

## A Look Ahead

In 2012, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Access Monterey Peninsula Public Television will continue to produce *Your Sanctuary*, a new television series. The show will connect people with sanctuaries and feature local communities and businesses dependent upon a healthy ocean, as well as the fascinating organizations and people involved in ocean activities; it can be viewed via streaming at [ampmedia.org](http://ampmedia.org). The Ecosystem-based Management initiative will also move forward by assessing ecosystem health and coordinating research strategies and management opportunities with agency partners. A particular focus for 2012 will be on seafloor habitats. During the summer of 2012, the completion of building construction and exhibit installation at the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz will culminate in a festive grand opening. Interactive exhibits and programs will highlight the link between land and sea and connections between humans, the sanctuary and world's ocean. Finally, the sanctuary will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a range of activities to highlight the many accomplishments made over the years in protecting the natural and cultural resources.

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

### Officers

Chair: Dr. Chris Harrold  
Vice Chair: Kirk Schmidt  
Secretary: Margaret Webb

### Non-Governmental Members

Tourism: Michael Bekker  
Alternate: Robert Massaro  
Business/Industry: Cynthia Walter  
Alternate: James Weisenstein  
Education: Dr. Simona Bartl  
Alternate: Wayne Thompson  
Diving: Phillip Sammet  
Alternate: Brian Nelson  
Recreation: Gary Pezzi  
Alternate: Robert Chatham  
Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark  
Alternate: Jiri Nozicka  
Recreational Fishing: Richard Hughett  
Alternate: John Klusmire  
Citizen-at-Large: Cynthia Matthews  
Alternate: Kortney Opshaug  
Citizen-at-Large: Richard Ely  
Alternate: Kurt Schnebele  
Citizen-at-Large: Margaret Webb  
Alternate: Nancy Selfridge  
Agriculture: Kirk Schmidt  
Alternate: Timothy Frahm  
Research: Dr. Chris Harrold  
Alternate: Dr. James Lindholm

Conservation: Dr. Geoffrey Shester  
Alternate: Lauren Gilligan

### Governmental Members

#### Local Government

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments: Jane Parker  
Alternate: Lynn Robinson  
Harbors: Linda McIntyre, Peter Grenell, Steve Scheiblauber, Lisa Ekers

#### State Government

California Coastal Commission: Tami Grove  
California Department of Fish and Game: Paul Reilly  
Alternate: Susan Ashcraft  
California Environmental Protection Agency: Russ Jeffries  
Alternate: Lisa McCann  
California Resources Agency: Amy Vierra  
California State Parks: Mathew Fuzie  
Alternate: Nicholas Franco

#### Federal Government (non-voting)

NOAA Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve: Dave Feliz  
U.S. Coast Guard: vacant  
Alternate: LCDR Elisa Garrity



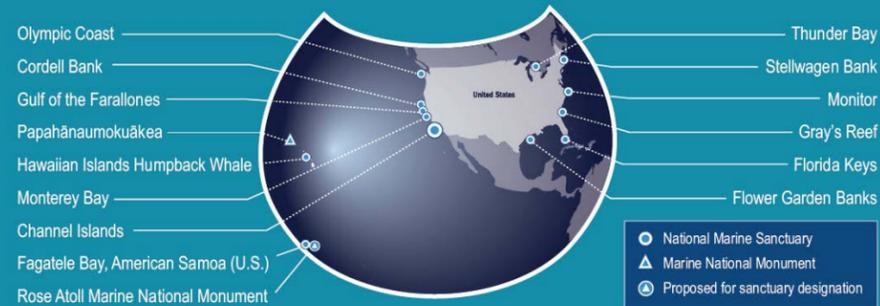
Mike Baird

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service: Steve Ralston  
Alternate: Steven Bograd  
NOAA Channel Islands NMS: Chris Mobley  
Alternate: Michael Murray  
NOAA Gulf of the Farallones NMS: Maria Brown  
Alternate: Irina Kogan  
NOAA Cordell Bank NMS: Dan Howard  
NOAA Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel  
Alternate: Karen Grimmer

**Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator**  
Nicole Capps

<http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



*NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.*

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



## 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

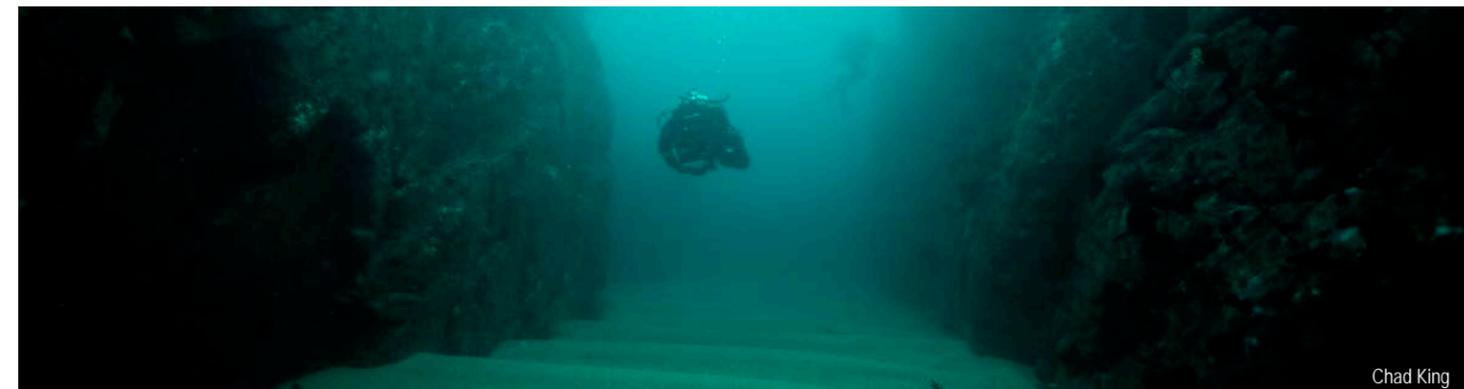


MBNMS



Chad King

**Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**, the nation's largest, spans more than 6,000 square miles of coastal waters off central California. Within its boundaries, a rich variety of habitats teem with an amazing array of life. Rugged rocky shores, lush kelp forests, a towering offshore seamount, steep underwater canyons and other coastal environments host 34 species of marine mammals, more than 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds, 345 species of fish and a wealth of invertebrates and algae. Established September 18, 1992.



Chad King



## Scientists study effects of shipping containers lost at sea

Each year, an estimated 10,000 cargo containers accidentally fall off ships worldwide. For the first time ever, researchers from the sanctuary and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) studied the impacts of a shipping container resting on the seafloor at 1,300 meters (4,200 feet). Discovered by MBARI in 1994, the 40-foot-long container was one of 15 lost during a storm off Monterey Bay. Scientists determined the container crushed the delicate creatures living on the muddy bottom and created a new kind of habitat with its own suite of creatures. Strwn along shipping routes, these containers may be forming "highways of trash" as more accumulate each year.



## Learning about natural resources from a historical perspective

A new interactive, web-based "Historical Marine Ecology Timeline" was launched this year, intertwining anthropogenic and natural histories of the sanctuary region over time. The tool provides details and images of significant events that have occurred from 1500 AD to the present. By clicking on an event, users can access more information, including historic photos, newspaper accounts and ships' logs of reported ecological activities and fisheries. It is a fascinating new way to explore the ocean's bounty from a historical perspective. Visit the timeline at <http://www.sanctuarysimon.org/timeline/>.



## Exploration Center construction well underway

Construction of the sanctuary's interpretive facility in Santa Cruz commenced in November 2010 and was completed January 2012. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation raised private funds for exhibit costs, with installation slated for late spring 2012, followed by a grand opening during the summer. The Exploration Center will highlight the ecosystems, wildlife, human connections and impacts to the sanctuary. It will encourage people to be curious, ask questions, enjoy and take pride in their sanctuary.



## Managing landslide material to protect sanctuary resources

Adjacent to the sanctuary, Highway 1 traverses the rugged terrain of Big Sur for more than 70 miles and has a long history of landslides and closures. Debris disposal from maintenance and repair by California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) can potentially harm marine habitats through burial, scour and turbidity. Repair work typically requires a California Coastal Commission permit authorized by the sanctuary, and has prompted Caltrans, the sanctuary and other agencies to develop a Big Sur management plan. As a result of creating the management plan, sanctuary staff met with Caltrans to assess management options, conduct a survey of impacted nearshore habitat and authorize an emergency permit without delaying the reopening of Highway 1 following a major slide in 2011.



## Volunteers make a difference

Volunteers are integral to carrying out the sanctuary's mission, from helping monitor natural resources to educating the public. Team OCEAN is a volunteer kayaker-outreach program whose goal is to reduce disturbance to marine mammals. Since 2000, volunteers have communicated with over 63,000 visitors on the water. A study last year documented the percentage of kayakers causing disturbance to resting sea otters was significantly lower when Team OCEAN volunteers were present. Recommendations from this study include expanding the presence of Team OCEAN volunteers to educate the public about how to view wildlife in a responsible manner.



## Helping to educate at-risk students about the environment

Since 2006, the sanctuary's Coastal Discovery Center in San Simeon has served as an interpretive center for 15,000 visitors per year, as well as an education center for students in the region. Leffingwell High School, a local continuation school providing alternative education for at-risk students, has partnered with the sanctuary and other environmental groups to develop an experimental education program about the natural and cultural history of the coast. Now in its third year, students participate in a range of field activities from kayaking in a kelp forest and exploring an abalone farm, to visiting an elephant seal rookery and touring a historical lighthouse.



## Sanctuary a focus for White House initiative on the outdoors

President Obama launched America's Great Outdoor Initiative to develop a 21<sup>st</sup> Century conservation and recreation agenda for federal lands and waters. The initiative is being directly implemented in communities. Monterey Bay was selected by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a focus watershed because of the nationally recognized Agriculture Water Quality Alliance (AWQA), coordinated by MBNMS. New agency and stakeholder partnerships will be identified to enhance water quality protection, voluntary stewardship and regulatory planning in sanctuary watersheds; sanctuary staff is leading the development of an interagency work plan for AWQA.



## Gathering information to inform ecosystem-based management

It was a busy first year moving ahead with the Ecosystem-based Management (EBM) initiative as staff convened workshops and meetings to gather information related to EBM objectives. A workshop was held in fall to address the objective of facilitating research and more than 30 participants, including researchers, vessel operators, SAC members and the public, provided a wealth of ideas and input now published in a Marine Sanctuary Conservation Series report. In May, a similar workshop was held to gather data related to the objective of protecting unique and rare features; a summary of information is forthcoming.