



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Office Report

Volume 1, Number 6



A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

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ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or Sanctuary) is a federally protected marine area offshore of California's central coast. Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the MBNMS encompasses a shoreline of 276 miles and 5,322 square nautical 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. The MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education and public use of this national treasure.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS

"An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century"

The U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy delivered its Final Report, "An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century," to the President and Congress on September 20, 2004. Under the Oceans Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-256), the President must submit his statement of proposals to implement or respond to the Commission's findings and recommendations to Congress within 90 days. An Ocean Blueprint for the 21st Century calls for a new governance framework, more investment in marine science and a new stewardship ethic by all Americans - all within the context of an ecosystem-based management approach - to halt the decline of this nation's oceans and coasts. In total, the Commission put forward 212 recommendations for a new national ocean policy in the 610-page report. To view the executive summary of the Final Report visit the U.S. Ocean

Commission's website at <http://oceancommission.gov/documents/welcome.html>.

Hunt for the Alligator

NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, with support from the U.S. Navy's Office of Naval Research, conducted the hunt for the *Alligator*—the U.S. Navy's first submarine. Based in Ocracoke, N.C., the 2004 NOAA-ONR expedition took place August 22-30 off Cape Hatteras, N.C. in the "Graveyard of the Atlantic," where the Civil War-era vessel was lost during a fierce storm in 1863. The search is part of an ongoing effort by NOAA, ONR and partners to uncover the *Alligator*'s secrets. Launched in 1862, the green, 47-foot *Alligator* represented a significant leap forward in naval engineering.

Resource Protection Workshop

Forty-five field staff from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and the Office of Response and Restoration attended a Resource Protection Workshop July 28-30th. This workshop provided staff from the sanctuary sites training in the use of the new intranet based set of contingency plans and tools, the Sanctuaries Hazardous Incident Logistics Database System and the Resources and Undersea Threats database. These tools are being jointly developed by the two programs to facilitate NOAA's ability to protect sanctuary resources during resource emergencies that range from oil spills and vessel groundings to assessment of underwater threats from sunken vessels or dumpsites.

National Marine Educators Conference (NMEA)

Sixteen representatives from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program Education Team attended and collectively provided fifteen separate presentations to participants attending the National Marine Educators Association annual conference in Florida last week. Exceeding any other single organization in the number of presentations, the National Marine Sanctuary Program's education team projected a strong, robust education program recognized nationwide. Continuing its leadership role in ocean education, the National Marine Sanctuary Program is excited to co-host the NMEA 2005 conference in Hawaii next year.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

Channel Islands NMS

On July 18, sanctuary staff hosted a group of 30 Chumash people on the R/V *Shearwater* for a special field trip to the sanctuary and national park. The purpose of the trip was to raise awareness about and interest in the sanctuary among key individuals in the Chumash community for purposes of soliciting candidates for the new Chumash seat on the Sanctuary Advisory Council. The trip was greatly appreciated by the guests, who were moved deeply at spending time in the sacred place that is their ancestor's homeland. Discussions opened up a new positive dialogue across the many factions found within the Chumash community, and hold promise to bring forward excellent advisors to sanctuary.

Cordell Bank NMS

Sanctuary scientists returned August 9 from an 8-day research mission exploring the hard to reach, remote habitats of sanctuary using the Delta Submersible, aboard the R/V *Velero*. The research cruise was a collaborative venture involving the sanctuary, U.S. Geological Survey, NOAA Fisheries/Santa Cruz Laboratory and Washington State University. Researchers dove in Cordell Bank via the 2-person yellow submersible. The mission captured video and photos showing the diversity of sea life, health of habitat and characteristics of Cordell Bank and its surrounding habitats, including a first-look at many areas. Sightings included schools of rockfish, a mola mola and a giant Pacific octopus. Upon return of the cruise, the sanctuary staff began responding to print and broadcast media interest by preparing fact sheets, B-roll description and photos and interviews with the sanctuary manager. *The Bodega Bay Navigator* published a front-page photo of the Delta along with a two-page inside color spread with nine photos and an article. KTVU FOX-TV interviewed the sanctuary manager and ran a story on the evening news and KGO ABC San Francisco ran a news story with footage. The ABC story went nationwide with a clip of the Delta footage.

Florida Keys NMS

Sanctuary staff is partnering with the Navy, Department of Army Corps of Engineers and the Florida Keys Community College on the relocation of two large anchors determined to be of submerged cultural resource value. The anchors are in the path of dredging operations in Key West ship channel sections, and the Florida State Historic Preservation Office has deemed them significant resources worthy of rescue efforts. An additional six significant anomalies will also be investigated.

On July 5, the History Channel aired a "Deep Sea Detectives" segment entitled "Explosion at Sea," the story of the ship *Queen of Nassau*, which lies in the sanctuary. This program featured staff from the National Marine Sanctuary Program's Maritime Archaeology Center and personnel from the National Undersea Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Sanctuary staff identified the *Queen of Nassau* and showed that the vessel had been built for the Canadian Navy. The History Channel informed the sanctuary that this program received the highest rating of any of the "Deep Sea Detectives" shows, which has run for several seasons.

Flower Garden Banks NMS

The 9th annual Down Under, Out Yonder education workshop occurred July 10-14th. The program is a partnership between the sanctuary and the Gulf of Mexico Foundation. The participants included 27 educators from six states. The workshop began with two days of activities and lectures in Galveston, Texas at Texas A&M University at Galveston and at the NOAA Fisheries lab at Fort Crockett, Galveston. Weekend activities included a REEF Fish Identification course with a virtual dive at the Caribbean tunnel of Moody Gardens Aquarium, lectures on coral biology, sanctuary programs, oil and gas production, geology, and more. Twenty of the educators headed 110 miles offshore on a live-aboard dive boat for diving at the coral reef caps of East and West Flower Garden Banks, Stetson Bank and two oil and gas production platforms. The seas were perfect, and the group had the opportunity to make up to 11 dives. The group was joined by a film crew from The Learning Network who are filming a documentary for the Gulf of Mexico Program. Evaluations marked the program as highly successful and beneficial.

Gray's Reef NMS

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) Biogeography Team conducted fish and invertebrate assessments in August, coupling the presence of these organisms with the different habitats at Gray's Reef. This work was borne out of the map of habitat types that NCCOS developed based on side scan and multibeam data collected by NOAA Ship Whiting in 2001. Knowing how the biology of Gray's Reef is coupled with particular habitat types will: 1) provide a baseline of current resources; 2) help us to understand how our resources are changing over time; and 3) provide a library of information that could help restore habitat in the event of damage.

Gulf of the Farallones NMS

The 150th anniversary ceremony for the San Francisco Tide Station was held at the sanctuary. VADM Lautenbacher, Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Dr. Spinrad, Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Michael Weiss, Deputy Director for the National Marine Sanctuary Program, spoke at the event as did Mike Szabados, National Ocean Service's Center for Operational Oceanographic Products and Services (CO-OPS) director. Brian O'Neill, Golden Gate National Recreation Area General Superintendent, emceed the program. The sanctuary staff has been working with CO-OPS very closely on this for several weeks. The event was very well received. Over 70 people attended.

The sanctuary's monitoring of the emerging die-off of harbor seals in northern California, Oregon and Washington continues. In the course of the sanctuary Beach Watch monitoring surveys, three more adult harbor seals were found dead, all on Thornton State Beach in Pacifica. It is rare that in this species, age groups older than pups are found live-stranded or dead (beachcast) on area beaches. The sanctuary continues to coordinate with the stranding network on determining numbers, patterns and cause of mortality.

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS

The Maui site hosted a groundbreaking event for the new Sanctuary Learning Center to be built at the Kihei, Maui office with a ceremony that honored long-time sanctuary supporter, U.S. Senator Daniel Inouye. The festive event began with a pule, a traditional Hawaiian chant, and was followed by presentations from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Oceans and Atmosphere of NOAA, and the Mayor of Maui County. Senator Inouye was presented with a traditional fishtrap. He was also presented with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's 2004 Steward of the Sanctuary Award. The Director of NOAA's Pacific Services Center presented B-WET grant awards to three local organizations. Senator Inouye gave a very inspiring speech followed by keiki (children's) hula dance and a traditional hukilau (fishing) demonstration. The event focused on the community and educational uses and advantages that the new building will provide.

Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve/Proposed National Marine Sanctuary

Reserve staff assisted the National Park Service (NPS) last week in deploying environmental monitoring equipment on the wreck of the *USS Arizona* in Pearl Harbor. Other tasks included waste cleanup, artifact tagging, and practice of internment dives in preparation for lying to rest the remains of *USS Arizona* crewmen within the ship. The reserve continues to work in cooperation with the NPS in the investigation of maritime heritage resources on Oahu.

Olympic Coast NMS

The sanctuary celebrated its 10th anniversary with the grand opening of the Olympic Coast Discovery Center and a series of public events on July 16 and 17. On July 16, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation hosted a reception and lecture on seabirds. The keynote remarks were given by former Washington Governor Mike Lowery who was instrumental in supporting sanctuary designation. On July 17, the Discovery Center opened with Congressman Norm Dicks presiding over the event. The center is an 800 square-foot facility that features several interactive exhibits and an innovative Deep Worker submersible mock-up where visitors can observe video from sanctuary research missions on a large screen. The submersible exhibit is designed to give visitors the feeling that they are under water piloting the sub.



MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES



JOINT MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Staff is continuing work on writing the draft management plan. The MBNMS staff has completed work with NMSP headquarters on identifying the proposed regulatory changes associated with some of the action plans. We are pleased that the environmental review contract is finalized and work underway, we expect to begin our headquarters clearance process in November. To complete the environmental review process, we need to complete the package of draft regulations that will accompany the Sanctuary Advisory Council recommendations in the management plan; one of which, relating to the Davidson Seamount, we will request to be prepared by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council. In addition to the work being completed by the NEPA contractor, MBNMS is also working with staff from the EPA and USACE to complete the necessary environmental documentation to evaluate the changes necessary for moving the SF-12 dredge disposal site off of Moss Landing. Staff have also begun the agency consultation processes necessary to release a draft management plan to the public. At this time, the MBNMS is estimating the release of these documents in early 2005 with public hearings in late spring.

If you have questions regarding management plan, please contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217 or sean.morton@noaa.gov. Also, please visit the management plan website at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan> for any changes or updates on the joint management plan review.

MANAGEMENT

On August 13, MBNMS staff provided a series of presentations to 14 visiting Chinese delegates who represented various ocean management programs of their central and provincial governments. The presentations included a MBNMS overview, the Joint Management Plan Review, Research programs and Education programs. After the presentations, the delegates visited the Monterey Bay Aquarium. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

On August 11, Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program visited the MBNMS. He listened to and provided input on presentations from the Education, Program Operations, Resource Protection and Research teams regarding current and upcoming projects. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

On August 12, staff from the MBNMS, GFNMS and CBNMS attended an All Hands meeting in Pescadero. The purpose of the meeting was to get a briefing from the transition team on the draft Northern Management Area (NMA) Transition Plan, the FY 05 Annual Operating Plan for the NMA and to participate in a team building activity. For more information, contact Nicole Capps at (831) 647-4206.

Holly Price and Sean Morton joined GFNMS and CBNMS managers and staff in providing several briefings to NOS and NMSP management and staff in Silver Spring on August 23rd on proposed draft regulatory changes in the Joint Management Plan Review. This was an early opportunity to review the recommendations before formal clearance begins later in the fall. For more information, contact Sean Morton at (831) 647-4217.

Holly Price attended a NOAA Leadership Seminar on Aug. 25-26 in Warrenton, Virginia along with over a hundred participants from various NOAA Line Offices. It was an interesting opportunity to hear presentations from various Assistant Administrators and Deputies on the overall goals for NOAA in the areas of planning, enhancing cooperation among line offices, budgeting, working with Congress, leadership among various levels of NOAA staff, etc. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Sanctuary staff lead a research cruise aboard the RV *Velero IV* and Submersible *Delta*, from August 11 - 22. The objectives included resurveying rocky habitats off Point Pinos that were characterized by submersible in 1993 to assess changes in fish species composition, size composition, and relative abundance; assess the number of sampling transects needed to detect changes; and develop a baseline of information to assess future change at multiple sites (including Point Sur). Collaborators on the project included California Sea Grant, Moss Landing Marine Labs, California Department of Fish and Game, and National Marine Fisheries Service. For more information, contact Jean deMarignac, SIMoN Scientist, at (831) 647-4214.

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary has a new high-resolution GIS elevation model of Elkhorn Slough. A joint project between the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Ocean Service's Remote Sensing Division collected LIDAR elevation data in Elkhorn Slough last spring. This pilot "data fusion" project utilized the NOAA Citation Jet which carried a Light Detection and Ranging Laser (LIDAR) and a new digital camera. With help from California State University's Sea Floor mapping lab, high-resolution multibeam bathymetry collected in 2003 was married with the LIDAR information to form a seamless GIS layer. This GIS layer will be used to model the hydrography of the Elkhorn Slough region, addressing tidal scour management issues. For more information, contact Dave Lott at (831) 647-4227.

On August 12th, Dr. David Kliger, Dean of the Division of Physical and Biological Sciences at the University of California Santa Cruz, approved the reappointment of Dr. Steve Lonhart as a Research Associate in the Institute of Marine Sciences Department for the period beginning September 1, 2004 through August 31, 2009. Research Associate is a courtesy title established by the Regents of the University of California to give appropriate official recognition to scholars working at a UC campus who are not employed by the University. Dr. Lonhart will continue to have access to common research facilities (e.g., Long Marine Lab) and the University Library, and is encouraged to participate in seminars and colloquia. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart at (831) 647-4222.

Andrew DeVogelaere and Erica Burton submitted a preproposal to the Office of Ocean Exploration titled, "Exploration and habitat associations for deep sea corals of the Davidson Seamount and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary." This would be a collaborative effort with MBARI, Monterey Bay Aquarium, BBC, Moss Landing Marine Labs, and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere, Research Coordinator, at (831) 647-4213.

August 31st, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary hosted a planning meeting for the *USS Macon* Expedition in FY 2005. The MBNMS and meeting participants will be writing proposals for funding and shiptime. Partners include: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, National Marine Sanctuary Program, Maritime Heritage Program, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Naval Historical Center, Monterey History & Art Association, California State Lands Commission, and Moffett Field Historical Society and Museum. For more information, contact Erica Burton, Research Specialist, at 831-647-4246.

The Beach COMBERS volunteer program completed their monthly survey of beach cast organisms this week. Though there is an algal bloom creating a deep brown color along much of the Monterey Bay, it has not impacted bird and mammal mortality rates. For more information on the Beach COMBERS program, see http://mbnms-simon.org/sections/beaches/project_info.php?pid=100143&sec=b. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

SIMoN

Over the course of four meetings from July 15-21, SIMoN staff participated on the interview committee to select a new policy coordinator for the Partnership of Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) at UC Santa Cruz. The six candidates were all excellent, bringing a breadth of expertise in the areas of marine policy, scientific research and education, and public outreach. The new policy coordinator replaces Lydia Bergen, who has moved back to the east coast. An announcement regarding the new policy coordinator is expected by mid-September. For more information, please contact Steve Lonhart (831) 647-4222.

On July 20, SIMoN staff participated in an intertidal survey to detect non-indigenous species as part of a program led by researchers at the Marine Pollution Studies Lab at Moss Landing Marine Labs. The study is being funded by the California Department of Fish and Game, and will include surveys of intertidal and subtidal sites along the open coast. Samples were collected from a remote section of the coast near Andrew Molera State Park and will be processed at Moss Landing Marine Labs. For more information, please contact Steve Lonhart (831) 647-4222.

On July 20, SIMoN staff attended the Reserve Advisory Council meeting at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve. Barbara Peichel, the Tidal Wetlands Plan Coordinator, gave an excellent overview of the issues surrounding the plan, the expected planning process, and how stakeholders can become involved. For more information, please contact Steve Lonhart (831) 647-4222.

On July 22, SIMoN scientist Steve Lonhart was asked to chair a panel on the management and control of invasive species at the 56th Annual Training Conference of the California Association of Harbor Masters & Port Captains, Inc. Mick Kronman, CAH&PC President, has set aside part of the four day conference in Santa Barbara to discuss case studies of invasive species in harbors and how they can be managed. In addition to a talk on the Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* by Lonhart, Rachel Woodfield will give a presentation on *Caulerpa taxifolia* and how it has been managed in southern California. For more information, please contact Steve Lonhart (831) 647-4222.

On July 29, SIMoN staff participated with Monterey Bay Aquarium education staff and some of their students to remove the invasive Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* from the Monterey Harbor. Over 25 students in the Young Women in Science program paddled into the marina on kayaks and removed 150 pounds of *Undaria* from the edges of the docks. The Young Women in Science program is designed to encourage female students' interest in careers in the sciences. The Aquarium pairs participants with several female staff in activities such as snorkeling in a kelp bed and kayaking on the bay. This program instills a conservation ethic in young people and feeds the dreams of future scientists. For more information contact Steve Lonhart (831) 647-4222.

On July 30, Chad King (Data Analyst) presented the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) website to a group of 20 high school teachers attending a week-long workshop on marine science in the classroom at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. Chad also guided the teachers through an interactive and live demonstration of SIMoN's Interactive Maps. For more information contact Chad King at (831) 647-4248.

On August 19th, staff gave a presentation on the status of the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) to employees at the Monterey Bay Aquarium (MBA). MBA staff were "walked through" the SIMoN website and given opportunities to comment on the usefulness of the site. Attendees were from several departments within the MBA, and their overall response was enthusiastic. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, at (831) 647-4222.

Chad King (SIMoN), Irina Kogan (GFNMS), and Lisa DeMarignac (MBNMS) recently assembled a GIS of geologic, biologic, and reference data along the central coast of California. These data will be used by PISCO (Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans) to create a model to predict the presence of intertidal and shallow subtidal species within characteristic bins of the coastline. This is a portion of the State of California's Coastal Impact Assessment Program. For more information, contact Chad King at (831) 647-4248.

On August 18th, SIMoN staff and Kerstin Wasson, Research Coordinator for the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (ESNERR), collected erosion monitoring data in the upper reaches of the slough. Originally designed as a short-term but spatially extensive study, the monitoring project has been continued at a subset of sites. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, at (831) 647-4222.

On August 23rd, SIMoN staff continued subtidal training by diving at McAbee Beach and at the Hopkins Marine Life Refuge. Divers are continuing to learn the subtidal survey protocols used by the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO). PISCO divers and SIMoN staff have been collaborating on several projects that collect subtidal data within the sanctuary, including a marine resources survey along the Big Sur coast and fish surveys as part of the Cooperative Research and Assessment of Nearshore Ecosystems (CRANE) with the California Department of Fish and Game. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, at (831) 647-4222.

Andrew DeVogelaere, Steve Lonhart, and Chad King of SIMoN participated in the first Executive Council conference call meeting following the initial West Coast Observation Network Information Management meeting in July. This is an effort to deploy a network of nearshore buoys within the 5 west coast sanctuaries, and deliver those data to the public through SIMoN and NCDDC website(s). For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

Josh Pederson, SIMoN Outreach Specialist, and Andrew White, Network Manager and Webmaster, deployed the MBNMS Site Characterization bibliography on the SIMoN website. Visitors to the SIMoN website can now query over 11,000 records of literature cited in Sanctuary summary documents as well as other pertinent references obtained from research, educational and resource management institutions; consulting groups; interviewed experts; and independent searches. For more information contact Josh Pederson at (831) 647-4260 or go to <http://www.mbnms-simon.org/other/moreLinks/bibliography.php>

Carol Maehr, SIMoN volunteer, gave a demonstration on the SIMoN web site to Ano Nuevo volunteers on August 26. We are using surveys and providing opportunities for e-mail comments (<http://mbnms-simon.org/other/gen/comments.php>) to receive feedback from

various user groups on this site (<http://mbnms-simon.org/>). For more information, contact Josh Pederson, SIMoN Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4260.

On August 20th, SIMoN staff met with Dr. Jenn Brown, SIMoN's Endangered Species Research Associate recently hired by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation. Jenn is compiling information on many of the endangered and threatened species as part of a technical report that will serve as a reference guide for sanctuary staff. In addition, this information will be made available on the SIMoN website, and will have extensive links to each of the agencies managing species recovery. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, at (831) 647-4222.

On August 17th, Josh Pederson, SIMoN Outreach Specialist, continued ongoing discussions with Stephanie Watson, CeNCOOS Coordinator, on a possible technical database partnership between SIMoN and CeNCOOS. CeNCOOS is the regional association of ocean observing systems in Central and Northern California. For more information, contact Josh Pederson at (831) 647-4260.

On September 1, 2004 SIMoN staff participated in a site visit at the Fitzgerald Marine Reserve. Currently the County of San Mateo is funding a study of potential human impacts (e.g., trampling, collecting, rock turning) on the rocky intertidal at the reserve. Members of the scientific Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) were given a progress report by Tena staff scientist Scott Kimura, one of the leads on the project. Kimura then took TAC members on a tour of the study sites during the low tide. For more information, please contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, at (831) 647-4222.

On September 8th, SIMoN staff presented volunteer opportunities at the Santa Catalina School's Service Fair. The school devotes two days each year to community service, volunteering student time at 23 service sites, including the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Students visited the SIMoN table, viewed a poster on volunteering to remove the invasive Asian kelp *Undaria pinnatifida* from the Monterey Harbor, asked questions, and received literature on how they could help the restoration effort in the harbor. In 2003, 8 students and one biology teacher volunteered for two 6-hr days, removing hundreds of pounds of *Undaria*. Building upon last year's success, more students are expected to volunteer this year. For more information, contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, at (831) 647-4222.

On September 9th, SIMoN finished working with Jenny Carless, contract content developer, to revise the major content of the SIMoN website. Original content was revised with enhanced readability and added information. To view the SIMoN website go to <http://www.mbnms-simon.org>. For more information contact Josh Pederson, SIMoN Outreach Specialist, at (831) 647-4260.

On September 9th, SIMoN staff meet with Drs. Don Croll and Raphe Kudela, faculty at the University of California Santa Cruz and Principal Investigators in the NOAA-funded Center for Integrated Marine Technologies (CIMT). CIMT PIs and SIMoN staff discussed ways to generate products from CIMT that would be of use to sanctuary staff. Targeted products include data on krill abundances and distributions in Monterey Bay and the spatial/temporal variation of phytoplankton species that form harmful algal blooms (HABs). For more information, contact Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, at (831) 647-4222.

Research Activities Panel

The Research Activity Panel (RAP) met at Moss Landing Marine Labs on August 13 for a regular meeting and annual barbecue. Agenda topics at the meeting included: and overview of the recently approved research pier project in Moss Landing; results from the new Pacific Shark Research Center; and update on the MBARI autonomous underwater vehicle program; a Sanctuary Advisory Council update; and a discussion on re-evaluating the purpose and structure of the RAP. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

On September 10, the Sanctuary Research Activity Panel met to review the history of the panel and assess the need to modify the objectives of the group. A brief report on the past and potential future for the RAP was generated for this discussion. The Joint Management Plan Review process provides an opportunity to evaluate the panel relative to future Sanctuary needs. For more information, contact Andrew DeVogelaere at (831) 647-4213.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

On Monday July 19th, the MBNMS hosted a conference call with socio-economic experts to review the work that the non-profit EcoTrust has done for the MBNMS and GFNMS. In the MBNMS, the information is being collected to guide the Special Marine Protected Areas working group in its consideration of the potential utility and economic impacts of marine protected areas in the Sanctuary. The study involves compiling fishing effort and landings data, groundtruthing the information with local fishermen, and developing a framework plan to address future socioeconomic needs. The Sanctuary solicited input from a wide range of experts from

academia, the private sector, and within NOAA. The conference call generated constructive comments and positive feedback. For more information, contact Huff McGonigal at 831-647-4254.

On July 29th, Deirdre Hall, Permit Coordinator, attended a meeting convened by Community Solutions, a contingency of concerned citizens, to discuss the public health issues thought to be related to the Santa Cruz Harbor dredge disposal operations. This meeting was also attended by a number of state and federal agencies including the EPA, USACE, RWQCB, Air Board, County Environmental Health, as well as environmental groups such as Surfrider, Sierra Club, and Friends of the Harbor. Recent dredge data was discussed and the group recommended meeting again to remain apprised of the process. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at (831) 647-4207.

On July 29th, Deirdre Hall, Permit Coordinator, convened a meeting with other state and federal regulatory agencies and the Santa Cruz Harbormaster to discuss permit issues related to the Santa Cruz Harbor's upcoming (November 2004) dredge disposal cycle. This is an effort to conduct agency coordination improvements as outlined in the JMPR Action Plan for Harbors and Dredge Disposal. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at (831) 647-4207.

The Special Marine Protected Areas workgroup met on August 16 to hear a presentation on biodiversity issues and continue refining their description of conservation goals. They also reviewed a series of GIS maps and graphs depicting socioeconomic analyses and various fishery use patterns in the MBNMS. These analyses were compiled by the nonprofit organization, Ecotrust, and outlined potential steps for additional socioeconomic studies. For more information, contact Holly Price at (831) 647-4247.

The MBNMS commented on the recently released document "California Ocean Resources Management: A Strategy for Action". The document was drafted by the California Resources Agency and the California Environmental Protection Agency in response to a request by the Governor to draw up a framework plan to improve the management of California's ocean resources. The Governor's request was precipitated by the Pew Commission Report and U.S Commission on Ocean Policy. The Plan emphasizes the importance of ecosystem based management and environmental stewardship. Comments were directed at encouraging cooperation between the State and the Sanctuary in achieving the stated goals in the Plan. This included highlighting programs such as MERITO, the Water Quality Protection Program, and initiatives such as Sanctuary's consideration of marine protected areas. For more information contact Huff McGonigal at 831-647-4254.

Deirdre Hall, Permit Coordinator, attended the kick-off meeting for the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute's MARS cable on August 24th. This meeting was attended by Aspen, the consultant selected to write the Environmental Impact Statement, as well as the Coastal Commission, the applicant, and the State Lands Commission. Discussions included research needs, siting, and included a shoreside project field trip. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at deirdre.hall@noaa.gov

Deirdre Hall participated in a conference call to discuss NOAA collaborations on protected species issues. This conference call is being facilitated by headquarters and will result in a workshop in December to further identify possible linkages between the NMSP and NMFS. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at deirdre.hall@noaa.gov

Deirdre Hall continues to meet with Irina Kogan, the new GFNMS Resource Protection Specialist, to discuss permit and policy issues associated with the Northern Management Area in an effort to conduct a seamless transition of these projects to the GFNMS. For more information, contact Deirdre Hall at deirdre.hall@noaa.gov

The Resources Agency and the Department of Fish and Game recently announced the reinstatement of the Marine Life Protection Act process focused on evaluating and establishing MPAs in state waters. Holly Price participated in an interagency workshop in Oakland on August 31st where the state provided an overview of the new process, which will include the development of a statewide framework plan as well as initiation of planning for a pilot project on the Central Coast. Discussions included the need to coordinate this effort with the existing MBNMS work group, which has been looking at the potential for MPAs in both state and federal waters. For additional information contact Holly at (831) 647-4247.

On September 1st and 2nd, Huff McGonigal traveled to Portland and Long Beach to brief fishery managers on the process and timeline for drafting regulations to accompany the potential Sanctuary designation of Davidson Seamount. This was a joint briefing with Cordell Bank, which is requesting action under the same process. Sanctuary staff met with the Pacific Fishery Management Council, NMFS Southwest Region, and the California Department of Fish and Game. The sanctuaries will be presenting a regulation consultation package to PFMC at their November meeting. For more information contact Huff at 831-647-4254.

On September 3rd, Brad Damitz met with Kelly Cuffe from The California Coastal Commission office in Santa Cruz, to discuss a proposed seawall project in Pebble Beach, at the Pebble Beach Golf Links 5th hole. For more information contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

On September 7, staff from the California Department of Transportation demonstrated a GIS project they have developed for the Coast Highway Management Plan along the Big Sur coast. Sanctuary staff provided comments and suggestions regarding appropriate and available marine-related data to include. The final GIS product will be a critical tool in aiding decision-makers during landslide events along the Big Sur coast. For more information, contact Lisa de Marignac at (831) 647-4238.

On September 13th through 15th, Huff McGonigal attended the meeting of the Pacific Fishery Management Council's Habitat Committee in San Diego. Topics before the Committee and the Council at-large included identifying the most effective means of implementing a krill harvest ban proposed by the three central coast sanctuaries, providing input on a range a preliminary Essential Fish Habitat alternatives, and adopting a document that provides guidance to the Council and other entities in considering marine protected areas. For more information, please contact Huff at (831) 647-4254.

On September 16th, Steve Lonhart, Irina Kogan and Lisa de Marignac met with staff from Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) at UC Santa Cruz, to review geological GIS data layers for the Coast Highway Management Plan (CHMP). We will use these existing data to predict intertidal and subtidal substrate to assist in characterizing biological communities along the Big Sur coast. PISCO's work, as part of the CHMP, will aid MBNMS' decision-making during landslide events. For more information, please contact Lisa de Marignac at (831) 647-4238.

Cruise Ships

On July 25th, Brad Damitz participated in a tour of the cruise ship Regal Princess, which was docked in San Francisco. The tour, arranged by Ruth Howell, GFNMS, highlighted the environmental practices of the vessel, and included the waste treatment facilities, recycling and hazardous waste storage, engine rooms and generators, desal plant, and the bridge. We also met with the ship's Captain, Chief Engineer, Naturalist, and other crew members to discuss their no-discharge protocols in National Marine Sanctuary waters and educational opportunities and partnerships. For more information contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

On July 30, Brad Damitz met with Steve Scheiblauber, Monterey Harbormaster, to review and discuss improvements to the city's existing agreement with each of the cruise ships visiting Monterey, regarding visitation guidelines and no-discharge policy. The sanctuary's proposed changes included requiring each vessel to submit discharge logs showing activity in and adjacent to the MBNMS per visit, verification of anchoring coordinates to avoid damage to shale reefs, and verification of the means of communication of the no-discharge agreement to various levels of crew. The amended agreement will be presented to the City Council in September for approval. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

Desalination

Brad Damitz, Environmental Policy Specialist, attended a Coastal Water Project Permit Coordination Center meeting on July 15th. This project, being proposed by California American Water Company and the County of Monterey, would include a large desalination plant to be located adjacent to the Duke Power Plant in Moss Landing, as well as aquifer storage and recovery. The purpose of the meeting was for the proponents to provide details about the proposed project, and seek feedback on initial environmental and regulatory concerns. The meeting was attended by about 50 representatives from a variety of local, state, and federal agencies. For more information, contact Brad at (831) 647-4252.

On July 29, Brad Damitz participated in a meeting of the Statewide Desalination Environmental Working Group in Santa Cruz. Brad gave a presentation on the proposed desalination plants within the MBNMS, and provided general information on potential environmental impacts, mitigation measures, and the regulatory and permitting process, for desalination. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

On July 29, Brad Damitz attended a meeting of the Monterey Peninsula Water Management District, and provided comments regarding the sanctuary's regional action plan for desalination. The meeting included presentations about 3 proposed desalination facilities, including the District's own proposal for a 9,000 acre-feet per year facility at Sand City, as well as two larger regional plants in Moss Landing. No action was taken at this informational workshop; however ultimately the District will make the decision to move ahead with one of the three proposals. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

On August 17, Brad Damitz met with Nick Papadakis and Jonathan Berkey from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, to discuss plans to apply for a State of California Prop 50 grant. The proposal would fund an integrated regional planning approach for

desalination plants in the MBNMS, as spelled out in the Sanctuary's Joint Management Plan Review Desalination Action Plan. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

On August 23rd, Brad Damitz met with Nick Papadakis and Jonathan Berkey from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, to discuss plans to apply for a State of California Prop 50 grant, to fund an integrated regional planning approach for desalination plants in the MBNMS, that is spelled out in the Sanctuary's Joint Management Plan Review Desalination Action Plan. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

During the week of August 9th, the MBNMS sent out 2 comment letters responding to Draft Environmental Impact Reports for 2 separate proposed desalination projects on Monterey Bay, in Sand City and Marina. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

On August 24th, Brad Damitz met with Conner Everts of the Southern California Watershed Alliance, and Statewide Desalination Environmental Working, to discuss desalination proposals within the MBNMS. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

On August 24th, Brad Damitz attended a Coastal Water Project Town Hall Meeting hosted by the County of Monterey and CalAm, in Seaside. The purpose of the meeting was to present updated information regarding the proposed Moss Landing regional desalination project, and seek public input. For more information, contact Brad Damitz at (831) 647-4252.

Water Quality

Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, facilitated a meeting of the Water Quality Protection Program Committee on Tuesday, July 13th. The meeting featured updates from MBNMS staff and committee members, a presentation by representatives from the Central Coast Wetlands GIS project, and a discussion of the formation of an urban runoff / beach closures sub-committee. For more information, contact Chris at (831) 420-1670.

The fiscal year 2005 Agriculture Appropriations bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives on July 14 includes \$600,000 again this year from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's budget to fund implementation of the Agriculture and Rural Lands plan crafted by the MBNMS Water Quality Protection Program. This fourth year of funding for this effort is intended to be distributed among partners at the Natural Resources Conservation Service, University of California Cooperative Extension, the Coalition of Central Coast County Farm Bureaus, and the Sanctuary Foundation to carry out collaborative programs to address runoff of sediments, nutrients and pesticides into the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Katie Siegler at (831) 647-4219.

On July 23, Katie Siegler, Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator, and Bridget Hoover, Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network Coordinator, toured the lower Salinas Watershed area with the Monterey County Farm Bureau Watershed Coordinator and a local farmer to identify monitoring sites for the Network's new monitoring program. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On July 24, Bridget Hoover held an informational meeting for the new monitoring program in Salinas streams to measure water chemistry, nutrients, and possibly bacteria. Teachers, students and local homeowners attended. The monitoring will begin in mid-August. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On July 20th and 27th, Robert Ketley, contractor to the MBNMS, conducted three water quality workshops designed to educate local municipal official and agency staff about their role and responsibility in controlling urban stormwater pollution. The workshops were held in the City of Salinas, and were attended by sixty-five individuals. Topics included stormwater impacts, Phase II Municipal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit requirements, and best management practice training for field crews. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

From July 26th - 29th, Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, attended the StormCon conference in Palm Desert, CA. This annual conference attracts a national audience of water quality professionals from the public and private sectors to discuss the issue of stormwater and urban runoff water quality. A keynote address was given by Jean-Michel Cousteau, who discussed his voyage to the Northwest Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecological Reserve and the impact that water quality is having in the region. The conference featured workshops on numerous topics related to the strategies contained in the MBNMS Urban Runoff. For more information contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On August 3, Katie Siegler, Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator and Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director,

attended a reception hosted by the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service. The event was an opportunity for NRCS leadership staff to discuss current efforts and programs related to state-wide resource protection with various agencies and industry groups. For more information, contact Katie Siegler at (831) 647-4219.

On August 5, Bridget Hoover, Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network Coordinator, met with the Waste Water Manager and Water Resources Planner from the City of Salinas as well as a Monterey County Environmental Compliance staff person to discuss water quality monitoring efforts in Salinas. The goal of the meeting was to incorporate citizen monitoring efforts into the upcoming renewal of their Phase 1 NPDES permit. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On August 17th, Bridget Hoover, Coordinator of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, with Pacific Grove Public Works staff traced the source of highly chlorinated water. This problem was detected the prior week by volunteers of the Pacific Grove Urban Watch program. The source was again traced to the vicinity of a school swimming pool. When this occurred at approximately the same time last year, it was determined that the school was draining the pool water directly to the storm drain. As a result, the system was upgraded to discharge to the sanitary sewer. It is unknown where the chlorinated water is currently coming from. The school district is investigating. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On August 23rd, Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP) Director, delivered a presentation to the Board of Directors for the Sewer Authority Mid-Coastside (SAM) in Half Moon Bay. The presentation's purpose was to familiarize the Directors with the mission and regulations of the MBNMS in addition to describing the WQPP Action Plans and possible areas of collaboration. For more information contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670

On August 24th, Chris Coburn, along with representatives from the San Mateo County Farm Bureau, Coast Dairies, NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service, and several NGOs attended a tour and demonstration of Sonoma County's Water Recycling Project. The project uses recycled wastewater to offset groundwater pumping or surface diversions, thereby increasing the availability of fresh water supplies for beneficial uses such as fish habitat. For more information contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On August 31st, Bridget Hoover, Coordinator of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, delivered a presentation about Network activities and water quality monitoring to two sophomore chemistry classes at Monterey High School's Academy of Oceanographic Science. For more information, contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

On August 31st, Chris Coburn, Water Quality Protection Program Director, and Bridget Hoover, Coordinator of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, spoke at a storm water management study session hosted by the Salinas City Council. Chris and Bridget stressed the importance of controlling urban runoff, and that through coordinating efforts with the sanctuary and municipalities and groups, the city could better control runoff and reduce program costs. For more information contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

The MBNMS submitted a comment letter to the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board regarding a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit for the Gilroy-Morgan Hill Wastewater Facility. Sanctuary comments focused on the discharge of nitrates to the Pajaro River, and consistency with a developing Total Maximum Daily Load. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On September 15th, the California Coastal Conservancy awarded a \$200,000 grant to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation for the implementation of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Water Quality Protection Program (WQPP). This funding will support specific projects developed from strategies contained in the WQPP's Urban Runoff, Agricultural, and Beach Closure Action Plans. Specific projects include agricultural water quality technical training courses for growers, urban runoff technical training for municipal officials and field crews, restaurant and automotive service sector outreach, and plumbers workshops. For more information, please contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670.

On September 15th, Bridget Hoover, Coordinator of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network, along with the Coastal Watershed Council, conducted Urban Watch Training for the City of Capitola. Urban Watch is a dry weather monitoring program which utilizes a LaMotte Pollution Detection kit for common urban pollutants. The Coastal Watershed Council received a two year grant from the California State Water Resources Control Board to implement this program. For more information, please contact Bridget Hoover at (831) 883-9303.

Enforcement and Emergency Response

Scott Kathey presented a "Star of the Sea" Certificate to Captain Tim Olivas of the CA Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) on July

16 for Tim's assistance in establishing and promoting the cooperative enforcement agreement between the MBNMS and CDFG since 1998. Tim has been instrumental in the success of the cooperative enforcement agreement. He is leaving CDFG to accept a command position with the Morro Bay Police Department. For more information, contact Scott at (831) 647-4251.

On July 22, 2004, NOAA OLE Special Agent Brett Schneider (Deputy Special Agent In Charge, Southwest Region) died unexpectedly due to an accident. Brett has been an ardent supporter of the MBNMS enforcement program and is highly regarded by Sanctuary staff. We will greatly miss him as a professional colleague and as a friend. Brett devoted his life to the service of his country and to the protection of its natural resources.

Celebrity Cruise Lines has volunteered to sponsor a spill drill to test response capabilities for an oil spill from a cruise ship at anchor off Monterey Harbor. A tabletop drill will be conducted in the Los Angeles area September 1-2, 2004. A field response drill will occur in Monterey Bay at a later date. In the latter drill, response equipment will be mobilized and deployed in Monterey Bay to test response coordination, effectiveness, and timelines. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

The Central Coast Oil Spill Preparedness Area Committee will conduct field investigations of 14 sensitive coastal habitat areas in August to update the US Coast Guard Area Contingency Plan. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

The Central Coast Oil Spill Preparedness Area Committee is exploring the possibility and funding options for acquiring a small in-water skimming device for removing petroleum sheens in harbors within Monterey Bay. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

The California Department of Boating and Waterways may be eliminated in a pending reorganization of the California State Government. The elimination of this department may complicate efforts by the MBNMS to target boater related conservation issues such as abandoned vessel abatement and support for clean boater programs. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On July 28-30, Scott Kathey attended a training workshop on chemical dispersants and emergency response databases conducted by NMS Headquarters. The attendees developed draft recommendations for NOAA leadership on future policy regarding use of dispersants on marine oil spills. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On July 29, an unknown slick was reported on ocean waters approximately 19 miles west of Cape San Martin. Upon aerial investigation by the Coast Guard, the slick was determined to be a large mass of jellyfish. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On August 5, Chris Coburn, Scott Kathey, and Officer Bob Yerena met with permit and compliance staff from the Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board to coordinate enforcement efforts to reduce raw sewage spills into Sanctuary waters. Protocols were established to better communicate enforcement plans and actions between offices. For more information, contact Chris Coburn at (831) 420-1670 or Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

Scott Kathey is coordinating with CA Fish and Game Marine Region officials to remove abandoned fishing traps, line, and floats from the MBNMS to reduce wildlife entanglement and entrapment hazards. The MBNMS may assist with disposal and disposal costs. For more information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

On Saturday night, September 11, a 27' sailboat ran aground on a State Parks beach just south of the Moss Landing Harbor mouth. There were no injuries or fatalities, no damage to the vessel, and no spills of hazmat or debris. The vessel was salvaged from the beach by land the following day. For further information, contact Scott Kathey at (831) 647-4251.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

MBNMS Exploration Center planning is moving quickly. As part of the Project Design Approvals and Management (PDAM) Process, a short list of Architects has been selected to interview to develop Phase 2 scoping documents and have been notified. Separate from the PDAM process, the Interpretive planning firm short list will be identified on 8/3. Interviews will be held 8/24 and 8/25. Interview committee members will include staff from Booz Allen Hamilton (2), City of Santa Cruz (3), MBNMS (3), and at least one more partner organization. For more information contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.

Planning meetings continue for the interpretive storefront exhibitory at the MBNMS San Simeon facility. Preliminary drawings have

been created to generate the discussion points and to assist in the narrowing of topics. This 800 square foot facility is scheduled to open September '05. The facility is now undergoing preparation (security, fire and IT connections) for Michele Roest to set up the new Southern Region office, which will have space for 3-4 staff. For more information contact Michele Roest (805) 927-2145.

MBNMS has contracted with the Monterey Maritime Museum to revamp their USS *Macon* exhibit, in preparation for the upcoming FY05 Maritime Heritage/Research Cruise. For more information contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.

Planning for the interpretive center in San Simeon continues, as MBNMS and California State Parks staff work to refine the messages that will define the exhibitry and signage at the William Randolph Hearst Memorial State Beach. Partners met on August 5th to clarify and initiate the process of renovating the existing facility. For more information, contact Michele Roest at (805) 927-2145.

On August 10, Karen Grimmer and Liz Love met with USCG Lieutenant Commander Darminio to discuss installing MBNMS interpretive signs on the Monterey Breakwater pier. The beautification project is part of the overall pier redevelopment. The pier project is led by USCG, and is designed to consolidate federal slips and storage areas, while enhancing public access and outreach along the historic Breakwater pier. For more information, contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4253.

As part of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail effort, the interpretive working group met to review the preliminary draft of the trail's interpretive plan in preparation for their presentation to Congressman Sam Farr, scheduled for August 18. The interpretive working group consists of: MBNMS, National Parks (Rivers Trails and Conservation Assistance Program), California State Parks, Monterey Regional Parks and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments. For more information, please contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.

On August 14, Deidre Hall and Scott Kathey took out a VOOM (a "Dish" network) reporter and cameraperson on the MBNMS boat to shoot footage of the TeamOCEAN kayak volunteers, kayakers out on the water and area wildlife. Lisa Emanuelson, who oversees the TeamOCEAN program, was with them to do an on-camera interview and they also interviewed one of the TeamOCEAN volunteers, as well as kayakers on the water. MBNMS will follow-up to get a copy of the story. For more information, contact Rachel Saunders at 647-4237.

On August 24th and 25th a selection committee, representing the city of Santa Cruz's Redevelopment Agency, Booz-Allen Hamilton and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, conducted interviews of four interpretive firms and six architectural firms for the design of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Exploration Center. One final interpretive firm interview will take place this Thursday, September 2nd. Contracts, pending reference checks and contract negotiations, will be awarded within the next three weeks. For more information, contact Stacia Fletcher at (831) 420-1630 or Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.

On August 18th Lisa Emanuelson and Maris Sidenstecker began restaurant outreach within the City of Monterey. The day was set up as a training for Lisa to then take the program to restaurants within the City of Seaside which will be occurring this month. For more information, contact Lisa Emanuelson at (831) 372-7918.

In preparation for the final selection of an interpretive firm for design work for the MBNMS Exploration Center, several site visits were conducted on September 10-14th to evaluate previous work done by the top candidates. Site visits included several museums, aquaria and exhibits in the San Francisco Bay area and Washington State. After completion of site visits, a final candidate was selected and contract negotiations are ongoing. For more information, please contact Stacia Fletcher (831-420-1630) or Dawn Hayes (831-647-4256).

On September 8th, Stacia Fletcher and Dawn Hayes participated in a meeting with representatives from State Parks, the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments to establish a pathway for producing a final draft version of the interpretive plan for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail from Seacliff Beach to Lovers Point. For more information, please contact Stacia Fletcher (831) 420-1630.

On September 13th, Lisa Emanuelson, Resource Issue Education Specialist, met with the City of Seaside to go over plans for restaurant outreach in Seaside. The City is currently writing a letter of support for the restaurant outreach program to be included in the packet of information used in the outreach along with videos and surveys. For more information, please contact Lisa at (831) 647-4201.

On September 16th Lisa Emanuelson met with Steven Jesberg from the City of Capitola, Monica Burke-Reid and Asley Blacow from Kestral, to discuss community involvement activities to improve storm water. The consensus was to do a storm drain stenciling project within the City of Capitola in October, before the first rains of the year occur. For more information, please contact Lisa at (831) 647-4201.

On September 17th, Lisa Emanuelson and Cristy Cassel, Bilingual Outreach Specialist gave a presentations to 15 teachers and agency representatives attending the CSUMB EE Certification dinner. Presentations were on the MERITO and LiMPETS Programs. For more information, please contact Lisa at (831) 647-4201.

On Saturday, September 18th, Michele Roest, Lisa Emanuelson, Bridget Hoover, and Bob Yerena participated in the San Simeon Oceans Fair. Organized by MBNMS and coordinated with Coastal Cleanup Day, this outreach event included information booths by environmental organizations and agencies, free kayak rides, live music, a BBQ and raffle prizes for Coastal Cleanup participants. For more information, please contact Michele Roest at (805) 927-2145 or email at michele.roest@noaa.gov.

LiMPETS

On Saturday August 7, Lisa Emanuelson trained 35 CSUMB students in the LiMPETS Program for sand crabs which included field monitoring at Marina State Beach.

August 18-20 Lisa Emanuelson met with teachers and students from Seaside High School to introduce and train students on the LiMPETS Sand Crab Monitoring Program. The following day 60 students monitored a new site at Seaside State Beach on the morning of August 20th. Seaside High students will be monitoring Seaside State Beach for sand crabs (community and toxicology), water quality, and beach profile over the course of the school year under their BWET grant. For more information, contact Lisa Emanuelson at (831) 372-7918.

On September 14th Lisa Emanuelson trained 10 staff of the Exploring New Horizons (ENH) Program in the LiMPETS/Sand Crab Monitoring Program at Natural Bridges State Park. ENH plans on using the sand crab monitoring program with school groups from the Salinas area to introduce students to the coastal environment and explore the ideas of urban runoff and pollution along our coastal zone. For more information, please contact Lisa at (831) 647-4201.

On September 16th Lisa Emanuelson led a group of 55 students from Seaside High in the LiMPETS/ Sand Crab Monitoring Program at Seaside Beach.

MERITO

During the week of July 12, MERITO staff led two water quality-monitoring activities at Natividad Creek Park with forty-eight, 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. During the activity students learned how to test for dissolved oxygen, turbidity, pH and temperature at their local creek and conducted an aquatic insect surveys to assess the health of their local creek. Students also learned about the importance of water quality and ways to help keep their watershed healthy. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4215.

During the week of July 12, MERITO staff presented to 94 English language learners through the Salinas Adult Education and Pasos al Exito programs. The presentations were followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration. Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. For more information, contact Claudia Pineda, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4212.

On July 16 MERITO staff and volunteers participated in Frank Paul Elementary's Strawberry Festival in Salinas. The event was attended by over 480 kindergarten through 6th grade students. MERITO staff provided fun hands on activities and education about watershed and sanctuary protection. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

From July 19 – July 23, Michelle Templeton attended the National Marine Educators association conference in St. Petersburg, Florida. Marine educators, organizations and agencies come together to exchange resources and share programs and techniques for effective marine conservation through education. Michelle presented a session on MERITO, which was enthusiastically received by interested agencies and educators from all over the United States, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton, MERITO Program Manager at (831) 647-4211

On July 16 and July 23, MERITO staff led stream sampling activities for a total of forty-nine, 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. During the activity students conducted an aquatic insect surveys to assess the health of their local creek. Students learned about the importance of key species as indicators of environmental health. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On July 21, MERITO staff hosted a Spanish bilingual hike and crab monitoring activity at Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research

Reserve for forty English language learners through the Pasos al Exito program. The hike focused on natural history and conservation of the Elkhorn Slough and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and its associated watersheds. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On July 26, as part of the MERITO effort, Michelle Templeton presented on sanctuary and watershed issues during the first day of a five-day teacher workshop with Moss Landing Marine Laboratories. The workshop focuses on giving high school teachers the tools to conduct lessons on seabird mortality and harmful algal blooms in the classroom. Michelle also led a watershed hike at the Elkhorn Slough Reserve to familiarize teachers with watershed concepts as well as becoming familiar with shore and seabirds for their seabird mortality data collection session. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On July 27, MERITO staff hosted a Beach Clean-Up at Seaside State Beach for ninety 6th grade students enrolled in the summer MERITO Watershed Academy program at Frank Paul Middle School in Salinas. The Beach Clean-Up concluded a month long program that provide students with hands-on field experiences related to watershed and marine conservation. Expansion of the MERITO Watershed Academy year-long program to the Salinas region is scheduled for fall of 2004. For more information contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On July 28, MERITO staff presented to 23 intermediate/advanced English language learners through the Salinas Adult Education program. The presentations were followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration. These presentations are part of MERITO's expansion into the Salinas region in partnership with Salinas Union High School District and Healthy Start. For more information contact Claudia Pineda at (831) 647-4212

On July 30, MERITO staff took part in wrapping up a 5-day high school teacher workshop in partnership with Moss Landing Marine Labs. Michelle Templeton presented on policy and management issues as they relate to harmful algal blooms and marine mammal and seabird mortality data collected and concepts learned throughout the week. The presentation was followed by a discussion on cultural sensitivity and how to make the information in the workshop relevant to students; particularly those living greater distances from the ocean or that come from varied cultural backgrounds. For more information contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On August 6-7, MERITO will host a training to prepare teachers/youth leaders implementing the MERITO Watershed Academy afterschool program this school year. The Watershed Academy began in fall of 2002 and has now expanded from one pilot program in Watsonville to various programs throughout the Watsonville and Salinas regions. This program provides hands-on, inquiry based watershed and ocean science experiences to 5th-8th grade students that are predominately English language learners. For more information contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On August 5, MERITO will be welcoming on Rocío Lozano de Knowlton as the Bilingual Community Liaison to begin a community needs assessment and develop an implementation plan for the MERITO program in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) region. Rocío was born in Mexico and received her masters in marine resource development and protection and her bachelors in oceanography. For more information contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On August 6-7, MERITO hosted a training session to prepare teachers/youth leaders implementing the MERITO Watershed Academy after school program this school year. 15 teachers and youth leaders participated in hands-on, inquiry based field and classroom activities from the MERITO watershed activity guide. MERITO expects the after school programming to expand to these 15 sites this school year. For more information, contact Michelle Templeton at (831) 647-4211.

On August 14, MERITO hosted a Tidepool Exploration activity for CSUMB's Bridge program. Forty-three in-coming college students, participated in the Spanish bilingual activity focused on natural history and conservation of tidepool ecosystems in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Participants were given tidepool exploration and wildlife viewing guidelines before exploring the intertidal with their naturalist guides. All participants received Threatened and Thriving posters. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4215.

On August 26th, the MERITO team kicked off their Watershed Academy after school program for the 2004-2005 school year at Pajaro Middle School. The Watershed Academy has now expanded from one pilot program in Watsonville to eleven programs throughout the Pajaro, Watsonville and Salinas regions. This program provides hands-on, inquiry based watershed and ocean science experiences for 5th to 8th grade students that are predominately English language learners. For more information, contact Cristy Cassel at (831) 647-4211.

On Wednesday, September 1st, MBNMS Education Staff Michele Roest and Dawn Hayes will meet with California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Luis Obispo Coast District staff to continue the development of the interpretive themes and exhibitory for the

~900 sq. ft interpretive center at San Simeon. A Memorandum of Understanding is under development between the two entities to outline the terms of use for the state facility (currently outlined as a right of entry agreement), staffing, content and volunteers. The draft should be submitted to NMSHQ by the end of the FY04 fiscal year. For more information, please contact Dawn Hayes at (831) 647-4256.

During the week of September 7th, the MERITO team kicked off their Watershed Academy after school program for the 2004-2005 school year at El Sausal Middle School in Salinas and at Alianza Middle School in Watsonville. Watershed Academy has now expanded from one pilot program in Watsonville to eleven programs throughout the Pajaro, Watsonville and Salinas regions. This program provides hands-on, inquiry based watershed and ocean science experiences for 5th to 8th grade students that are predominately English language learners. For more information, please contact Cristy Cassel, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4215.

During the week of September 7th, MERITO staff presented to 37 intermediate/advanced English language learners through the Salinas Adult Education program. The presentations were followed by an interactive watershed model demonstration. Free passes to the Elkhorn Slough Estuarine Research Reserve were provided to all participants. These presentations are part of MERITO's partnership with Salinas Union High School District and Healthy Start. For more information, please contact Claudia Pineda, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4212.

On September 16-17th, the MERITO and MBNMS Education team hosted a booth at the annual World of Water celebration part of the Santa Cruz County Fair. The event drew in over 3000 children. The team provided information and activities on watershed and marine protection for all participants. More than 20 watershed and marine protection agencies and organizations from Santa Cruz to Salinas joined together to provide children's activities centered around conservation. For more information, please contact Cristy Cassel, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4215.

On September 17th, MERITO staff participated in a pre- Coastal Cleanup event at Rolling Hills Middle School in Watsonville. The event brought conservation experts from the area to provide all students with a variety of activities such as storm drain stenciling, art and litter clean ups throughout the day. MERITO staff facilitated a California Coastal Cleanup coloring contest and art projects relating to environmental protection. For more information, please contact Claudia Pineda, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4212.

On September 18th, the MERITO team participated as Beach Captains at Salinas River State Beach during the 20th Annual California Coastal Cleanup Day part of the International Coastal Cleanup organized by The Ocean Conservancy. Ninety-one diverse community members participated at the Salinas River site, contributing to the statewide efforts of collecting marine debris while learning about impacts and ways to prevent ocean pollution. Two hundred and ten pounds of trash and recyclables were collected at this site. For more information, please contact Cristy Cassel, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4215.

On September 19th, MERITO hosted its fourth Kayak Day. Twenty-one community members from Santa Cruz to Salinas, participated in the Spanish bilingual tour focused on natural history and conservation of the Elkhorn Slough and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary waters. Kenton Parker of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve joined the MERITO team as a naturalist guide. Participants were also provided with goodie bags and free passes to ESNERR following the paddle. All kayak and equipment rentals were donated by Monterey Bay Kayaks. For more information, please contact Claudia Pineda, MERITO Bilingual Outreach Specialist at (831) 647-4212.

SIGNIFICANT NEWS COVERAGE

“Water wars; Desalination threatens to keep us on escapist path” by Tim Holt, San Francisco Chronicle, 7/11/04

“New elephant seal sculpture at the Seymour Center honors Long Marine Lab volunteers” by Tim Stephens, UCSC Currents, 7/24/04

“Projects, management head sanctuary agenda” Santa Cruz Sentinel, 7/24/04

“Projects, management head sanctuary agenda”, Central Coast-Coast Lines, Santa Cruz Sentinel, July 24, 2004

“Desalination plans get their hearing before board”, Virginia Hennessey, Monterey Herald, July 30, 2004

“Board to hear competing desalination plans”, Virginia Hennessey, Monterey Herald, July 28, 2004

“Congratulations to Stephanie Harlan”, Congressman Sam Farr’s Summer 2004 E-newsletter,
<http://www.farr.house.gov/display2.cfm?id=7074&type=My%20>, July 2004

“ ‘Coralito’s Bay’ is a children’s book by the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation. It’s available in English and Spanish. ‘Coralito’s Bay’ takes children on an underwater adventure.” Silas Spaeth, The Salinas Californian, July 31, 2003

“Monterey Bay fishermen win battle but may lose war” by Paul Miller, Carmel Pine Cone, 8/6/04

“Victim of shark attack was noted sport fishing advocate; Death of Randall “Randy” Fry shocks fishing, marine communities” by Virginia Hennessey, Monterey County Herald, 8/18/04

“In Monterey” New York Times, 8/27/04

“Former state Senate Majority Leader Henry Mello dies at age 80” Associated Press, Monterey County Herald, 9/7/04

“Beach smoking ban under construction”, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Staff Report, 9/9/04



WEB SITE (<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the MBNMS web site.

- MERITO
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/merito/welcome.html>
- News
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/new/welcome.html>

*Please take a few moments to peruse the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated.
Comments and suggestions can be sent to andrew.white@noaa.gov.*

FUN, OCEAN RELATED WEB SITES

SIMON

www.mbnms-simon.org

Snapshot Day

<http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/pendx.html>

National Marine Sanctuary Program

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Publications Library

www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/library/library.html

National Estuarine Research Reserve System

<http://nerms.noaa.gov/>

NOAA Ocean Explorer

<http://oceanexplorer.noaa.gov/>

National Data Buoy Center

<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/rmd.shtml>

National Ocean Service

<http://www.nos.noaa.gov/>

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration

<http://www.noaa.gov/>

Tides Online

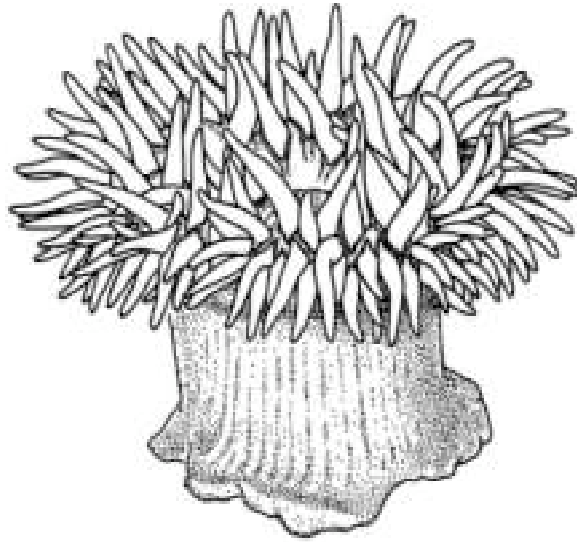
<http://tidesonline.noaa.gov/>

Nautical Charts

<http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/charts.htm>

CALENDAR

| OCTOBER | |
|-----------------|--|
| Oct 18 | <i>R/V Shearwater</i> Cruise (ends 11/6) |
| Oct 19 | CWG Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |
| NOVEMBER | |
| Nov 15 | SEP Meeting at ESNERR, 3:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. |
| Nov 16 | CWG Meeting, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Moss Landing Harbor District meeting room |
| Nov 17 | BTAP Meeting, 7:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m., Monterey Bay Aquarium |
| Nov 17 | Network Steering Committee Meeting, 9:30 a.m. |
| Nov 19 | RAP Meeting at Hopkins Marine Station |
| DECEMBER | |
| Dec 3 | Joint MBNMS/GFNMS Advisory Council Meeting at Coastanoa, Pescadero |



Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Office Report is produced bi-monthly by the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the Sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
<http://www.montereybay.noaa.gov/intro/advisory.html>

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/internship.html>

Sign up for the MBNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming Sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its Working Groups:
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/discussiongroups/disgroups.html>

MBNMS Staff

William Douros – Sanctuary Superintendent
Holly Price – Acting Superintendent and Resource Protection Coordinator
Andrew DeVogelaere – Research Coordinator
Erica Burton – Research Assistant
Irina Kogan – Research Fellow
Steve Lonhart – SIMoN Scientist
Jean de Marignac – SIMoN Scientist
Chad King – SIMoN Data Analyst
Josh Pederson – SIMoN Outreach Specialist
Dawn Hayes – Education & Outreach Coordinator
Liz Love – Education Specialist
Lisa Emanuelson – Resource Issue Ed Specialist
Michelle Templeton – MERITO Program Manager
Cristy Cassel – Bilingual Education Specialist
Claudia Pineda – Bilingual Education Specialist
Michele Roest – Education & Outreach Specialist, San Simeon Office
Stacia Fletcher – Education & Outreach Specialist, Santa Cruz Office
Scott Kathey – Regulatory Coordinator
Deirdre Hall – Permit Coordinator
Brad Damitz – Environmental Policy Specialist
Huff McGonigal – Environmental Policy Specialist
Katie Siegler – Agriculture Water Quality Coordinator
Chris Coburn – Water Quality Protection Program Director
Bridget Hoover – Water Quality Network Coordinator
Lisa de Marignac – Environmental Policy Specialist
Karen Grimmer – Program Operations Coordinator
Sean Morton – Management Plan Coordinator
Paul Chetirkin – Assistant Management Plan Coordinator
Raymond Chisolm – Program Specialist
Rachel Saunders – Community & Public Relations Coordinator
Nicole Capps – Advisory Council Coordinator & Management Support Specialist
Heather Cauldwell – Administrative Assistant
Dave Lott – GIS Coordinator



- Contact Information -

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

299 Foam Street
Monterey, CA 93940
Phone (831) 647-4201
Fax (831) 647-4250