webpage](#) to serve as a one-stop-shop for updates, resources, and opportunities related to the state's effort to conserve 30% of coastal waters by 2030. Importantly, the website includes a new [30x30 Fact Sheet](#) with details on OPC's approach to 30x30 and answers to frequently asked questions. OPC has also hosted two topical 30x30 workshops in the last two months – one focused on the potential role of spatial

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

management measures apart from marine protected areas in achieving our 30x30 goal, and one focused on strengthening biodiversity protections in National Marine Sanctuaries through state-federal partnerships. The recordings of these webinars are posted on OPC's 30x30 webpage. Finally, OPC has been working with partners at California Ocean Science Trust to develop an inventory of spatial management measures in California state waters, to serve as a starting point for science-based and community-informed evaluation of which of these areas may count toward the 30x30 target. This inventory will be released for public comment in the coming weeks.

· **Marine protected areas (MPAs):** In January, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) released the first Decadal Management Review (DMR) of California's MPA network. In March, OPC and CDFW hosted a MPA DMR Forum to discuss the contents of the report with members of California's diverse ocean communities. The conversation will continue at the upcoming July 20 meeting of the California Fish and Game Commission's Marine Resources Committee (MRC), where next steps for adaptive management of MPAs into the future will be discussed. CDFW is currently prioritizing the adaptive management recommendations listed in the DMR report (Table 6.1), considering public input received to date. The prioritized recommendations will be presented at the July MRC meeting.

· **Kelp restoration and management:** A call for nominations for the [Kelp Restoration and Management Plan community working group](#) is now open. This working group will inform the development of CDFW's Kelp Restoration and Management Plan, and will include subcommittees focused on bull kelp and giant kelp ecosystems. CDFW welcomes a wide range of Community Working Group nominations, including representatives from the following groups:

- o California Tribes
- o Commercial harvesters
- o Local businesses
- o Recreational users
- o Non-governmental organizations
- o Academic and research institutions
- o State and federal partners
- o Other interested members of the community

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

[Nominate yourself or someone else](#) by 5pm pacific on June 9, 2023. For questions, email: kelp@wildlife.ca.gov.

Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion: OPC's first-ever [Equity Plan](#) and [Tribal Engagement Strategy](#) have recently been adopted by our Council, breaking new ground in our efforts to elevate Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion across all of OPC's strategic priorities. The Equity Plan represents OPC's commitment to advancing equity across ocean and coastal policies and actions in California. The Tribal Engagement Strategy provides specific actions that OPC will undertake to enhance tribal engagement in all aspects of its work, based on feedback received from tribes during consultations and listening sessions. At its April meeting, OPC approved over \$500,000 to support initial implementation of the Equity Plan.

Name: Pamela Neeb Wade. Felicia Van Stolk

Seat: Education

Announcements:

The quarterly education newsletter was sent to constituents in April.

In April, Santa Cruz County Office of Education supported Youth for Environmental Action, a county-wide high school club, in running a Youth Action Summit entitled "Empowering Teens for Climate Action". Over 200 attendees gathered at Camp Koinonia Conference Grounds for the summit which featured a diverse panel of speakers answering pressing questions about the climate, students learning more about how they can pursue local change, and collaboration across age ranges and professions. This day-long event featured several organizations working to protect resources in the Sanctuary. It is an annual event, and would be a great opportunity for students to learn more about the Sanctuary.

The Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History's summer exhibit "The Inner Lives of Shells" will introduce visitors and locals in the Monterey region to the lives and important roles of shelled creatures in the ocean. The exhibit will be open June 10 - August 20, 2023.

Name: Dan Brumbaugh

Seat: Elkhorn Slough Natl. Estuarine Research Reserve (alternate)

Announcement: High levels of DDTs and other legacy agricultural pesticides detected in Pajaro River flood waters entering Elkhorn Slough

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

Relevant Links: Dane Hardin report on results –

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rLer3sbXHkVyBCXJdR71C3JOTCG8V81x/view?usp=sharing>

Narrative:

ESNERR is interested in sharing information with the SAC from a report by Dane Hardin of Applied Marine Sciences about some recent water testing results.

In brief, after the Pajaro River levee breach on March 11, floodwaters reached Elkhorn Slough. Water quality tests of samples on March 15 from 4 locations just upstream of Elkhorn Slough showed a spike of legacy agricultural pesticides, including DDTs, at levels predicted to be toxic to aquatic wildlife: “mortality of aquatic and benthic organisms is conceivable due to lengthy exposures of these pesticides during the flood” (Hardin report). A similar intrusion of Pajaro River floodwaters into Elkhorn Slough happened in 1995, and afterwards, nesting Caspian terns experienced reproductive failure that was linked to DDT exposure.

The report also finds that the fingerprinted source of the sampled DDTs appears to be San Benito County soils, and that very little degradation of the original pesticides has occurred since 1985 when DDT profiles were previously analyzed from agricultural soils by the state’s Dept. of Agriculture (now, CDFA).

These new measurements are consistent with longer-term monitoring results from Central Coast rivers. Within the Monterey Bay area, the Central Coast Long-term Environmental Assessment Network (CCLEAN) has found over the last two decades that loads of legacy contaminants are orders of magnitude greater from rivers than from municipal wastewater discharges.

These results are another reminder about the long-term persistence (50+ years since the banning of the DDT use in 1972!) and potential ill-effects of human-made chemicals in our environment.

Name: Steve Allen

Seat: Member-at-Large, Southern Region

Announcements:

Cambria Community Services District (CCSD): There is a new general manager, Matthew McElhenie, who knows the community and is aware of the job challenges including water issues.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

May 19, 2023

FINAL Meeting Minutes

CHMNS: A Surfrider Foundation team led by Pete Stauffer, the National Ocean Protection Manager, plus San Luis Obispo (SLO) Chapter Exec Comm leads including myself, is preparing Surfrider's response to the upcoming public solicitation. I spoke with Paul Michel of the NOAA Sanctuaries West Coast Region to introduce Pete and get Paul's reading on what would be a helpful response from Surfrider. Pete will support Paul in stakeholder workshops.

Brine waste disposal: The May 11 CCSD Board meeting included a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Brine Waste Disposal which stated the committee is still looking at the ocean outfall into the MBNMS to dispose of the brine waste the water system (EWS/SWF/WRF) will produce. I spoke with a committee member who said there is little likelihood this will happen since the pipe is long since rusted out and due to Coastal Commission non-approval.

Motorized E-hydrofoil: saw one for the first time in San Simeon Cove on April 27.

Major rain event: The SLO Tribune reported that on March 10 about 177,000 gallons of waste water entered Cambria's Santa Rosa Creek at an overtopped sewage lift station and water well. This triggered a sewage spill notice from SLO County although the CCSD said not a lot of sewage goes to that station. Interestingly on March 16 Surfrider tested a water sample from the Creek/ocean interface and recorded an enterococcus reading of 20 cfu/100 ml which is in the low bacteria range.

Cambria Chamber of Commerce: The annual Pinedorado Days runs on Sep 2-4.