



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

Diver  
June-July 2017

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**Dear MBNMS,**

Fellow divers,

Happy almost summer time! The ocean conditions are tending to vary as much as the visibility of the water. We have 50 foot visibility days and then 5 foot days, depending on what the seas are doing. Same thing with water temperatures, they have varied recently giving us some clear but cool dives at times, followed by warmer and greener days.

The salmon fishery has been spotty this year along with the squid fishery. Divers have spotted some squid schools in near shore areas which provided some photo opportunities as well.

The CSUMB dive program, under Frank Degnan's leadership, has continued in-harbor clean ups during the weekdays with 4 to 6 divers. In the last year CSUMB divers have cleaned 75% of the marina areas. If you have a dive group of 4 to 6 people that can dive during the weekdays

[\*\*Join Our Mailing List!\*\*](#)

## Sea to Shining Sea - The National Marine Sanctuary System's Newsletter



## Past, Present, Future

If you are interested, you can sign up and receive the National Sanctuary Newsletter. So much interesting information to review...

From the western Pacific waters of American Samoa, east to the Atlantic Ocean, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries manages a national network of special places, encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of U.S. ocean and Great Lakes waters. The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries publishes a national newsletter in electronic format and distributed via email to keep our colleagues, collaborators and you! informed about the many activities and accomplishments that take place within our 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. [LINK to the Newsletter](#)

## Take a Virtual Dive

(Tuesday - Thursday), all rescue certified or higher, please contact Brian Nelson at 831-646-3950.

We would like to propose to all dive clubs and dive centers that both of us are committed to outreach and education of sanctuary information. Please drop us an email and we would be honored to attend and provide a 30 minute presentation along with a QA session regarding Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Despite the wrecks in San Diego, California has never permitted an artificial reef in state waters (within 3 miles of shore) so the permit process is a new creation. Our efforts on artificial Reefs with California Department of Fish and Wildlife are ongoing with development of follow up letters and conversations regarding the newly evolving permitting process.

Please keep up with the current Sanctuary Advisory agendas and if you see something of interest that you would like us to comment on, please send us an email.

Warm Regards & Dive with a Safe,

Brian and Keith

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 Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives  
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Immerse yourself in the ocean and your national marine sanctuaries without getting wet! These virtual reality voyages use 360-degree images to highlight the amazing habitats, animals, and cultural resources you can find in each national marine sanctuary.

**REEF CHECK SUPPORT**



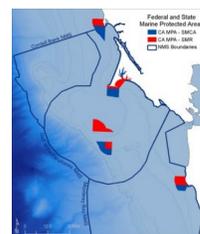
We support citizen science and Reef Check California continues to provide a path for concerned divers to help monitor the health of California's rocky reefs and Marine Protected Areas. This data informs CDFW in management of the fisheries and provides required adaptive management of the MPAs.

Reef Check is embarking on the third annual survey of the under-surveyed Big Sur Coast June 26-29 on the Vision out of Morro Bay. This group of volunteers is working hard and donating their time to collect this important data south of Big Sur, and the Channel islands as well. To defray the cost of the program to the non-profit group and the volunteers that give so much already, we are asking for assistance in funding this year's expedition by crowd source funding:

[Support the 2017 Reef Check California Marine Ecosystem Assessment](#)

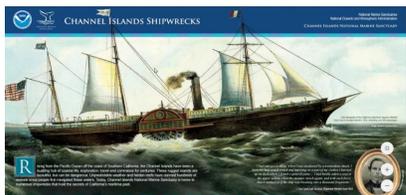
Your tax deductible donation will ensure the continuation of this annual survey.

**ACCESS in Monterey Bay**



Conservation Science staff from Applied Ecosystem California Current Surveys (ACCESS) are assisting staff from Monterey Bay Sanctuary to design and execute ACCESS

**Shipwreck artifact conserved through partnership by Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Channel Islands National Park and State of California**



Robert Schwemmer, West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator, serving as principal investigator and diver, joined law enforcement rangers from the Channel

Islands National Park to record a Pelorus artifact in situ and perform an archaeological recovery mission.

The Pelorus, a maritime navigational instrument, was first discovered in October 2016 during a joint Park and Sanctuary annual shipwreck reconnaissance expedition onboard the NPS R/V Sea Ranger II at the shipwreck site of the Equator off Anacapa Island. It's believed that storm surge in 2016 exposed the artifact on a sandy substrate that lies in shallow water and is part of the bottomlands managed by the California State Lands Commission.

The nonferrous metal ring of the Pelorus was in good shape for its age, the degree marks were clearly delineated from 0 to 360, and a glass fragment that once covered the compass rose was still in place. [MORE INFORMATION](#)

**Sanctuaries participation in the removal of 20+ tons of debris from Olympic Coast**



Washington Coast Savers is dedicated to keeping the Washington's beaches clean of marine debris through coordinated beach cleanups, education and prevention. As a founding member of Washington Coast Savers, Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary organized staff and volunteers of all ages representing the Youth Environmental Stewardship Program, Port Townsend Marine Science Center, Northwest Watershed Institute, and Americorp. The overall effort consisted of over 1300 volunteers that removed marine debris from more than 65 beaches up and down Washington's shorelines coast. Volunteers hauled 20 tons of marine debris consisting of hundreds of bags of garbage, boat parts, floats, rope and plastic off these shorelines. [MORE INFORMATION](#)

## Twenty-Five Years of Success



The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

National marine sanctuaries are managed for conservation of natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation, tourism and compatible commercial activities.

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and California State

throughout the Monterey Bay area and Santa Cruz County coast.

ACCESS is a collaborative effort of Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones sanctuaries and Point Blue Conservation Science for ongoing data collection to understand status and trends of sanctuary resources, ecosystem health, and response to climate change. Over the past two years, there have been increased sightings of entangled humpback, blue and gray whales in commercial and recreational crab pot gear.

Sanctuary staff are working with National Marine Fisheries Service, The Nature Conservancy, and the California Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group to collect data, model the co-occurrence of large whales and crab pots, and identify baleen whale hot spots in an effort to decrease the risk of entanglement of large whales in central California.

### Humpback whales are dying on the East Coast. NOAA wants to know why

Since January 2016, 41 humpback whales have died along the U.S. East Coast, from Maine to North Carolina. A team of veterinarians, marine biologists, marine mammal stranding network members, and others are determined to understand why.



Humpback whales in U.S. Atlantic coastal waters are no longer an endangered species, but they are an integral part of our marine environment - and one of the most iconic. Thus, the significant die-off of these whales (defined as an 'unusual mortality event' under the Marine Mammal Protection Act) demands an investigation to determine what environmental conditions or human activities could be the cause. [MORE INFORMATION](#)

### 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, diver donations support operations and offset needed repairs that occur from time to time. Please consider a donation to help this much needed, important resource for the dive community that enjoy the sanctuary.

## Parks air on Periscope



MBNMS joined CA State Parks on a live-streamed Periscope broadcast entitled, "Partners in Protection; Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and CA State Parks," hosted by Erin Gates.

During the broadcast, MBNMS's Carolyn Skinder shared with viewers the role MBNMS and the Coastal Discovery Center play in protecting our ocean through education and monitoring. Viewers followed Skinder from the San Simeon Pier to the Coastal Discovery Center as she collected and demonstrated plankton, explained its role in the ocean food web, and invited viewers to visit the Center.

Following Skinder came an interview with CA State Parks' Ranger Brett King and his canine, Artos. Ranger King informed viewers about how MBNMS and CA State Parks work together to enforce regulations that help balance public use with resource protection.

Throughout the live broadcast, questions were asked by 611 viewers. [LINK TO PERISCOPE](#)

## Sanctuary ocean counts continue for 2017



NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary continued its 2017 Sanctuary Ocean Count on February 25, 2017. From 8:00 a.m. until 12:15 p.m. volunteers counted humpback whale sightings and documented the animals' surface behaviors. More

than 590 volunteers gathered data from 50 sites across the shores of O'ahu, Kaua'i, and Hawai'i Island. There was a lot of whale activity throughout the Ocean Count event. The 2017 Ocean Count is scheduled to continue on March 25th [MORE INFORMATION](#)

## 2017 SAC Meeting Schedule

- June 16, 2017 - Cambria
- August 16, 2017 - Half Moon Bay
- October 20, 2017 - Salinas
- December 15, 2017 - Monterey

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

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

## [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 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 Keith, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

## Know your Sanctuary

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

## Quick Links

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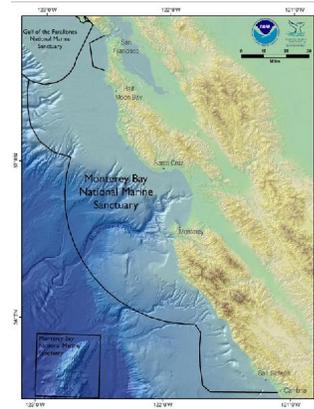
[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)



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.

It is home to one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, including numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment.

MBNMS was designated in 1992 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 two marine national monuments, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

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

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