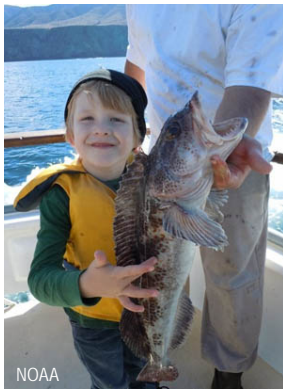


2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



SHIPPING LANE CHANGES TO HELP WHALES

In November 2012, the International Maritime Organization approved shipping lane changes in California to improve navigational safety and reduce the risk of whale ship strikes near busy ports, including portions of the Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries. The changes will take place in 2013. At Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) this was made possible through years of dedicated work by sanctuary staff, the sanctuary advisory council, NOAA Fisheries, the U.S. Coast Guard, the shipping industry, Cascadia Research and the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps program.



SANCTUARY CLASSIC

In 2012 the Sanctuary Classic recreational fishing and photography tournament was hosted at CINMS and three other national marine sanctuaries. Developed by the Sportfishing Conservancy with support from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, ONMS, NOAA Fisheries and many other sponsors, the tournament encouraged family enjoyment of recreational fishing in sanctuaries using ethical angling practices. Weekly prizes were awarded for winning photos and Guy Harvey Youth Scholarships were awarded to four grand prize winners. CINMS looks forward to the tournament's return, and assisting with marketing through local tourism and visitor organizations.



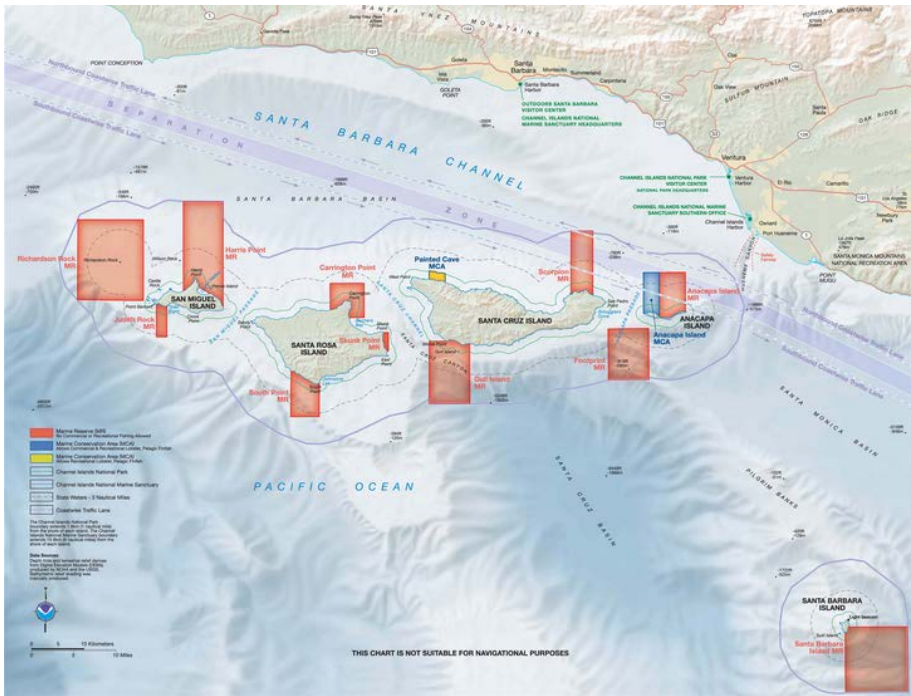
SHIPWRECK DISCOVERY

In October 2012, Robert Schwemmer, West Coast Region National Marine Sanctuaries Maritime Heritage Coordinator, presented a scientific paper on the history and discovery of the wrecked remains of the *George E. Billings*, a rare, early 1900s Pacific Coast schooner used in the lumber trade. For many years, archaeologists and historians with the sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park had searched for the *Billings*. The wreck was located on a CINMS expedition aided by research from tech-diver Steve Lawson, researcher Gary Fabian, and Patrick Smith with Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources.



UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS (UAS) TAKING OFF

In 2012, CINMS's investments in NOAA's UAS program helped pave the way for Puma UAS operations to emerge across ONMS and NOAA. Successful test missions within CINMS involved supporting an offshore oil spill drill, conducting seabird and whale surveys, and performing evening enforcement. The NOAA UAS Program acquired two new Puma systems, one of which may be stationed at CINMS. ONMS staff will eventually be trained to operate these systems. Continued missions are planned in 2013.



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary encompasses the waters surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands off the coast of Southern California, encircling Channel Islands National Park. The combination of warm and cold ocean currents around the islands results in a great variety of plants and animals, including large forests of giant kelp, flourishing populations of fish and invertebrates, and abundant populations of whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals and seabirds. Also plentiful are maritime heritage resources such as shipwrecks and historic artifacts. Established September 22, 1980.

LOOKING AHEAD

- In the spring of 2013, the Channel Islands Boating Center will open and feature extensive sanctuary exhibits. The Ocean Science Education Building at the University of California, Santa Barbara will also open and serve as the sanctuary's new main office space and future home of the Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science.

The Channel Islands Boating Center is a partnership between California State University Channel Islands, County of Ventura Harbor Department, Channel Islands Harbor Foundation, California Department of Boating and Waterways and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

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



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>