

**Issued and signed MBNMS Permits, Amendments and  
Authorizations (11/3/2023 to 1/26/2024)**

**Report created for the  
February 16, 2024**

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting**

**MBNMS-2023-025**

**Permit Type:** Authorization

**Permit Holder Name (Affiliation):** Ryan Lodge (Regional Water Quality Control Board)

**Authorized Activity Description:** for the Waste Discharge Requirements NPDES General Permit For Discharges From Aquaculture Facilities and Aquariums, Order No. R3-2023-0013.

**Authorized Activity Location:** Within MBNMS

**Issued:** January 23, 2024

**Comments/Notes:** Previous authorization MBNMS-2020-008

**MBNMS-2023-033**

**Permit Type:** Research

**Permit Holder Name (Affiliation):** Dr. Amy Wagner (California State University - Sacramento)

**Project Title:** Marine Geology field trip

**Permitted Activity:** Altering the submerged lands of the sanctuary (15 C.F.R. § 922.132(a)(4)) specifically limited to: collect up to eight (8) sediment samples annually, each of approximately 0.5 cubic meters of soft sediment, with a grab sampler.

**Project Location(s):** At four sites within the soft submerged lands and within 10 nautical miles of Moss Landing in Monterey Bay.

**Permitted dates:** January 10, 2024 through January 10, 2028

**Comments/Notes:** Confirmed that sites do not overlap with MARS cable, previous permits: MBNMS-2018-040 and MBNMS-2016-025

**MBNMS-2023-035**

**Permit Type:** research

**Permit Holder Names (Affiliation):** Alison Haupt and Audrey Sarin (California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB))

**Project Title:** Informing restoration and recovery of Central Coast kelp forests: understanding the dynamics of urchin recruitment, reproduction, and density

**Permitted Activity:** Discharging into the sanctuary (15 C.F.R. § 922.132(a)(2)(i)) and altering the submerged lands of the sanctuary (15 C.F.R. § 922.132(a)(4)) specifically limited to:

Temporary placement of anchors of two recruitment collector lines on the submerged lands of the sanctuary per site; and Temporary discharge from the deployment, servicing, and

maintenance of two recruitment collector lines with six scrub brushes each, wooden bases held to lines with zip ties, a subsurface buoy, stainless steel chain, cinderblocks to monitor sea urchin recruitment patterns.

**Project Location(s):** Wave exposed sites: Hopkins Marine Station: 36.622986, -121.903080 (not within line of sight of Hopkins West Beach); Lover's Point: 36.6273376, -121.9164512; and Point Pinos: 36.636966, -121.940961. Wave protected sites: Hopkins Marine Station: 36.6204032, -121.9032343; Lover's Point: 36.626094, -121.915073; and Point Pinos: 36.6321205, -121.9207388.

**Permitted dates:** January 4, 2024 through January 1, 2027

**Comments/Notes:** The activity takes place within three state marine reserves, the Lover's Point Julia Platt State Marine Reserve (SMR), the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), and the Asilomar SMCA. California Department of Fish and Wildlife issued SCP S-211200003-22039-001 for this activity.

### **MBNMS-2019-033-A2**

**Permit Type:** Research

**Permit Holder Name (Affiliation):** David Weller (Southwest Fisheries Science Center)

**Project Title:** Collect aerial images with unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to count gray whales and estimate body condition and nutritional status

**Permitted Activity:** Conducting low overflights within visual line of sight with uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS) at no less than 30 meters (100 feet) above sea level (ASL) and conducting low overflights beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) at no less than 60 meters (200 feet) within the NOAA regulated overflight zone (NROZ) along the Big Sur coast in order to collect aerial images of gray whales to estimate their body condition and nutritional status.

**Project Location(s):** The permitted activity is authorized within the NROZ along the Big Sur coast. The UAS will be launched/landed from the Piedras Blancas Light Station (PBL; 35° 40' N; 121° 17' W) and the Granite Canyon Marine Pollution Studies Laboratory (GCMPSL; 36° 26' N, 121° 55' W). UAS operations areas can extend up to 1,000 m (4,280 feet) laterally from the launch site for the hexacopter and octocopter at both the PBL and GCMPSL sites and for the vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) fixed-wings at the PBL site. Under a valid Certificate of Authorization (COA) from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), the UAS operation area for the VTOL fixed-wings and a long endurance multicopter UAS can extend BVLOS and up to approximately 5.6 km (18,228 feet or 3 nautical miles [NM]) from the GCMPSL site.

**Permitted dates:** January 8, 2024 through October 31, 2025

**Comments/Notes:** SWFSC has an agreement with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to carry out the necessary research. SWFSC has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the FAA, allowing them to conduct flights in category G airspace (less than 1200 feet). In early 2021, staff at NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations (OMAO) UxS Operation Center (UxSOC) obtained a COA, on behalf of SWFSC, from the FAA allowing NOAA BVLOS UAS missions out to a horizontal range of approximately 2 NM and vertically up to the limit of Class G airspace at 1199 feet AGL (COA 2021-ESA-8187 NOAA BVLOS). SWFSC received a grant from the OMAO to pursue localized beyond BVLOS UAS operations as a way to extend the range

and increase the efficiency of UAS large whale survey missions. In 2023, they requested to expand their operating range from 2 NM to 3 NM and SWFSC received a memo authorizing these more distant flights but only up to a maximum altitude of 900 feet.

### **MBNMS-2023-038**

**Permit Type:** Education

**Permit Holder Name (Affiliation):** Hannah Sarver (Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History)

**Project Title:** LiMPETS (Long-term Environmental Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students)

**Permitted Activity:** Drilling into and alteration of the submerged lands for placing up to approximately 60 transect markers and embedding bolts in the rocky reef for monitoring the rocky intertidal sites, discharge of epoxy for securing the bolts, and altering the submerged lands for coring the sandy swash zone to count the Pacific mole crab, *Emerita analoga*, for the purpose of the LiMPETS Program.

**Project Location(s):** Coring of sandy beaches at Monterey Bay beaches (Carmel, Asilomar, Monterey, Salinas River, Marina, San Carlos, Seaside, Tioga Avenue, Natural Bridges, Sunset, Seacliff, Davenport and Seabright); and Deploying bolts and markers at Bird Rock, China Rock, Point Lobos, Opal Cliff, Almar Avenue, Soquel Point, Point Pinos, Asilomar, Carmel Point, Natural Bridges, and Davenport Landing.

**Permitted dates:** January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2028

**Comments/Notes:** Previous Permits: MBNMS-2015-041 and MBNMS-2018-044; CDFW issued a specific use permit, S-222100001-22210-001, for the LiMPETS program and it expires on September 25, 2025.

### **MBNMS-2023-037**

**Permit Type:** Research

**Permittee Name (Affiliation):** Ciara Dorsay (Sofar Ocean)

**Project Title:** Real time monitoring of Mavericks surf break

**Permitted Activity:** Temporary discharge and placement on and alteration of the submerged lands for deployment, servicing and maintenance approximately every three months, and removal of one Sofar Ocean Spotter metocean buoy and mooring equipment.

**Project Location(s):** within MBNMS off Pillar Point, about 1.5 mi. (2.4 km) from the Mavericks surf break in water depth of approximately 131 ft. (40 m): 37°30'0.90"N, 122°31'57.68"W.

**Permitted dates:** December 1, 2023 through December 1, 2024

**Comments/Notes:** CBNMS/GFNMS lead

### **MULTI-2022-008-A1**

**Permit Type:** Research

**Permit Holder Names (Affiliation):** Kasey Cantwell (NOAA Ocean Exploration)

**Project Title:** NOAA Ocean Exploration U.S. West Coast Expeditions

**Permitted Activity:** o Discharging or depositing of unbaited drop cameras into the sanctuaries; Altering the submerged lands of the sanctuaries with temporary and minor disturbances

associated with drop cameras; Discharging or depositing into the sanctuaries remotely operated vehicle (ROV) gravel ballast, expendable bathythermographs (XBTs) and autonomous underwater vehicles(AUVs); Drilling into or otherwise altering the submerged lands of the sanctuaries with temperature probes, temporary and minor disturbances associated with ROV and AUV operations and collection of biological and geological samples; Abandoning gravel used as ballast on ROVs and XBTs on the submerged lands of the sanctuaries; Moving, removing, taking, collecting, catching, harvesting, disturbing, breaking, cutting, or otherwise injuring, or attempting to move, remove, take, collect, catch, harvest, disturb, break, cut, or otherwise injure, any sanctuary resource located more than 3,000 feet below the sea surface within the Davidson Seamount Management Zone; Possessing any Sanctuary resource, the source of which is more than 3,000 feet below the sea surface within the Davidson Seamount Management Zone.

**Project Location(s):** Throughout CINMS, MBNMS, GFNMS, CBNMS and OCNMS in waters deeper than 200 meters.

**Permitted dates:** November 28, 2023 through December 31, 2023

**Comments/Notes:** CINMS Lead

## **MULTI-2023-007**

**Permit Type:** Research

**Permit Holder Name (Affiliation):** Daniel Costa (University of California, Santa Cruz)

**Project Title:** California Central Coast Marine Mammal Drone Surveys

**Permitted Activity:** Conducting monthly surveys of California sea lion and northern elephant seal abundance using an uncrewed aircraft system (UAS) at no less than 122 meters (400 feet) above sea level (ASL).

**Project Locations:** Piedras Blancas, San Martin Rocks, Lafler Rocks, Lobos Rocks, Sea Lion Rocks, Lighthouse Rocks, Año Nuevo Island, Point Reyes, and Tomales Point

**Permitted dates:** November 28, 2023 through December 31, 2025.

**Comments/Notes:** MBNMS lead; permittee is applying for permits from California Department of Fish and Wildlife and U.S. National Park Service.

If you are interested in learning more about a specific permit, amendment or authorization action, please contact:

**Haven Parker**

Advisory Council Coordinator  
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
99 Pacific Street, Building 455A  
Monterey CA 93940  
**haven.parker@noaa.gov**