



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Council Diver Announcement

Diver
February 2016

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One Breath - Monterey Bay



Earth is Blue at Pebble beach



Pebble Beach and MBNMS

Dear MBNMS,

We have been working on the management plan review which occurs roughly every eight years. Quite a bit of reading and analyzing of comments, reports, and data. To be honest it has been very time consuming. It has been a lessons learned event. We have to be honest though, we are not sure it is the best way to lay down what issues need to be addressed and in what order for the Sanctuary. At present though it is the current format for the plan review. Below is a condensed format of the process:

The Sanctuary Management Review Process Outline:

- A) Announcement of the Plan Review through the Federal websites
- B) Public meetings for oral and written input from the public
- C) Letters sent to the Sanctuary broken into two groups
 - 1) Individual letters
 - 2) Copied letters
- D) Close of comment period
- E) Sanctuary Staff groups the letters and comments into main topics
- F) Sanctuary Advisory Voting Seats Rank topics of a high of 10 to 1, topics that their constituents or they believe are most important.
- G) Sanctuary Advisory meets to discuss, in roughly a three hour period, what the Advisory Council recommends to staff the final list of what should be included in the Sanctuary**

13th Annual San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival

Management Plan for the next eight years. (Addressed on February 19)

H) Sanctuary Staff receives and reviews the list then ultimately decides what is included in the new plan going forward.

I) Plan approved by the Superintendent and regional director then officially published and implementation begins.

As you will note the process is extensive, but weighting of importance could be negated by an Advisory Council member that may ignore the number or significance of the comments. They may simply have a negative disposition about a topic. For the diving community the two main topics are artificial reefs and buoys to mark common dive sites to reduce anchoring effects. The results were the Buoys for common dive sites were in the top ten and artificial reefs was not. This result despite the studies, comments, and surveys that illustrated more than 80% of the dive community wants an artificial reef in the Monterey Bay waters. Mooring buoys scored significantly less on the surveys.

But we move forward with the results and coming up this week we will be challenged with narrowing and reasoning the field of topics. As always your thoughts and comments are appreciated. We are working hard to represent the dive community at the table. In the end it is a democratic process defined by NOAA.

As always please feel free to contact Phil or I if would like a MBNMS presentation at your dive club or store, also please share this newsletter with other divers and help build our communication connections.

Brian and Phil

Prepared by Brian and Phil, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

MBNMS Presents Accomplishments Report to US Coast Guard Auxiliary Air Squadron and US Coast Guard Air Station Command Staff

On Saturday, November 21, MBNMS staff member Scott Kathey made a presentation to US Coast Guard Auxiliary Air Squadron 11N (based in Livermore, California) highlighting aerial observation support the squadron has provided to MBNMS since February 2014. Between February 2014 and November 2015, the squadron submitted 66 aerial patrol reports to MBNMS representing approximately 265 hours of aerial surveillance effort within the marine sanctuary. This service, provided free to NOAA, was underwritten by the Coast Guard at an approximate cost of \$50,000. Auxiliary pilots reported several observations of illegal fishing in state marine reserves, provided real-time situational awareness and photo-documentation regarding vessel groundings and entangled whales, and improved MBNMS awareness of the location, timing, and nature of human activities occurring within the sanctuary. Aerial observations within the sanctuary are a key component of resource protection efforts. Due to the large size of MBNMS, aerial observations provide the most efficient means for detecting certain potential resource violations within the sanctuary, but flight time is typically expensive and in short supply. Partnership with the Coast Guard Auxiliary

March 10 - 13, 2016 Cowell Theater, Fort Mason Center



The 13th Annual San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival is proud to be the premier ocean film destination event of the year. Widely recognized as the main film event for ocean-related independent films, the SFIOFF offers a thoughtfully curated selection of diverse films that capture the beauty, power and mysteries of the ocean. Each year, the SFIOFF presents over 45 films from all over the world, and provides audiences with the opportunity to discuss current ocean events.

authored by Phil and Brian

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center Exhibits closed in late November to mid-December for exhibits update/reopened December 22. After 3.5 years of operations, the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, CA is getting a facelift and new hands-on interactives are being added to the exhibit floor. The goal for this phase of exhibit enhancement was to add more tactile exhibits for younger children and to improve and enhance the exterior of the building. Some of the exhibits include a new and upgraded "Introduction to ONMS and MBNMS, new watershed, Mapping the seafloor trilon puzzle, Matching sands to rock game, Microscience under a video-microscope, Ray Troll Fishing boats and species art matching game, a Migration exhibit and an opportunity for visitors make a choice about what stewardship and volunteer activities they can do as a citizen to help protect our sanctuaries.

Ocean Noise Work Continues at Gray's Reef

Air Squadron has provided an essential service at no direct cost to NOAA, and has significantly expanded sanctuary awareness of the nature and degree of violation activity within MBNMS. Auxiliary pilots have collaborated with MBNMS staff to develop reporting protocols, training modules, and an MBNMS aerial patrol guide.

Grounded Vessels removed from Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary



Two grounded vessels were recently successfully removed from rocky shorelines of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park. The 18-foot pleasure craft Swift was removed by Vessel Assist on November 11th from a cobble shoreline at Chinese Harbor on Santa Cruz Island. The salvage response took about 10 days to launch given delays by the owner and his insurance company. On the third attempt over 12 days, the 51-foot squid fishing vessel Angeles Gate was successfully pulled off a rock shelf on November 13th at Skunk Point on Santa Rosa Island and towed back to Ventura Harbor for repairs. These accidents are part of an unusually high number of groundings and other distressed vessel occurrences that have taken place recently, with a total of six incidents in the sanctuary over two months. National marine sanctuaries work with numerous partnering agencies and other parties to respond to vessel accidents, helping to reduce damage to property and the environment.

Diver Dan's Dive Club



The Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Representatives were invited to Diver Dan's Dive Club meeting On January 20th. The group asked some great questions and had the opportunity to learn more about the Sanctuary. Thank you for the invitation, Brian and Phil

Prepared by Brian and Phil, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

MBNMS SAC STAFF

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SANCTUARY**



[Ocean Noise work continues at Gray's Reef](#)

Resource Protection Coordinator Becky Shortland participated in the bi-monthly Ocean Noise Working Group conference call (for which MBNMS is also a member). The Ocean Noise Working Group was established by ONMS to oversee a system-wide approach to managing ocean noise in sanctuaries. This call focused on updates from various sites, including Gray's Reef. In addition to the report on hydrophone deployments and pending retrievals for Gray's Reef, Becky reported that a response was received from the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to the Sanctuary Advisory Council's BOEM Environmental Studies Program recommendations. The Gray's Reef SAC has concerns related to proposed oil and gas leasing and geophysical surveying that may occur off the coast. BOEM is considering several of the recommendations including additional acoustic monitoring off the Southeast coast. Elizabeth Weinberg at ONMS is working with Gray's Reef to create a blog for posting on social media. Efforts to monitor ocean noise system-wide and at each site aim to reduce negative physical and behavioral impacts to species, as well as conserve the acoustic quality of their habitats.

Chamber Fund Rasing

Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 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 diver donations support the continued ongoing operations that offset needed repairs that occur from time to time. Please consider a donation to help this much needed, important resource for the local dive community.

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

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

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[Donate Now!](#)

Donations the chamber 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

Know your Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

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

2016 SAC Meeting Schedule

The 2016 SAC meeting schedule

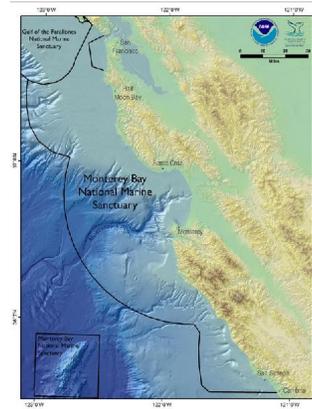
February 19 - Watsonville
April 21 - Santa Cruz
June 17 - Pacific Grove
August 19 - Moss Landing
October 21 - Cambria
December 8 - Monterey

For more information go to [2016 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting dates and Information](#)

Sincerely,

Brian and Phil

MBNMS Advisory Council
Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council



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

LINKS

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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