

**GULF OF THE FARALLONES
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
4th Quarter FY 2010**

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEDIA REPORT

July through September ~ 2010



NEWS COVERAGE

July 3, San Francisco Chronicle, “Karen Rogers cancels Farallones swim” by Bill Kane, Justin Berton. “A woman who hoped to become the third person ever to swim about 30 miles from the Farallon Islands to the mainland called off an attempt early Friday after high winds and 12-foot waves made the seas too dangerous to cross ... the frigid, shark-infested waters near the Farallones [GFNMS] at 3 a.m., but the boat she traveled in encountered choppy seas and unexpected rough weather ...”

July 5, KPBS “Pupping Season Means More Great White Sharks” ... Maureen Cavanaugh (Host): A warning from the National Park Service about a potential threat from great white sharks to swimmers and surfers off the California coast is nothing to take lightly but it may not be as dramatic as some of the headlines suggest. ...Dr. Domeier: But in our part of the world, it would be north of Point Conception, around the Farallon Islands and Ano Nuevo for adult white sharks. It's the highest population ...”

July 6, ABC TV7, “Oysters could hold key to ocean acidification” by Wayne Freedman. “When we hear about global warming we usually think about rising seas and melting ice caps. But it's not only our atmosphere that is experiencing climate change, the chemistry of the ocean is actually changing as well. It should come as no surprise that scientific research requires strenuous mental exercise. But physical? Just take a look at the trudge through the sludge in Tomales Bay [GFNMS] ...” See more at http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/north_bay&id=7540397



Half Moon Bay Review, July 21, "Asian kelp invades Pillar Point" By *Mark Noack*. "the kelp species *Undaria pinnatifida* growing along the dock platforms. ...Undaria is listed as one of the world's worst invasive species, and researchers say Pillar Point Harbor is one of the latest spots on the Pacific coast where the foreign kelp is making inroads. Scientists are trying to prod local environmental groups, harbor denizens and other volunteers to help nip *undaria* in the bud along the Coastside (MBNMS North). ..."

July 26, San Francisco Chronicle, "Boat may have killed whale off Farallons" by David Perlman. "Scientists working on the Farallon Islands spotted a newly dead humpback whale Sunday in the water a mile away in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary - apparently killed by a boat that had crashed into it. ... Large numbers of humpbacks and other whales have been drawn to the area by an unusual abundance of krill. Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/07/26/BA5H1EK6TQ.DTL#ixzz0uq0q90r6>

July 27, SF Weekly, "Was Dead Whale in Bay Struck by Boat?" by Joe Eskenazi. "A young humpback whale sighted off the Farallones Sunday may have been struck by a boat and left to die, scientists fear ... Mary Jane Schramm, the media coordinator for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, points out that Bay Area waters are teeming with whales right now ..." More at http://blogs.sfweekly.com/thesnitch/2010/07/dead_whale_struck_by_boat.php

July 27, San Francisco Chronicle, "Alert issued to boaters after whale found dead" by David Perlman. "The death of a young humpback whale near the Farallon Islands prompted officials of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary on Monday to warn boaters to be alert to whales drawn to the coastal area by an abundance of krill. ..." Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/07/27/BA5H1EK6TQ.DTL#ixzz0utWphJAY>

July 27, San Francisco Examiner/SF Appeal Online/Bay City News, "Humpback whale carcass found near Farallon Islands." "Officials at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration are warning Bay Area boaters to beware of whales after a dead humpback washed up in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary on Sunday with evidence that it might have been struck by a boat ...Read more at the San Francisco Examiner: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Humpback-whale-carcass-found-near-Farallon-Islands-99329559.html#ixzz0uuJVMBVx> and <http://sfappeal.com/alley/2010/07/bay-boaters-warned-to-watch-for-whales-after-slashed-humpback-corpse-washes-up.php>

July 29, Coastsider, "Dead whale may have been struck by ship" by Barry Parr. "A freshly dead whale spotted near Farallon Island Sunday may have been killed by a ship. ... The Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary warns boaters to be careful around feeding whales."

July 28, San Jose Mercury News, Contra Costa Times, "Humpbacks feeding near Farallons ignoring boats. "A humpback whale found dead Sunday near the Farallon Islands may have been killed in a collision with a ship, officials said. ...The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is asking boaters to stay at least 300 feet away from whales, to not cut across whales' paths and to not cut between a whale mother and her calf."

July 29, San Francisco Examiner, “Boaters warned against approaching whales. The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary warned boaters not to approach within 300 feet (the length of a football field) of any whale after scientists found a young humpback about 25 feet long dead Sunday. Several whale species — grays, humpbacks and blues — either migrate or feed in the area of the Farallones and there’s a high risk of collisions with vessels.”

July 23, Marin Independent Journal, Enviro hero Marty Griffin to be honored Saturday in Bolinas” by Mark Prado. “A key figure in the development of keeping most of West Marin as open space will be feted Saturday ... "I went to a meeting on the proposed large freeway going from the Golden Gate Bridge to West Marin and up the Sonoma Coast," he said. "I picked up a brochure and was horrified when I saw the maps. The freeway was going to destroy Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay [GFNMS]. ..."It was probably the biggest land-use battle California has ever seen.”

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August 11, Half Moon Bay Review, “New report of marine conditions at Gulf of the Farallones: by Lily Bixler. “ A new report released today on marine conditions at the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary finds water quality to be of particular concern. The sanctuary’s estuary and lagoon areas are threatened by local agricultural runoff and their close proximity to San Francisco Bay’s outflow, according to a condition report released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration....”

August 16, CNN, “Gulf Oil Traces Spread East on Sea Floor, Researchers Say” by Ed Lavandera and Rich Phillips. “Oil from the Deepwater Horizon spill may have settled to the bottom of the Gulf of Mexico further east than previously suspected and at levels toxic to marine life, researchers reported Monday ... NOAA spokeswoman Mary Jane Schramm [GFNMS] said on Monday that she had not seen the latest study and couldn’t comment on it. BP spokesman John Curry, meanwhile, said the company wants ‘to know everything everyone wants to know.’ ...”
Clip at <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/08/16/gulf.oil.environment/>

August 18, 2010, Half Moon Bay Review. Harbor Signs Convey Personal Touch: Education Panels 10 years in making” by Lily Bixler. “The San Mateo County Harbor District approved installation of several interpretive fishing signs for the railing along the cement break wall

outside Pillar Point Harbor's office. Six graphic panels — each around 37 by 19 inches — will educate visitors about the harbor's most common fisheries, the charter boat industry and the role of local marine sanctuaries.... Funding for the project also evolved over time. Coming from a hodgepodge of local agencies, the interpretive signs jumped from an \$800 Beautification Committee project ...”

August 22, 2010, San Francisco Chronicle, *Temporary Beach Hut Cafe will be recycled* by Sam Whiting “...stop at the National Marine Sanctuary Gulf of the Farallones Visitor Center, a name that is longer than the center itself. There is a life-size sea lion sculpture outside the door...”

August 26, Half Moon Bay Review, “ Harbor general manager 'leaning' toward Mavericks Surf Ventures.” ... the emerging group will have to get permits from a host of other Coastside agencies including the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, ...”

August 30, San Francisco Chronicle and other outlets: “Apparent great white shark spotted off Pacifica” by Bob Egelko. “A large shark was seen attacking a sea lion Monday afternoon in the ocean about 150 yards off Linda Mar Beach in Pacifica [MBNMS north] ... Witnesses said it appeared to be a great white shark, 18 to 25 feet long...” Read more: <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/08/31/BA6Q1F5UGV.DTL#ixzz0yCupaTvV>

August 30, KRON TV4, “Great White Shark Spotted at Linda Mar Beach in Pacifica Created by Brian Shields “-- Warning signs are up at Linda Mar Beach in Pacifica after witnesses report seeing a shark in the area ...” more at <http://www.kron.com/News/ArticleView/tabid/298/smld/1126/ArticleID/6826/reftab/536/t/Great%20White%20Shark%20Spotted%20at%20Linda%20Mar%20Beach%20in%20Pacifica/Default.aspx>

September 3, Contra Costa Times/Bay Area News Group, “Researchers track pair of sharks from Marin through the Pacific” by Mark Prado. “A great white shark is tagged with a real-time tracking device on its dorsal fin. The same type of device was used on great whites Junior and Frodo tracked off Marin shores to the Shared Offshore Foraging Area between the Bay Area and Hawaii. (Marine Conservation Science Institute). ... Domeier hopes to tag a female shark this fall. Female great white sharks typically visit the Gulf of the Farallones in alternate years and may have a multi-year migration pattern likely tied to a two-year cycle of reproduction. ...”

September 18, San Francisco Examiner, “Boating in SF Bay? Watch out for whales!” by Valeria Webber. “In recent news, a whale got stuck on the bow of a ship and dragged through San Francisco Bay to the Port of Oakland. In hopes of protecting future whales from suffering the same fate, marine sanctuary authorities are asking boaters to be careful when navigating through the Bay. Though whales swim in the ocean near San Francisco all year, this is extra whale traffic this season. The krill that whales feed on are showing high numbers and the whales are coming to dine, says the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary. So caught up in eating are the whales that they don't always notice and avoid oncoming boats ...”

September 20, KGO Television/ABC, “Dead whale washes up on SF's Ocean Beach” by Heather Ishimaru. “ ... National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration researcher Jan Roletto was on

her way to Half Moon Bay when she heard reports of the Ocean Beach whale and made a detour to take a look. "We've ruled out humpback whale, gray whale, blue whale, so around here that means something pretty rare, something endangered, either a fin whale or a Sei whale," says Roletto ..."

September 20, SF Weekly, "Dead Whale Washes up on Ocean Beach" by Joe Eskenazi. "Continuing a rough spell for our Cetacean brethren, a large dead whale was today spotted on Ocean Beach. ... This is the third dead whale spotted in area waters of late. Mary Jane Schramm, the media coordinator for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, told *SF Weekly* that Bay Area waters are teeming with whales right now .."

September 20, KTVU Fox TV2, "Dead Whale Washes Up On SF's Ocean Beach." "A large whale carcass washed up on San Francisco's Ocean Beach Monday, the second dead whale to appear in the Bay Area in a week, authorities said. The National Park Service and scientists from the Academy of Natural Sciences were examining the body to determine how it died and how to dispose of it. Last week, officials with the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary asked boaters and vessel operators to take extra care when navigating the waters off San Francisco ..."

September 20, KTVU TV2, "... Workers alongside the ship's berth were surprised and saddened to see sharks show up to feed on the carcass. Following the deadly collision, officials with the Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary asked boaters and vessel operators to take extra care when navigating the waters off San Francisco. ..."

September 20, SF Appeal, "Investigators Try To Determine If Operators Of Ship That Hit Whale Saw It Before Collision" by Eve Batey " ... The ship was probably traveling at around 20 knots when it struck the whale, a NOAA spokesperson [Joe Cordaro] said, noting that "the NOAA has been trying to reduce ship strikes by asking vessels in the shipping industry to slow down to 10 knots or less when they are traveling in an area that has been experiencing an influx of hungry whales."

September 20, Associated Press, "Second dead whale surfaces in Bay Area" "A dead whale has surfaced in the San Francisco Bay area for the second time in a week, prompting an environmental group to recommend lower speed limits for ships entering the bay. ... Another, smaller whale was carried into the Port of Oakland on the bow of a cargo ship on Thursday. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's "ship strike" section is investigating where the whale was and if it were alive or dead when it was hit ..."

September 20, San Francisco Examiner, "Dead whales linked to increase in food" by Kamala Kelkar. "Heavy winds have stirred up nutrients in the ocean this year, luring whales to the coast — such as the one that was found dead at Ocean Beach on Monday morning ... "There's an abundance of krill right now, crustaceans that are very fatty and nutrient-rich," said spokeswoman Mary Jane Schramm of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. "This has been a very extraordinary year. It's exciting there's so much productivity." ..."

Read more at the San Francisco Examiner: <http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Dead-whale-washes-ashore-Ocean-Beach-103303329.html#ixzz10B5B6Hke>

September 20, Half Moon Bay Review, “Red tide returns to Coastside” by Mark Noack
The waters are running red in Half Moon Bay [MBNMS north]— so say government officials who have determined a new algae bloom off the Coastside is causing the ocean to take on a reddish-orange color. Officials with the U.S. Coast Guard and the California Department of Fish and Game confirmed on Monday afternoon that the odd coloration in the sea waters was being caused by algae, and not any kind of pollutant ...”

September 21, KTVU tv2, “Beached Whale In SF Offers Mystery To Scientists. “ Scientists were unraveling a mystery Tuesday as they tried to determine the species of a dead whale that was found washed ashore at San Francisco's Ocean Beach early Monday. ... California Academy of Sciences researchers took tissue samples for DNA analysis to see if the animal was the first known hybrid of the species. “This would be very exciting if -- when the DNA samples are analyzed -- that's what it turns out to be,” said Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries media liaison Mary Jane Schramm. ...”

September 21, San Francisco Chronicle, “Dead whale washes ashore on Ocean Beach” by Peter Fimrite, Henry K. Lee. “The carcass of what is believed to be an extremely rare whale seen only in the deep ocean washed ashore at San Francisco's Ocean Beach on Monday. ... Marine biologists from the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, the Marine Mammal Center and the California Academy of Sciences spent the whole day poking, probing and measuring. “Most likely it is a fin whale,” said Jan Roletto, the research coordinator for the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. “But it has characteristics that are not like fin or sei whales. It could also be a hybrid ...” <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/09/21/BACN1FGPUE.DT>

September 23, Point Reyes Light “Climate change study in seas” by Staff Writer

September 25, New York Times, Bay Citizen, “ When the Call of the Wild Comes Too Close to Home - Sightings of wild animals in populated areas are up this season” by Katharine Mieszkowski. “... Meanwhile, local sightings of great white sharks have also increased. There have been 102 unprovoked great white attacks on humans in California since 1952, said John McCosker, the chairman of aquatic biology at the California Academy of Sciences, who maintains the running count. Great white attacks occur most frequently in August, September and October, when the sharks are most abundant here — and, coincidentally, when the surfing season also begins to pick up with larger waves ...”

September 29, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, “Bradley channels his efforts” by Bob Padecky. “Sometime late Wednesday night, maybe early this morning, Bill Bradley of Santa Rosa began to swim the English Channel ... One of his training swims for the English Channel was swimming the length of Tomales Bay. Yes, THAT Tomales Bay, a breeding ground for sharks ...” [Note: White sharks do not breed here; writer has been advised.]

September 30, West Marin Citizen “Trawling for krill in the Gulf of the Farallones” by Claire Peaslee - Ocean Stewardship Centerfold