



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

Diver  
September 2017

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Dear Larry,

Fellow divers,

Happy summer time! The ocean conditions continue to vary over short periods as cold water upwells, then warms up and turns green. In June we experienced sporadic sea nettle swarms, stinging us between the mask and regulator.

The CSUMB dive program, under Frank Degnan's leadership, has continued in-harbor clean ups during the weekdays with 4 to 6 divers. In the last year CSUMB divers have cleaned 75% of the marina areas. If you have a dive group of 4 to 6 people that can dive during the weekdays (Tuesday - Thursday), all rescue certified or higher, please contact Brian Nelson at 831-646-3950.

Join Our Mailing List!

Artificial Reef Meetings- Public Comments and Questions Received Summarized by Department of Fish and Wildlife Staff June 26, 2017



During the spring of 2017, Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) staff, in partnership with Coastal Conservation Association California, held three public meetings to solicit feedback on artificial reefs.

The meetings focused on the need for a baseline assessment of existing artificial reefs in California to inform a statewide scientifically based artificial reef plan. These meetings were held in Sacramento, Los Alamitos, and Oxnard. The subject matter included information on CDFW's role in the placement and management of artificial reefs in California, including laws and regulations; historical background; what the public should expect, and what CDFW needs to move forward with the potential placement of new artificial reefs in state waters.

Additionally, the meetings provided an opportunity for CDFW to gain a better understanding of interested stakeholders' concerns and comments related to artificial reefs.

[See the Entire Report](#)

We would like to propose to all dive clubs and dive centers that both of us are committed to outreach and education of sanctuary information. Please drop us an email and we would be honored to attend and provide a 30 minute presentation along with a QA session regarding Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

Registration for the now famous Monterey Shootout from August 25 to 27 is open to underwater photographers of all skill levels. [Registration](#) is only \$25 and for \$20 more you can be the proud owner of a cool t-shirt, too.

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

Prepared by Brian and Keith  
Sanctuary Advisory Council Diving Representatives  
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## MBNMS Participates in Dungeness Crab Fishing Gear Working Group



On May 16, 2017, the MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator participated in a working group meeting hosted by CDFW, the Ocean Protection Council and NOAA Fisheries. The

purpose of the group is to provide guidance and recommendations to the California Dungeness crab fishing industry, about how to avoid/minimize whale entanglements and identify measures or experiments that can be developed or implemented by the fishing community to address the entanglement issue. A number of collaborative projects have been implemented, including a Best Fishing Practices Guide to provide guidance to commercial and recreational fishermen on limiting the amount of surface gear. This May, the working group coordinated with Point Blue Conservation Science, Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries to implement a five day ACCESS cruise in Monterey Bay to gather information on the distribution of whales and crab pots with the goal of better understanding areas of co-occurrence. Based on the NOAA Fisheries [2016 West Coast Entanglement Summary](#) the Monterey Bay region has had the highest number of entanglements along the west coast over the last three years. MBNMS and Point Blue staff presented the preliminary findings from the May 8-12 ACCESS surveys to the working group for their consideration. Whale entanglements are increasing and are identified by the West Coast Regional Resource Protection Coordinators as a priority over the next 5 years as the issue represents one of the major threats to large whales. Sanctuary staff participates with a number of partners in the effort to better understand and reduce this threat

## Executive Order



Save Our Sanctuaries from Drilling and Spilling - In response to President Trump's "America First Offshore Energy" Executive Order the federal government is seeking to review Marine Monuments and National Marine Sanctuaries created in the last 10-years that could be used for offshore oil drilling, subsea extractive mineral mining and wind farms. This includes California's four sanctuaries, Channel Islands, Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones.

California's sanctuaries are key to our state's recreational heritage, healthy ocean ecosystems and a thriving coastal economy worth billions of dollars, not to mention they contain some of the most spectacular dive sites on the West Coast. California's Attorney General, towns and cities up and down the coast and over 200,000 citizens have already expressed their opposition.

NOAA has now extended a 30-day public comment period by two weeks till August 15. Add your own personal comment by going to:

[save our marine sanctuaries](#). This will provide you a link to the official government comment page that is otherwise difficult to access.

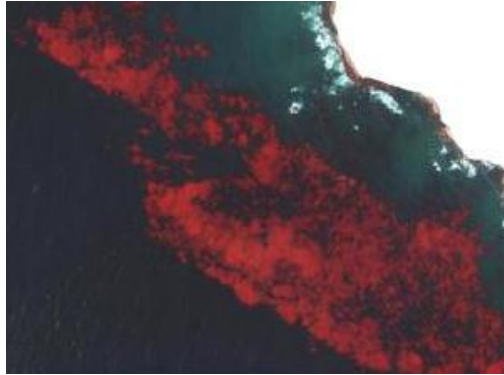
In our last survey indicated 85.5% of divers agree that Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is a good thing, 10.8% did not know, and 2.4% said MBNMS had a negative effect. So whether you agree or disagree please take a moment and add to the comments that are being sent to Washington DC.

Thank you, Brian and Keith

## Reef Check California - Big Sur Expedition Report



## 2016 CDFW Aerial Kelp Canopy Survey Results



The results of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW's) 2016 aerial kelp survey are now available online. The 2016 survey covered both the full California mainland coast and the Channel Islands in Southern California.

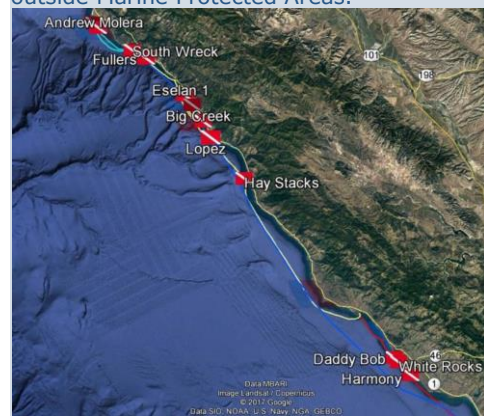
Comparisons of the 2015 kelp canopy and the 2016 survey results show that both the south coast mainland and the Channel Islands experienced a decrease in kelp in 2016. The south coast mainland had almost half the canopy level surveyed in 2015, whereas the 2016 kelp canopy in the central through north coast... [continue reading](#)

## The Monterey Shootout August 25-27

We support citizen science and Reef Check California continues to provide a path for concerned divers to help monitor the health of California's rocky reefs and Marine Protected Areas. This data informs CDFW in management of the fisheries and informs adaptive management of the MPAs.

June 26-29, 2017 I completed my 3rd annual Reef Check expedition to the Big Sur coast. Weather was great this year and there was an extra day of diving to survey 11 sites with 21 outstanding volunteer citizen scientists.

We boarded the Vision in Moro bay and headed north to Big Sur stopping 3 times a day to perform 18 transects both inside and outside Marine Protected Areas.



Masks off to 78 concerned backers who donated a total of \$6,765 to defray the costs of this important study. Their contributions make this possible.



The Reef Check 2017 Big Sur Expedition Divers on the Vision.

The results of the surveys can be viewed and interpreted [here](#)

Keith Rootsart,  
Diving Alternate

**Sea to Shining Sea - The  
National Marine Sanctuary  
System's Newsletter**



© Joseph Platko

[REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!](#)  
EVENT DATES: AUG 25-27, 2017

- Registration only \$25
- One low price gets you into the Competition, cocktail party and all Seminars
- Contest hours - Fri 7AM to Sat 7PM
- Backscatter party on Saturday night at 6PM

### Team OCEAN Hits the Water for 2017



### Past, Present, Future

If you are interested, you can sign up and receive the National Sanctuary Newsletter. So much interesting information to review...

From the western Pacific waters of American Samoa, east to the Atlantic Ocean, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries manages a national network of special places, encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of U.S. ocean and Great Lakes waters.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries publishes a national newsletter in electronic format and distributed via email to keep our colleagues, collaborators and you informed about the many activities and accomplishments that take place within our 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

[ONMS Newsletter](#)

### Florida Keys and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Collaborate to Document a Historic Shipwreck while Promoting Protection of Historical Resources

From June 2 - 11, nineteen maritime archaeology advocates from Diving With a Purpose visited FKNMS to carry out a shipwreck documentation project. Diving With a Purpose (DWP) is a community focused non-profit organization dedicated to education, conservation and protection of



Memorial Day weekend marks the start of the 17th year on the water for Team OCEAN staff and volunteers to engage kayakers and ocean users to discuss wildlife disturbances and how to avoid disturbing our most sensitive marine mammal species: harbor seals and sea otters.

Team OCEAN staff and volunteers ply the waters in Elkhorn Slough and off Cannery Row in Monterey and have talked with over 93,000 people over the past 17 years. Team OCEAN utilizes the power of person to person contact to help educate kayakers and other ocean users about the issues surrounding approaching sensitive marine wildlife species. Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Team OCEAN is a unique program in Monterey Bay and is recognized in the region as one of the most useful ways to reduce marine mammal disturbance.

[READ MORE](#)

## Blue whale shipstrike fatality occurred during spring whale migration



An endangered 79 foot adult female blue whale was found dead, north of San Francisco, California. Due to extensive blunt force trauma and broken ribs, the necropsy team cited shipstrike as the preliminary cause of death. This shipstrike occurred during the period of typical spring whale migration northward as they follow their food sources northward up the Pacific coast. Prior to the onset of migration activities Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries asked the operators of large ships to slow their speeds roughly in half to 10 knots -- about 11 mph -- as they enter the shipping lanes toward the Golden Gate Bridge. Other pro-active efforts by sanctuary staff include: broadcast and published local notice to mariners, Whale Alert 2.0 - a smartphone application, an email listerv, broadcasts over NOAA Weather Radio, and education/outreach posters developed in collaboration with the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association. Rapid, effective outreach is necessary when emergency situations arise, to alert parties and minimize the threat, and to promote the sanctuary's active conservation efforts.

## MBNMS and US Coast Guard Inspect Visiting Cruise Ship



On May 19th, MBNMS and Coast Guard personnel boarded the Celebrity cruise ship INFINITY during the vessel's first port call of the season to Monterey Harbor in order to assure that the ship is operating in compliance with sanctuary cruise ship discharge regulations and Coast Guard regulations under the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (commonly referred to as MARPOL). The inspection team reviewed ship's logs and records

our underwater heritage. The 2017 project is a continuation of research on the shipwreck Acorn lost off Key Largo in 1885.

The history of the ship, built in 1881 on the River Clyde in Scotland, was discovered by ONMS archaeologist Matthew Lawrence who serves as the project's principal investigator supported by FKNMS Maritime Heritage Coordinator Brenda Altmeier has collaborated with DWP 2010 on projects in support of NOAA's maritime heritage program objectives.

For the past two years NOAA Corps officers serving in an FKNMS billet have participated in DWP training as part of their leadership and development opportunity. NOAA Corps Officer John Katchenago attended the 2017 class and participated in documenting the shipwreck while observing volunteer engagement in the Florida Keys sanctuary.

## 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](#)

regarding fuel transfer, waste discharges, and waste management and physically inspected work and engineering spaces below decks. No non-compliance items were detected.

Eleven cruise ship visits are scheduled for Monterey during CY 2017. Cruise ship inspections within the sanctuary are unannounced and additional to annual cruise ship inspections by the Coast Guard. Random inspections within the sanctuary help to ensure that cruise operators are acutely aware of the higher water quality standards and special no-discharge regulations within MBNMS. They also reflect the effective partnership between MBNMS and the Coast Guard in safeguarding marine sanctuary resources.

## Sanctuary Diver Outreach



On July 26, 2017 Brian Nelson presented a brief slide show and answered questions regarding MBNMS at the [Monterey Bay Sea Otters Dive Club](#) monthly meeting at the Crazy Horse Restaurant in Monterey. Brian discussed recent emergency Advisory Council actions regarding the Executive Order requiring review of the Davidson Seamount and the closing of the CEMEX plant in Marina. He urged divers to submit their public comments [online](#).

Also presenting was Brian's wife and captain of the [Beachhopper II](#), Mary Jo Nelson who gave her perspective and experience captaining a dive boat in Monterey Bay. With two featured presentations there was twice as much interesting information and discussion.

If your dive club is in need of an interesting presenter (or presenters) for your next club meeting please send [Brian](#) or [Keith](#) an email and we would be more than happy to speak about the Sanctuary.

## After 2000-era plateau, global methane levels hitting new highs



When it comes to global warming, carbon dioxide is the 800- pound gorilla: it's the most abundant of the long-lived greenhouse gases that human activities generate. But ounce for ounce, methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) traps more heat, and it accounts for about 20% of the greenhouse gases produced by human activities. Strangely,

though, global methane levels "flat lined" from 1999 to 2006. The plateau didn't last, however, and in recent years, global methane levels have been hitting new highs.



[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 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**

Figuring out what's going on with methane is a high priority for carbon cycle experts at NOAA and other institutions around the world. Possibly the most important clue: air samples collected at different latitudes around the world show that the amount of methane carrying carbon-13—a rare, heavy isotope of carbon—has dropped significantly since 2007. [For full story:](#)

## 2017 SAC Meeting Schedule

**August 16, 2017** - Half Moon Bay

Half Moon Bay Yacht Club

214 Princeton Ave.

Half Moon Bay, CA

Greater Farallones and MBNMS Joint Meeting

8:45 - 4:45 meeting

11:45 Public Comment

**October 20, 2017** - Salinas

**December 15, 2017** - Monterey

For more information:

[2017 Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting dates and Information](#)

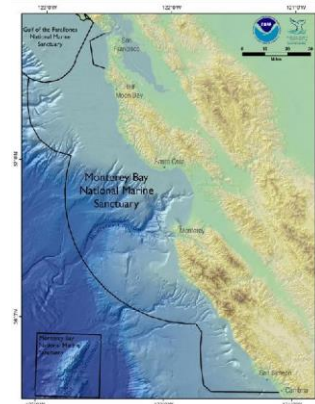
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## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



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 13 National Marine Sanctuaries and two marine national monuments, administered by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)

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