



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report



Volume 6, Number 1

A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

March 2008

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of over 1,100 square nautical miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish and invertebrates, pinnipeds, cetaceans and sea birds. The sanctuary also has a wealth of maritime heritage resources including Chumash Native American artifacts and over 100 historic shipwrecks. Human uses in the area include commercial and recreational fishing, marine wildlife viewing, boating, diving, kayaking, maritime shipping, nearby offshore oil and gas development, research and monitoring, and numerous educational activities.

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has cleared the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's (CINMS or sanctuary) management plan review Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact statement (SDEIS). However, the companion Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (proposed rule) is still in the final clearance and review stages at NOAA headquarters. The sanctuary will release both documents for public review and comment after NOAA grants clearance of the proposed rule. As previously reported, the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is developing the SDEIS and proposed rule in order to more fully address graywater and sewage discharge issues from large vessels (greater than 300 gross registered tons). The NMSP will release these documents in order to ensure that the public has adequate information and opportunity to comment on the possibility of sanctuary regulation of graywater and sewage discharges from large vessels. CINMS staff finalized the documents in May 2007, and have since been revising them in response to agency reviewer comments.

Sanctuary staff have consolidated all Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS) public comments and responses around common themes per guidance from the NMSP's West Coast Region (Region) office. *(Continued on next page.)*

CONTENTS:

- Management Plan Review 1
- Resource Protection 2
- Sanctuary Advisory Council 2
- Research & Monitoring..... 3
- Education, Volunteer, & Outreach.... 4
- MERITO 6
- Channel Islands Naturalist Corps.... 7
- Spotlight on Volunteers 9
- Maritime Heritage Program 10
- Web Site..... 11
- NOAA and NMSP News 13
- Three-month Sanctuary Calendar 14

Window on the Sanctuary

Arch Rock, Anacapa Island. Photo: Chuck Graham
Kayaking is one of the many ways to explore, discover and enjoy the beauty of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.



Regional and headquarters staff will review the revised response to comments document, followed by reviews from NOAA attorneys. Progress continues to advance on developing the Final Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FMP/FEIS). For example, Natalie Senyk (Sanctuary Science Advisor) and Sarah MacWilliams (Sanctuary Management Plan Specialist) recently collaborated to revise the majority of maps for the FMP/FEIS. Revisions include making the maps more user friendly than those in the DMP/DEIS, and reflecting the completed Channel Islands marine protected area (MPA) network. Forthcoming comments on the SDEIS and proposed rule will be considered and integrated into the FMP, FEIS, and a Final Rule.

Sanctuary staff will continue to provide updates on the SDEIS and associated proposed rule, FMP, FEIS, and Final Rule at upcoming Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings and via the sanctuary's management plan web page: channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/overview.html.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Marine Reserves Process

The First Five Years of Monitoring the Channel Islands MPA Network

The California Department of Fish and Game, sanctuary, Channel Islands National Park (CINP or Park), and the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) at the University of California at Santa Barbara (UCSB) sponsored a special session on the first five years of MPA monitoring around the Channel Islands. This special session was a first step in gathering information about the status of MPAs for the California Fish and Game Commission's state MPA five-year progress report. Three sessions (Education, Compliance, and Biological and Socioeconomic Monitoring) featured information about the status of the MPAs for that progress report. For the education and outreach session, Julie Bursek (Sanctuary Education Coordinator) presented on "Strategies to promote public understanding, support and stewardship of the Channel Islands marine protected areas." Channel Islands Naturalist Corp Volunteer, Catherine French presented on the Adopt-A-Business program as an approach to effectively reach businesses that provide services to Channel Islands recreational users. For more information about the different talks, there are one-page

summaries of most of the science-related presentations on line at:

http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/channel_islands/specialesession.asp#handouts.

Enforcement

On Monday February 4th, Sean Hastings (Sanctuary Resource Protection Coordinator) provided a sanctuary orientation and regulatory review to the crew of the U.S. Coast Guard cutter *Blackfin*. The *Blackfin* operates out of Channel Islands Harbor and patrols sanctuary waters.

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Adopts Proposal to Address Large Cetaceans and Shipping

At the January 25th Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) meeting, Sean Hastings described a proposal from the Advisory Council's Subcommittee on Large Cetaceans and Shipping. The proposal presents a short-term and a long-term task. For the short-term, (between now and the summer 2008 return of blue whales to the Santa Barbara Channel), the proposal calls for the Subcommittee to develop practical management recommendations focused on improving the management response to ship strikes on large cetaceans. The recommendations will be based on an evaluation of last year's ship strike incidents, and the associated management responses. The proposal also calls for the Subcommittee to develop a scope of work for addressing long-term issues, and suggests that the Advisory Council convene a Working Group on this subject. The Advisory Council members present voted by consensus to endorse the Subcommittee process proposal as a working document, with several modifications suggested during Advisory Council discussion. The Subcommittee proposal will be posted on the Advisory Council web pages (see:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>).

In addition, during the January 25th meeting a student from the UCSB Donald Bren School of Environmental Science and Management expressed interest in proposing this topic as a graduate student team project and indicated that a letter of support from the Advisory Council could help get such a project proposal approved by the school. Advisory Council members present voted

by majority to write a letter of support for the graduate student team project proposal.

May Meeting Rescheduled

Dianne Black (Advisory Council Chair) requested that the Advisory Council reschedule its May 16th meeting to May 30th. The Advisory Council approved of the schedule change as the May 16th date conflicted with the NMSA's annual Advisory Council Chairs meeting, which will take place the week of May 12-16 on the east coast.

RESEARCH & MONITORING

Research and Monitoring Activities

2008 Field Season Begins with Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO)

From February 4-7, PISCO divers were on board the sanctuary's research vessel (R/V) Shearwater to survey for fish and invertebrates at the Channel Islands. Researchers completed visual surveys of invertebrates and algae on kelp reefs using SCUBA, and retrieved and deployed temperature loggers and current meters. They completed surveys at Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands.

PISCO is a large-scale marine research program that focuses on understanding the nearshore ecosystems of the U.S. West Coast. PISCO has implemented a large-scale, long-term study of the patterns of community structure in shallow subtidal habitats and the physical and ecological processes responsible for structuring these communities. PISCO research has been a crucial part of the marine reserves monitoring program in the sanctuary for several years. Learn more about PISCO at: <http://www.piscoweb.org/>.

White Abalone Recovery Research

From February 20-21, 2008 the sanctuary facilitated and participated in a research cruise with NOAA's Southwest Fisheries Science Center White Abalone Recovery Team on board the R/V *Shearwater*. Scientists visited Farnsworth Bank at Santa Catalina Island, one of the last known locations of white abalone. Scientists were searching for living abalone specimens to contribute to the recovery brood stock and were evaluating habitat at the site for possible future outplanting. The team did not find live abalone, but did

observe empty shells, indicating previous residents. Another cruise is planned in the spring.

White abalone were the first marine invertebrate to be placed on the federal endangered species list. Once abundant at the Channel Islands, all species of abalone, except red abalone at San Miguel Island, are now uncommon there as a result of disease and overfishing. Research and recovery efforts continue, including the culture of specimens that in the future could potentially be released into the wild to reestablish the population.

Marine Mammal Acoustics Research

On February 12, 14, and 15, researchers from Scripps Institution of Oceanography were onboard the R/V *Shearwater* to deploy and retrieve acoustic listening devices in Santa Barbara Channel. The High-frequency Acoustic Recording Packages (HARPs) continuously record noise from ships and marine mammals. This data can then be coordinated with information from a ship's Automated Information System (AIS), which transmits data about the ship's course, speed, cargo, destination, and other information. Scripps graduate student Megan McKenna plans to deploy two new devices within the boundaries of the sanctuary on an upcoming cruise. These devices will record the ambient noise in the sanctuary and will be placed at a noisy site (North Anacapa Island) and a comparatively quiet site (South Santa Rosa Island).

Citizen Science

State of California Harmful Algal Bloom Study

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) volunteers continue to conduct plankton tows on board the R/V *Shearwater* as part of a statewide study on Harmful Algal Blooms. The tows are done in cooperation with Plumes and Blooms research cruises scheduled throughout the year.

Anacapa Island Larval Settlement Study

Several CINC volunteers continue to assist with a benthic larval settlement study in conjunction with the Park and UCSB. They collect samples two times per month at Anacapa Island.

Marine Mammal Sightings Reports

CINC volunteers have developed a comprehensive long-term monitoring program collecting opportunistic data on marine mammal sightings in the Santa Barbara

Channel. Over 9,000 reports have been entered over the past six years, representing over 18 species of marine mammals and thousands of individual animals. CINMS is currently working to add filters to the database and add other quality control measures so that the database can be integrated into the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN), which enables researchers to integrate the existing monitoring programs and identify gaps in information. By avoiding duplication of these programs, resources can be more effectively directed towards surveying and characterizing habitats, assessing the impact of natural processes or human activities on specific resources, and long-term monitoring. SIMoN serves to make the monitoring data available to managers, decision makers, the research community, and the general public. To view the Marine Mammal Sightings Database visit: <http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals>.

For more information on the CINC please see p. 7.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, & OUTREACH

Special Events

7th Annual California Islands Symposium

From February 5 -7, the sanctuary participated in the 7th annual California Islands Symposium in Oxnard, California. Over 400 people participated in the three-day conference. Featured symposium topics included marine archeology, marine mammals, marine birds, marine systems, rocky shore communities and education and outreach. The California Islands symposia are held every few years to present recent findings in science and management on California's islands, including those off the west coast of Baja California, Mexico. The sanctuary provided funding to support the conference, and staff were involved on the conference planning committee. For more information about the conference visit www.californiaislands.org.

CINMS Education Coordinator Supports LIVE Expedition from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

In March, the NMSP, in partnership with Immersion Presents and led by Dr. Ballard, hosted a team of scientists from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

(MBNMS) and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), to explore in real-time with students, majestic kelp forests, deep water habitats and endangered marine mammals. Immersion Presents and OceansLIVE broadcasts connected students, educators, and researchers to the ocean expedition live on oceansLIVE.org and Immersionpresents.org websites. Using special camera systems that were developed and installed in the MBNMS by the Institute for Exploration, as well as from divers exploring the kelp forests, the Inner Space Center received the live video from the expedition site via Internet2. Immersion Presents re-transmitted those images to a network of partner Immersion Sites, and Boys & Girls Clubs across the nation via satellite, the Internet2 high speed network, and the Internet. The daily live broadcasts were part of a larger interdisciplinary science curriculum designed for upper elementary and middle school students. Julie Bursek participated in the Monterey Bay Expedition as a diver and provided underwater interpretation about the kelp forest ecosystem during the live dives. For more information about the expedition visit <http://www.oceanslive.org/portal/>.

2008 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series

On February 12 and 13, the From Shore to Sea Lecture Series featured Linda Bentz, historian for the Ventura County Chinese American Historical Society. Bentz's illustrated lecture focused on her research of Chinese fishing activities, California built junks, trade networks and archaeological sites on four of the Channel Islands.

The March 11 and 12 lectures featured Dr. John Hildebrand of Scripps Institution of Oceanography, who discussed his research on marine mammal acoustics monitoring in the Channel Islands.

The Sanctuary, Park, and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum jointly sponsor the "From Shore to Sea" lecture series in an effort to further the understanding of science and history of the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. The programs are free and open to the public. The lectures take place at 7:00 p.m. on one Tuesday and

You can watch the monthly From Shore to Sea Lectures on Ventura's Public Access Channel 15!
Visit <http://www.capstv.org> for programming information.



Wednesday per month, with Tuesday lectures at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Munger Theatre, and Wednesday lectures at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center. For upcoming lectures please refer to the sanctuary calendar on p. 14, or visit the sanctuary's From Shore to Sea web page: channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html.

Workshops and Trainings

Teacher Enrichment Adventure in Watershed Education (TEAWET) teachers learn Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

The Ventura County Office of Education collaborated with the TEAWET program and sanctuary educators on a one-day My World GIS teacher training on March 2nd, in Camarillo. The training focused on Storm Water Pollution and Environmental Monitoring lessons developed by Science Approach and the sanctuary. On March 8th, Laura Francis (Sanctuary Education Coordinator) provided an overview of the sanctuary and marine science curriculum ideas to teachers during a TEAWET teacher training workshop at the Ty Warner Sea Center in Santa Barbara.

The TEAWET program is a Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) funded professional development project for teachers that focuses on watershed issues in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Participating teachers discover new ways to use inquiry and the local environment to teach science, and how to use the watershed, from mountaintops to creeks to beaches, as a context for teaching social studies, art, language skills, math and other disciplines.

Educational Products

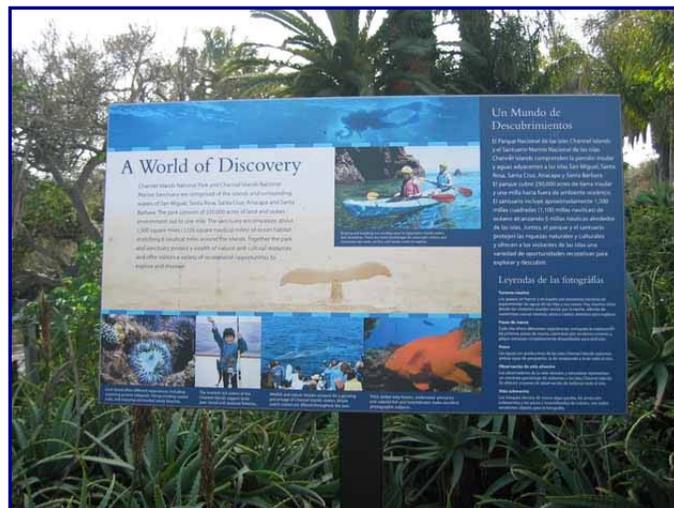
Channel Islands High Definition Film

The sanctuary and NOAA's Ocean Media Center are making good progress on developing a High Definition documentary film about the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. Filming trips in 2008 have included a trip to San Miguel Island in February to capture elephant seal footage. Additional trips in February and early March include a multi-day trip aboard the R/V *Shearwater* to capture underwater footage, sea urchin diving, and the intertidal zone. CINMS education staff and film director John Brooks also met with personnel from Subaviator Systems in mid-February to discuss the

possibility of using the Aviator submersible to collect deep sea footage in the sanctuary.

New Sanctuary Signs

Sanctuary Education Coordinators drafted preliminary text and photos for interpretive signs that are part of the California Signage Plan. Signs proposed for 2008 include informational MPA network signs for boat launch ramps in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Islands harbors. Additional MPA network signs are being developed for Anacapa, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Santa Rosa islands. MPA signs, and sanctuary and park interpretive signs will also be created for Island Packers and Truth Aquatics. The Santa Barbara Zoo has recently installed three interpretive signs that were



The Santa Barbara Zoo now hosts a new interpretive sign displaying information about the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park. Photo: Laura Francis.

developed and fabricated in 2007.

New Edition Channel Islands Photo Book

The sanctuary is featured in the new edition of a pictorial book by photographer Tim Hauf entitled *Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary*. These stunning pictorial books feature both terrestrial and marine systems of the Channel Islands. Images from local underwater photographers are featured in the new edition of the book. The book features over 140 photographs that record some of the most-visited and best-loved sites in the Channel Islands, as well as unique glimpses of areas off the beaten track. CINMS education staff provided editorial review and images for the chapter on the sanctuary. CINMS was also a sponsor for the new edition. These popular books will be

available in Ventura County and Santa Barbara County visitor centers, bookstores, and gift shops in April. For more information about Tim Hauf's work visit <http://www.timhaufphotography.com/>.

Channel Islands Argonauts

On January 14th, 25 fourth to eighth grade level students were nominated as the Channel Islands Argonauts to advocate for their coastal and marine environments during 2008. These Argonauts will be participating in a number of local environmental events and will visit the sanctuary during live broadcasting scheduled on June 5th. Their participation will include assisting CINMS and partner organizations' staff in removing invasive plants and restoring native plants at Ormond Beach, in Oxnard, installing protective fences for snowy plover, assisting at beach clean ups, and providing outreach at Oxnard Earth Day while presenting their marine sciences poster projects to the public. A judging panel composed of staff from the sanctuary, Park, and Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Office selected the Channel Islands Argonauts based on the quality and content of written essays, and on their leadership profiles. Nominated Argonauts are residents of Ventura and Oxnard. The Channel Islands Argonauts program is collaboration of the B-WET sponsored Channel Islands Live! program and the sanctuary's Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) program.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

MERITO presented at Congressional Briefing

On January 29th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton (Sanctuary Bilingual Education and Outreach Specialist) presented the regional MERITO program to the National Marine Sanctuary Caucus at the Rayburn House Office Building in Washington D.C. as part of the 'Connecting People to the Ocean through Education' luncheon. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) sponsored the briefing with special remarks by The Honorable Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, co-chair of the National Marine Sanctuary Caucus. The NMSF presented MERITO as one of its four priority education programs due to the impact the program has had on culturally diverse communities and on previously underrepresented audiences. Lozano-Knowlton's presentation highlighted the MERITO

program's goals, strategies, and accomplishments since 2002 and 2006 at MBNMS and CINMS, respectively.

MERITO Academy Teacher Training

On February 2nd, the MERITO Academy convened its second annual follow up workshop to provide educators with further training on how to utilize the draft MERITO Academy curriculum. 20 educators participated. As a result of the training, 750 fourth to eighth grade minority students residing in the Santa Barbara Channel region are immersed in marine and watershed science education. During the training, Scott Simon (UCSB Marine Sciences Institute, or MSI, Education Coordinator), provided a demonstration of a 16" Magic Planet Interactive Globe highlighting ocean and earth processes. UCSB Mobile REEF staff will be visiting each of the 20 classes enrolled in the MERITO Academy program and present all MERITO Academy students with the Magic Planet Interactive Globe and touch tanks with marine invertebrates.

During the afternoon of the February workshop, Julie Bursek trained the participating educators on the use and implementation of the Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) sandy beach monitoring protocols at UCSB Campus Point. The teachers will utilize the LiMPETS protocols during the MERITO Academy field experiences in the spring. The MERITO Academy program is a B-WET sponsored partnership between CINMS and Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute in collaboration with a number of local organizations.

California Island Symposium MERITO Presentation

On February 7th, Lozano-Knowlton presented the outcomes of the 2006-2007 pilot MERITO Academy program. The program was tested with eleven teachers from four cities in the region, and served 330 fourth to eighth grade students, 85% of whom were Hispanic from underserved communities residing in the Santa Barbara Channel region. Highlights of the presentation included the results of the program evaluation after one year of implementation. The analysis of the students' pre and post program surveys indicated a 55% increased in stewardship for the CINMS, a 63% increase in understanding of ocean related threats, and a 30% increase in knowledge of what actions contribute to ocean protection. The Pilot MERITO Academy program was one of ten education programs presented at the symposium.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program

Program Overview

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) volunteers educate local school children, residents, and tourists, monitor sanctuary and park resources, and conduct research on board local whale watch vessels departing out of Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Islands harbors. The field season runs from January – October to observe migrating gray whales and foraging blue and humpback whales. In addition to field interpretation and research, CINC volunteers also offer slide presentations for local schools and community groups, represent the sanctuary and Park at marine-related community outreach events, and distribute outreach materials to area marine-related businesses through the Adopt-A-Business Program.

The sanctuary partners with the Park to administer the CINC volunteer program. During the first year of service, CINC volunteers represent the sanctuary and Park on board local whale watch vessels and educational cruises. After one year of service, additional training opportunities are available to become certified to lead island hikes through the Park.

January and February Whale Watch Vessel Excursions

In January, from Santa Barbara Harbor the *Condor Express* led thirteen trips. From Ventura Harbor the Island Packers vessels *Island Adventure* and *Islander* led fourteen trips combined. From Channel Islands Harbor the Island Packers vessel *Vanguard* led six trips and the Channel Islands Sportfishing vessel *Speedtwin* led three trips. In February, from Santa Barbara Harbor the *Condor Express* led approximately fourteen trips and the Double Dolphin led approximately 22 trips, while Ventura Harbor vessels *Island Adventure* and *Islander* led approximately 36 trips combined. From Channel Islands Harbor the *Vanguard* led approximately eight trips, the Channel Islands Sportfishing vessels *Speedtwin* and *Ranger 85* led approximately ten and two trips respectively. In total, concessionaires provided 128 whale watching trips in January and February (36 in January, 92 in February). The number of excursions listed for each vessel only include those with CINC volunteers on board. Trips may have multiple naturalists aboard. Many scheduled whale watching and island hike trips were cancelled this season due to inclement

weather. February trips are estimated due to potential weather cancellations. Channel Islands Sportfishing started whale watching trips in January, and they are expected to resume in March. Captain Don's Whale Watching will re-start their operation through a new partnership with the catamaran Speed-Twin, which will operate during the spring and summer whale watch seasons.

Island Programs

In January, CINC island hike naturalists participated in seven Island Packers trips to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage, and one to Anacapa Island aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*, and two trips to Anacapa Island aboard the *Vanguard*. In February, naturalists participated in six Island Packers trips to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage, and five to Anacapa Island aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*, and three trips to Anacapa Island aboard the *Vanguard*. In total, CINC naturalists participated in eighteen February island hike trips.

Trainings

Approximately 135 volunteers participate in the program each year to represent the sanctuary and Park on board whale watch excursions and island hikes at the Channel Islands. Twenty-six new volunteers were added to the program this year, bringing the total to 138 volunteers in 2008.

CINC volunteers are trained by regional experts in geology, oceanography, marine mammals, maritime heritage, paleontology, marine birds, marine mammal identification, and interpretation. Monthly in-service volunteer training sessions cover additional topics related to sanctuary and park resource protection programs and regulations.

The new volunteers completed their training classes on February 2nd, with a graduation and final training session that included an exam and hands-on interpretation exercise. Due to rain, the lecture by Joan Lentz, South Coast bird expert, on January 24th was rescheduled to February 2nd and CINC administrators will reschedule the bird walk in the spring.

Several training trips led by experienced mentors were run in February through Sea Landing and Island Packers for new volunteers who completed the 2008 CINC training program. After this final stage of training, new



volunteers are eligible to be scheduled for whale watch excursions.

New Channel Islands Marine Floating Labs Trips Added



The CINC now includes 138 volunteers, some of whom are shown here wearing their new navy uniforms.

Photo: Shauna Bingham.

to the CINC Program

CINC volunteers will receive training on March 11th, on board the Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab's vessel *Coral Sea*. CINC volunteers will learn how to conduct hands-on oceanographic experiments in Channel Islands Harbor and help kindergarten through college level students analyze the biological, chemical and physical properties of the ocean. Using a station rotation process, Floating Lab staff set up separate work stations.

Participants rotate through each station taking part in hands-on learning experiences, and identifying harbor marine life during the three-and-a-half hours they spend on-board. Some trips may include a coastal gray whale watch. These trips will provide veteran volunteers in the CINC program with an opportunity to enhance their knowledge, and will provide local educators and students with the opportunity to learn more about the sanctuary and park.

New Volunteer Uniforms and CINC Program Expansion

The CINC program provided new volunteer uniforms to 2008 CINC graduates, which will be integrated into the current program while phasing out old uniforms. This effort furthers the sanctuary's partnership with the Park, and will provide a consistent look for volunteer recognition by visitors to the sanctuary and Park.

Formerly, sanctuary and park volunteers had differently colored uniforms—the new color is navy blue. In 2008, the sanctuary and park will also merge the park's overnight volunteer program with the CINC program. This will add an additional 35 volunteers to the program and over 9,000 hours of service. These park volunteers joining the CINC will receive the new uniform, additional training on CINMS, and represent the sanctuary on multi-day trips at the islands.

Monthly In-Service Meetings

Monthly meetings for the CINC run from February through September on the third Tuesday of each month. The first meeting of the year was held on February 19th, with a presentation by Clay Downing of The Nature Conservancy, Santa Cruz Island.

From Shore to Sea Lecture Series

Several volunteers had the opportunity to attend the monthly From Shore to Sea lectures. This lecture series allows volunteers to expand their knowledge of the resources in the Santa Barbara Channel, in addition to their regular in-season monthly meetings. Recent topics were the California sea urchin fishery and Chinese fishermen on the Channel Islands.

Public Outreach

California Islands Symposium: Presentations

Shauna Bingham (Sanctuary Volunteer Outreach Coordinator) co-presented with staff from the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History Ty Warner Sea Center and UCSB MSI on multi-agency training and coordination as an effective way to educate the community about the Channel Islands. The sanctuary and Park partner on training and evaluation of volunteer and intern programs with the Sea Center and MSI. The presentation was part of the education sessions offered during the Seventh California Islands Symposium (see p. 4 for more symposium information). A manuscript detailing the collaboration and evaluation methods for measuring ocean stewardship through these programs will be published in the conference proceedings.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer, Catherine French presented on the Adopt-A-Business program as

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Field Report: December 31, 2007

Lisa Collier and I left Ventura Harbor with Island Packers on the first of two excursions yesterday. We had heard that Orcas had been spotted the previous day, and we had high hopes.

Sure enough about two miles from Anacapa Island we spotted six Orcas! Two were calves. The crew thought that one may have been only a couple of weeks old as its white markings were actually still very pink.

They toyed with a sea lion, possibly teaching the young ones how to hunt. After about an hour they had eviscerated the animal, and the gulls lifted the entrails into the air and gossiped everybody out, yet they seemed to love it.

They performed wonderfully, tail lobbing, side swimming, and showing their pectoral fins, etc. They came very close to the boat.

Amazingly, on our second trip out we found them again and witnessed another kill of a sea lion. This time they came so close you could have touched the large female. The captain reminded everyone that even though no reports of attacking humans exist, don't dangle your arms over the side, just in case. They tossed the poor sea lion in the air with their tails, it was incredible.

They stayed with us well over an hour. We also saw about 2,000 common dolphins, which is always a joy! No gray whales, but no one was disappointed.

I'm still amazed by what we saw. Nature is truly awesome!

- Lori "Orca" Haroldsen
Channel Islands Naturalist Corps `2007

an approach to effectively reach businesses that provide services to Channel Islands recreational users. CINC volunteers delivered five-thousand *Protecting Your Channel Islands* brochures to area businesses in 2007.

California Islands Symposium: Volunteer Coordination
Shauna Bingham and Tina Reed (Sanctuary Administrative Support Coordinator) worked closely with the planning committee for the Seventh California Islands Symposium to coordinate volunteer coverage during the four-day event. Over fifteen CINC and Park volunteers provided audiovisual and registration support. Volunteers also interacted with several hundred participants at the sanctuary information table. (See p. 4 for more symposium information.)

Oxnard College Marine Resources Management Class
On January 26th, CINC volunteer Paul Petrich provided a 30-minute overview of the sanctuary to a group of thirty students enrolled in Oxnard College's Marine Resources Management class. The "CINMS from A to Z" presentation, given to these students as part of their tour of the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, is used by sanctuary staff and volunteers to educate various community groups about the resources of the Channel Islands. The presentation includes information and videos about maritime heritage, marine mammals, marine protected areas, and other partner agencies such as the Park.

Rotary Club of Santa Ynez Valley
On January 9th, Petrich repeated the CINMS A-Z presentation at the Rotary Club in Santa Ynez, to focus mainly on marine mammals of the CINMS.

Foothill School Science Fair
The sanctuary participated in the Foothill School Science Fair on January 31st. CINC volunteers hosted an interactive station with sanctuary information and a whale photo-identification matching game. Over 150 kindergarten through sixth grade students and parents attended. The sanctuary is scheduled to attend additional school science fairs in the coming months.



MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

Outreach

California Islands Symposium

Robert Schwemmer (NMSP West Coast Region and CINMS Maritime Heritage Coordinator) conducted historical research for the island commerce motor schooner *Santa Cruz* that was built at Benicia, California by Matthew Tuner in 1893. *Santa Cruz* was ultimately lost in 1960 at Prisoners Harbor, Santa Cruz Island, having served in the trade for nearly seventy years. Dr. Bruce Hector and Michael Marzolla presented Schwemmer's research, as well as underwater images documenting the site, at the California Islands Symposium in February. Also at the symposium, the Santa Cruz Island Foundation released a new publication featuring Betsy Lester Roberti's childhood memories growing up on San Miguel Island. The book is part of that Foundation's occasional paper series and includes one of Schwemmer's aerial photographs on the back cover. For more information on the *Santa Cruz*, please visit:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/santacruz.html>.

News From Native California

The January 2008 issue of *News from Native California* featured Schwemmer's photo-documentation of the 2007 Chumash tomol crossing, including eleven of his images, and featuring another as the magazine's cover shot. *News from Native California* is available online at:

<http://www.heydaybooks.com/news/>.



Cover of *News from Native California* magazine taken during the 2007 Chumash tomol crossing.

Santa Clarita Valley Photographers Association

On February 12th, Schwemmer gave a presentation on the four northern Channel Islands to the Santa Clarita Valley Photographers Association. The presentation included aerial, island interior, and underwater photographs of natural, cultural, and maritime heritage resources found in the sanctuary and park, as well as the various platforms from which Schwemmer conducted his photography.



2 masted schooner *Santa Cruz* anchored at Prisoners Harbor. Photo: courtesy California State Library



Santa Cruz's stockless anchor still positioned in Hawse pipe. Photo: Robert Schwemmer



Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources (CMAR) diver Patrick Smith documents *Santa Cruz* mast. Photo: Robert Schwemmer

West Coast Region Maritime Heritage Program

Society for Historical Archaeology Conference

From January 8-14, Schwemmer attended the Society for Historical Archaeology conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The theme of the conference was The Public Benefits of Historical Archaeology. Schwemmer presented a paper on the Maritime Heritage Program's education and outreach initiatives for the west coast region during the NOAA maritime heritage initiatives session. While in New Mexico, Schwemmer traveled to Santa Fe and met with the chief of the National Park Service's submerged resource center, and discussed opportunities for collaboration in the west coast region.

USS Macon Documentary

Spiegel, Germany's largest independent film production company, has reached an agreement with broadcasters to produce a documentary titled *USS Macon – The Flying Aircraft Carrier*. Interviews with the scientist team and re-creating topside events of the 2006 expedition aboard the R/V *Western Flyer* is scheduled for May 2008. The broadcasters include National Geographic Channel in the United States, Discovery Channel in Canada, and ZDF/ARTE in Germany and France, with other countries to follow. For more information on the *USS Macon* Expedition please visit:

<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/missions/2006macon/welcome.html>.

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Research

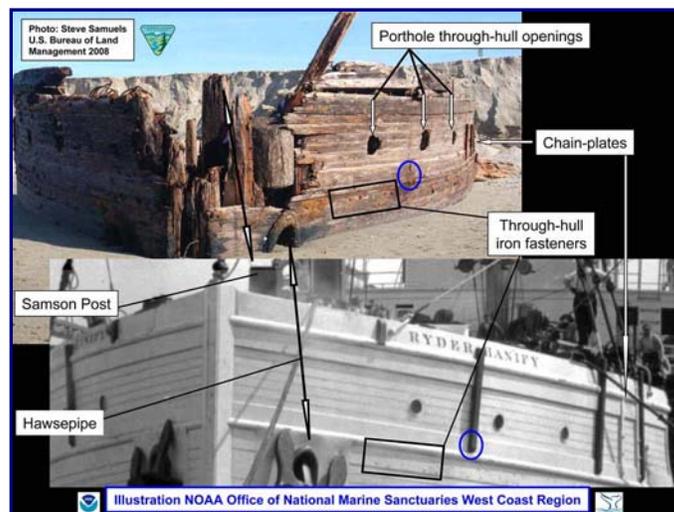
Schwemmer conducted historical research for the down-easter sailing vessel *Austria* that was built in Bath, Maine in 1870 and was ultimately wrecked at Cape Alava, Washington in 1887, now part of the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). This research is in support of a student's master's thesis project under the guidance of Robert Steelquist (OCNMS Education Coordinator), and will support a larger research effort being conducted in Maine, as well as field work at the wreck site. For more information on the *Austria* please visit:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/ocnms/austria.html>.

Coos Bay, Oregon Shipwreck Research

Recent winter storms have caused beach erosion at Coos Bay, Oregon to uncover the remains of a wooden steam schooner. At the request of Bill Douros (NMSP West Coast Region Superintendent), Schwemmer conducted

research and identified the mystery shipwreck as the *George L Olson*. Schwemmer uncovered rare dimensional research, as well as vessel imagery while the schooner was under construction as the *Ryder Hanify* in 1917, which will be useful in future site surveys. These efforts are supporting the West Coast Region's collaboration with federal and state agencies, and the private community in Oregon. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management Office, in partnership with the NMSP, Oregon Parks & Recreation Department, and Coos Bay Historical and Maritime Museum, went public with a news release announcing the steamer's identification on February 20th. The press release is available at: <http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/coosbay/newsroom/index.php>.



Historic bow view image of *Ryder Hanify* (later *George L. Olson*) with comparison to steam schooner shipwreck. Courtesy NOAA NMSP West Coast Region

WEB SITE (<http://channelislands.noaa.gov>)

Recent Updates

Visit the web pages listed below to see recently updated sections of the CINMS web site.

Updates to the Research section host the new Safety Awareness requirements document, available in pdf format at:

http://channelislands.noaa.gov/res/vessel_nec.html

The Advisory Council section of the website has been updated to host the recruitment of open seats for 2008, meeting notes & new members available at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html>

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/news.html>

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/member.html>

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/minutes.html>

The MERITO Academy program is seeking a curriculum developer to complete their curriculum. The application is online in pdf format at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/pdf/MeritoSOW.pdf>

The online version of the CINMS weather kiosk features a new 72-hour wind forecast and new sea surface temperature images available at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/kiosk/wind.html>

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/kiosk/satellite.html>

Don't forget to check out our calendar of events and "What's New" pages to find out what's happening locally:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/wnew.html>

Upcoming Modifications

Discussions are in progress to update the Research section of the website to include a more dynamic interface and reorganization of content.

Design and development of a backend interface is being created to allow CINMS staff to serve as administrators of the Marine Mammals Sightings database. A filter is being inserted to tighten up the coordinates allowed for sightings entries.

The Plumes & Bloom's website is on deck for file replacement and updates.

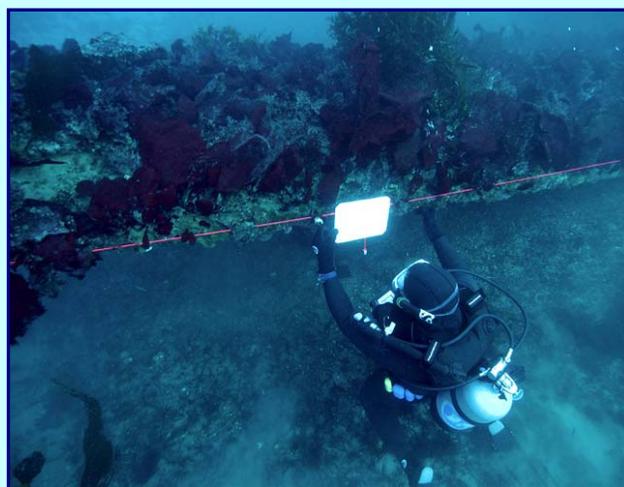
Please take a few moments to view the site. Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Comments and suggestions can be sent to amy.cale@noaa.gov.

CHANNEL ISLANDS: WINDOW ON THE PAST

Not all submerged archaeological resources are shipwrecks; in the Sanctuary and Park are the remains of sunken aircraft dating back to World War II. Eleven years after the war in 1954 a Grumman Guardian AF-2W went down off Santa Cruz Island. Fifty-four years later the remains of the aircraft are still visible in 54 feet of water. As reported in the [Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary - Submerged Cultural Resources Assessment](#), Submerged Cultural Resources Unit National Park Service, authored by Don P. Morris and James Lima.

On 30 March 1954, this Grumman Guardian was not hunting submarines but was searching for a missing jet aircraft, a Banshee piloted by Lt. Albert McHenry, when the Guardian developed engine trouble. Lt. John W. Miller set the plane down and the crew, Bill Burris and Walter G. Brown, all exited the craft. Swimming to Santa Cruz Island, the three spread out a parachute and activated distress flares. A helicopter plucked them from the island the same day ([Los Angeles Times](#) 1 April 1954) The Guardian formed part of a 60-plane fleet searching for the lost jet, which disappeared while on a routine training mission from the Point Mugu Test Range Center. The Grumman Guardian was one of the last propeller-driven combat aircraft that the navy flew.

This plane carried a pilot (forward cockpit) and a radar operator, relief radar operator, and a radio-countermeasure operator in the aft cockpit. The AF-2W was designed for antisubmarine search and radar scouting missions, operating together with an AF-2S, a version of the same plane that carried armament for destroying targets located by the AF-2W.



National Park Service diver Ian Williams measures the AF-2W starboard wing angle with protractor.



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS



“Fishing for Energy” Program Launched

On February 5, the NOAA Marine Debris Program, Covanta Energy, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Port of New Bedford launched the “Fishing for Energy” program in New Bedford, Massachusetts, to work with coastal communities to reduce the amount of derelict fishing gear in our oceans. In this new effort, Covanta Energy will work closely with the New Bedford Harbor Development Commission and the local fishing industry to coordinate the removal of derelict gear from local coastal waters. Once removed, the gear, along with gear that is no longer fit for use, will be transported to Covanta’s Energy-from-Waste facility in Haverhill, Massachusetts. Approximately one ton of derelict marine debris creates enough electricity to power one home for 25 days.

Education World Gives Sanctuaries High Praises for Education Web site

Education World, a website for educators, reviewed the NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries’ education Web site (<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/education>) and gave it an A+ rating. The top grade acknowledged stellar content and site design providing information on America’s ocean and Great Lakes treasures, along with professional development opportunities for educators, field studies for students, and free, online educational resources to help bring the ocean into classrooms around the country. Education World provides free information for educators and gets approximately 5-6 million page views per month. The review can be seen at <http://www.education-world.com/awards/2008/r0108-28.shtml> and was highlighted in the recent Education World newsletter

that reached 6,000 educators around the country. For more information, contact Michiko.Martin@noa.gov.

National Marine Sanctuary Program Lauded through Several Awards

In February 2008 the National Marine Sanctuaries Program (NMSP) awarded three separate honors for outstanding commitment to preserving resources and increasing public awareness. The California Thank You Ocean campaign, designed and implemented by NMSP and the California Resources Agency, received a Coastal America award. NOAA staff also received individual awards for their contributions. The California Thank You Ocean campaign is designed to enhance public awareness, understanding, appreciation, and wise and sustainable use of the marine environment throughout the state of California.

Renewable Energy Development in Sanctuary

A milestone for renewable energy development in the United States occurred in late December 2007 when the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission issued the first license for an ocean energy project in the United States to Finavera Renewables. The five-year license allows Finavera to continue planning and attracting capital investment for this pilot project, a four-buoy system to be deployed off the northwest coast of Washington State, in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

Land-use agreements with Washington State and other permits and approvals are pending, including a sanctuary permit. The commission's license requires development of a monitoring plan to support evaluation of the potential effects of this emerging technology on wildlife and habitats in the project area.

THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

MARCH	
Mar. 2	<i>Celebration of the Whales</i> Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard For more information visit: http://channelislandsharbor.org/Events.cfm
Mar. 8	<i>Ocean Tech Day</i> Aquarium of Pacific, Long Beach For more information visit: http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/newsevents/eventsdetail/ocean_tech_day/
Mar. 9	<i>12th Annual Point Mugu Whale Festival</i> Sycamore Cove, Point Mugu State Park, Malibu
Mar. 11, 12	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> John Hildebrand, Scripps Institution of Oceanography <i>Marine Mammal Acoustics Monitoring in the Channel Islands</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way in Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Mar. 13	<i>Hope School Science Night, Santa Barbara</i>
Mar. 14	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
Mar. 14	<i>Las Colinas Middle School Science Fair, Camarillo</i>
Mar. 20	<i>March 20 Brandon School Science Night, Goleta</i>
Mar. 27-30	<i>2008 National Science Teachers Association Conference</i> Boston, Massachusetts For more information visit: http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2008bos/
APRIL	
April 8	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Gary Davis, Channel Islands National Park & Satie Airame, PISCO Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas—5 Year Review Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way in Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Apr. 12	<i>Oxnard Earth Day Festival, Downtown Oxnard</i>
Apr. 12-13	<i>Aquarium of Pacific Earth Day</i> Long Beach For more information visit: http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/newsevents/eventsdetail/earth_day
Apr. 12-13	<i>Santa Barbara Maritime Museum SeaFest</i> Santa Barbara For more information visit: http://www.sbmm.org/
Apr. 17	<i>Monte Vista School Science Night, Goleta</i>
Apr. 20	<i>Community Environmental Council Earth Day Festival</i> Santa Barbara Courthouse, Sunken Gardens For more information visit: http://www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/Events/earthday/
Apr. 23	<i>Ventura County Science Fair, Ventura Fairgrounds, Ventura</i> For more information visit: http://www.vcss.k12.ca.us/Default.aspx?tabid=686
MAY	
TBA	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> **Lecturer and topic to be announced at http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way in Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
May 30	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html

CINMS Staff

Santa Barbara Harbor Office

Christopher Mobley – *Superintendent*

Todd Jacobs – *Deputy Superintendent*

Amy Cale – *Web Developer*

LTJG Matt Davis – *Operations Officer*

Steve Dyer – *Vessel Captain*

Laura Francis – *Education Coordinator*

Sean Hastings – *Resource Protection Coordinator*

Steve Katz – *Research Coordinator*

Charles Lara – *Vessel Operator*

Dani Lipski – *Research Assistant*

Bill MacDuffee – *Vessel Captain*

Sarah MacWilliams – *Management Plan Specialist*

Michael Murray – *Advisory Council and
Management Plan Coordinator*

Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*

Natalie Senyk – *Scientific Advisor*

Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*

Ben Waltenberger – *Physical Scientist*

Rebecca Young – *Program Support Specialist*

Ventura County Field Office

Shauna Bingham – *Volunteer Program and Outreach
Coordinator*

Julie Bursek – *Education Coordinator*

Clare Fritzsche – *CINIC Volunteer Program & Administrative
Assistant*

Lorri Herr – *Program Support Specialist*

Rocío Lozano de Knowlton – *Bilingual Education & Outreach
Specialist*

Tina Reed – *Administrative Support Coordinator*

CINMS Interns

Michael S. Henry – *Policy, Planning, and Resource Protection*

Lacey Lopez – *Chumash Affairs*

NMSP West Coast Region Staff

William Douros – *Regional Superintendent*

Matt Brookhart – *Policy Coordinator*

Nicole Capps – *Management Support Specialist*

Dave Lott – *Operations Coordinator*

Local NMSP Staff

Columbine Culberg – *Ocean Etiquette Program Manager /
Liaison to Aquarium of the Pacific*

Claire Fackler – *West Coast Education Liaison*

Sarah Marquis – *West Coast Media Coordinator*

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Kelly Darnell – *Acting Executive Director*

Learn More About Your Sanctuary

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary produces the Sanctuary Superintendent's Report in conjunction with bi-monthly Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The National Marine Sanctuary System consists of 14 marine protected areas that encompass 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 Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument." The NMSP, which manages the system, was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>.

Channel Islands National Park

To learn about Channel Islands National Park visit their web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>.

GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/involved.html>

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>

- CONTACT INFORMATION -

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Santa Barbara Office
Santa Barbara Harbor
113 Harbor Way, Suite 150
Santa Barbara, California
93109

Phone: (805) 966-7107
Fax: (805) 568-1582

Oxnard Office
Channel Islands Harbor
3600 S. Harbor Blvd., Suite 111
Oxnard, California
93035

Phone: (805) 382-6149
Fax: (805) 382-9791

