

# SANCTUARY WATCH

## Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center Dedicated

On April 26, NOAA recognized the special contributions of scientist and coastal steward pioneer Nancy Foster, Ph.D. in a dedication ceremony of the new Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center.

Dr. D. James Baker, who spoke at the ceremony, noted Dr. Foster's considerable efforts on behalf of the ocean community worldwide and for her continuing work for our nation's coasts and oceans. A distinguished list of guest speakers also attended the event honoring Dr. Foster: Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Scott Gudes, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere Sally Yozell, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for NOAA International Affairs Rollie Schmitt.

Terry Garcia, former NOAA Assistant Secretary, also attended in addition to a host of local public officials and other state and federal sanctuary partners.

Dr. Foster's career contains a considerable list of achievements in ocean stewardship. Since 1997, Dr. Foster led NOS as its Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce. Prior to this position, Dr. Foster served as the Deputy Assistant

*Coastal steward pioneer  
Nancy Foster, Ph.D.*

*(Cont. pg. 3)*

## Monitor Mission 2000 Succeeds in Spite of Bad Weather

The first of a series of three expeditions to the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary took place April 26-May 12. Joining the marine sanctuary program were researchers and divers from the Cambrian Foundation, the National Undersea Research Center/University of North Carolina at Wilmington (NURC/UNC-W), East Carolina University, and The Mariners' Museum. UNC-W's research Vessel *Cape Fear* served as a dive platform for Mission 2000.

Although hampered by strong winds and rough seas that sometime kept the *Cape Fear* docked, divers were able to collect important data that will simplify tasks Navy divers have planned with NOAA for the second *Monitor* expedition beginning in mid-June. Primary objectives of the first mission included documentation of the engineering space, particularly the engine itself, and documentation of the hull, an area to be stabilized during the June operations.

To enable documentation of the front of the *Monitor's* engine—where controls and gauges are located—divers carefully removed marine growth. Video footage of the engine's forward face was recorded; footage was recorded of the engine room's aft entrance, and valuable measurements were taken. The hull and a hole

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## Monterey Bay Sanctuary Monitoring Plan and...

Approximately 80 Central California scientists and resource managers met in Monterey on April 20-21, 2000 to participate in developing an Ecosystem Monitoring Plan for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The workshop, sponsored by the Packard Foundation, had as its goal finding the answers to critical monitoring questions and developing general approaches for how they can be addressed. Seven discussion groups, organized by habitat types and areas of concern to the sanctuary, were very successful in characterizing priority monitoring questions.

This meeting completes the first of four steps towards a broad sanctuary monitoring plan slated for completion in August 2000. A gap analysis will be completed next to evaluate how existing monitoring programs and past data sets intersect the monitoring priorities identified at this meeting. In the future, smaller groups of local experts will refine a set of targeted strategies that fill critical gaps in our knowledge, extend historical data sets, and compliment ongoing programs. New monitoring efforts based on these recommendations will begin in 2001.

A comprehensive program, where scientists continually assess sanctuary resources used by decision makers, is essential for effective resource management. With the intellectual and institutional resources in the sanctuary region, an effective model program is attainable. The workshop's web site is available at [http://bonita.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/research/mb\\_workshop/index.html](http://bonita.mbnms.nos.noaa.gov/research/mb_workshop/index.html).

—Mario Tamburri

## Monitor Mission *(Cont. from pg. 1)*

in the deck in the engine room were mapped and also videotaped.

In an effort to excavate beneath the engine, workers employed an air lift. However, iron debris and coal surrounding the engine created a very hard layer that the lift couldn't budge. Divers attempted to remove one of the lower hull plates so that the engine can be prepared for recovery by the joint NOAA-Navy mission. However, not even a rivet could be dislodged. Divers who attempted to retrieve the plate said they came back from the *Monitor* with a renewed respect for nineteenth century ship construction.

—Dina Hill

## Sanctuary Currents Research Symposium

The Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary's *Currents* Symposium, held this year on March 18 in Santa Cruz, California, was not only a highly successful forum for regional scientists, it also provided an opportunity for individuals from the research, education, and conservation communities to come together and exchange ideas on ecosystem management and sanctuary protection. Participants noted that the multi-disciplinary nature of the event provided a very positive feeling of community involvement and energy towards a shared cause.

"It was the sense of community that so inspired me, particularly the cross-generational discussions around the poster displays," said Keynote Speaker Dr. Paul Dayton of Scripps Institute of Oceanography. "I have never seen anything like it before, and I think that [NOAA] deserves a huge amount of credit for nourishing and feeding this shared enthusiasm for science."

Over 300 scientists and members of the public from around California attended this year's symposium. Dan Basta, Acting Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and Charly Alexander, chief of the program's National Programs Branch, were also symposium participants.

*Currents* Symposium 2000 highlighted ecosystem change and its causes, both natural and human. Among the presentations, researchers touched on local fisheries, marine mammal populations, climate variability, coastal land use, and ecological change in rocky intertidal and pelagic environments. The consensus of many of the speakers was that human impact is a cause of ecosystem change, but it is often hard to tease apart this impact from natural influences.

Each year, Monterey Bay Sanctuary awards a preeminent marine scientist with the Ed Ricketts Memorial Lecture, and Dr. Paul Dayton, Professor of Oceanography at Scripps Institute of Oceanography, was this year's recipient. Dr. Dayton discussed long-term declines in kelp forest fish communities and urged coastal managers to establish no-take marine reserves along the

*(Cont. pg. 3)*

## Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center *(Cont. from pg.1)*

Administrator for the National Marine Fisheries Service. She also served as the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries from January through October 1993.

Dr. Foster is recognized for bringing NOAA's National Ocean Service to a stature and strength unequalled in its history and for enabling the National Ocean Service to lead the nation in coastal and ocean stewardship.

Much of the success of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the nation's premier system of marine sanctuaries, can be attributed to Dr. Foster's tenure as Chief in its early years and through her present level of support and advocacy.

The Dr. Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center will be designed as an interactive complex with exhibits geared for multiple audiences and interests of the public. It will represent the activities of each of the contributing agencies and feature the Florida Keys Sanctuary. A second building will house sanctuary operations, laboratory space, and a dive locker. The waterfront will provide access for research vessels, scientific partners, and other state and federal agency activities. The property and buildings are part of the Naval Station Annex (referred to locally as Truman Annex) and was formerly used by the Navy for berthing aviation fuel tankers and accommodating the Navy Hydrofoil Squadron. A decline in the Navy's usage of the port opened the site up for redevelopment. Currently, the Coast Guard also operates out of the Naval Station Annex. The many participants who worked to make the Dr.

Nancy Foster Florida Keys Environmental Center a reality note how this choice of site and its use reflects multi-agency partnering at its best and reflects a blend of some of our country's most important mandates: marine safety and rescue, environmental protection, and coastal stewardship.

Dr. Foster watched the dedication festivities from her home in Baltimore, Maryland, via the NOAA web site [http://www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov/nancy\\_foster.html](http://www.fknms.nos.noaa.gov/nancy_foster.html).

## Currents 2000 Symposium

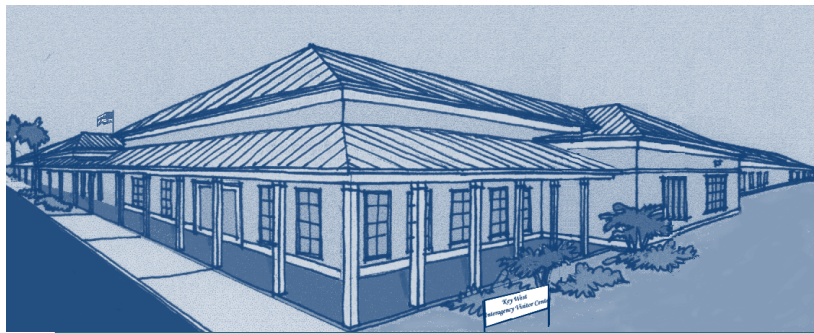
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California coast. Throughout the day, the importance of large-scale, long-term monitoring was identified as an essential foundation for good science, marine management, and policy.

Between sessions, visitors perused 51 research posters—the highest number ever for this event—highlighting the scientific work related to ecosystem change now underway around the sanctuary.

The finale of the *Currents* Symposium 2000 was the presentation of the Sanctuary Awards, given in conjunction with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments to individuals and organizations who have contributed to the sanctuary's mission. This year's Public Official Award winners included Sally Yozell, NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, who was recognized for her successful efforts to increase the national marine sanctuary program's budget.

Congressman Sam Farr (D-CA) also received an award for his unswerving dedication to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary and marine conservation on the central California coast.



*The new Florida Keys Environmental Center will be designed as an interactive complex with exhibits geared to multiple audiences.*

—Jen Jolly



## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES™

**vision** *People value marine sanctuaries as treasured places protected for future generations.*

**mission** *Serve as the trustee for the nation's system of marine protected areas to conserve, protect, and enhance their biodiversity, ecological integrity, and cultural legacy.*

### June & July Calendar

#### Natural events

• Sea lion pupping season continues through July on San Miguel Island, Channel Island National Marine Sanctuary. In July, Loggerhead Sea Turtles use Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary for food and as a resting site.

**June 15** • Monitor Mission 2000 Sanctuary. US Navy Stabilization and Recovery Mission to the Monitor National Marine Sanctuary. Through July 31.

**June 5-24** • Sustainable Seas Expeditions begins deep sea explorations at Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

**July 8 - 12** • Down Under, Out Yonder Education Workshop and Field Excursion (beginner) to the Flower Garden Banks Marine Sanctuary, sponsored by the Gulf of Mexico Foundation.

**July 11** • Hawaiian Island Humpback Whale Sanctuary Lecture Series. "Hawaiian Plants." Ancient Hawaiian knowledge of medicinal uses of plants is being revived today. Marine Sanctuary Program National Calendar may be found at <http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/news/calendar/newscalendar.html>.

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## NOAA's Environmental Heroes

Budding biologists, teachers, volunteers, researchers, a syndicated cartoonist, and a commercial fisherman were among NOAA's environmental heroes nominated this year by the National Marine Sanctuary Program. We applaud their tireless efforts to support our marine sanctuaries and promote healthier oceans and coasts. We couldn't do it without them.

Allison Barkyoumb, 7th grade student  
Kayla Gennrich, 7th grade student  
Eileen Malae, AmeriCorp volunteer  
Jerome Leota, Teacher  
Don DeMaria, Commercial Fisherman/  
Research Assistant  
Larry Benvenuti, Commercial Underwater  
Photographer  
Denis Trelewicz, Volunteer  
Elsie Weber, Volunteer  
Jeff Childs, Researcher  
Frank & Joyce Burek, Photographers  
Tony Sebastian, Volunteer  
Greg Bunch, Volunteer  
Caretta Research Project, Savannah  
Science Museum  
Ms. Maria Brown, Executive Director  
Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association

Captain Harlan Henderson, United  
States Coast Guard  
Patty Miller, State of Hawai'i's Department of  
Education  
Mark St. John Erickson, Reporter  
Mark Silberstein, Director, Elkhorn Slough  
Foundation  
Dr. Carl Schoch, Marine Ecology Researcher  
Jan Klippert, Project Coordinator for the  
Olympic Coast Cleanup  
Peter Auster, Research Scientist  
Carol Shafto, Chair, Advisory Council  
Jim Toomey, Syndicated cartoonist  
Amy Mathews-Amos, Program Director,  
Marine Conservation Biology Institute

### Volunteers Test the Waters of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary

Throughout the marine sanctuaries, Earth Day was celebrated in a variety of ways. On April 22, 2000, local citizens along California's Central Coast celebrated by participating in the first annual Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary "Snapshot Day," a sanctuary-wide watershed monitoring event designed to increase public awareness of water quality issues affecting sanctuary watersheds.

Armed with test tubes, thermometers, buckets, and cameras, the volunteers fanned out into the 11 major watersheds which drain into the sanctuary. They tested air and water temperature, took photos at creeks, rivers, streams, and estuaries spanning over 300 miles of the California coast, and collected samples, which were later analyzed by local agency and university labs for nitrate, phosphate, and bacteria levels.

—Susan Pufahl

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