



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

Diver
February 2018

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Join Our Mailing List!

Dear MBNMS,

Thank you to the divers, instructors, dive centers and dive businesses for the incredible education that has been to growing regarding Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. More often now we begin chatting with divers about sanctuary news and information and everyone is up to speed and knowledgeable about the science and politics surrounding our precious oceans. This is a significant change from where we were 10-years ago. Last month we had the chance to visit Silicon Valley Dive Club and enjoy an evening filled with dive news and pizza! What could be better.

Next month we will publish our annual diver survey with a range of topics, we need feedback from every MBNMS diver. Please take the time to fill out and send in the survey. Also share it with a fellow diver. PLEASE

We get asked why doesn't the sanctuary do a better job at regulating fishing. In our 2017 survey 73.3% of divers responded that the Sanctuary should address overall fishing

CALL TO ACTION

OFFSHORE DRILLING PROPOSAL

The Trump administration announced a plan Thursday that could lead to the first new oil drilling off the California coast in decades. The plan would lease seven areas off the West Coast to oil companies from 2020 to 2023 in four general zones.



January 16 to mid-February - Public meetings in each state capitol

For more information about the National OCS Program, including maps, please visit: [OCS Program Including Maps](#)

Where to post comments about the OCS offshore leasing proposal: Deadline is March 8, 2018 [Government Docket Postings](#)

Where to find information posted by the government re: Offshore Leasing proposal: [Offshore Leasing Proposal](#)

Draft proposal is at: [DRAFT Proposal including Maps](#)

Public meetings - Sacramento, California - February 8th [Public Meetings Information](#)

A Great Diver Discovery From 13,000 Years Ago

issues and 80.1% told us to prioritize marine debris. We must remind our constituency MBNMS does not regulate fishing but does provide research information to regulatory agencies. For more information on Fishing and MBNMS please read the attached document

[MBNMS and FISHING](#)

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.

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

Warm Regards & Dive Safe,

Brian and Keith

Prepared by Brian and Keith
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Silicon Valley Dive Club Hosts SAC Reps.



Thank you to Silicon Valley Dive Club for inviting the SAC reps to the January meeting. There was a great turnout with many questions about the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council



Are you a SCUBA diver seeking new dive sites, in need of a buddy, or looking for an organized dive so you can just show up and blow bubbles? Then you've found the right place - Dive Club of Silicon Valley.

Click on [Join](#) to see our list of membership benefits. The DCOSV welcomes divers at any level of certification. Whether you have only four or over a thousand dives, are a warm water diver or cold water enthusiast, world traveler or Monterey Bay specialist, then you are invited to come and see what the DCOSV is all about.

WATCH OCEAN FRONTIERS III

Have you watched Ocean Frontiers III yet? If not, you are in luck! We are pleased to share the film with you online at no cost. Explore the challenges at the heart of ocean conservation and development and learn about the solutions from a range of people who are leading the way to a healthy and sustainable ocean future.



[First Face of America](#)

Seaside, Ca resident Beto Nava and a team of divers found human remains 13,000 years old. One unlucky day 13,000 years ago, a slight, malnourished teenager missed her footing and tumbled to the bottom of a 100-foot pit deep inside a cave in Mexico's Yucatán. Rising seas flooded the cave and cut it off from the outside world-until a team of divers chanced upon her nearly complete skeleton in 2007. Intricate detective work reveals that the young woman's bones are among the earliest known human remains in the Americas. What drove her to venture nearly a mile underground inside a vast cave? Where did her people come from, and why does she look so distinct from today's Native Americans? From a stunning Mexico cave to the wilderness of the Yukon, from the genetics lab to the forefront of forensics, NOVA pursues tantalizing new clues that are rewriting the story of the forgotten first people who ventured into our continent. To watch video: [click here](#)

USCG Investigating Commercial Fishing Vessel Fire and Sinking in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

On December 13, the commercial squid fishing vessel Old Joe's Swan, home port Anacortes, WA, caught fire and sank south of Smuggler's Cove, Santa Cruz Island in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The 32' vessel sank in ~800 meters of water and discharged upwards of 300 gallons of diesel fuel. The master was pulled from the water safely. The USCG is investigating the incident and based on the investigation NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement (OLE) will determine what if any future enforcement actions may be taken. Sanctuary staff are providing mapping and habitat data information, communicating between the USCG, NOAA OLE and the insurer. Vessels that sink in the sanctuary violate NOAA's discharge and seabed disturbance regulations for CINMS, which are in place to help protect the water quality, habitats, marine life, human use, and aesthetic values of this special place.

Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI)



[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Report on Using Aquatic Vegetation as Ocean Acidification Management Tool



The Ocean Protection Council and Ocean Science Trust are pleased to announce the release of a new report: Emerging Understanding of Seagrass and Kelp as an Ocean Acidification Management Tool in California. The report is available here: [Ocean Science Trust Link](#).

The report, which synthesizes data and results from ongoing research and monitoring, provides guidance on next steps for the State as it considers future nature-based actions to reduce the negative impacts of ocean acidification in California and beyond. The report was produced by a working group of the Ocean Protection Council Science Advisory Team (OPC-SAT) and the California Ocean Science Trust.

Key findings and next steps from the report will be presented on February 6 in Sacramento at a hearing of the Select Committee on Coastal Protection and Access to Natural Resources. In addition to the report's findings, the hearing will include presentations from researchers at The Nature Conservancy, University of California, Davis, and California State University, Northridge highlighting specific actions being taken locally and key next steps for California. More information on the hearing can be found here. [MORE INFORMATION](#)

Urchins, Urchins Everywhere



This document was created for the Catalyze and Replicate Solutions Working Group of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI). The purpose of the document is to assist prospective solutions project managers by providing a general overview of methods and techniques used globally to locate abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in marine habitats. The document describes a number of methods used; provides general techniques, benefits and limitations of the methods; and provides contact information of individuals and entities experienced in the methods. Locating

ALDFG is undertaken for two main reasons: to answer research questions related to the fate and transport of lost fishing gear and to remove lost fishing gear from marine waters, thus eliminating its harmful impacts to species and habitats. This document focuses on location methods best used if eventual removal of ALDFG is desired. Methods used to model ALDFG fate and transport at large geographic scales or to infer the locations of ALDFG based on ocean circulation, etc. are not explained here. To begin exploring these methods, we recommend accessing the 2012 special issue of the Marine Pollution Bulletin Volume 65, which focuses on at-sea detection of the ALDFG in the North Pacific Ocean.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

Whale Freed Off Lahaina



During a critical rescue effort on Christmas day, a team of specially trained NOAA responders successfully freed a humpback whale from a life-threatening tangle of line off the coast of Maui. Led by staff from Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary and NOAA Fisheries, the rescuers were able to free the whale from approximately 400 feet of heavy gauge line trailing from its mouth, saving the animal from further injury and possible death. The entangled whale was first spotted by the crew of local whale watching vessel Wahine Kai, who quickly alerted the emergency response network to the dangerous situation. Hundreds of thousands of whales, dolphins and porpoises die every year in the world's



The Fish and Game Commission appears to view kelp restoration favorably, but is internally debating if it should be done as an emergency measure or as a research collection permit. The proposal as written will not go forward. Sounds like it will be considered at the April 18-19 meeting. If the resulting project is comprehensive enough, and not a never ending study, it may prove effective. We'll have to see what happens in April. There was very little discussion and no conflicts. I was the only one to speak on this proposal.

I volunteered to work with the group they put together to come up with a proposal. The group includes the FGC, DFW, and California Ocean Protection Council. The latter is a high level group that included Gavin Newsom.

Bruce Watkins

Keith Rootsart [Letter of Support To FGC](#)

Whale Science on the High Seas



People may think six months in Hawaii sounds like a vacation, but 46 scientists and crew aboard NOAA ships *Oscar Elton Sette* and *Reuben Lasker* spent the past 179 days hard at work. The teams surveyed an impressive 1.8 million square nautical miles

around the main and Northwestern Hawaiian Islands as part of the Hawaiian Islands Cetacean and Ecosystem Assessment Survey (or HICEAS). This methodical research helped NOAA scientists better understand the structure of whale and dolphin populations and their unique habitats. The teams had the opportunity to encounter and study 23 species of whales and dolphins, including false killer whales - a top priority for the survey - and update data about their population size that will inform bycatch reduction strategies. Scientists saw several beaked whales during HICEAS, including the rare Longman's beaked whale, which has only recently been named after spending years with a case of mistaken identity. [For more information:](#)

Quick Links

[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

oceans and rivers as a result of entanglements, and trained responders play a crucial role in preventing more deaths

[MORE INFO](#)

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.

[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

Prepared by Brian and Keith, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

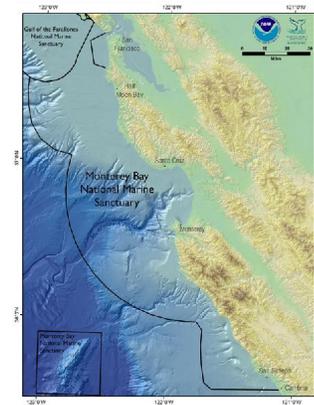
[Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[Advisory Council Members](#)



Know your Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



2018 SAC Meeting Schedule

February 16th	Santa Cruz
April 20th	Moss Landing
June 15th	Cambria
August 17th	Marina
October 19th	Salinas
December 14th	Monterey

For more information:

[2018 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting dates and Information](#)

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 14 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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