

## BACKGROUND

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1980 and contains remarkable biodiversity, productive ecosystems, sensitive species and habitats. It also boasts shipwrecks and other maritime heritage artifacts. The sanctuary spans 1,470 square miles surrounding five of the Channel Islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara.

Channel Islands 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.

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

# Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

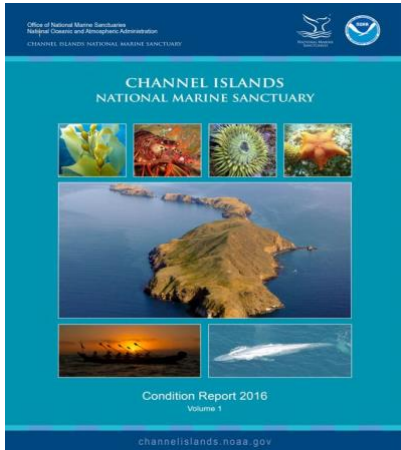


Photo: NOAA

Volume 1 of the Condition Report was published for the sanctuary.



Photo: Sean Hastings/NOAA

A new radar station on Santa Cruz Island will allow sanctuary staff and partners to assess accumulated data on vessel traffic patterns.



Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA

Twenty veterans participated in an educational cruise of the sanctuary as a part of the annual *Get Into Your Sanctuary* Campaign.

## Channel Islands Condition Report completed (Vol. 1)

In September of 2018, Volume 1 of a new Condition Report was released, summarizing sanctuary resources, drivers and pressures, and resource conditions and trends. The assessment indicates the sanctuary is doing quite well, with many resources showing relative stability or improvement. However, pressures such as vessel traffic, non-indigenous species, marine debris, and changing ocean conditions are impacting sanctuary resources. To be released in early 2019, Volume 2 will include an ecosystem assessment and summarize management responses.

## Exploring Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary sunken ancient shorelines aboard *Nautilus*

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary installed a shore-based radar vessel monitoring system on Santa Cruz Island in the summer. The solar and wind powered system is fully autonomous, providing 24/7 monitoring at a fraction of the cost of traditional monitoring from boats and airplanes. The system was made possible through a collaborative partnership with the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Resources Legacy Fund, Protected Seas, The Nature Conservancy, and University of California Santa Barbara's Mechanical Engineering Department. Plans call for installations of additional island-based radars.

## U.S. Veterans tour the sanctuary

In July 2018, 20 U.S. veterans toured the sanctuary aboard the research vessel *Shearwater* for a special cruise to celebrate the national *Get Into Your Sanctuary* campaign. A diverse group representing all military branches participated and engaged in a variety of activities. Veterans recorded marine mammal sightings with the Whale Alert mobile app, learned about the sanctuary's military history, viewed the famous Painted Cave (sea cave), and observed marine life.

## Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY19

- Volume 2 of the Condition Report about the sanctuary's ecosystem services will be completed. The report will include economic assessments of multiple activities derived from the sanctuary and a special insert from the Chumash community.
- The sanctuary will begin an update of its management plan, engaging the public, stakeholders, partners, and advisory council members to identify priority sanctuary issues and goals.
- In 2019, sanctuary staff will replace the engines on the 28-foot research vessel *Shark Cat*. The new Yamaha engines were donated by Yamaha Motor Corporation, and will be more efficient and emit less pollution.

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