



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

Diver
October 2016

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In This Issue

[Five Day Deep Dive](#)

[Battle of the Atlantic](#)

[Coral Gardens Graveyard](#)

[Mass Mortality](#)

[Battle of the Bay](#)

[Exporation Center and New Exhibits](#)

[Chamber Funding](#)

[2016 SAC Meeting Schedule](#)

Dear Larry,

This last couple of months we have seen some interesting changes in the weather and consequently diving has been as varied. One day we are blasting down to Carmel Bay and the next we are doing our best to negotiate the waves at San Carlos Beach in Monterey. The recent Red Tide has limited our visibility to 25 inches. However, on a calm day the Red Tide extends down about 20 feet which gives great visibility but dark like a night dive.

On September 8th we were invited and had a chance to join Dive N Trip out of Pleasanton for their Dive Club pizza night. This group was a lot of fun and had some great questions about Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Between quarry dives and Monterey dives this dive club likes being underwater.

Warming Ocean Waters in Pacific Ocean turn Coral Gardens into a Graveyard



New findings show approximately 95 percent of the coral colonies at Jarvis Island in the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument have died following a massive coral bleaching event. Intense El Niño causes waters to become extremely warm, resulting in coral bleaching. A survey conducted by scientists from NOAA's Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and partners shows coral colonies that looked healthy and vibrant a year ago are now dead and dying, due to long periods of being bathed in warmer than normal waters. [More Information](#)

Mass Mortality Event Response





There is a lot going on between the Management Plan Review, MPA studies, whale entanglements, water quality, ocean wind farms and invasive species. Probably the only constant right now is there are changes going on with our oceans.

Coming up in November between the 16th and 19th DEMA (Dive Equipment Manufacture Association) will be in Las Vegas. As always there is much going on in the dive industry. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will be there in booth 1140. Many of the seminars are looking at the conservation programs as well as citizen science programs like REEF (Reef Environmental Education Foundation) which can be found in booth 8173. DEMA is usually full of surprises and great information.



An acquaintance of ours works at the Hopkins Marine Lab. They have been tagging salmon sharks, great white sharks and northern elephant seals. The tagging and data gathered is interesting. Take a moment and check out the web link. [TAGGING PROJECT](#)



As always please feel free to contact Phil or myself if you would like a MBNMS presentation at your dive club or store, also please share this newsletter with other divers and help build our communication connections. Think good thoughts as Phil and I continue to work on the

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (FGBNMS) and partners have been responding to a mysterious mass mortality event on East Flower Garden Bank. While conducting long-term monitoring dive operations at East Flower Garden Bank during July 25-28, 2016, the FGBNMS research team received reports from divers on the recreational dive vessel MV FLING regarding dead corals and invertebrates near buoy #4 at EFGB. The FGBNMS team responded quickly to the reports, and were able to conduct several benthic and surveys, and collect some samples in the area before heading back to shore (7/28) [READ MORE](#)

Battle of the Bay Event Provides Venue for Whale Harassment Outreach

On September 17th and 18th Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) communications staff worked with NOAA Fisheries Outreach staff to prevent whale harassment through targeted outreach at the 6th Annual Battle of the Bay. This is the premier paddle boarding, kitefoiling and windsurfing championship competition and expo in Northern California drawing thousands of onlookers. The event is held at Crissy Field, east of the Golden Gate Bridge, where multiple close-approaches were witnessed, and disturbances likely occurred, as humpbacks entered the bay in unprecedented numbers. With its proximity to San Francisco's population of nearly 8 million, wildlife disturbance is a major concern to the GFNMS staff. This year a significant number of humpbacks chased anchovy shoals into San Francisco Bay, where they were approached and may have been struck by onlookers eager for a close encounter. One kiteboarder repeatedly closed in on and jumped a whale. Similar behavior also occurred off the San Francisco and San Mateo County coasts in sanctuary waters. Targeted outreach is essential to prevent future such occurrences.

Support California's Marine Protected Areas



In 2012, California became an international leader in ocean protection by completing the nation's first statewide network of Marine Protected Areas

(MPAs) to ensure healthy, vibrant ocean life for generations to come.

MPAs create safe havens for marine wildlife to reproduce, grow and replenish adjacent areas, leading to stronger and more resilient marine ecosystems overall. These areas have been called "hope spots" because they are our best hope in restoring the beauty and bounty of ocean life threatened by over fishing, pollution, ocean acidification and habitat destruction.

Sanctuary Management Plan for the diving community.

Brian and Phil

Prepared by Brian and Phil, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Completes Five-Day Deep-Sea Research Expedition

MBNMS has once again partnered up with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) to conduct deep-sea research in MBNMS. Led by Chief Scientist Dr. Jim Barry (MBARI), Dr. Andrew DeVogelaere (MBNMS Research Coordinator) MBARI and MBNMS research staff recorded observations and conducted experiments in Monterey Canyon and Sur Ridge, at depths from 200 to over 3,000 meters. Sur Ridge is a Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Area (SESA), and is home to a diverse assemblage of deep-sea corals and sponges, similar to that on Davidson Seamount. Most of the deep-sea corals transplanted in a previous cruise in June 2016 were thriving. More corals were transplanted on this cruise, and will be re-visited in the future. Other experiments included measuring particle flow in sponges and tunicates, and many specimens were collected for aquaria at MBARI, and more were preserved for identification. Basic exploration of the Sanctuary is a mission objective, and the success of transplanted corals breeds hope for developing methods to transplant deep-sea corals should a future crisis arise necessitating such action. Sur Ridge has only been explored since 2013, exclusively by MBNMS and MBARI, and is home to deep sea corals and sponges that can live for centuries. It is critical to understand where these organisms live for baseline characterization as well as protection. [More Information](#)

Battle of the Atlantic/ WWII Battlefield Documentation Expedition

NOAA's Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Project Baseline, UNC Coastal Studies Institute, and partners have been conducting research to document and preserve an important World War II battlefield found off the North Carolina coast near the shipwreck site of the USS Monitor. The expedition has utilized cutting-edge technologies, including manned submersibles, 3D laser scans and photogrammetry to create virtual models of the shipwrecks and to virtually "raise them" from

And MPAs are working! Check out the [10 year summary](#) of how our local MPAs are proving to be a success. [MORE](#)

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center

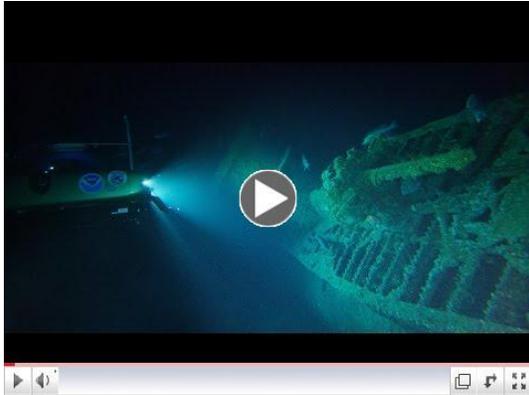


Twenty years after its designation as one of the nation's largest marine sanctuaries, a new state-of-the-art visitor center opened July 23rd, 2012. This Center highlights the spectacular Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Overlooking the ocean, the Sanctuary Exploration Center is located in the heart of the Santa Cruz's famed beach area just steps away from the city's Municipal Wharf. The center features engaging interactive and multi-media exhibits to help visitors explore the sanctuary's remarkable marine environment, as well as their personal role in protecting this special underwater treasure.

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, the diver donations support the continued ongoing operations that offset needed repairs that occur from time to time. Please consider a donation to help this much needed, important resource for the local dive community.

[Donate to the Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber Fund](#)

the seafloor. During the first week of the expedition, the survey team visited the German U-boat, U-576 and its victim, the freighter SS Bluefields.



Many more sites are yet to be visited during the remainder of the expedition, including U.S. and British naval vessels, as well as U.S. Merchant Marine ships. This collection of shipwrecks represents the victories and tragedies for both the Allies and Axis powers during World War II and tragically, in many cases serve as the final resting place for hundreds of sailors and merchant seaman. This World War II naval battlefield site is believed to represent one of the most historically significant naval engagements of the Battle of the Atlantic off America's coast. The battle took place 30-40 miles offshore, and the final resting place of the vessels lost in the engagement was unknown until 2014 when NOAA located them using sonar imaging. This discovery is the only known location in U.S. waters that represents the archaeologically preserved remains of a convoy battle wherein material remains of both sides of the engagement are represented. World War II shipwrecks off North Carolina's coast represent significant socioeconomic value for the recreational scuba diving community and are recognized as one of the top diving destinations, drawing tourists from all over the world. Supports the Maritime Heritage Program's mission to properly study and interpret our nation's rich maritime legacy to help understand and appreciate these resources. The project also fosters partner collaborations with research organizations and other Federal agencies

**MBNMS SAC
REPRESENTATIVES**

**CONNECT WITH YOUR
SANCTUARY**



[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 reopening of 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 Phil, Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives

Know your Sanctuary

**Monterey Bay National
Marine Sanctuary**

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council is your voice to the Sanctuary Management Staff.

If you have questions or input please contact your local representative

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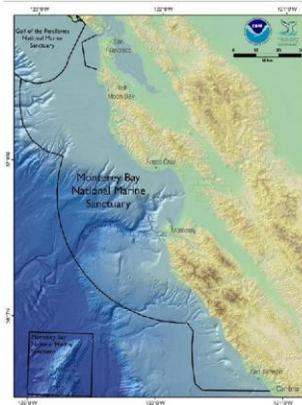
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Conservation



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. Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. MBNMS was established 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 one marine national monument, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

LINKS

Quick Links

[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

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[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)



2016 SAC Meeting Schedule

The 2016 SAC meeting schedule

October 21 - Cambria

December 8 - Monterey

For more information go to

[2016 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting dates and Information](#)

Sincerely,

Brian and Phil

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Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council

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There are additional non-voting and supporting members of the Advisory Council. Go to [Advisory Council Complete listing and Information](#).