



BACKGROUND

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1989 to protect and preserve the extraordinary marine ecosystem surrounding the Cordell Bank. Surrounded by soft sediments of the continental shelf seafloor, Cordell Bank emerges with a rocky habitat, providing home to colorful and abundant invertebrates, algae, and fishes.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary is part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000

square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. National marine sanctuaries are managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation, tourism and compatible commercial activities. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary



Photo: NOAA

NOAA staff and representatives from 13 global shipping firms pose for a photo during the recognition ceremony.



Photo: NOAA/Marine Applied Research and Exploration
Purple sea fan (*Eugorgia rubens*) was found in northern Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.



Photo: Jennifer Stock/CBNMS

Teachers try out the “gummy” suits before they head out to the sanctuary.

NOAA sanctuaries recognizes companies for slowing down to save whales

NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries presented awards to 13 global shipping firms for their commitment in helping prevent deadly ship collisions with whales. The companies participated in a Voluntary Speed Reduction initiative by slowing their ships to speeds of 10 knots while traveling through vessel traffic lanes outside the Golden Gate Bridge from May through mid-November, the period of peak whale abundance. The voluntary slowdown initiative is a collaboration between NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, shipping firms, Coast Guard, Bay Area Air Quality Control District, and local NGOs.

Deep sea surveys reveal new findings

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and NOAA’s National Center for Coastal Ocean Sciences led a collaborative expedition with many partners to survey deep sea seafloor habitat in the central California sanctuaries in August 2018. The remotely operated vehicle surveys of these areas led to new discoveries. These included the northernmost observations of purple sea fan (*Eugorgia rubens*) for the west coast, a stony coral (*Coenoccyathus bowersi*), and collections of unidentified red and yellow gorgonian corals.

Teachers do a “soundcheck” on the ocean with NOAA scientists

Local teachers learned how noise in the ocean affects marine life in the local sanctuaries and why NOAA and sanctuary scientists want to better understand its impact. Sanctuary staff led a workshop with teachers to dive into the world of ocean noise. Teachers interacted with NOAA scientists aboard the R/V *Fulmar* while participating in the retrieval and deployment of a noise reference station that is recording underwater ambient sound. Alongside whales and seabirds, teachers got a strong sense of appreciation for the sanctuary through NOAA science.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY19

- Sanctuary staff will celebrate the 30th anniversary of the designation of the sanctuary with added outreach opportunities highlighting the accomplishments and benefits of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.
- Sanctuary education staff plan to work closely with Marin County teachers to give a better sense of place in the bay and ocean backyards of the county, and learn about the impacts of climate change on these special places.
- Scientists from Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones national marine sanctuaries and Point Blue Conservation Science will monitor marine mammals, seabirds, prey, and oceanographic conditions during the 16th year of data collection for the Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies Project.

<http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/>