

A Look Ahead

For NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, 2011 is shaping up to be another exciting year. Two of our major priorities are the construction of the Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz, and the sanctuary's new Ecosystem-Based Management Initiative. The Exploration Center will be the sanctuary's premier visitor center, highlighting the link between land and sea, and the connections between visitors and the world's ocean. You can watch the progress of construction on the Exploration Center, which broke ground in July 2010, via webcam at: <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

To be as effective as possible in sanctuary management and protection, we must use an integrated, collaborative approach considering the entire ecosystem rather than just managing issues or resources individually. Our Ecosystem-Based Management Initiative focuses on ensuring a healthy, productive ecosystem with the benefits of sustainable seafood, clean water and beaches, safe recreation, and more. In 2011, we will be working with NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment and conducting public workshops on research areas, unique and rare habitats, and sustainable uses.

Supporting Jobs, Communities and Culture

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is adjacent to one of the largest urban concentrations in North America with several population centers of approximately 8 million people living within fifty miles of its shoreline, many who rely on sanctuary resources for pleasure or work. The sanctuary's spectacular scenery, moderate climate, abundance of marine life, and relatively clean ocean waters all draw large numbers of divers, kayakers, boaters, surfers, fishermen, tide-poolers, and bird and mammal watchers. Coastal tourism, agriculture, and commercial fisheries are all pillars of the regional economy with direct links to the sanctuary. Travel and tourism is one of the most significant industries, with total travel-spending revenue in 2003 of \$5.9 billion for the five counties adjacent to the sanctuary. More than 600 commercial vessels fish within the sanctuary annually. In 2003, revenues from fish commercial caught in the sanctuary totaled almost \$16.6 million dollars. The rich biodiversity and close proximity of the deep sea also provide unparalleled research opportunities for approximately twenty-five marine science facilities that, in 2004, employed almost 2,000 people in staff and researchers with a combined budget of over \$200 million.

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.

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: Steve Clark

Diving: Frank Degan

Alternate: Randall Herz

Recreation (non-extractive): Gary Pezzi

Alternate: Robert Chatham

Commercial Fishing: Kathy Fosmark

Alternate: Jiri Nozicka

Recreational Fishing: Richard Hughett

Alternate: John Klusmire

Citizen At-Large: Michael Dawson

Alternate: Korfney Leabourne

Citizen At-Large: Richard Ely

Alternate: Kurt Schnebele

Citizen At-Large: Margaret Webb

Alternate: Nancy Selfridge

Agriculture: Kirk Schmidt

Alternate: Traci Roberts

Research: Dr. Chris Harrold

Alternate: Dr. John Hunt

Conservation: vacant

Alternate: vacant

Governmental Members

Local Government

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments:

Jane Parker

Alternate: Lynn Robinson

Harbors: Linda McInyre, Esq.

Alternate: Peter Grenell, Steve Scheiblauser

State Government

California Coastal Commission: Charles Lester

Alternate: 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: Brian Baird

Alternate: Amy Vierra

California State Parks: Mathew Fuzlie

Alternate: Nicholas Franco

Federal Government

NOAA Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve

(non-voting): vacant

U.S. Coast Guard (non-voting): vacant

Alternate: Steve Arnwine

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (non-voting):

Churchill Grimes

Alternate: Frank Schwing

NOAA Channel Islands NMS (non-voting): Chris Mobley

Alternate: Michael Murray

NOAA Gulf of the Farallones NMS (non-voting):

Maria Brown

Alternate: Irma Kogan

NOAA Cordell Bank NMS (non-voting): Dan Howard

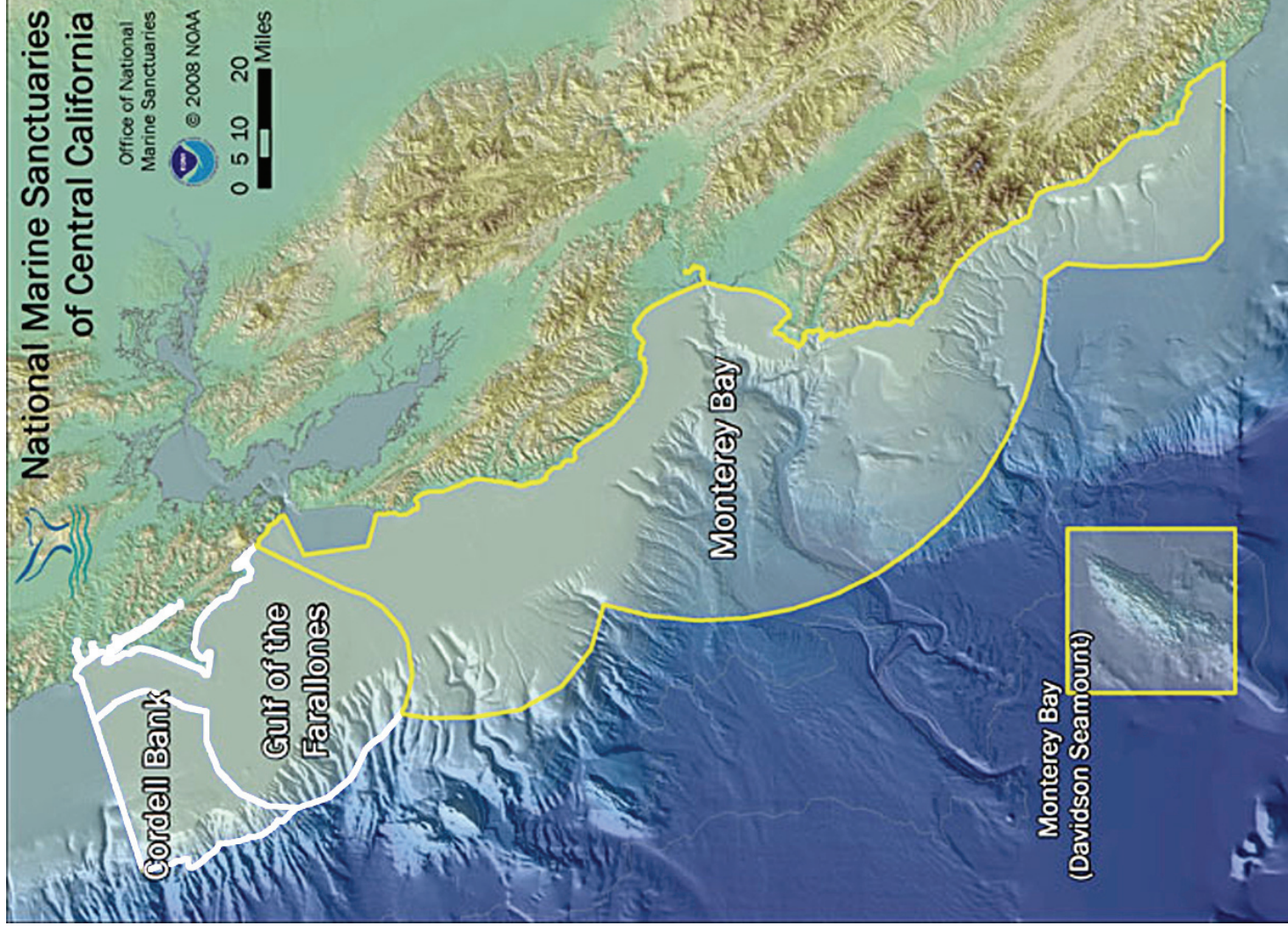
NOAA Monterey Bay NMS (non-voting): Paul Michel

Alternate: Karen Grimmer

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator

Nicole Capps

2010 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the nation's largest marine sanctuary, spanning more than 6,000 square miles of coastal waters off Central California. Within its boundaries — which were expanded to include the Davidson Seamount in 2009 — are a variety of habitats, from rocky shores and lush kelp forests to an underwater canyon over 10,000 feet deep. The sanctuary's diverse marine life includes 33 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fish and thousands of invertebrates. Established Sept. 18, 1992.



Momentous Groundbreaking Ceremony for Exploration Center

A milestone was celebrated in July with the groundbreaking ceremony for the long-awaited Sanctuary Exploration Center, which will become the largest sanctuary visitor center on the West Coast. Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, Dr. Larry Robinson, Congressman Sam Farr, officials from the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and city of Santa Cruz joined more than 220 community members to celebrate the culmination of eight years of project planning and approvals. NOAA funded the construction of the 12,600 square foot green building that will house exhibits, classrooms and office space. The grand opening for the center, located across from Santa Cruz's famous Beach Boardwalk, is anticipated in spring 2012. As a gateway to the sanctuary, the center will serve the entire Central California region and foster stewardship of the sanctuary by connecting people to its diverse ecosystems and extraordinary marine life.

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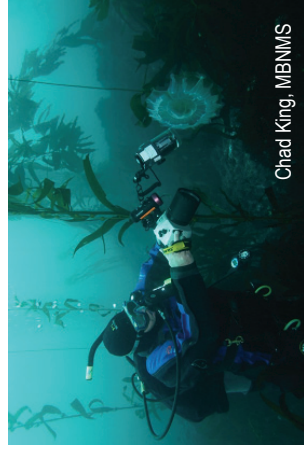
Lost Fishing Gear Removal Project Completes Year Two

During a two-week period in September, sanctuary staff and partners conducted the second year of a five-year project to remove lost fishing gear from deepwater habitats within the sanctuary. Aboard the fishing vessel *Donna Kathleen*, crew deployed a remotely operated vehicle to successfully remove 410-feet of rockfish gill net, two crab pots, a spot prawn trap and 600 pounds of lead weights between depths of 300 to 1000 feet. This year's efforts focused on refining removal methods in locations both within and outside of state designated marine protected areas (MPAs). The team has determined that MPAs tend to contain older, "legacy" gear, as opposed to locations that are still being fished, which typically have newer gear that is more likely to trap marine life.



Airship USS Macon Wreck on National Register of Historic Places

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the loss of the U.S. Navy airship USS *Macon*, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary nominated the sunken remains of the wreck site to the National Register of Historic Places in February 2010. One of the largest airships in the world, the 785-foot dirigible was intended to serve as a scout ship for the Pacific Fleet and had the ability to launch and recover Sparrowhawk biplanes. In service less than two years, the *Macon* was damaged in a storm on Feb. 12, 1935, and sank off the Big Sur coast near Point Sur. All but two of the *Macon*'s 83 crewmen were rescued by nearby Navy ships. The National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. The *Macon* wreck is the second site in the sanctuary to be included in the National Register.



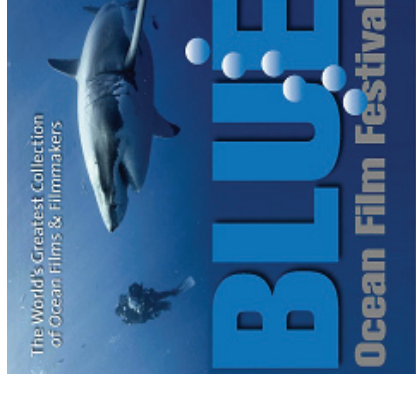
Chad King, MBNMS

Monitoring State Marine Protected Areas along the Central Coast

In July and August, sanctuary and research divers from UC Santa Cruz's Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans surveyed numerous locations along the Big Sur coastline as part of a concentrated effort to study the effectiveness of marine protected areas (MPAs) established by the state of California in 2007. More than 212 dives were made to count invertebrates and algae in an on-going effort to assist the California Department of Fish and Game in monitoring the MPA network along the central coast of California.

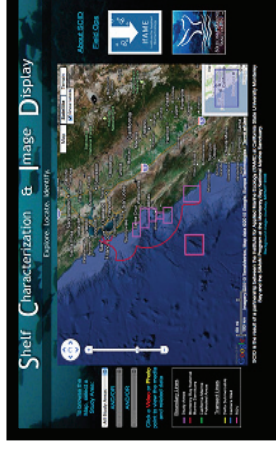


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Davidson Seamount is a Hotspot for Wildlife and Science

Research at Davidson Seamount has been richly rewarding for scientists and the public as new discoveries continually come to light. The seamount was added to the Monterey Bay sanctuary just over a year ago -- the first seamount to be protected in the U.S.. The March 2010 special issue of "Oceanography" magazine featured the Davidson as a "spotlight" seamount because it is one of the better-explored seamounts in the world. To date a total of 17 remotely operated vehicle dives have enabled observations of 168 identified fish and invertebrate taxa, including new species such as sponges, corals and sea stars. This summer NOAA deployed its research vessel *McArthur II* and Twin Otter aircraft to the Davidson seamount and surrounding areas to conduct seabird and marine mammal surveys. The abundance of life over the seamount astonished scientists as they recorded several thousand Cooks Petrels, a large group of fin whales (45 were sighted in 45 minutes) and many other species including Arctic Terns, Xantus Murrelets, Leach's Storm-Petrel, South Polar Skuas, Laysan Albatross, Cuvier's beaked whales and sperm whales. Adding to this excitement was the release of a new high-resolution (three-meter) map of Davidson Seamount created by MBARI using autonomous underwater vehicle technology.

BLUE Ocean Film Festival Comes to Monterey

Monterey Bay sanctuary staff helped organize a myriad of activities for Monterey's inaugural year hosting the world-renowned Blue Ocean Film Festival last August. In addition to giving presentations, providing exhibits and conducting live broadcasts, staff supported the kick-off event -- an adventurous 25-mile swim across the bay by Bruckner Chase. Enduring stinging swarms of jellies, Chase swam for 14 hours straight to highlight both the sanctuary and film festival. For international collaboration with Italy, the sanctuary hosted a screening of Italian films at the Maritime Museum and provided a tasty Sicilian reception for attendees. Staff also coordinated all festival activities for elementary through high school students. As a result, 150 elementary students were able to see the award-winning film "Bag It" and take part in a panel discussion on plastic pollution, 70 high school students participated in NOAA's Adopt a Drifter buoy program learning about buoys tracked by NOAA's Climate Change Office, and more than 150 elementary and high school students representing eight area schools produced 20 films that were shown at the festival.

A New Way to Virtually Explore the Monterey Bay Sanctuary

The Sanctuary Characterization Image Display (SCID) website offers a new interactive way for the public to view and learn about the sanctuary's sea floor using maps, images and video taken during scientific missions with a towed video camera sled or remotely operated vehicle. Produced in partnership with the Institute for Applied Marine Ecology at California State University, this collaborative project is built on a user-friendly Google Earth interface. You can interact with SCID at <http://sep.csuumb.edu/ifame/scid>

Characterizing the Sanctuary's Continental Shelf

In collaboration with the California State University of Monterey Bay's Institute for Applied Marine Ecology, staff completed the fourth year of fieldwork to characterize habitats, fishes, and invertebrates on the continental shelf between 250-450 meters. Site characterization, a management goal of the sanctuary system is undertaken to explore, describe, and catalogue the natural resources of each sanctuary. Video surveys taken from a remotely operated vehicle and towed camera sled were conducted in Soquel, Carmel and La Cruz Canyons, as well as the Point Sur shelf and slope. Images from these characterization surveys can be viewed on the interactive SCID web site (see above).