



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

Diver
February 2017

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**DIVER SURVEY
REQUEST
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Dear MBNMS,

Thank you once again for staying in touch and up to date on events and changes in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. In the last eNewsletter we added our annual diver survey for readers to provide feedback to Phil and I. This annual survey allows the both of us to directly provide communication to the Council, NOAA staff, and leadership. The questions vary a little, but most importantly it provides benchmark data on several aspects of Sanctuary effectiveness and how it changes over time. We have included the survey link once again so we can make sure we get your input. Please take just a few minutes and help us help you improve how and what we do in communicating your thoughts, ideas, and improving processes. **(THIS IS A MISSION CRITICAL REQUEST).**

The Management Plan Review continues to be refined and presentations this month involve marine debris which includes trash, plastics, fishing gear, and other man made items. At each of the meetings we seek out professionals and those most knowledgeable on subject matter to help us understand what actions we need to recommend, should, or could be taken. Last month we saw a flurry of working group meetings about the public concerns about marine mammal viewing distances. There are guidelines in place, but guidelines are not enforceable. The Marine Mammal Protection Act is enforceable and there are elements in the act addressing the human interaction subject. At first there

MBNMS is Recruiting for the following Sanctuary Advisory Council Seats.



MBNMS is recruiting for the following Advisory Council seats: These seats are on a three year term commitment basis.

Citizen At-Large primary, Citizen At-Large alternate, Diving primary, Diving alternate, Education alternate, Tourism primary and alternate Tourism alternate. More more information Applications Being Accepted until February 28, 2017

[Application and Information](#)

Contact:

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were calls for a distance requirement of 100 yards to fix the issue. However, marine mammals as divers know, have a mind of their own and do what they wish even to the point of getting on top of diver floats. Whales like to feed under boats in the shadows where small fish hide. The meetings provided valuable input to ideas and things that could be done which will be presented at the next meeting by the working group.

The artificial reef program is in the current plan and the Sanctuary will act on the plan once the State of California moves to design and write a program for the state waters. So the good news is there is a future for the program in the Management Plan Review. This would not be so without the yearly survey results from the Diver Stakeholder Group. **(YOU)**

Desalination will also be discussed at the next meeting with a status update of the approval process in the afternoon.

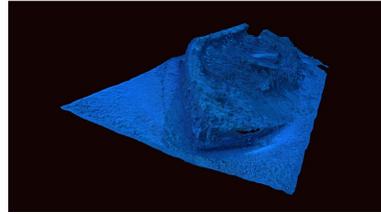
You have probably noticed we have featured articles about REEF Check more than once. REEF check continues to provide valuable useable data and information to different agencies. They are helpful, thoughtful, and provide a value resource for decision makers in understanding our underwater world. Please consider your participation if you have the time to help your oceans
Warm Regards,

Brian and Phil

Prepared by Brian and Phil, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

Monitor NMS Partners with Sketchfab for Online 3D Shipwreck Content

USS Monitor



Monitor NMS has partnered with online 3D content provider Sketchfab to highlight Monitor and the WWI and WWII Battle of the Atlantic research. Sketchfab provides a portal for the public to view and manipulate Monitor NMS's 3D photogrammetric models which are available on the Sketchfab website and on the Monitor NMS and Facebook webpages through an embedded code. As part of the partnership with Sketchfab the company agreed to provide their services to MNMS free of charge and with no expiration date. Please explore some of MNMS's 3D shipwreck models at [SKETCHFAB](#). The collaboration with Sketchfab saved the site considerable expense, and it provides a broader platform in promoting the work that Monitor NMS does to document, protect and preserve our nation's World War II maritime history.

NOAA satellites go HD with GOES-R



NOAA engineers and satellite mission scientists had something extra to be thankful for: the successful launch of GOES-R on November 19. Providing more timely and accurate information over the Western hemisphere, total lightning mapping, and higher resolution images streaming down from space more often, the new mission marks the first major redesign of the nation's operational Earth-observing technology in more than 20 years. The Advanced Baseline Imager (ABI) will be the go-to instrument for imaging Earth's weather, land, oceans, and climate. It's called an imager, rather than just a "camera," because it captures way more than the visible wavelengths of light that are captured by a camera for a regular photograph

Ocean Frontiers III



Ocean Frontiers III is a powerful film that chronicles our efforts to plan for a healthy, safe, sustainable future. It's a compelling combination looking at the intersection of national security, maritime commerce, fishing, and recreation, plus expanding industries such as offshore wind energy and aquaculture, coupled with scientific exploration and discovery

[More Information](#)

MBNMS participates in Monterey Bay Aquarium's Plastic Pollution Symposium

REEF Check California - Update



by Dan Abbott of Reefcheck
Central California Regional Manager

Since 2006, Reef Check California has been conducting kelp forest monitoring at roughly ninety sites in California, including 24 sites in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. At each site volunteer divers count densities of fish, invertebrates and kelp along randomly placed transects. This year we observed big changes at these sites including a dramatic decrease in giant kelp.

In recent years, there has been a trend in several of Northern California's kelp forests of a dramatic increase in purple sea urchins followed by a decrease in kelp. Urchins are voracious grazers of kelp forests and have the ability of completely devouring over lush kelp forests and turning them into "urchin barrens", which are areas devoid of kelp, resembling a clear-cut, where little other than rocks and urchins remain.

[REEF Check More Information](#)

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary participates in 2017 WhaleFest



Monterey's Whalefest 2017 took place on January 28 & 29 in Monterey at the Old Fisherman's Wharf and Custom House Plaza. This free, fun and educational, interactive family event was

attended by thousands of people from all ages bringing awareness of whale migration and conservation within MBNMS. Sanctuary Superintendent Paul Michel and Volunteer Coordinator Lisa Emanuelson gave talks about sanctuary resources at an all day symposium. Along with two staff members, seven MBNMS volunteers from Team Ocean and BayNet programs worked together to host an interactive booth with activities and displays on marine debris to educate and involve the public in the sanctuary protection.



On December 5, MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator attended Day 1 of a 3-day Symposium on Plastic Pollution in Monterey hosted by Monterey Bay Aquarium. The day focused on the latest research on the scope of the problem which revealed some startling statistics such as:

- * 8 million metric tons of plastic went into the ocean in 2010.
- * The amount of plastic produced will double over the next 20 years
- * A survey funded by Packard Fnd reported that "millennials" consider protection of the marine environment a second tier issue and animal welfare rates higher than environmental issues
- * Fish are ingesting microplastics which then bioaccumulate into the food web
- * The term "plastic pollution" rated highly with survey participants vs "marine debris" which rated poorly

A variety of solutions were discussed such as promoting "Extended Producer Responsibility" for plastic manufacturers at aquariums across the nation which can serve as ambassadors for this idea. This information will feed into the MBNMS management plan effort to address plastics in the marine environment. Plastic pollution remains one of the most serious threats to the marine environment, and will require sanctuaries to continue and expand outreach efforts that inspire cooperative and collective action to affect this issue on a regional, national and global scale.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center



MBNMS' state of the art visitor center opened July 23rd, 2012. This Center highlights the spectacular Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Overlooking the ocean, the Sanctuary Exploration Center is located in the heart of the Santa Cruz's famed beach area just steps away from the city's Municipal Wharf and [has free](#)

MBNMS SAC REPRESENTATIVES

CONNECT WITH YOUR SANCTUARY

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's 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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Recreational Fishing

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admission. The center features engaging interactive and multi-media exhibits to help visitors explore the sanctuary's remarkable marine environment, as well as their personal role in protecting this special underwater treasure. The Center also offers guided programs for schools, clubs and public as well as opportunities for special events.

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](#)



[Donate Now!](#)

Donations for 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:

pistolero captain1@gmail.com

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

2017 SAC Meeting Schedule

The 2017 SAC meeting schedule

February 17 - Moss Landing
 April 21 - Santa Cruz
 June 16 - Cambria
 August 16 - Half Moon Bay
 October 20 - Salinas
 December 8 - Monterey

For more information go to [2017 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting dates and Information](#)

Know your Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

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If you have any questions, please email

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Prepared by Brian and Phil, Sanctuary
 Advisory Council Diving
 Representatives

LINKS

Quick Links

[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

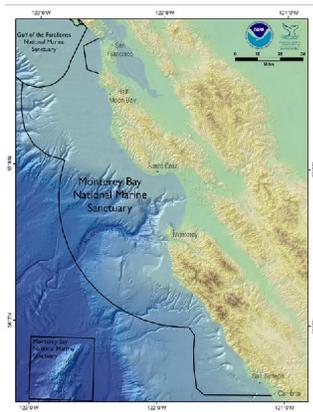
[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)



**PLEASE TAKE OUR
 SURVEY - THANK YOU
[Click Below](#)**



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

Sincerely,

Brian and Phil

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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