

**MBNMS Research Activity Panel
Meeting Summary
December 8, 2023**

Host: Ross Clark – Estuarine Ecology (Central Coast Wetlands Group)

Location: Virtual Meeting

Date: Friday, December 8, 2023; 9:00 am to 12:00 pm

Members:

	Discipline	Primary/ Alternate	Name	Institution
X	Research Coordinator		DeVogelaere, Andrew	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
X	Biological Oceanography	primary	Ruhl, Henry	Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System
	Biological Oceanography	alternate	Kudela, Raphael	University of California, Santa Cruz
	Deep-Sea Environment	primary	Cailliet, Greg	Moss Landing Marine Laboratories (retired)
X	Deep-Sea Environment	alternate	Haddock, Steve †	Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute
X	Estuarine Environment	primary	Clark, Ross	Central Coast Wetlands Group
	Estuarine Environment	alternate	Wasson, Kerstin	Elkhorn Slough NERR and Foundation
	Fisheries	primary	Lindley, Steve	NOAA Fisheries Service
	Fisheries	alternate	Owens, Brian	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
	Marine & Coastal Geology	primary		
	Marine & Coastal Geology	alternate	Wagner, Amy	California State University, Sacramento
	Marine Conservation Biology	primary	Goldbogen, Jeremy	Hopkins Marine Station
	Marine Conservation Biology	alternate	Micheli, Fiorenza	Hopkins Marine Station
X	Nearshore Environment	primary	Southall, Brandon *	Southall Environmental Associates, Inc.
	Nearshore Environment	alternate	Carr, Mark	University of California, Santa Cruz
X	Physical Oceanography	primary	Orescanin, Mara	Naval Postgraduate School
	Physical Oceanography	alternate		
	Shelf & Slope Environment	primary	Lindholm, James	California State University, Monterey Bay
	Shelf & Slope Environment	alternate		
X	Social Sciences	primary	Pomeroy, Carrie	University of California, Santa Cruz
	Social Sciences	alternate	Scorse, Jason	Middlebury Institute of International Studies
X	Water Quality	primary	Hunt, John	University of California, Davis
	Water Quality	alternate	Hoover, Bridget	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

*Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Primary)

†Sanctuary Advisory Council Member: Research (Alternate)

RAP Coordinator:

X	Burton, Erica	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
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GUESTS:

Crandall, Greg	general public
De Beukelaer, Sophie	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Chiaroni, Emma	UCSC / Penn State, Graduate Student
Kumaishi, Grace	California Sea Grant Fellow (MBNMS and CINMS)
Peavey, Lindsey	Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Roest, Michele	Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

CONSENT ITEMS

Introductions/Modifications to the Agenda (Brandon Southall)

HOST PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Estuarine Marine Protected Areas Monitoring Program (Ross Clark)

- Ross provided presentation, “Monitoring for management: A modular, ecosystem function-based assessment framework to assess estuarine condition.”
- Issue: the state lacks a way to assess the condition and effectiveness of estuarine MPA designation (23 of the 124 state MPAs are estuarine MPAs).
- Implementation plan includes a tiered governance, technical, field structure (state-regional-local).
- Monitoring framework assesses estuarine condition using ecosystem function-based approach; function-based scoring criteria used to evaluate condition.
- Index scoring methods available at: <https://www.cramwetlands.org/>
- Project information and monitoring protocols available at: <https://empa.sccwrp.org/>

ADVISORY COUNCIL UPDATE

Summary of October and November Advisory Council meetings (Brandon Southall and Steve Haddock)

- At October (“emergency”) meeting (of note):
 - Advisory Council members prepared comment letter on proposed Chumash Heritage national marine sanctuary.
- At November meeting (of note):
 - Steve Haddock provided research community update, including RAP history.
 - “Iconic Kelp” working group will be formed, and components will include:
 - plan to clarify how to work among other efforts
 - research (see [RAP kelp memo](#))
 - education
 - conservation and policy
- For full meeting minutes, see: <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/sac/sacma.html>

Research Community Newsletter (Steve Haddock / Brandon Southall)

- RAP continued discussion from September meeting of potential research community newsletter.
- Steve Haddock presented a couple of digital application options.
- There was no RAP opposition to potential research community newsletter.
- **ACTION**: Steve Haddock will lead further RAP discussion at March meeting.

PRESENTATION REQUESTED BY RAP

Updates on Monitoring and Research on Offshore Wind and Marine Life (Brandon Southall and Lindsey Peavey Reeves/ONMS)

- Henry Ruhl briefly provided update on offshore wind pilot study and Synchro test bed.
- Brandon Southall provided update on floating offshore wind monitoring guidance for California; and ongoing lessons learned from global, national, and local offshore wind efforts.
- Lindsey Peavey Reeves provided update on Central California Collaborative Passive Acoustic Monitoring (CCC-PAM), including:
 - BOEM-funded ADRIFT project
 - ONMS sound monitoring
 - OAR-NOS-NMFS noise reference station project

ED RICKETTS AWARD AND LECTURE

2023 Lecture update and 2024 nomination process (Erica Burton)

- Erica provided brief summary of [2023 Ricketts Lecture event](#), honoring both Linda Yamane (Rumsen Ohlone Artist, Historian and Culture Bearer), and Tim Thomas (Maritime Heritage and Fisheries Historian)
- Lecture recording is available at [ONMS seminar](#) and [MBNMS Ricketts](#) web pages.
- RAP-revised nomination criteria will be followed for 2024 award and beyond.
- **ACTION**: Erica will send call for nominations in January, and RAP will discuss nominations at end of March meeting.

QUICK UPDATES ON NEW HIRES AT INSTITUTIONS, AND FACILITY UPDATES

- No decisions or actions

SUGGESTED FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- March meeting:
 - Research Community Newsletter (Haddock)
 - Ricketts Award nominations discussion (Burton)

Future Agenda Items (running list):

- MBA’s Conservation and Science Program update
- MPAs as monitors/buffers of climate change (e.g., recent OPC presentation at SAC; Micheli’s recent newspaper article)
- Update on seal bomb issue (requested by J.Score)
- WATER QUALITY UPDATES:
 - Update on nitrogen loading in local watersheds (by Holly Bowers/Ross Clark; initially presented March 2022 RAP meeting)
 - Trends in Benthic Community Composition in Monterey Bay: 2001 – 2020; 20-year time series of water and sediment quality monitoring by CCLEAN (requested by J.Hunt)
- SOCIAL SCIENCE TOPICS
 - Jason Score: White Shark public education (June 2024)
 - Carrie Pomeroy: Collaborative kelp research; and rock crab fishery closure and impacts
- OFFSHORE WIND UPDATES:
 - More offshore wind energy and mapping fishing grounds (requested by C.Pomeroy)
 - Could include recent “Winds of Change” and/or summary of upcoming briefings at CA Coastal Commission, including risk assessment and effects of wind deployments on upwelling (Brandon Southall, Grace Chang, Kaus Ragukhumar could be speakers)
- KELP UPDATES:
 - Funded project on kelp as ecological-social systems in Monterey and Mendocino areas (C.Pomeroy and M.Carr)
 - Keith Rootsart (Diving representative on Advisory Council) would like to present on kelp restoration efforts
 - CDFW kelp management by Dr. Kristen Elsmore (Brian Owens willing to invite)
- eDNA sampling in proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (Steve Palumbi, Hopkins Marine Station)
- Tammy Russell (Nancy Foster Scholar): National Marine Sanctuaries capture enhanced abundance and diversity of the California Current Ecosystem avifauna (March 2024)

2024 RAP Meeting Schedule

(Quarterly meetings, 2nd Friday of month)

Date	Host / Research Update	Location
March 8	Micheli	Virtual Meeting
June 14	Score	Virtual Meeting
September 13		Virtual Meeting
December 13		Virtual Meeting