

**MBNMS Research Activity Panel
Meeting Summary
September 7, 2018**

Host: Kerstin Wasson – Estuarine Environment (Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation)

Location: Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
1700 Elkhorn Road
Watsonville, CA 95076

Date: Friday, September 7th, 2018; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Members:

	Discipline	Primary/ Alternate	Name	Institution
X	Research Coordinator		DeVogelaere, Andrew	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
	Biological Oceanography	primary	Kudela, Raphael	University of California, Santa Cruz
	Biological Oceanography	alternate	Chavez, Francisco	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
	Deep-Sea Environment	primary	Cailliet, Greg	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (retired)
X	Deep-Sea Environment	alternate	Haddock, Steve †	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
X	Estuarine Environment	primary	Clark, Ross	Central Coast Wetlands Group
X	Estuarine Environment	alternate	Wasson, Kerstin	Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation
X	Fisheries	primary	Lindley, Steve	NOAA Fisheries Service
X	Fisheries	alternate	Owens, Brian	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
X	Marine & Coastal Geology	primary	Golden, Nadine	United States Geological Survey
	Marine & Coastal Geology	alternate	Paull, Charles	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
	Marine Conservation Biology	primary	Goldbogen, Jeremy	Hopkins Marine Station
	Marine Conservation Biology	alternate	Micheli, Fiorenza	Hopkins Marine Station
	Nearshore Environment	primary	Southall, Brandon	Southall Environmental Associates, Inc.
	Nearshore Environment	alternate	Carr, Mark	University of California, Santa Cruz
X	Physical Oceanography	primary	Cheriton, Olivia	United States Geological Survey
X	Physical Oceanography	alternate	Orescanin, Mara	Naval Postgraduate School
	Shelf & Slope Environment	primary	Lindholm, James	California State University Monterey Bay
	Shelf & Slope Environment	alternate	Sogard, Susan	NOAA Fisheries Service (retired)
X	Social Sciences	primary	Pomeroy, Caroline	California Sea Grant Extension Program
X	Social Sciences	alternate	Scorse, Jason	Middlebury Institute of International Studies
X	Water Quality	primary	Hunt, John *	University of California, Davis
	Water Quality	alternate	Hoover, Bridget	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

*Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Primary)

†Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Alternate)

RAP Coordinator:

Burton, Erica	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
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GUESTS

De Beukelaer, Sophie	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Feliz, Dave	Elkhorn Slough NERR
Fountain, Monique	Elkhorn Slough NERR
Lonhart, Steve	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Worden, Sara	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Bob	member of the public

CONSENT ITEMS

Introductions/Modifications to the Agenda (John Hunt)

- New member – Nadine Golden (USGS), was introduced

HOST PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

ESNERR Research Update (Kerstin Wasson and Monique Fountain)

- On October 5, 2018, Elkhorn Slough will be designated as a Ramsar Wetland of International Importance
- A new interactive web site on water quality is available, to view changes in space and time
- New publication, Wasson et al. 2017 in Biological Conservation, assesses eutrophication problems in the Slough and how they are exacerbated by tidal bank erosion
- 61 acres of *Salicornia* marsh will be added to Elkhorn Slough through the restoration of the Hester Marsh, increasing pickleweed marsh by 10% in Elkhorn Slough
- For more information, see: <http://www.elkhornslough.org/research-program/>

MEETING UPDATES

Summary of June 15th and August 17th Advisory Council Meetings (John Hunt)

- Brian Nelson is the new SAC Chair
- There continues to be interest in the urchin/kelp interaction and mediating it with diver urchin collections. The SAC approved a resolution to have MBNMS staff work collaboratively with CDFW on urchin/kelp issues.
- There were a series of plastic pollution presentations at the August 17 meeting (this is the current focus of the SAC Conservation Working Group).
- All SAC presentations are available on line, as well as meeting minutes. See <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacma.html>
- **Potential action:** John request a presentation/discussion at the SAC on the proposed opening of trawling in northern Monterey Bay. This could address: what is the new bill; where there are on-line summaries describing proposed bills, in general; how is science incorporated into the development of research related bills (e.g., given the value of recent presentations on impacts of trawling to the SAC by James Lindholm, how is this kind of science incorporated into policy); how can the SAC and associated working groups be aware of the process as these bills are developed, as opposed to being surprised when they come out.

RAP RESEARCH PRIORITIES

Long term monitoring and the RAP, an update: Cumulative Impacts of Carbon-driven and “Traditional” Stressors (John Hunt)

- The RAP interest in long term monitoring has been directed towards Condition Reports by Bill Douros and Paul Michel
- There are currently 14 questions to be addressed in the Condition Report format; many of these questions could be impacted by cumulative and interactive factors related to climate change
- **Potential action:** It was suggested that the State/OPC could be made aware of the RAP, so a broad range of management agencies could take advantage of RAP expertise (e.g., for proposal review processes, and to provide local knowledge on research needs for the MBNMS region)

PRESENTATIONS REQUESTED BY RAP

Scientific Collecting Permits Program update (Brian Owens)

- Expected upcoming changes (starting September 30): online permit system; Entity Permits (institution has permit whether PI changes or not); the individual permits will be the same, except you will be able to list people to collect for the applicant; CDFW will become more strict on qualifications (e.g., references, resumes); there will be new permit types (i.e., Specific Use Permits and General Use Permits)
- CDFW has published a decision framework paper - 4 steps: appropriateness; evaluation of potential ecological impacts (EIA); assess cumulative impacts of all permitted projects; complete cumulative impacts to impact thresholds
- **Actions:** Brian will send out a link to the RAP on the permit decision framework paper; and will also send a web link to Frequently Asked Questions

Draft Marine Protected Area Monitoring Action Plan (Sara Worden/CDFW)

- It will begin implementation in October 2018
- There are 124 CDFW marine protected areas, and only a subset have to be monitored
- CDFW will switch from regional baseline monitoring to State-Wide long-term monitoring
- MBNMS is in the Central Bio Region (SF Bay to Pt. Conception)
- The new monitoring plan is available at:
<https://cdfwmarine.wordpress.com/2018/07/16/draft-marine-protected-area-monitoring-action-plan-available-for-public-review/>

QUICK UPDATES ON NEW HIRES AT INSTITUTIONS, AND FACILITY UPDATES

- MBNMS - close to hiring a Sanctuary Foundation Director, for the local Chapter; Enforcement Coordinator, Scott Kathey is on detail as Superintendent of GRNMS
- MBARI - "Umigoo" is a new book with images of a local artist painting of sea creatures
- USGS - Christen Cummings is a new employee at USGS, Geographer and Marine Ecologist that will be heavily involved with Diving Operations
- CDFW- 2 new positions are upcoming to address whale entanglement issues; and potentially another 7 positions in other areas of interest; applicants must take a CDFW online test to get on the hiring list
- NPS - Will be advertising for new technical staff to help with field work and student projects (MS level - GS 9-11)

- Sea Grant - A new Sea Grant Specialist in aquaculture has been hired, Luke Garner, and he will be stationed at MLML; the CA Sea Grant Director position has closed

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- These might be relevant to the SAC or RAP: Chumash Sanctuary Proposal and offshore energy proposals
- COSMOS modeling update from USGS (maybe after the next RAP meeting). Nadine is the contact on this presentation

Future Agenda Items (running list):

- MBNMS budget and staffing, and trends (short topic; per Storlazzi)
- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation: presentation from new local chapter (per Hunt)
- Socioeconomic benefits of science (per Scorse)
- West Coast Sanctuaries Species Inventory (West Coast Regional Office)
- Executive Order 13795: Implementing an America-First Offshore First Offshore Energy Strategy [Sec. 4(b): National Marine Sanctuaries and Marine National Monuments] (West Coast Regional Office)
- Regional Marine Policy courses and engaging students towards MBNMS issues
- RAP Focus:
 - Long-term Monitoring
 - Coordinated water quality monitoring: lessons learned (Hunt/Hoover)
 - Consider interns to follow-up on RAP monitoring plan tasks (Hunt)
 - MBNMS Action Plans (Management Plan Review)
- RAP Membership: need to reinvigorate non-attending members (Haddock)
- MBNMS Soundscape: MARS cable findings; SEC exhibit; SAC involvement; Navy mitigation funds
- Desalination project(s) and monitoring
- CeNCOOS Director update (2 Nov 2018)
- Kelp and urchins discussion – central California link with Northern California group (Lonhart or Carr?; per DeVogelaere)
- Sail drone company partnering with SWFSC/NMFS on west coast marine mammal/rockfish survey, interested in monitoring ideas from region (per Wooninck)
- Discuss drone usage (pros/cons; per Orescanin)

2018 RAP Meeting Schedule and Locations (updated 8/6/18)

Date	Host	Location
January 12	Haddock	MBARI, Moss Landing
March 9	Clark	MLML, Moss Landing
May 11	Haddock	MBARI, Moss Landing
September 7	Wasson	Elkhorn Slough NERR, Castroville
November 2	Hunt/Clark	MLML, Moss Landing