



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Council Diver Newsletter

Diver
October 2015

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Dear MBNMS,

This last couple of months has been busy for both Phil and I, The management plan review is an important step in progressive change for the Sanctuary. We are delighted to report that The Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, AMBAG, has endorsed to move forward with the study and review of an artificial reef in Monterey. The AMBAG Board of Directors vote was unanimous. Representatives from the surrounding municipal governments and county council members from Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz were present for the vote. The final draft letter will be sent to the MBNMS staff shortly. On October 20th the Monterey City Council approved the artificial reef language as well. We are asking again for divers to consider supporting this effort by writing a letter to MBNMS asking for their support as well. Because time is of the essence we appreciate your quick response. We will be at the Alacosta Dive Club meeting in Orinda on Monday, December 7, 2015 [Alacosta Dive Club](#) Come and join in on the fun at Alacosta. We will have an overview of the Sanctuary Programs, some facts, and what's going on at the Advisory Council.

[Copy of AMBAG Support Letter](#)

[Copy of Monterey Chamber of Commerce Support Letter](#)

Here is where you should send your letters of support:
Please address your letter exactly as below:

NOAA- NOS-2015-0099
99 Pacific Street, Bldg. 455A,
Monterey, California 93940,
Attn: Paul Michel, Superintendent

MBNMS Hosts Public Scoping Meeting for Management Plan Review Process

On Thursday, September 10th, Monterey MBNMS staff hosted the first of four public scoping meetings to receive input on issues local communities feel sanctuary staff should consider while updating the 2008 Management Plan. 28 members of the public attended and after a presentation about the review process, schedule and issues staff had identified, provided input focused primarily on wildlife viewing issues (approach and enforcement); the need to support and improve coordination of volunteer programs; and how to improve interpretive enforcement through signage. Water quality, desalination, citizen science and species of concern were also discussed. Additional scoping meetings are planned for 9/23 in Santa Cruz, 10/14 in Half Moon Bay and 10/24 in Cambria. The public comment period will close 10/30. To access the notice of intent and the issues MBNMS staff have identified as priority, please visit. Please note the correct docket number is NOAA-NOS-2015-0099. Public involvement is an important part of NEPA, and is designed to ensure the public has the opportunity to comment and contribute to those decisions in an environmentally significant way.

[Federal Register of Management Plan Review](#)

MBNMS Staff Working with BBC on Big Blue Live

Thank you once again for being the best of the best in the world of diving!
Monterey Divers Rock!

Brian and Phil

NOAA declares deaths of large whales in Gulf of Alaska an unusual mortality event



NOAA is declaring the recent deaths of 30 large whales in the western Gulf of Alaska an "unusual mortality event," triggering a focused, expert investigation into the cause. An unusual mortality event is a stranding event that is unexpected, involves a significant die-off of a marine mammal population, and demands immediate response. Since May 2015, 11 fin whales, 14 humpback whales, one gray whale, and four unidentified cetaceans have stranded around the islands of the western Gulf of Alaska and the southern shoreline of the Alaska Peninsula. To date, this brings the large whale strandings for this region to almost three times the historical average. [Large Whale Mortality](#)

El Niño may accelerate nuisance flooding

El Niño may accelerate nuisance flooding According to a new NOAA report issued today, many mid-Atlantic and West Coast communities could see the highest number of nuisance flooding days on record through April due to higher sea levels and more frequent storm surge, compounded by the strengthening El Niño, which is likely to continue into the spring. These communities may experience a 33 to 125 percent increase in the number of nuisance flooding days, the report said. These findings build upon two nuisance flooding reports issued last year led by NOAA scientists William Sweet and John Marra. The previously published reports show coastal communities in the United States have experienced a rapid growth in the frequency of nuisance tidal flooding, a 300 to 925 percent increase since the 1960s, and will likely cross inundation tipping points in the coming decades as tides become higher with sea level rise. [El Niño Information](#)

Emergency Coral Reattachment at South Carysfort Reef

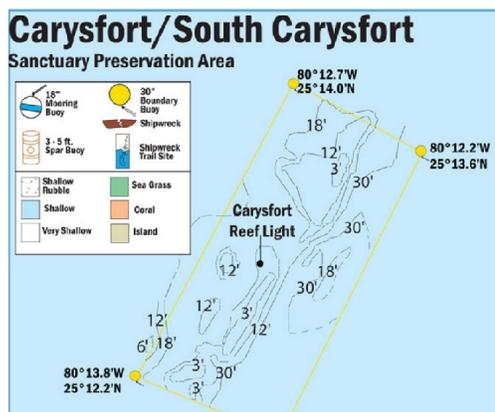


MBNMS staff are continuing to collaboratively work with the BBC and Monterey Bay Aquarium in sharing messaging and positively increasing exposure of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as part of the three-day programming for Big Blue Live. This tv show will highlight the wildlife found in MBNMS and will weave a thread of rebounding ecosystems through the episodes. The BBC is able to reach millions worldwide with their gorgeous and dynamic television shows. Spreading the awareness of MBNMS & showcasing wildlife through this venue is an incredible opportunity. This is the biggest outreach and awareness opportunity MBNMS has ever experienced, and is a fantastic opportunity to educate the public on the amazing wildlife found in the Sanctuary as well as the story of recovery in protected ocean places.

MBNMS participates in a California Whale Entanglement Discussion



On August 20th, a day-long California Whale Entanglement Discussion meeting was hosted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), California Ocean Protection Council, and NOAA Fisheries at the Elihu M. Harris State Building in Oakland. The goal of the meeting was to begin an open dialogue with industry members of the commercial California Dungeness crab fishery and exchange information on the incidence of whale entanglements off the California coast, including possible short- and long-term strategies to reduce the risk of entanglements. The meeting included morning presentations by CDFW and NMFS on the following topics: an overview of the commercial California Dungeness crab fishery, an overview of whale management and entanglement history in California, whale science and NMFS outreach efforts,



Members of the FKNMS science and buoy maintenance teams joined forces to permanently reattach the dislodged corals at South Carysfort reef, a Sanctuary Preservation Area (SPA) located approximately 6.5 miles offshore of northernmost Key Largo. The injury occurred in April 2015, when a vessel grounded on South Carysfort reef crushed non-living coral reef framework and dislodged almost two square meters of living coral colonies, primarily mustard hill coral (*Porites astreoides*) and the purple sea fan (*Gorgonia ventalina*). Following the biological injury assessment, the FKNMS science team gathered the dislodged coral heads and placed them upright within a natural crevice in the reef that would afford temporary protection. This excursion was the follow-up to relocate and re-stabilize the loose colonies. Portland cement was used as an adhesive to attach them, resulting in a bond as strong if not stronger than the coral's original attachment. Restabilizing living corals following a vessel grounding is an important step towards ensuring their continued survival, while also expediting the restoration and recovery of this portion of the coral reef ecosystem



Resource Protection Staff submits comment letter for Pacific Grove Draft Land Use Plan

understanding recent entanglement activity, and the West Coast marine mammal disentanglement response network. Two additional groups provided presentations - the Whale Entanglement Team who discussed their activities in recent years responding to large numbers of entangled whale reports in California and the California Lost Gear Retrieval Program who provided an overview describing their program, including the role of the Dungeness crab industry in reducing lost gear in California waters. During the afternoon, meeting participants had the opportunity to discuss the topics and themes raised during the morning presentations, and to explore potential options to reduce entanglement risk. The importance of immediate notification about observed entanglements by fishermen was stressed numerous times as rapid reporting will allow for a quicker response. In 2014/15 in California, there has been 35 confirmed entanglements with 14 occurring in Monterey Bay, which has the highest level of entanglements on the west coast. Collaborative solutions are the most likely to succeed in the short term in reducing whale entanglements along the west coast and will hopefully be the outcome of this and future discussions between industry and regulatory agencies.

FV Hal grounded off Ocean Shores, CG rescues crew



The US Coast Guard received a mayday call from the FV Hal early in the morning on August 11th. The vessel had run aground off Ocean Shores, WA, seven miles south of Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. The crew was successfully rescued by US Coast Guard helicopter. The US Coast Guard and Washington State Department of Ecology responded, contracting to have fuel removed from the vessel at low tide. Some amount of fuel was released into the ocean. Contracted salvors were not able to refloat the vessel, which was subsequently demolished and removed at low tide. Unfortunately this is not an unusual event, with vessels being sunk or grounded in the sanctuary on a regular basis. Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary is currently compiling information on such events, to analyze causes and to consider policy recommendations to mitigate impacts to sanctuary resources.



Resource Protection Staff submits comment letter for Pacific Grove Draft Land Use Plan. City of Pacific Grove has been taking public comments on their draft Land Use Plan, which is a component of the Local Coastal Program, and an important process determining the future management of Pacific Grove's coastal zone. RP staff reviewed the draft document and submitted a letter with comments, which included requesting some added language and a map regarding federal jurisdictions in the coastal zone such as the CA Coastal National Marine Monument. Also requested was added language regarding the successful and collaborative efforts between agencies to increase protections for harbor seal pupping areas, as well as cite the importance of longterm monitoring efforts for black oystercatchers in the state MPAs. The black oystercatcher is listed as a "species of high concern" in the US, Canadian, Alaskan, and Northern and Southern Pacific shorebird conservation plans. Local Coastal Plans or Programs are guidance documents for local cities and can impact the future management of living marine resources along the coastline. Pacific Grove has one of the most spectacular coastal settings with a number of sensitive species that nest, roost or pup along its beaches. It's important for coastal agencies, including sanctuaries, to engage in their planning processes to ensure protections are included in the resulting plans.

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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Captain Jim Moser (831) 246-1408
tradewind39@gmail.com

Community Representatives (At Large Representatives)

MBNMS Hosts Public Scoping for Deepwater Desalination Project

On Thursday, September 10th, MBNMS resource protection staff held a public scoping meeting to solicit comments on the range and significance of issues related to CalAm's proposed project in Marina, CA. The permit review process is being conducted concurrently with a public process pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. The public testimony focused on a variety of issues including the brine discharge impacts to the sanctuary, the impacts to businesses on constructing the water delivery pipelines, and general comments about protecting ocean resources. An Ohlone Coastanoan National tribal representative asked the agencies to consider the cumulative impact of all the desal projects along the coast of California, and their potential disturbance to their tribal burial grounds.

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 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!](#)

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Santa Cruz Harbor
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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

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

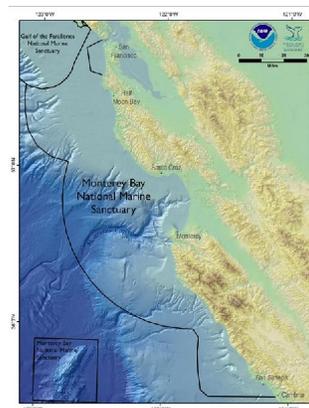
If you have any questions, please email
info@mbnmsf.org

Prepared by Brian and Phil, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

Join Our Mailing List!

Know your Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is a Federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to

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.

October 23, 2015, Friday
Cambria

December 11, 2015, Friday
Monterey

Sincerely,

MBNMS Advisory Council
Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council

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

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

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