

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Final Meeting Minutes

October 16, 2020

Virtual Meeting

VOTING MEMBERS

Agriculture: Sarah Lopez
AMBAG: Steve McShane
At-Large: Dan Haifley
At-Large: Gary Hoffmann
At-Large: PJ Webb
Business & Industry: Tom Rowley
CA Coastal Commission: absent
CA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife: Paul Reilly
CA EPA: Karen Mogus
CA Resources Agency: Tova Handelman

CA State Parks: absent
Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark
Conservation: Katherine O’Dea
Diving: Brian Nelson
Education: Felicia Van Stolk
Harbors: John Haynes
Recreation: Gary Pezzi
Recreational Fishing: Jose Montes
Research: John Hunt
Tourism: Mike Bekker

NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Channel Islands NMS: absent
College: Jacob Winnikoff
Cordell Bank NMS: absent
Elkhorn Slough NERR: Dan Brumbaugh
Greater Farallones NMS: Brian Johnson
Monterey Bay NMS: Kevin Grant
National Marine Fisheries Service: Steve Lindley
U.S. Coast Guard: LT Jake Joseph

Alternates Present in the audience:

Cynthia Mathews – At-Large northern region
Carol Maehr – At-Large central region
Gwen Kellas – At-Large southern region
Charlie Lambert – Commercial Fishing
Rachel Kippen – Conservation
Keith Rootsart – Diving
Bart Selby – Recreation
Adam Helm – Recreational Fishing
Steven Haddock – Research
Dawn Mathes – Tourism
Julia Dyer – CA EPA
Chelsea Protasio – CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marian Olin – Harbors
Jim Pruett – Harbors
Dawn Hayes – Monterey Bay NMS

I. CALL TO ORDER, ROLL CALL, AND MEETING MINUTES

Chair Brian Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. Roll call was taken.

Approval of August Meeting Minutes:

Gary Pezzi introduced a motion to approve the August meeting minutes. Seconded by Steve McShane.

MOTION: Passed

(Vote: 16 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstentions)

Adam Helm, Recreational Fishing alternate and Dawn Mathes, Tourism alternate were sworn in as MBNMS AC members.

Nichole Rodriguez gave an update on recruitment for the College primary seat as well as an update on virtual “coffee talk” meetings with each AC seat.

Brian Nelson re-capped the AC on the process that occurred to get the offshore wind farm comment letter to California Coastal Commission submitted to the register.

II. STANDING ITEM: MBNMS Superintendent Report

Kevin Grant, Acting Superintendent introduced himself to the AC and gave a summary of his background with ONMS. Highlights from his report include:

Research

- E/V *Nautilus* cruise underway October 7 through 18. Our focus has been on exploring the Davidson Seamount at octopus breeding sites, and getting population counts, and unexplored areas of the Davidson Seamount Management Area. We are running a collaborative cruise with GFNMS (interested in corals in Pioneer Canyon part of MBNMS), CINEMA, and the West Coast Region (interested in the proposed Chumash Sanctuary). Sadly, weather and ROV breakdown have been an issue, but we are getting work done.
- Our dive program and Beach COMBERS have been approved with limited operations, under COVID restrictions.
- We expect our 22 ft Radon to be completed in November or December, to be operated jointly with the WCR.

Education

- SEC team did 16 live engagements (45 minutes each) to an estimated 387 students virtually

Resource Protection

- Oct 3, we hosted an Agricultural Plastics Webinar on recycling options, and 150 plus people participated.
- First Flush training is underway, in preparation for the first rain and monitoring for WQ contaminants
- Team Ocean is back on the water until December, or the weather becomes inclement
- Dry run monitoring has been completed!

- MBNMS Volunteer Seminar Series for all our volunteer groups is underway. Topics are wide ranging and include a variety of guest/expert speakers.
- The Climate Change Impact Report is now posted on the MBNMS home page, and we are hoping to present the priority issues at a future meeting
- MBNMS continues to represent the west coast sanctuaries on the Dungeness crab fishing gear working group to work on reducing whale entanglements in crab gear, and CDFW risk assessment regulations will go into effect in December.

Operations and Administration

- MPR Process Continues:
 - Formulating response to Comments document
 - Conducting agency consultations
 - Making edits to the draft management plan, DEA and proposed rule

Twelve permits were issues since the last AC meeting. To view the report:

<https://nmsmontereybay.blob.core.windows.net/montereybay-prod/media/sac/2020/200821/200821permit.pdf>

III. PUBLIC COMMENT FOR ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Cynthia Mathews welcomed Kevin Grant to MBNMS and the AC.

Dan Haifley announced the MBNMS Foundation virtual Sea Stars Brunch on December 6th from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM.

Ginaia Kelly gave some further details on the Sea Stars Brunch. She also announced the online chess tournament on November 6th and a Monterey County online giving campaign on November 12th.

IV. ACTION ITEM: Nominations for Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary)

Dawn Hayes took nominations for Council Chair. Brian Nelson was the sole nominee.

Dawn took nominations for Council Vice Chair. Dan Haifley was the sole nominee. Dawn took nominations for Council Secretary. Sarah Lopez was the sole nominee.

V. INFORMATION ITEM: Developing Best Practices for Unmanned Aerial Vehicles uses in MBNMS

Karen Grimmer, MBNMS Resource Protection Coordinator started with background and introductory information regarding unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) use in MBNMS. She discussed regulated activities in MBNMS and NOAA's Restricted Overflights Zones that apply to UAVs. She also discussed the issue of UAVs in MBNMS and how MBNMS is addressing overflights disturbance to wildlife.

Meredith McPherson, UCSC Kudela Lab PhD Candidate presented research UAV use for kelp canopy surveys. She discussed the purposes for the surveys, the benefits of using UAVs for mapping kelp canopy and potential wildlife disturbance.

Karen and Meredith both discussed considerations for best practices including: approvals and permitting as needed; considering type, shape and color of UAV relative to the environment; avoiding potentially threatened approached trajectories and sporadic flight movements; UAV disturbance monitoring for sensitive species.

For more information: [link pending upload to MBNMS AC webpage](#)

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There were clarifying questions and discussion regarding best practices process, wildlife disturbance monitoring and cumulative effects of multiple drone transects in an area.

VI. INFORMATION ITEM: MBNMS Soundscape

Andrew DeVogelaere, MBNMS Research Coordinator gave an update on sound related research in MBNMS. He started with an introduction to soundscapes and sanctuary objectives related to sound. He discussed the hydrophones within MBNMS and gave examples of the types of sounds the hydrophones have been detecting including seal bombs. Andrew also talked about the effects COVID-19 has had on ship noise and whale stress hormones. He discussed the new sound exhibit at the Sanctuary Education Center (SEC) and other SEC education products and efforts. Andrew also talked about researchers starting to look at cruise ship noise within the sanctuary and possible effects on marine mammals. Andrew described other efforts to study sound including integration with NOAA's Noise Reference Station program and collaboration with Google's AI Perception Team on machine learning methods with seal bombs as the first focal topic. Lastly, Andrew requested the AC to think about input on other types of issues to be addressed with hydrophone data such as measuring sounds from drones or characterizing sounds associated with wildlife viewing boats.

For more information: [link pending upload to MBNMS AC webpage](#)

Advisory Council Member Discussion:

There were clarifying questions and discussion regarding cruise ship sounds, the use of seal bombs as deterrents used by commercial fishermen, as well as working with Google's AI Perception Team.

VII. ACTION ITEM CONTINUED: Results of elections for Executive Committee

Dawn Hayes announced Brian Nelson as the Chair, Dan Haifley as the Vice Chair and Sarah Lopez as the Secretary.

Meeting adjourned approximately 12:50 PM.