A Look Ahead

In 2012, two ongoing facility and exhibit projects will be completed. The sanctuary office renovation project will be completed, creating a more functional workspace for staff to carry out activities related to sanctuary management. The Oakland Museum of California will open the doors to the Cordell Bank exhibit, featuring nearly 3,000 square-feet of exhibits that reveal the mysteries of this offshore wildlife oasis. In addition, the sanctuary is partnering with the Oakland Museum to reach a diverse audience; education programs will continue to be developed after the exhibits open. Finally, the joint working groups on ship strikes and noise and spill response will present recommendations to the full advisory councils.


Michael Carver


Shannon Lyday/ONMS/NOAA/PRBO

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Officers

Chair: Lance Morgan
Vice Chair: George Clyde

Non-Governmental Members

Community-at-Large-Sonoma: Bill Wolpert
Alternate: Sarah Hameed
Research: Edmund Smith
Alternate: Jaime Jahncke
Education: Victor Chow
Alternate: Bill McMillon

Maritime Activities: Kevin Krick
Alternate: John Berge
Conservation: Lance Morgan
Alternate: Todd Steiner
Community-at-Large-Marin: George Clyde
Alternate: Liza Crosse
Fishing: Vacant
Alternate: Vacant

Governmental Members

Federal Government (non-voting)
NOAA Channel Islands NMS: Chris Mobley

NOAA Gulf of the Farallones NMS: Maria Brown
NOAA Monterey Bay NMS: Paul Michel
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service: Danya Matthews
U.S. Coast Guard: LT Steve Arnwine
NOAA Cordell Bank NMS: Dan Howard

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator
Kaitlin Graiff

http://cordellbank.noaa.gov

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS


CBNMS/NOAA


Joe Hoyt/CBNMS/NOAA

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary gets its name from the underwater mountain that rises to within 115 feet of the ocean's surface off Point Reyes, California. Upwelling of nutrient-rich deep water supports a flourishing ecosystem on and around Cordell Bank, making the 529-square-mile sanctuary a productive feeding destination for diverse marine creatures. Common sanctuary inhabitants and migratory visitors include whales, dolphins, sea lions, seabirds, rockfish and Pacific salmon. Established May 24, 1989.


Jamie Hall/NOAA


Bob Wilson

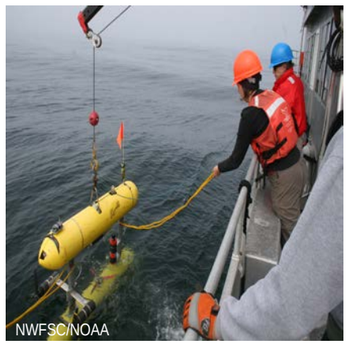
Joint working group addresses ship strikes and ocean noise

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries are engaged in a working group process with research scientists, conservation groups, relevant agencies and the shipping industry on making recommendations to reduce ship strikes and evaluate ocean noise impacts in the sanctuaries. The Joint Working Group on Ship Strikes and Sound in the Sanctuaries will submit recommendations to the Sanctuary Advisory Councils in the fall of 2012. The work group was initiated following four vessel strikes on endangered cetaceans in 2010.


Sophie Webb/ONMS/PRBO

Nature Festival helps promote local economy and conservation

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary co-sponsored the Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival. The event included lectures and field trips to local destinations and attracted over 1,000 participants to the Point Reyes community. The festival drew wildlife enthusiasts from near and far to observe and learn from experts in the field. Businesses benefited from tourist dollars infused into the local economy prior to the busy summer season. Sanctuary staff highlighted sanctuary habitats at hotspots for observing pelagic wildlife, particularly seabirds, and the importance of healthy offshore habitats.


NWFSC/NOAA

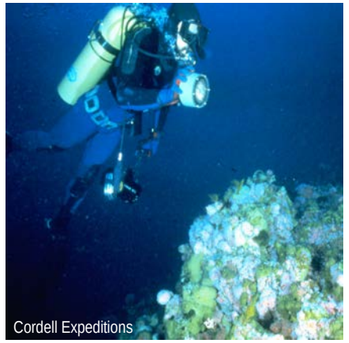
Exploration of uncharted deep-sea ecosystems using innovative technology

In collaboration with NOAA's Northwest Fisheries Science Center, sanctuary scientists obtained the first underwater images of Bodega Canyon, north of Cordell Bank sanctuary. Using an Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV), the team observed the canyon habitats on the sloping edges of this prominent underwater feature that drops over a mile in depth. The new imagery revealed a diverse array of fishes and invertebrates, including some deep-sea corals and sponges, highlighting the ecological importance of the canyon's deep-water habitats.


NOAA

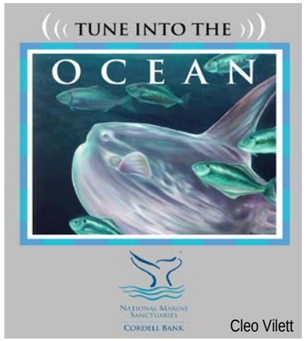
Collaborative monitoring program highlights variability in ocean conditions

The Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) continues to support integrated marine ecosystem research to advise management. This year underscored the importance of regular monitoring as the variability of oceanographic conditions visibly influenced the presence of whales and seabirds. ACCESS data are being used to inform oil spill response strategies in the region and contributed to a discussion on re-alignment of vessel traffic lanes to avoid whale feeding areas. This long-term dataset continues to be a vital asset for addressing conservation and management issues in sanctuaries.


Cordell Expeditions

Preserving biological knowledge for perpetuity

In a time of rapid environmental change, historic biological records are more important than ever in documenting and understanding our natural world. The California Academy of Sciences (CES), a world renowned science institution, took ownership of thousands of specimen samples and photographic slides collected in the 1980s by Cordell Expeditions, the nonprofit group that explored Cordell Bank before it became a sanctuary. In addition to identifying the species and preserving these records, CES has taken specimens collected in recent sanctuary expeditions to identify and contribute to the body of knowledge that is critical for keeping an eye of the health of Cordell Bank.



Cleo Vilett

Ocean Currents radio program celebrates five years on the air

The sanctuary has been reaching regional listeners for five years on its Ocean Currents radio program, hosted on the community radio station for West Marin/KWMR. The show dives into issues affecting our blue planet and provides interviews with experts in ocean research, exploration and conservation with a focus on local marine sanctuaries. The sanctuary's podcast has had nearly a half million downloads to date and this year was included in the National Science Foundation's Science 360 radio project, streaming national science radio programs twenty-four hours a day. Past shows are available at http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/education/radioshow.html.


Dan Howard/ CBNMS/NOAA

Joint working group addresses vessel spills

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones advisory councils are engaged in a working group process to consider oil spill response technologies and their impacts on sanctuary resources. Weather conditions, proximity to the maritime ports in San Francisco Bay and the presence of vessel traffic lanes contribute to the vulnerability of sanctuary ecosystems. The goal of this working group is to engage agency responders, government resource trustees and stakeholders, such as conservation organizations and fishing interests, to make recommendations that will minimize risk to sanctuary natural resources from spills. The Joint Vessel Spills Working Group will submit recommendations to the Sanctuary Advisory Councils in the fall of 2012.


George Clyde

Advisory council supportive of sanctuary

I've participated in the research and educational activities at the Cordell Bank [National Marine Sanctuary] - from bird and whale watching expeditions to the scientific research of non-profits - and I'm always amazed to see the staff and resources devoted to these projects. In addition to these "cottage industries" that are directly stimulated by the sanctuary, are the local recreational and commercial fishing activities and environmental tourism. All these depend on the healthy oceans that the sanctuary protects at Cordell Bank.

-George Clyde; Local resident and member, Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council