



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

**Diver**  
April 2018

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**Dear MBNMS,**

Diving in the Monterey Bay has been interesting lately. The sea nettles that were hanging out since last year were

## MBNMS Management Plan Review (DRAFT)

[Management Plan Review \(DRAFT\)](#),  
**"Required Reading"**

Remember those words from your education? It is that time again after a couple of years of going through data, public comment, and coming up to speed on new and emerging environmental issues we now have a Draft Management plan that will take us through the next eight years. Please do look it over and send us any thoughts on the items that are listed in the Management Plan. Thank you for your help and participation.

What is a Management Plan?

A sanctuary management plan is a site-specific planning and management document that describes the objectives, policies and activities for a sanctuary, and guides management actions. Management plans:

- summarize existing programs and regulations;
- articulate visions, goals, objectives, and priorities;
- guide management decision-making;
- guide development of annual operating plans;
- guide future planning;
- ensure public involvement in management processes; and

suddenly gone only to be replaced by hundreds of schooling moon jellies. Usually you can find one or two moon jellies, but there were hundreds of them dead in the harbor bottom. Then the sea nettles came back. Why not?

We have pursued with CDFW to allow divers to cull urchins in the sanctuary. The CDFW was aware of the problem on the north coast because of the abalone fishery closure but are now realizing that the central coast is similarly affected.

The Fish and Game Commission will enact emergency regulation changes for Mendocino and Sonoma counties to raise the sportfishing bag limit on purple urchins to four 5 gallon buckets of urchins. The hope is to preserve the spore bank in hope that if conditions change and the urchins were to somehow go away, there would be a possibility for bull kelp to return to the north coast.

At the next advisory council meeting the urchin issue will be discussed by CDFW and recreational divers are encouraged to attend and voice their opinions during the public comment period.

Come see us at our up coming SAC presentations:  
Blue Endeavors Dive Club - Alameda - Saturday, May 26th @ 6:00 PM  
San Jose Flipper Dippers - San Jose - Wednesday, June 20th @ 6:30 PM  
Aqua Tutus Dive Club - San Leandro - Thursday, August 2nd @ 6:30 PM

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

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Millions of gallons of untreated sewage flow into Monterey Bay:

- contribute to the attainment of National Marine Sanctuary goals and objectives.

#### [Management Plan Review Process](#)

### Sanctuary Exploration Center Hosts Free Film Screening of "Straws" with Panel Discussion



On February 28th 2018, in partnership with Save Our Shores, the Sanctuary Exploration Center hosted a free film screening of the award-winning film Straws followed by a panel discussion with representatives from Save Our Shores, Okeanos and The Last Plastic Straw Initiative. Sixty community members attended the screening and discussion. The film and discussion educated participants on the negative impacts of plastics to our oceans, and inspired them to refrain from using single-use plastic products in their lives.

This film screening was the first in a three-part film series hosted by the Sanctuary Exploration Center this spring. The films Chasing Corals and Tomorrow will be screened in March and April respectively. A goal of MBNMS and the Sanctuary Exploration Center is to inform and educate the public on critical resource protection issues and inspire conservation practices. Plastic pollution is a major threat to the sanctuary and one, which can be prevented through public education.

**Include NOAA satellites aid in the rescue of 275 lives in 2017**



Millions of gallons of untreated sewage flow into Monterey Bay: On Saturday, January 20th at 07:34, MBNMS staff was notified of a sewage spill into MBNMS from Monterey One Water (M1W), the local waste water treatment plan.

The original estimate went from one million gallons to 4.4 million gallons. Monterey County Environmental Health closed beaches from the Salinas River mouth to Carmel Bay due to the southerly currents and very large ocean swell at the time. Eleven samples for fecal indicator bacteria and ammonia were collected offshore at the outfall pipe and at more than 7 local beaches on January 20th. All sample results were within acceptable regulatory limits except for one unrelated to the discharge at Del Monte beach in Monterey.

NOAA OLE was contacted and opened an investigation. MBNMS staff requested additional analysis of the raw sewage for all CA Ocean Plan constituents to determine potential impacts on marine resources. On January 31st, MBNMS staff visited the M1W treatment plant to understand exactly why the discharge occurred. The failure of an analog input card caused alarms and bar screen rakes to fail, thus releasing sewage to overflow a 300,000 gallon sump bypassing any treatment and discharging directly into Monterey Bay for 9.25 hours. Engineering analysis later determined that no more than 2.8M gallons of untreated sewage reached Monterey Bay with that number likely being lower due to mixing with treated effluent and desal project waters.

Multiple efforts were taken to ensure this never happens again including but not limited to; installing cameras, level sensors, updated software and additional staff conducting rounds after hours. National Marine Sanctuaries are special places requiring and deserving of protections from discharges of contaminated effluent, to assure protection of habitats, wildlife, and environmental integrity. MBNMS works with dischargers and the State to respond to sewage spills and encourage improved facility operations so that these incidents are not repeated in the future.

## Spotlight on the North Pacific Right



Last July, a sailboat with two people onboard caught on fire several hundred miles off the coast of Jacksonville, Florida. Luckily for the crew, a NOAA satellite picked up the distress signal from their emergency beacon, enabling the U.S. Air Force and Coast Guard to rescue them.

They are among the 275 people rescued within the United States and its surrounding waters with the help of NOAA satellites last year. Of the 275 rescues, 186 were in water, 15 were from aviation incidents and 74 were on land using personal locator beacons, or PLBs.

NOAA satellites are part of the international Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking System, or COSPASSARSAT, which uses a network of U.S. and international spacecraft to detect and locate distress signals quickly from emergency beacons aboard aircraft, boats and from handheld PLBs. [For more Information](#)

## Research Dive Data Archived at CSU Monterey Bay California State University



Research Dive Data Archived at CSU Monterey Bay California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB) received funding to archive regional research dive data (e.g., digital video tapes and associated data), with the goal of creating a long-term, temperature-controlled repository of regional data for students to archive and analyze.

## Whale



An Interview with NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Scientist Jessica Crance The North Pacific right whale is split into two populations, the western and eastern. The Eastern North Pacific right whale is one of the most critically endangered large whales in the world. With only 30 individuals left, if this population goes extinct, it is highly likely that we would never see any more right whales in the Eastern Bering Sea or along the west coast of the United States. Before whaling they used to cover the entire Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska, but now their distribution range is quite small. [For more information:](#)

## Blue Frontier - March on March



### BLUE FRONTIER

On June 9 2018 people who love and work on the ocean will confront the existential survival threat to all life on our blue planet posed by the rapid decline of ocean and ocean-linked climate systems.

Wearing Blue and Marching for the Ocean in Washington D.C. and from sea to shining sea that day will prove either a colorful gesture - or a turning point in bringing these critical issues into the public sphere where they can be debated and acted upon.

[More Information](#)

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) archived data from 24 research cruises (1999-2011) at CSUMB. The archive project is in collaboration with the NOAA Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (CCME). The goal of the NOAA Center for Coastal and Marine Ecosystems (CCME) is to recruit, train, and graduate students, particularly from underrepresented communities, for the agency mission workforce.

## 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

## Reef Check California



The Reef Check survey season is starting up again this year and qualified divers are encouraged to join and returning reef checkers to recertify this year. There are training classes available from San Diego to Aracata [Calendar](#)

There are some minor changes to the survey protocols this year. Reef Check removed rock greenling, bocaccio, and canary rockfish because they are rarely seen. They added halfmoons, largemouth blenny's, moray eels, finescale triggerfish, California sea hares and feather boa kelp.

New this year is Climate Change Monitoring and Reef Check hired Kate Vylet to coordinate placing and retrieving underwater monitoring devices from Baja to southern Oregon. The devices record temperature, PH, and O2 and are bolted to the reef, mapped, and swapped out on a follow up dive. We placed many temperature loggers on the Big Sur Expedition last year and it will be an interesting test to see how many we can manage to find when we revisit the sites this year June 18 to 21.

## Lovers Point Watershed Monitoring Program Complete

At the end of February, the Lovers Point Watershed Monitoring program concluded after 6 months of wet and dry sampling of seven sites within the Lovers Point storm drain system. This monitoring program aimed to determine effectiveness of system improvements installed by the City of Pacific Grove in 2016 and 2017.

Samples were collected bi-monthly and tested for E. coli, enterococcus, and human sourced bacteria through Qualitative Polymerase Chain Reaction (QPCR). MBNMS actively works with local jurisdictions to address water quality issues through identification and tracking of water quality that could impact MBNMS resources. MBNMS' Water Quality Protection Program works with local jurisdictions as well as local area farmers to improve water quality of sources flowing into MBNMS.

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

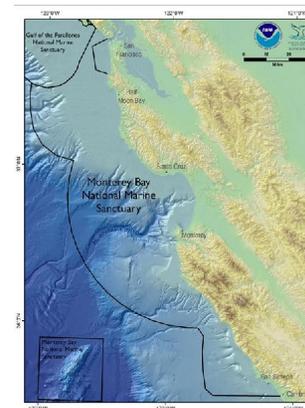
If you have any questions, please email

[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](#)

[Advisory Council Members](#)



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

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## 2018 SAC Meeting Schedule

April 20th	Moss Landing Maine Labs Conference Room
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 NMS Advisory Council, 99 Pacific Street, Suite 455a, Monterey, CA 93940

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