

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council**

**November 21, 2023**

**FINAL 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: Jennifer Abbott (alternate)

Diving: Keith Rootsart

Education: Pamela Neeb Wade

Recreation: Tony Elliot

Recreational Fishing: Adam Helm

Research: Brandon Southall

Tourism: Absent

AMBAG: Scott Funck (alternate)

CA Coastal Commission: Absent

CA Department of Fish and Wildlife: Paul Reilly

CA Environmental Protection Agency:

Peter Von Langen (alternate)

CA Resources Agency: Absent

CA State Parks: Absent

Harbors: Brain Nelson

**NON-VOTING MEMBERS**

College: Josie Wrinkle (alternate)

National Marine Fisheries Service:

Absent

US Coast Guard: Absent

Elkhorn Slough NERR: Absent

Channel Islands NMS: Absent

Cordell Bank/Greater Farallones NMS: Absent

Monterey Bay NMS: Lisa Wooninck

**ALTERNATES PRESENT**

Marieke Desmond - Agriculture

Rebecca Cenicerros - At-Large

Cynthia Mathews - At Large

Gwen Kellas - At Large

Monica Lal - Business/Industry

Felicia Van Stolk - Education

Steve Haddock - Research

Jim Pruett - Harbors

Monterey Bay NMS - Dawn Hayes

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### I. CALL TO ORDER

#### Welcome to Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI):

Steven Haddock, Research alternate, shared the research community group introduction, with updates on research activities at MBARI.

#### Approval of August Meeting Minutes: with editorial suggestions by Paul Reilly

Motion by Dan Haifley, seconded by Tom Rowley

Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

#### Approval of October Meeting Minutes: with editorial suggestions by Paul Reilly and Jennifer Abbott

Motion by Brian Nelson, seconded by Adam Helm

Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0

Motion passes

### II. SUPERINTENDENT REPORT

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

1. The U.S. Government is operating under a Continuing Resolution through February 2, 2024.
2. The MBNMS Advisory Council received 17 applicants for the 2023 Recruitment Cycle. The appointment process is underway and the new members will be seated in February 2024.
3. MBNMS staff member Jazmine Mejia-Munoz was named National Ocean Service (NOS) Team Member of the Year for her outstanding work with the agricultural community on plastic reduction and recycling. Michele Roest received the John Laird Lifetime Achievement Award for environmental stewardship. Dawn Hayes received the NOS Equal Employment Opportunity and Diversity Award for her work with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Working Towards Racial Equity Team.
4. The MBNMS Education Team has created a new partnership with Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (MBNMSF), Cal Water, and Save the Whales resulting in new sanctuary education and Sanctuary Exploration Center (SEC) field trips in 30 Salinas classrooms, particularly focused on Cal Water service district areas. MBNMS is also starting Year 2 of the MBNMS/National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) Outdoor Equity Grant to deliver in class programming with school partnerships in Watsonville, and field trips to the SEC.
5. The MBNMS Education Team is supporting community engagement of more than 200 volunteers in training, learning enrichments, coordination, and implementation of sanctuary program priorities.
6. The [Ed Ricketts Award](#) for lifetime achievement in the field of marine conservation, science, or education was awarded to Tim Thomas, Maritime Heritage and Fisheries Historian, and Linda Yamane, Rumsen Ohlone Artist, Historian, and Culture Bearer.

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7. The Elkhorn Slough NERR Tidal Wetland Restoration Program ended joint field surveys. Future surveys are to be done by drone. Despite efforts by the Tidal Wetland Restoration Program, bank erosion and vegetation retreat occurs at ~ 30 cm per year.
8. MBNMS staff member Steve Lonhart coauthored a newly published paper: *The kelp forest challenge: a collaborative global movement to protect and restore 4 million hectares of kelp forests*.
9. MBNMS staff are in year two of a three year project funded by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Climate Program Office to understand how species distributions will change over time with climate change, and how predator/prey interactions will change.
10. The [MBNMS Marine Debris Report](#) was released. Funded by NOAA Marine Debris Program, the study spans a five-year period from Jan. 1, 2017 to Dec. 31, 2021, providing a total of 4,725 survey points collected by more than 37,000 volunteers.
11. MBNMS had 15 Vessel Incidents in FY23 and 32 other non-vessel incidents (spills, discharges, overflights, motorized personal watercraft (MPWC) violations and wildlife disturbances). We continue to work on the AC recommendations and recently sent a memo to ONMS Director John Armor to allow coordination with State agencies.
12. Three sites were approved for further deep sea coral research and restoration analysis by Pacific Fishery Management Council in September. Staff is planning a virtual stakeholder webinar in January to answer questions and take feedback.

### III. OVERVIEW OF ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRS SUMMIT IN OSWEGO, NY

Haven Parker, Advisory Council (AC) Coordinator of MBNMS, and Pamela Neeb Wade, MBNMS AC Chair, shared an overview of the Advisory Council Chairs Summit held in Oswego, NY in September. AC chairs and coordinators received a variety of presentations from ONMS leadership: National Marine Sanctuary System Update from ONMS Director John Armor, Indigenous and Tribal Engagement from Cultural Resource Coordinator Carolina Behe, National Marine Sanctuaries in the Great Lakes, and AC Member Engagement and Recruitment Panels. The Summit highlighted that ACs have been trying to balance meeting accessibility with participation post Covid. AC meetings vary in length and frequency by sanctuary. AC size varies by sanctuary with MBNMS AC being one of the largest. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is an important discussion taking place across the ACs.

### IV. INFORMATION AND ACTION ITEM: ICONIC KELP

Andrew DeVogelaere, Research Coordinator of MBNMS, shared a background on kelp in MBNMS along with a timeline for developing a kelp plan. Highlights included:

1. There are different states of kelp forest communities: kelp dominated, transitional kelp, and urchin dominated.
2. Current kelp projects include proposals based on the Research Activity Panel/AC kelp memo; Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) and Tanker Reef monitoring; culling impacts and urchin recruitment studies, testing drone capabilities for high resolution kelp canopy assessments; coordination efforts with CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, Monterey Bay Aquarium, and The Nature Conservancy; developing critical kelp parameters for the Web Enabled Condition Report; and outreach through the Santa Cruz Sentinel and public presentations.

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3. The purpose of the kelp plan is to focus on iconic kelp monitoring, recovery, and restoration as implemented through MBNMS teams: research, outreach/education, and resource protection. The plan seeks to define where MBNMS will focus its limited resources relative to the Iconic Kelp priority and to inform MBNMS efforts to obtain outside funding/partnerships.
4. The proposed timeline for iconic kelp working group begins during this meeting by soliciting nominations for working group members.

Andrew DeVogelaere then asked if AC members would be interested in participating in the Iconic Kelp Working Group. The group would meet in a virtual series of two hour meetings, likely not more than eight hours over several evenings. The working group will be divided into three groups: Resource Protection and Policy, Education and Outreach, and Research.

Steve Haddock, Research alternate, suggested looking into Patrick Webster, Monterey Bay Aquarium, for participation on the working group.

Paul Reilly, CA Department of Fish and Wildlife, asked how the experts fit into this process. He asked how they get selected. Andrew DeVogelaere responded that experts sit in with the AC members in the three groups. They can be recommended by AC members.

Josie Wrinkle, College alternate, asked about how to recommend people. Lisa Wooninck instructed members to email Haven Parker and CC Andrew DeVogelaere.

Monica Lal asked who the staff facilitators will be for the working group. Lisa Wooninck responded that it could be herself, Andrew DeVogelaere, a new sea grant fellow, or others.

Jennifer Abbott asked about graphics from Steve Lonhart that were in the presentation and if they are able to be shared by educational entities. Andrew DeVogelaere said they are almost in final draft form and they are encouraged to be distributed.

Lisa W. made mention that The conservation working group should be focused on two things going forward: kelp and climate change.

Interested MBNMS AC Members should contact Haven Parker to request assignment to a working group (Haven.Parker@noaa.gov).

**Motion to convene three working groups:** Policy and resource protection, education and communication, and research to supplement work of the iconic kelp working group.

Motion by Dan Haifley, seconded by Adam Helm.

Yes: 14 No: 0 Abstain: 1

Motion passes.

## V. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

No public comments.

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**VI. INFORMATION ITEM: DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION PRESENTATION**

Dawn Hayes, Deputy Superintendent of MBNMS, shared an update from the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) working group. She stated that the working group has been discussing its use of the grant to bring in a third-party expert on DEI to train AC members. She said that the working group has discussed how best to prepare for this expert and decided that a professionally developed survey of the AC on unconscious bias would be a good preliminary step. After surveying the AC initially, the AC would then be resurveyed next year after the training exercises.

Brandon Southall, Research seat, stated that Shared Adventures has undertaken a similar course of action.

**VII. INFORMATION ITEM: SANCTUARY WATCH AND WEB CONDITION REPORT**

Jennifer Brown, MBNMS staff, shared an update on web-enabled information for sanctuary management. Highlights included:

1. Sanctuary Watch is a centralized online location used in Sanctuary management. It has tools that connect to system-wide needs and priorities, with easy access to synthesized information used in decision making.
2. The Condition Reports are assessments based on current conditions and recent trends. They are being converted into an interactive, routinely updated format to improve availability and timeliness of information for on-going sanctuary management.
3. The main audience is ONMS resource management and policy makers, as well as ONMS research teams on science and outreach.

Steve Haddock, Research alternate, said it is cool to see how far this project has come. He asked if there are any plans for an integrated summary report card to show status and trends for all of the elements in a region. Jennifer Brown stated there is interest in that, as it would enable MBNMS to put a grade on a resource need and to have the rationale behind that grade.

Brian Nelson, Harbors primary, asked if the website was live, as he would like to tie it into a newsletter. Jennifer Brown said the MBNMS tile on the Sanctuary Watch site is not yet available, but AC members will be updated when it is.

**VIII. INFORMATION ITEM: APPROVE 2024 WORK PLAN**

Lisa Wooninck, MBNMS Superintendent, shared the 2024 AC Work Plan that has been previously circulated for AC member edits. See Appendix I for the full work plan.

Sarah Lopez, Agriculture seat, asked about the Climate Adaptation Working Group and if it was a part of what the AC is voting on currently. Lisa Wooninck responded that this vote is just to approve the work plan, and votes to convene each working group will be held separately.

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Jenny McAdams, At Large seat, thanked staff for their work on the work plan.

Tom Rowley, Business/Industry seat, wanted a report from the Coastal Commission representatives in the fifteen minute lightning rounds on the work plan. Lisa Wooninck replied that adding that to the plan would not provide AC members with the required two week notice of any edits.

**Motion to approve 2024 work plan:**

Motion by Brian Nelson, seconded by Jenny McAdams.

Yes: 15 No: 0 Abstain: 0

**IX. STANDING ITEM: WORKING GROUP AND MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

See Appendix II.

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**APPENDIX I. 2024 AC WORK PLAN**

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<b>Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Draft 2024 Work Plan (1/1/24-12/31/24)</b>		
<b>Advisory Council Activities 2024</b>	<b>Description/Purpose</b>	<b>Desired Outcome</b>
<b>Sanctuary Priority 1: Reduce Marine Debris</b> Assess and reduce the amount of marine debris in or entering MBNMS		
Presentation/update	Update the AC on marine debris projects in the sanctuary	An informed AC with knowledge of specific issues facing the sanctuary
<b>Sanctuary Priority 2: Whale Conservation</b> Reduce threats to large endangered whale species in the sanctuary		
Presentation/update	Update the AC on whale conservation efforts in the sanctuary	An informed AC with knowledge of specific issues facing the sanctuary
Potential action item		
<b>Sanctuary Priority 3: Vessel Incidents</b> Identify solutions that ensure timely and cost-effective cleanup/salvage after a vessel incident, including solutions that ensure the vessel owner/responsible party takes responsibility		
Presentation/update	Update the AC on vessel incidents projects in the sanctuary	An informed AC with knowledge of specific issues facing the sanctuary
<b>Sanctuary Priority 4: Climate Change</b> Address coastal resilience, climate adaptation, and ocean acidification through capacity building and collaborative partnerships		
Presentation/update on Climate Vulnerability Assessments and outline for adaptation planning	AC receives an update on Climate Vulnerability Assessments that help inform management strategies addressing climate change by prioritizing species and systems for management actions.	Climate adaptation working group to assist with efficiently allocating resources and actions to combat the changing climate.
Convene a working group of the AC to develop and prioritize climate change adaptation recommendations that can be feasibly implemented by MBNMS, while considering a range of plausible future climate scenarios. Likely to be an effort for 2024 and 2025.	AC votes to convene a working group to build on CVA progress.	Climate adaptation working group to assist with efficiently allocating resources and actions to combat the changing climate.
<b>Sanctuary Priority 4: Iconic Kelp Forest</b> Better understand and monitor kelp status and invest in activities that promote recovery, restoration, and monitoring		
Presentation/update	AC receives an update on the progress of the sanctuary's efforts to protect iconic kelp, a key habitat of the Sanctuary and the rest of California's Marine Protected Areas, providing food and shelter to commercially and recreationally important species	Scientifically sound methods for facilitating the long-term monitoring, recovery (a natural process) and restoration (human intervention) of kelp forest ecosystems
Convene a working group of the AC to develop and prioritize recommendations that can be feasibly implemented by MBNMS that address monitoring, recovery, and restoration of healthy kelp forests in the sanctuary. The recommendations should be relevant to the sanctuary programs resource protection, outreach/education/ communication, and research.	AC provides recommendations for MBNMS efforts to protect iconic kelp, a key habitat of the Sanctuary and the rest of California's Marine Protected Areas, providing food and shelter to commercially and recreationally important species	Scientifically sound methods for facilitating the long-term monitoring, recovery (a natural process) and restoration (human intervention) of kelp forest ecosystems
<b>Sanctuary Priority 5: Recreational Fishing</b> Promote MBNMS as a great place to recreationally and sustainably fish		
Presentation/update	AC receives a presentation on the recreational fishing user group and how they are on the pulse of health in the sanctuary. AC votes to convene a working group to promote this community's involvement	An enhanced relationship with recreational fishermen to have a current understanding of species populations.
<b>Sanctuary Priority 6: Expanding Community Connections</b> Expand reach in general, and with a focus on underrepresented communities, minority groups, and Indigenous communities and tribes.		
Facilitate training (2 times) to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the composition, knowledge base, and operations of the AC.	DEI Committee assists with scheduling items that prioritize diversity and inclusion and uplift the voices of underrepresented groups	Diverse perspectives to drive adaptive, lasting solutions to conserving the sanctuary
If local Indigenous communities and tribes are interested, invite them to come to AC meetings to observe and participate.	DEI Committee assists with scheduling items that prioritize diversity and inclusion and uplift the voices of underrepresented groups	Diverse perspectives to drive adaptive, lasting solutions to conserving the sanctuary
<b>Advisory Council Administration: "Standard" topics/items</b>		
Superintendent's Report from MBNMS and GFNMS		
Sanctuary program team updates: Resource Protection, Research, and Outreach/Education		
Member updates		
New item: Member Overviews - from perspective of community or agency representatives a 15 min overview (+15 min Q/A) of history, connection to MBNMS, and current areas of concern or opportunities and challenges. Volunteers for each meeting are encouraged.		
<b>Advisory Council Administration Actions</b>		
<b>4 meetings in 2024:</b> Feb 16; May 17; Aug 16, Nov 15 - emergency sessions		
<b>Retreat:</b> Oct 18	An annual retreat will be held to review yearly accomplishments and plan for the coming year; Agenda item for Oct meeting to allow members/alternates who will miss the retreat to provide input on topics; Potential for post-retreat virtual "debrief" for members who missed retreat with council executive committee	

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<b>Executive Committee election:</b> Nominations at Aug/Nov meeting, with elections at Nov meeting. All Executive Committee members may serve another 2 year term.	Diverse perspectives to drive adaptive, lasting solutions to conserving the sanctuary	Diverse perspectives to drive adaptive, lasting solutions to conserving the sanctuary
<b>Recruitment:</b> Each year 1/3 of the members are up for recruitment (mid Aug to Nov). Swearing in new members at February meeting	Diverse perspectives to drive adaptive, lasting solutions to conserving the sanctuary	Diverse perspectives to drive adaptive, lasting solutions to conserving the sanctuary
<b>Coffee topics:</b> with superintendent (Spring - Summer) AC creates an annual accomplishments report to be presented at Feb meeting		
<b>Work Plan:</b> Develop a work plan for the following year	Developing and adopting an AC work plan ensures the members have input on AC agenda development and are focused on advising the sanctuary on priority issues	AC 2024 work plan guiding meeting agendas with items reflective of MBNMS priorities
<b>Updates from key partners</b>		
Update from WCR Director Bill Douros		
Update from ONMS Director John Armor		
Presentation by MBNMS Foundation Ex. Director Ginaia Kelly		
Presentation by National Marine Sanctuary Foundation President/CEO Joel Johnson		
Presentation by California Marine Sanctuary Foundation Ex. Director Robert Mazurek		
Presentation about Santa Cruz Metro One Ride at a Time		
<b>Suggested Topics for Rapid Session Format Ranked by Advisory Council Members</b>		
1. MBNMS Management Plan progress report		
2. Pacific Fisheries Management Council information		
3. Marine Mammal Disturbance (kayaks and whale watching)		
4. Sea Otter Census (when available)		
5. Deep Sea Mining		
6. Hydrofoils		
7. Beach Replenishment Progress		
8. Watersipora, Sargassum invasive kelp		
9. Accessibility and Safety		
10. Commercial Fishing information		

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

**Name:** Dan Haifley, Northern At Large Primary

**Announcements:** Since our last regular meeting, I drafted the proposed letter in support of Chumash Heritage NMS, then later consulted with Cynthia Mathews on an amendment to be proposed at the emergency meeting by our seat. I engaged in campaign activities with the Northern Chumash Tribal Council during the public comment period (8/25-10/25) on the draft rule for CHNMS, including presentations to the Santa Lucia Chapter of the Sierra Club and El Moro Democratic Club of Los Osos about MBNMS' benefits, Op Eds in the Santa Maria Times and New Times SLO about those qualities as reasons to support CHNMS, and an Op Ed in the Santa Cruz Sentinel with Tracey Weiss of O'Neill Sea Odyssey and Erica Donnelly-Greenan of Save Our Shores in support of the initial boundary and collaborative Tribal engagement for that proposed sanctuary.

I fielded inquiries and made referrals to MBNMS staff on the deceased whale at Seacliff Beach and sea otter viewing etiquette. I continue to work as a MBNMS Foundation Board member on fundraising, policy and managing its LinkedIn page.

**Efforts to engage a diverse constituency:** I had previously attended a City of Santa Cruz Parks and Recreation meeting (hosted by Tony Elliott, SAC Recreation Primary) on beach and MBNMS access for people with disabilities. I'm working with partners on follow-up, as well as related initiatives on access to people with disabilities.

**Relevant Links:**

[https://santamariatimes.com/opinion/guest/chumash-heritage-marine-sanctuary-would-be-a-great-asset-guest-commentary/article\\_fc70ad7d-83a6-519f-8223-d018dec11add.html](https://santamariatimes.com/opinion/guest/chumash-heritage-marine-sanctuary-would-be-a-great-asset-guest-commentary/article_fc70ad7d-83a6-519f-8223-d018dec11add.html)

<https://www.newtimeslo.com/opinion/marine-sanctuaries-give-tangible-benefits-to-our-communitiesdirect-democracy-is-not-in-citizens-best-interest-14469855>

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/09/11/guest-commentary-support-full-protection-for-chumash-national-marine-sanctuary/>

**Name:** Rachel Kippen

**Seat:** Conservation Primary

**Announcements:** The Conservation Working Group met on October 19th via Zoom. Members present included Jenn Abbott (co-chair), Karen Grimmer (NOAA staff lead and Resource and Protection Coordinator), Keith Roostear, Adam Helm (unclear), and a new attendee, Kelly from

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Carmel Cares. The CWG discussed the results from the CWG survey, the write up and graphics for the CWG's balloon efforts, an informational update from Karen about climate, deep sea, whales, and plastics, a reminder about the Chumash comment period, and member updates which included information sharing about fishing line collection from Jenn, trash issues from Kelly, tobacco product waste policy and future letters of support from Rachel. The CWG agreed to hold our next meeting virtually, Rachel agreed to update the balloon graphic, and the CWG agreed that we should send the survey to the full council to share with their contacts. **The next conservation working group meeting is on January 18th**, held virtually, you should have received a calendar invitation.

**The Conservation Working Group's survey of constituents is here:**

<https://forms.gle/eAzitq24juWyk6Qo8>

**So far, the CWG has been sent to a very large list, but we encourage council members to send it to any of their constituents involved in conservation.**

Since we last met, I worked with Karen Grimmer on a column about jet skis and jet ski regulation in MBNMS after seeing and reporting what appeared to be several jet ski violations. Met with the County's tobacco waste working group (2x) and Sup. Cummings and Sup. Koenig office to discuss strategy regarding tobacco policy. Chaired the Tobacco Education Coalition meeting to plan for annual Coastal Cleanup/tobacco product waste policy outreach this fall. Provided a special presentation to Watsonville Wetlands Watch high school stewards on plastics, env justice, and cleanups. Served on the Bird School Project's Monterey Bay Festival of Birds advisory for the past six months, concluded with the festival in October. Met with Seymour Center staff Johnathan Hicken and Lauren Donnelly-Crocker regarding their new climate exhibit/community gathering place. Met with Pam Krone, Lisa Uttal, and Jazmine Mejia-Munoz about the shoreline trash report and wrote about the findings, used findings for targeted tobacco product waste outreach.

**Efforts to engage a diverse constituency:** Met with Sabrina Brennan about strategy regarding various Surf Equity efforts along the California coast (including Monterey Bay) and in Hawai'i. Met with Tony Elliot/Parks and Recreation staff about Surf Equity and the permit process for events to put in place processes to deter gender discrimination (which has occurred at past surf competitions) and which the City has expressed interest in rectifying. Tony and staff are currently working on community/stakeholder engagement. Joined the advisory council's applicant review committee to make recommendations with an expressed interest in DEIJ considerations among new applicants. Requested virtual access to and recording of the October retreat to provide learning opportunities about indigenous leadership for those who were unable to attend the work day meeting. Met with the DEI subcommittee to provide feedback on self-assessment/council assessment processes/tools/ideas and to provide connections for DEI consultant engagement. Surveyed conservation working group constituents about the CWG, including preferred format for meeting (access) which has shown favor for virtual meeting for accessibility. Expanded the CWG invitation list and hosted the meeting virtually, one new participant joined. Broadcasted the emergency meeting regarding the letter of support, and broadcasted this November meeting via email and social media.

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**Relevant Links:**

[Rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-reducing-jet-ski-disturbance-in-monterey-bay-national-marine-sanctuary](#)

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/09/16/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-monterey-bay-festival-of-birds-explores-life-and-death-of-birds/>

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/09/30/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-seymour-marine-discovery-center-unveils-new-climate-community-hub-and-exhibit/>

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/11/11/rachel-kippen-our-ocean-backyard-local-marine-trash-report-cites-eating-drinking-and-smoking-as-primary-debris-sources/>

**Photos:**

**Name:** Steve Allen

**Seat:** At Large Primary

**Announcements:**

On October 14, 2023 Michele Roest received State Senator John Laird’s Lifetime Achievement Award for her longtime community leadership on environmental and education issues. The award was presented at the Central Coast State Parks Association’s Butterfly Ball. Michele is a member of the MBNMS’s Education and Outreach Staff responsible for Southern Region Community Liaison.

On November 11 Mr. Ben Purper, a Central Coast radio journalist, interviewed me at the new sign on Fiscalini Open Space Reserve marking the MBNMS southern boundary and Michele at the CDC regarding the MBNMS and national marine sanctuaries broadly. Purper also held a telephone conversation Paul Michel on the CHNMS. He is writing an article for KQED’s California Report magazine. See sign photo below.

The pier at Hearst Memorial State Beach (where the CDC is located) is closed due to two missing support pylons and Leffingwell Landing in Cambria is closed because of problems with the boat launch ramp.

There was a meeting at the CDC for college age student docent training and a docent group discussion on possible display updates and CDC improvements.

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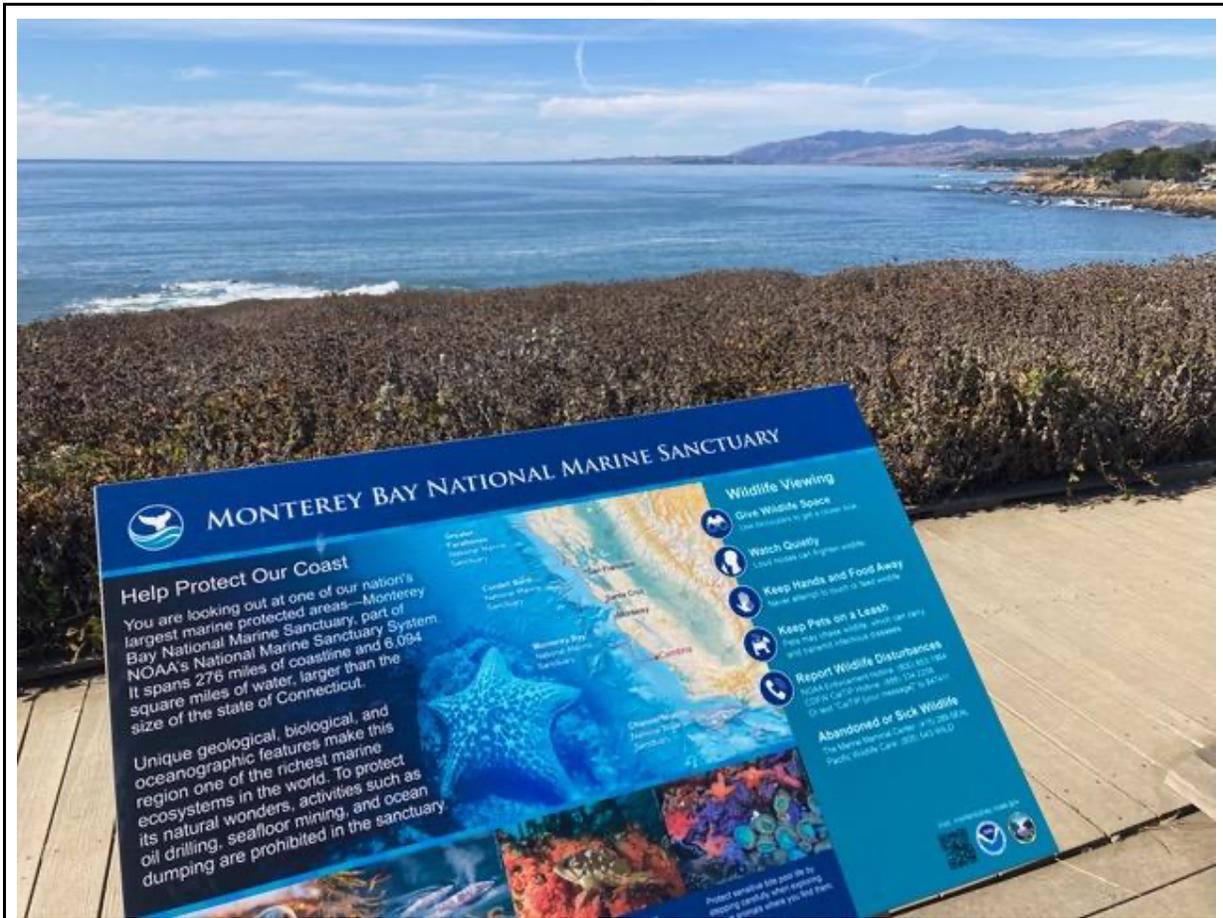
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There is a gorgeous new mural on the Cambria post office wall painted by Chumash artist John Khus depicting a tomol in the ocean. See photo below.

**Photos:**



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**Name:** Paul Reilly

**Seat:** California Department Fish and Wildlife

**Announcements:**

Recreational boat fishing Monterey Bay

In mid to late August recreational fishing effort was moderate to high in Santa Cruz and Moss Landing but low in Monterey. Albacore and bluefin tuna were popular targets with catches being hit-or-miss. California halibut catch dropped off and there was some effort for white seabass with low catch rates. Other species landed included rockfishes, lingcod, Petrale sole, Pacific sanddab, jacksmelt, jack mackerel, and Pacific mackerel.

In September, the major change was a shift to deep water rockfishes due to a closure (see below) in waters shallower than 50 fm. In spite of the closure, some nearshore rockfish species were still being landed. By the end of the month, boats were also targeting Pacific

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bonito, bluefin tuna, and California halibut. Observed deeper water rockfish species included vermilion, canary, chilipepper, greenspotted, bocaccio, starry, and widow.

By mid-October effort and catch consisted primarily of deeper water rockfishes but also included Pacific mackerel, jacksmelt, white croaker, California halibut, and lingcod. One bluefin tuna was observed in Monterey. This pattern continued through the end of the month.

In early November most of the recreational boat catch consisted of rockfishes, Pacific sanddab, lingcod, Pacific mackerel, and jack mackerel. Dungeness crab was targeted in Monterey on only two boats, with no catch.

#### Dungeness crab

The commercial Dungeness crab fishery in the Monterey Bay area was scheduled to open on November 15, 2023 but was delayed due to high presence of humpback whales. The recreational Dungeness crab fishery in the Monterey Bay area opened on November 4, 2023 under a temporary trap restriction and Fleet Advisory. Recreational take by other legal methods, including hoop nets and crab snares, is allowed. CDFW encourages all recreational crabbers to follow guidance in the current [Best Practices Guide](#).

CDFW anticipates the next risk assessment will take place on or before November 17, 2023, at which time the Director will re-evaluate marine life entanglement risk. The risk assessment will inform the potential for a statewide commercial fishery opener on December 1, 2023 and modification of the current recreational trap restriction.

Beginning with the 2023-24 fishing season, all commercial Dungeness crab vessels are required to have on board a functional electronic vessel monitoring device. Dungeness crab vessel permit holders can request a free unit by visiting <http://www.archipelago.ca/fishvue-lime-registration-form>. More information about CDFW's electronic vessel monitoring requirements is available in the [October 31, 2023 Compliance Guide](#).

CDFW issued permits authorizing retrieval of lost or abandoned commercial Dungeness crab trap gear to three qualified entities in 2023, including entities based in San Francisco and Half Moon Bay. Gear recovery was authorized through September 30. CDFW is currently reviewing logbooks documenting gear recovery and will publish a summary on the [Whale Safe Fisheries webpage](#) in early 2024.

#### Groundfish

The Department announced that as of 12:01 a.m. Friday, Sept. 1, 2023, the 50-fathom Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) boundary line for the Mendocino Groundfish Management Area (GMA) (Cape Mendocino to Point Arena), San Francisco GMA (Point

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Arena to Pigeon Point) and Central GMA (Pigeon Point to Point Conception), will take effect.

In these GMAs, recreational boat-based groundfish fishing will be 'offshore only' and allowed only seaward (away from land) of the 50-fathom boundary line, defined by [straight lines connecting waypoints](#) (50 CFR Part 660, Subpart G). [Shelf rockfish, slope rockfish](#) and lingcod may be taken seaward of the 50-fathom boundary line, while it will be unlawful to take or possess nearshore rockfish as defined in Title 14, Section 1.91(a)(1), cabezon or greenlings at any depth. CDFW is carefully monitoring the harvest of quillback rockfish from both the recreational and commercial fisheries throughout the state and has taken a series of steps in an effort to reduce quillback rockfish mortality. On Aug. 7, retention of quillback rockfish was prohibited statewide, followed by closure of the recreational nearshore fishery in the Northern GMA, on Aug. 21. This additional in-season action authorized by Title 14, Section 27.20 (e) to adjust the fishing depth is necessary to prevent further overage of the 2023 quillback rockfish harvest limit.

**Name:** Tom Rowley, Business / Industry Rep'

Business and loan services continue to be stressed from past rate increases instituted by the Federal Reserve. Rates are now slightly above 7 % for 30 year fixed mortgages. And the Real Estate market continues to "sputter" with a very real paucity in new listings, but sale prices nationally and locally have continued to "tick up" slightly over the past half year, e.g. 0.3 % nationally in October from September. The overall inflation rate continues at greater than 3 % with increases in housing, energy, utilities, and food costs.

The annual local wine crop is expected to be a bumper crop of excellent wines, but the harvest has been slightly delayed because of mild weather conditions. The replacement, new federal agricultural research building was dedicated in Salinas in October -- and it is named after former local US Representative Sam Farr.

The success of the Monterey Peninsula Car "Week" in August led to approximately \$3 million raised for charitable purposes. Short-term visitors to the Monterey Peninsula continue, and special events like the return of the "Western Flyer" research ship to Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey in early November have proven successful. The ship used by John Steinbeck and "Doc" Ricketts for the Sea of Cortez expedition in 1940 has been totally overhauled, and it is planned for research operations based out of Monterey. And the Monterey Regional Airport continues iyear-long planning for a new, relocated terminal.

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Meanwhile, CalTrans and the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) released the draft EIR for major improvements along the scenic Hwy 68 corridor by adding up to 9 proposed roundabouts over the next 8 years. Also, planning for relief of safety and congestion problems in North Monterey County on Hwy 156 continue after unfortunate delays caused by PG&E, and are expected to be completed by the end of this year. This route is vital for tourists and visitors arriving on the Monterey Peninsula via US 101. In a surprise announcement, the Monterey Conference Center received special recognition as the world's top conference center from the North Star organization.

Restaurants in Santa Cruz and Salinas had successful summers, and the growth of affordable housing in downtown Salinas has expanded substantially with the major renovation of converted office buildings -- one a former bank building and the other former Dick Bruhns's clothing store. The City of Salinas has also re-zoned several commercial centers to allow for the addition of residential housing.

The City of Monterey followed the example of Salinas and adopted a "Rental Registry" -- this new registry was opposed strongly by almost all Monterey business organizations and many Landlords and property Owners. Whether Rent Stabilization (Rent Control) will follow is now up in the air, but the registry ordinance in Monterey is effective January 1<sup>st</sup> with the exception of so-called "Mom and Pop" Owners (3 or less rental properties). In separate major legislative activities, the City of Monterey now plans to open permits for 4 cannabis retail stores in the City + limited special events at the Monterey Fairgrounds.

Two housing projects of note were dedicated: The Veterans Transition Center had a wall-raising ceremony in Marina at the former Fort Ord Patton Park for approximately 70 units of veteran family-style housing, and the availability of homeless housing on the Monterey Peninsula was significantly increased with the dedication of the Shuman Hearthouse on east Franklin Street in downtown Monterey with 40 newly remodeled units.

Santa Cruz Sea Otter 841 had become a national "hero" -- and attempts to capture this aggressive otter were unsuccessful. Then lo and behold - it was sighted off the coast mothering a baby sea otter! Ted Thomas a volunteer leader for tours based on Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey was also recognized for the Doc Ricketts award at the Sanctuary Center in Santa Cruz.

On October 10, the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District (MPWMD) passed a "Resolution of Necessity" to move forward to attempt to purchase Cal-Am Water company; however, the water company is still not for sale. The MPWMD has up to 6 months to file its eminent domain lawsuit based on Measure J, and this may cost up to \$600,000. The

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MPWMD was also 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. Also -- the lawsuit over the November 2022 conditional decision by the California Coastal Commission to approve the proposed desalination project by Cal-Am Water at the former CEMEX plant location in the Marina area continues to be "bogged down" -- while the legal record is being formalized.

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. Carmel has already received comments back on its plan from the State, but Monterey County has yet to submit its Housing Element update. The original deadline for submitting new housing elements was December 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Tom Rowley

Date: November 13, 2023

**Name: Pamela Neeb Wade**

**Seat: Education Primary, Chair**

**Announcements:** September 26-28th, I attended the National Marine Sanctuaries Chairs Summit in Oswego, New York along with Haven Parker, Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator. During the summit we met with chairs and coordinators from across the National Marine Sanctuaries from American Samoa to the East coast. We met the advisory council members from the proposed Lake Ontario National Marine Sanctuary and learned about the history and resources of the Lake Ontario region.

On November 5th, I attended the homecoming of the Western Flyer to Monterey. There was a huge celebration, including a boat parade, live music, kids activities including a lesson on buoyancy by building a boat, and a tour of the Western Flyer.

**Relevant Links:**

<https://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>

<https://www.westernflyer.org/>

**Photos:**

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*Pictured are the Monterey Bay, Greater Farallones, Cordell Bank, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory council chairs and coordinators.*

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*Homecoming of the Western Flyer to Monterey, November 5th.*