

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



WORKING TO PROTECT WHALES

Two joint advisory council working groups, facilitated by Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries, made final recommendations on ways to reduce the risk of ship strikes on whales, better understand the sanctuaries' acoustic environment and address oil spill response technologies. The working groups were comprised of representatives from the shipping industry, science community, conservation community, and state and federal agencies. The recommendations will help NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary System better protect and manage sanctuary ecosystems.



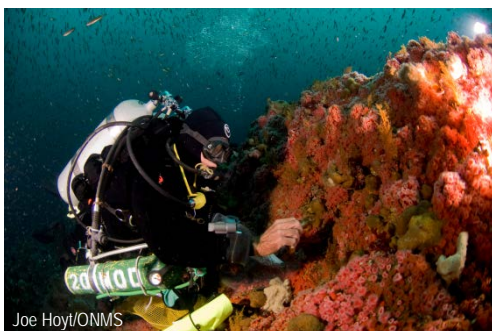
CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE CLASSROOM

In collaboration with coastal science educators, the sanctuary co-hosted a three-part climate change teacher workshop series focused on the changing coast and ocean environments. Teachers heard directly from scientists who shared their research findings related to climate change. Educators practiced hands-on activities while gaining access to an array of classroom resources. A highlight of the workshop series included a field visit to an oyster operation in Tomales Bay to learn about real impacts on growers from ocean acidification. This training expands NOAA's climate and ocean literacy efforts.



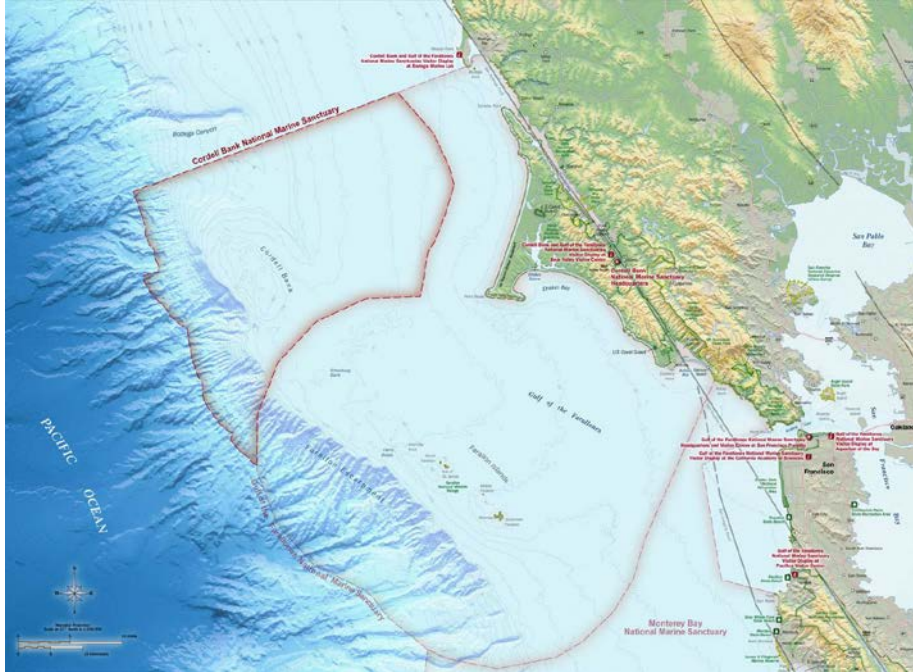
SANCTUARIES MEAN BUSINESS

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) supported local tourism on the Marin/Sonoma Coast by offering events that drew visitors to the rural west counties region. The sanctuary co-sponsored the three-day *Point Reyes Birding and Nature Festival*, drawing hundreds of nature enthusiasts to Point Reyes to explore and enjoy the region, including Cordell Bank. The sanctuary also led its annual field seminar program introducing the beauty and diversity of the offshore waters of Cordell Bank. Both programs drew hundreds of visitors to the coastal communities of Point Reyes and Bodega Bay, which, in turn, supported the local businesses hosting these tourists.



OVERFISHED SPECIES FIND REFUGE ON CORDELL BANK

Analysis of underwater video collected by technical SCUBA divers on Cordell Bank revealed the Bank's abundant and diverse invertebrate marine life. It was also noted that the Bank's thriving reef top provides habitat for thousands of commercially important juvenile rockfish. Numerous juvenile yellow eye rockfish were observed living among the invertebrate and rocky structure of the Bank. This information is important for CBNMS and resource managers as yellow eye rockfish have been overfished and the population may take decades to rebuild.



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.

LOOKING AHEAD

- CBNMS will celebrate the opening of a permanent exhibit focused on Cordell Bank at the Oakland Museum of California. This new partnership opens a window for a more diverse and urban audience to the myriad of Cordell Bank mysteries.
- NOAA initiated a process to expand Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries in 2012. Staff will be working closely with constituents and the public to carry out the process. The expansion would add 757 square miles to CBNMS.
- The sanctuary will be conducting a research cruise to better understand the dynamic invertebrate assemblage that inhabits Cordell Bank. Hundreds of species make Cordell Bank their home, all contributing to the magnificent biodiversity in the sanctuary. The research team seeks to gain quantifiable information to support management decisions that protect Cordell Bank.

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.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries 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 from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>