The Advisory Council is composed of 21 federally appointed representatives from government agencies, local institutions and user groups concerned with the resources of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The council advises the Sanctuary Superintendent on matters of policy and provides a link between the community and Sanctuary management.

October 2018

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Helpful Links

- Tides, Sunrise and Sunset
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  - For information on sunrise and sunset times, click here

- Boat Launching Ramp Locations
  - Half Moon Bay/Pillar Point Harbor: click here
  - Santa Cruz Harbor: click here
  - Moss Landing Harbor: click here
  - Monterey Harbor: click here
Dear MBNMS,

Welcome to second issue of the new recreational fishing online newsletter for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This site is available and can be emailed to all who send us their email address. Also, please tell your friends who would like to view it to go to montereybay.noaa.gov/visitor/fishing.html, and then click on the link for the MBNMS Advisory Council Recreational Fishing Newsletter.

This newsletter contains general information about the sanctuary and information about fishing opportunities for recreational fishers who venture out into our beautiful coastal waters.

It also includes reference materials and valuable information to enhance your fishing experience. And also, links to contact information for information and about the members of the sanctuary council, other organizational contacts local fishing clubs.

We are happy to include columns in this issue by noted Monterey area fisherman Sam Bishop and Jose Montes.

We invite groups and individuals to submit information about fishing events to be held in the sanctuary and comments about recreational saltwater fishing in our region.

Again, welcome and thanks for signing on and becoming involved the recreational fishing activities in your sanctuary.

Here's wishing you many successful fishing adventures,

Rich Hughett
Recreational Fishing Representative
MBNMS Advisory Council
rlh@redshift.com

Party Boats in the Sanctuary
Half Moon Bay

Half Moon Bay Sportfishing & Tackle Celebrates 25 Years +
By Sherry Ingles

Our Ocean Backyard
Fighting Plastic Pollution at its Source
By Dan Haifley

More than 10 years and one week ago the Santa Cruz Sentinel published my Our Ocean Backyard column. The topic was salmon. My friend, Gary Griggs Institute of Marine Sciences, agreed to alternate writing duties with me every week, and off we went. When we started we discussed whether there would enough information to sustain the column but today, there are topics, for goo for bad, to keep us in a sea of words for years.
My husband Bob and I have built a reputation for having the best one-stop go-to shop on the coast with very reasonable, competitive prices, whether you plan to fish from a boat, pier or the shore. Our well stocked store has been serving the needs of the coastal saltwater angler for over a dozen years.

Our business, Half Moon Bay Sportfishing & Tackle is at Pillar Point Harbor, on the coast about 20 miles south of San Francisco. We are located at 27 Johnson Pier, Half Moon Bay, California 94019.

We carry all the fishing basics for salmon, rockfish, striped bass and crab to name a few, including a large selection of hooks, lures, sinkers, boat and surf rods, reels including Avet, Diawa and Penn, as well as Xtratuf boots, Dexter knives and much, much more. The care and years of knowledge and experience on the ocean that have gone into the shop makes Half Moon Bay Sportfishing one of the favorite bait and tackle shops in the San Francisco Bay Area. It is open daily from at least 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

And, we have been operating our boat from the harbor for over 25 years. With the shop as our home base, our 50' charter boat, the Queen of Hearts, books and takes literally thousands of new and returning anglers alike salmon or rock fishing through the seasons, as well as on Albacore trips when tuna are in range.

I recently wrote about the growing problem of plastic pollution, which was highlighted at the 6th annual International Marine Debris Conference in San Diego, sponsored by the United Nations and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and attended by more than 700 people from countries around the globe.

The movement to research and stem plastic pollution has grown since Charles Moore, a Long Beach resident, first discovered it while returning from Hawaii to Southern California on his boat in 1997.

At the time there was discussion of two large “garbage patches” floating in the Pacific, but the reality was more like a plastic soup, with plastic breaking down through a process known as photo degradation where sun, wind and moving water break it down to smaller pieces that retain their synthetic polymer structure for many years, doing damage over that time.

Today there is a plastic pollution problem in the great gyres of the world oceans and 90 percent of the trash found there came from land.

In 2014, a global study lead by the 5 Gyres Institute found are an estimated 1 trillion pieces, or nearly 269,000 tons, of plastic in the ocean. There are also concerns this is ingested by marine life, thereby carrying toxins that can concentrate as they move through the food web.

Much of the research presented at the international marine debris conference month highlighted the trend that plastics are getting smaller and more ubiquitous throughout the marine environment from the ocean surface, through the water column, on the sea floor and in wildlife.

One conference abstract, on the chemistry of plastic marine debris, said: “When (it) enters the environment, plastic undergoes physical, chemical and biological weathering which decreases its size via fragmentation and alters its original shape, chemical composition and surface
Great salmon fishing aboard the Queen of Hearts.

Seasons may vary year to year, with changes to fishery management, but typically the salmon season runs from April through October and rock fishing runs from April through December. During the closed months for fishing we offer trips to view the surfers at Mavericks and the grey whales that migrate just off our shore. Our phone number is 650-728-3377 and the website is www.hmbfishing.com. My email is Sherry@fishingboat.com. Sherry and Bob Ingles own Half Moon Bay Sportfishing.

Santa Cruz

Fish the Bay the Stagnaro Way! Sailing Out of Santa Cruz Harbor
By Monica Reynolds

The Stagnaro family has been serving the Santa Cruz area for over a century, ever since Italian patriarch Cottardo Stagnaro settled in Santa Cruz in 1879.

This historical landmark business continues to lead the way in ocean fun on Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. There is something for everyone: Fishing Trips, Bay Cruises, Whale Watching and Private Charters for any occasion. Whichever your choice, today's fourth generation Stagnaro Charter Boats will make your trip fun and memorable.

The Monterey Bay offers a diversity of fish all year round. Our feature fishing trips are for Cod, Sand Dabs, Salmon and Albacore. And, Santa Cruz Whale Watching, operated by Stagnaro's, offers year-round whale watching! Enjoy sightings of Humpbacks, migrating Gray Whales, Blues & Orcas, along with multiple species of dolphin.

Tiny, sometimes microscopic, pieces of plastic would be difficult, and expensive to remove from the marine environment without also capturing large amounts of catch. Activists who are fighting the problem world-wide have focused on eliminating single-use plastic, such as bags, straws, disposable coffee cups, plastic utensils and other products which can be carried by water or wind to the ocean after often less than a day of service.

Another effective tactic is intervention to remove debris before it reaches the ocean by conducting beach cleanups. Worldwide more than 500,000 volunteers removed 16 million pounds of trash in 91 counties on a September day in 2014. While cleansing the ocean of plastic debris is becoming an increasingly unlikely proposition, eliminating the input of plastic into the marine environment is a feasible, and desirable, enterprise.

To learn more:
* For disposable coffee cup tops: igotopless.org/
* Plastic straws: thelastplasticstraw.org/
* California beach cleanup day: coastal.ca.gov/publiced/ccd/cleanup/#/map
* Monterey Bay beach cleanups: saveourshores.org/cleanshores/
* Latest research: internationalmarinedebrisconference.org/
* Plastic Pollution Coalition: plasticpollutioncoalition.org/

Dan Haifley is executive director of O’Neill Sea Odyssey. He can be reached dhaifley@oneillseaodyssey.org.

Marine Life Studies Works to Protect our Whales!

By Peggy Stap

This past spring Monterey Bay was buzzing with fisherman, when the primary species being fished were salmon and squid. And as usual, there was a plethora of whale, dolphin and porpoise species that can be observed year-round.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is known as the...
Stagnaro's flagship vessel is the charter boat Velocity. The 60-foot yacht was built by Yank Marine, Inc., in Tuckahoe, New Jersey, and completed in California in 2005.

Legacy, at 56-foot, is our newest addition in 2016. Built by Westport Shipyard in Washington State. Both boats are U.S. Coast Guard Certified.

Velocity and Legacy both feature a full-service galley serving breakfast and lunch along with your favorite beverages, including beer and wine service!

Both boats have spacious walk-around decks, interior and exterior seating, a galley and restroom. Our experienced crew is dedicated to making your ocean adventure fun and memorable for the whole family.

Please contact us at 831-427-2334 or email: info@stagnaros.com. We are open from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 7 days a week. Or you can check out our website and book online at www.stagnaros.com or www.santacruzwhalewatching.com

Visit our office and gift shop at 1718 Brommer St, Santa Cruz, CA 95062. All our trips depart from the Santa Cruz Harbor, Dock F.

Monica Reynolds is Stagnaro's Office Manager.

Fly Fishing the Surf...What?
By Sam Bishop

We know people fish the beaches of Monterey Bay regularly, but fly fishing the surf? How can you do that? Isn't fly fishing the beautiful, set to music art form we saw in "A River Runs Through It"?

That picture in our minds of a beautiful river and fly lines gracefully performing a
ballet through the air is the conventional wisdom. The belief most people have about fly fishing is a river or lake and little imitation insects catching trout. But actually fly fishing has adapted to catch almost every species of fish that can be caught on spinning and casting gear. In fact this author has traveled much of the world and done just that.

Surf perch (endemic) and Stripers (imported to the Delta from the east coast 100+ years ago) both feast on mole crabs, sand shrimp, sand worms and fish smaller than they are. So fishing the surf with a fly rod involves a “fly” that mimics one of the above. Many conventional surf fishers use mole crabs as bait, or heavy lures resembling wounded bait fish, but those do not lend themselves to a fly rod, as they are too heavy. The whole concept of fly casting is not to cast something heavy, but rather cast something very light that cannot be thrown with a spinning rod. In fly fishing we cast the line, not the lure (fly). The fly (or flies) is attached to the line. The fly can resemble most anything fish eat, including other fish.

Once a month the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen club has monthly surf fish-outs and welcomes other fly fishers who want to learn this unique part of the sport. More information on surf fishing is on their website www.santacruzflyfishermen.org. Check the left panel, green tab marked surf fishing info.

Sam Bishop is a past president of the Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen and Treasurer of the Monterey Bay Salmon Trout Project.

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Know your Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) is a federally protected area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, MBNMS encompasses a shoreline length of 276 miles and 6,094 square mile 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.

The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program

The CCFRP Continues to Study the Effectiveness of our MPA's
By Jen Chui

The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) is a part of people and communities interested in fisheries sustainability. By combining expertise and ideas of fishermen, scientists, and resource managers, CCFRI to collect valuable data on economically important marine species to evaluate effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) and to provide information for fisheries management. In order to do so, standardized hook-and-line survey used by volunteer anglers to catch and release nearshore fish species inside and associated reference sites (REF). Research scientists identify, measure
**Moss Landing**

**Kahuna Offers Coastal Fishing Out of Moss Landing Harbor**  
By Carol Jones

Conveniently located at Moss Landing, in the heart of beautiful Monterey Bay, Kahuna Sportfishing has been in operation since 1992. There is easy access to the dock, with plenty of parking close to the boat.

*Kahuna* is a beautiful, well maintained 50-foot Delta with the speed to get you on the fish quickly....less running time equals more fishing time! "It's the fastest party boat on the bay."

We fish for rockfish, lingcod, salmon, halibut and albacore, depending on the time of year and season. We offer both open party and private charters.

We specialize in long range rockfish trips down the west coast of the Pacific Ocean to bountiful fishing grounds, a trip no one else offers. Our shop carries rental rods and tackle specifically for fishing this area. Fishing licenses are also available.

Captain Brian Cutting and our crew are highly experienced and dedicated to make your day both productive and memorable. Come check us out and let us impress you!

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The CCFRP offers very important and fun fishing trips.

CCFRP has been conducting surveys along the central California coast since 2007, when the network of MPAs was established in this region. From 2007 to 2016, the research groups from Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (MLML) and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo (CP) utilized 12 CPFVs and more than 900 volunteer anglers over 325 sampling days at sea to tag and release over 82,000 fishes from 52 different species, tagging over 40,000 of those individuals prior to release. In 2017, after 10 years of data collection, the program has expanded statewide to now include research partners from Humboldt State University, Bodega Marine Laboratories, MLML, CP, UC Santa Barbara, Scripps Institution of Oceanography. The statewide CCFRP database, containing data from 2007 to 2017, now has nearly 108,000 fishes from 84 species, caught by approximately 1,200 volunteer anglers in 14 different MPAs.
Kahuna Sportfishing is located at 7881 Sandholdt Road, Moss Landing, Ca. 95039, in the Moss Landing Boat Harbor. Our phone number is 831-633-2564 and the website is www.kahunasportfishing.com. Send an email to carol@kahunasportfishing.com. Carol Jones is the owner of Kahuna Sportfishing.

Monterey

Integrating stakeholders and the community is one of the main goals of this project. Collaboration is present in all aspects of the program from utilizing CPFV captains, resource managers, and scientists to determine which MPAs to survey, to inviting volunteer anglers from the local fishing community to help us sample, and finally to combining the expertise of all these stakeholders to analyze the data and disseminate it to the public. This program, and the long-term dataset we are striving to collect, would not be possible without the contribution from each of these groups. We are looking forward to strengthening these partnerships during our 12th sampling season this summer.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer angler, please contact us at ccfrp@mlml.calstate.edu or 831-771-4479, and visit our various sites for more information. Website: www.mlml.calstate.edu/ccfrp/


Jen Chui is the CCFRP Statewide Coordinator and Lead Field Scientist for Moss Landing Marine Laboratories.

Editor's Note: During all their fishing catch and release research fishing trips, CCFRP uses the best practices available for the safe release of all the caught fish. Two of the photos included with this article show two of the devices used to properly return fish to the needed depths to allow their complete recovery.

Monterey Bay Fishing Has Been Very Good
Great fishing with Chris Fishing Trips

Chris' Fishing Trips is a Legend on Monterey Bay

Established in the 1940's by Captain Chris Arcoleo, Chris' Fishing Trips has a crew of highly qualified and experienced skippers with an extensive background in the location of hot fishing spots off the Central California coast. Whether you're fishing for Cod, Salmon or Albacore, you'll find the deep sea fishing with Chris' Fishing Trips to be an enjoyable experience from the time you leave Monterey's Fisherman's Wharf until you return.

Rock Cod Fishing Trips
Rock Cod fishing in Monterey Bay is enjoyable for all ages and skill levels of fisherman. Our experienced skippers know where to find and how to catch all species of rockfish.

Salmon Fishing Trips
Salmon fishing is as rewarding as it is challenging. Legal Salmon are 24" or greater. Check in time is 5:00 AM. Departure is at 5:30 am.

Crab and Sand Dabs Combo Trips
Fishing for sand dabs, rock cod, and other species as well as Dungeness crab pot collection. We collect the pots that have been previously set and bait the pots for the next group!

By Jose Montes

April starts off the main fishing season for Monterey Bay, this year rockfishing season started April 1st and Salmon season started April 7th. The rockfishing remained consistent with previous years and included excellent lingcod catches. Looking at party boat reports, it seems lingcod limits were more consistent than rockfish limits. Sportfishers who jigged up live bait showed comparable results with full limits of lingcod. Fly rigs with bits of bait also produced rockfish as well as irons with plastic teasers.

The recreational salmon season started off better than last year. Opening weekend saw more experienced salmon fishermen averaging half limits or better. I fished opening day and the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Catches consisted of 12 to 24 pound salmon; four for three anglers opening day, full limits for two, then three anglers Monday and Tuesday and half limits Wednesday. The best lures seemed to be squid baits behind Sling blades or Hotspot flashers near the bottom. "In the mud", as local anglers refer to that method. Some of us were actually letting the downrigger ball hit bottom, then winding it up just ten feet or so. Also successful were bait, anchovies either straight or in a bait holder rig. Hammered gold spoons caught some also. It started along the eastern beaches from Fort Ord to Mulligan Hill near Moss Landing. Most salmon were caught in 200 +/- of water. The bite lasted a few weeks before they moved north to Santa Cruz and up the coast. The last we April Half Moon Bay anglers were traveling to south of Pigeon Point (season closed north of the point) where they found some salmon feeding on krill. Wildlife fish counters reported an average of .6 salmon per angler for first week, but they don't review the fish caught by berthed boats in local marinas, personal experience and observation, I can tell you their catch ratio was higher than that.

Commercial salmon fishermen south of Pigeon Point got a shortened season consisting of the first week of May and the last two weeks of June. I got second hand reports of boats near Santa Cruz getting up to 20-30 fish on good days. By the time they could fish again in mid-June a lot of the salmon had run up the coast toward Pigeon Pt. and Half Moon Bay.
Squid boats were hammering the market squid in Monterey Bay this summer saw as many as twenty boats out there netting the squid. Lots of boats came from other ports in California. White Sea Bass have been taken as incidentally in the nets, although some recreational anglers have been fishing for the bass after the net boats clear. During the summer the halibut fishing was excellent along the north side of the bay with frequent catches from Pajaro to Soquel as well as the usual areas around SC mile buoy and beaches north of Santa Cruz. Fishing on the Monterey side (from the Tides Hotel to the Officer's Club and farther north) got a later start and was still producing ‘butts through September. Fall months mean great Rockfish action and they, along with Lingcod, have plenty of going into fall. Personally, I use metal jigs for most bottom fishing but anglers taking the time to jig up live bait scored better on the Lingcod. Rockfish and Lingcod season will be open until the end of the year and weather allowing the fishing should be great. Recreational Dungeness Crab season begins, as usual, on the first Saturday in November, barring any emergency closures.

Our three great vessels are:
J&M Sport Fishing, located on the historic Fisherman's Wharf in Monterey Harbor, offers daily fishing adventures throughout the year on our two boats, *Sur Randy* and *Chabasco*. Our trips are suited for first time anglers, all the way to seasoned veterans and we fish for a variety of species during different seasons.

Salmon season was shorter again this year and we had our last trip of the season today. Despite some windy and rough weather through the spring we have had an excellent start to rockfish season. Usually April through December is Rockfish and Lingcod season. We will also fish for Salmon in the spring through early summer depending on the defined season each year. During the winter time, we fish for Sand Dabs and

Recreational Fishing Calendar of Events

The Monterey Bay Veterans, Inc.'s Wheelchair Rock Cod Fishing Derby
Saturday, October 27, 2018
Breakwater Cove Marina

Coastside Fishing Club's Annual Fundraiser
Saturday, October 27, 2018
San Mateo Elks Lodge
For details: [www.form.jotform.com/72155330284148](http://www.form.jotform.com/72155330284148)

Coastside Fishing Club's Veteran's Appreciation Crab event
Sunday, November 11, 2018
Pillar Point Harbor
For details: [www.coastsidefishingclub.com/club-tripsevents/](http://www.coastsidefishingclub.com/club-tripsevents/)

Santa Cruz Fly Fishermen Annual Dinner & Fundraiser

Jose Montes is a very experienced salt water fisherman with vast knowledge of fishing along coast. He also serves as the alternate recreational fishing representative on Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council.
Dungeness Crabs while rockfish and salmon seasons are closed. Trips depart daily at 6:30 a.m. and last seven to nine hours.
We also offer afternoon fishing during the summer time for rockfish and lingcod. The afternoon trips are a great way to get a few hours of fishing in and can be a great "warm-up" trip for first timers.

Our crew can clean and fillet fish for you for a fee during the end of the trip when we return to the dock.

If other fisheries become productive in the bay, such as tuna, halibut, white sea bass, etc., we will open up trips and notify interested anglers with our Fish Alert system. To sign up, add yourself to the contact form on our website and choose which fisheries you want to be notified about.

We can provide all the necessary equipment and licensing for anglers on our trips. You can also come in and purchase some basic tackle, bait and licenses for fishing activities elsewhere.

To contact J&M Sport Fishing, send an email to info@jmsportfishing.com or phone 831-372-7440. We are located at 66 Old Fisherman's Wharf, Monterey, CA. 93940. Our website is: www.jmsportfishing.com
You can also find us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/jmsportfishing and Instagram: www.instagram.com/jmsportfishing. Email is katlyn@discoverywhalewatch.com.
Katlyn Taylor is a marine biologist who serves as business manager for both J&M Sportfishing and Discovery Whale Watch.

Cambria/Morro Bay

Recreational Bounty
By Jim Webb

It is an added bonus to any day on the water when whales and dolphins are seen up close. Recreational fishing trips out of Avila and Morro Bay are fortunate to see these creatures on a regular basis. Grays, humpbacks, the occasional Killer Whale sighting or blue, make these encounters very special. And, then there is the fishing.

2018 recreational fisheries opened deeper waters to anglers, allowing access to large stocks of rockfish. Vermillion fishing has been very good, with healthy sacks of fish on even the shortest trips. While the lingcod catch is down this year, there are still many to challenge anglers. Twenty pound fish are seen on many long range trips.

Spring brought the bane of recreational ocean fishers with it: wind. While morning trips often "get the job done" before the wind picks up, a close review of weather reports can help in avoiding particularly windy events.
And, this past spring also brought some speedy boats to Patriot sport fishing in Avila beach. Landings in Morro Bay have a half dozen coast guard approved boats to choose from. If you are ready, there will usually be several trips available. From half-day excursions to long range overnight trips to the Big Sur coast or an up close bay cruise or whale watching boat, when weather permits, the harbors are busy.

Current regulations allow anglers to keep ten rockfish, including a couple of canaries this year, and two lingcod. Limits are often the result of a day on the water and fish can be filleted on board for a nominal fee.
Central Coast Fishing Bonanza!

As schools let out and summer arrives, reservations become essential to garner the experience you desire. So, why not plan a fall fishing adventure? Frankly the scenery alone is worth the price of admission, the sport and catch are a bonus. Fishing is good, boats run daily, kayaks are available to rent (lessons an important preparation), bird watching and elephant seal viewing abound. Hope to see you here on the central coast of California.

Here are three main sport fishing operators working on the central coast:

There are three main landings working on the central coast:

Virg’s Landing
1169 Market Ave, Morro Bay, CA 93442 805-772-1222

Morro Bay Landing
1213 Embarcadero, Morro Bay Ca 93442
805-771-5500

Patriot Sportfishing
Port San Luis Pier 3, Avila Beach, CA 93424
805-595-7200

Jim Webb is a Cambria resident and angler who likes all forms of fishing and has been fishing along the central cost for the past 32 years.