

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

Diver
August 2018

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Dear MBNMS,

Annual Sanctuary Diver Survey



Please take a moment and fill out our short survey. This survey drives our conversations in representing "All Things Divers" in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

**O'Neill Sea Odyssey That Turns
Ocean into Classroom
Celebrates 100,000th Student**



Inside Santa Cruz - O'Neill
Sea Odyssey

The students-participating in the Nueva Vista

June and July diving seemed to be plagued with afternoon winds and we are hoping to see our prime time dive season provide more opportunities to dive areas which have been hard to reach this year.

On July 2 some friends and I ran down the coast to North Cypress to see what condition the kelp was in, in a higher current area. The day was relatively flat and the spot was Double Hump 45' to 115' drop off. My dive buddy Kim Glenn and I dropped in to a school of Blue Fish, lush Giant kelp, Palm kelp, and some Bull kelp. We saw it all on the dive with about 35' of visibility. Not many urchins out in the open and things looked quite normal and gorgeous. Second dive Rock Ridge near Coral Street in about 50' of water. Completely different no kelp, little plant life and scores of urchins. We all felt like we had visited two different oceans that day. It was a stark reminder that something is just not right.

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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SCUBA Diver Assignment

Strange Fish in Weird Places

Recently, an influx of warmer water along the California coast has brought unprecedented sightings of marine organisms found outside their typical habitats and/or ranges. Larger predatory fish and bigger schools of fish are staying around later in the year and, in some cases, non-native species that have never been documented as far north as California have found their way here, and have the potential to invade and displace native species.

To further understand this phenomenon and the effect that changing oceanic conditions will have on demersal fish species and benthic invertebrate communities, the California Undersea Imagery Archive is initiating a crowd-sourcing effort to document the observations of organisms in new and unusual places, including movements north from Mexico into southern California and movements from southern California north of Point Conception.

The archive is requesting any or all of the information below, with an emphasis on the location, depth and date that any

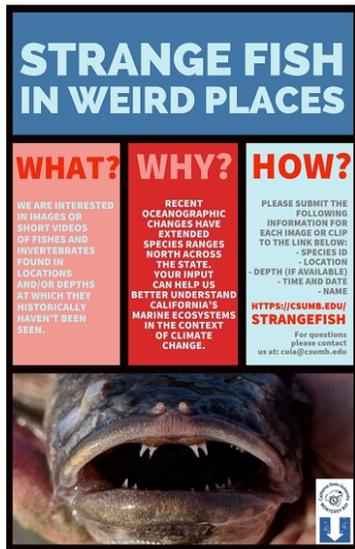
Community Resource program in Beach Flats-are here for the marine stewardship program hosted by the O'Neill Sea Odyssey (OSO), and while they may not know it quite yet, they are marching toward history. Sometime this summer-the date is uncertain, but likely in September-the widely heralded nonprofit will officially count its 100,000th participant in the organization's 22-year operation.

[MORE INFORMATION](#)

2018 California Ocean Litter Prevention Strategy: Addressing Marine Debris from Source to Sea



Ocean litter is a pervasive problem at local, regional, and global scales with a wide range of consequences to human health, the environment, and the economy. Immediate, collaborative action to reduce and prevent ocean litter will ensure that California communities, environments, and economies remain productive and vibrant. The Ocean Protection Council (OPC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program (NOAA MDP) present this update to OPC's 2008 An Implementation Strategy for the California Ocean Protection Council Resolution to Reduce and Prevent Ocean Litter. The 2018 California Ocean Litter Prevention Strategy: Addressing Marine Debris from Source to Sea (Strategy) will provide structure and guidance for OPC and California stakeholders to efficiently address



imagery was collected:

[MORE INFORMATION](#)
[FULL SIZE POSTER](#)

this pressing issue over the next six years.
[Click Here for the Full Report](#)

MBNMS hosts Presentation on Sea Star Wasting Disease in Cambria



Sea Star Wasting Disease Update 2017

MBNMS speaker series in Cambria recently hosted Dr. Steve Lonhart to give an update on sea star wasting disease attended by a group of docents representing 5 volunteer groups, the San Simeon Chamber of Commerce and local residents. A tide pool field trip led by Carolyn Skinder, Southern Program Coordinator for MBNMS, was held the next morning with 4 of the participants. The southern region of MBNMS has hundreds of volunteers who interpret the natural history of the ocean and conservation messaging to over a million visitors annually. Presentations such as this are attended by docent group leaders who in turn share the information, with references to MBNMS and SIMoN websites, to their volunteers. This enhances the quality of information given while introducing volunteers to MBNMS resources.

Presentation to Aqua Tutus



On August 2nd MaryJo and I (Brian) had the honor of presenting at the Aqua Tutus Dive Club Meeting at Ricky's Sports Theater & Grill in San Leandro, CA. What a wonderful group, location, and dedicated divers! Great questions and exchanges with 38 enthusiastic people. MaryJo provided some give-a-ways for the evening. Thanks go out to Alan Throop and the other folks that arranged the evening. Click on their logo to link to this incredible dive club. Please remember to drop us an email if your looking to host your SAC representatives at your next meeting. Thank you Aqua Tutus [Click Here for their latest Newsletter](#)

Joint Research Cruise to Sur Ridge



Sur Ridge Sponge and Coral Gardens

Greater Farallones Sanctuary experiences spike in human-caused whale-strandings

In early July, MBNMS participated in a research cruise to Sur Ridge, led by the



Researchers Hope Whale Tagging Can Reduce Ship Strikes In SF Bay

Since May 6 an unusual cluster of dead whale strandings has occurred in Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and adjacent waters. Of five dead whales, four were due to shipstrike and/or line entanglement. Although most involved gray whales, two were fin whales, an endangered species not commonly encountered nearshore. The location and source of the strikes or entanglement remains unknown. One fin whale rode into San Francisco Bay on the bow of a ship: the strike could have occurred anywhere between ports. The Greater Farallones and adjacent sanctuaries are major feeding sites for endangered whales such as blues, fins, humpbacks and others. Greater Farallones, Cordell Bank, researchers, the shipping industry and others are working together to reduce human-caused whale deaths. In 2013 shipping lanes were changed, and a voluntary ship speed reduction program is in effect throughout feeding season, late spring into fall. Greater Farallones NMS is the gateway to several major shipping ports in the San Francisco Estuary system. Reducing anthropogenic wildlife impacts of all kinds is a major sanctuary challenge and concern. [MORE INFORMATION](#)

Divers assess urchin dominated system along Sonoma Coast

July 12-14 research divers from Monterey Bay NMS and the ONMS West Coast Region teamed up with California Department of Fish and Wildlife research divers to conduct surveys along the southern coastline of Sonoma County, in the Greater Farallones NMS. Several co-occurring natural phenomena (e.g., warm water events, high urchin recruitment, and a loss of sea stars that consume small urchins) have switched the nearshore, subtidal waters from one dominated by bull kelp to one dominated by purple urchins. This has had cascading effects on the red abalone fishery (closed for 2018) and is altering both community structure and function along much of northern CA nearshore subtidal systems. Aboard the RV FULMAR and with ancillary CDFW small boats, 10 divers accessed two sites over three days, making multiple dives per day. These data will support state and sanctuary management, and assist in an

Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. The cruise assessed the effectiveness of deep-sea coral transplant techniques, which were demonstrated to be successful. Regional, local and small scale ocean current measurements were taken to characterize this biologically diverse Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Area. Individual corals were also studied for age, growth, predation and feeding mechanisms. Sur Ridge is a Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Area, where research is encouraged to address spatial ecosystem management. Moreover, the coral transplant techniques being developed will be useful for wide ranging deep-sea restoration efforts.

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!](#)

assessment of the status and trends of marine resources within GFNMS.

Sanctuary Exploration Center Collaborates with Save Our Shores and Apple for Beach Cleanup



Save Our Shores

On June 22 MBNMS' Exploration Center a guided tour and lunch for Apple software engineers following a Save our Shores beach cleanup event. In a continuing effort to partner with Save Our Shores, this was the second lunch after a beach cleanup hosted in the Center this month. Chelsea Prindle presented information on the marine sanctuary including its extent, what lives here, and what activities are prohibited within the sanctuary. The 60 engineers ate lunch in the classroom, then headed upstairs to enjoy the exhibits and learn more about the marine sanctuary. These beach cleanup opportunities allow employees of companies like Apple to learn about something outside of their field and give back to the community. Collaborations with Save Our Shores encourage more beach cleanups in the area, which bring companies from more inland areas to help boost the health of the sanctuary.

Quick Links

[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

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

Know your Sanctuary

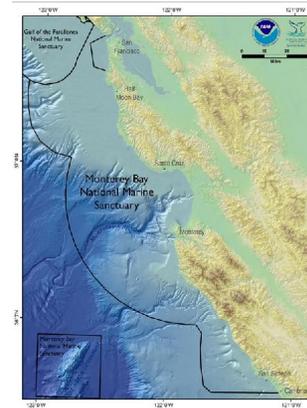
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

[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

2018 SAC Meeting Schedule

| | |
|---------------|----------|
| 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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