

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

3rd Quarter FY2011
April through June ~ 2011

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT



Sanctuary Half Moon Bay Office Closes

On May 31 after ten successful years the Half Moon Bay marine sanctuary office closed due to budget constraints. The Half Moon Bay staff has relocated to the Farallones San Francisco office. The Farallones Sanctuary will maintain and increase programs and services currently offered in the Coastside community in San Mateo County. These include education and outreach, such as the lectures and excursions series, At Your School and Fishermen in the Classroom programs, the coastal trail and interpretive signage projects. The Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association will still conduct LiMPETS programs in the area. Emergency Response planning, permit coordination, Climate Change services, and the Seabird Protection Network and Beach Watch efforts will carry on. A new program, "Sanctuary Coastside Chats" will be offered at local cafes and the library to develop even closer relationships within the community. The Farallones sanctuary has cultivated a dedicated community base to help protect the ocean ecosystem south of San Francisco. Shifting available resources to reduce operations costs enables the sanctuary to maintain existing levels for programs and services.



Photo: Steve Lonhart/NOAA



MANAGEMENT & DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

State Department Brings South American Scientists for Farallones Briefing

At the request of the U.S. State Department, the Farallones sanctuary hosted resource managers and scientists from several South America countries and briefed them on sanctuary administrative structure, programs, resources and challenges as part of the International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), one of the most prestigious programs of that department's Institute of International Education. The visitors manage marine protected areas, fisheries, and conduct research. Topics included shark conservation, seabirds, regulations, education and outreach, sustainability, wetlands restoration, ecotourism, and climate change impacts. The IVLP program hosts leaders selected by the U.S. State Department and U.S. Embassies worldwide as current or emerging leaders in government, science, education and other areas. The goal is to build mutual understanding between the U.S. and other countries through carefully designed visits that reflect participants' interests and support U.S. foreign policy goals. Past IVLP program alumni have included Tony Blair, Margaret Thatcher, Anwar Sadat, Giscard D'Estaing, Indira Gandhi, and others. A dynamic international information exchange is important for identifying commonalities and potential partnerships throughout broader ecosystem, and throughout the hemisphere.

Farallones Sanctuary Welcomes Tribal Scientists Working Group

On Wednesday April 29th 26 members of the Tribal Scientist Working Group toured the Farallones marine sanctuary headquarters. This was part of a three-day conference with the Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco. The scientists, representing Paiute-Shoshone, Pomo and other tribes from California, Arizona and Nevada in EPA Region 9 came to learn about the Farallones Ocean Climate Change Initiative and the historic Tide Station and its role in measuring sea level rise, and obtain general knowledge of the sanctuary. Several came from communities to the north of the Farallones sanctuary, along the Sonoma and Mendocino county coasts proposed for expansion by Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey and Senator Barbara Boxer. Developing relationships with and working with First Nations communities could represent an important opportunity to reach out to a previously untapped constituency.

STATE OF THE SANCTUARY

RESEARCH

Monitoring To Understand Long-Term Trends

Communicating Conservation Science

Conservation science highlights for 2010 included completion and distribution of the GFNMS Condition Report, continued NRDA for the 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill, and the joint exploration cruise for deep sea corals and sponges within Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones NMSs. Challenges include continued budget cuts to long-term monitoring programs resulting in continued data gaps that were identified in the Condition Report.

Sanctuary Ecosystem Assessment Programs (SEA Surveys and ACCESS)

SEAS—Beach Watch

Farallones Scientists Issue Report on Beach Watch Efforts to National Park Service

Science staff completed the Investigator's Annual Report, a permit requirement for the Beach Watch project being conducted in the National Parks. In 2010, volunteer hours were down from the numbers of hours volunteers worked in 2009. The lower numbers were due to attrition and reduced training opportunities. Even though the Beach Watch program has a retention rate of about 90%, recruitment is needed about every three to four years in order to maintain the high level of surveys, training and vigilance along our coast. Beach Watch volunteers are part of our emergency response plan and rapid damage assessment teams, in the event of an oil spill. Due to budget cuts, recruitment for new volunteers has been cut and emergency response training has been reduced until outside funding can be obtained.

Sanctuary and Partners Continue Monitoring Harbor Seal Haulouts, Behavior

Science staff continues to collect monitoring data of coastal birds and marine mammals. This season there was an increased effort to survey harbor seal resting, pupping and molting haulouts. This effort is in collaboration with regional marine resource protection agencies, such as the national parks and National Marine Fisheries Service. Harbor seal surveys will continue through mid-July, when most pups are weaned from their mothers.

Beach Watch Monitors Help State Investigate Leopard Shark Die-off

Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary Beach Watch staff are assisting the California Department of Fish and Game in their investigation of an unusually large number of dead and moribund leopard sharks in the San Francisco Bay area. For the past several months, leopard sharks have been found stranded along the shores of San Francisco Bay and near the Golden Gate Bridge. In order to determine cause of death, CDFG biologists need fresh or sick but live fish for blood and tissue sampling. So far surveyors have provided information on three dead or dying sharks.

ACCESS CRUISES

Research Cruises Planned for Summer

The sanctuary and partners Cordell Bank and PRBO Conservation Science carried out the first of 2011's Applied California Current Ecosystem Surveys (ACCESS) cruise. ACCESS is a partnership designed to collect integrated data on oceanographic conditions, zooplankton (primarily krill and copepods), seabird and marine mammal distribution, abundance, foraging behavior and vessel activities in northern and central CA. The study provides information to assist management of resources at risk from oil pollution, vessel strikes and determine persistent ecological hotspots. One multi-day cruise was conducted aboard the *R/V John Martin*. Additional surveys are planned for July and September. Due to funding cuts, nearly 40% of the traditional sampling area was cut from surveys this year, creating data gaps and not collecting data essential to make recommendations on alternative vessel traffic lanes for the region.

CONSERVATION

Restoring Habitats

Community Update on Bolinas Lagoon Restoration

On Tuesday May 10th community members from the Bolinas and Stinson areas attended a Town Hall meeting coordinated by Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, in partnership with the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, on the status and future of restoration projects for Bolinas Lagoon. The Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Project was at times controversial, but maintaining openness and transparency has helped the project move forward to the next phase. This is also vital for strengthening support for the Bolinas Lagoon program and continuing progress on the projects. Community meetings are an invaluable forum for public input on project processes, and provide opportunities for local advocates to become active volunteers and supporters. Marin County, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Caltrans, and Bodega Marine Laboratory gave presentations on current restoration topics including upcoming Highway 1 roadwork, invasive species removal, and oil spill response planning. Presentations were followed by a question and answer period.

Minimizing Risk from Oil Spills and Vessels

Oil Spill Exercise Helps Strengthen Emergency Response Partnerships

This spring sanctuary and association staff participated in two days of a multi-agency three-day oil spill exercise sponsored by ConocoPhillips in Berkeley. Spill Response Preparedness exercises assist in incident planning, design, implementation and help agencies and responsible parties to effectively respond to incidents. The simulated exercise involved the release of 900,000 barrels of oil when a tanker was struck broadside in the early morning, approximately 3.5 miles west of the Golden Gate Bridge, just outside the sanctuary boundaries. In the scenario, an estimated 74,000 barrels of fuel were spilled into the sanctuary. Sanctuary staff worked with other agencies to determine the efficacy of dispersant use, and the simulation and discourse helped to enhance agency partnerships.

Planning and Partnering for Spill Preparedness

On May 17 Sanctuary staff attended the US Coast Guard-led San Francisco Area Contingency Planning Meeting. The group discussed recent spill responses, a future oil spill preparedness drill simulating a release affecting the Farallon Islands, update of the area plan to be released later this year, and the finalization of a non-wildlife volunteer plan that will be a template for the nation. Sanctuary Advisory Council member Bob Wilson was recognized on his participation on the volunteer plan drafting. Sanctuary staff updated the group on the formation of a joint Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council working group addressing vessel spill issues and the use of response technologies such as dispersants. News of the working group was well received and a number of response personnel offered to assist.

Crab Boat Grounds, Farallon Staff and Beach Watch Volunteers on Standby

Crab fishing vessel, *F/V Deenie Lynn*, capsized and grounded offshore San Francisco on June 29, 2011. All 3 passengers were rescued. The vessel was reported to be carrying 800 gallons of diesel, some oil, and other shipboard chemicals. A small sheen was reported at the grounding site. The vessel was subsequently towed to a nearby sheltered beach for defueling. Although the vessel was not grounded in the sanctuary, staff tracked the response for its potential impacts to nearby sanctuary waters and sanctuary wildlife. The sanctuary Beach Watch program was also on alert for any oiled wildlife in the region.

Farallones and Cordell Sanctuaries Working Group Tackle Spill Response Issues

The joint Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries' Advisory Councils' working group on vessel spills had its first meeting on June 20. The goal of the working group is to engage agency responders, government resource trustees, non-governmental interests, and fishermen to develop a recommendation to the Advisory Councils on the use of various response technologies (e.g. chemical dispersants) within the two Sanctuaries.

This is Just a Drill, Baby, Drill! Internal Oil Spill Response Simulation

On May 2 Sanctuary staff held an internal spill response drill to test staff preparedness. The drill was initiated by an external party to ensure a surprise factor and to help simulate real conditions. Staff followed notification and communication guidelines in the newly updated Sanctuary response plan and utilized forms, maps, and other resources within the newly created on-line GFNMS Spill Response portfolio. Future preparedness drills are planned for this summer.

Dress Rehearsal for Oil Spills, Interface with Shipping Representatives

On June 9 Sanctuary staff participated in an oil spill drill organized by ECM, a spill management company contracted by ship owners during a clean-up response. The drill simulated a major petroleum release in the sanctuary that required booming of sensitive sites, deployment of oiled wildlife response teams, and identification of a place of refuge for the leaking, damaged vessel. In addition to practice participating in the response, Sanctuary staff had the opportunity to talk about the importance of the Sanctuary to a number of shipping company representatives whose fleets frequent Sanctuary waters.

Deepwater-Horizon "Lessons Learned" Inform Farallones Spill Strategy

On June 22 and 23 Sanctuary staff attended the Regional Response Team (Region 9) (RRT9) meeting in Oakland, CA. RRT9 provides guidance and oversight on spill response and preparedness activities in California (as well as Nevada and Arizona). Discussion topics included lessons learned from the Deepwater spill, the inclusion of a local government representative in the unified command during spills, overview of new state and federal spill preparedness efforts, new plans on the use of volunteers in spills, and reports on lessons learned from the recent International Oil Spill Conference.

Vessel in Distress Places of Refuge Evaluated for Potential Sanctuary Impacts

On June 29 Farallones sanctuary staff participated in the Potential Places of Refuge for Vessels in Distress (PPOR) Working Group of the San Francisco Area Contingency Planning effort. There is one PPOR site within the Farallones Sanctuary for deep draft vessels and 21 sites within San Francisco Bay. Sanctuary resources may be significantly affected by a leaking or damaged

vessel brought to the PPOR site within the Sanctuary or transited through the Sanctuary on the way to PPOR sites within the Bay. Participation on the working group allows for input into the place of refuge determination process and ensures consideration of sanctuary resources during an incident.

REDUCING WILDLIFE DISTURBANCE

Protecting Breeding Seabird Colonies

Sanctuary Deploys “No-Access” Demarcation Buoys at Seabird Colonies

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Seabird Protection Network are assisting the State of California in implementing the California Marine Life Protection Act. Network staff oversaw the installation of three buoys near Devil’s Slide Rock, a major seabird breeding colony, to demarcate the boundaries of one of six Special Closures/No-Access Zones closed to all human activity, to aid boater compliance in avoiding these sensitive seabird breeding sites. These areas are subject to seasonal or year-round closures.

The Seabird Protection Network (Network), a multi-agency organization spearheaded by the Farallones Sanctuary, is dedicated to the protection of seabirds and specifically aims to reduce human disturbance to seabirds at coastal breeding and roosting (resting) sites in North-Central California. No-Access Zones aim to protect resting, nesting and roosting seabirds and rookery and haul-out areas for marine mammals.

Seabird Protection Network Achieves 100% Compliance from Air Show Pilots

On May 1, the Seabird Protection Network, working with regional airport managers and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) achieved an unprecedented 100% success in preventing seabird displacement at the 2011 Pacific Coast Dream Machine Air and Vehicle Show. This is the most successful seabird protection effort at this major air show to date. The “fly-in” event draws pilots from around the country, and the 150 aircraft participating included vintage warbirds, 1940s and '50s classics and homebuilt experimental aircraft. Media outreach and direct pilot mailings provided advance notice of potential disturbance, and penalties for disturbance. Network staff participated in a pre-show briefing at which the FAA aviation safety inspector advised pilots and helicopter and biplane tour operators that the minimum altitude would be strictly enforced. Biologists stationed at Devil’s Slide Rock, a nearby seabird breeding site, observed no major disturbances, as 36 planes flew near it at or above 1,000 feet. This event attracts up to 30% of the aircraft observed for the entire monitoring season (April-August).

Seabird Protection Network Presents at Global Conservation Congress

At the 2011 International Marine Conservation Congress Farallones staff gave an oral presentation to conservation professionals, students, government agencies, non-governmental organizations, environmental industry representatives and leaders of private foundations on how the Seabird Protection Network is utilizing available data from the aircraft industry to target outreach efforts. Understanding temporal and spatial human-use patterns allows the network to focus outreach, management and enforcement efforts, increasing efficacy and ultimately

reducing disturbances to vulnerable seabird breeding and roosting colonies. With roughly 600,000 seabirds breeding along the central California coast and approximately eight million people living in the San Francisco Bay Area, the potential for human activities to impact breeding and roosting seabird species is high. The International Marine Conservation Congress advances marine conservation by facilitating discussions among scientists, managers and policy makers. This presentation offered a model for effective communications strategies, as well as to obtain information on other agencies' approaches to conservation messaging.

Third E-Newsletter from the Seabird Protection Network

The Seabird Protection Network (Network) released its third E-Newsletter to 936 pilots, boaters, kayakers and ocean users on April 4th. This issue focused on the Farallon Islands, 2010 breeding season results and Ashy Storm-Petrels. All issues are now archived via the Network website. Sign up for the newsletter at http://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/seabird/seabird_newsletter.html

Seabird Protection Network Connects with the Civil Air Patrol

On May 9th, the Seabird Protection Network presented to the 22 cadets and senior members of the Civil Air Patrol, Squadron 23 Marin Search & Rescue. The presentation included the background of the local Sanctuaries, seabirds, the problem with low over flight disturbances to wildlife, and how pilots can prevent disturbances. Staff distributed pilot brochures and information on the over flight regulations within the sanctuary. Network staff spoke with 24 boaters and 3 pilots at the Marin Power Squadron in June in Novato, and the West Valley Flying Club June 15th San Carlos. Staff spoke about Sanctuaries, local seabirds, and how to minimize human impact on seabird breeding colonies while in the air or on the water. Presentations to local boaters and pilots not only inform people of regulations protecting marine life but also inspires a greater interest in and sense of stewardship for our local sanctuaries.

Seabird Protection Network Outreach to Kayakers, Divers

The Seabird Protection Network presented information on the sanctuaries, local seabirds and ways to minimize wildlife disturbance to 18 members of the Marin Scuba Club on May 18th. Staff distributed handouts and tide books to club members. On June 2nd staff from the Seabird Protection Network gave a talk at the Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI) outdoor store in San Francisco to 12 attendees. Staff introduced the local sanctuaries and marine life to the engaged audience, spoke about the history of local seabird populations, why seabirds need our help and shared tips to minimize disturbance during the breeding season.

Protecting Whales, Other Marine Mammals

Preventing Whale Deaths from Ship Strike

In preparation for congressional briefings by Acting Deputy Director Bill Douros, Farallones communications staff provided data and images concerning Bay Area whale mortalities by shipstrike to Channel Islands sanctuary Geographic Information Systems staff. In 2010 several endangered whales died in the Bay Area marine sanctuaries from vessel strike, due in part to new state clean air regulations which have caused shipping interests to shift their courses offshore toward the Continental Shelf Break; and the concentration of krill, a favorite prey of affected whale species, in the shipping lanes off San Francisco. The non-natural loss of even a few blue

whales from this stock per year could interfere with that stock reaching its optimum sustainable population (Marine Mammal Stock Assessment Reports 2010). A joint working group of the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuaries advisory councils and other agencies and experts is formulating proposals for reducing the risk of recurrence of last year's whale mortalities. Preventing human-caused whale mortality is essential for the recovery of regional stocks for several local endangered whale species.

Groups Petition NOAA for Mandatory Large Vessel Speed Limits in Sanctuaries

In June, four environmental groups filed a legal petition for a mandatory reduction of large vessel speeds to a maximum of ten knots within California's marine sanctuaries. The petition was filed by the Center for Biological Diversity, Friends of the Earth, Environmental Defense Center, and Pacific Environment. The reduction is intended to reduce the incidence of whale deaths by shipstrike. In 2010 several endangered whales were killed by shipstrike in or adjacent to the Farallones marine sanctuary. In response, the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuaries have formed a joint working group to address several matters involving vessel and wildlife interaction. The group includes biologists, resource managers, the shipping industry and the Coast Guard. Should measures be taken to change the locations of shipping lanes or vessel speed policy, there will be a need for a broad base of support for industry compliance. Success in reducing the threat of shipstrike will depend on collaboration among all stakeholders, including the Coast Guard and shipping industry.

Protecting White Sharks

Sanctuary Staff Presents on Use of Wildlife Tourism for Marine Conservation

Sanctuary staff delivered an oral presentation at the 2011 International Marine Conservation Congress (IMCC) on how data from vessel-based observations are helping to inform and guide future decisions and permit conditions for marine conservation. White sharks depend on the rich ecosystem of Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary), aggregating every fall in the vicinity of the Farallon Islands to feed. This area is the only known location within US territorial waters where visitors can consistently observe white sharks. The high seasonal concentration of white sharks draws cage diving operations, wildlife watching, filming operations, research activities and general boaters vying for a white shark encounter. Since 2009, the sanctuary has had a regulation prohibiting white shark attraction without a permit and limiting the approach distance to feeding white sharks. After two years of regulations and project implementation, the sanctuary is using on-board observations to assess the efficacy of eco-tourism operators imparting conservation messages to their clients as part of its policy of practicing adaptive management.

DEVELOPING SOLUTIONS TO RESPOND TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Dates Set for Coastal Manager Scoping Workshops

Sanctuary staff developed and distributed the Save the Date for the Our Coast—Our Future Coastal Manager Scoping Workshops. The workshops will be held on August 23rd and 25th with

the goal of soliciting information needs from coastal managers and planners to shape the development of a local decision support tool to plan for and respond to sea level rise and storm hazards. Visit <http://prbo.org/ocof>.

Farallones Sanctuary, Partners Submits Climate Grant Proposal

Gulf of the Farallones, in partnership with PRBO Conservation Science, US Geological Survey, and the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), was invited to submit a full proposal to the NERR Science Collaborative grant to expand the scope of Our Coast–Our Future into San Francisco Bay, as well as provide specialized trainings on the use of the decision support tool to apply to adaptation planning efforts, modify the tool based on user feedback and continue to keep the data and web site current.

Visiting Meteorologist Develops Climate Change Communications Plan

In April, Gulf of the Farallones welcomed Claudia Cox, National Weather Service Western Region Chief of Operations, as a detail to the sanctuary through the NOAA Leadership and Competencies Development Program. Claudia worked with the sanctuary on climate-related projects through mid-June, coordinating the internal/external communications plan for the [Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium](#), of which Gulf of the Farallones is a founding member, as well as serving on the organizing team for the [Our Coast–Our Future](#) stakeholder workshops.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Increasing Awareness of the Sanctuary

Exhibits

Sanctuary Travels Sea Lion Exhibit to San Francisco Zoo

Just in time for the arrival of two new “special placement” sea lions, the Farallones marine sanctuary contributed to a new exhibit at the San Francisco Zoo. The articulated sea lion skeleton and interpretive panel feature the California sea lion. It is designed to create awareness of sea lions, their place in the marine ecosystem, and the marine sanctuary. It is part of the zoo’s newly refurbished Sea Lion section. The skeleton and signage will later travel to The Marine Mammal Center in Sausalito. The two blind sea lions – one was gunshot - will live permanently at the zoo, which nearly 900,000 people visit each year. Both are unsuitable for release to the wild. The Zoo’s popular Sea Lion ‘Habitat’ is expected to draw substantial visitation, to help ensure broad outreach for awareness of human/animal interaction issues, and for other sanctuary messages.

Sanctuary Signs Installed at CalTrans Roadway Stops

Motorists and cyclists pulling out at four Bay Area CalTrans roadway stops can now learn about the three contiguous Central California marine sanctuaries from signs that depict sanctuary boundaries, show the areas surface and bottom topography, feature some of the area’s wildlife, and describe the Farallones marine sanctuary and national program. The signs also contain a

cellphone-scannable QR code which links to a white shark video, and gives directions on coming to our Crissy Field visitor center.

Strengthening Rocky Shore Partnerships with Academy of Sciences

As part of the Rocky Shore Partnership between the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the California Academy of Sciences 17 new volunteer docents received training on the new Farallon Island Exhibit. This exhibit was produced as a partnership between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the Farallones sanctuary, PRBO Conservation Science and the academy. The one-hour enrichment lecture focuses on the natural history of the islands, different governmental jurisdictions, research and protection. Participating academy docents will be better able to interpret the Farallones exhibit, engage museum visitors, deliver information about the sanctuary, and relay anecdotes about life on the islands. California Academy of Sciences docents received enrichment training on interpreting the Farallon Island Exhibit at the academy to better deliver sanctuary messages to academy visitors and inspire support for the protection of local marine biodiversity.

Media Outreach

National TV Affiliate Features Harbor Porpoise Study

Communications and research staff worked with a Special Projects Producer from ABC/KGO TV7 on the harbor porpoise's range expansion from within Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries into San Francisco Bay after an absence of approximately 60 to 65 years. This project is study initiated by non-profit Golden Gate Cetacean Research, of which the Farallones sanctuary is a partner. A GGCR researcher brought the TV team to a field site for observing the porpoise. Sanctuary research staff discussed our role in maintaining high water quality and other resource protections outside the Golden Gate that have promoted a healthy porpoise population, and concomitant expansion into more sheltered foraging and possible breeding habitat.

KQED Quest Features Blog on Colorful Sea Slugs

In June staff posted a science blog on KQED Quest regarding "Color Evolution in Nudibranchs" which outlined these sea slugs' "sedentary defense" survival strategies using shelled armor, stealthy camouflage – or brilliant colors warning predators to beware -- or chemical warfare. The blog also outlined nudibranchs' potential use as ingredients in cancer and cardiac therapies. For more information, visit <http://science.kqed.org/quest/2011/06/22/color-evolution-in-nudibranchs/#more-15087>

Kayak Magazine Encourages Seabird-Friendly Paddling

The Spring 2011 issue of California Kayaker featured the Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary's Seabird Protection Network as a companion article on Common Murres, several hundred thousand of which breed on the Farallon Islands. A previous issue covered paddler's "whale watching" etiquette.

Farallones Sanctuary To Be Featured In Point Reyes Seashore Anniversary Volume

Communications staff is assisting author John Hart on a book to mark the 50th Anniversary of Point Reyes National Seashore, to be published by UC Press in 2012. In addition to describing Point Reyes, it will include the nearshore and offshore waters of the Farallones sanctuary, straddling the California Current. It will highlight the physical characteristics and processes specific to the Gulf of the Farallones, including currents, bottom topography, and other local features including the Pt. Reyes promontory, steep continental slope, etc. contribute to these unique patterns and upwelling dynamics that are different from areas farther north or south.

See separate Quarterly Media Report for Clippings and Story Links

Public Outreach, Public Programs

Farallones Assists Communications Capacity Building for Mediterranean MPAs

Farallones sanctuary education staff assisted with the Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Workshop for Marine Protected Area practitioners in the southern Mediterranean Sea region, which was held June 13-16 in Mulga, Turkey. Participants were the mentors from the participating countries which included Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia, Lebanon, Turkey, Montenegro, Croatia and Albania. This training is part of a series offered by the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries International Program and sponsored by the World Wildlife Fund Mediterranean Programme Office. International collaborations are essential for protecting our ocean. The marine protected areas network of mentors from the southern Mediterranean Sea region is vital to the success of protecting the health of the regional and world ocean.

Harbor Porpoise Talks and “Expedition” a Success!

As part of the Farallones 30th Anniversary celebration the sanctuary co-sponsored two public lectures, and hosted an expedition to locate and photo-identify individual harbor porpoises from San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge. The events, part of the Farallones Spring Lecture Series, were in cooperation with non-profit Golden Gate Cetacean Research (GGCR), in which the sanctuary is a collaborator. GGCR operates under a permit from NOAA's Office of Protected Resources. Fifty people attended the talks in Marin and San Mateo Counties, and the May 21 bridge “expedition” drew a sold-out group of fifteen. The bridge offers an excellent platform for observing marine mammals without altering their behavior. Eighteen harbor porpoises were sighted, and photos obtained of a previously undocumented animal, adding one more to the GGCR catalogue of over 200 individuals. Participants were amazed to find these usually-elusive cetaceans, which have only recently repopulated San Francisco Bay, in such an urban environment. Non-invasive wildlife research, combined with education and outreach, can engage sanctuary supporters in gathering data that can be used in conservation efforts.

Outreach Fairs Keep Sanctuary in the Community

The sanctuary took part in other springtime events in the community: Berkeley Bay Festival, in which staff spoke to approximately 186 people, and World Ocean Day celebration under

sponsorship of Sea Stewards, in which staff made the sanctuary 'connection' with around 60 participants.

Real-life "Easter Seal" Inspires Young Sea Stewards

On Good Friday a stranding incident became an ocean stewardship outreach event. An orphaned, injured elephant seal pup stranded near sanctuary headquarters. Staff enlisted two visiting families to intercept passers-by and their dogs, politely advising them of the emergency, and requesting a wide berth until The Marine Mammal Center rescue team could arrive. Despite incoming fog, wind and falling temperatures, the young people remained with the animal while learning from sanctuary staff about the natural and conservation history of the species. These young people came into contact with marine wildlife in a respectful and responsible way. They understood the concept - which some adult passers-by had failed to grasp - that wild animals are not "entertainment," but must be given space. They also learned that rescue intervention must be left to qualified professionals.

LiMPETS—

Long-term Monitoring Program & Experiential Training for Students

LiMPETS Regional Student Programs

The LiMPETS program trains middle school, high school, and other young groups to monitor the rocky intertidal and sandy shore along the California west coast national marine sanctuaries. This quarter 1,414 students and teachers from 16 different schools and partners in seven counties carried out LiMPETS shore surveys. This included in-class trainings, and individual monitoring events at different monitoring sites. Eleven teachers took part in an advanced data analysis LiMPETS professional Development workshop. For details on LiMPETS, see www.limpetsmonitoring.org

Visitor Center

The Farallones sanctuary Visitor Center educates diverse audiences of the general public along an environmental literacy continuum including developing awareness, building a knowledge base, changing behavior, and building stewardship. Drop-in visitors come from the Bay Area and all over the world. School programs include netting plankton for view under the microscope, searching for shore crabs and activities in the Visitor Center to learn about animal adaptations. Students take part in indoor as well as outdoor activities on Crissy Field Beach.

Total Drop-in Visitors: 6,393

Crissy Field Visitor Center Special Programs included –

Plankton and Pastries: Visitor Center staff offer this hands-on public program to promote ocean literacy where participants net their own plankton for study in the tide station pier house. Participants collect their own samples and create their own slides of phytoplankton and zooplankton for a hands-on microscopic exploration of the weird and wonderful world of plankton. This quarter they presented the program to adults and young people. The popular

weekend program Creature Feature was presented to people of all ages. In the Salmon Public Program, participants helped the sanctuary naturalist with a salmon dissection, learned about its seagoing and rivergoing life cycle, and its conservation challenges. The White Shark Public Program instructed people on shark biology and conservation of this apex predator for which the sanctuary is famous. The Fishermen in the Classroom reaches middle-school students and teachers at the visitor center. This program highlights the maritime heritage of the San Francisco and Pillar Point fishing communities. Local fishing folk participate in the development of curriculum, and deliver the programs. Sanctuary in the Sea is a new pilot school assembly program which will incorporate the new documentary on the Farallones sanctuary, to trigger thoughtful discussion of students' roles in marine stewardship.

Total served:

- Plankton, Cephalopoda and Creature Features: 76 combined
- Fisherman in the Classroom: 64
- Sanctuary 101/SOS: 1,125

At-Your-School (AYS) Programs

At Your School is an outreach program of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary designed to promote environmental literacy and increase students' awareness and knowledge of coastal and marine life. It includes standards-based interactive classroom programs for kindergarten through high school students.

During the quarter 1,480 students and teachers from several Bay Area schools participated in *At Your School* Programs (AYS). AYS staff traveled throughout the San Francisco Bay area to bring ocean education to schools in Alameda, Contra Costa, San Mateo, Marine, Santa Clara and San Francisco counties. Programs include the Sharkmobile, Crab Cab, and Webs Under Waves with curricula tailored to various grade levels.

Total served:

- Sharkmobile: 1,023
- Crab Cab: 794
- Webs Under Waves: 89

Six Hundred Teens Learn About Farallones Sanctuary Plastics Impacts

Tuesday 12 April our Visitor Center naturalist did a presentation to two assemblies totaling 600 high school students at Moreau Catholic School in Hayward. Students watched the award-winning NOAA film "Sanctuary of the Sea," which treats on the challenges of restoring a compromised ecosystem, and personal accountability for doing so. The girls also learned about the albatross that visit Central California sanctuary waters from thousands of miles away to feed here, and how we can work towards solving the problems of plastics in the ocean.

Girl Scouts Tackle Subject of Farallones White Sharks

Saturday April 9th Farallones visitor center staff did an outreach event in San Ramon serving 60 girl scouts. The focus of the event was white sharks of the Farallones marine sanctuary. The group assembled a life size white shark complete with internal organs, and watched some footage of white sharks at the Farallones during their annual foraging visits.

FACILITIES

Sanctuaries, Park Service Meet on Farallones Facilities Master Plan

A large facilities team from ONMS Headquarters, Seattle Real Property, NPS Golden Gate National Park, and GFNMS met for two days to discuss and review 35% Schematic Design drawings for the Lifeboat Station, Shop/Garage, landscape, and exhibits for the Farallones marine sanctuary Facilities Master Plan.

FARALLONES SANCTUARY 30TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT CALENDAR

Date	Event
July	
July 5-8	Marine Science Camp with Randall Museum Registration required/Fee
July 20	White Shark Naturalist Training Registration required
August	
August 11	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting in Pacifica
August 13	Sanctuary Creature Feature Program For children and their families Registration required/Fee
August 23	Visitor Center Program Registration Opens
September	
Sept - 10	Sanctuary Creature Feature Program For children and their families Registration required/Fee
Sept - 16	Registration opens for Sanctuary At Your School Programs For information: Christy Walker, 415/ 561-6622 x202
Sept - 18	Coastal Clean-Up Day
October	
Oct - 2	Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association Whale Watch Trip Registration required/Fee
Oct - 15	SharktoberFest – Visitor Center Activities
November	
Nov - 5	Fall lecture – Squid with Dr. William Gilly

	Registration required/Fee
Nov - 1	Research Workshop (invitational)
Nov - 10	Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting in San Francisco
Nov - 12	Sanctuary Creature Feature Program For children and their families Registration required/Fee
Nov - 12	Annual Pigeon Point Lighthouse Lighting
Nov - TBA	Rocky Shore Monitoring and Mouse Eradication at the Farallon Islands, live broadcast with the California Academy of Sciences
Nov - TBA	Fall Excursion: Squid Fishing Trip Registration required/Fee
Nov - TBA	Teacher Workshop: Fisherman in the Classroom
December	
Dec - 8	Winter Lecture: Sperm Whales with Dr. Sarah Mesnick Reservations/fee recommended
Dec - 17	Annual Pillar Point Boat Decoration Contest, Possible Open House on R/V Fulmar

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY STAFF

Maria Brown, Superintendent: maria.brown@noaa.gov
 Brian Johnson, Deputy Superintendent: brian.johnson@noaa.gov
 Adam Contreras, IT Coordinator: adam.contreras@noaa.gov
 Brad Damitz, Ecosystem Protection Specialist: brad.damitz@noaa.gov
 Carliane Johnson, Acting Permit Coordinator: carliane.johnson@noaa.gov
 Carol Preston, Education & Outreach Coordinator: carol.a.preston@noaa.gov
 Christy Walker, Education Specialist: christy.walker@noaa.gov
 Irina Kogan, Resource Protection Specialist: irina.kogan@noaa.gov
 Jan Roletto, Research Coordinator: jan.roletto@noaa.gov
 Justin Holl, Visitor Center Manager: justin.holl@noaa.gov
 Karen Reyna, Resource Protection Coordinator: karen.reyna@noaa.gov
 Kate Bimrose, Bolinas Lagoon Project Specialist: kate.bimrose@noaa.gov
 Kelley Higgason, Climate Initiative Coordinator: kelley.higgason@noaa.gov
 Leslie Abrahamson, Advisory Council Coordinator: leslie.abramson@noaa.gov
 Mai Maheigan, Seabird Protection Network Outreach Specialist: mai.maheigan@noaa.gov
 Mary Jane Schramm, Media & Public Outreach Specialist: maryjane.schramm@noaa.gov
 Sage Tezak, Seabird Protection Network Program Specialist: sage.tezak@noaa.gov
 Taylor Nairn, Administrative Assistant: taylor.nairn@noaa.gov
 Tim Reed, GIS Specialist: tim.reed@noaa.gov

GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

Sign up for the GFNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events and public meetings. To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit: <http://farallones.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council visit:

<http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

San Francisco Office

The Presidio, 991 Marine Drive

San Francisco, CA 94129

Phone: (415) 561-6622

Fax: (415) 561-6616

www.farallones.noaa.gov