

# SANCTUARY WATCH

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NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES



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Photo: Seaberry Nachbar



# Letter from the Director

**G**ot vacation plans this summer? If so, it's a good bet—statistically speaking—that you are heading to the coast. Some 89 million Americans travel to our oceans and Great Lakes each year.

Hopefully, your travels will take you to one of the 13 national marine sanctuaries around the country. If they do, I encourage you to tell your friends and family back home why these places are so special.

The more people know and understand, the more they care and act. NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program is working every day to enhance public awareness of the natural and cultural resources in our care, and to manage them wisely, but we can't—and don't—do the job alone.

Partnerships are the lifeblood of the National Marine Sanctuary System. They sustain and enhance almost everything we do. We are thankful for the many partnerships we have developed since the sanctuary system was created more than 30 years ago.

One of our oldest and most successful partnerships is with the National Park System. In our guest editorial (page 10), Channel Islands National Park Visiting Chief Scientist Gary Davis discusses the partnership between that national park and the adjoining Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, both of which are celebrating their 25th anniversaries this year. Much of our work to protect the waters surrounding California's Channel Islands could not have been accomplished without the invaluable assistance of the National Park Service.

A more recent partnership, formed between the nonprofit National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and the diving equipment manufacturer Oceanic (page 9), is also benefiting your national marine sanctuaries. The next time you are in a dive shop, be on the lookout for special "hang tags" adorning Oceanic dive gear. The tags are designed to help enhance awareness of national marine sanctuaries and conservation practices among the 14 million Americans who dive and snorkel each year.

We have strong partnerships with states and localities, too, as exemplified by the recent survey of a 300-year-old "mystery shipwreck" in the Florida Keys (page 5) by sanctuary program and State of Florida marine archaeologists.

But at the end of the day, some of our very best partners are individuals, like our Star of the Sea (page 7), Kelly Miller, a California high school science teacher who was so moved by a visit to Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary that she decided to make that special place a living classroom for her students.

I hope you, too, will consider becoming one of our partners, adding your voice to ours as we work to promote ocean literacy and be good stewards of our national marine sanctuaries—America's ocean and Great Lakes treasures.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Basta, Director  
NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program

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Cover: Diver and yellow margin moray eels.  
Photo: © David B. Fleetham

# Newsplash

## NOAA Launches West Coast Humpback Whale Study

The National Marine Sanctuary System and NOAA Fisheries Service launched a research cruise in the North Pacific Ocean on June 28, marking the start of the summer 2005 phase of the single largest humpback whale population survey ever attempted. During this portion of the survey, researchers are gathering data on humpbacks along the West Coast, with an emphasis on coverage in the five national marine sanctuaries in California and Washington. Called SPLASH (Structures of Populations, Levels of Abundance and Status of Humpbacks), the three-year study began in early 2004 and combines the efforts of NOAA scientists and hundreds of other researchers from 10 countries.



**SPLASH!** A major humpback whale study is now underway on the West Coast. Photo taken under NMFS Scientific Research Permit Nos. 774-1714-00 and 540-1502-00. Photo: NOAA.

## West Coast Marine Mammal Survey Gets Underway

NOAA has launched a new research effort to identify and count marine mammals and seabirds along the West Coast of the United States. This scientific endeavor, known as the Collaborative Survey of Cetacean Abundance and the Pelagic Ecosystem (CSCAPE) will survey up to 300-miles along the continental shelf and deep waters off the coasts of Washington, Oregon and California. Researchers will gather information on the number and location of marine mammals and seabirds, conduct biopsy and photo-documentation of whales and dolphins, collect zooplankton and jellyfish samples, and conduct oceanographic investigations. Scientists will pay particular attention to the waters within the National Marine Sanctuary System as part of a long-term ecosystem-monitoring program.

## Expedition Investigates Rare Deepwater Reef

Workers from Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary participated in a research expedition to Pulley Ridge, off the southwestern coast of Florida, to investigate the United States' deepest known coral reef from June 27- July 1. In a massive coordinated effort involving the National Marine Sanctuary Program, the Florida Institute of Oceanography, the Harte Research Institute of Texas A&M University, the Mote Marine Laboratory, the U.S. Geological Survey, and the University of South Florida, researchers studied the unique "agaricia" coral reef, which is thriving at approximately 250 feet below the surface—more than 100 feet below the normal maximum depth for reefs in the Gulf of Mexico. The expedition was extremely successful, bringing back numerous samples and images of the area's marine life and discovering what may be a new species of coral.

## Gray's Reef Sanctuary Sponsors Free Ocean Film Festival

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary will be putting on quite a show Sept. 23-25, when it hosts the second annual Savannah Ocean Film Festival at the Trustees Theater on Broughton Street in downtown Savannah, Ga. The event will feature more than 15 free films and videos about the relationship between humanity and the sea, in addition to art and music and a free special children's



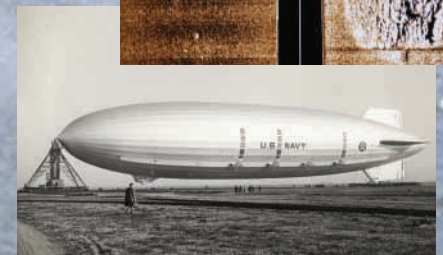
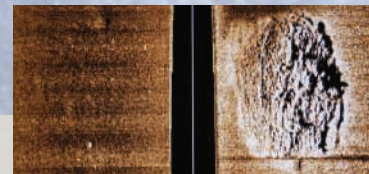
program at the Tybee Island Marine Science Center. Film start times will vary. Visit [graysreef.noaa.gov](http://graysreef.noaa.gov) for more information about the event.

## EnviroDiscoveries Educates American Samoa Youth

Beginning June 15, education staff at Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary led the coordination and implementation of this year's annual EnviroDiscoveries Camps, a program that teaches children ages 8-12 how to help care for and protect the marine environment. Nearly 50 children participated in this year's two camp sessions, in addition to five camp graduates who returned as junior counselors. Both sessions consisted of three-day camping trips along the coast and were packed with fun environmental activities, hiking, swimming, snorkeling, and kayaking lessons. EnviroDiscoveries is produced by *Le Tausagi*, a collaboration between the marine sanctuary and the government environmental education groups of American Samoa.

## Scientists Map Wreck of Historic U.S. Navy Dirigible

Using advanced survey techniques, a team of researchers delved into the depths of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in May to shed new light on the fate of the USS *Macon*, the largest of the U.S. Navy's ill-fated fleet of military airships. A massive, cigar-shaped dirigible the size of three 747s, the *Macon* met its demise just two years after it was built, crashing into



The wreck of the once proud U.S. Navy dirigible USS *Macon* was the focus of a NOAA side-scan sonar survey in May 2005. Photos: Robert V. Schwemmer/NOAA (top image); Monterey History & Art Association

(Cont'd. on pg. 6)



Diver and Giant Kelp. Photo: Kip Evans



Sand Star. Photo: CINMS



Sea lions. Photo: Glenn Allen



Red Urchin. Photo: CINMS



Moray Eel. Photo: Brandon Cole



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES  
CHANNEL ISLANDS  
1980 \* 2005

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Celebrates 25 Years of Stewardship

Situated just 25 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, Calif., the Channel Islands lie in a fertile region of the Pacific Ocean where the cold, nutrient-rich waters of Northern California collide with warm currents traveling north from Baja California, resulting in such extraordinary biological diversity that the islands have been referred to as “America’s Galapagos.” This year, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary proudly celebrates its 25th year as a steward of the rich marine environment surrounding the islands.

Created in Sept. 1980, the sanctuary encompasses 1,658 square miles of ocean around Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara Islands, extending from the mean high tide point to six nautical miles offshore around each of the five islands. Massive forests of giant kelp lie within its waters, providing an ideal habitat for the flourishing populations of fish and invertebrates that help sustain the islands’ numerous seabirds, seals and sea lions. Farther from shore, over 27 species of whales and dolphins visit or inhabit the sanctuary every year, including the rare blue, humpback and sei whales.

During its 25-year history, the sanctuary has worked to protect the area’s exceptional natural beauty and resources. The sanctuary will continue to balance conservation efforts with recreational and commercial activities to ensure that the treasures of the Channel Islands will endure long after the sanctuary’s 25th anniversary.



### Sanctuary FAQs

**Designated:** September 22, 1980

**Protected area:** 1,658 square miles

**Key species:** California sea lion, elephant seal, harbor seal, blue whale, gray whale, dolphin, blue shark, brown pelican, western gull, abalone, garibaldi and rockfish

**Key habitats:** Kelp forests, rocky shores, sandy beaches, seagrass meadows, deep rocky reefs and open ocean



## Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary: Just Five Years Old, But Making Big Waves

On October 7, 2000, historic shipwrecks, found and still undiscovered, received special protection through the designation of Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The designation created the first Great Lakes marine sanctuary and builds on the existing state preserve designated in 1981. Co-managed by the State of Michigan, this 448-square-mile sanctuary in Lake Huron is only the second sanctuary created solely to protect underwater cultural resources.

Lake Huron's unpredictable weather, its murky fog banks, and sudden gales, coupled with rocky shoals, earned Thunder Bay the unfortunate name of "Shipwreck Alley." During the Great Lakes' 200-year shipping history, scores of vessels ended their careers on the lake floor off Alpena, Mich.

These underwater resources, preserved in time within the fresh, cold waters of Lake Huron, still have stories to tell of U.S. maritime history and commerce. The sanctuary, which conducts underwater research, will bring those stories to the public through an exciting new Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center opening this fall. Featuring exhibits, live video feeds from Thunder Bay shipwrecks, and research facilities, the center will engage and inspire visitors of all ages.



### Sanctuary FAQs

**Designated:** October 7, 2000

**Protected area:** 448 square miles

**Cultural resources:** Dozens of shipwrecks including the sidewheeler *New Orleans* (1844-1849) and the steel-hulled vessel *Isaac M. Scott* (1909-1913)



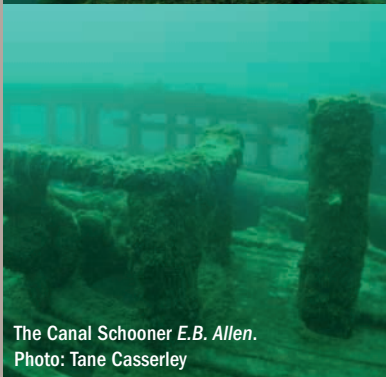
The Freighter *Greician*. Photo: Donald Tipton



The Freighter *Monohansett*. Photo: Donald Tipton



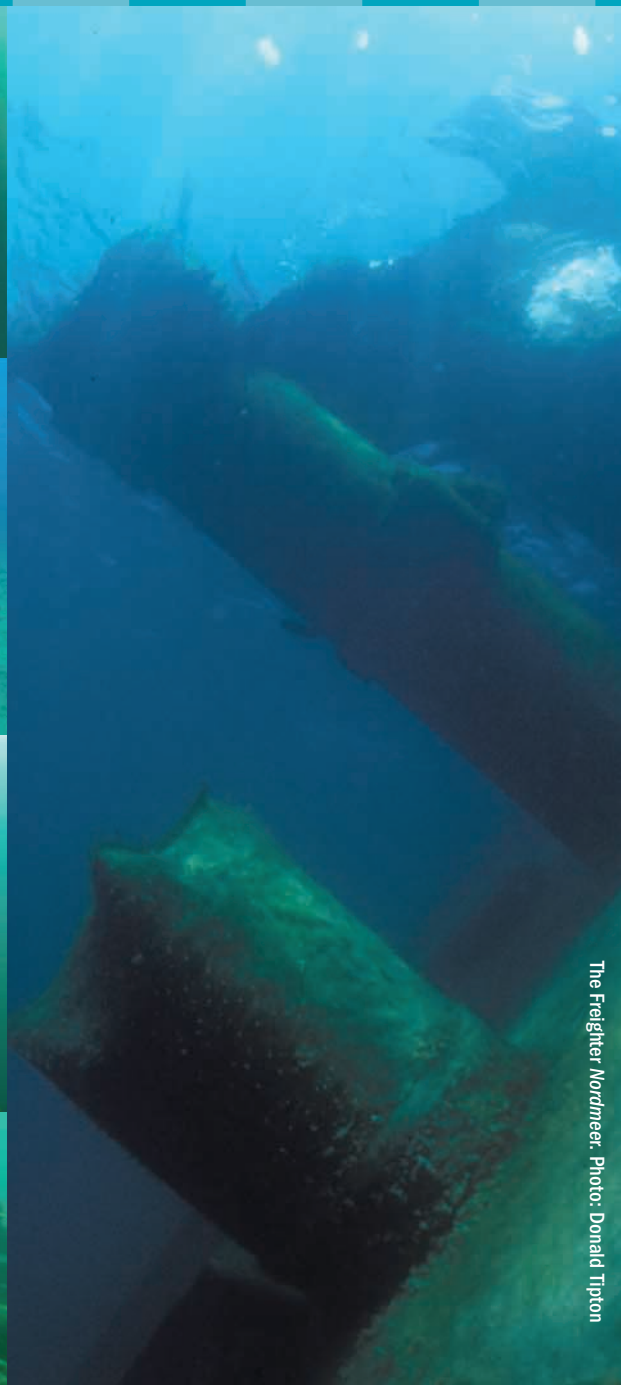
The Freighter *Montana*. Photo: Tane Casserley



The Canal Schooner *E.B. Allen*. Photo: Tane Casserley



The Steamer *Thew*. Photo: John D. Brooks



The Freighter *Nordmeer*. Photo: Donald Tipton



Canada

Michigan

# Celebrate!

# Mystery Wreck!

## Archaeologists Hunt for Clues into Identity of a Centuries-Old Florida Keys Shipwreck

Scientists from the National Marine Sanctuary Program, in a cooperative effort with State of Florida researchers, put on their detective hats for a recent expedition that set out to unravel the mystery of a shipwreck that has eluded identification for more than three decades.

Resting peacefully in the shallow waters of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Marathon, Fla., in an area dotted with vibrant patches of coral and the shadowy hulks of lost ships, the “mystery wreck” is thought to rank among the oldest known shipwrecks in the region.

Funded by a mini-grant through National Marine Sanctuary Program, state and federal archaeologists converged on the site from June 20-28, documenting the wreck for the first time since the sunken ship was discovered in the early 1970s and hunting for clues that may help shed light on its murky past.

The research team spent nine days surveying the wreck,



Above and below: Researchers from NOAA and the State of Florida examine an unidentified shipwreck in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. Right: Sanctuary Biologist Harold Hudson drills a core sample from a coral head growing at the site to determine the wreck's age. Photos: Jeff Anderson/FKNMS

making a detailed map of the area and recording every inch of it with still and video photography. Divers retrieved small samples of the hull and of a coral formation that had established itself on the exposed ballast pile of the ship, sending the specimens off to laboratories for further examination.



While no gold or jewels were discovered at the site, the mystery wreck is now home to a different kind of treasure. When it grounded and eventually sank on the patch reef where it now rests, it became incorporated into the reef and now hosts a teeming assortment of marine life.

“It’s a beautiful site, and almost totally unscathed,” said Brenda Altmeier, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary program support specialist. “When you mix biological significance with the site’s cultural value, that really encompasses what the Florida Keys sanctuary is.”

Roger Smith, Florida state underwater archaeologist and principal investigator for the research mission, said researchers were surprised to find that the ship’s wooden hull seemed to be extraordinarily well-preserved—a rarity for shipwrecks in the warm, shallow waters of the Florida Keys, which tend to accelerate the decomposition process.

Analysis of the samples revealed the startling reason for the hull’s relatively pristine state: the material originally thought to be wood was actually concrete that had been poured into the spaces between the now-decomposed timbers of the hull.

“We were confused at first,” Smith said. “Then we realized that what we were looking at was essentially a negative of the hull. I’ve spent my whole adult life studying shipwrecks, and I’ve never seen one with this kind of construction.”

Based on a preliminary assessment of the expedition’s findings, archaeologists believe that the wreck was likely a small 17th-century Spanish vessel—possibly a messenger ship or scout—which would make it more than 300 years old. The ship, which ran aground on one of the area’s many patch reefs, was probably salvaged of all valuable equipment before it sank.

Bruce Terrell, senior archaeologist for the National Marine Sanctuary Program, said a treasure hunting expedition scoured the wreck for valuables in 1972, but found only a handful of cannon and musket balls and pottery shards that have been dated to the early 1600s.

Altmeier said the valuable cooperation between the participating agencies and the ideal weather conditions resulted in a highly successful mission.

“It was great opportunity for the sanctuary program and the State of Florida to work together,” Altmeier said. “It’s tremendous for us because it lays some groundwork down and it turned out to be a great expedition for everyone involved.”

While there is currently no final word on the vessel’s identity, researchers will continue to study the expedition’s findings in the months to come in the search for further clues.



the Pacific Ocean in February 1935 during a violent storm off Point Sur, Calif. Researchers from the National Marine Sanctuary Program, U.S. Geological Survey, Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute created detailed sonar maps of the *Macon*’s final resting place on the seafloor in preparation for a second visit to the area in 2006. In the upcoming second phase of the *Macon* expedition, researchers will use a remotely operated vehicle to further examine the wreck site.



Kimokeo Kapahulehua (left) receives the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation’s Volunteer of the Year Award from National Marine Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta. Photo: Juan R. Tricoche/DOC

## Foundation Honors Favorite ‘Uncle’ with Volunteer Award

Kimokeo Kapahulehua, known to many as “Uncle Kimokeo,” was named 2005 Volunteer of the Year by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation for his dedication and leadership in helping to preserve, protect and promote the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary.

The foundation presented the award to Kimokeo, who was selected from a pool of 15 nominees from around the National Marine Sanctuary System, at its third annual Leadership Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C. on June 7. Kimokeo’s extensive volunteer résumé includes sitting on the sanctuary’s advisory council, serving as president of the sanctuary’s non-profit partner Ao`ao Na Loko I`a O Maui, and giving numerous educational lectures and presentations to the public on the value of applying traditional knowledge to protecting Hawaii’s marine environment.

## Live from the Wreck of the Steamship *Portland*

In two 45-minute video broadcasts on July 10, scientists treated audiences at the Pilgrim Monument and Provincetown Museum in Provincetown, Mass., to a live tour of the wreck of the steamship *Portland* off the Massachusetts coast in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The footage was transmitted from a remotely operated vehicle (ROV) deployed by researchers from the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut. The ROV tour of the 19th-century wreck was also broadcast on the internet, and was narrated by researchers from the marine sanctuary and the research center, who were able to answer questions posed by members of the Provincetown audience via e-mail. To learn more, visit [www.nurc.uconn.edu/livedive](http://www.nurc.uconn.edu/livedive)



Photo: Carl Miller



# Star of the Sea



## Kelly Miller

“Three *Anthopleura xanthogrammica* and one *Nuttallina californica*!” one Monterey High School student shouts to another,

spotting several sea anemones and a chiton in one of the teeming tidepools of Carmel Point, just south of California’s Monterey Bay. Along with 13 of their classmates, the students scurry over the rocks during a lull in the roaring surf, exploring as much of the area as they can before the next wave crashes ashore and forces them to retreat to dryer ground.

Welcome to Kelly Miller’s classroom.

When Miller, a science teacher at the Monterey Academy of Oceanographic Sciences, first started teaching 10 years ago, she realized that getting high school students excited about science in a classroom setting would not be an easy task.

“At first I dreaded going to work each day, students were so disinterested in learning science,” Miller said.

So, instead of bringing the science to her students, Miller decided to bring her students to the science.

She started to develop projects that would take advantage of the nearby coastline, using it as a sort of “living laboratory.” Eventually, Miller became involved in the National Marine Sanctuaries Education Program’s Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS), a student-oriented ocean monitoring project that spans five marine sanctuaries along the West Coast.

Through the program, Miller’s students learn about different types of marine life in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and get an opportunity to work in the field, collecting data that will be entered into a database to help scientists find trends in species diversity and abundance.

The new approach worked wonders: Miller said the hands-on experience that the LiMPETS program provides has helped her get students interested in marine science much more effectively than any textbook could have.

“I was amazed at how easy it was to teach science concepts outside of the classroom,” she said.

Miller has been taking student groups out to the rocky intertidal zone for the past two years, and with the help of funding

from the National Marine Sanctuary Program’s Monterey Bay Watershed Education and Training Grant Program, she plans to continue to offer local students the opportunity to get their feet wet—literally—in some real scientific work.

“I now have students collecting data through the summer,” she said. “They have begun to notice changes and trends and are thinking about other questions to test for.”

Thanks to Miller’s efforts and enthusiasm, her students are discovering that learning about science can be fun, and the data they contribute to the LiMPETS program may eventually help protect and preserve the ecological treasures of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.



Science teacher Kelly Miller uses Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary as a living classroom. Photo: Lisa Emanuelson/MBNMS



Background Photo: Steve Lomhart for NOAA/MBNMS



# Critter Files: California Moray Eel

Friedrich Nietzsche once wrote that if you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss will gaze back into you.

Likewise, if you gaze into a dark crevice in a reef while diving in southern California, you may find the crevice staring back at you with the menacing, toothy grin of the California moray eel.

Actually a shy, timid creature that prefers to hunt at night using its keen sense of smell, the moray's slender body shape makes it perfectly suited to hiding in the crevices of the rocky reefs it likes to call home.

Morays have never been known to attack humans unless provoked, but their powerful jaws can inflict serious injuries and they should be treated with respect. Most bites occur when an unwary diver plunges his or her hand into a hole in the reef without considering that it might be home to a moray, frightening the eel and causing it to lash out in self defense.

The moray's habit of constantly opening and closing its mouth, revealing several rows of dagger-like teeth, is often mistaken for aggressive behavior and has given it an undeserved reputation for being bad-tempered. The eel performs this "jaw-dropping" ritual to pull water into its mouth and over its gills so it can breathe.

Contrary to some myths, morays are not venomous, although their razor-sharp teeth are often covered with millions of bacteria and can

easily cause infection if a bite wound is not cleaned and treated promptly.

In a kind of biological "odd couple," the moray often will often share its home with tiny red rock shrimp that serve as its personal grooming team, ridding the eel of dead skin and parasites and even venturing into its mouth to clean. In return for the service, the eel does not harm the shrimp and protects them from other predators. Even the fearsome-looking moray needs friends!

With a range that stretches along much of the coast of southern California and Baja California, the moray is one of the highlights of the wildlife of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and is a popular sight for divers in the area.



## Researcher's Notebook

**Common name:** California Moray Eel

**Scientific name:** Gymnothorax mordax

**Max length:** 6 feet

**Max lifespan:** 30 years

**Distribution:** From Point Conception, California, south to Magdalena Bay, Baja California

**Diet:** Crustaceans, octopuses, small fishes

**Status:** Not threatened

# New Dive Equipment Tags Enlist Divers in Marine Stewardship

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the private, non-profit partner to the National Marine Sanctuary Program, and the internationally renowned dive equipment manufacturer Oceanic have teamed up to promote national marine sanctuaries and responsible diving through a special “hang tag” that will be attached to 100,000 units of Oceanic merchandise.

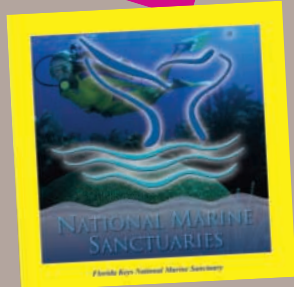
“Since its inception, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation has engaged corporate partners in innovative outreach and education partnerships to better educate the public about the value of our ocean planet,” said Lori Aruguelles, the foundation’s director. “We’re delighted to have this opportunity to partner with Oceanic to educate the diving public about how each person can make a difference.”

Oceanic is a California-based company and one of the largest dive equipment manufacturing corporations in the world. Its high performance instruments, regulators, buoyancy compensators, masks, fins, snorkels, thermal wear and accessories are sold by more than 600 U.S. dive retailers, and worldwide through Oceanic affiliate companies in Australia, Singapore, Japan, England, Germany and Italy.

“As an avid diver, I have had the pleasure of enjoying and visiting many of our national marine sanctuaries myself,” said Bob Hollis, Chief Executive Officer of Oceanic. “We are proud to partner with the foundation and committed to protecting our marine resources.”

Beginning in June 2005, each piece of Oceanic dive equipment will be equipped with a hang tag that provides information about the National Marine Sanctuary System, opportunities to volunteer at sanctuary sites, ways to participate in fish counts and to support ocean conservation awareness.

For more information see [www.nmsfocean.org](http://www.nmsfocean.org)



# NOAA Launches Online Marine Sanctuaries Encyclopedia

The National Marine Sanctuary Program has unveiled a new, innovative online resource that highlights the diverse marine life of America’s ocean and Great Lakes treasures. The “Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries” offers photos, streaming video and important information for over 100 key marine species from each of the national marine sanctuaries.

The Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries allows visitors to search for their favorite species, as well as view streaming video of marine life ranging from spiny lobster to killer whales, and from white-tipped reef sharks to sea turtles. The natural history section of the site provides information on the distribution, habitat, diet and status of each species. Each species card also highlights a quick fact and provides links to other organizations for more information.

“NOAA’s Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries provides critical information on the diverse life found in the oceans and is an excellent example of the resources NOAA develops to improve the nation’s environmental literacy,” said retired Navy Vice Admiral Conrad C. Lautenbacher, Jr., Ph.D., undersecretary of commerce for oceans and atmosphere and NOAA administrator. “We are excited to make available this wonderful resource for our nation’s educators and the public.”

The online encyclopedia was developed by NOAA in partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and The Ocean Channel, Inc. as part of a continuing effort to enhance public understanding and appreciation of the ocean environment. The project was funded through an education grant provided by the National Marine Sanctuary Program.

The Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries is available online at [sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education)

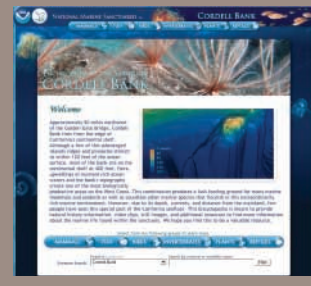
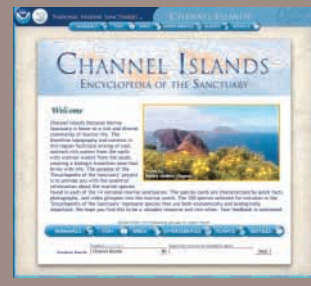


Photo: Dorothy A. Davis



# Sanctuary Voices

Oh, the Places We'll Go,  
Now That We're Partners!

By Gary Davis  
Visiting Chief Scientist  
Channel Islands National Park

Anyone who has visited the Channel Islands, an island chain off California's southern coast, knows that they possess unique natural and cultural resources. Recognizing this simple fact, Congress and President Jimmy Carter designated Anacapa, San Miguel, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa Islands and 125,000 acres of submerged lands as a national park in 1980. Later that year, this area was augmented by the designation of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

In the beginning, it was difficult to appreciate the true value of such a partnership. National parks had been part of the American experience for 100 years before national marine sanctuaries showed up on the waterfront. Park attitudes, basking in the glow of Wallace Stegner's poetic declaration that national parks were "America's best idea" and shaped by many years of public approval, were often expressed as, "We've always done it this way, why change?"

At the same time, newly-minted national marine sanctuaries had yet to develop an enduring public image, a reputation for excellence, and a sense of mission. Until sanctuary and park officials perceived that they were dealing with their equals, it was difficult to forge the strong bonds of trust, respect and confidence needed for true partnerships.

But common challenges, such as the collapse of some marine life populations and catastrophic loss of kelp forests during the 1980s and '90s, prompted the park and the sanctuary to work together more closely and successfully.

Since then, the park and sanctuary have studied and explored the islands and surrounding sea, formed education and outreach partnerships, and engaged in a multi-year effort to build community consensus, based on science, to enhance marine ecosystem protections. In partnership with the State of California, we successfully identified recovery goals for fisheries and biodiversity, while supporting education, economic and heritage values. In 2003, California established a network of 10 marine reserves in park and sanctuary waters.

Looking back 25 years, it's easier to see things we could do better together than we could do alone. It's still hard to see into the future, but with our collective experience we now know how important it is to include partners at the outset of each endeavor.

It's clear park and sanctuary staff share a desire for a seamless system to conserve and protect the biodiversity, ecological

integrity and cultural legacy of the nation's marine protected areas. Over the years, we've gained confidence in each other and built lasting trust and mutual respect. We now better understand how park and sanctuary missions are compatible, how they complement each other, and how they need not compete. Oh, the places we'll go, now that we're partners!



*The opinions expressed by columnists in "Sanctuary Voices" do not imply endorsement by NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program of any particular product, service, organization, company or policy.*

## A note from National Marine Sanctuary Program Director Dan Basta

There are few longer-standing or more effective federal partnerships than the collaboration between the National Marine Sanctuary Program and the National Park Service. While a formal agreement was signed a little more than five years ago, the NMSP-NPS partnership goes back to the early days of the sanctuary program in places like the Florida Keys, Channel Islands, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries, where we have joint programs, share facilities, and support each other's stewardship.

This partnership is seen as such a successful model that we are now expanding it to include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Estuarine Research Reserves. We are embarking on a year-long process involving refuge, park, reserve and sanctuary managers to identify regional priorities for collaborative projects. The leaders of the partner agencies will meet next year to finalize a new agreement that will provide a framework for the future—a future we believe is a promising one, given how far we have come and the enthusiasm within the agencies for where we are headed together.



Background Photo: Glenn Allen



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES

The National Marine Sanctuary  
Program is part of NOAA's  
National Ocean Service

1305 East-West Highway  
Silver Spring MD 20910  
301-713-3125  
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>



SANCTUARY  
WATOH

### 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.

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## National Marine Sanctuary System



The National Marine Sanctuary Program serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas, encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve, which is being considered for sanctuary status. The sanctuary program is part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which manages sanctuaries by working cooperatively with the public to protect sanctuaries while maintaining compatible recreational and commercial activities. The program works to enhance public awareness of our marine resources and maritime heritage through scientific research, monitoring, exploration, educational programs and outreach.