



Superintendent's Report



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 approximately 1,243 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.



SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

2006 an Important Year for the Sanctuary Advisory Council

Providing about 1,200 hours of service in 2006, the Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) once again proved vital to the ongoing management of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary). One major Advisory Council accomplishment came in July 2006, when after years of providing input and advice, the Advisory Council completed a thorough review of and commented on the sanctuary's Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Similarly, in September 2006 the Advisory Council completed a comprehensive review of and commented on the sanctuary's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Consideration of Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas within the CINMS. Extensive comments contributed by several of the Advisory Council's working groups, including the Conservation Working Group, Recreational Fishing Working Group, Research Activities Panel, and Chumash Community Working Group, greatly enhanced both of these reviews. The Advisory Council also spoke directly to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) leadership in August 2006, sending a letter to Vice Admiral Lautenbacher that highlighted the need for enhanced funding to support marine reserves monitoring within the sanctuary. These significant actions, combined with investigations into numerous other issues in 2006, illustrate the Advisory Council's role as an engaged, informed, and highly active marine conservation policy advisory body. Such efforts also highlight Advisory Council members' ongoing dedication and commitment to championing wise management of the sanctuary.

Looking ahead to 2007, the Advisory Council is poised to take on important issues such as aquaculture, water quality, and marine reserves monitoring. (Continued on p.2)

Window on the Sanctuary



Gray Whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) travel through the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary on their migration from Alaskan feeding grounds to warm calving lagoons in Baja California, Mexico (December through February). Photo: Tina Carlson



For more information on 2006 Advisory Council activities, please refer to the 2006 Advisory Council Annual Report, which will be posted at http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM EXCHANGE

Galapagos National Park Staff Visit the Sanctuary

A delegation from the Galapagos National Park and Marine Reserve visited the sanctuary in early November. During the visit Rocío Lozano-Knowlton (Sanctuary Multi-cultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans, or MERITO, Coordinator), provided a sanctuary overview presentation in Spanish. Following the presentation, the delegation participated in a round table discussion with sanctuary staff, and Mike McCorkle (a local halibut and sea cucumber fishermen), and Bruce Steele (a local sea urchin diver and Advisory Council member). In addition, the delegation toured the commercial fishing pier while local fishermen were offloading sea urchins. The delegation, local fishermen, marketers and processors engaged in a lively discussion on the pier, and shared samples of uni (sea urchin roe), fresh off the boats. Sanctuary staff hosted a dinner in Santa Barbara where discussion continued on sanctuary management issues. During their visit the delegation also took a day trip to the sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park (CINP or park) aboard the sanctuary's research vessel (R/V) *Shearwater*. The trip included a stop at the Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve and a hike across Anacapa Island. A bilingual sanctuary and park Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer provided natural history information and served as a translator.

Chilean Fisheries Manager Visits the Sanctuary

On December 6, 2006, Carlos E. Kirkwood of Chile's national fisheries service, "Servicio Nacional de Pesca," met with sanctuary staff as part of a ten-week international exchange with the National Marine Sanctuary Program's (NMSP) West Coast Region. Mr. Kirkwood provided a presentation on the status of marine protected area development in Chile, and Chris Mobley (Sanctuary Superintendent) and sanctuary staff provided presentations on the sanctuary, its management plan, and marine reserves and marine conservation areas. At the request of the regional office, as part of the exchange Mr. Kirkwood worked on an assessment of shearwater population health

in Chile and the potential for expanded protection programs. The NMSP made this request since several species of shearwater breed in Chile and migrate to west coast national marine sanctuaries to feed in their winter (our summer).

MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW UPDATE

Sanctuary staff continue to analyze comments received on the Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS). During the public comment period, which closed on July 21, 2006, the sanctuary received 79 sets of comments from organizations, agencies, members of the general public, and the Advisory Council. Staff analysis resulted in the identification of 674 specific comments drawn from the letters, emails, and oral testimonies received. As staff move ahead with drafting responses to these comments, consulting with NMSP and West Coast Region staff and leadership as needed, the draft documents will be modified into a Final Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Final Rule.

As reported at the November 17th Advisory Council meeting, the NMSP plans to issue a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, likely this winter, as a necessary step toward completion of the management plan process. These supplemental documents will be released 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 (300+ gross registered tons), and in light of the possibility of inconsistency between the sanctuary's preferred alternative discharge regulation and the recently enacted California Clean Coast Act. The supplemental documents will be streamlined to avoid unnecessary reprinting of information available in the DMP/DEIS, and will be made available for public review and comment. Comments received on the supplemental documents will be considered and integrated into the Final Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Final Rule.

Sanctuary staff will provide updates on the supplemental and final documents at upcoming Advisory Council meetings and via the sanctuary's web site (<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/overview.html>). For more information, contact Michael.Murray@noaa.gov or Sarah.MacWilliams@noaa.gov.



EDUCATION, VOLUNTEERS, AND OUTREACH

Special Events

2007 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series

The 2007 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series will begin January 9 and 10, with a lecture on Channel Islands Geology by Daniel Muhs of the U.S. Geological Survey. Each month the lecture series, now entering its fifth year, features different experts in the cultural and natural history, island ecology, geology, and biology of the Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Channel. The monthly programs are free and open to the public and take place at 7 pm, with the Tuesday date in Santa Barbara at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara Harbor), and the Wednesday date in Ventura at the park's Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor). Please note that this is a venue change for the Santa Barbara lectures. For more information visit: www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html. The schedule of speakers is posted in the box at right.

Cabrillo High School Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Competition a Success

On November 17, Julie Bursek (Sanctuary Education Coordinator) and Claire Johnson (NMSF West Coast Education Liaison) participated as judges in the annual Cabrillo High School student ROV competition. Over 24 teams participated in the contest. The participating students are currently enrolled in Ms. Poquette's physics class, in which she uses the application of designing and constructing an ROV to teach students principles in buoyancy, hydrodynamics, and electronics to name a few. Students must work together as a team in the design, construction, testing, and problem solving of their ROVs. Teams are required to maintain journals detailing each phase of the development and testing of their ROVs. The teams' ROVs then compete in different events including an underwater ring obstacle course, tug of war, and relay competition at the school pool. Top performing teams from each physics class will participate in an ROV cruise aboard the R/V *Shearwater* in 2007 to test their student-built designs in an ocean environment. For more information, please contact Julie.bursek@noaa.gov or Claire.Johnson@noaa.gov.



Cabrillo High School students participate in an annual ROV competition. Photo: Claire Johnson.

2007 From Shore To Sea Lecture series

January 9 & 10

*Daniel Muhs,
U.S. Geological Survey
Geology of the
Channel Islands*

February 13 & 14

*David Sweet,
National Weather Service
Effects of Weather on
Channel Islands
Ocean Conditions*

March 13 & 14

*Christine Hamilton,
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Xantus's Murrelet
Recovery Status*

April 10 & 11

*Steven Schwartz,
U.S. Navy Archaeologist
Lone Woman of
San Nicolas Island*

Santa Barbara Lectures:

Tuesdays at 7 pm
Santa Barbara
Maritime Museum,
113 Harbor Way,
Santa Barbara

Ventura Lectures:

Wednesdays at 7 pm
Channel Islands National Park,
Robert J. Lagomarsino
Visitor Center,
1901 Spinnaker Drive,
Ventura

*More information is posted
at: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>*



Workshops

Sanctuary Education staff participate in Watershed Education Training Program

Laura Francis (Sanctuary Education Coordinator) is part of the advisory council for the Teacher Enrichment Adventure in Watershed Education and Training (TEAWET) program. The TEAWET program is a Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) funded professional development project for teachers, which 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. Francis will be leading one of the eight days of training on January 6, 2007, which will focus on watershed connections to the ocean and sanctuary, and underwater monitoring.

Meetings

New Oxnard California Welcome Center Exhibit Design Meeting

On November 22, Julie Bursek coordinated a meeting with Yvonne Menard (Chief of Interpretation at the Park), Rachel Harris (General Manager of the California Welcome Center in Oxnard), and Janet Sederquist (Executive Director and CEO of the Oxnard Convention and Visitors Bureau), to discuss how the sanctuary and park will support exhibit development in the new California Welcome Center in Oxnard. The new Center is scheduled for a soft opening in January, and a grand opening in February or March. The Center will be located where the 101 freeway and highway 1 merge. The sanctuary will provide images and text for exhibit panels on the Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Channel, emphasizing recreational opportunities for visitors. The sanctuary will also provide an indoor National Marine Sanctuary kiosk at the new Center if funding comes through. For more information contact Julie. Bursek@noaa.gov

Education Tools and Products

Channel Islands High Definition Film Project

Chris Mobley, Todd Jacobs (Sanctuary Deputy Superintendent), Katherine Peet (Sanctuary Vessel Operations Officer), Laura Francis, Robert Schwemmer (Sanctuary Maritime Heritage Coordinator), and Claire Johnson participated in high definition film



Film maker John Brooks is developing a 26-minute high definition documentary about the sanctuary. Photo: Chris Mobley.

expeditions aboard the R/V *Shearwater* from November 1-10. The goal of the expeditions was to capture footage for a 26-minute high definition documentary being directed by John Brooks and the NOAA Ocean Media Center.

Multi-Cultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

MERITO Academy Up and Running in the Sanctuary

Between October 23rd and November 11th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton provided sanctuary presentations in English and in Spanish to 360 students participating in the MERITO Academy. Over 85% of the students were Hispanic, and 50% were English Language Learners. The students are in grades 5-8 in twelve public and charter schools in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Carpinteria, and Oxnard. While viewing beautiful images of the marine life and habitats, students learned about their sanctuary, its resources and programs. The presentation also introduced students to ocean-related threats and used a watershed model demonstration to reinforce the connection between watersheds and oceans, and how individual actions can help protect the health of the ocean. The presentations initiated the MERITO Academy program in each class, and provided support to teachers implementing the in-class activities contained in the science-based, field-tested MERITO Academy curriculum. In the following six months, CINMS MERITO staff will continue working with the teachers on seven related field activities. On February 3, 2007, the twelve teachers participating in the MERITO Academy program will meet for a one-day follow-up MERITO Academy Workshop at the University of California (UCSB) Marine Science Institute (MSI). The



one-day workshop will include instruction on implementing in-class activities, as well as a field trip to Coal Oil Point Reserve for field training in the Long-Term Monitoring and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) program. The MERITO Academy is a partnership between CINMS, Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute, and Oxnard College sponsored by NOAA B-WET grant. For more information, please contact: Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov.

Buses in Santa Barbara and Ventura Display CINMS MERITO Bilingual Signs

One hundred public buses in Santa Barbara and Ventura are currently displaying bilingual CINMS MERITO signs that promote water quality and ocean protection. The signs are the product of the first MERITO environmental message cartoon contest conducted in May 2006. The signs contain a visually attractive, humorous, and persuasive cartoon strip drawn by Ellise Pham, an 8th grader at Camarillo's La Colina Middle school. On the side of the cartoon strip bilingual text (English and Spanish) provides information about behaviors that contribute to ocean protection. The buses will display the signs for six months. The relevant transportation companies estimate that these buses will transport six-million passengers within the six-month time frame. For more information contact: Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov.



Approximately six-million Ventura and Santa Barbara residents will ride buses displaying the MERITO sign (at top in this photo) over the next six-months. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

Upcoming MERITO Academy Middle School Bilingual Field Experiences

Jan 18 and Jan 25: Lozano-Knowlton will lead a field trip for 60 fifth grade students from the SAGE Charter School in Ventura. The students will visit the waste water treatment plant in Oxnard, test the quality of the water in the Santa Clara River mouth, participate in a native plant restoration project at Ormond Beach, and visualize the connection between watersheds and the ocean.

January 19: Lozano-Knowlton, in collaboration with the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, will take 65 fifth and sixth grade English Language Learners from Santa Barbara's Cesar Chavez Charter School, to Sycamore Creek to collect and test creek water quality, plant native plants provided by the city along the banks of the creek, learn to distinguish between native and invasive plants, and learn the benefits that native plants provide to our creeks and ocean waters.

January 23: Lozano-Knowlton will lead a field trip for 65 fifth grade Hispanic, English Language Learners from Drifill Elementary in Oxnard. The students will visit the waste water treatment plant in Oxnard, test Santa Clara River mouth water quality, and participate in a native plant restoration project at Ormond Beach.

January 26: Lozano-Knowlton will lead 30 fifth grade students from Canalino Elementary School in Carpinteria to the local waste water treatment plant, test water quality in the nearby creek, visualize the connection between watersheds and the ocean, and explore the local wetlands as part of the first MERITO Academy field experiences.

January 30: Santa Barbara City Creeks Division will sponsor the transportation of 65 fifth and sixth grade students from the Cesar Chavez Charter School to El Estero Waste Water Treatment Plant, where they will receive a one-and-a-half-hour tour of the plant as part of the MERITO Academy program.

February 9: Lozano-Knowlton will take 65 fifth and sixth grade English Language Learners from Santa Barbara's Cesar Chavez Charter School to Coal Oil Point Reserve to explore tide pools and wetlands, and perform sand crab monitoring as part of the MERITO Academy field experiences.





Feb. 14: Lozano-Knowlton will lead a field trip for 60 fifth grade students from the SAGE Charter School in Ventura. The students will visit Leo Cabrillo State Park near Malibu, learn tide pool etiquette, explore tide pools, and perform sand crab monitoring while collecting baseline data for this new LiMPETS site.

Feb. 16: Lozano-Knowlton will lead a field trip for 30 eighth grade students from Community Day School in Santa Barbara. The students will visit Coil Oil Point Reserve to explore tide pools, wetlands, and perform sand crab monitoring as part of the MERITO Academy field experiences.

Feb. 22: Lozano-Knowlton, in collaboration with Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, will host 65 fifth grade English Language Learners from Santa Barbara's Harding Elementary, at Bonnet Park. Starting this year, Harding 5th graders will foster Bonnet Park, which is by Mission Creek in Santa Barbara. The students will participate in park clean up, water quality testing, and native plant restoration.

March 15: Lozano-Knowlton will lead a field trip for 65 fifth grade Hispanic, English Language Learners from Drifill Elementary in Oxnard. The students will visit Leo Carillo State Park near Malibu, where they will learn tide pool etiquette, explore tide pools, and perform sand crab monitoring while collecting baseline data for this new LiMPETS site.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program

November and December Whale Watch Vessel Excursions
Santa Barbara's Condor Express led ten dolphin cruise and island excursions in November with CINC volunteers, and increased trips to five days per week in December. The first migrating gray whales of the season were spotted in late December and early January. Local boat operators will continue whale watching trips in January and February with CINC volunteers on board.

November and December Island Programs

CINC island hike naturalists participated in five Island Packers trips to Anacapa Island from Channel Islands Harbor in November, and one trip in December. In addition, CINC volunteers participated in nine trips to Santa Cruz Island at Scorpion Anchorage in November, and eight in December. There were multiple trips by some island hike naturalists. No trips to Santa Rosa Island

were scheduled by local boat operators in November or December.

Orientation Meetings

CINC Orientation Meetings were held on November 2 and November 7, in Ventura and Santa Barbara. Over 70 people from Ventura and Santa Barbara counties attended the two meetings and learned about the sanctuary and park, and the CINC volunteer program.

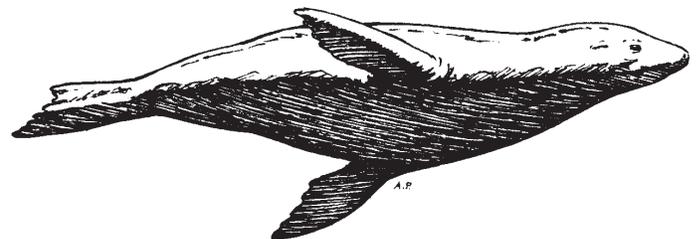
Island Hike Training

Currently, 27 CINC volunteers are certified to lead hikes at the Channel Islands. The 30 additional naturalists who attended this year's training are now "shadowing" seasoned volunteers on island hikes as part of the certification process.

Training for New CINC Volunteers

Thirty-seven new CINC volunteers have been recruited for 2007: 21 from Ventura County, and 16 from Santa Barbara County, representing a diverse group of retired individuals, working professionals, and students. The total number of CINC volunteers for the upcoming year will be 135. The overall number of CINC volunteers has been increased slightly to improve CINC coverage on whale watch trips, island hikes, and at local outreach events. Several veteran volunteers have been assigned as mentors to work with groups of trainees to support them throughout the year and provide them with hands-on training on a public whale watch trip.

The CINC training classes will be held January 9 through February 3. Training is provided by sanctuary staff, park staff, and local experts on the cultural, physical, and biological features of the sanctuary and park. Monthly in-service training is an extension of the basic training for CINC volunteers from February through September (island hike training is held in October). Please see p. 7 for the 2007 CINC training class schedule.





2007 CHANNEL ISLANDS NATURALIST CORPS TRAINING SCHEDULE

DATE	TOPIC	SPEAKER	LOCATION
Tuesday, Jan 9 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	WELCOME! & Volunteer Training Packet CINP Agency Overview	Shauna Bingham, CINMS Derek Lohuis, CINP	CINP Visitor Center 1901 Spinnaker Drive VENTURA
Thursday, Jan 11 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Coastal Birds of Southern California	Dr. Joan Lentz	CINP Visitor Center 1901 Spinnaker Drive VENTURA
Tuesday, Jan 16 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Oceanographic Context of the Southern California Bight and the Santa Barbara Channel	Dr. Libe Washburn, UCSB ICES	Chase Palm Park Building 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd. SANTA BARBARA
Tuesday, Jan 16 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Pinnipeds / Seals and Sea Lions CINMS Agency Overview	Peter Howorth, Santa Barbara Marine Mammal Center Shauna Bingham	CINP Visitor Center 1901 Spinnaker Drive VENTURA
Tuesday, Jan 23 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Channel Islands Archeology and Chumash Ethnohistory	Dr. John Johnson, Curator of Anthropology, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	Chase Palm Park Building 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd. SANTA BARBARA
Thursday, Jan 25 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Marine Mammals/ Whales, Dolphins, & Porpoises	Dr. Charles Rennie, III, Curator Emeritus Vertebrate Zoology, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History	CINP Visitor Center 1901 Spinnaker Drive VENTURA
Tuesday, Jan 30 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Geology of Santa Barbara and Channel Islands	Dr. Tanya Atwater, UCSB	Chase Palm Park Building 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd. SANTA BARBARA
Thursday, Feb 1 6:30 PM – 8:30 PM	Informal Interpretation Techniques Pod meetings with mentors? / NATURALIST EXAM	Yvonne Menard, CINP Valerie Olson	CINP Visitor Center 1901 Spinnaker Drive VENTURA
Saturday, Feb 3 8:30 AM – 12:30 PM	Pod Presentations Scheduling and Vessel Overview Correcting the Exam with Mentors Uniforms & Graduation Potluck Lunch	Pods Clare Fritzsche, Shauna Bingham Pods	CINP Visitor Center 1901 Spinnaker Drive VENTURA



Social Activities

The park held a holiday party on December 9 for park staff, and park and sanctuary volunteers. Several CINC volunteers and sanctuary staff attended to celebrate the end of a successful year, with a potluck and cruise in the Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights!

CINC Marine Mammal Sightings Database Added to Citizen Science Project Database

The Cornell Lab of Ornithology has received National Science Foundation (NSF) funding to build community support for emerging and existing citizen science projects. To be a resource for the broadest range of projects they are exploring the diversity of citizen science programs and concerns. Lab staff are currently compiling a comprehensive, online, searchable database of North American citizen science projects and reference materials. In addition, they are creating a toolkit resource designed to help individuals and organizations develop, implement, and evaluate citizen science projects across disciplines and seek out innovative citizen science practitioners. Shauna Bingham (Sanctuary Volunteer Outreach Coordinator) added the sanctuary's online Marine Mammal Sightings Database to this project database. Opportunistic marine mammal sightings are collected by CINC volunteers year-round on board participating vessels and entered online by volunteers. A Cornell Lab of Citizen Science Project Survey is available on line at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=282972629584>.

Adopt a Business Program (Brochure Distribution)

CINC volunteers continue to distribute the CINMS outreach piece, "Protecting Your Channel Islands," to local marine and tourism-related businesses, pier locations, local state parks, and campgrounds. The Patagonia retail store and headquarters in Ventura have recently been added to our distribution list.

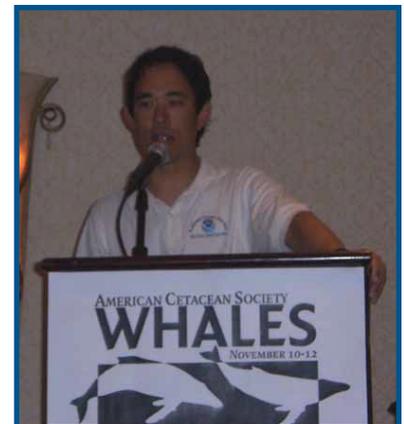
Public Outreach

Patagonia/Sanctuary Partnership: The sanctuary is working with Patagonia to highlight CINMS in their Oceans as Wilderness campaign, which runs January 2006 - July 2007. On October 25, education and outreach staff gave Patagonia staff information about the sanctuary, current sanctuary issues, and ways they can get involved. In addition, the Patagonia retail store has begun featuring the "Protecting Your Channel Islands" brochure, *Alolkoy* newsletter on Marine Reserves Monitoring, and the West Coast National Marine Sanctuary Field Guide. Patagonia is now included on the CINC Adopt-A-Business program.

Ventura Harbor Ocean Fire & Rescue Expo, Nov. 4: Approximately 1,500 people attended this event on Saturday, November 4, at Ventura Harbor Village. CINC volunteers educated the public about the sanctuary and park with an information table. Additional resource agencies were also at the Expo, such as the U.S. Coast Guard and California Department of Fish and Game.

American Cetacean Society 10th Annual Conference, November 10-12: The American Cetacean Society (ACS) and CINMS co-sponsored the 10th Annual International American Cetacean Society Conference November 10-12 in Ventura. The conference provided ACS members and the general public with the opportunity to participate in discussions with leading experts in whale conservation biology from around the world. Chris Mobley provided opening remarks at the conference, and Natalie Senyk (Sanctuary Scientific Advisor), provided a presentation about resources that the NMSP provides for research, management, education, and outreach. Senyk also participated in a panel discussion with Dave Matilla (of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary) and Mason Weinrich (ACS Vice President), during which the audience asked questions about marine protected areas and their role in cetacean (whale and dolphin) management. CINC volunteers also represented the sanctuary at a conference exhibit booth and on the conference marine mammal field trip to the Channel Islands (see p. 16 for a CINC story about the ACS conference field trip). Each conference participant received a West Coast National Marine Sanctuaries Field Guide, and Marine Mammals of the Eastern North Pacific National Marine Sanctuaries Field Guide in their registration packets. Shauna Bingham and Tina Reed (Sanctuary Education and Outreach Administrator) represented the sanctuary on the conference planning committee.

Reporters from The Coast News Group attended the ACS conference, and interviewed Bingham for an article entitled, "Passion for Whales Key to Preservation." The group published the



Sanctuary Superintendent Chris Mobley provided opening remarks during the 2006 ACS Conference. Photo: Shauna Bingham.



Shauna Bingham and Diane Alps (President, ACS Los Angeles Chapter) at the 2006 ACS Conference. Photo: Tina Reed.

on December 15 in three Orange County publications, with several quotes from Bingham and Mobley.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) Update

NMSP West Coast Region and PFMC Take Important Steps Towards Improved Collaboration & Communication

The NMSP helped host a high-level meeting with the PFMC to discuss steps necessary to improve communication and collaboration on the west coast. Participants at the meeting included: leadership from the west coast national marine sanctuaries, and the NMSP West Coast Region; representatives from all five west coast sanctuary advisory councils, including four advisory council chairs; most of the PFMC members, including the Chairman and Executive Director; and deputy regional administrators for the NMFS southwest and northwest regions. A number of important and promising steps to improve collaboration were discussed, including: various means to improve communication between the agencies, the PFMC, and sanctuary advisory councils; the value and means to collaborate in the future on research initiatives that benefit NMFS and the NMSP; how to involve each other in the recommendation process that the PFMC and each sanctuary advisory council carry out; how to best support and collaborate on sanctuary management planning processes; and, how to staff the various initiatives to ensure communication and collaboration occur in the

future. All parties made commitments for future discussions to hone in on key areas of cooperation.

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Environmental Review Process

Staff continue to review and draft responses to comments received on the sanctuary's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Consideration of Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas within the CINMS.

Outreach

Sean Hastings (Sanctuary Resource Protection Coordinator) lectured to a UCSB coast and ocean undergraduate class on the sanctuary's role in considering and establishing marine protected areas.

MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

Resource Protection

The second Channel Islands shipwreck reconnaissance dive operation of 2006 was conducted aboard the park's R/V *Pacific Ranger* from November 13-17. Park and Coastal Marine Archeology Resources (CMAR) divers intended to continue the datum installation project at the shipwreck sites of the *Cuba* (1897-1923) and/or *Goldenhorn* (1883-1892). (The datum installation project involves permanently imbedding datums in the sea floor near selected shipwreck sites as reference points for recording the current positions of submerged artifacts and to establish baseline data for evaluating human and environmental impacts on the shipwrecks.) However, due to high winds forecasted in the western channel, the archaeological team decided to initiate the monitoring program at the *Winfield Scott* (1850-1853) off Anacapa Island instead. At the *Winfield Scott* the divers took preliminary measurements at five established stations. On day two the divers made it as far west as Gull Island (on the backside of Santa Cruz Island), where they conducted dive operations to investigate reports of possible advanced deterioration to the starboard wing of the Grumman AF2W Guardian airplane wreck (1950-1954). They gathered preliminary data on the wing's position in relation to the sea floor and fuselage, but increasing wind and swells limited the work that could be completed. *Pacific Ranger* then relocated to Prisoner's Harbor on the north side of Santa Cruz Island to continue documenting the wreck site of the longest continuing island commerce vessel *Santa Cruz* (1893-1960). The divers



documented the site using baseline trilateration (similar to triangulation) and still photography. On day three the team moved to Pelican Bay, also on the north of Santa Cruz Island, to search for cultural remains of the historic Pelican Bay Camp that was built out to the cliff face circa 1920s. On day four the dive team completed the annual monitoring inspection of the Grumman TBF Avenger aircraft wreck off Middle Anacapa Island. Later that day they made three dives back at the *Winfield Scott* site, continuing the monitoring program. On day five, they dove at the Landing Cove at Anacapa Island, prior to returning to port.

Regional Maritime Heritage Program

On December 9th, Robert Schwemmer presented two lectures to the Los Angeles Maritime Museum Research Society and CMAR at the Los Angeles Maritime Museum in San Pedro. The lectures focused on the 2006 *USS Macon* expedition conducted in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and the recent discoveries of the shipwreck *Dunnottar Castle* and the main wreck site of *USS Saginaw* at Kure Atoll in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument. The sailing vessel *Dunnottar Castle* was en-route to Wilmington (San Pedro) from Australia with a cargo of coal when it was lost at Kure Atoll, and the airship *USS Macon* had made several visits to San Pedro during Naval maneuvers in the Pacific before it was lost off Point Sur.

From December 21-23, Schwemmer traveled to San Simeon to meet with Michele Roest of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to take a tour of the new Coastal



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Coastal Discovery Center recently re-opened. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

Discovery Center at San Simeon Bay "Connecting Land and Sea" that includes an exhibit featuring the shipwreck *Montebello*. Schwemmer and Roest then traveled to the Piedras Blancas light station to meet with Jim Boucher, the

For more information on the Maritime Heritage Resources discussed in this section please visit these web sites:

Shipwreck *Cuba*

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/cuba1.html>
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/cuba.html>

Shipwreck *Goldenhorn*

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

Shipwreck *Santa Cruz*

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

Shipwreck *Winfield Scott*

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/winfieldscott1.html>
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/winfieldscott.html>

USS Macon

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

Dunnottar Castle

<http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2006/s2713.htm>

new Bureau of Land Management manager of the light station. Schwemmer took photographs of historic artifacts from the 19th century shipwrecks *Harlech Castle* and *Sierra Nevada* that were recently donated to the light station. The following day Schwemmer returned to the light station to meet with the docents, who were in period dress providing public tours. In between the scheduled tours, Schwemmer provided the docents with an overview of local shipwrecks and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary expeditions to the *Montebello* and *USS Macon*.

Schwemmer has written three separate articles on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's *USS Macon* expedition that are expected to be published after the first of the year.



Piedras Blancas light station docents. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



Photo Recognition

Two of Schwemmer's photograph entries in the Santa Clarita Valley Photographers Association Fall competition received awards: "USS *Macaw* at Midway Atoll" received a second place ribbon, and "Tomol Crossing at Channel Islands" received a 3rd place ribbon in photojournalism. Congratulations Bob!



"USS *Macaw* at Midway Atoll" won 2nd place at the Santa Clarita Valley Photographer's Association Fall Competition. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



"Tomol Crossing at Channel Islands" won a 3rd place ribbon in photojournalism at the Santa Clarita Valley Photographer's Association Fall Competition. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



CHANNEL ISLANDS:

STORIES FROM THE PAST

One hundred and two years ago a Los Angeles Times article reported the loss of the launch *Glendale* on Christmas Eve at Merry's Camp, Anacapa Island. Fortunately the survivors made it back to the mainland just in time for a New Year's dinner.

OXNARD

LAUNCH GLENDALE WRECKED.

OXNARD, Jan. 3. The gasoline launch *Glendale* was piled up on the rocks of Anacapa Island Christmas eve and totally wrecked. The craft belonged to a Hueneme fishing company which was engaged in crawfishing and had a camp on Santa Cruz Island near Smuggler's Cove.

The party left the camp on the preceding Friday intending to fish on the banks off the east point of Anacapa but the heavy weather prevented and they anchored near the beach at Merry's Camp expecting that the storm would soon subside. Instead of subsiding, it developed into a stiff northeaster, and as they were unable to leave their exposed position they made things snug to ride it out at their mooring.

Early Saturday night Jerry Shively and a man named Ross, who were sleeping aboard, were awakened by the unusual pitching of the boat and upon investigation found the cockpit half full of water and the motor submerged beyond all hope of starting it.

Seeing that the launch was gradually sinking, they made fast astern, and put off for the shore. They rode in on top of a big comber and made a landing that was spectacular to a high degree. The *Glendale* tugged at its moorings for awhile, but finally dragged, went on the rocks and was battered to smithereens.

The fishermen's friends becoming alarmed at their long absence, induced Capt. Swenson, who happened along at Hueneme with the yawl *Leone*, to go to their assistance. Swenson found them near his old fishing camp and brought them to the mainland in time for their New Year's dinner.

It is said that one of the party is still marooned at the Santa Cruz Island camp, but as he has plenty of provisions he will be none the worse for his lonesome holiday season.

Los Angeles Times, January 4, 1905



RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Monitoring Noise in the Sanctuary

On November 17, researchers from the Scripps Institute of Oceanography were on board R/V *Shearwater* to retrieve a high-frequency acoustic recording package (HARP) in the Santa Barbara Channel. The researchers use the equipment to listen to dolphin and whale vocalizations, as well as ships, to understand the spatial and temporal patterns of noise. Recordings from the device will be downloaded and analyzed and a new HARP was deployed to replace the retrieved device. This trip marks a milestone in a developing research partnership between the sanctuary, Dr. John Hildebrand's Lab at Scripps, and NOAA's Ocean Acoustics Program. The researchers will address recommendations in the Advisory Council report, "Anthropogenic Noise and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary." The partners' research goals are to better understand ambient noise in the sanctuary, vessel traffic patterns, and ultimately to determine the behavioral response of marine mammals to anthropogenic noise.

Rocky Intertidal Monitoring at Anacapa Island

From November 20-22, Dan Richards (Park Marine Biologist), led a team of researchers on an expedition for bi-annual surveying of rocky intertidal habitat at Anacapa Island. The team was on board R/V *Shearwater* for transportation to sites at Cat Rock, Frenchy's Cove, and two sites at Middle Anacapa Island. The researchers have been monitoring 21 sites at the islands since 1982, and visit each site twice a year in the spring and fall. They photograph marked plots to track changes over time, measure percent cover of algae and invertebrates, and search for mobile invertebrate species.

Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) Volunteers Survey Fish and Invertebrates in CINMS

For three days in November, REEF volunteers were on board R/V *Shearwater* to survey fish communities in the sanctuary. REEF is an international marine conservation non-profit organization supporting hands-on grassroots activities, one of which is the Fish Survey Project. Volunteer divers visit sites within the sanctuary that are inside and outside state marine protected areas. Each diver records all fish and invertebrates that can be positively identified during their dive. To date, over 1,500 REEF surveys have been conducted in CINMS, documenting 122 species of fish. In 2006 REEF incorporated invertebrate and algae surveys into their diver survey program.

CINC Research Assistance

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. The last two cruises were on November 14 and December 12. To learn more about the CINC please see pages 6-9.

MPA Monitoring

Fish Surveys Completed at Anacapa Island

From November 16-17, researchers from UCSB were on board R/V *Shearwater* to complete fish surveys at Anacapa Island. Dr. Donna Schroeder and researchers from the UCSB Love Lab used SCUBA and standardized protocols to survey fish communities in the kelp forest at the islands, part of the MPA monitoring effort to evaluate changes in populations and communities resulting from the establishment of a network of marine reserves and conservation areas at the Channel Islands in 2003. Divers spent two days surveying sites both inside and outside marine reserves and conservation areas.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Previews 2006 Channel Islands MPA Monitoring Results

At its November 17 meeting the Advisory Council previewed the 2006 Channel Islands MPA monitoring status and results. Kristine Barsky (Advisory Council

2007 National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Calendars Available!

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, the NMSP's non-profit partner, has once again teamed up with MeadWestvaco to offer five dynamic calendar products for 2007, each offering brilliant, colorful photos of national marine sanctuaries. A portion of the proceeds from each calendar purchase helps the Foundation support conservation-based education and outreach programs designed to preserve, protect, and



promote the National Marine Sanctuary System. To learn more about the calendars and place your order please go to: <http://www.nmsfocean.org> (orders greater than 5 items per product will need to be placed with MeadWestvaco).

representative for the California Department of Fish and Game), explained that the 2006 levels of ex-vessel value (the amount paid to a commercial fisherman), commercial catch, and recreational catch expressed varied changes. However, these changes could not be attributed to effects of the MPAs, which have only been in place for three years. With cooperation from more than 11 partners, ten MPA monitoring programs were active in 2006, including both biological and socio-economic monitoring programs. The Advisory Council gave Barsky several suggestions for improving the clarity of the presentation before her Department presents it to the California Fish and Game Commission in December. The Advisory Council regularly tracks implementation of the MPA network, the largest in place on the west coast, discussing and advising NOAA and other partner agencies on such management aspects as biological and socioeconomic monitoring, enforcement, education and outreach.

VESSEL & AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Vessel Program Support

During the reporting period the R/V *Shearwater* facilitated the following projects:

Education, Volunteers, and Outreach

- CINC volunteer training at Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands, 28 October.

Research and Monitoring

- On-going water quality monitoring in the Santa Barbara Channel with scientists from UCSB, 14 November and 12 December.
- On-going MPA monitoring with scientists and divers from the UCSB Love Lab, 16-17 November.
- Rocky intertidal monitoring with scientists and rangers from the National Park Service, 20-22 November.
- On-going rocky reef assessments with volunteer REEF divers, 29 November through 01 December.

Miscellaneous

- On-going efforts to collect underwater footage for the Channel Islands hi-definition film project, 01-03 November and 06-09 November.
- Winter Repairs
- As of December 13, *Shearwater* unofficially entered into her winter rest and repair period. The vessel will transit to Ventura Harbor Boat Yard right after the New Year to enter dry dock, where anti-fouling paint will be re-applied to

both hulls below the waterline. Other regular, preventive maintenance tasks will be completed during the same work period. The vessel will commence operations for 2007 at the end of January.

For details on any of these projects, please refer to the relevant section in this Superintendent's Report.

Aircraft Maintenance and Operations

In the past two months the sanctuary's SeaWolf aircraft has remained grounded due to a needed engine overhaul. The NOAA Aircraft Operations Center has indicated that the engine overhaul will not be initiated until the U.S. Congress passes a NOAA budget.

What's New On The Web

www.channelislands.noaa.gov



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

The Advisory Council "News" page has been updated to reflect only recent news. Advisory Council reports previously hosted on the News page have been moved to the "SAC Reports and Documents" page: http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/report_doc.html. These reports include: the Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Public Education Forum summary report (March 2005), A Water Quality Needs Assessment For the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (September 2005), and Anthropogenic Noise and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: How Noise Affects Sanctuary Resources, and What We Can Do About It (September 2004).

Your feedback is greatly appreciated. Comments and suggestions about our website can be sent to amy.cale@noaa.gov.



NOAA and National Marine Sanctuary Program News



Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries Selected as a Top Web Pick by the Bridge

The NMSP's Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries, an online resource that highlights the diverse marine life of America's ocean and Great Lakes treasures, was recently selected as a "Top Web Pick" by the Bridge. The Bridge is a web site that highlights online ocean science education resources used and valued by classroom teachers and informal educators. It features the best internet resources for ocean science education. Websites selected for the Bridge need to be scientifically valid with up-to-date information, appropriate for elementary and/or secondary education, and sufficiently user-friendly that novice web surfers are not intimidated. The Top Web Pick is awarded to the best sites. They are selected from sites that reviewers consider to be among the top 10% of educational websites. The Bridge is a Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) partner and is supported by NOAA Sea Grant, the National Oceanographic Partnership Program, and the National Marine Educators Association. The "Encyclopedia of the Sanctuaries" offers photos, streaming video, and important facts for more than 100 key animal and plant species from each of the national marine sanctuaries.

National Marine Sanctuary Foundation Annual Membership Drive

In November the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation mailed membership invitation letters to over 4,400 prospective members in sanctuary cities around the nation, along with membership renewal letters to existing members. When you join the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you're helping to protect, preserve, and promote our nation's underwater treasures. Members receive an annual subscription to "Sanctuary Watch," and email updates throughout the year. Half of each membership gift goes directly to the sanctuary closest to where the member lives. Encourage your friends and family to join, by visiting www.nmsfocean.org and clicking on the Join Us! section.

Secretaries of Commerce and Interior Sign Agreement

On December 8 Secretary of Commerce Carlos M. Gutierrez, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, and the Governor of Hawaii Linda Lingle signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for managing and protecting the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) Marine National Monument. The MOA marks a new

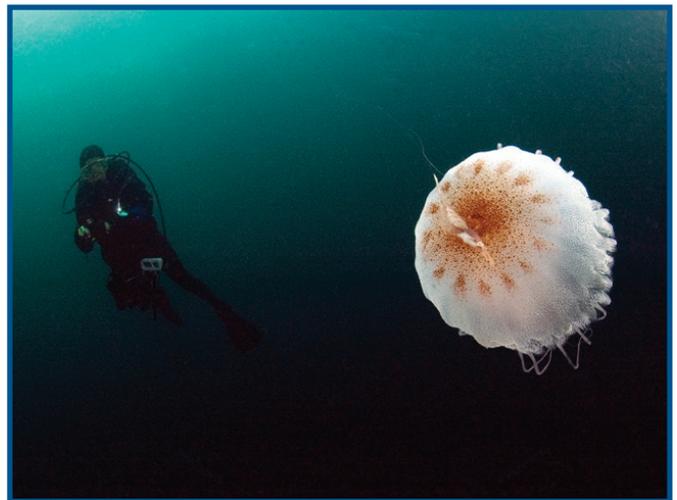
chapter in the joint management of the Monument, the largest protected area in the United States, created by President Bush on June 15, 2006. The MOA delineates the general terms, objectives, and responsibilities under which the Departments of Commerce and Interior, and the State of Hawaii will manage and protect the NWHI.

Shift in Boston's Shipping Lanes Will Benefit Whales

NMSP staff research on reducing ship strikes of endangered whales in Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary paid off in a big way when the International Maritime Organization (IMO) approved a shift in shipping lanes on December 12. The shift, which will go into effect July 1, 2007, should reduce strikes to critically endangered right whales by an estimated 58 percent, and to other whale species by 81 percent. Sanctuary scientists analyzed more than 20 years of whale-sighting data, collected primarily by the Provincetown Center for Coastal Studies and the Whale Center of New England, to determine the areas in which the highest concentrations of whales are regularly found. It is hoped that this simple step will provide one more safeguard for the world's endangered and threatened whales and dolphins.

NOAA's 200th Anniversary and Photo Contest

In 1807, President Thomas Jefferson founded the U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey (as the Survey of the Coast) to provide nautical charts to the maritime community for safe passage into American ports and along our extensive coastline. The Weather Bureau was founded in 1870 and,



"Diver and jellyfish at Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, May 2006" won 1st place in the NOAA 200th Anniversary Photo Competition. Photo: Greg McFall.



one year later the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries was founded. Individually, these organizations were America's first physical science agency, America's first agency dedicated specifically to the atmospheric sciences, and America's first conservation agency. These three agencies and their respective dedication to scientific accuracy and precision, service to protect life and property, and resource stewardship were brought together in 1970 with the establishment of NOAA, an agency within the Department of Commerce. Learn more about NOAA's 200th anniversary on line at: <http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov>.

To help commemorate its bicentennial, NOAA sponsored the NOAA 200th Celebration Photo Contest. The purpose of the contest was to collect images taken throughout NOAA to honor its visual heritage and to expand its image library. All NOAA employees, contractors, and interns were encouraged to submit photos emphasizing the great things that the people at NOAA do and what they encounter. Over 1,800 photos were judged in the following categories: NOAA People in Action, A Day in the Life of NOAA, and NOAA's Strange and Unusual. Photos taken by several NMSP staff took first place, and other awards. Greg McFall (Grays Reef National Marine Sanctuary Co-Acting Superintendent and Research Coordinator) took the first place award for "NOAA People in Action" with an image of wife and fellow NMSP staff member Sarah Fangman (former CINMS Research Coordinator) diving near a jellyfish. Robert Schwemmer took first place for "NOAA's Strange and Unusual" with an image of a bull elephant seal and a Whimbrel (a shorebird) at San Simeon, California. In addition, a total of six other photos by McFall, Schwemmer, and Claire Johnson (NMSP West Coast Education Liaison) received recognition across all



"A researcher counts fish during an expedition to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument" received an Honorable Mention in the NOAA 200th Anniversary Photo Competition.

Photo: Claire Johnson.

three contest categories. Winning photos in each category are featured on the web (<http://celebrating200years.noaa.gov/about/photocontest.html>), and will appear in brochures and on display at events commemorating NOAA's 200th anniversary throughout 2007.

Sustainable Tourism Management Capacity Building Training in Colombia

Laura Francis, Anne Walton, Greg McCormack and Pam Klystra represented NOAA in a Sustainable Tourism Management Capacity Building training from November 6-18, on Gorgona Island, Colombia. The training was a joint effort between: NOAA; Conservation International; the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO); National Parks of Colombia; and the Malpelo Foundation. The forty workshop participants included managers, staff, and sustainable tourism operators from ten marine and terrestrial protected areas in Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador. Each of the ten sites developed a framework for addressing their priority tourism issues. Using these frameworks each site then developed a demonstration project to be implemented over the next year, with quarterly progress reports to the group. Additionally, sites along the marine corridor shared by all four participating countries developed a vision statement, standards for Best Management Practices, and three priority actions to be implemented on a seascape-wide basis. All of the outcomes (site specific and corridor-wide) will be posted on the National Marine Sanctuary Management Capacity Building website (<http://www.sanctuaries.noaa.gov/management/international/mpa.html>)



"Northern elephant seal and bird, San Simeon, California" won 1st place in the NOAA 200th Anniversary Photo Competition. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



within the next month, along with a full report on and evaluation of the training. All participants agreed they would like to maintain the relationships they forged during the training, and continue sharing experiences and lessons learned. To provide support for maintaining open lines of communication, a listserv will be set up for the group in the next couple of weeks. The November 2006 training is the first of the three management capacity trainings for the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape region. The second training, planned for early summer 2007, will focus on Sustainable Fisheries, and the third on research, monitoring, and education.

NOAA Sanctuary Program Supports Navy Survey of the “Graveyard of the Atlantic”

At the invitation of the U.S. Submarine Force-Atlantic, NMSP staff participated in a survey of shipwreck sites off the North Carolina coast and investigated targets of interest in the area where the Civil War-era submarine *Alligator* is believed to have sunk in 1863. The survey involved the Navy’s nuclear research submarine NR-1, which will also be used in March for a survey of the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, located off the Texas/Louisiana coast.



Representatives from Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, and Ecuador participated in a NOAA Sustainable Tourism Management Capacity Building Training in November.

Spotlight on Volunteers

American Cetacean Society Field Trip Report

On November 10th I was the proud CINC docent for the American Cetacean Society (ASC) field trip. The trip was on the Condor Express out of Ventura. Yes, out of Ventura – not Santa Barbara. With Captain Matt at the helm, we headed out at 8 a.m. in search of cetaceans.

We headed out of the harbor off to East Anacapa Island hoping to find some whales. Within the first 30 minutes into the trip (about 5 miles off Anacapa Island) we were greeted by a small pod of Long Beaked Common Dolphins. Then we were joined by a very curious pod of 12 Risso’s Dolphins.

The Risso’s Dolphins were exhibiting an unusual milling behavior at the surface. Some of the ACS members thought they were resting. We hung-out with these Risso’s for about 20 minutes. Some members of the Risso’s pod were playful. We saw tail-slapping and a few full breaches from the more energetic members. Seeing an 800 lb Risso in full-breach is an exciting moment – many of the ACS members were giving each other “high fives” after it happened.

The passengers were all ACS members from as far away as Australia and Demark. Many of the passengers were full-time researchers, and their collective cetacean knowledge was awesome! I felt honored to be in their presence. Matt then proceeded on to Anacapa Island in search of a great whale. We continued south about 10 miles beyond Anacapa, and turned back towards East Santa Cruz Island, then to Ventura. Nothing! Even though we didn’t see any whales we all had a great time and had great weather.

- Geoff Grow, CINC Volunteer

THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

JANUARY	
Jan. 9-10	<p><i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Daniel Muhs, US Geological Survey <i>Geology of the Channel Islands</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)</p>
Jan. 19	<p><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: www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</p>
<p><i>January Wildlife Highlights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The winter months are excellent for tidepooling because afternoon low tides expose marine algae and invertebrates. - California Brown Pelicans begin nesting on Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands. - Gray Whales travel south through the sanctuary on their migration from Alaskan feeding grounds to warm calving lagoons in Baja California, Mexico. - Northern Elephant Seal pupping and breeding season on San Miguel Island. 	
FEBRUARY	
Feb. 3	<p><i>MERITO Academy Teacher Workshop</i> Marine Science Institute (MSI) of UCSB</p>
Feb. 10-12	<p><i>Ventura County Maritime Museum Anniversary-</i> Channel Islands Harbor CINC volunteers will provide park and sanctuary outreach at this event.</p>
Feb. 13-14	<p><i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> David Sweet, National Weather Service <i>Effects of Weather on Channel Islands Ocean Conditions</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)</p>
Feb. 27	<p><i>El Camino School Family Science Night - Santa Barbara</i> CINC volunteers will provide park and sanctuary outreach at this event.</p>
<p><i>February Wildlife Highlights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The winter months are excellent for tidepooling because afternoon low tides expose marine algae and invertebrates. - California Brown Pelicans begin nesting on Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands. - Gray Whales travel south through the sanctuary on their migration from Alaskan feeding grounds to warm calving lagoons in Baja California, Mexico. - Northern Elephant Seal pupping and breeding season on San Miguel Island. - Pacific Harbor Seal pupping season on San Miguel Island. 	
MARCH	
Mar. 11	<p><i>11th Annual Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival</i> Point Mugu State Park More information will be posted at: http://www.calparks.org/inside-parks/events/index.html</p>
Mar. 13-14	<p><i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Christine Hamilton, US Fish and Wildlife Service <i>Xantus's Murrelet Recovery Status</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, 113 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)</p>
Mar. 16	<p><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: www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</p>
Mar. 24-25	<p><i>Santa Barbara Whale Festival</i></p>
<p><i>March Wildlife Highlights</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gray Whales migrate north through the sanctuary from calving grounds in Baja California, Mexico to Alaskan feeding grounds. - Pacific Harbor Seal pupping season on San Miguel Island. - Peak egg-laying season for California Brown Pelicans on Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands. - Western Gulls begin nesting on the Channel Islands. - Xantus's Murrelets breed and nest on the Channel Islands. 	

CINMS Staff

Santa Barbara Harbor Office

Christopher Mobley – *Superintendent*
Todd Jacobs – *Deputy Superintendent*
Amy Cale – *Web Developer*
Laura Francis – *Education Coordinator*
Sean Hastings – *Resource Protection Coordinator*
LT Julie V. Helmers – *Executive Officer/Pilot*
Charles Lara – *Deckhand*
Dani Lipski – *Research Assistant*
Sarah MacWilliams – *Management Plan Specialist*
Michael Murray – *Advisory Council and Management Plan Coordinator*
Luman Moody – *Vessel Captain*
LTJG Kate Peet – *Operations Officer*
Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*
Natalie Senyk – *Scientific Advisor*
Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*
Kara Shuster – *Resource Protection Assistant*
Ben Waltenberger – *Physical Scientist*
Rebecca Young – *Inventory/Database Coordinator*

Ventura County Field Office

Shauna Bingham – *Volunteer Program and Outreach Coordinator*
Julie Bursek – *Education Coordinator*
Clare Fritzsche – *CINC Volunteer Program & Administrative Assistant*
Lorri Herr – *Program Support Specialist*
Rocio Lozano de Knowlton – *MERITO Community Liaison*
Tina Reed – *Education and Outreach Administrator*

CINMS Interns

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

NMSP West Coast Region Staff

William Douros – *Regional Superintendent*
Matt Brookhart – *Policy Coordinator*
Nicole Capps – *Management Support Specialist*
Dave Lott – *Operations Coordinator*

NMSP Staff

Columbine Culberg – *Ocean Etiquette Program Manager/Liaison to Aquarium of the Pacific*
Claire Johnson – *West Coast Education Liaison*
Sarah Marquis – *West Coast Media Coordinator*

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Donna Schroeder – *Acting Executive Director*

The Sanctuary Superintendent's Report is produced bi-monthly by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in conjunction with Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings. To learn more about the sanctuary please visit our web site at:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/>.

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:

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

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is one of 13 marine sanctuaries in the National Marine Sanctuary Program. This program was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972 which authorizes the Secretary of Commerce to designate as national marine sanctuaries areas of the marine environment or Great Lakes with special national significance due to their conservation, recreational, ecological, historical, scientific, cultural, archeological, educational, or aesthetic qualities. Visit the NMSP web site at:

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.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://www.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://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.htm>

Contact Information

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Santa Barbara Office

Oxnard Office

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

Channel Islands Harbor
3600 S. Harbor Blvd., Suite 112
Oxnard, California 93035

Phone: (805) 966-7107

Phone: (805) 382-6149

Fax: (805) 568-1582

Fax: (805) 382-9791