The Sierra Club Marine Team
Who We Are - What We Do
The current Marine Team had its origin decades ago through the tireless efforts of Vivian Newman and Shirley Taylor, volunteer activists who established the Coast and Ocean committees in the 1970’s. These committees were later combined into the National Marine Wildlife and Habitat Committee, one of a dozen or so issue committees funded by the Club to act on issues at the national level.
Under Project Renewal, implemented in 2010, national issue committees were replaced by national issue “Teams” within what is now the Grassroots Network, a social media platform. The annual budgets for issue committees were replaced by a competitive grants program.
Each national issue committee that became a national issue Grassroots Network Team, including the Marine Team, does so under a “Charge” document defining the authorities and responsibilities of the Team.
AUTHORITY

As was true for the Marine Wildlife and Habitat Committee, the Marine Team has authority from the Board of Directors to represent the Sierra Club on marine and ocean conservation issues that are national in scope. These issues typically affect more than one Chapter.
The scope of issues engaged in by either the Marine Wildlife and Habitat Committee or the Marine Team remained relatively constant over the years, but recently has expanded to respond to emergence of global climate change as a priority issue. The election of Donald Trump in 2017 also has increased the challenge and urgency of our work.
ISSUES

While the broad scope of issues the Team addresses remains relatively constant, the specific issues addressed vary over time in response to federal legislative and agency initiatives, Presidential elections and Executive Orders, and Sierra Club campaigns.
ISSUES

Under our current Charge, the Marine Team issues fall into the following four Charge areas:

- Marine wildlife and habitat protection
- Marine protected areas
- Marine and coastal ecosystems protection
- Fisheries management issues
The Marine Team currently focuses on the following issues:
Beginning in 2017, the overriding issue will be to oppose efforts by the Trump Administration to undermine environmental laws, rules, regulations, and enforcement and the environmental gains made through President Obama’s use of Executive actions.
ISSUES-CURRENT

• Marine Wildlife and Habitat Protection

This charge area includes protection of marine mammals, sea turtles, birds, and other marine species and their habitats. In addition, we engage in fisheries management issues, including marine aquaculture, under the Fisheries Management Charge.
Marine Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Marine mammal protection issues include ongoing concerns over acoustic impacts from the Navy’s use of sonar for testing and training, and potential impacts from other acoustic sources including those associated with site selection studies, construction, and maintenance of offshore oil and gas or wind energy projects.
ISSUES-CURRENT

- Marine Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management approval of the extensive use of seismic airguns for oil and gas exploration off the mid and south Atlantic coasts has been of particular concern due to marine mammal impacts and the broader issue of the commitment to fossil fuels it represents—especially in view of the Trump Administration’s initiatives to expand oil and gas exploration, production, and exports.
Marine Wildlife and Habitat Protection

Concern over the impacts of oil and gas exploration activities on the highly endangered North Atlantic right whale has become a national campaign issue for the Sierra Club. While oil and gas leasing off the Atlantic coast was halted by the Obama Administration, we will have to oppose efforts by the Trump Administration to re-open those areas to leasing.
ISSUES-CURRENT

- **Marine Protected Areas**

Including support for NOAA’s revised process for grassroots organizations to nominate new or expanded national marine sanctuaries. Chapters already active in nominations include those in California, Florida, and New England.
Marine Protected Areas

In 2016 President Obama took action under the Antiquities Act to expand the boundaries of areas within the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument from 50 nautical mile boundaries to the full 200 nautical mile extent of the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone, becoming one of the largest marine no-take areas in the World.
ISSUES-CURRENT

- **Marine Protected Areas**
  
  We must defend against likely actions by the Trump Administration to repeal or weaken President Obama’s designation of national monuments, marine and land based, as well as efforts to weaken the Antiquities Act itself.
ISSUES-CURRENT

- Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection

Including support for implementation of the National Ocean Policy, with particular focus on promoting environmentally responsible strategies by states and communities seeking to adapt to sea level rise and related climate change impacts.
• Marine and Coastal Ecosystems Protection

Our 2017 workplan also includes actions to prevent or reduce all forms of pollution of marine and coastal ecosystems, including those from noise, plastics, chemicals, excess nutrients, and other sources.
ISSUES-CURRENT

- **Fisheries Management**

  Including legislation to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens fisheries management act, support for amended rules to protect the highly endangered Bluefin Tuna, and initiatives to protect and restore forage fish populations.
**ISSUES-CURRENT**

- **Fisheries Management**

We also engage in marine aquaculture issues, including development of policies and guidelines for reviewing marine aquaculture in federal and state waters, including finfish, shellfish, and “sea vegetable” projects.
Protection of Diamondback Terrapin nesting sites and hatchlings. While limited in geographic scope, nesting areas on New Jersey’s Long Beach Island, Kathy Lacey’s project to protect diamondback terrapins has served as a model for what can be achieved by individual activists with support from the Grassroots Network. She received a Sierra Club Special Achievement Award in 2013 for her work on this project.
Marine Team STRUCTURE

The Marine Team structure consists of

• A **Core Team**, currently headed by Team Leader Doug Fetterly, which is authorized to vote on positions taken by the Marine Team on behalf of the Club

• **At-Large Participants**, including past Marine Team Core Team members, advisors, liaisons to Chapters, and other activists committed to working closely with the Core Team

• **Grassroots Network** members, including some non-Sierra Club members, who have chosen to join the Marine Team or one of its sub-Teams
Marine Team STRUCTURE

• The Marine Team operates under authorization by the Sierra Club Board of Directors (BOD)
• The Coordinating Pair (one volunteer and one Sierra Club staff member) serve as liaison between the Marine Team Core Team and the BOD.
Marine Team
STRUCTURE

The current Coordinating Pair is Clayton Daughenbaugh (volunteer) and Bob Bingaman (Sierra Club staff member)
RECRUITMENT:
Marine Team CORE TEAM MEMBERS BY STATE

- Brice Boland, WA
- Katie Davis, CA
- Renee Owens, CA
- Doug Fetterly, HI
- Holly Parker, FL
- Les Kaufman, MA
- Judith Weis, NY
- Bonnie Monteleone, NC
- Steve Mahoney, FL