

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Diver Newsletter

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Hello Larry Ankuda,

Hi everyone, In the next Sanctuary meeting one of the topics is "Threats to Pelicans from fishing gear". We are interested in your ideas and thoughts on this subject.

DEMA, Dive Equipment Manufacturers Association comes to Orlando this November. Great seminars, great exposure to the manufactures, Dive Travel, SCUBA technician classes, and more. For everyone and anyone who is passionate about the diving industry. Whether you're a loyal attendee or this is your first DEMA Show, the Show is a MUST-attend event if you want to experience the latest industry trends and develop business and professional relationships in a face-to-face setting unlike any other. [DEMA WEBSITE](#)

### COMPETITION



## AUGUST 22-25, 2019

### JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF UNDERWATER FUN IN MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA!

The Monterey Shootout is an underwater photo competition focused on fun, education, and the goal is to inspire new underwater image-makers. NCUPS has been running this weekend long event for 35 years. Are you new to underwater photography or Monterey diving? Come meet a supportive group of die-hard Monterey divers, learn new shooting techniques in our shooting seminars, and maybe even discover a new dive site. Our friendly shooting competition not only rewards advanced shooters with amazing prizes, but also bestows fantastic prizes to the newest shooters in the ranks. Add in a cocktail party supported by our sponsors and this is a weekend worth booking a flight and a hotel room to attend. Industry professionals, including those who lead photo trips, or refer to themselves as a "Professional Underwater Photographer" must compete at the advanced level.

### WEB SITE

Dive Condition update: West and Northwest winds seem to still be quite prevalent with recent great visibility in the bay. We have seen the water go from a green 52 degrees to a clear 50 degrees in the same dive. When the water is still the smudge layer seems to be only in the top 10 feet or so with cold clear water below it. When there is swell we see it mix and be green to within 10 feet of the bottom.

The G2KR urchin experiment is doing very well. We experienced a lot of urchin migration on our targets but with each pass it becomes more stable. We have giant kelp growing on 3 of our targets. We completed our 4<sup>th</sup> pass on the targets including a full suite of Reef Check protocols on all 20 targets. Urchin barrens continue to trend and increase in size. Our historic baseline of .04 urchins/square meter is now 21 and it doubled in the last year. The kelp forest outside the MBA is loaded with urchins. There have been several 8'-12' great white shark sightings lately between Coral Street and the Breakwater. One theory is that the lack of kelp forest is causing sharks to approach closer to shore and

makes them easier to see. This makes it kind of scary kicking out from shore on the surface and even scarier diving with a DPV.

As your representatives on the Sanctuary council for the dive community we can be available for dive club meetings and events to share, educate, and answer questions. Please reach out us and let us know where we can help.

Drop us an email at:

Brian Nelson - [brian@pcscuba.com](mailto:brian@pcscuba.com)

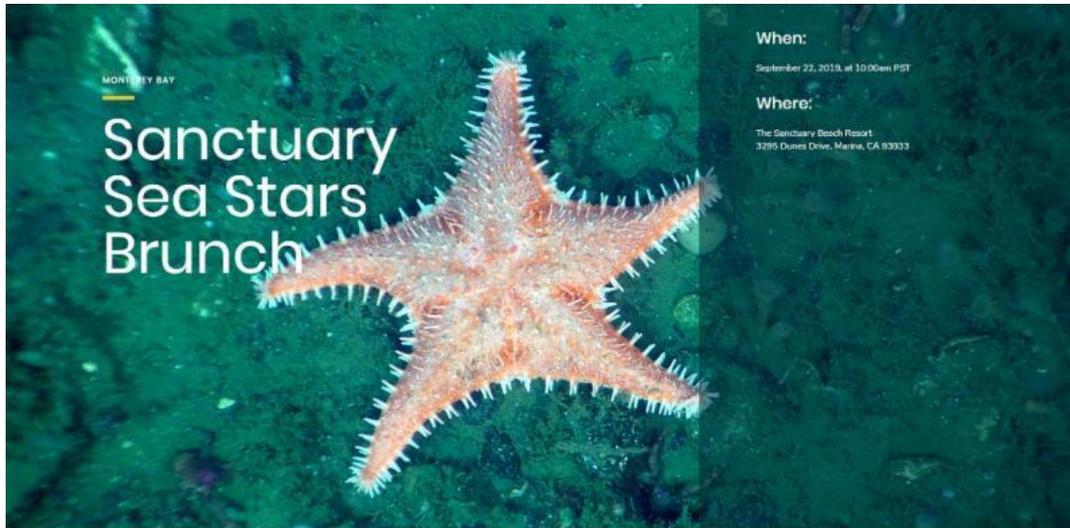
Keith Rooseart - [keith.rootsaert@salasobrien.com](mailto:keith.rootsaert@salasobrien.com)

Safe Diving,  
Brian and Keith



## MBNMS helps train SeaLife Stewards Kayak Volunteers

Inspired by MBNMS' Team Ocean volunteer program in Monterey, CA State Parks started a SeaLife Stewards volunteer program to interpret the marine bird and mammal life in Morro Bay Estuary, as well as teach wildlife viewing etiquette from kayaks. MBNMS' Carolyn Skinder was invited to present the life history of seals and sea lions for the 3rd year in a row to new trainees. Special focus was placed on how to interpret the day to day needs of animals in the bay, that, like people, animals also have "personal space" requirements, and the warning signs animals demonstrate when people get too close. Working with agency partners on programs with similar goals and objectives helps to instill stewardship of our natural marine resources beyond the borders of MBNMS.



In celebration of the 27th anniversary of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, we will present awards to people and organizations who have recently contributed significantly to the sanctuary through education, conservation, research and business, including Secretary Panetta bestowing our highest honor, the *Panetta Sea Star Award*.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation will host the inaugural *Sanctuary Sea Stars Brunch Sunday, September 22 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM* (with VIP Coffee Hour from 9:00 to 10:00 AM) at The Sanctuary Beach Resort in Marina, California. Please join some of our community's most influential luminaries for an engaging and educational event featuring a full brunch, cash bar, awards presentations, and unique coastal experiences.

*Sanctuary Sea Stars Brunch* is a benefit for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation. Don't miss out on this chance to support conservation of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

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## The New York Times shines a light on Gray Whales, Sound, and Sanctuaries



Upon invitation by The New York Times, we published an opinion piece on increased gray whale strandings. This was an opportunity to inform the public of the interdisciplinary needs for determining the cause of the recent plight of gray whales along their 10,000 mile migration. The Sunday edition of The New York Times has a broad audience, and this news piece engendered positive responses towards NOAA while educating the public and encouraging ocean conservation.

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Do you know how to find out the local beach water quality reports?

Monterey County Health Department Beach Report

Know before you go...Diving

[BEACH WATER QUALITY REPORT](#)

## Water Quality Staff Completes Fifth Year of E9C Monitoring for Pacific Grove

On June 17, 20 and 21 MBNMS WQPP contractor Lisa Emanuelson and 1 WQPP volunteer documented the location and flow conditions of over 41 outfalls in Pacific Grove, CA that flow directly to Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. This is the fifth year of E9c monitoring for the City of Pacific Grove and is funded through the City of Pacific Grove to satisfy NPDES permit requirements in section E9c. The team collected water samples at flowing outfalls and documented flow rates. A total 44 outfalls were checked and flow conditions were documented, water was collected at 7 sites. Water samples were analyzed for E. coli, enterococcus, nitrate, phosphate, ammonia, urea, total copper, total lead, total zinc, potassium, turbidity, total suspended solids, MBAS detergents, hardness, color, pyrethroid pesticides including fipronil, and human sourced bacteria (HF 183). Monitoring outfalls during dry weather months is critical to understanding water quality inputs from land-based sources and potential impacts to MBNMS. Water quality analytes are those also tested for during the Dry Run and First Flush programs with an addition of pyrethroids (added in 2019) and human sourced bacteria (added in 2018).

## Sur Ridge Research

Recent deep-sea coral research at Sur Ridge off central California in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) will be presented at the 7th International Symposium on Deep-sea Corals in Cartagena, Columbia during July 2019. The research performed by scientists from MBNMS, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and others include predation on deep-sea corals, and monitoring the condition of corals at a deep-sea coral observatory. Two presentations include, "Does predation play an important role in the population dynamics of deep-sea corals?" (oral presentation) and "The Deep-Sea Coral

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Observatory (DiSCO) Project" (poster presentation). The symposium program and abstracts can be viewed at:

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council receives update on southern region elephant seal research and management efforts

The Advisory Council received an update on elephant seal research, education and management from university, education and management advisors. San Simeon is home to the largest elephant seal rookery in mainland US. Due to its location along highway 1 on CA State Park land, it is a popular stopping point for over a million visitors annually. Since 1992, the seal population has grown exponentially to 20,000 seals. This poses a challenge to highway, visitor and animal safety, especially during the winter pupping and mating season, and the colony continues to grow. To address education needs at the rookery, an interpretive group modeled after Monterey's Bay Net



Dr. Heather Liwanag from Cal Poly to study how the Piedras Blancas population interacts with rookery populations to the north and south, and what effect the landscape of Piedras Blancas has on the development of seal pups. Results of surveys on the growth and range of the Piedras Blancas colony will

was formed in 1997 called Friends of the Elephant Seal (FES). Due to expansion of the seals into areas unmaned by FES, FES has recently begun to collect data on human-seal interactions on the new beaches to inform CA State Parks law enforcement of high disturbance areas in need of extra help. In the last 2 years, research of the colony has been led by

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also be able to inform future management plans. Since the appearance of San Simeon's Piedras Blancas elephant seal colony in 1992, MBNMS has supported enforcement and education efforts per Sanctuary regulations that explicitly prohibit harassment of marine mammals, as defined under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. It is important for MBNMS to be apprised of new efforts to address the management of the Piedras Blancas colony in order to more effectively support this endeavor.

## Host US Navy West Coast Liaison Wind Farm Planning



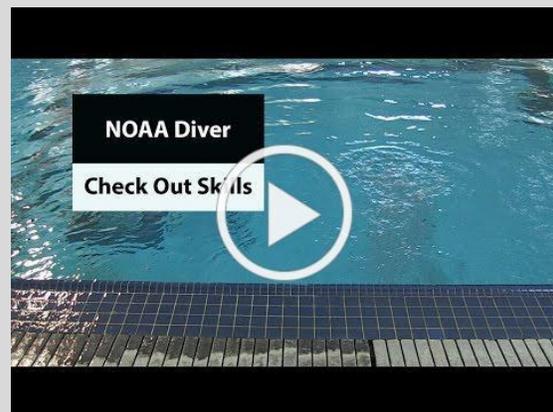
The regional director and regional policy coordinator hosted a meeting with the US Navy's west coast governmental liaison to get updated information about the Navy's, and Department of Defense's (DoD) more broadly, recent planning regarding where to host Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) wind farm development. DoD has been very concerned about how large wind farms can complicate the Navy's sophisticated coastal radar systems. Extensive planning has been underway across California, but most specifically in the central coast south of MBNMS, for OCS wind farm development. Agencies have been considering several

complicating factors - industry interest in possibility hosting some wind farms in existing or proposed national marine sanctuaries in this region, yet ONMS permitting is unclear; and, DoD's reluctance to see large scale wind farms in active military operational ranges. The Navy rep and ONMS staff discussed several ways to advance planning without adversely affecting - disproportionately affecting - any one agency in this portion of the California coast. The Navy is meeting with other agencies too, including the state of California and Bureau of Ocean Energy Management.

## Hollings Scholar Certified as NOAA Diver

Melia Matthews, a NOAA Hollings Scholar at the West Coast Regional Office, was recently certified as a NOAA Diver after completing a field-training course run by Chad King from MBNMS. Melia has since conducted several dives with MBNMS staff and completed a week of invertebrate survey training. This is the first certification of a NOAA diver at MBNMS since Chad King became a certified field trainer. It is important to keep field training as an option to keep training costs down, and provide additional seasonal and regular employees and contractors with the opportunity to become a certified NOAA diver in order to assist with local science diving projects that address the management plan.

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## Team OCEAN Starts It's 19th Season

On June 1, Team OCEAN started its 19th season on the water. Team OCEAN volunteer and staff kayakers contact fellow kayakers and ocean users on the water to help educate about avoiding sensitive marine wildlife such as sea otters and harbor seals. Team OCEAN operates Saturdays and Sundays in Elkhorn Slough, Moss Landing and along Cannery Row, Monterey California from the start of June to the end of September. Annually, program participants contact over 6,500 people on the water and talk about local marine wildlife, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and other topics. Team OCEAN staff and volunteers contact ocean users in the environment where their actions directly impact local marine wildlife.



By assisting ocean users in making wildlife friendly choices, ocean users can avoid disturbing sensitive wildlife species. No other program within Monterey Bay contacts ocean users at that specific decision point where disturbing wildlife, or not, is made.



Our volunteer staff includes medical doctors (MDs), registered nurses (RNs), respiratory therapists (RRTs), dive medical technicians (DMTs), emergency medical technicians (EMTs), and other trained personnel – and are on call 24/7 for emergencies.

## Pacific Grove Re-compression Chamber

The Pacific Grove Hyperbaric Chamber came into existence under the Pacific Grove Ocean Rescue, which was created and established for the purpose of promoting water safety and performing marine water rescues within the City of Pacific Grove and neighboring cities. The team additionally provided emergency medical treatment to victims suffering from SCUBA diving related injuries and carbon monoxide poisoning in the hyperbaric facility located at the Pacific Grove Fire Department.

[DONATE NOW](#)

## 2019 Sanctuary Advisory Meeting Schedule and Locations

August 15th - Pillar Point  
October 18th - Marina  
December 13th - Monterey



[Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#)

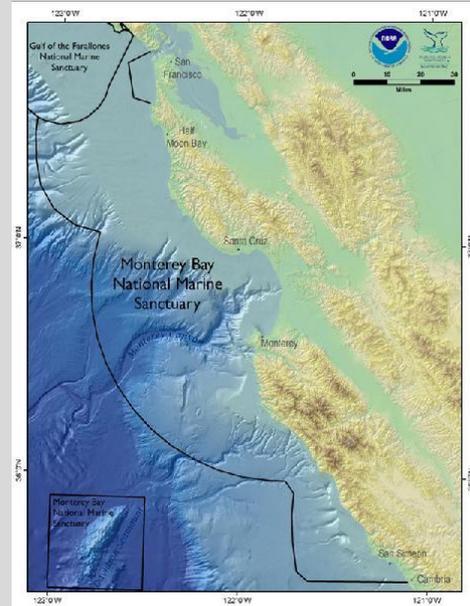
[Advisory Council Web Page](#)

[Marine Mammal Center - Moss Landing](#)

[Council Meeting Agendas](#)

[Council Meeting Minutes](#)

[Advisory Council Members](#)



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

[Official Website](#)