



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Office Report



Volume 19, Number 5

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1992, 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, MBNMS encompasses a shoreline of 276 miles and 6,094 square statute miles of ocean.

Supporting one of the world's most diverse marine ecosystems, it is home to numerous mammals, seabirds, fishes, invertebrates and plants in a remarkably productive coastal environment. MBNMS was established for the purpose of resource protection, research, education and public use of this national treasure.

A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEMBERS

REPORTING PERIOD: AUGUST 5 - OCTOBER 7, 2022

**NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)
AND OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS) NEWS**

National Marine Sanctuary System USPS Stamp Series Issued

In celebration of the National Marine Sanctuary System's 50th anniversary, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries teamed up with the U.S. Postal Service to showcase our nation's underwater treasures with 16 new National Marine Sanctuaries Forever® stamps, which showcase the abundant wildlife, scenic beauty, and underwater treasures that can be found throughout the sanctuary system. On August 5th, a First Day of Issuance ceremony was held at the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, California to celebrate the release of the stamp series, which are now available for purchase and use [here](#).

Biden-Harris Administration Advances Commitment to Create More Equitable Access to Parks and Nature in Communities:

As part of the President's America the Beautiful initiative, the Biden-Harris Administration celebrated the signing of the "United States Government Interagency Memorandum of Understanding on Promoting Equitable Access to Nature in Nature- Deprived Communities" by Department of Commerce/NOAA and nine additional Federal departments and agencies. This effort focuses on strengthening investments in communities who have been locked out of the benefits nature provides to ensure all Americans can benefit from safe parks, natural areas, and waterways where they live, work, and play by expanding access to local parks, tree canopy cover, conservation areas, open space and water-based recreation, public gardens, beaches, and waterways, which the memorandum identifies as "parks and green and blue spaces."

The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) will convene the newly formed interagency group, named the Nature in Communities Committee, formerly the AtB Parks and Nature AtB subcommittee, with representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, AmeriCorps, and the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Commerce (DOC/NOAA is represented by OAR/Hunter Jones and NOS/Grace Bottitta-Williamson), Army, Housing and Urban Development, Transportation, and Homeland Security. These Federal departments and agencies have committed to collaborate with and learn from each other, and support local leaders' efforts to improve access to nature and create, expand, steward, and conserve natural spaces for all Americans.

National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar Series Reaches Nearly 40,000 Live Attendees since 2016

Formal and informal educators, students, and other interested people around the globe continue to connect with the National Marine Sanctuary System through our virtual classroom that increases the accessibility of science-based learning. The [National Marine Sanctuaries Webinar Series](#) has been providing audiences with educational and scientific expertise, resources, and training to support ocean and climate literacy in the classroom since 2016. In FY2022, a total of 44 distance-learning opportunities were provided in the series with the majority of them hosted by our field sites with a total 20,755 registrants and 9,591 live attendees. Since 2016, the webinar series has provided live programming to nearly 40,000 live attendees through 157 distance learning programs and webinar presentations.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS

Sanctuary co-hosts Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange with local tribe

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, working together with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries Pacific Islands Region, collaborated with the Makah Tribe in Washington state to host a Cross-Pacific Indigenous Exchange. The intent of this exchange was to build Indigenous relationships across the Pacific and facilitate ideas on appropriate and meaningful mechanisms for engagement between sanctuaries and Indigenous communities. Representatives from Makah Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, native Hawaiians, Aleut Community of Saint Paul Island Tribal Government, and Saint George Island met in Neah Bay, WA to share information on their cultures, experiences, and working relationships with sanctuaries, and to identify ways to sustain this partnership into the future.



New Partnership Reduces Waste in Florida Keys

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary recently entered into a new partnership with Brightmark, a company specializing in an innovative advanced recycling technology. Within the sanctuary, a network of more than 900 mooring and zoning buoys protects the sanctuary from resource impacts, including anchoring. The polypropylene downlines that connect the buoys to the seafloor must be replaced every couple of years, and the used material was previously sent to a landfill. Now, the plastic waste gets sent to Brightmark's first of its kind plastic renewal facility where the lines are converted into pellets, beginning a circular loop where the plastic lives on as a new product in a useful economy. A video on the project is available [here](#).

Sanctuary Accomplishments Highlighted in Our Blue Legacy Report

In celebration of the 50th anniversary of the National Marine Sanctuary System, our Blue Legacy presents [eight key findings](#) about the accomplishments of the sanctuary system over the past 50 years, including case studies demonstrating each accomplishment. Presented as a series of findings, the highlighted accomplishments are based on evidence such as the external reviews that have been conducted of the system since the mid-1970s, opinions of academic, legal, and policy experts, sanctuary condition reports, and performance measures.

Sanctuaries Host Shark Science Students

Over the past few weeks, Gray's Reef and Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries played host to students from [Minorities in Shark Science \(MISS\)](#), providing the students the opportunity to participate in field research, learn about national marine sanctuaries, and meet with staff and partners in order to make connections and expand their professional networks. MISS provides funding opportunities and a community for gender minorities of color who wish to enter the field of marine sciences. The visits were made possible through an internal ONMS Diversity and Inclusion mini grant.

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY NEWS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

SANCTUARY MANAGEMENT

COAST intern completes Indigenous Community Engagement Strategy project

MBNMS staff hosted a California State University Council on Ocean Affairs, Science & Technology (COAST) undergraduate intern this summer to help staff develop an Indigenous community engagement strategy. Upon completion of internship, the student produced an internal Action Plan with the goal to improve MBNMS engagement and collaboration with Indigenous communities who have connections to the waters and submerged lands within the sanctuary. The Action Plan will be shared with ONMS Indigenous Community Engagement Team for review and feedback. The Plan will jump start MBNMS staff engagement efforts with regional Indigenous communities. The student is a senior at California Polytechnic University San Luis Obispo, who is majoring in Environmental Management and Protection, and minoring in Indigenous Studies in Natural Resources. In 2021, ONMS produced a Roadmap to Working with Indigenous Communities to better recognize and engage with Indigenous Communities and their relationships with resources connected to national marine sanctuaries. These connections to place are central to the identities and cultures of Indigenous peoples. Recognizing and valuing these relationships is essential to ONMS' mission to protect these nationally significant places for current and future generations. The Roadmap served as a framework for developing an engagement strategy for our sanctuary.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

MBNMS Research Activity Panel Holds Virtual Meeting

On September 9th, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Research Activity Panel (RAP) met virtually. Agenda items and presentations included: CeNCOOS program update; June and August Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings; Advisory Council recruitment for research seats; RAP recommendations on kelp research and restoration; offshore wind energy update; and 2022 Ricketts Award and Lecture. The MBNMS Research Activity Panel (RAP) is a working group of the MBNMS Advisory Council (AC). The RAP meets five times per year, and advises AC and sanctuary staff on basic and conservation science issues.

Sanctuary Divers Explore Big Sur Coastline August 17-18, 2022

During the week of August 12-19, sanctuary divers planned to conduct biodiversity surveys at several sites along the Big Sur coastline as part of the Big Sur Nearshore Characterization program. Weather, including heavy fog, and air compressor issues cut the trip from 5 days down to 36 hours, but divers were able to assess three sites in spite of the obstacles. These data help characterize resources adjacent to highway 1, which is prone to landslides and debris flows in the winter, and guides decisions related to permitted side-casting undertaken by state agencies. When decisions must be made relative to permitting activities, and the disposal of unconsolidated material into the sanctuary, these kinds of data are used to inform staff about the biology below the surface of these waters. In the absence of these firsthand observations, it is not known whether these areas are sandy or rocky bottoms, or what kinds of organisms live on site.



RESOURCE PROTECTION

Three Vessels Ground in MBNMS in Two Days

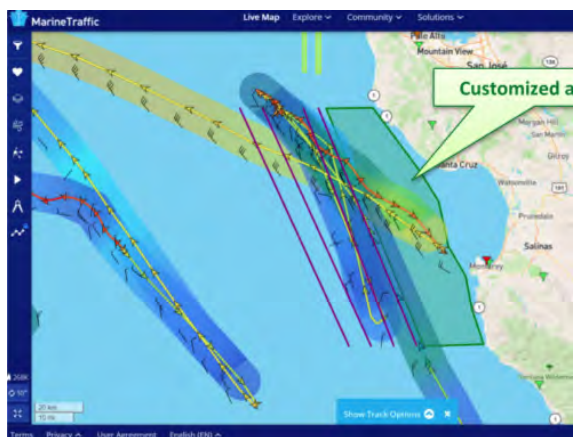
On Sunday, September 18th, two vessels grounded within hours of each other on Capitola beach near the wharf. One was a 30' Protector and the other a 30' sailboat. Both broke free from their mooring balls during an unusual winter storm in September. The owners of each took responsibility and hired TowBoat US to tow them off the beach and to safety at Santa Cruz harbor. The Protector was removed within 2 hours of grounding and the sailboat was removed the following day.



Neither resulted in any discharge to the sanctuary. The third grounding occurred on September 19th, when a rogue wave flipped a 23' Maycraft fishing vessel off the Big Sur coast near Mill Creek. Approximately 30 gallons of fuel was released and sheen observed in the area. The single person on board was rescued by the Big Sur Fire Brigade after the boat grounded upside down on the rocks. When the USCG did an overflight the next morning, there was nothing left of the vessel. It had broken into pieces within 12 hours. It is critical to act fast when a vessel grounds to ensure minimal impact to sanctuary resources. Owners with insurance are able to quickly hire salvors to tow the vessel off the beach before it breaks apart in the high energy surf zone.

Monterey Bay SAR Missions Day

On Saturday, September 11th, Resource Protection staff participated in the Monterey Bay Search and Rescue Council Missions Day event, coordinated by USCG Station Monterey. The Council is a unified response and partnership with Federal, State and local agencies to serve and safeguard the public in the maritime environment of the Monterey Bay area. Many different first responder organizations participated showcasing their vehicles and response gear. MBNMS, with assistance from WCRO, had the R/V *Tegula* on display alongside our table of brochures and handouts. The public was able to climb around on a USCG helicopter, cutter and small boats. This event was a great opportunity for the public to interact with maritime first responders from around the Monterey Bay area and learn more about the sanctuary, see the equipment that is available in case of emergency, and tour the rescue vessels and aircraft.



MBNMS Resource Protection Team Finalize the 2020 and 2021 Vessel Traffic Report

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS or sanctuary) staff analyzed Automated Information System (AIS) data from Marine Traffic and United States Coast Guard (USCG) to evaluate compliance by cargo vessels and tankers with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) recommended vessel tracks. The [2020/2021 MBNMS Traffic Analysis Report](#) evaluates the AIS data for 2020 and 2021 and compares those analyses to the 2019 data. Monthly deviation rates by cargo vessels and tankers through the customized alert zone in

2019 and 2020 were analogous while the deviation rates in 2021 were lower even though the total number of cargo and tanker vessel transits through MBNMS was higher in 2021 than in 2019 and 2020. Vessel speeds were analyzed in a variety of ways to help inform managers about the risk of ship strikes to whales. Vessel traffic within MBNMS was a major issue of concern raised during the designation process due to potential impacts from a large spill should one of these vessels ground along the coastline. Tracking compliance with the IMO tracks provided data to support the need to broadcast a Superintendent Statement and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) to publish a Marine Safety/Security Information Bulletin in 2021 to raise awareness of this age-old issue. In addition, these data were essential to support input provided by MBNMS staff to the Pacific Coast Port Access Route Study (PAC-PARS).

Water Quality Staff Co-host Rangeland Carbon Sequestration Event

Ranchers and rangelands are part of the Climate Change Solution hybrid (in person/online) event that took place on September 22nd. The information presented will help inform the Monterey County Climate Action Plan. The primary goal of this workshop was to provide the participants with the latest information on rangeland carbon sequestration, ranching practices that sequester carbon, and an understanding of how ranchers have contributed to carbon sequestration and how they can continue to help. Approximately 44% of stable organic carbon is stored in CA rangelands. It is the largest stable stock of carbon on the planet (T Geen UC Davis). There are many practices that ranchers can implement to protect this carbon sink which also ultimately protects the sanctuary.

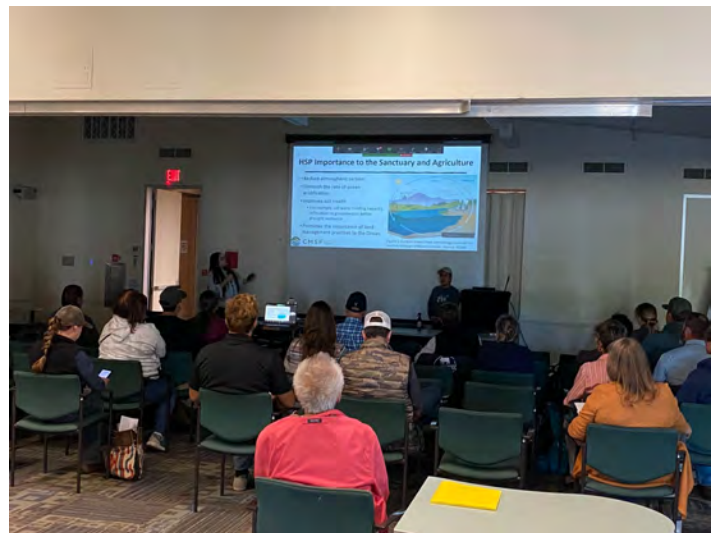


First Flush Event Launched

The unexpected first rainfall of the year in Monterey on 9/18/22 brought over 1 inch of precipitation to many of the coastal areas on the Peninsula. The MBNMS citizen science volunteer program rallied 18 volunteers to help with monitoring runoff flowing from regional storm drains in Seaside, Monterey, Pacific Grove and Carmel. Volunteers took in situ measures of temperature and conductivity and captured water samples for lab analysis of bacteria, nutrients and suspended solids. The first rainfall represents the potential for the highest concentration of pollutants in the season as the water collects chemicals from the surfaces of lawns, streets and sidewalks. By engaging our citizen science network, we were able to monitor and track concentrations in runoff from 11 storm drains. Our trend analysis over the 21 years of the program shows that water quality is improving based on BMPs installed by municipalities.

MBNMS AG Plastic Work Highlighted at the 7th International Marine Debris Conference

On September 20, 2022, Jazmine Mejía Muñoz, Water Quality Program Coordinator presented at the 7TH International Marine Debris Conference on the session “From Farm to Sea: Tackling Agricultural Plastic Pollution. This was the first session, in the IMDC conference history, to address in-field ag plastics as a marine debris source. Ms. Mejia-Muñoz discussed the collaborative work MBNMS and the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation have led in the Monterey Bay region. Together with key agricultural stakeholders, CMSF and MBNMS have worked towards increasing recycling of ag plastics and increasing the implementation of biodegradable ag plastic alternatives. The talk was well received with many attendees. Five other ag plastic experts from around the globe participated in this session. The session concluded with a call for action to a variety of stakeholders to come together to identify solutions towards agricultural plastics reduction and management, assessing benefits and trade-offs with the aim to



eliminate environmental pollution. Agricultural plastic pollution is a source-to-sea issue that has not yet received the attention it deserves. This session represented the first global recognition of ag plastic as a marine debris source. MBNMS has been working on this issue for the last three years, and was able to showcase the collaborative approach they have taken to help prevent ag plastic pollution into marine systems.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Sanctuary Fest – 30th/50th anniversary event held

On Sunday, September 18, MBNMS hosted “Sanctuary Fest: enjoy, learn, protect!” at the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, Ca. The event was to be held along the Santa Cruz Wharf and nearby Cowell Beach, but due to the first storm of the season which provided intermittent heavy rain and gusting winds, the majority of the event was moved indoors. Over 10 exhibitors set up tables inside the center, fish printing took place, and a large crowd came out to celebrate the sanctuary and attend two featured science talks for the day. Ed Lyman, NOAA Regional Large Whale Entanglement Response Coordinator from HIHWNMS provided an informative talk on “Large Whale Entanglement Response: A Tail of Two Sanctuaries” and MBNMS Research Ecologist, Dr. Dr. Andrew DeVogelaere educated and inspired the audience with his talk “Discoveries in the Deep.” The rain and wind caused the cancellation of a few ocean activities such as stand up paddling and kayaking, but the weather did not stop the creation of a sand sculpture that highlighted National Marine Sanctuaries 50th anniversary to the public. Sanctuary partners that exhibited at the event included California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Save The Waves, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Save Our Shores, and Marine Life Studies, among others. A special highlight during the speaker’s ceremony was when two 4th grade students from a local elementary school recited their essay for “What are your hopes and dreams for the next 50 years of ocean protection?” writing contest. In 2022, ONMS celebrates the 50th anniversary of the national marine sanctuary system, and MBNMS celebrates 30 years since designation. Public outreach and education through hosting events brings community significance and relevance to increased awareness, protection, and stewardship of our treasured underwater places for now and future generations.



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS), MBNMS Foundation and City of Santa Cruz Wharf Crew Complete Outdoor Exhibit on Santa Cruz Wharf

Two panels were developed, designed, fabricated and installed on the Santa Cruz wharf in Santa Cruz, CA. MBNMS staff Lisa Uttal worked with MBNMS Foundation Executive Director Ginaia Kelly, artist Ea Eckerman and City of Santa Cruz staff to ensure the panels and artwork were completed in time for the September 18th 30th MBNMS anniversary and Sanctuary Fest. The visitor to this kiosk will come upon a life-size blue whale tail painted on the pavement (25 ft across!) with a beautiful sanctuary map of 4 California sanctuaries. Panel 1 has engaging and colorful photos of organisms, people recreating and some responsible wildlife guidelines. The sign also displays a photo directing people to visit the Sanctuary Exploration Center near the beginning of the wharf. Panel 2 hosts local Santa Cruz artist Ea Eckerman’s beautiful kelp

forest water color in the graphic design. Panel 2 entitled “Love Your Sanctuary” introduces visitors to the MBNMS Foundation and stewardship. The SC Wharf is the furthest one can get out into any sanctuary in the United States (half mile!). Using art as a catalyst to engage the public and communicate our sanctuary messages were incorporated into this visitor experience. Every year, 2 million people visit the beach Boardwalk and wharf areas of Santa Cruz, CA and walk out onto the wharf to experience the sanctuary.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Engages Cabrillo College Students in Bio 450 with a Presentation on the Sanctuary and Plankton

Staff member Lisa Uttal presented a sanctuary 101 program to Cabrillo College students. Twenty-five undergraduates were given a presentation on MBNMS and its relationship to plankton in ecosystem protection. Some concepts conveyed were that plankton is the basis for the incredible biodiversity in MBNMS. As the ocean is warming, we are seeing a changing plankton and more Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs). As humans emit more carbon dioxide from fossil fuel use into our atmosphere, the ocean is under threat of ocean acidification. Plankton is the basis to the incredible biodiversity we see in MBNMS and phytoplankton creates much of the oxygen we breathe. Long term monitoring efforts undertaken at Cabrillo College is a way for underserved college students to get inspired by conducting meaningful research in the sanctuary.

(Summer 2022) NOAA’s Hollings and EPP/MSI Undergraduate Scholarship Program Interns support Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary anniversary events

Caroline Capone (Hollings) and Nadia Vidaldifre (EPP/MSI) were NOAA Undergraduate Scholarship Program interns for the summer of 2022 at Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. During this 8 week internship, Caroline and Nadia communicated messages of ocean literacy, conservation, and protection through graphics, webinars, video, in-person events, and social media posts for the Enjoy Spectacular/Get Into Your Sanctuary July 9th event “Day on the Beach”. Caroline



Capone: “I worked with a leading team of scientists, educators, and multimedia producers to create and share content in a way that effectively streamlined complex science topics for non-scientists to understand.” Throughout the course of the internship, Caroline was able to hone her science-writing and science-communication skills while educating the public. She worked with some of our partners and stakeholders to develop content for social media across Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Through these multiple outlets, MBNMS was able to better share messages of conservation and stewardship. Caroline was interviewed for the local TV local Santa Cruz news. She worked closely with local fishermen and MBNMS Sanctuary Advisory Council members to engage Day on the Beach participants in recreational fishing on the Santa Cruz wharf. In

addition to assisting with the Day on the Beach Event, Nadia Vidaldifre put to use her graphics skills, producing 3 banners, multiple signs and t-shirt graphics for the Day on the Beach event. Using Adobe Illustrator and Indesign, she was able to creatively promote, communicate about the Day on the Beach event with key MBNMS wildlife viewing messages and resource protection messages integrated into her communications. Interns are invaluable and each year provide such a great service to helping MBNMS accomplish their annual activities and goals. In this case, Nadia and Caroline were able to hone some of their skills, while at the same time execute important activities for MBNMS.

MBNMS Staff Host Outreach Table at Blue Innovation Conference

On September 11th, MBNMS staff and volunteers partnered with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to host an outreach table at the Blue Innovation Conference held at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center. The event featured over 20 local ocean conservation non-profits, research, or educational institutions. Over the course of the event, over 75 members of the public were engaged at the booth including several members from Santa Cruz's sister city Biarritz, France. The MBNMS booth focused on the kelp forest ecosystem with several animal artifacts and sample VR goggles set up with "underwater dives" for participants to view. As the NMSS grows, sharing with the public our internal coordination and collaboration will become more important to demonstrate the balance between unique place-based management and benefits from being part of a system of experts and lessons learned. Furthermore, public engagement is a hallmark of sanctuary outreach. Utilizing specific COVID mitigations, we can return to these kinds of events, often making a larger impact than we can through other outreach.

Sanctuary Exploration Center Staff Collaborates with Santa Cruz County Office of Education to co-host Annual Coastal Cleanup Day Site

On Saturday September 17th, 2022, the MBNMS Exploration Center co-hosted a beach cleanup at Cowell/Main Beach in Santa Cruz for Annual Coastal Cleanup Day. This event was a collaboration with MBNMS and the Santa Cruz County Office of Education Tobacco Use Prevention Program (TUPE). This event was one aspect of a year-long partnership with TUPE that will also include tobacco related debris education for volunteers, and field trips to the Exploration Center with high school students. Cleanups were conducted both on the beach and the surrounding streets to specifically target tobacco related debris. Over 50 volunteers attended the cleanup and removed 45 pounds of trash. Annual Coastal Cleanup Day is the largest volunteer trash removal day on the planet. Since the program started in 1985, over 1 million Californians have removed over 20 million pounds of debris from our state's shorelines and coast. Coastal Cleanup Day is a great way for families, students, service groups, and neighbors to join together, take care of our marine sanctuary, show community support for our shared natural resources, learn about the impacts of marine debris and how we can prevent them.

Two New Interns at the Sanctuary Exploration Center

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Foundation/Sanctuary Exploration Center was selected as a host institution for two UCSC interns through the GANAS internship program. Through this program, students are paid to work 12 hours per week with a partner organization and costs are split between the Ganas Program and the MBNMSF. These two interns will support the implementation of hands-on activities at interpretive pop-up stations throughout the Sanctuary Exploration Center during open hours. In the fall of 2022 they will learn public communication and interpretation techniques to put into practice when leading pop-up stations. They will evaluate current activity materials and assist in the modification of materials or creation of new materials. Specifically, evaluate materials for ADA accessibility and appropriateness across age levels. In the winter of 2023, they will each develop one new pop-up station and associated materials/activities. Finally, in the spring of 2023, they will lead regularly scheduled pop-up activities with the public on a weekly basis. Providing experiential learning opportunities to undergraduate students through internships can introduce them to career potentials and inspire them to pursue similar careers post-graduation. Additionally, internships can provide necessary experience to be competitive when applying for future opportunities in related fields.

USPS First Day of Issuance of Forever Stamps Commemorating 50 years of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

On August 5, 2022 the USPS held a First Day of Issuance ceremony at the Sanctuary Exploration Center (visitor center of MBNMS in Santa Cruz) to commemorate 50 years of the National Marine Sanctuary System. Sixteen new Forever stamps showcase the abundant wildlife and diverse ecosystems that can be found throughout the National Marine Sanctuary System. The stamps include photographs taken by NOAA staff, including many by ONMS: Wendy Cover, Jeff Harris, Elliott Hazen, Joseph Hoyt, Ed Lyman, Greg McFall, Matt McIntosh, G. P. Schmahl and Kate Thompson. Other photographers include Daryl Duda, Michael Durham, Mark Sullivan, Peter Turcik, Norbert Wu. You may purchase these fantastic stamps and other products showcasing the stamps at usps.com/shopstamps, by calling 844-737-7826, by mail through [USA Philatelic](https://usa.philatelic.com) or at Post Office locations nationwide.

A REPORT FOR THE SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

The event hosted a ‘who's who’ of Monterey Bay NMS designation, as MBNMS is also celebrating its 30th anniversary. Dan Haifley, (MBNMS Foundation board member) served as master of ceremony; Lisa Wooninck, superintendent, welcomed the guests; and USPS Governor Zollars, Secretary Panetta (also MBNMS Foundation board member) and Bill Douros (WCR director) provided remarks on the significance of the USPS issuing the commemorative stamp series, and the significant connections made by national marine sanctuaries with communities, ocean conservation and stewardship. These Forever stamps will be distributed and enjoyed nationwide and for many, may serve as an introduction to our 16 unique national marine sanctuaries. “The National Marine Sanctuary stamp series is a colorful acknowledgment of our 50th anniversary and a reminder of the beauty, abundance, and diversity of our nation’s most iconic underwater places,” - John Armor, director of NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.



Coastal Discovery Center Report

The Coastal Discovery Center hosted the first education program since the COVID-19 closure on August 9th. Through excellent communication and preparation, it led 11 girl scouts from the Sierra Nevada foothills through a 2.5 hour program covering a tidepool exploration, pier oceanography, and a plankton identification lab. Due to community level high COVID-19 levels in San Luis Obispo County, the Coastal Discovery Center had a smaller amount of visitors, however, upon re-opening, the Coastal Discovery Center greeted 882 visitors in total during the month of September. Staff have been excited to direct guests to the pier where humpback whales were feeding on large bait balls. On Sunday August 14, staff decided to close the Center to the public due to both staffing and visitor shortages. On Wednesday September 28, the CDC hosted an education program for a local continuation high school where students were educated on Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and the whaling history of San Simeon Bay. The Coastal Discovery Center’s goals are to: encourage protection of the Sanctuary’s resources through education and outreach, to increase public awareness and appreciation of our coastal environment, to allow visitors to learn about and understand the unique characteristics of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, to create a sense of personal stewardship for California’s coastal ecosystems, and to contribute knowledge and information shared among regional marine education research and resource protection.

Sanctuary Exploration Center Report

During the week of August 12-19, the Sanctuary Exploration Center had 545 visitors through regular open hours. During this week, the Sanctuary Exploration Center’s hours were expanded to once again be open Wednesday - Sunday, 10am-4pm. This week also welcomed another new volunteer through the docent-in-training program. During the week of August 20-27, the Sanctuary Exploration Center had 564 visitors through regular open hours, as well as two group visits. The Center also had several inquiries from potential volunteers seeing our “Volunteers Needed” sign at our building, and started to receive several requests for field trips from local schools. During period of August 28 - October 1, the Sanctuary Exploration Center had 3,864 visitors through regular open hours, as well as 4 Guided Exploration Tours and 4 self guided tours. Additionally, one of the docents graduated from the Docent-In-Training program. The Toddler Time program this restarted engaging young children and their parents through ocean-themed storytime and crafts. The Sanctuary Exploration Center’s goals are: to educate visitors about the sanctuary's unique and fascinating coastal and marine environment, to foster a more personal connection with the sanctuary and the ocean's relevance in people's daily lives and to encourage stewardship of the sanctuary and a better understanding of how to responsibly enjoy and protect the ocean.

NEWS COVERAGE

[Fishing activities spiking near marine protected areas - Earth.com](#)

Earth.com

... happening in MPAs,” said study co-author Jessica Morten, a resource protection specialist at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

[NOAA scholarship supports graduate student's seabird conservation research](#)

UCSC News - UC Santa Cruz

... is one of seven students nationwide selected by NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries to receive a 2022 Nancy Foster Scholarship.

[Statement from NOAA Administrator on signing of historic Inflation Reduction Act](#)

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

\$50 million to construct NOAA Office of **National Marine Sanctuary** facilities that will enhance and expand National Marine Sanctuaries facilities.

[Experts explain why there's an increase in sea lions in Monterey Bay right now - KSBW](#)

KSBW

He said that they're mostly male sea lions that are returning to Monterey Bay **National Marine Sanctuary** after breeding to rest and find food.

[Northern Chumash Tribal Council to celebrate the reunification of Morro Rock](#)

Paso Robles Daily News Decision to designate Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary moves forward. Northern Chumash Tribal Council says it celebrates the decision ...

[See Something New In Monterey Bay At Seymour Center - TheTravel](#)

TheTravel The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, adjacent to the Monterey Bay Aquarium, is one highlight that boasts all manner of on-the-water ...

Range Rover- 231 stories Aug 24, 2022

[This is Land Rover's £300000 Range Rover SV V8 LWB - Cars UK](#)

Cars UK... for visitors to the Range Rover House, and Land Rover is promising a chunk of proceeds will go to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

[Scientists are listening to Blue Whales off California's coast. Here's what their songs reveal](#)

San Francisco Chronicle-... said Lindsey Peavey Reeves, a scientist with National Marine Sanctuary Foundation who collaborates with Ryan and Oestereich on whale research.

[The Santa Cruz aquarium quest | Ross Eric Gibson, Local history](#)

Santa Cruz Sentinel-The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was designated on Sept. 18, 1992, with the Sanctuary Exploration Visitors' Center later awarded to ...

[Pacific Grove looks to prevent disturbances to harbor seal pupping season](#)

Monterey Herald-According to Thom Akeman, a long-time volunteer with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Network's Bay Net docent group, Pacific Grove ..

[Beloved Whale 'Fran' Killed Off Coast Near Half Moon Bay | San Francisco, CA Patch](#)

Patch-Greater Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries formed a Joint Ship Strike Working Group to evaluate potential management options ...

[Barack Obama Wins an Emmy for Our Great National Parks - Yahoo](#)

Yahoo... parks from around the globe—including the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Kenya's Tsavo National Park, and the Chilean Patagonia.

[Coastal Cleanup Day Returns to the Monterey Bay | Good Times](#)

Good Times Santa Cruz-The Sanctuary Fest will take place from 10am to 3pm on the Santa Cruz Wharf, Cowell Beach and the Sanctuary Exploration Center.

[The Seas are Calling for Girls to Follow Careers in Ocean Science - Noozhawk.com](#)

Noozhawk.com-Lizzie Duncan — research ecologist, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary; working to understand and monitor the resources of the sanctuary, .

[The 65th Monterey Jazz Festival brought outstanding musicianship and happy crowds to ...](#)

Monterey County Weekly-Kris Bowers presents "Ásylo," a commissioned piece, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

[Wind turbines off CA coast? Big engineering feat generates anxiety - KCRW](#)

KCRW-Five national marine sanctuaries are located off the California coast, and one more is on the way. “The Commerce Department is in the process of ...

[Sea slugs reveal keys to long-term memory - Futurity](#)

Futurity-September 28th, 2022 Posted by James Devitt-NYU. Above, Aplysia californica. (Credit: Chad King/NOAA Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary).

Web Site (<https://montereybay.noaa.gov>)

☆☆ **Check out these MBNMS Advisory Council webpage links!** ☆☆

Advisory Council Meeting Agendas & Minutes

<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacma.html>

Advisory Council User Group Newsletters (seats and working groups/sub-committees)

<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/advisory-nwsltr.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.

Follow MBNMS on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/MBNMS) (<https://www.facebook.com/MBNMS>), [Instagram](#) (@mbnms) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/mbnms) (<https://twitter.com/mbnms>)

MBNMS STAFF

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Dawn Hayes – Deputy Superintendent

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Raymond Chisolm – Program Specialist

Get involved and stay informed!

To learn how to get involved in the Sanctuary visit:
<https://montereybay.noaa.gov/getinvolved/welcome.html>

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

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

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

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

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is one of 14 marine protected areas in the National Marine Sanctuary System encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. Visit the ONMS web site at:
<https://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

- Contact Information -

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