

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

August 18, 2023

Meeting Minutes

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez

At-Large: Jenny McAdams

At-Large: Dan Haifley

At-Large: Steve Allen

Business/Industry: Tom Rowley

Commercial Fishing: absent

Conservation: Rachel Kippen

Diving: Keith Rootsart

Education: Pamela Neeb Wade

Recreation: Tony Elliot

Recreational Fishing: Adam Helm

Research: Brandon Southall

Tourism: Michael Bekker

AMBAG: absent

CA Coastal Commission: Kevin Kahn
(Alternate)

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife: Paul Reilly

CA Environmental Protection Agency: Karen

Mogus

CA Resources Agency: Michael Esgro

(Alternate)

CA State Parks: absent

Harbors: John Haynes

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

College: Cindy Matuch

Greater Farallones & Cordell Bank

NMS: Brian Johnson (Alternate)

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

Rebecca Cenicerros – At Large

Monica Lal – Business/Industry

Jennifer Abbott – Conservation

Felicia Van Stolk – Education

Nicholas Wilson – Recreation

Steven Haddock – Research

Josie Wrinkle – College

Dawn Hayes – Monterey Bay NMS

Brian Nelson – Harbors

Jim Pruett – Harbors

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I. CALL TO ORDER

Welcome to Salinas from Sarah Lopez, Agriculture seat, and Marieke Desmond, Agriculture alternate.

Michael Esgro sworn in as California Resources Agency seat.

Roll Call

Motion for Approval of May Meeting Minutes: with editorial suggestions by Paul Reilly and Steve Allen.

Motion by Adam Helm, seconded by Brandon Southall.

Yes: 14 No: 2 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

II. STANDING ITEM: SUPERINTENDENTS' REPORTS

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

Ray Chisolm, Program Operations Specialist, retired in June.

Superintendent Wooninck has been holding meet and greets with Advisory Council (AC) members over the summer.

The Sanctuary Exploration Center's window has been repaired. Digital upgrades have also been installed at the Center. Staff changed outdated software to enable timely updates, enriching the visitor experience.

MBNMS received \$7 million through the Inflation Reduction Act to co-locate on California State University, Monterey Bay's campus. Benefits from co-location include: a permanent home in a new green building; integration with academic programs such as Marine Science, Engineering, Watershed Institute; and shared infrastructure, internet, conferencing, and meeting spaces.

First Friday events, "Plankton Photography" with Steve Mandel and "High Tides and Good Vibes" with Santa Cruz Natural History Museum, were hosted by the Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC) and held in June and July.

The MBNMS Education team has continued expanding community partnerships. It is providing field trips to the Coastal Discovery Center (CDC) and Hearst Memorial State Beach for Boys Scouts of America. The Education team teamed up with Shared Adventures to bring the "Day on the Beach" event. Staff also had an outreach table at the Monterey Bay Aquarium's Latino Conservation Week event.

The Get Into Your Sanctuary event held on July 29 was celebrated at both the CDC and SEC. "Fish Fest" at the CDC and San Simeon Pier had free, guided recreational fishing with Cambria Fishing Club. It also had a kelp forest diving virtual reality experience with California State

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Parks. Over 200 people attended the event. “Fish Fest” at the SEC and Santa Cruz Wharf hosted free, guided recreational fishing with Bay Area Sportfishers Club and AC Recreational Fishing seat, Adam Helm. There was tabling at the event from California Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA Fisheries, UC Santa Cruz’s Collaborative Fisheries Project, Doormat Derby Halibut fishing, and Santa Cruz Boat Rentals. Over 500 people attended the event.

The MBNMS Research team is making progress on the MBNMS Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA). See notes on Grace Kumaishi’s presentation in Section V.

A new sponge species was named after MBNMS. *Megaciella sanctuarium* was discovered off of Carmel in 2021.

The “From Watershed to Whales” proposal was funded \$350,000 by California Sea Grant to the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation to track the sources and transport of microplastics in the greater Monterey Bay.

In 2023, MBNMS has seen 16 vessel incidents; nine of which were grounded vessels, 4 out which were vessels adrift, two vehicles over a cliff, and one sunken aircraft.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) and MBNMS are requesting that the Pacific Fishery Management Council moves forward with scoping to designate areas for deep-sea coral research and restoration in the sanctuaries. An online public briefing will be held on August 24, 2023. Details on how to participate in the briefing can be found at this [link](#).

MBNMS AC recruitment for Fall 2023 has begun. Applications are due September 15, 2023 and can be found [here](#). The Council is recruiting for ten seats: Santa Cruz County At-Large (primary and alternate), San Luis Obispo County At-Large (alternate), Commercial Fishing (primary and alternate), Diving (primary and alternate), Education (alternate), and Tourism (primary and alternate). Email Haven.Parker@noaa.gov with ideas for recruitment opportunities and if interested in serving on the review committee.

The MBNMS AC may hold a retreat in October to discuss: the AC Work Plan adapted from MBNMS priorities and diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) perspectives from an indigenous communities panel. Potential dates, location, and agenda are to be determined.

Superintendent Wooninck then opened the meeting to questions and comments on her presentation.

Rachel Kippen, Conservation seat, commented that she would like to serve on the AC Recruitment Subcommittee for the Fall 2023 season.

There was some discussion about the causes of vessel incidents in the sanctuary. Superintendent Wooninck replied that many vessels are not seaworthy in the first place. There was a questions about the chain of response to vessel incidents. Superintendent Wooninck stated that MBNMS refers incidents to NOAA’s Office of Law Enforcement, which investigates and refers enforcement measures to NOAA’s Office of General Council, which enforces fines. Marieke

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Desmond, Agriculture seat, asked if when a fine is enforced, does the sanctuary receive those funds. Superintendent Wooninck replied that yes, MBNMS receives them as Sanctuary Asset Forfeiture Funds. Monterey 1 Water has provided such funds and will be an information item in the afternoon of this meeting.

Mike Bekker, Tourism seat, asked if MBNMS is looking for sponsorship for its co-location with CSUMB. Superintendent Wooninck replied that MBNMS has come up with its portion, but CSUMB is still looking for funds. Michael Bekker also asked if there would be a name for the building. Lisa stated that MBNMS would be tenants, so naming the building after a donor would be at the discretion of CSUMB.

Brian Johnson shared his Deputy Superintendent's Report for Cordell Bank/Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries (CBNMS/GFNMS). Highlights included:

CBNMS/GFNMS received \$2 million in Inflation Reduction Act funding to rehabilitate the Shop/Garage into an Ocean Learning Center. This is a phase of campus improvements under the long-range Facilities Master Plan.

Geographic information systems (GIS) tool development is underway for coral restoration site selection and producing maps for the GFNMS Condition Report to visually represent data in the sanctuary.

GFNMS and CBNMS staff, affiliates, and partners completed the first ACCESS cruise of the year May 1-16 on the NOAA ship Bell M. Shimada, and the 2nd cruise of the year was July 19-27. This is the 20th year of data collection. ACCESS data are used to inform management such as reducing ship strikes, understanding climate change, and determining the condition of the sanctuary.

CBNMS Condition Report was published which will inform the GFNMS and CBNMS management plan development beginning in 2024.

Media coverage featuring GFNMS Kelp Restoration (Press Democrat, Marin IJ, SF Chronicle, and ABC-7) is attracting more media interest as a result. This increases visibility of the Kelp Restoration project in GFNMS.

GFNMS will be jointly presenting a scoping document with MBNMS and Pacific Fishery Management Council staff that aims to designate areas for deep-sea coral research and restoration in the sanctuaries.

The bull kelp restoration project is underway off the Marin and Sonoma coast with spore seeding and baby kelp outplanting.

There have been two vessel incidents and one aircraft incident. One plane crash occurred in GFNMS and had two fatalities. A sailing vessel was abandoned about four miles offshore from Bean Hollow State Beach. A vessel grounding occurred just south of Surfer's Beach on State

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Parks land in Half Moon Bay. The vessel was salvaged and about 160 gallons of diesel was removed.

Superintendent Johnson then opened the meeting to questions and comments on his presentation.

Nicholas Wilson, Recreation alternate, asked about what the cost would be to retrieve a lost anchor. Superintendent Johnson replied that he was sure of protocol, but that would be an important consideration for charging the responsible party. Superintendent Wooninck agreed with Nicholas Wilson that it is important for sanctuaries to consider at what point is the cost de minimis.

III. INFORMATION ITEM: INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES ENGAGEMENT

Lisa Wooninck, MBNMS Superintendent, shared an update on MBNMS engagement with Indigenous Communities using best practices. The AC Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Subcommittee and other parties have expressed interest in appointing an AC seat to represent Indigenous Communities. This presentation discussed how MBNMS is approaching that request and what MBNMS is doing now to engage Indigenous Communities.

Engaging with indigenous communities is important: to better understand and recognize Indigenous rights, responsibilities, knowledge, and values; increase the resources and opportunities for Indigenous partners to engage with MBNMS; fulfill National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s mission to protect; and respect Indigenous Communities because we are guests in their homeland.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) has a roadmap to working with Indigenous Communities. Its goals are to strengthen ONMS's organizational culture, increase capacity to build trust and respect with Indigenous Communities, and increase the resources and opportunities for Indigenous partners to engage with ONMS in marine conservation and management.

Recent MBNMS staff engagement activities with Indigenous Communities include: raising capacity among staff, regular meetings and trainings with ONMS Indigenous Communities Engagement Team (ICET) and Steering Committee, the creation of an internal engagement action plan, outreach to Tribal leaders for first meetings, and the planning of the 2024 Cross Pacific Indigenous Exchange meeting with Tribal Leaders.

Superintendent Wooninck then opened the meeting to questions and comments on her presentation.

Sarah Lopez, Agriculture seat, asked if Indigenous Communities have indicated interest in participating on the council either as a member of the public or as an AC member. Superintendent Wooninck replied that the groups that MBNMS has met with have expressed some interest, but it would not be respectful to ask some but not others. MBNMS staff want to reach out to all and see how they think they should best represent Indigenous Communities, as there are only 20 voting seats on the AC and it is not feasible for each tribe to have its own seat.

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Paul Reilly, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife seat, stated that the CA Native American Heritage Commission is a great resource for tribal contacts. Superintendent Wooninck agreed and said that MBNMS already utilizes that website.

Mike Esgro, CA Resources Agency seat, made a suggestion that MBNMS looks to Ocean Protection Council's protocols to establish regional tribal representation. In its job description, it states tribal representatives of four tribal regions would not just be representing their own tribe. Mike Esgro then asked if tribal leaders have expressed priorities for what they are looking for in conservation. Erica Burton, MBNMS staff, responded that those she has spoken with have indicated interest in accessing their resources, but conversations with tribal leaders have very much been just at the introductory stage. Mike Esgro responded that CA Resources Agency saw those sentiments in their listening sessions as well.

Brandon Southall, Research seat, stated that the research community in Monterey Bay has published pieces on interactions between regulatory committees and indigenous communities that could serve as resources to MBNMS staff on this subject.

Felicia Van Stolk, Education alternate, asked if the Internal Engagement Action Plan is available for AC members to review. Superintendent Wooninck said that eventually yes it would be, but it is currently being reviewed by the Indigenous Communities Engagement Team.

Rachel Kippen, Conservation seat, stated that the AC DEI Subcommittee has discussed having a panel come in and discuss things that have gone well and not gone well in involving Indigenous Communities.

Channel Islands has had twenty years of experience with the Chumash bands and has steps in place for their involvement. MBNMS does not have this history and is catching up.

Michael Bekker, Tourism seat, asked if the boundaries in the tribal map displayed are agreed to. Superintendent Wooninck said no, there is lots of overlap in disputed areas, making it a sensitive issue. Michael Bekker asked if there were any nomadic tribes. Felicia Van Stolk, Education alternate, stated that most tribes are described by their whole range, as they move around within that area seasonally. She wished to flag that the California Native American Heritage Commission's contact list has limitations, as there is no vetting process. She advised to proceed with caution when going by one source of information that could reference illegitimate people.

IV. INFORMATION ITEM: MBNMS RESEARCH TEAM UPDATE

Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS Research Coordinator, shared an update of what the MBNMS Research team has been doing.

The Research team is focusing on iconic kelp, climate change, marine debris, and whale disturbance. Its responsibilities include: coordinating regional marine science, monitoring natural resources to detect natural/human caused change, reporting on the condition of the sanctuary, being a regional expert for other government programs, and addressing public concerns through the Management Plan process.

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MBNMS Research obtains scientific information using existing staff knowledge, library research, regional experts, staff research, and research interns and fellows. Andrew shared the various projects research staff are working on in 2023, including participating in the California Cooperative Oceanic Fisheries Investigations (CalCOFI) research cruise last spring, progressing with the MBNMS Climate Vulnerability Assessment, coordinating with the Research Activity Panel, conducting urchin surveys at Tanker Reef, researching sound/acoustic issues, authoring new publications, and much more.

V. ACTION ITEM: CLIMATE VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Grace Kumaishi, Sea Grant Fellow, shared an update on the Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) to date. Her presentation was followed by a vote to convene a subcommittee of AC members or a working group of AC members to refine the adaptation strategies of the CVA.

Climate Vulnerability is a function of the *sensitivity* of a particular resource to climate change, its *exposure* to those changes, and its *adaptive capacity* to those changes. Exposure is a measure of how much change in climate or other environmental factors a resource is likely to experience. Sensitivity is a measure of whether and how a resource is likely to be affected by a given change in climate. Adaptive capacity is a measure of the ability of the resource to accommodate or cope with climate change impacts with minimal disruption.

Vulnerability assessments can help prioritize adaptation planning by: prioritizing species and systems for management actions; informing management strategies to address climate change, providing additional support/justification for existing management strategies; and efficiently allocating funding and staff time. For the 2023 MBNMS CVA, staff looked to CVA examples from GFNMS, CBNMS, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuaries. In the MBNMS CVA, 48 focal resources were identified. Subject matter experts then developed vulnerability scores for each. These scores allow us to think about where we prioritize efforts for adaptation planning. We don't have the capacity to address all 49 resources right now, but we could prioritize resources that have the highest vulnerability or those resources that had very high adaptive capacity scores or resources that are rated high for exposure variables that we have some management jurisdiction over.

Steve Haddock, Research alternate, expressed concern about the qualitative nature of the project. Grace stated that it is important to remember that the scores are for sanctuary management. The scores are very qualitative, but they will be broken down further into more quantitative assessments. Brandon Southall, Research seat, asked about the way in which subject matter experts are selected and how to address variability in their analyses. Grace responded that the guidance from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is to select groups of experts on a given resource who are also experts on climate concerns in a certain region. The CVA does not take scores from the experts individually and then average. It is a very collaborative process. Experts come to agreement on one score with notes on any disagreement. Sarah Lopez asked about the potential to make this a more qualitative process. Grace responded that there is. Already research has pursued overlaying climate projections with species

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distribution polygons in GIS. There have been some problems comparing qualitative and quantitative data sets.

It was asked if mobility of species is considered in scoring. It is.

Motion for AC to convene a working group to develop Climate Adaptation Strategies for MBNMS to adopt to respond to and decrease vulnerabilities of sanctuary resources (likely a nine to 12 month process). The working group would convene in 2024. Details of the working group process would be discussed at the MBNMS AC retreat planned for October.

Motion by Dan Haifley, seconded by Rachel Kippen.

Yes: 12 No: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion passes.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comments.

VII. ACTION ITEM: RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL INITIATIVE SUPPORT

Rob O'Keefe and Alyssa Rendon of the Monterey County Visitors and Convention Bureau (MCCVB) presented on the organization's Responsible Travel Initiative. Their presentation was followed by a vote to send a letter of support from the MBNMS AC.

MCCVB's mission is to generate community prosperity in the form of economic vitality and quality of life for communities and residents. While tourism is intended to positively impact the vitality of the community and livelihood of its residents, doing so in a sustainable way guarantees positive outcomes in the long term. Encouraging sustainable travel practices involves off-peak promotion, providing resources for sustainable meetings, educating visitors on responsible travel, highlighting our destination's sustainable practices, and cooperation and collaboration with other initiatives.

The Responsible Travel Initiative billboards seek to educate visitors before the summer travel season *before* they arrive at their destination. The Responsible Travel Initiative bus ads serve to remind visitors of sustainable tourism strategies *during* their visit.

Motion to send letter of support to MCCVB for its Responsible Travel Initiative. See letter in Appendix I.

Motion by Tom Rowley, second by Sarah Lopez.

Yes: 17 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes.

VIII. DISCUSSION ITEM: CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN SUPPORT LETTER

MBNMS Superintendent Lisa Wooninck shared that there will be a call for an emergency meeting to address AC comments on the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (CHNMS) draft

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management plan pending its release. The CHNMS draft documents have been released since this meeting. See this [link](#) for access to the documents.

IX. INFORMATION ITEM: REDUCING MARINE DEBRIS AND MICROPLASTICS IN THE SANCTUARY

Bridget Hoover, MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program Director, presented an update on reducing marine debris in the sanctuary.

Plastic pollution in the sanctuary arrives there through many inputs. Staff have developed a Marine Debris Action Plan with the goal of assessing and reducing the amount of marine debris in or entering Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Plan utilizes four strategies: assessing scope and scale of marine debris, fostering public participation, reducing threats by removing source inputs, and monitoring and assessing the local golf ball issue.

A main source of plastic pollution is agriculture. MBNMS recently received funding to research and mitigate this source including: \$7 million from USDS Specialty Crop Research Initiative to pursue the use of biodegradable mulch in agriculture fields, and a \$2.7 million National Sea Grant Innovation Grant with Driscoll's and others to develop technology to remove traditional plastic mulch from fields in a manner in which it can be recycled.

The MBNMS marine debris team also conducts beach debris data analysis to identify prevalent types and distribution of debris on MBNMS shorelines, assess potential sources, and assess transport mechanisms.

Other marine debris programs include: "From Watershed to Whales", a \$350,000 grant from CA Sea Grant and the Ocean Protection Council to quantify microplastics flux between the rivers beach, ocean, and biota; and a system-wide NOAA Marine Debris Program Large Debris Removal grant totaling \$15 million with \$1.8 million coming to MBNMS.

Superintendent Wooninck stated that there is lots of overlap between the MBNMS AC's mission and that of MCCVB's. Earlier in this meeting, there was a presentation on indigenous community engagement and another on marine debris. MBNMS should have a staff member connect with recreation and tourism members as well as MCCVB staff. MBNMS is trying to get the word out about the sanctuary.

Steve Haddock, Research alternate, states that people who come here and throw trash in the ocean are the least likely to research sustainable practices. Rob O'Keefe said there is always going to be a percentage of the population that does not care, another percentage that will behave sustainably if they think about it, and another that absolutely will behave sustainably. Community outreach is important for reaching that second group.

Michael Bekker, Tourism seat, asked about the termination of city services for cruise ships in Monterey. Rob O'Keefe said that this is a complicated issue. Some ask why support long haul by effectively banning cruise ships if the goal is sustainability, but on the other hand why support

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cruise ships and their pollution if the goal is sustainability. If Monterey does allow cruise ships, they should be educated about sustainable strategies.

X. UPDATE ON MONTEREY ONE WATER

Bridget Hoover, MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program Director, presented an update on the Monterey One Water (M1W) sewage spill and required conditions for operations and activities related to settlement funds.

Approximately 2.8 million gallons of untreated sewage and additional secondary effluent was discharged to MBNMS on January 20, 2018 from Monterey One Water Wastewater Treatment Facility. Discharge occurred for 9.25 hours. Root cause analysis indicated a software malfunction that caused alarms and bar screen rakes to fail which led to overflow into sump discharging straight to MB.

Corrective actions were taken including: cameras installed at the overflow pump, a level sensor installed, facility software installed, and staff conducting rounds after hours increased. The spill had a variety of impacts. MBNMS requested a representative sample of the sewage and analyzed it for CA Ocean Plan constituents. Copper and zinc level exceeded Water Quality Objectives (WQOs). Five constituents probably exceeded CA Ocean Plan levels, but the reporting limit was less than the WQOs. These constituents create significant toxicity to kelp germination and growth.

M1W reached a settlement agreement with the NOAA Office of General Counsel for \$84,000 in September of 2020. MBNMS just awarded a contract to conduct Moss Landing Harbor entrance tidal flux monitoring for impacts from persistent pollutants with the funds.

XI. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORKING GROUP REPORT OUTS

See Appendix II.

ADJOURN AT 3:30PM

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APPENDIX I. LETTER OF SUPPORT TO MCCVB FOR ITS RESPONSIBLE TRAVEL INITIATIVE

Young Members
Pamela Neeb Wade
Education
Chair
Adam Helm
Recreational fishing
Vice-Chair
Joseph Lipper
Agriculture
Secretary
Jenny McAdams
At-Large
Dan Holley
At-Large
Steve Allen
At-Large
Tom Rowley
Business/Industry
Lobby Contact
Commercial fishing
Rachel Lipper
Conservation
Brandon Sewell
Research
Mike Seltzer
Business
Susan Brown
At-Large
Dan Cail
CA Coastal Commission
Paul Kelly
CA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
Loren Adams
CA FFA
John Roberts
CA Resources Agency
Dan Fahn
CA State Parks
John Reynolds
Habitat
Non-Young Members
Cindy March
College
JJC Andrew Island
US Coast Guard
Steven Landry
National Marine Fisheries
Dave Kirk
Recreation/HRP
Chris Mobley
Channel Islands NP
Alana Brown
Climate Resilience/Climate
Sant NP
Paul Michel
Monterey Bay NP

Sanctuary Advisory Council
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
99 Pacific Street, Building 455
Monterey, CA 93940
(831) 647-4201

August 25, 2023

Monterey County Convention and Visitors Bureau
419 Webster Street
Monterey, CA 93942-1770

Dear MCCVB,

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council thanks you for your contribution to the safe enjoyment of our wonderful Monterey Bay. Members of our advisory council and Sanctuary staff saw your billboard on southbound 101 before Prunedale and we wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for the very thoughtful, appropriate, and cute image of a sea otter with the text "Adore Responsibly." This sign will be seen by so many on their way to visit Monterey and we love it!

The billboard message is well aligned with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary outreach to ocean users to enjoy the ocean and to keep their distance from the sea otters. There is presently an abundance of transient sea otters and they are more skittish than the resident sea otter population. The Sanctuary has published our new 2 pager Sea Otter Viewing Etiquette and Protection and we appreciate that your ad amplifies this message. We understand that there are several more billboards in San Jose, and this ad will also be posted on Monterey Salinas Transit buses, which is fantastic!

Thank you again for your unexpected and delightful contribution! We look forward to a continued fruitful relationship with MCCVB.

Sincerely,

Pamela Neeb Wade
Chair, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council

"The Council is an advisory body to the Sanctuary Superintendant. The opinions and findings of the publications do not necessarily reflect the position of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



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**APPENDIX II. MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WORKING GROUP REPORT
OUTS**

Name: Dan Haifley

Seat: At Large (Northern area) primary

Announcements: On June 26 and July 24 and 25, I was interviewed for four television news shows, two from the San Francisco Bay area, about sea otter harassment off Point Santa Cruz. I also was a guest on the “Inside Santa Cruz” community television show about the sanctuary and the Monterey Bay Chapter of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and I attended the Sea Stars Gala and other foundation and sanctuary activities, including Shared Adventures’ Day On The Beach, where I spoke about access to MBNMS.

Efforts to engage a diverse constituency: My talk at Day On The Beach was to inform and to engage individuals with disabilities and their families (including my own) about MBNMS.

Relevant Links: TV news stories on sea otter harassment:

<https://abc7news.com/sea-otter-841-santa-cruz-harassment-kayakers-otters-stealing-surfboard/13547993/>;

<https://www.ktvu.com/video/1254109>; <https://www.ksbw.com/article/harassment-of-coastal-wildlife-rising-on-the-central-coast-experts-say/43455869> ;

<https://www.ksbw.com/article/growing-concerns-over-sea-otter-harassment-in-santa-cruz/44633767> .

Name: Keith Rootsart

Seat: Diving Primary

Announcements: Like Dan Haifley, I also attended the Sea Stars Gala and won my bid for MBNMSF shirt, hat and water bottle. Recruitment for the Diving seats are open, I’m looking for a great diver to apply. G2KR will be featured in the September edition of Carmel Magazine in a 800 word story by Michael Chatfield.

Efforts to engage a diverse constituency: The Giant Kelp Restoration Project suspended culling at the Tanker’s Reef treatment area.

The Tanker’s Reef project was going well with over 217 volunteer divers performing 1,397 dives to cull over 642,000 urchins. We cleared “the grid” treatment area of enough urchins in 5 months that the kelp returned in year two. The regulatory amendment to the Sportfishing Regulations was for three years and, as explained in a joint agency memo, if we met the

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criteria for success as determined by a diver effort evaluation, we could ask to extend the amendment and broaden our scope. When we asked for that extension, our scientific advisors insisted that the project be allowed to sunset to determine if the kelp would persist without the diver culling effort. This was a real bait and switch that we didn't see coming.

Last winter, wind and poor visibility kept us off the project site for 6 months and the urchins reinvaded the site and ate half the kelp on the grid. There is a vast field of a seemingly infinite number of urchins around the site and we have watched them mow down over 6 acres of kelp forest we tried to defend adjacent to the grid. Certainly the kelp will not persist in year 3 of a 10 year project.

Learning that our kelp forest that we worked so hard to restore was to be sacrificed as an experiment that would feed urchins and make even more urchins in an El Nino year, we have suspended efforts on the grid since July 30 and are working elsewhere in the regulatory area to defend and grow kelp. The volunteer divers are furious.

We have begun a political campaign to rally support for the Tanker's Reef Project 5 year extension at the Fish and Game Commission on August 23, at 8:30 AM and are urging our volunteers, donors, the public and SAC members to write letters and make public comments of support at the meeting. There are 3 different options for the extension of the regulatory amendment: end, continue, or a compromise (see picture) to grow kelp from scratch while our 11 acre kelp forest is sacrificed.

It is antithetical to the volunteer divers to deliberately kill the kelp forest and all the life therein that we worked so hard to defend. A 5 year extension is needed and deserved.

Please send your letters of support to action@g2kr.com before noon on August 16.

Please call into the Zoom meeting at 8:30 AM on August 23 to speak on Agenda Item 14.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83396058980>

Relevant Links: Tanker's Reef joint agency agreement and scientific design:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1FgHC_Ba0CShiH5D9xcs2-tgvOMeeY3SW?usp=sharing

Tanker's Reef data portal:

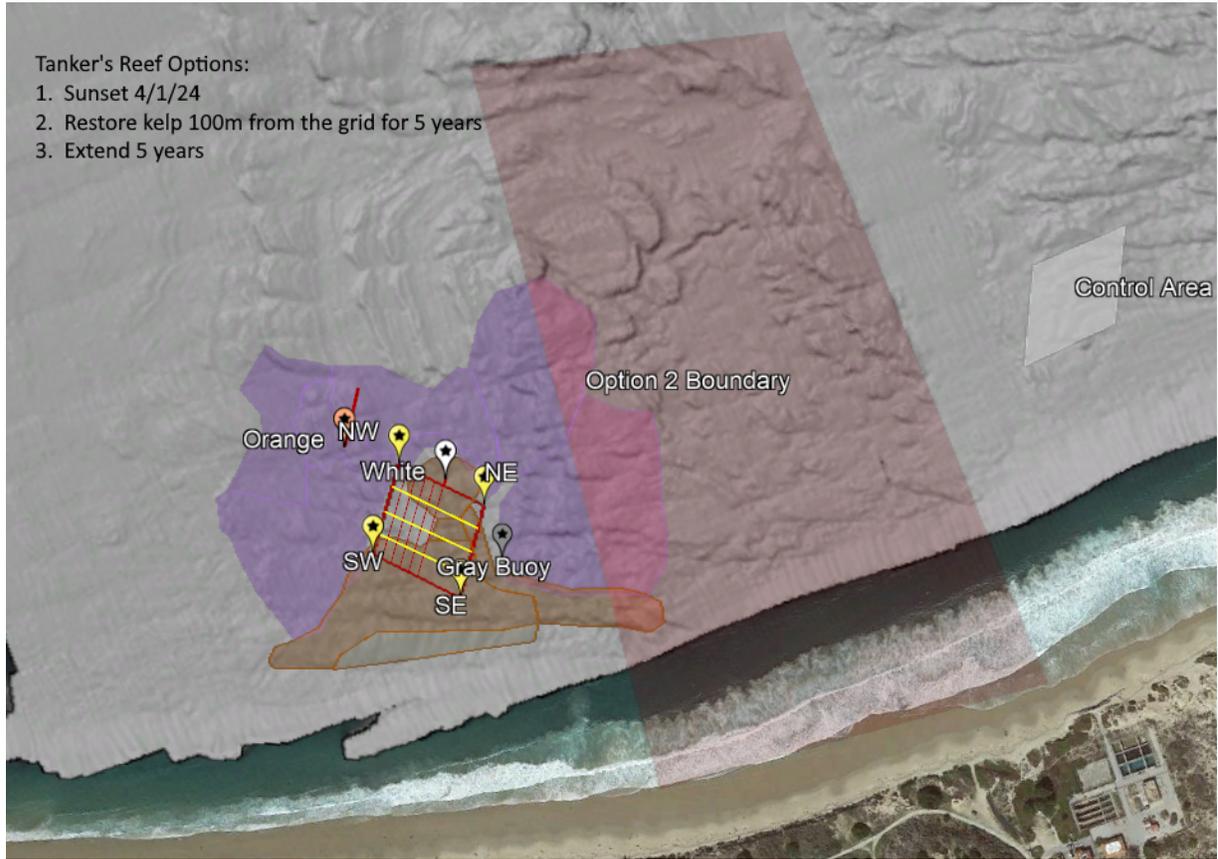
https://public.tableau.com/views/CaliforniaCentralCoastKelpRestoration/About?:language=en-US&publish=yes&:display_count=n&:origin=viz_share_link

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Photos:

Tanker's Reef Options:

1. Sunset 4/1/24
2. Restore kelp 100m from the grid for 5 years
3. Extend 5 years



Name: Adam Helm

Seat: Recreational Fishing Primary

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Announcements: Participated in the GIYS event on Santa Cruz wharf. Helped get as many people from the general public to fish and talk about the sanctuary. We were also able to get some veterans out on skiffs to fish with a guide. Overall it was a successful event and allowed us to interact with the general public. I found that many people did not know Monterey Bay was a sanctuary or even know what a sanctuary was. People were eager to talk and ask questions.

Efforts to engage a diverse constituency: Participating in the GIYS event allowed us to communicate in terms of looking for volunteers within the community to help out as well as working with the general public.

Name: Jenny McAdams

Seat: At-Large Primary

Announcements: I want to express my gratitude to Superintendent Wooninck for dedicating her time to meet with me and members of the MBNMS Advisory Council in Monterey. Our conversation was truly enjoyable, and I gained insight into the exceptional efforts being undertaken by her and staff. I appreciate the opportunity for this meaningful interaction and Dr. Wooninck's commitment to engagement and outreach.

Efforts to engage a diverse constituency: Shared "Get Into Your Sanctuary" events and the "Take the pledge for wildlife" with Palenke Arts, The Village Project, and on social media within diverse circles.

Name: Paul Reilly

Seat: California Department Fish and Wildlife

Announcements:

Recreational boat fishing Monterey Bay

In late May and through June, boat effort focused primarily on rockfish and lingcod with some effort for California halibut and market squid. Dungeness crab catch decreased with pot gear restrictions. Rockfish fishing occurred in Monterey Canyon in depths of 450 to 800 feet, in Carmel Bay, and off Davenport. Species landed included bocaccio, vermilion, greenstriped, greenspotted, and chilipepper. In late May some effort switched to halibut when word got out of large fish caught off Seaside in 60-70 feet of water; halibut were observed in the 17-38 pound range.

By early July, rockfish and lingcod continued as primary targets, but Petrale sole, Pacific sanddab, jacksmelt, Pacific mackerel, spiny dogfish, white croaker, and cabezon were

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included in catches. Some bluefin tuna effort occurred out of Santa Cruz in early and mid-July.

Dungeness crab

The CDFW Lost or Abandoned Commercial Dungeness Crab Trap Gear Retrieval Program has been operational in Fishing Zones 3-6 since April 21, 2023. So far, CDFW has issued two permits for the 2023 program, and will accept applications on a rolling basis until the end of the program (September 30, 2023).

Groundfish

CDFW projected the combined recreational and commercial take of quillback rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*) will exceed the harvest limits specified in federal regulation for 2023, and in-season action is needed to occur to reduce the risk of overfishing. Effective August 7, retention of quillback rockfish is prohibited statewide in both the recreational and commercial fisheries. For more information, please see the [CDFW News Release](#).

Miscellaneous

At the June 16, 2023 meeting the Fish and Game Commission approved two experimental fishing permits: one for Sustainable Seas Technology to test pop-up systems and conduct exploratory fishing for brown box and king crab and one for the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to test fishing gear innovations including pop-up systems for the California commercial Dungeness crab fishery.

Name: Steve Allen

Seat: Southern Member at Large

Announcements:

Met with Michele Roest and Sophia Barwegen of the MBNMS's Coastal Discovery Center to present and discuss signs, developed by CA State Parks, along the San Simeon Creek Trail and Pico Creek Overlook which highlight Salinan and Chumash history and culture. This information could potentially be useful for MBNMS staff working on DEI plans for incorporating Indigenous people into our public information centers.

Met with Matt McElhenie, General Manager, Cambria Community Services District, to ask about discussion plan for upcoming meeting with Dr. Kate Huckelbridge, Exec Dir of the CA Coastal Commission. Turned out CCSD staff met with Coastal Commission Senior Environmental Scientist Tom Luster and SLO county planning staff to work on the CFSD Water Reclamation Facility Coastal Development Permit (CDP). CCSD learned the permit

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application needs more work to meet CDP requirements. Key issue is brine disposal pond near the coast.

Name: Tom Rowley

Seat: Business/Industry

Announcements:

Business and loan services continue to be stressed from the steady rate increases instituted by the Federal Reserve. Speculation over a "soft landing" while avoiding a major recession appears to be stymied for now. The recent drop of US Government credi-worthiness has not impacted substantially on local banking, with the overall inflation rate continuing at greater than 3 %. Many middle class families continue to live from paycheck to paycheck.

The infusion of Grant funding, including funds from FEMA, to combat the flooded ravages in north Monterey County that resulted from the failure in the Pajaro Levee, has finally arrived. The Governor also signed an authorization recently to expedite repairs. Rebuilding the levee is expected to take years... And the balance of Monterey County agriculture continues to rebound from flooded fields. The annual wine crop is expected to be slightly less than prior years.

Weather in May and June impacted on visitors to Central Coast tourist attractions, e.g. City of Carmel reported lower income for hotel & motel overnite stays than expected as drive-in visitors expanded their presence. Overall -- hotter weather in the Central Valley of California led to more short-term visitors to the Monterey Peninsula. Special events like the first Woman's PGA Golf Championship in early July at Pebble Beach was a major success. And the Monterey Regional Airport reported a higher number of airline arrivals than 2022, but room occupancy numbers only partially rebounded.

Restaurants continued their rebound from years strained by the pandemic. Several high-end restaurants opened in Carmel, and Salinas restaurants rebounded with record attendance at a very successful Salinas Rodeo in July and other special events staged in the downtown area.

Laguna Seca Raceway successfully replaced the tourist bridge and also completed total track resurfacing in time for major scheduled events this Summer and Fall. A new Agreement was signed by the County of Monterey for long-term management of the Raceway.

Real Estate activity overall is still considered lukewarm because of the lack of middle-priced properties and condos. Affordable rental housing is still in very high demand. Escrow closings continue at approximately half the rate of past years.

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Two special annual events completed were Get In Your Sanctuary (GIYS) -- with promotions focused in Santa Cruz -- Plus the Annual STARZ Award Ceremony and fundraiser for the MB NMS was held on August 5th at Tehama Golf Club.

Sea Otter 841 became a national "hero" when it tried to "take over" surf boards in local waters off of Santa Cruz. But attempts to capture this otter have so far been unsuccessful.

The Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) was ordered to "sunset" the Ordinance 152 Water Supply Charge from Property Tax Bills in March by Superior Court Judge Carrie Panetta, but the MPWMD has appealed that order. The plans by the MPWMD to buy-out Cal-Am Water Company under the provisions of Measure J continue, and a formal offer was made that was not accepted; the water company has repeatedly announced that it is not for sale. The lawsuit over the November 2022 conditional decision by the California Coastal Commission to approve the proposed desalination project at the former CEMEX plant location in the Marina area remains "bogged down" while the legal record is being prepared.

In the meantime -- the 3 Counties of AMBAG and all the Cities continue with developing revised housing elements to meet increased Regional Housing Needs Analysis (RHNA) quotas for new housing to be built by 2031. The deadline for new housing elements is December 2023.

Name: Pamela Neeb Wade

Seat: Education Primary

Announcements: I attended the Sea Star Gala on August 5th.

Felicia Van Stolk, Education Alternate and I have each met with constituents and discussed public education around wildlife. There is an opportunity for continued education around safe wildlife interactions and respect for wildlife in their natural ecosystem. Increased disturbance to marine mammals around the Monterey Peninsula has been observed as higher numbers of people have been in the ocean the past few months. This includes the disturbance of harbor seals that are hauled out, disturbance of resting sea otters and sea lions. Ongoing public education around the Marine Mammal Protection Act needs to occur, along with education on why disturbance is harmful to these animals.

The ongoing situation with sea otter 841, and the recent discovery of the fossil mastodon tooth (on a state beach), have received lots of media attention. Both of these events have also demonstrated the need for increased education and public understanding about safe interaction with wildlife and the various laws and agencies involved in enforcement and

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research. There is a need to provide more easily accessed information that is ideally coordinated across visitor centers and other public and informal education outlets as well as teachers.

Sea otter 841: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is recommending the otter be removed from the wild because its behavior is demonstrating a lack of fear of people, and further interactions may pose a threat to the health and safety of people and the animal. The recommendation is to capture and place the otter in an aquarium or zoo for long-term care. The USFWS, CDFW and the Monterey Bay Aquarium are working together toward this effort. If a wild otter or other marine mammal approaches you in the water, the best thing to do is avoid interaction and give it space by swimming or paddling away from it.

Relevant Links: <https://www.fws.gov/press-release/2023-07/wildlife-officials-attempt-safe-capture-unusually-aggressive-sea-otter-santa>

Name: Rachel Kippen

Seat: Conservation Primary

Announcements: Conservation Working Group meeting held on Wednesday, June 21st and Thursday, August 17th. Attendance at the June meeting included Peggy from Marine Life Studies, Erica from Save Our Shores, myself, Jenn, and Keith. We talked about balloon policy and data, fishing line, invasive species, and updates from the Sanctuary. Our August CWG meeting included Jenn, myself, Karen, and Keith. We discussed the balloon data we received and our plans to publicly share the “results” of our efforts - essentially that we still have work to do; we discussed surveying our conservation stakeholders through our combined contacts to assess what they know about us (if they know about us), issues that are important to them, and if they’d like to attend our mtgs. Karen shared a bit about enforcement updates - Karen and Rachel will work on a column about jet ski awareness/rules for the Sanctuary; discussion about sea otter numbers, movements, and kelp cover; discussion about fishing line receptacles; discussion about coastal cleanup day and cigarette butt policy; next CWG meeting will be hybrid and at Moss Landing on Thursday, October 18, 3-4:30.

I participated in the July First Friday Oceans event hosted by the SC museum of natural history making art out of busted and abandoned crab traps, an opportunity to talk about different sources of marine debris, and creative upcycling. The museum does a really great job putting on these events!

Efforts to engage a diverse constituency: Invitations to conservation stakeholders to attend our meetings, including folks who have not attended recently but have previously expressed interest including representatives from the City of Watsonville. We will be surveying a large

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list of conservation contacts in the next month to increase our participation/awareness about our group and about the advisory council. I shared the Conservation Working Group meeting announcements and the Advisory Council meeting announcements with email contacts to remind folks that you do not need to be a council member to attend CWG meetings or Advisory Council meetings. I shared via social media, and had a few folks ask to join the email list for CWG meetings. My column continues to highlight people who work in conservation but are not the ones that seem to always get the spotlight.

I am serving on the JEDI subcommittee as co-chair to support Felicia as chair. We had two virtual meetings about ongoing efforts for understanding the needs of our council, work outcomes for any future consultant, future presentations to council, and alignment with the goals our AC adopted to address JEDI issues.

Relevant Links:

Only if you are interested in column subjects since our last meeting together.

This column I wrote with Bella Bonner, founder/ED of Black Surf Santa Cruz where I serve as Board Secretary, to share the narrative from the organization's perspective as to how the permit process and adjusting the permit process went for public beach access at Cowells. This narrative has been communicated a few different ways, and it was/is important to the organization to communicate it authentically from the org's perspective.

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/06/10/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-black-surf-santa-cruz-achieves-more-equitable-ocean-access-at-cowell-beach/>

This column highlighted the CWG efforts on balloons:

<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/>

This column highlighted the SC museum of natural history exhibit on shells:

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/07/08/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-santa-cruz-museum-teaches-history-through-the-stories-of-seashells/>

This column highlights the California Academy of Sciences achieving unionization, important to retention of representative and diverse staff in an area where wages do not reflect cost of living: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/07/21/rachel-kippen-our->

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[ocean-backyard-worker-led-effort-to-unionize-the-california-academy-of-sciences-proves-successful/](#)

Column on seabirds, oikonos, and incorporating art:

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/06/24/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-santa-cruz-nonprofit-oikonos-invites-public-to-learn-about-ano-nuevo-seabirds/>

Column on 3-d printing nudibranchs: <https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/08/05/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-reef-renders-3d-printing-improves-science-communications/>

Name: Tony Elliot

Seat: Recreation Primary

Announcements:

Recreation was in full swing across the MBNMS region over the summer. Numerous events took place including the PGA Women's US Open at Pebble Beach, Day on the Beach in Santa Cruz, National Parks and Recreation Month, and many more.

In Santa Cruz, West Cliff Drive remains in a state of partial closure and detours as a result of winter storms. While the City and various state and federal agencies work together to make near-term emergency repairs and long-term investments, community events and recreation activities have been modified (i.e. triathlon routes, etc.). Bicyclists and pedestrians are able to use West Cliff Dr. for access. The City aims to make emergency repairs with infill walls in the 4-5 most vulnerable areas prior to winter 2023/24.

A key theme among recreation service providers throughout the summer and ongoing is providing equitable access for all to beaches and the ocean environment. Organizations including but not limited to Shared Adventures (Day on the Beach), Black Surf Santa Cruz, and the Wahine Project continue their great work to break through barriers to enable access to beaches and ocean and engage more people to introduce them to the MBNMS.

In addition to access, another relevant and current theme is safety. At locations such as Cowell Beach in Santa Cruz, community organizations and individuals have expressed numerous concerns regarding the mix of hydrofoils, e-hydrofoils, stand up paddle boards, surf boards, kayaks, and other equipment in the surf zone. NOAA/MBNMS has recently adopted new laws and regulations around e-hydrofoils. Jurisdictions around the state have begun adopted new laws to separate uses for safety (i.e. San Onofre, Doheny). I met with Santa Cruz Mayor Fred Keeley, community members, Save the Waves, and the Santa Cruz Surfing Preservation Club to begin discussions around education, enforcements, and potential new regulations in Santa Cruz to ensure that all users are safe in the surf zone. Another community meeting is set for late August. I will continue to engage with MBNMS' Karen Grimmer, Harbors, and marine safety teams throughout the region as discussions move forward on this topic.

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Efforts to engage a diverse constituency: In my outreach to recreation stakeholders, I reach out to organizations including but not limited to the Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, Shared Adventures, Surf Equity, Community Bridges/Nueva Vista Community Center, and many more to share information on AC meetings and foster engagement with the MBNMS.

This summer, Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation sponsored Day on the Beach in the spirit of providing access to the beach and ocean. Beyond the single day event, Parks and Recreation is working with the Santa Cruz Community to install new access ramps and increase beach wheelchairs to enhance overall access to the beach and ocean.

Name: Mike Esgro

Seat: CNRA Alternate

Announcements: On Tuesday August 15, the CA Ocean Protection Council (OPC) held its third quarterly meeting of 2023. This meeting focused on sea level rise resilience and water quality, with significant investments made including: \$96M to support the Senate Bill 1 grant program, which will support sea level rise adaptation planning and adaptation for local, regional, and tribal governments; \$1.9M to support inventory/prioritization of contaminated sites at risk of sea level rise and groundwater shoaling; and \$2M on monitoring and research to inform management of microplastics, including the Watersheds to Whales project which will focus on the Monterey Bay region. Our council also heard a presentation from our two new 30x30 Program Managers, Abby Mohan and Anh Diep, on the state's approach to conserving 30% of coastal waters by 2030, which OPC is leading.

In July, OPC welcomed Kaitlyn Kalua as its new Deputy Director. Kaitlyn originally joined OPC in November 2021 as Water Quality Program Manager with experience in water quality regulation and policy, equitable water access, coastal adaptation planning, and federal ocean policy.

OPC is hiring a Water Quality Program Manager and will soon be hiring a Fisheries and Aquaculture Program Manager (links below). Please circulate these opportunities widely among your networks!

Efforts to engage a diverse constituency:

In July, CNRA Secretary Wade Crowfoot submitted a comment letter (see link below) supported by OPC, the CNRA Office of Tribal Affairs, California Coastal Commission, California Fish and Wildlife Department, and California State Lands Commission to highlight existing California policies relevant to a federal Ocean Justice Strategy. The Ocean Justice

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Strategy will describe the vision, goals, and high-level objectives for coordinating and guiding ocean justice activities across the federal government.

Nearly a year ago, OPC adopted its first-ever Equity Plan, marking a significant commitment to embed equity and prioritize environmental justice across OPC's ocean and coastal work. OPC is now partnering with Better World Group Advisors (BWG) to support Equity Plan implementation and facilitation of a staff-led Environmental Justice Advisory Board (EJ Advisory Board). OPC has also partnered with Justice Outside to support the development and administration of OPC's Environmental Justice Small Grants Program.

Finally, in the coming months, OPC will initiate early consultation with tribes to solicit tribal input on its strategies for conserving 30% of California's coastal waters by 2030. In particular, OPC is seeking to consult with tribes on how Indigenous Marine Stewardship Areas (IMSAs), as outlined in the state's Pathways to 30x30 document, can support tribal priorities and help protect coastal and marine biodiversity. CNRA and OPC have also partnered to create the Tribal Nature-Based Solutions grant program, which will provide \$101M to assist CA tribes in advancing multi-benefit nature-based solutions priorities for their communities. More information at link below.

Relevant Links:

OPC meeting materials from August 15: <https://opc.ca.gov/2023/07/ocean-protection-council-meeting-august-15-2023/>

OPC Executive Director's Report from August 15: <https://opc.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/Item-2-ED-Report-August-15-2023-508.pdf>

Water Quality Program Manager job announcement: <https://opc.ca.gov/2023/08/hiring-water-quality-program-manager/>

CNRA comment letter on federal Ocean Justice Strategy: <https://www.opc.ca.gov/2023/07/federal-ocean-justice-strategy/>

CNRA Tribal Nature-Based Solutions grant program: <https://resources.ca.gov/Tribal-Nature-Based-Solutions-Program>