



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**DATE:** June 5, 2019 **PHONE:** (831) 646-5692  
**CONTACT:** Contacts: Jay Punkar, Admin Analyst, **EMAIL:** punkar@monterey.org  
City of Monterey OR amity.wood@noaa.gov  
Amity Wood, Media Relations, MBNMS

**CRUISE SHIPS IN MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARY: INFORMATIONAL SESSION  
Monday, June 17, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM  
at the Monterey Conference Center**

Monterey, CA. – The community is invited to a public informational session hosted by the City of Monterey and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). A panel of representatives from multiple agencies with regulatory oversight authority over cruise ship operations will present information, answer question cards from the public, and address environmental concerns related to large cruise ships visiting Monterey Bay.

**WHEN: Monday, June 17, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

Doors open: 5:30 p.m.; Presentation session: 6:00 p.m.; Public Q&A session: 6:45 p.m.

Wrap-up session: 7:45 p.m.

**WHERE:** Monterey Conference Center, Serra Ballroom 2, One Portola Plaza

**WHO:** Organization and agency representatives from:

- City of Monterey
- NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary
- U.S. Coast Guard
- California State Lands Commission
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response
- Monterey Bay Air Resources District
- San Francisco Bar Pilots Association

(more)

NEWS RELEASE

**Ways to learn more:**

1. Review the background information and link below; 2. Attend this information session or watch the session on-demand on the Monterey Channel ([monterey.org/tv](http://monterey.org/tv)) (NOTE: this event may also be streamed live); 3. Send additional questions not addressed during the session by email to [suggest@monterey.org](mailto:suggest@monterey.org) by Monday, July 15, 2019.

**Background:**

*Large cruise ships began visiting Monterey in 2002. These ships can provide local businesses with economic benefits, particularly if they introduce the region to tourists who may return for later visits. However, at that time, both the public and businesses had raised concerns about environmental issues associated with these ships. As an outcome of these concerns through a public process, the 2008 MBNMS Management Plan regulations were amended to prohibit the discharging or depositing from within or into MBNMS any material or other matter from a cruise ship except clean vessel engine cooling water, vessel generator cooling water or anchor wash. Despite monitoring of regulatory compliance by multiple agencies with jurisdictional authority, concern from residents and businesses over potential impacts to marine resources from these vessels is still drawing attention. This information session aims to provide facts related to current regulations over cruise ship operations in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and address public questions.*

More: <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/resourcepro/resmanissues/cruiseships.html>

PAGE 2

THE CITY OF MONTEREY & MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY INVITE YOU TO A

**CRUISE SHIP INFORMATIONAL SESSION**

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2019 FROM 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.  
MONTEREY CONFERENCE CENTER  
SERRA BALLROOM 2, ONE PORTOLA PLAZA

A panel of representatives from multiple agencies with regulatory oversight authority over cruise ship operations will present information, answer questions from the public, and address environmental concerns related to large cruise ships visiting Monterey Bay.

Contact Jay Punkar with questions  
(831) 646-5692 or [punkar@monterey.org](mailto:punkar@monterey.org)  
See [Monterey.org/harbor](http://Monterey.org/harbor) for more information

<https://www.monterey.org/Portals/0/News/Cruise-Ship-Informational-Session.pdf>

###