

**MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY  
OFFICE REPORT**

December 3, 2002-January 27, 2003

**Management**

Bill Douros is attending the Leadership Team meeting in Hawaii from February 2-8, 2003.

Nicole Capps, SAC Coordinator, will be replacing Lisa de Marignac as an assistant to Bill. Please feel free to contact her when you cannot reach Bill.

Bill agreed to send Michelle Templeton, MERITO Bilingual Specialist, to join a NOAA team investigating and learning from the Prestige oil spill in Spain. Reports have shown Michelle's fluency in Spanish made the team's visit a success.

The MBNMS website, recently upgraded, is the most visited site specific website in the National Marine Sanctuary system. With nearly half a million hits in December 2002, it is easily one of the most popular sites in NOAA.

**Joint Management Plan Review**

Sean Morton represented the MBNMS at the Big Sur Multi Agency Advisory Council meeting on Friday, December 20. Rachel Saunders and SAC Member Deborah Streeter also attended. The major theme of the meeting centered on the significant budget shortfalls and the various levels of government but focused California Department of Transportation (CalTrans) and Department of Parks and Recreation. This will increase the need for cooperation and partnerships with other agencies at the federal, state and local levels. MBNMS will address the issue of integrated and coordinated agency planning in the Big Sur area in the Joint Management Plan Review.

Management Plan Review working groups begin meeting this week kicking off with Tidepool Protection, Krill Harvesting, and Wildlife Disturbance. In the following week, working groups for Davidson Seamount, Coastal Armoring, Marine Reserves (renamed Marine Protected Areas), Research and Education of Fishing Issues, and Motorized Personal Watercraft will be meeting. For more information on these groups and other issues to be addressed in the Joint Management Plan Review go to <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/issue.html> or contact Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator at 831-647-4217.

**Education and Outreach**

On December 7, Dawn Hayes and Mary Cunningham Welsh, Otter Bowl Coordinator for the National Ocean Science Bowl, led a group of high school students for a full-day enrichment opportunity. The group joined the annual symposia for the American Geophysical Society at the Moscone Center in San Francisco for interactions with scientists, and then met with staff from the Lawrence Hall of Science for continued education activities and a tour of the exhibits.

On December 7, Karen Grimmer and Michelle Templeton coordinated with Anna Cummins of Save Our Shores to provide an informational booth at the 4th Annual Conferencia Familia conducted at E.A Hall Middle School in Watsonville. Two hundred Latino parents attended the conference, and staff conducted a fifteen question survey to collect data on issues of concern for the community, and on their awareness about the Sanctuary and Elkhorn Slough.

At the request of Monterey City Council member Ruth Vreeland, Liz Love invited all the students in Monterey whose artwork was included in our anniversary calendar to the Dec. 17 city council meeting where the students were recognized for this achievement. Liz addressed the council and students and thanked them, and Bill Douros also thanked the council for their support of the Oceans Fair and presented them with a framed commemorative MBNMS anniversary poster signed by the artist, Robert Lyn Nelson.

Dawn Hayes and Bill Douros attended a steering committee meeting for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, organized by AMBAG. Congressman Sam Farr attended and expressed great enthusiasm for the groups progress towards developing a trail surrounding the Monterey Bay and focusing on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary.

Jen Jolly, Santa Cruz Public Outreach Specialist, gave several sanctuary presentations last week. She gave a lecture to 30 University of California Santa Cruz marine policy students, and discussed "Ten Years of Ocean Conservation" with 50 adult volunteer docents at the Seymour Marine Discovery Center.

### **Research and Monitoring**

On November 25 at the Sanctuary office, Steve Lonhart (SIMoN Scientist) hosted an informational meeting for city volunteers interested in eradicating an invasive alga in Monterey Harbor. Along with harbor and city staff, Steve provided background information about the recent invasion of *Undaria pinnatifida* into central CA. Several agencies and local researchers are involved with an effort to eradicate *Undaria* from Monterey Harbor.

On December 12th, Steve Lonhart assisted with the first phase of eradicating an invasive sea weed from Monterey Harbor. *Undaria pinnatifida*, which is native to Japan, was recently detected in the harbor. In response to this invasion, a team of researchers, resource managers, and volunteers (including the City of Monterey, California Department of Fish and Game, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Moss Landing Marine Labs, and the University of California at Santa Cruz) began removing the sea weed from the floating docks and pier pilings by hand while using SCUBA.

On December 27, 2002 Steve Lonhart, SIMoN scientist, and a city of Monterey volunteer diver completed a second day of *Undaria* removal from within the Monterey Harbor. Sanctuary and Harbor staff, along with volunteers, recently began to remove the invasive seaweed *Undaria pinnatifida* from harbor docks and pilings. To date, nearly 1000 individuals have been removed. Since the primary growing season began in December, most of the removed individuals were <20 cm long and still juveniles. However, the goal is to remove as many as possible before they are able to reproduce.

Steve Lonhart (SIMoN Scientist) and Erica Burton (Research Assistant) were part of a team of researchers and staff from MBNMS and the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve that monitored erosion within the Elkhorn Slough on November 20. Using a Boston whaler from Moss Landing Marine Lab, the crew measured the extent and height of the channel banks relative to permanent markers. In addition, the extent of undercutting and types of biologically-derived holes in the bank were quantified.

Copies of the 'Effectiveness of Marine Reserves' report, by Rick Starr (California Sea Grant) and others, are now available for distribution. The report consists of two parts: 1) Synopsis of Scientific Investigations; and 2) Summary of Existing Marine Reserves in Central California and their Potential Benefits. The report will soon be available as a PDF file on the MBNMS website.

Sanctuary staff reviewed the 'Biogeographic Assessment of Seabirds' draft report by Glenn Ford (R.G. Ford Consulting) and others. The report includes information on the distribution, abundance, and biological hot spots and time periods for selected seabirds. The report will be used as a supportive document for the Joint Management Plan Review.

On December 3rd and 4th, Steve Lonhart (SIMoN scientist) attended the Expert Planning Workshop II in Key Biscayne, Florida. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the development of the National Marine Sanctuary's System-wide Monitoring Network (SWiM). Sanctuary staff from headquarters and five field sites discussed with an expert panel how best to proceed with implementation plans. The primary goal of SWiM is "to provide for the consistent application of a robust conceptual framework, design model, and reporting strategy to enable the evaluation of status and trends in program resources, and activities that affect them."

On December 3rd, Erica Burton (Research Specialist) and Chad King (SIMoN Data Analyst) attended the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve Advisory Committee Meeting. Gary Patton, Executive Director of LandWatch Monterey County, gave a presentation on the Monterey County General Plan Update and land use issues in North Monterey County.

On December 6th, Sanctuary Staff and the Beach COMBERS Data Coordinator (Hannah Nevins) met with Hamilton Smillie and Kimberly Cohen of the NOAA Coastal Services Center, to discuss the resurrection of the Beach COMBERS and Beach Watch Volunteer Database Entry Tool Project. The website will allow volunteers to enter and view their monitoring data, query data sets to produce data summaries, download data sheets, order supplies, and review reports and newsletters.

On December 10th and 11th, Steve Lonhart (scientist for the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network [SIMoN]) co-hosted a SIMoN-sponsored workshop on monitoring marine mammals and sea birds in the west coast sanctuaries. Led by co-host Ed Bowlby from the Olympic Coast NMS, the workshop group consisted of sanctuary staff from all five west coast sites and marine mammal and sea bird experts from other agencies, NGOs, and academic institutions. The group assessed the status of current monitoring efforts within each site and suggested how these efforts could be modified to facilitate between site collaborations and develop regional-scale studies.

Moss Landing Marine Laboratories graduate student Laurie McConnico has recently completed a demographic study of the dominant kelp on the rocky shores of Big Sur. The project was

initiated by MBNMS relative to Cal Trans dumping impacts, and preliminary results indicate that sediment smothering could have long term impacts to *Alaria marginata* assemblages at the Big Creek and Gorda regions.

The Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) has recently awarded funds to two scientific projects within the Elkhorn Slough. Despite a recent start date, one of the projects already has interesting preliminary results to report. "We have now made 7 'cruises' on a roughly weekly schedule over the last two months. The purpose of the sampling was largely to get a feel for the community structure of the phytoplankton," reports co-Principal Investigator Dr. Nick Welschmeyer. "The results are very interesting! All seven cruises show the Slough to be characterized by a diatom/dinoflagellate assemblage at the harbor end, and a diatom/cryptophyte assemblage at the Kirby Park end (upshore). The info on cryptophytes is new, as far as we can tell." It is not known if this finding is the result of a seasonal effect, but because the study is designed for five years, Welschmeyer and his collaborators have multiple years to answer this question.

Following up on a series of workshops in South Korea between NOAA and the Korean Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, our Korean partners are interested in more information on marine managed areas and integrated coastal management. MBNMS is sending our site specific material, but information from other sites is also welcome.

On December 18th and 19th, Irina Kogan (MBNMS/MBARI Research Fellow) hosted a workshop on surveying the environmental impacts of offshore cables. The workshop group consisted of staff from Monterey Bay, Olympic Coast, and Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuaries as well as staff from the National Marine Sanctuaries Program, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, and NOAA-Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory. Information was exchanged regarding known environmental impacts of subsea cables and about existing monitoring programs. A survey plan of a NOAA-PMEL cable stretching 95 km from Half Moon Bay, CA to Pioneer Seamount was also agreed upon.

Chad King, SIMoN GIS Analyst, has been working with Steve Ralston and Keith Sakuma (NMFS) to convert and integrate data from the Rockfish Recruitment Assessment into SIMoN's GIS. This project includes annual juvenile rockfish trawl survey data in Monterey Bay from 1983 to present.

Steve Lonhart attended an invasive species workshop convened by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) and San Francisco Zoo on January 9 and 10, 2003. Participants included representatives from several state and federal agencies, NGOs, and private industry. An ad hoc committee on California Invasive Species was formed, and it was determined that an effort should be made for the State of California to establish an Invasive Species Council through either the legislature or by executive order. This council will then deal with all invasive taxa, in a general and comprehensive manner, to coordinate "existing non-native, invasive species efforts and [to identify] gaps in existing activities and policies." Follow-up workshops are planned in 2003..

The Research Activity Panel met on January 10 at the NMFS lab in Santa Cruz. The meeting topics included an update on the Salmon Research Program at NMFS; a review of the decision making process regarding the recent closure of some west coast fisheries; RAP involvement in

the JMPR; a nomination letter to include the Central California region in upcoming IOOS (national monitoring/observatories) meetings; and the annual RAP calendar.□

The Center for Integrated Marine Technology is submitting their proposal for second year funding to NOAA, and SIMoN staff continues to contribute to this project and proposal development.□The purpose of this project is to understand physical processes that determine the distribution of bird and whales, and develop innovative methods for sharing information through the web.□

### **Resource Protection**

Holly Price, Resource Protection Coordinator, participated in a CalTrans workshop with the Scenic Byways program focused on outlining the structure and goals of an interagency council, which will coordinate ongoing implementation of the Coast Highway Management Plan for Big Sur. The draft of this plan is to be released this winter, and will include a framework for handling landslide disposal.

Chris Coburn joined the Sanctuary's Resource Protection Team last week as the new Water Quality Protection Program Director. Chris will be overseeing implementation of the 4 existing WQPP plans on urban and agricultural runoff, marinas, and monitoring, and will be developing a new JMPR plan to address beach closures and postings due to elevated levels of coliform bacteria.

Katie Siegler, Agricultural Water Quality Coordinator, and Holly Price attended the recognition dinner at the California Farm Bureau Federation annual meeting held in Monterey. Special thanks was given to the MBNMS and partner organizations for working with the Farm Bureau to address agricultural runoff in the Sanctuary region.

Holly Price, Resource Protection Coordinator, participated in the regional working group meeting for the Marine Life Protection Act, where the group agreed on its operating principles and necessary data sources to evaluate marine reserve locations.

Katie Siegler attended the initial field tour for the Pescadero/Butano Watershed Assessment in San Mateo County. The assessment, led by the Sanctuary Foundation, will focus on local sediment sources and evaluate habitat conditions for anadromous fish.

Due to recent storm events, and severe coastal bluff erosion, the MBNMS has recently been inundated with requests authorizing seawall repair, maintenance, and construction by both private parties and the California Department of Transportation (CalTrans).□Emergency authorizations of this sort continue to be an obstacle in which the MBNMS recommends addressing the immediate problem at hand and searching for a long-term solution, versus the desires of Caltrans which call for extensive riprap along the shoreline to combat large waves.□Ongoing discussions and negotiations between the MBNMS, Caltrans and the California Coastal Commission have been taking place to address this issue.□

A sewage spill occurred in Capitola with an estimated 100,000 gallons of sewage entering a tributary of Soquel Creek approximately half mile inland. A storm drainpipe collapsed down on to a sewage pipe causing the spill. CDFG is assisting us in the enforcement investigation.

The Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute has submitted an amendment request to a permit to allow them to dispose of 20 liters of carbon dioxide within the Sanctuary. The MBNMS is has approved this proposal; this issue has a reputation for being quite contentious, as it has implications for large-scale ocean disposal of CO<sub>2</sub>, an issue which has been hotly debated.

The MBNMS is putting the final touches on a joint institutional permit which will be issued to NOAA Fisheries Southwest Fisheries Science Center. This permit encompasses several projects in the GFNMS, CINMS, & MBNMS, which in the past NMFS has sought individual permits for on a project specific basis. Deirdre Hall has been coordinating with our neighboring Sanctuaries over the past few months in order to synthesize and address all resource protection concerns and draft special conditions for the prevention of disturbance before issuance of the permit.

Deirdre Hall met with the Santa Cruz Harbormaster, Brian Foss, and received a tour of its ongoing dredging operations. The Santa Cruz harbor was completely blocked and inaccessible to vessels for 9 days as recent storm events have made the federal channel a beach, with incoming or outgoing passage completely blocked. As might be expected, crab fishermen are highly irritated as the blockage is impacting their fishing ability.

Deirdre Hall met with the Santa Cruz Harbor Port District to also discuss the results of a study in which 2,350 cubic yards of fine grain dredge disposal sediment was discharged last year in an attempt to discern where fine grain sediments settle. The report indicated that these fine grain sediments migrate with the current to the mid shelf mud belt north of the harbor. The Harbor has indicated an interest in disposing future 'fines' on the beach as part of a beach nourishment project. Representatives from the US Geological Survey, the Environmental Protection Agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the Arana Gulch Watershed, and scientists were present.

Rachel Saunders, MBNMS Community and Public Relations Coordinator, attended two Pew Oceans Commission events on Tuesday, January 14, 2003 announcing the release of several reports on fishing and reserves. The morning press conference and reception was in Half Moon Bay where the following 3 reports will be released: "Managing Marine Fisheries in the United States," "A Dialogue on America's Fisheries," and "Socioeconomic Perspectives on Marine Fisheries in the United States." The afternoon press conference and reception is at Stanford University where the report "Marine Reserves: A Tool for Ecosystem Management and Conservation" will be released. The reports can be found on the Pew Oceans Commission web site at [www.pewoceans.org](http://www.pewoceans.org).

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Citizen Watershed Monitoring Network Coordinator, Bridget Hoover, hosted a volunteer appreciation event for First Flush participants on January 13th. Approximately 35 people were in attendance including Sanctuary staff and Public Works Directors from Monterey and Pacific Grove. The evening's focus was to acknowledge the dedication of the volunteers and present the monitoring results. A draft report is undergoing internal review.

## **Special Events**

The MBNMS was selected to be the Grand Marshals for the First Night Monterey celebrations and parade on December 31st. Staff decorated the 30 ft P/B Shark Cat for their float. Many staff members participated in the parade, wearing their MBNMS hats, shirts and jackets. Liz "Sponge Bob" Love, was the hit of the parade!

On Friday, January 10, 2003 Rachel Saunders, MBNMS Community and Public Relations Coordinator, spearheaded an informal gathering with public relations managers from area institutions (e.g., the Monterey Bay Aquarium, MBARI, U.C.Santa Cruz, Moss Landing Marine Labs and the MATE Program) to share information on activities and to set up a mechanism for on-going communications.

Lisa Emanuelson, Karen Grimmer, Liz Love and Rachel Saunders helped staff the life sized, inflatable Humpback whale for Whale Fest this past weekend at the Monterey wharf. ☐ Visitors from as far away as Germany and England were treated to a view of a life sized whale, as well as the opportunity to walk inside. ☐ We were able to hand out many calendars, posters and goodies, and educated many people about the sanctuary. ☐ Fun was had by all!

## **Significant News Coverage**

"Disease takes toll on otters; Scientists finding evidence of infection in dead marine life" by Kate Ramsayer, The Monterey County Herald, 11/21/02.

"New system cleans up car wash wastewater in city" By Karen Davis, The Santa Cruz Sentinel, 11/30/02.

"Cruise line confirms port of call in Monterey" by Ken McLaughlin, The Monterey County Herald, 10/5/02.

"Marine program aimed at Latinos," Salinas Californian, 12/5/02.

"Local panel explores sanctuary status" by Kathe Tanner, The Cambrian, 12/6/02.

"Bay fishing in a rut; Monterey's seafood industry founders amid chaotic change" by Dan Laidman, The Monterey County Herald, 12/9/02.

"Troubled Waters: Talk of a marine sanctuary to protect SLO county coastline could get knotty" by Daniel Blackburn, New Times, 12/12/02.

"Monterey should cruise with caution" Editorial, The Monterey County Herald, 12/14/02.

On December 17th, two local news stations, KSBW-TV Channel 8 and KSMS-TV Univision 67 (Spanish) filmed the MERITO after school program during their field trip to Watsonville wetlands. KSBW aired the broadcast at 6:00pm that day, and gave a brief description of the MERITO program and the school groups activities that day. Spanish station KSMS broadcast

their segment on December 19th at 6 and 11pm, and presented a more in depth view of the program through student and teacher interviews, and an interview with Michelle Templeton, the MBNMS Bilingual Outreach Specialist. For more information, contact Karen Grimmer at (831) 647-4251.

On December 11, the Spanish newspaper, El Sol printed an article on the MERITO program titled, "Programa marino se enfocará en los Latinos".

“Gray whales journey south; Visible along central coast through February,” by Amy Ettinger, The Monterey County Herald, 1/9/03.

“Natural cycle key culprit in plight of sardines, scientists say; Study shows debate about overfishing,” by Emily Singer, The Monterey County Herald, 1/10/03.

“Pesticide runoff waivers challenged,” The Monterey County Herald, 1/10/03.

“Standard for dolphin-safe tuna labeling delayed,” The Monterey County Herald, 1/10/03.

“California looks seaward for future water; New technology makes desalination plants cheaper,” by Laura Wides, The Monterey County Herald, 1/12/03.

“Whale time at the wharf,” by Kechia Smith-Gran, The Monterey County Herald, 1/13/03.

“Weather worn coast; El Nino triggering severe shoreline erosion,” by Dennis Moran and Elisabeth Nadin.

“Abalone restoration plan; State wants to restore depleted stocks” by Colleen Valles, AP, The Monterey County Herald and Santa Cruz Sentinel, 1/27/03.