



## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Council Diver Newsletter

**Diver**  
August 2015

**Dear MBNMS,**

Thank you for your continued support and communications to both Phil and I. This summer seems to be going by at a rapid pace. There have been numerous activities above and below the water line. Coming up shortly the BBC and PBS will be filming several areas in Monterey Bay under water and on land this month. Specially on August 22 and 23 when they have reserved, through the City of Monterey, a significant portion of San Carlos Beach park. At the last couple of meetings we have been discussing desalination projects that are being considered for the central coast. I have lost count how many agencies are weighing in on these projects. They seemed to be moving forward, but slowly. The MBNMS charter and protocols have been revised and updated. Being a part of the team that looked over our processes, our goal was to streamline the meeting process and focus on getting important topics discussed in a meaningful and efficient manner. Though not all the requested changes were approved by ONMS "Home Office", Washington, some of the critical changes were approved. The protocol working project is now complete. Dominating the conversations at the Council meetings have been water conversation, marine mammal protection from humans, some commercial fishing, and habitat protection of sensitive areas. The diving community has been a strong supporter of ocean conservation through citizen science programs, data gathering, and having the most actual visible knowledge of our Sanctuary beneath the waves. Thank you once again, Brian and Phil

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## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Meets in Carmel



MBNMS Advisory Council met and received a series of presentations and updates on harmful algal blooms, an overview of the preliminary findings from the Davidson Seamount research mission, the Sanctuary's spill response plan and an update on the Management Plan Review process schedule. Letise LaFeir, from the Monterey Bay Aquarium, was sworn-in as the new alternate for the Conservation seat. Elizabeth (Tucker) Hirsch, from National Geographic, was sworn-in as the new primary for the Education seat. The next Advisory Council meeting will be with Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council on August 19th in Half Moon Bay. Sanctuary Advisory Councils are community-based advisory bodies consisting of representatives from various user groups, government agencies and the public at large. The role of the council is to provide advice to the sanctuary superintendent on the designation and/or operation of a national marine sanctuary.

## MBNMS attends quarterly Big Sur Multi-Agency Advisory Council meeting

### Large Scale Sewage Spill in Pacific Grove

### Chamber Funding

## BBC and PBS comes to San Carlos Beach August 22nd and 23rd



#### NOTICE TO DIVERS RE: SAN CARLOS BEACH PARK

A section of San Carlos Beach Park often used by divers will be closed on Saturday, August 22 and Sunday, August 23. An 85-foot inflatable whale will be secured on the grass on the right side of the park facing the bay. The BBC and PBS in association with the Monterey Bay Aquarium will be rehearsing and transmitting from the park on those days. Divers are asked to locate on the grass section to the left of the center sidewalk facing the bay. Thank you for your assistance.

- The City of Monterey



A photo of the inflatable whale



Map of San Carlos Beach Park and approximate location of inflatable

#### San Carlos Beach INFO

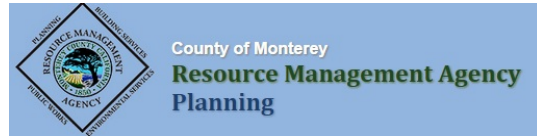
If you are planning to dive San Carlos Beach on August 22nd and 23rd, please plan that one half the grass area will be reserved for this event. Thank you!

## Helping a fellow Sanctuary with Lionfish removals



Marine Sanctuary of American Samoa Research Coordinator joined the dive team of Flower Garden Banks NMS on one of their research cruises to remove invasive lionfish. Teams conducted surveys of lionfish and large predators and removed lionfish at East and West Flower Garden Banks and at Stetson Bank. Two years earlier, Flower Garden Banks NMS staff Michelle Johnston was helping to remove invasive crown-of-thorns starfish in American Samoa. Sharing divers between sites allows each site to accomplish more underwater.

## GRNMS Divers Service Telemetry Array



The Big Sur MAAC is a unique entity that is chaired by Congressman Sam Farr and Supervisor Dave Potter, and includes local, state and federal agencies as well as local stakeholders including the Big Sur Chamber, the Coast Property Owners Association and a Big Sur Resident seat. Monterey State Park District presented a report on aquatic fatalities citing 71 over the past 15 year period for various reasons (diving, swimming, suicide, etc), and specific concerns at Monastery Beach. There was a lively discussion on how to fund and install temporary bathrooms along the coast to accommodate the increased tourist visitation. Each of the seats reported out to the community on items of interest, followed by questions from the community members. MBNMS topics included the upcoming management plan review, desalination projects, May's Davidson Seamount/Sur Ridge cruise, and the June Get into Your Sanctuary event. The agencies represented include Caltrans, Coastal Commission, Regional Parks, State Parks, Forest Service, and Assemblymember Monning and Stone's office. This almost 30 year Advisory Council was founded by Leon Panetta and others to increase communication and coordination on issues in the Big Sur community, and continues to be an effective forum for discussing issues, challenges, ideas and solutions.

## MBNMS responds to Large Scale Sewage Spill in Pacific Grove



On Monday, May 18, Monterey Regional Water Pollution Control Agency (MRWPCA) encountered mechanical problems at their pump station #13 in Pacific Grove yesterday and discharged untreated wastewater (sewage) into the Sanctuary. According to the MRWPCA, approximately 220,000 gallons of wastewater was released into the ocean from Pump Station #13. There were a number of factors that led to the extended release of wastewater to the ocean. Once the pump station was cleared of wastewater and repairs were made, the bypass pumping resumed and wastewater releases to the ocean ceased at 5:22 p.m. No wildlife marine mammals or birds were on the water near the visible brown plume, but cormorants were present on an offshore rock adjacent to the plume. The following response actions were taken: \* Monterey County Comms issued a reverse 911 alert to PG residents requesting they halt flow from toilets, bathtubs, and sinks \* MRWPCA partially closed valves at upstream stations to slow effluent entering Pump Station #13. \* Three Vac trucks were brought in to pump several thousand gallons





Divers boarded the R/V Sam Gray on June 30th to recover and replace five acoustic receivers deployed in the sanctuary. The receivers are deployed to listen for fish tagged with acoustic transmitters. In addition to conducting this regular maintenance, the team surveyed for lionfish at four sites. No lionfish were observed during 80 minutes of surveys (20 minutes per site). Lionfish have not been observed during winter months in Gray's Reef (likely the result of cold water temperatures), and are typically seen each summer by May or June. None have been observed in Gray's Reef in 2015. The trip was also an opportunity to conduct a check out dive for Chris Hines, the Executive Director of the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Foundation who will soon become a Team Ocean NOAA Diver.

## Whale Entanglement Responses Continue in MBNMS



On July 6 highly trained volunteer teams with support from the R/V Fulmar and crew successfully disentangled a juvenile humpback whale near Santa Cruz that had become bound by lines from a crab pot that cut into its skin, damaged the jaw and threatened to amputate one flipper. The R/V Fulmar was engaged for 3 days during this rescue operation taking place over the 4th of July weekend. On July 16, a second humpback was identified and while entangled moved in and out of the Bay over a period of days. Telemetry was deployed and the whale started moving down the coast south to Piedras Blancas. On July 20th a third humpback entanglement was reported by the Fast Raft operator. Blue Ocean Whale Watch was able to stand by until Marine Life Studies vessel transited from Monterey to do the initial analysis. Whale entanglements are increasing and are identified by the West Coast Regional Resource Protection Coordinators as a priority over the next 5 years as the issue represents one of the major threats to large whales. Sanctuary staff participates with a number of

out of the lift station so crews could access the failed valve. \* Oceanview Blvd and the Rec Trail were closed to traffic near the spill site. \* Lovers Cove Beach and 1 mile of the shoreline on either side of the spill site were closed to the public and posted by MoCo Health Dept (Environmental Health Specialist Ishmael Chavira, 831-647-7867). \* Monterey County Health Dept and MRWPCA collected water samples at the incident location. \* USCG smallboat initially monitored nearshore waters to keep public away from discharge site \* USCG issued a security broadcast warning the public to avoid contact with the water in the area of the spill. \* MBNMS staff joined a post-spill briefing at MRWPCA to provide input on how to prevent this situation from happening again. Media were onsite and interviewed Sanctuary staff: <http://www.ksbw.com/news/100000-gallons-of-raw-sewagespills-into-ocean-at-lovers-point/33088136>. Sanctuary resources can be negatively impacted by sewage spills, and having a quick and coordinated response by all involved parties is of paramount importance.

## MBNMS Hosts Public Scoping for Deepwater Desalination Project



On June 16th, MBNMS, in partnership with California State Lands Commission, hosted two public scoping meetings at Moss Landing Marine Labs to provide opportunity for the public and agencies to voice concerns, support or questions regarding the 25,000 acre foot year (AFY) proposed desalination facility. The project consists of an open ocean intake, desalination facility, data center, and brine discharge outfall to the ocean. A federal register notice for a joint NOP/NOI was posted on June 1st (Docket number NOAA-NOS-2015- 0069). The public comment period ended on July 3rd at 5:00 pm. As federal NEPA lead, MBNMS is responsible to ensure that any issues or concerns regarding possible impacts to MBNMS from a desalination facility are addressed by a thorough and proper process for environmental review.

### Chamber Fund Rasing

## Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber

Monterey Bay has become a premier diving destination, offering some of the most beautiful and pristine diving areas in the country. The City of Pacific Grove, on the Monterey Peninsula, has provided medical treatment to

partners (NMFS Stranding Network, WET Responders, USCG, and multiple whale watch operators) in the effort to better understand and reduce this threat.

## Areas of Special Biological Significance Summer Mooring Field Testing Kicks Off!



Biological Sensitive Areas

On Monday May 25th WQPP team member Lisa Emanuelson and a WQPP volunteer, collected water samples from the mooring field in Stillwater Cove, Pebble Beach. Seawater samples are collected and tested for copper, zinc, oil and grease, fecal indicator bacteria, ammonia and residual chlorine as part of the Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) Special Protections. In the summer 2014 and now in 2015 samples are collected monthly from May through September, in the mooring field to determine if any contaminants are entering the ASBS from boats moored in the anchorage. Sampling is conducted on holiday weekends when boat traffic in the cove is expected to be high. Future sampling days are June 21st, July 5th, August 16th and September 7th. Testing of ocean waters in areas of high boat traffic or use is important for general knowledge about the health of the sanctuary. The ASBS program partnership provides a vehicle for MBNMS to learn more about water quality in the sanctuary. Utilizing volunteers for water quality testing furthers the commitment and connection to the communities that surround the sanctuary.

### MBNMS SAC STAFF

## CONNECT WITH YOUR SANCTUARY Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council is your voice to the Sanctuary Management Staff.

If you have questions or input please contact your local representative

#### **Agriculture**

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injured divers with its hyperbaric chamber since 1963. While the City of Pacific Grove provides for many of the chamber's operation needs, the facility needs additional fiscal support to reopen and continue to offer these important medical treatments. Please consider a donation to help this much needed, important resource for the local dive community.

[Donate to the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber Fund](#)



[Donate Now!](#)

Donations to this exciting project can be made online using a credit card or a PayPal account.

The credit card transaction will be securely handled by PayPal and you do not need a PayPal account to make a credit card donation. At the end of the credit card transaction you will be presented with an option to print out a receipt for your donation.

Your tax-deductible donation to the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber Fund will go directly towards the reopening of the facility and its operations.

Payment can also be made by check mailed to:

Monterey Bay Sanctuary  
Foundation  
99 Pacific Street, Suite 455 E  
Monterey, CA 93940

If you have any questions, please email  
[info@mbnmsf.org](mailto:info@mbnmsf.org)

Prepared by Brian and Phil, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

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**Know your Sanctuary**

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### Tourism

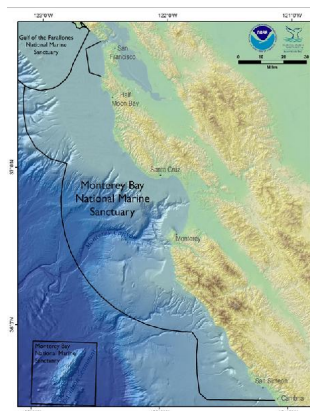
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Monterey Harbor



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is a Federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline **length of 276 miles and 6,094** square miles of ocean. Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education, and public use of this national treasure. MBNMS is part of a system of 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and one marine national monument, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

### Featured Article

### Quick Links

[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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There are additional non-voting and supporting members of the Advisory Council. Go to [Advisory Council Complete listing and Information](#)

## 2015 SAC Meeting Schedule

The 2015 Schedule is not yet published on the MBNMS website. But here it is, please mark you calendars and see if you could attend a meeting.

August 19, 2015, Wednesday  
Half Moon Bay

October 23, 2015, Friday  
Cambria

December 11, 2015, Friday  
Monterey

**Sincerely,**

MBNMS Advisory Council  
Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council

Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council, 99 Pacific Street, Suite 455a, Monterey, CA 93940

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