

SANCTUARY WATCH

California Creates Marine Reserves in Channel Islands

For four years, the waters of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was a swirl of debate about the best way to preserve the rich breeding grounds of lobster, squid, sea urchin and various species of fish that surround the five islands within the sanctuary. Scientists and public interest groups—commercial fishing, recreation, conservation—discussed and debated the various alternatives. Sanctuary Manager Matt Pickett and his staff continued a steady dialogue with the many communities invested in the health of this vital ocean area. Over the years several alternatives were suggested, from doing nothing to setting aside as much as 34 percent of the area as “no take” reserves.



Photo: Shane Anderson

Spiny lobsters scuttling along the ocean floor now have additional protections in the Channel Islands.

On October 23, 2002, the California Fish and Game Commission voted to permanently ban the taking of all marine life from 175 square miles of ocean, equaling 10 percent of waters, around the Channel Islands within the sanctuary. The ban takes effect on January 1, 2003.

“This is a result of a unprecedented partnership between the state, sanctuary and the community,” said Pickett. “It’s truly a win-win for the entire maritime community. I think in five years, when we see the results, we will wonder why we waited so long to implement marine reserves.”

This step creates one of the largest marine reserves in U.S. waters and forms a network of 12 marine reserves and fishing areas around Anacapa, Santa Cruz, San Miguel, Santa Rosa and

(cont'd on pg. 8)

Managers Promote Program Around the Globe

In 2002, National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) managers, superintendents and staff logged some 55,453 miles carrying the program’s message and goals to Canada, France, Italy, Turkey, South Africa and Vietnam. The travels resulted in new and renewed partnerships and increased the visibility of the national program on the international scene.

Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary Manager G.P. Schmahl and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal traveled with NMSP headquarters staff to the island of Vancouver, Canada for the International Environmental Exchange. During the meeting, marine protected area (MPA) managers from Mexico, Canada and the U.S. discussed MPA initiatives, shared issues they each encounter and toured Canadian MPAs.

“Unlike the U.S., Canada’s MPAs are marine components within their national parks system,” said Schmahl. “Canada’s Parliament only just enacted a MPA system, and their very first designation will be off Vancouver Seamount. Our Canadian counterparts were very interested in learning about our sanctuary legislation.”

Schmahl noted another way the Canadian designation process differs from the U.S. “They weren’t required to talk to Canadians about the designation, but they now see the importance of this,” said Schmahl, whose own sanctuary will soon be undergoing public management plan review.

In the use of video telepresence in marine protected areas, Canada is farther advanced than

(cont'd on pg. 7)

INSIDE...

Mystery Oil Spill	2
NMSP to Aid Korean MPA	3
Channel Islands Welcomes New Sanctuary Manager	3
NewsSplash	3
Rescuing “Beany”	4
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Celebrates 10 Years	4
Half Moon Bay Safe Haven	5
Student ROV Built for Competition	6
Florida Keys Gets PSSA Designation	6
Sanctuary Reefs on Task Force Agenda	7
National Aquarium Gets Sanctuary Facelift	7
Calendar	8



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™
1972 * 2002
30th Anniversary





Birdwatchers flock to the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary to study the many bird species which include this American avocet ankle deep in California waters.

Photo: Gulf of the Farallones NMS

California Mystery Spill Solved

The case of the mystery oil spill in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary concluded recently through the efforts of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program, HazMat, the U.S. Coast Guard and the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), who over the last few months joined together to identify the source and then to contain the spill that has plagued the Cordell Bank, Monterey Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries for many years.

The monumental task of determining the source of an oil spill in the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary ended at the site of the S.S. *Jacob Luckenbach*, a cargo vessel which sank on July 14, 1953, after colliding with another vessel.

After years of intermittent "mystery spills," in October 2001 crude oil was again detected by Sanctuary Beach Watch volunteers when birds began washing ashore laden with oil. To date, some 1,351 seabirds have died from oil contamination and over 282 released back to the wild.

More than 140 shipwrecks rest within Gulf of Farallones Sanctuary boundaries, and hundreds of ships pass through the region every week. Sanctuary Manager Ed Ueber believed that the spilled oil could have come from any one of them; others were not so sure. To determine the culprit, a multi-disciplinary team was formed from OSPR, U.S. Coast Guard San Francisco Marine Safety Office, California State Lands Commission, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration, the Channel Islands and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries and Sanctuary Headquarters.

Engineers, chemists, biologists and meteorologists worked together to decipher the year's oil spill, which

(cont'd top next column)

resembled spills in 1992, 1998-99 and 2000-01.

"The solving of this puzzle is a prime example of NOAA functioning at full capacity. Four divisions of NOAA's National Ocean Service cooperated to assess, plan, operate and mitigate the response to this disastrous situation, effectively juggling natural, physical and legislative complexities," said Ueber. Ueber was aided by Channel Islands Sanctuary Cultural Resource Coordinator Robert Schwemmer, who accurately deduced that the *Jacob Luckenbach* was the source of the oil spills and helped in recapturing the oil from the cargo holds and tanks of the vessel.

The *Luckenbach*, originally built to transport troops during World War II, later was converted to a cargo vessel. It measures 469 feet long, with a gross tonnage of 7,869. Officials suspect that the persistent leak began in the early 1990's, severely impacting the local marine ecosystem. Ueber said he is optimistic about the prospects for the ecosystem's recovery, citing work done on four other spills to help rejuvenate the area from human-induced disasters.

Over 85,000 gallons of oil were recovered; an additional 30,000 gallons remain that cannot be removed at this time. The Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary, under the guidance of Program Support Assistant Mary Jane Schramm, spearheaded the observation of wildlife at the site, working with the Former Coast Guard Marine Safety Officer of San Francisco, Captain Larry Hereth (now Admiral Hereth) and his staff. They also worked closely with Dick Fairbanks of Titan Salvage, a dedicated team of men and women of OSPR under the direction of Harlan Henderson, NOAA HazMat and NOAA's local Scientific Support Coordinator Heather Parker-Hall. Sanctuary Program Analyst Lisa Symons and personnel from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary also supported the project by assessing the collateral damage caused by this \$17 million effort.

Beach Watch volunteers on shore, observers on site, the cleanup vessels stationed in the area, Coast Guard Air Station San Francisco and OSPR overflights combined to find, evaluate and remove many slicks which occurred during the process.

"Beach Watchers will again be sent out in force this winter to walk the cold and foggy beaches of the Gulf of the Farallones, from Ano Nuevo to Bodega Head," said Ueber. "This time the sanctuary and the clean up task force are hoping volunteers won't discover any new oiled birds and that the ten-year spill is over. Team work, hard work and expert work sum up the job done by all who helped to find, evaluate and remove the dangerous fuel from the *Jacob Luckenbach*."

To learn more about the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, visit <http://www.gfnms.nos.noaa.gov/>.

NMSP Invited to Korean MPA Planning Workshop

In early December, National Marine Sanctuary Program staff traveled to the Republic of Korea for a workshop sponsored and funded by the Korean Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (MOMAF) and the Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute (KORDI).

During the workshop, participants exchanged information on MOMAF and the NMSP operations and developed plans for management of a MOMAF planned marine protected area off the coast of Jeju Island, on the southern tip of the South Korean peninsula.

In conjunction with the International Programs Office of NOS, MOMAF and KORDI sent two representatives to Silver Spring last spring to study sanctuary policies and procedures. Over a two-day period, they met with several sanctuary staff and discussed management planning, permitting, science, education and Advisory Councils. The two officials also visited the Florida Keys and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries.

Workshop discussions in Korea included an overarching draft management plan and specific plans for research and monitoring, education and outreach and building a board of community representatives similar to a Sanctuary Advisory Council.

—Matt Brookhart



Photo: Jim Carpenter, Gitchells Studio

New Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Manager Christopher Mobley becomes the first civilian manager of this Northern California sanctuary.

Channel Islands Welcomes New Sanctuary Manager

On October 1, 2002, Christopher T. Mobley assumed leadership of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Mobley began his NOAA career in 1987 as a commissioned officer in the NOAA Corps, serving aboard the NOAA Ship *Malcolm Baldrige* as deck officer, working diver and shipboard computer manager. For the next decade he worked in NOAA Fisheries' Santa Rosa, Calif., field office, focusing on the conservation and restoration of marine and freshwater fish habitat.

Most recently, Mobley worked as Pacific Salmon Coordinator for NOAA Fisheries' Office of Protected Resources in Silver Spring, Md.

More Explorations at *Portland* site — On October 15, 2002, Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary staff returned to the site of the historic S.S. *Portland* shipwreck off Massachusetts, courtesy of Klein Sonar Associates reports Superintendent **Dr. Craig MacDonald**. Klein used their top-end 5500 multiple-beam sidescan sonar to conduct 24 passes over the wreck reported Dr. MacDonald. Approximately 10 new sonar records revealed additional details, including the location of discarded fishing gear. The sonar also found a 50' mystery wreck, possibly a fishing trawler, lying 1600 feet from the *Portland*. The NOAA/University of New Hampshire Joint Hydrographic Center will process the data and provide the sanctuary with imagery at a later date.

Sanctuary Staff Awarded NOAA's Bronze Medal 2002—In October, **John C. Halas**, Florida Keys Sanctuary resource manager, and **Andrea Hrusovsky**, Channel Islands Sanctuary executive officer, received Bronze Medals for their contributions to NOAA's national marine sanctuaries.

Hrusovsky was recognized for her recovery of an aircraft she was flying enroute from a maintenance check in Monterey, Calif. that made a sudden and rapid descent into the Pacific Ocean. During the flight on July 1, 2001, at 9000 feet, the plane experienced a severe power loss said Hrusovsky. Despite being 40 miles from the closest airport at San Luis Obispo, Hrusovsky successfully and safely landed the plane saving both plane and pilot.

Halas was honored for his significant contributions to the Florida Keys Sanctuary. His award, in part, was in recognition of his invention of the embedment mooring buoy system that is used in the sanctuary and in marine protected areas throughout the world.

Thunder Bay Sanctuary Manager Joins Search for WWII Sub

—The University of Hawaii/NURP's research subs *Pisces IV* and *Pisces V* discovered a Japanese midget sub in waters off Pearl Harbor during training exercises this summer. In October 2002, Thunder Bay Sanctuary Manager **Jeff Gray** joined with the National Park Service and the University of Hawaii/National Undersea Research Program staff in documenting the sub. The vessel survey indicates that the sub was sunk by the USS *Ward* on Dec. 7th, 1941, approximately one hour before the famous air raid on the naval base. The survey evaluated the sub's physical condition and will make recommendations for future stewardship.

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Field Station for Sensor Tests

—Sanctuary Manager **Reed Bohne** has begun work with the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography as part of the Southeast Atlantic Alliance under the NOAA-funded Alliance for Coastal Technologies (ACT). The program, a partnership of research institutions, state and regional resource managers and private companies, develop and apply sensor technologies for monitoring coastal environments. ACT provides a method for standardizing approaches to coastal monitoring and sensor technologies.

Gray's Reef Sanctuary, working with the Alliance, will serve as a field station for testing the new monitoring sensors.

Scenes from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 10th Anniversary



Local clergy gathered on Sept. 21 at the Ocean Fair for an inter-faith water blessing ceremony.

Photo: Monterey Bay NMS



Children enjoy a close encounter with a monster squid during Monterey Bay's 10th anniversary celebration.

Photo: Monterey Bay NMS

Rescuing "Beany"

The weather on the morning following the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's 10th Anniversary celebration was far too lovely to ignore. Fueled on freshly baked cinnamon rolls and double lattes, we opted for a stroll along the shoreline. Only a few minutes later we spied a small California sea lion working its way along the seawall into a stairwell leading up to the hotel. Clearly, the critter was in distress—it kept rubbing its head against the wall and appeared emaciated. Though we looked up and down the beach, "mama" was nowhere in sight.

We ran to nearby State Park lifeguards and asked for help. Soon we were all constructing a make-shift barricade of patio chairs at the top and bottom of the stairway to keep people and dogs away from the 30-pound yearling. Next, we called the Marine Mammal Center, stood watch and waited.

Within a half-hour, a three-person rescue team of specially trained volunteers arrived from the Moss Landing facility. They began assessing the stranded animal's condition: species, size, age class, body condition, level of dehydration, wounds, behavior, vocalization and response to human interaction. Next, they brought rescue equipment to encourage "Beany"—we were asked to name him—into an animal carrier and a waiting truck. Soon Beany was on his way to Half Moon Bay, where he received emergency



treatment before being transferred to the center's veterinary hospital in Sausalito. We were glad that the rescue had been a success and especially glad for the center's rapid response.

The Marine Mammal Center, a private, non-profit rescue and rehabilitation hospital, treats over 600 marine mammals each year rescued along the California coast from Mendocino to San Luis Obispo counties. Today, the center houses 54 patients, 31 of them, including Beany, are California sea lions. The center is a member of a stranding network created by the 1972 Marine Mammal Protection Act. Marine

mammals strand for a variety of reasons, often from illness, disease or injuries caused by humans or natural predators. Sometimes young animals become prematurely separated from their mothers, or being recently weaned are unsuccessful in finding food. While we don't know Beany's exact circumstance, we know he needed help, and volunteers were there to do the job.

Beany also reminded us that marine mammals have a great deal to tell us about the health and well-being of our ocean, and that we have a fundamental link to them even as we go about our daily lives. Talk about "making the connection"—what a special way to celebrate the Monterey Bay Sanctuary's 10th anniversary!

"Beany" on the move Photo (above center): JoAnn Semones

—JoAnn Semones & Julie Barrow



Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Society's Explorer-in-Residence added to the excitement of the 10th anniversary festivities.

Photo: Monterey Bay NMS



Scott B. Gudes, NOAA Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, praised the work of the Monterey Bay staff.

Photo: Monterey Bay NMS

Safe Havens in Half Moon Bay

Towncriers, dressed in colorful garb, opened seaside festivities at Half Moon Bay's Coastal Appreciation Day which included the dedication of the National Marine Sanctuary Program's newest California field office.

The early September event was especially meaningful for Half Moon Bay's Sanctuary Community Liaison, Julie Barrow, who recently recovered from a life-threatening illness.

"It's a real gift for me to be here today," she said, "I look forward to working with the community to increase awareness of California's national marine sanctuaries and the treasures that they hold."

As a result of her illness, Barrow said she is emphasizing a special attribute of the sanctuary in its role as "safe haven" for both marine creatures and the human visitors it attracts.

"From time to time, we all have a need to heal. Strolling along the beach, visiting a lighthouse or observing sea creatures in their own environment can bring you closer to nature and to yourself," Barrow reflected. "Like myself, many people are drawn to the sea for these reasons. I think we should encourage them to become volunteers, helping to heal our coastal environment as they are healing. The ocean offers us so many wonderful places of respite and renewal. We can give back our care and protection."

On hand for the dedication were The Honorable Anna Eshoo, U.S. House of Representatives; Bill Douros, Superintendent of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary; Ed Ueber, Manager of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary; and other state and local officials.

Other activities marked the day including the grand opening of the Half Moon Bay State Beach Visitor Center, celebration of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's 10th anniversary and an "Oceans Fair" featuring many of the volunteer groups along the San Mateo County Coast.

—JoAnn Semones



Sanctuary Community Liaison Julie Barrow and Rep. Anna Eshoo celebrate the new California field office dedication.

Photo: JoAnn Semones



Photo: Kate Kauffman

“Murphy,” a ROV built from scratch, was a labor of love for Alpena, Michigan high school students.

Thunder Bay Student ROV Competes for Florida Prize

With PVC pipe, a motor from an old Chevy truck, specs from the Marine Advanced Technological Center (MATE) and a \$5,000 grant from the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, a team of dedicated Alpena High School students competed in a national ROV (remotely-operated vehicle), competition in May 2002.

The competition was held in conjunction with a NOAA/NASA symposium that explored the notion of turning the same expertise and technology once used on space exploration to benefit the sea world.

The idea for the student-built ROV came in the wake of a shipwreck expedition to Thunder Bay by Dr. Bob Ballard and his team from the Institute for Exploration. The sanctuary staff contacted MATE and enlisted a Sanctuary Advisory Council member and math teacher at the high school to gauge student interest. The students were very interested.

After a flurry of car washes and other fund-raising efforts, nine students built the ROV (named “Murphy” because everything that could go wrong did) and competed not only against other high schools but small community colleges. As part of the competition, held in the deep end of a Cape Canaveral pool, the ROV was required to pick up artifacts from the pool’s floor. Murphy collected three artifacts before a grate on the bottom of the pool snagged it and brought it to a halt.

“If not for the grate, these kids could have won,” said Kate Thompson, the sanctuary’s cultural resources specialist. The students still received some recognition in a team management award for their fund-raising efforts Thompson added.

A second Alpena High School team will be competing next year in a June 2003 ROV contest to be held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

For more information about Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, visit <http://tbnms.glerl.noaa.gov/>.

U.S. Reefs Receive International Protection

The United States received approval for an international measure that furthers existing protections and reduces threats posed by international shipping activity to coral reefs, seagrass meadows and mangrove forests in NOAA’s Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The measure takes effect December 1, 2002.

The United States, on behalf of NOAA and the State of Florida, submitted a proposal to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to designate the marine area around the Florida Keys as a Particularly Sensitive Sea Area (PSSA). The IMO is a United Nations specialized agency responsible for issues relating to international shipping.

The Florida PSSA will be the world’s fifth area designation, joining Australia’s Great Barrier Reef, Sabana-Camaguey Archipelago in Cuba and the Wadden Sea, proposed by Denmark, the Netherlands and Germany. The Florida PSSA will stretch from Biscayne National Park to the Tortugas, encompassing all of the Florida Keys Sanctuary.

Florida Keys and the Tortugas waters are one of the most heavily trafficked shipping areas in the world. Over the years, ships have damaged the coral reef ecosystem through anchorings, groundings, collisions and accidental and operational discharges of harmful substances.

To gain PSSA approval, a nation must identify measures that the IMO can direct shipping interest to comply with in order to protect the area. For the Florida Keys PSSA, these measures are four “areas to be avoided” (ATBA) that prevent large ships from traveling too near the coral reef, an amendment to the northernmost ATBA to prevent ship collisions and three mandatory no-anchoring areas that protect fragile reefs in the Tortugas.

While these measures are already in place domestically, adoption by the IMO means these areas will appear on international charts, thus increasing mariner awareness and compliance. For instance, although the no-anchoring zones protecting Tortugas’ deep reefs have been in place since 1997 and appear on NOAA nautical charts, many foreign-flagged vessels travel the area and carry non-NOAA charts that do not show this zone. While anchoring incidents have declined since 1997, NOAA continues to document violations.

“Considering the volume of international shipping activity through the Straits of Florida, PSSA designation will add tremendously to the level of protection and attention the coral reefs of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary will receive,” said Sanctuary Superintendent Billy Causey “We appreciate the support of the international community and maritime industry in securing this designation for the coral reef ecosystem of the Florida Keys.”

Marine Sanctuary Managers Abroad

the U.S. system. “The Race Rock MPA web site, *racerocks.com*, is especially impressive,” said Schmahl. “You can switch from live video cameras above and below the water in this major sea lion and seabird rookery MPA.”

Olympic Coast Sanctuary Superintendent Carol Bernthal also participated in the Canadian MPA exchange and noted the many similarities her sanctuary shares with Canada.

“Four First Nations [native tribes] have interests in the area, and so Canada is dealing with similar issues as we are, so it was quite interesting,” said Bernthal. “The cultural connections between our sanctuary and the Pacific Rim National Park Reserve of Canada are especially rich. The Nu-Chah-nulth are close relatives of the Makahs and share many cultural patterns.”

In addition to the Canadian exchange, Bernthal, Sanctuary Program Analyst Elizabeth Moore and Gray’s Reef Sanctuary Policy and Planning Coordinator Becky Shortland journeyed to South Africa earlier in the year to work with African marine conservationists to develop a management plan for the Aliwal Shoals MPA in the KwaZulu Province (The South African/NMSP exchange was covered in the June/July 2002 *Sanctuary Watch*. Read it online at http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/news/sanctuarywatch/sanctuary_watch.html).

Georgia’s Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary Manager Reed Bohne traveled to Vosges Du Nord Biosphere Reserve in northeast France for a UNESCO sponsored meeting. (Gray’s Reef was designated an international Biosphere Reserve in 1986.) The workshop invited 16 managers from the EuroMaB network to address conflict management in resource conservation. Other managers represented coastal and terrestrial reserves principally in eastern Europe.

“These opportunities are invaluable for sanctuary managers,” said Bohne. “While often, as in this trip, the sponsoring foreign agency pays for the travel, it is the manager who gains in equal measure by learning the techniques and programs used by other countries to address problems we all share in the conservation of marine resources.”

While in Italy Bohne represented the program at a marine and coastal management conference sponsored by the Italian government.

Cairns, Australia was the destination for Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Billy Causey, who was a keynote presenter at the World Congress on Aquatic Protected Areas.

Before an audience of 400 scientists and managers from around the world, Causey outlined the intensive management that is part of his sanctuary’s conservation efforts: installing mooring buoys to protect the reefs from anchor damage, educational programs, a broad use of volunteers, research and monitoring programs, various resource protection programs, marine zoning and interpretive law enforcement.

(cont’d right col.)

In 2002, Anne Walton, sanctuary program management plan coordinator, flew to Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam for a workshop entitled “Building Capacity for Integrated Coastal Management in Vietnam.” The capacity building proposal, written for the East Asia Pacific Environmental Initiative in 2001, was endorsed by a U.S.–Vietnamese Science and Technology agreement to strengthen government-wide recognition of the effort.

“The two-year project’s goal is to promote integrated coastal management and planning in Vietnam, using the Ha Long Bay region in the Gulf of Tonkin as the demonstration site,” said Walton. In eight phases, implemented incrementally by the
(cont’d on pg. 8)

National Aquarium Gets Sanctuary Facelift

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) is working in partnership with the National Aquarium Society to provide a new focus on the sanctuaries in the National Aquarium, located in the basement of the U.S. Department of Commerce Headquarters in Washington, DC. As part of the renovation, the NMSF has made sure that each of the 13 national marine sanctuaries will be featured with tanks geared toward species that represent those found at each site.

“We are delighted to be a part of creating such an important visibility opportunity for the marine sanctuary system,” said NMSF Executive Director Lori Arguelles. “The diversity of the sanctuary sites will be captured in one centralized location.”

Sanctuary Reefs on Coral Reef Task Force Agenda

National Marine Sanctuary Program staff attended the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force (CRTF) meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, in early October. The CRTF, which includes federal agencies with coral reefs within their jurisdiction as well as state, commonwealth and territorial governments, was established in 1998 to lead a global response to increased threats to reef ecosystems. As a significant number of U.S. coral reefs are within or adjacent to national marine sanctuaries, the program had a strong interest in the latest CRTF initiatives.

Several presentations highlighted Florida Keys and Hawaii sanctuaries’ coral reefs. Sanctuary Superintendent Billy Causey briefed members on the threatened status of Florida Keys reefs. Other presentations focused on preliminary research on the effectiveness of Florida Key’s “no-fishing” marine reserves and recent expeditions to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve.

The CRTF members emphasized a significant commitment to implement the existing National Action Plan to Conserve Coral Reefs and agreed to certain actions on overfishing, land-based sources of pollution and increasing public awareness.

—David Bizot



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™

1972 ★ 2002

30th Anniversary

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

mission To 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.

December/January Calendar

Natural Events • Look for the blows of gray whales migrating south through the Gulf of the Farallones Marine and Monterey Bay Marine National Marine Sanctuaries in December and January. Hammerhead sharks and spotted eagle rays begin arriving in the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary. In January, female northern right whales calve off the coast of Georgia in the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

December 22 • December 22 • Gerry E. Studds Stellwagen Bank Marine Sanctuary holds Christmas Bird Count. To learn more about the sanctuary, visit <http://stellwagen.nos.noaa.gov>.

January 16 • Gulf of the Farallones and Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuaries share a 22nd anniversary.

January 17 • Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary celebrates its 11th anniversary.

January 30 • *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary celebrates its 28th anniversary.

1305 East-West Highway
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Tel. 301-713-3125
Fax 301-713-0404
E-mail: nmscomments@noaa.gov
<http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov>



SANCTUARY
WATCH

Channel Islands Marine Reserves *(cont'd from pg.1)*

Santa Barbara islands. To date, less than one percent of the world's oceans have been placed aside as marine reserves. This approach—protecting individual marine species by preserving their entire ecosystem—alters the method of marine preservation that traditionally used fishing restrictions setting size and catch limits of selected fish or initiating seasonal closures of certain areas.

A few days after the commission's ruling, a report from the Pew Oceans Commission was presented at the California and the World Ocean Conference, held in Santa Barbara, Calif. The report emphasized that ocean ecosystems are in crisis because of overfishing and pollution. Bycatch, the accidental capture of invertebrates, seabirds and marine mammals by commercial fishing, represents a special threat to marine life. (Scientists quoted in the report estimated that up to 25 percent of the world's fisheries result in bycatch.)

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, an area of 1,658 square miles around the Channel Islands, was created in 1980. Its primary purpose, at that time, was to ban oil and gas drilling in the area, and only a small portion of the sanctuary was off-limits to fishing.

In the next year or two, federal officials will be studying the area and may decide to expand the cluster of reserves to include federal waters, which begin three miles from shore.

"Establishing these gardens of life means that some places in the sanctuary will give true protection to the homes of marine life that is cherished by the citizens of California and the nation," said National Marine Sanctuary Director Daniel J. Basta. "It is truly a historic day that rivals the establishment of Yosemite National Park."

—Nancy O'Donnell

Managers Abroad *(cont'd from pg.7)*

NOS's International Program Office and partners, the project will include socioeconomic assessment training, habitat mapping, environmental monitoring, education and outreach.

Turkey, for a second time, was the destination for *Monitor* Sanctuary Manager Dr. John Broadwater. (In 2001, he participated as a NOAA observer in the Institute for Exploration (IFE) Black Sea Expedition that Dr. Robert Ballard chronicled in a *National Geographic Society Magazine* article.)

During June 2-7, 2002, Dr. Broadwater participated in the first International Workshop on Nautical Archaeology, where expert nautical archaeologists from 19 countries met at the Institute of Nautical Archaeology headquarters in Bodrum, Turkey. For a week, experienced scholars and graduate students exchanged ideas and information on current projects, new technology and techniques and legal issues surrounding marine archaeology.

—Nancy O'Donnell

Sanctuary Watch is a publication of the Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Sanctuary Program, Communications and Development Branch.

Branch Chief Matthew Stout

Copy Editors Sharon Adamany, David Bizot & Michael T. Murphy

Graphic Artist

Writer/Managing Editor

Sandra Nitchie

Nancy O'Donnell

The National Marine Sanctuary Program is managed by NOAA's Ocean Service.