



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report

Volume 6, Number 6



A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

January 2009

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 1,470 square 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

Final Environmental Impact Statement Released & Final Management Plan and Final Rule to Be Released Soon

In late November, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary). The FEIS analyzes the potential environmental impacts of revisions to sanctuary regulations. The ONMS will also release the sanctuary's Final Management Plan and Final Rule (regulations) very soon. The revised sanctuary regulations clarify and strengthen protections for sanctuary marine habitats, sensitive species, water quality and submerged cultural and historical resources. The FEIS is available on, and the Final Management Plan and Final Rule will soon be available on the "Management Plan" section of the sanctuary website: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov>.

Window on the Sanctuary

Home to the largest breeding colony of endangered California brown pelicans in the U.S., and the largest breeding colony of Western gulls in the world, Anacapa Island has numerous caves and crevices in its steep lava rock cliffs that are also important for rare seabirds such as the Xantus's murrelet and Ashy storm petrel.
Photo: Robert V. Schwemmer.

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RESOURCE PROTECTION

Marine Reserves Process

State of California Recommends No Changes to Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas Network

The California Fish and Game Commission has directed the South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group for the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative not to include redesigning the state water marine protected areas (MPAs) within the sanctuary as part of their work to develop an MPA network in the rest of southern California. The Channel Islands MPA network is currently the largest network of protected zones in the continental United States and offers significant protection of marine resources and unparalleled research and education opportunities.

Five-Year Performance Report on the Channel Islands MPA Network Now Available

The Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), in partnership with the sanctuary, the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and Channel Islands National Park (CINP or park), has published the 2008 Channel Islands MPA Symposium Proceedings. The proceedings summarize the results of the first five years of monitoring in the Channel Islands MPA network. The report authors found that, in general, the MPA network is performing as expected. The network's marine reserves and conservation areas show higher abundance and size of targeted species such as lobster, calico bass, sheephead, and urchin, and greater biodiversity. Human use patterns around the islands have shifted in response to MPA establishment, but overall socioeconomic effects are consistent with the original impact assessment. Some fisheries have grown in value and others have declined, but many of these changes also occurred throughout southern California. A robust outreach program reaches thousands of sanctuary users and visitors, and compliance with the regulations is very high.

Large Cetacean Ship Strike Reduction

Sanctuary Participates in California Ocean Protection Council Stakeholder Workshop on Shipping Impacts

On November 17, Sean Hastings (CINMS Resource Protection Coordinator), participated in a multi-stakeholder workshop on shipping impacts along the California coastline, hosted by staff from California's

Ocean Protection Council. The workshop brought together representatives from various economic and policy concerns to take an integrated look at a number of complex issues. Stakeholder groups represented non-governmental organizations, the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, NOAA (National Marine Fisheries Service and CINMS), the California Air Resources Board, the U.S. Coast Guard, the U.S. Navy, the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and the Marine Exchange of Southern California. Workshop objectives were to: 1) begin a dialogue between all stakeholders; 2) determine the needs and desires of each stakeholder to see if numerous objectives could be accomplished, including protecting whales, air quality, the Navy's testing range, and the shipping industry's business interests; and 3) plan next steps. Hastings presented information on the CINMS Sanctuary Advisory Council's on-going process to address ship strikes on large whales in the Santa Barbara Channel.

NOAA Stands Down Local Notice to Mariners in the Santa Barbara Channel

In early December, the sanctuary, in coordination with whale experts and the local whale watch industry, determined that the blue whales and other large whales that seasonally frequent the Santa Barbara Channel and the shipping lanes had moved on. Based on these observations, NOAA recommended that the U.S. Coast Guard cancel their daily broadcast of a Local Notice to Mariners advising large container ship captains to slow down to 10 knots while transiting the shipping lanes in the Santa Barbara Channel.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Sanctuary Staff Participate in Oil Spill Demonstration Project

On November 13, Sanctuary Physical Scientists Natalie Senyk and Ben Waltenberger attended an oil spill detection, mapping, and remote sensing technology demonstration. The Minerals Management Service, CDFG, and the U.S. Coast Guard co-hosted the demonstration. After a pre-operational briefing at Santa Barbara Harbor, participants were transported by vessel to the Coal Oil Point natural oil seeps (the second largest oil and gas seep field in the world). At the seeps, they were briefed on the seep field, and they observed a CDFG aircraft flying transects over the seeps to collect



aerial data using onboard optical sensors provided by Ocean Imaging Corporation. At the same time, sensors were dropped off at the observation vessel to collect surface data. Following data collection, participants returned to Santa Barbara Harbor to view the processed data, representing different types and thicknesses of oil. The technology, which can be transmitted in real-time from the aircraft, looks promising as a means of providing time efficient, accurate, spatial data directly to Incident Command and operational field units during oil spill response events.

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

New and Returning Advisory Council Representatives Selected

In early January 2009, the Advisory Council welcomed five new representatives, and six returning representatives. New representatives include:

- Perry Fergusen, non-consumptive recreation seat alternate, dive instructor;
- Kathleen Fitzgerald, tourism seat member, Director of Sales, Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau;
- Debra Herring, non-consumptive recreation seat member, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer;
- Capt. Richard McKenna, business seat member, Executive Director, Marine Exchange of Southern California; and
- Dr. Mark Steele, research seat alternate, California State University Northridge professor.

Returning representatives include:

- Phyllis Grifman, public-at-large seat member, Associate Director, University of Southern California Sea Grant Program;
- Greg Helms, conservation seat alternate, Director, Southern California Ecosystem, The Ocean Conservancy;
- Eric Kett, public-at-large seat member, Sea Zen Marine Consulting;
- Linda Krop, conservation seat member, Chief Counsel, Environmental Defense Center;
- Bruce Steele, commercial fishing seat member, sea urchin fisherman; and

- Dr. Robert Warner, research seat member, University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) professor.

These council members bring a wealth of experience and unique perspectives to the council and we look forward to working with them over the next two years.

RESEARCH & MONITORING

Research and Monitoring Activities

Rocky Intertidal Surveys

Channel Islands National Park biologists worked in partnership with the sanctuary to complete the 26th annual fall season of Channel Islands rocky intertidal sampling. Park biologists and sanctuary staff surveyed rocky intertidal habitat on trips aboard the sanctuary research vessel (R/V) *Shearwater* to Anacapa Island from November 11-12, and to Santa Cruz Island from November 25-26. Biologists have been monitoring 21 sites at the islands since 1982 to record changes in rocky intertidal populations and communities. Led by park biologist Dan Richards, they used an array of sampling techniques including photoplots, quadrats, and timed searches to monitor abundances of invertebrates and algae. Among changes observed recently are a modest number of black abalone recruiting to sites where they have been absent for years, but were historically abundant. Black abalone are being considered for federal listing as an endangered species.

In addition to rocky intertidal monitoring, during the trip Richards and Jessie Altstatt (Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Science Director) were able to check on a new park mooring configuration designed to decrease impacts to sensitive eelgrass habitat. The researchers used SCUBA to dive on the mooring and take pictures, and they reported that the modification (a sub-surface buoy) appeared to be keeping the chain off the eelgrass. Eelgrass provides critical habitat for many fish and invertebrate species. It exists in only a few discrete areas at the islands and is threatened by anchoring and other bottom disturbance.

Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring – 2008 Annual Summary of Trends and Data

The Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring and Spatial Analysis Program (SAMSAP) has been monitoring vessel distributions and marine mammal populations since 1997. Sanctuary staff conduct surveys aboard an aircraft and use a laptop connected to a global positioning system (GPS) to record locations and activities of vessels and mammals. The research program provides important data on changes in human use patterns and areas of marine mammal concentrations within sanctuary waters.

In 2008, sanctuary staff conducted a total of nine aerial

surveys aboard contract aircraft, as well as aboard the NOAA Twin Otter aircraft that arrived at the ONMS West Coast Region this past spring. The SAMSAP program strives to fly bi-weekly missions in order to increase statistical validity of survey data. SAMSAP flights were reduced substantially in 2008 due to significant operational funding cuts in fiscal year 2008, as well as a high priority need to focus available aircraft time on blue whale surveys in the Santa Barbara Channel in an effort to reduce the risk of ship strikes. The 2008 data included sightings of several marine mammal species, including blue whales, humpback whales, and several species of dolphins. A total of nine humpback whales were spotted during two surveys

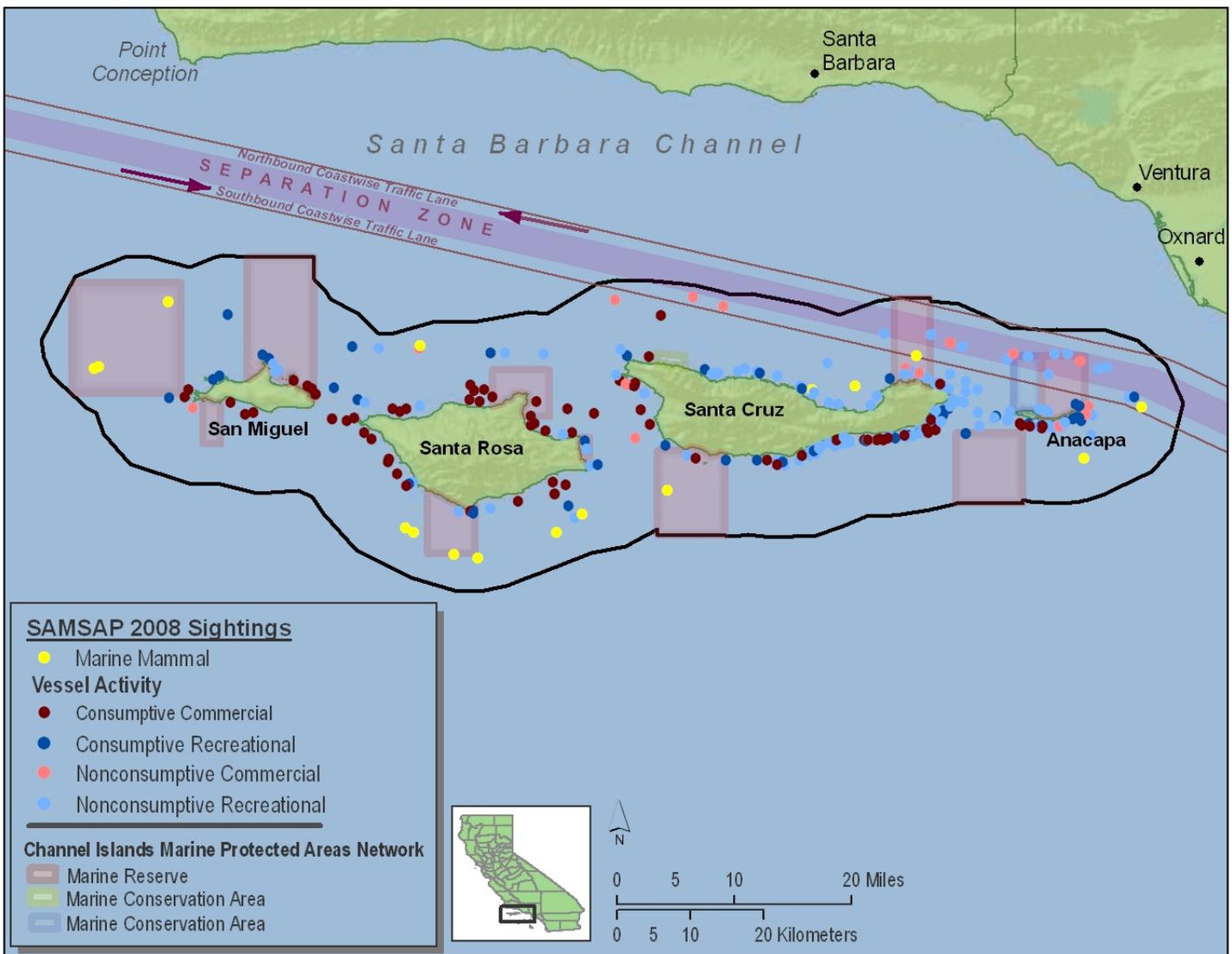


Figure 1. Spatial distribution of marine mammals and vessels during the nine 2008 SAMSAP surveys.

conducted in April and May. The individuals were spotted along both the north and south sides of the northern Channel Islands. A single blue whale was observed during a September survey east of Anacapa Island.

A total of 398 vessels were sighted over the nine surveys. Nonconsumptive recreational vessels, including kayaks, recreational boats, and sailboats, accounted for almost 50% of all observed vessels. Consumptive commercial vessels accounted for almost 30% of vessel sightings. The most common consumptive commercial vessels were urchin, lobster, and squid fishing boats. Consumptive recreational vessels, which include private recreational fishing boats and commercial passenger fishing vessels, accounted for about 20% of vessel sightings. Nonconsumptive commercial vessels, such as tankers, cargo ships, research vessels, and island support vessels, accounted for 5% of all sighted vessels.

A spatial assessment of the vessel distributions indicates that recreational vessels, both consumptive and nonconsumptive, continue to be located predominantly in the eastern portion of the sanctuary, which is in close proximity to mainland harbors (see Figure 1 above). Consumptive commercial vessels, on the other hand, were and have historically been concentrated in the western portion of the sanctuary, around San Miguel and Santa Rosa islands, as well as portions of southeastern Santa Cruz Island. In addition, the majority of all sighted vessels, both commercial and recreational, were in the sanctuary's shallower waters. Over 80% were observed within one nautical mile from the islands.

Citizen Science

Reef Check Volunteer SCUBA Surveys

On October 28, Dani Lipski (Sanctuary Research Specialist) joined Reef Check California (RCCA) volunteers and staff to conduct SCUBA surveys at two sites at the Channel Islands from the R/V *Shearwater*. Divers counted, identified, and measured fish, invertebrates, and algae along six transects at two sites off Santa Cruz Island. The mission of RCCA is to “educate, train, and engage all ocean users in the collection of scientifically sound data describing California’s nearshore rocky reefs to help inform management decisions and create an informed constituency supportive of science-based management.”

RCCA surveys are completed by trained and certified volunteers who collect data on key ecosystem attributes inside and outside of MPAs. The Reef Check California Science Advisory Team has peer reviewed the survey methodology, which is sanctioned by CDFG as being scientifically valid and useful in improving marine resource management in California.

Whale Monitoring Continues in the Sanctuary

Through November and December Sanctuary staff continued to work with agency partners to monitor whales in the Santa Barbara Channel, and to collect daily sightings reports by Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) volunteers working aboard the *Condor Express*, a local whale watch vessel. Despite termination of the Local Notice To Mariners (see p. 2), following the end of blue whale season in the Santa Barbara Channel, and a decrease in blue whale sightings, the latest sightings indicate that at least some of the population has not yet left the region.

State of California Harmful Algal Bloom Study

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 conducted in cooperation with Plumes and Blooms research cruises scheduled throughout the year. The California Department of Public Health's Marine Biotxin Monitoring Program monthly reports can be found on the following web page for viewing or downloading: <http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environmentalhealth/water/Pages/Shellfish.aspx>.

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 with transportation on board the National Park Service vessel *Sea Ranger*.

Marine Mammal Sightings Reports

CINC volunteers continue to enter marine mammal sightings data from the Santa Barbara Channel into the Marine Mammal Sightings Database: <http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals/>. Over 9,000 reports have been entered over the past six years, representing over 18 species of marine mammals and thousands of individual animals. This data will also be integrated into the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN), which enables researchers to monitor



the sanctuary effectively by integrating the existing monitoring programs and identifying gaps in information. SIMoN serves to make the monitoring data available to managers, decision makers, the research community, and the general public. In addition, data collected by CINC volunteers has been used to track blue whale sightings as part of the *Prevention and Emergency Response Plan to Reduce Ship Strikes on Blue Whales and Other Large Cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel*.

For more information on the CINC please see p. 10.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, & OUTREACH

Special Events

2008 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series

The monthly "From Shore to Sea" public lectures for November featured Greg Sanders from the Minerals Management Service, who gave an update on the status of the southern sea otter in the Channel Islands area. Sanders spoke about the return of the otters to portions of their historic range in southern California waters, the expansion of the population southward, and its effect on people and marine life.

The December lectures featured Ann Huston from CINP, who presented the Caire family history of Santa Cruz Island. Huston discussed the French and Italian heritage of the owners and the workforce of Santa Cruz Island, along with how their heritage influenced the island's architecture and agriculture.

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 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. 17, or visit the sanctuary's From Shore to Sea web page: channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html.

Workshops and Trainings

Aquarium Staff Learn About Channel Islands MPAs

On November 7, sanctuary education staff coordinated and participated in a marine field excursion for aquarium educators from throughout southern California to the Painted Cave and Scorpion Anchorage MPAs. The educational cruise, conducted aboard the *Condor Express*, was designed to inspire educators to coordinate education and outreach initiatives related to the California Marine Life Protection Act. Dr. Jen Caselle (PISCO Scientist) and Michael Sheehy (Santa Barbara Channelkeeper Researcher) provided presentations on the science of MPAs and results from the first five years of monitoring at the Channel Islands MPAs. After the presentations, participants met four CINC members who provided interpretation about marine mammals encountered during the trip. At Scorpion Anchorage, Julie Bursek (Sanctuary Educator), led a discussion about sanctuary education efforts and messaging related to Channel Islands MPAs, including the development of the *Protecting Your Channel Islands* brochure and signage for boat launch ramps and visitor contact points. This MPA educational event was coordinated by the Monterey Bay Aquarium Center for the Future of the Oceans and the Ocean Conservancy.

CINMS Staff Participate in Media Library Training

Tina Reed-Johnson (Sanctuary Administrative Support Coordinator), participated in sanctuary-wide media library training as the site-appointed coordinator of the new online media library. Reed-Johnson is the CINMS point person for image requests from the public, and for uploading and maintaining sanctuary images online. See the Media Library at <http://marinelife.noaa.gov/>.

You can watch the monthly From Shore to Sea Lectures on Public Access Television!

Channel 15 in Ventura: <http://www.capstv.org>

Channel 21 in Santa Barbara:

http://www.sbchannels.tv/khxc/index.php?app=ccp0&ns=display&ref=21_schedule



Long-Term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) Training

On November 14, sanctuary educators Laura Francis and Julie Bursek led a LiMPETS training for five teachers participating in the Bay-Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) "Channel Islands Live!" program at County Line Beach near Malibu. The teachers learned protocols for setting up and conducting rocky intertidal monitoring. "Channel Islands Live!" provides teachers and students with the opportunity to explore one of the most diverse marine environments in the world through an integrated learning experience that features: standards-based, interactive curricula; active participation in local environment monitoring and data gathering; and live interaction with researchers working in and around the park and sanctuary.

Teacher Enrichment Adventure in Watershed Education and Training (TEAWET) Training

On November 8, Laura Francis participated in a TEAWET training session at the Cabrillo High School Aquarium in Lompoc, California, and Oso Flaco Lake and Dunes in Guadalupe, California. Fifteen teachers participated in the training. At the aquarium, which includes a sanctuary interpretive exhibit and weather kiosk, high school students who manage and run aquarium operations provided the teachers with a tour. At Oso Flaco Lake the teachers learned about riparian plants, dune ecology, and shore bird identification. This training was the second of eight planned for the year.

The TEAWET program is a 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

Sanctuary Information Kiosks

Amy Cale (Sanctuary Web Developer) worked to trouble shoot and provide tech support for the sanctuary information kiosks in the Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol office and the Ty Warner Sea Center following the Tea

Fire. Cale diagnosed power supply issues and brought the kiosks back online after outages due to the fire. Cale also provided assistance with the kiosk at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Sanctuary Classes

Sanctuary Pilots Montessori Marine Biology Class

Laura Francis (Sanctuary Education Coordinator) and Maria Petueli (Sanctuary Advisory Council Education Representative), worked together to design and pilot a ten-week afterschool marine biology class for first through third grade students at Montessori Center School in Goleta. The one-hour class took place every Thursday from October 3rd to December 11th. Topics included kelp forest ecology, whale and dolphin biology and natural history, rocky intertidal habitats, sea bird identification and feeding, bioluminescence in the deep sea, plankton adaptations and sustainable fishing. Seven students participated in the pilot class and a curriculum was developed that can be used in future afterschool programs for these grade levels.

Sanctuary and UCSB Educators Teach Undergraduate Course on Communicating Ocean Sciences

Laura Francis and Scott Simon (UCSB Marine Science Institute, or MSI, Educator) collaborated to teach a Communicating Ocean Sciences course for UCSB marine science undergraduates during fall quarter 2008. The class took place every Monday from September 29th through December 1st. Communicating Ocean Sciences is a course developed by the California Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) at the Lawrence Hall of Science (the public science museum and research center for K-12 education at the University of California, Berkeley), and is being taught at universities throughout the country. The course provides students with experience using exemplary instructional materials that illuminate current best practices in science, and teaching inquiry-based lessons. The college students were immersed in several weeks of hands-on ocean science activities designed to illustrate key elements of teaching kindergarten through twelfth grade. For their final projects, students selected a grade level, an ocean science topic, and an activity that they developed for 2nd-8th grade students. Students presented their projects at the final class on December 1st.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

The MERITO Academy is a partnership between CINMS, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute, and The Nature Conservancy, with funding by NOAA's B-WET Program and the Amgen Foundation. The goal of the program is to increase student understanding of watershed and ocean issues through hands-on field and in-class activities while exposing them to careers in science, and building pride and stewardship towards their sanctuary and local environments.

Multicultural Program Awarded NOAA Silver Medal

On November 18, the Monterey Bay and Channel Islands national marine sanctuaries were awarded a NOAA Silver Medal for the successful implementation of the MERITO Program in Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties. This program was initiated six years ago in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and expanded to CINMS in 2004. The program's current focus is on engaging the growing Latino community by making a connection with their daily lives and the variety of environmental issues affecting the ocean, national marine sanctuaries, and the surrounding watersheds. Program elements include: yearlong in-school and after school programs; teacher training programs; field based programs for students, teachers, and family groups; internships; and media projects. MERITO has provided high-level ocean and marine themed programming and opportunities for thousands of participants, and has a media impact in the millions. To learn more about this award-winning



The MERITO program earned a 2008 Department of Commerce silver medal, one of the highest forms of recognition awarded by the Secretary of Commerce. Photo: NOAA.

program visit:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/merito.html>.

Sanctuary Reaches Over 600 Minority Students

Between October 10th and November 4th, the CINMS MERITO Academy Program provided twenty-one in-class presentations to 630 participating students. Launching the MERITO Academy Program's new school year, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton (Sanctuary MERITO Program Coordinator) and Angelica Zavala (Sanctuary MERITO Program Assistant) provided the bilingual presentations, which took place at nine public schools and two after school programs. While viewing beautiful images of sanctuary marine life and habitats, students learned about their national marine sanctuary, its resources, and threats to it. Using a watershed model, MERITO staff demonstrated urban runoff and highlighted how human actions impact the health of the ocean. 85% of the participating students study at Title 1, Head Start, or New Comers schools, and 15% are from Boys and Girls Club after school programs. 80% of the students have Hispanic backgrounds, and 10% represent other minorities. 40% are English language learners from Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Oxnard, El Rio, and Ventura, California.

Sanctuary Educational Puppet Show Attracts Young Audience

On November 8, in Thousand Oaks, the sanctuary presented a Channel Islands puppet show to approximately 100 attendees at the Thousand Oaks Library. Rocío Lozano-Knowlton and Stacy Kaye-Carr (CINC Volunteer), performed the show as part of the Library's performing arts and books exhibit season. The puppet show story evolves around "Shaunita," a 4th grade student who wants to be an oceanographer and who travels to the Channel Islands for the first time in hopes of exploring and meeting sea critters such as Julie the Hermit Crab, Clare the Blue Whale, Chris the Blue Shark, and Monsieur Shaun the Lobster -- among other puppet characters. The puppet show script is designed to educate young and adult audiences in a simple and amusing manner about the sanctuary's natural and cultural resources, while engaging them in the topics of watershed and ocean protection.

Underserved Students Gain Valuable Field Experiences from Multicultural Education Programs at CINMS

The CINMS MERITO Academy is working with the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, the City of Oxnard,

Ormond Pointe Restoration Nursery, and The Nature Conservancy to provide meaningful field experiences to underserved students in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties whose teachers are enrolled in the 2008-2009 MERITO Academy Program. In November, MERITO reached 260 students from Santa Barbara, Ventura, El Rio and Oxnard. 80% of these students are of Hispanic background, 10% are from other minorities, and 40% are English language learners. In December, MERITO reached 185 minority students who reside near Sycamore Creek or Mission Creek in Santa Barbara, or near Ormond Beach in Oxnard. 90% of these students are minority and 50% are English language learners. 100% of involved schools are Title 1, or Head Start schools in low-income neighborhoods.

On November 6, 7, 13 and 20, CINMS MERITO staff worked with staff from the City of Oxnard, Ormond Pointe Restoration Nursery, and The Nature Conservancy to lead field activities for 200, fourth grade students from Elm, McKinna and Emily Ritchen elementary schools in Oxnard, and two Boys and Girls Club sites in El Rio. The students visited the Ormond Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant, tested water quality in Ormond creek, identified birds, and participated in restoration activities at the Ormond Beach wetlands.

On November 20, CINMS MERITO staff, in collaboration with the Santa Barbara City Creeks Division, coordinated 60, fifth grade students in Sycamore Creek restoration efforts in Santa Barbara as part of the CINMS MERITO Academy's "Watershed



CINMS MERITO Academy students from Cesar Chavez Charter School of Santa Barbara helped restore native plants at Sycamore creek in December 2008. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

Connection to Oceans" field experience. The students, English language learners from Franklin Elementary and Cesar Chavez Charter School in Santa Barbara, tested creek water quality, planted native plants provided by the city, and learned the benefits that native plants provide to our creeks and ocean water quality.



Fifth grade students from Cesar Chavez Charter school testing Sycamore creek water quality in December 2008. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

On December 2, 60 fourth and fifth grade students from Cesar Chavez Charter School worked on water quality testing and restoring native plants at Sycamore Creek.

On December 3, 60 fifth and sixth grade gifted and talented minority students from Sunkist Elementary School in Port Hueneme visited the Ormond Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant, tested water quality in Ormond creek, identified birds, and participated in restoration activities at the Ormond Beach wetlands.

On December 4, 65 fifth grade students from Harding Elementary worked at Mission Creek in Santa Barbara, restoring the creek banks with native plants and testing creek water quality.



Jessica Scheeter, Santa Barbara City Creeks Outreach Coordinator, helps Harding Elementary fifth graders plant a native tree on the banks of Mission Creek (December 2008). Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

MERITO Academy Students Celebrate the End of the Year with an Ormond Beach Cleanup

Teacher Nancy Karnoski of McKinna Elementary suggested that her students spend their last school day of 2008 outdoors, taking care of their wetlands, beaches and wildlife at Ormond Beach, and giving back to their communities and their planet instead of staying indoors watching holiday movies and eating cookies. The student's response was, "Yes!" On December 12, the 30 fifth graders, coordinated and guided by CINMS MERITO and The Nature Conservancy's staff, filled up half of a dumpster with marine debris collected at the Ormond Beach wetlands. The prior week's rain had washed all types of urban contaminants from the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme into the Ormond Beach wetlands, estuary and beaches, which are home to over 200 species of wildlife. The students enjoyed cleaning up, identifying wildlife, and eating pizza instead of staying indoors eating cookies. Ms. Karnoski reported that the students' end of year celebration at Ormond Beach turned out to be the best ever!



McKinna Elementary fifth graders' End of Year celebration / Ormond Beach cleanup with CINMS MERITO and The Nature Conservancy staff (December 2008). Photo: CINMS.

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 their 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.

In 2008, the sanctuary and park merged the park's overnight volunteer program with the CINC program. This added an additional 35 volunteers to the program and over 9,000 hours of service, for a total of 155 volunteers. All CINC volunteers, including the park volunteers joining the CINC, received a new Navy blue uniform with improved agency logo placement. This furthers the sanctuary-park partnership, and will provide consistent messages to sanctuary and park visitors.

In fiscal year 2008, CINC volunteers donated over 29,000 hours to the sanctuary and park.

Whale Watch Vessel Excursions

Harbor	Santa Barbara	Ventura
Vessel	<i>Condor Express</i>	<i>Island Adventure & Islander</i>
Business	Sea Landing	Island Packers
November trips	11	0
December trips	16	13

This is currently the off-season for whale watching trips; however, blue, humpback and gray whales have recently been sighted. Additional boat operators will start up whale watching cruises again in gray whale season, December through May. Island Packers started their trips as of December 26.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Field Report: December 6, 2008

Today on the *Condor Express* it was another picture perfect day for whale photo I.D. I was joined by Toni Bailey and Dean Benjamin, along with 19 fun seekers, mostly from Europe. As soon as we left Santa Barbara Harbor we immediately saw a handful of bottlenose dolphins beyond the breakwater. As we left the Harbor, the skies were crystal clear and the water was like glass. Next, we saw three sea lions hanging out doing their thermoregulation gig, and several large groups of pelicans sitting in the glassy waters. There were pelicans everywhere! It looked like they were distributed every 300 yards the whole day, and along Santa Cruz Island they covered all the rocks. I think every pelican on the west coast was vacationing in Santa Barbara for the weekend! We also saw sea lions throughout the day, including one that circled the boat twice to get a good look at every person on deck. I think he was looking for some free fish.

Our first real sighting was a large group of Risso's dolphins. Unlike Risso's I have seen before, which come and go rather quickly, this large group of 100+ animals was spread out over quite a distance. We hung out together for 15-20 minutes and got some really great close up views. Mixed in with the Risso's were two offshore bottlenose dolphins, which were darker than the ones we regularly see immediately off the beach.

Our captain had heard of orca sightings from a private boater at 9:00 am this morning, and heard that about five orcas had been seen in the Channel over the past few days. Once again, our hopes were dashed with no orcas.

At about 11:30 am we were off of Santa Rosa Island and saw two blue whales in the distance – we had headed this direction looking for southbound gray, humpback, and blue whales, orcas, or any other large swimming beasts. Soon after, we saw another pair of blue whales moving toward Santa Cruz Island. Both pairs were moving at a pretty good speed, but during their breathing cycles we got some awesome views and great photo I.D. of all four whales. We were even treated to one whale that showed us its tail fluke at least four times.

The water was calm all day, even out to Santa Rosa Island, along Santa Cruz Island, and all the way home. I think it was one of the calmest trips we have been on. It was nice to have no sick passengers and everyone had a great time.

- Kevin Bailey
Channel Islands Naturalist Corps `2007



In November and December, concessionaires provided 40 whale watching excursions (11 in November, and 29 in December). The number of excursions listed for each vessel in the table above only includes those with CINC volunteers on board. Trips may have multiple naturalists aboard, and there may be multiple trips in one day.

Island Programs

Day hikes: In November, CINC island hike naturalists participated in one Island Packers trip to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage, and four trips to Anacapa Island, aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*, and 15 trips to Anacapa Island aboard the *Vanguard*. In December, naturalists participated in 16 Island Packers trips to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage, and one trip to Anacapa Island, aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*. In total, CINC naturalists participated in 37 November and December island hike trips.

Overnight trips: In November, CINC island hike naturalists participated in seven multi-day (*i.e.*, two-to-three day) trips: three to Anacapa Island, and four to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage. In December, CINC island hike naturalists participated in five multi-day trips: one to Anacapa Island, and four to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage.

Trainings

Island hike training continues with CINC volunteer shadow trips to the Channel Islands with an island-hike certified CINC volunteer, and an evaluation trip with CINC staff to complete the certification process. There are currently a total of 48 volunteers certified to lead island hikes.

On October 4, the park provided a free trip to Santa Rosa Island to familiarize volunteers with outer islands that are visited less frequently by the public. CINC volunteers, other Volunteers-in-Parks, park staff, and sanctuary staff participated in the Santa Rosa Island trip. The Santa Barbara Island trip was cancelled due to inclement weather, but will be rescheduled in April 2009.

Monthly In-Service Meetings

2009 CINC monthly in-service training meetings will be held January through October, on the third Tuesday of each month. Due to the fact that new volunteers will not be added in 2009, returning volunteers will benefit from two extra training sessions in January and September,

and the annual volunteer recognition event will be on October 20, 2009.

In addition to professional development, CINC monthly meetings serve an important role in volunteer communication and scheduling. Average attendance at the monthly meetings is from 90-100 volunteers. Year-end evaluations were conducted with all CINC volunteers to seek their input on training, scheduling, and meetings.

2009 Volunteer Recruitment

The Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer orientation meeting scheduled for November 18, 2008 and training sessions in January 2009 were cancelled due to the high retention rate of volunteers. A new volunteer orientation and recruitment for the 2010 season will be held in November 2009.

From Shore to Sea Lecture Series

Many volunteers 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. For information on the November and December lectures see p. 6.

Public Outreach

Sanctuary Supports Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival
On October 22 and 23, The Ocean Channel presented the 5th Annual Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival at the Marjorie Luke Theater. The festival is a film-making event developed to bring together the finest ocean films from around the world to entertain, educate, and inspire an appreciation of the sea. The sanctuary co-sponsored the event, and CINC volunteers manned an outreach table providing information about the unique resources of the sanctuary and park. Over 500 people per night attended the festival.

Sanctuary Participates in School Science Night

On November 6, sanctuary and park staff offered hands-on activities focused on the Channel Islands at the La Patera Elementary School's "Science Night" in Goleta. 800-900 students and families attended the science night, which included guest students from Goleta Valley Junior High, and activities from over 30 science organizations.

Sanctuary Key Participant in "NOAA and Our Planet Day" at Aquarium of the Pacific

On November 14 and 15, sanctuary staff joined other NOAA staff for the "NOAA and Our Planet Day" at the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach. On Friday, the welcome reception featured a preview of NOAA and Our Planet exhibits, and tours of the sanctuary's R/V *Shearwater*. Also featured were guest speakers: Dr. Sylvia Earle (former chief scientist at NOAA), Timothy Keeney (NOAA Deputy Assistant Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere), and marine life artist Wyland. On Saturday, sanctuary staff and volunteers represented the ONMS West Coast Region with a variety of activities for aquarium visitors including: interactive outreach displays with children's activities, public dockside tours of the R/V *Shearwater*, and the MERITO Channel Islands puppet show. Also featured were live interactive dives from the Aquarium's Blue Cavern tank, with sanctuary staff on hand to discuss MPAs and the health of Channel Islands ecosystems such as kelp forests. Over 4,000 people visited the Aquarium of the Pacific on Saturday.

Adopt-A-Business Program

The Adopt-A-Business Program provides sanctuary information to area businesses that provide services to Channel Islands recreational users. Approximately one dozen CINC volunteers deliver *Protecting your Channel Islands* brochures to about 80 Ventura and Santa Barbara area marine-related businesses on an on-going basis. This method effectively places the marine reserve and sanctuary maps into the hands of fishermen and other users. In addition, Channel Islands MPA posters were distributed to appropriate locations in November 2008.

MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

Channel Islands

Sanctuary and Park Scientists Survey Channel Islands Shipwrecks During Annual Reconnaissance Expedition
Sanctuary, park, and volunteer Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources (CMAR) divers completed a five-day expedition on board the R/V *Shearwater* surveying ship and aircraft wrecks. Maritime heritage resources recorded included the California Gold Rush passenger steamer *Winfield Scott* (1850-1853) lost at Anacapa Island; fishing vessel *Reliance*, four-masted

sailing bark *Goldenhorn* (1883-1892), and three-masted sailing ship *Aggi* (1894-1915) – all lost at Santa Rosa Island; along with the passenger cargo steamer *Cuba* (1897-1923) lost at San Miguel Island; and a Grumman AF-2W *Guardian* (1950-1954) antisubmarine aircraft lost at Santa Cruz Island.



Sanctuary diver Steve Katz examines the mooring bits on the site of the *Cuba*. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



Cuba's bow, anchor windlass and capstan.
Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

From November 17-21, divers from the sanctuary and park, and the National Park Service's Submerged Resources Center conducted the second phase of the annual shipwreck reconnaissance expedition aboard the park's R/V *Sea Ranger*. The team continued recording six shipwreck sites that included: the *Winfield Scott*, fishing vessels *Equator* (1949-1949) and *Del Rio* (1935-1952), and a newly recorded wreck known as the *Bar-Bee* site – all lost at Anacapa Island; the *Aggi* and a WWII era mine-sweeper lost at Santa Cruz Island.



National Park Service Ranger Ian Williams measuring mast diameter on the *Aggi* site. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



Sanctuary and National Park Service divers preparing to dive off the R/V *Shearwater*. Photo: Patrick Smith.

Although the trips aboard the *Shearwater* and *Sea Ranger* both included annual monitoring of submerged archaeological sites to record human or environmental impacts within the sanctuary and park, this year the team's priority was focused on continuing the mapping process at the shipwreck *Aggi*. In 1915, the three-masted, full-rigged, steel sailing ship was under tow from San Francisco en route to the Panama Canal, where she was to continue her voyage to Sweden carrying a cargo of barley and beans. A storm struck, flooding the vessel, which ultimately drifted at sea until becoming stranded on Talcott Shoal at Santa Rosa Island – where her remains are scattered in 15 to 60 feet of water. The Channel Islands shipwreck reconnaissance program dates back to the early 1980s and is a collaborative partnership between the sanctuary, the National Park Service, CMAR, and the California State Lands Commission.

CHANNEL ISLANDS: STORIES FROM THE PAST

On July 27, 1896 the *Los Angeles Times* published an article entitled: "A YACHTING PARTY. Los Angeles Boys Having a Merry Cruise." The article is reprinted below, as published.

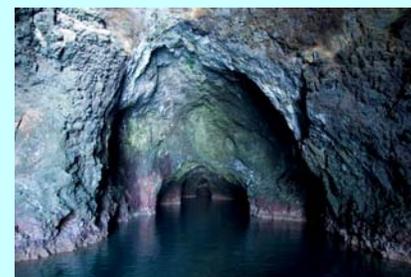
"AT SEA, July 26. – (En route from Santa Cruz Island to Catalina, by Carrier-pigeon Red Rosa.) The yacht Dawn left Santa Barbara Thursday at 3 p.m. for Santa Cruz Island. In the channel the wind was blowing a gale, and the waves ran high. Several on board succumbed to seasickness. About dark the perpendicular cliffs of Santa Cruz were sighted dead ahead without sign of anchorage in sight. Coasting southward, Prisoner's Harbor was sighted at 9 p.m., and the boat came to anchor.

The next morning, after a three-mile walk up a beautiful cañon, the principal ranch on the island was reached. Through the courtesy of Mr. Caire, the manger, the party enjoyed the morning visiting the different points of interest, and then returned to the yacht for lunch. In the afternoon the "painted caves" were visited and many photographs were taken of the scenery and the party. Thousands of seals inhabit these shores and two baby seals were captured, and taken on board. The scenery of the island is picturesque and many people camp here every year. Some rough weather was encountered last night, but everything is lovely today.

The party taking this yachting trip is from Los Angeles and comprises: L. L. Robinson, H. W. Cole, W. H. Bowers, J. P. Vawter, D. Merriam, Horace Ferris, B. F. Yarnell, Mr. Berry, Capt. Haworth and crew."



The Painted Cave entrance is 130 feet tall. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



Painted Cave is 1227 feet in depth where the ceiling drops to 15 feet in height. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.



National Park Service, sanctuary and CMAR divers aboard the R/V *Sea Ranger II*. Photo: Bob Linteau.



Divers performing trilateration measurements on the *Aggi* site. Photo: Susanna Pershern.

For more information on the above mentioned shipwrecks please visit the following web pages:

Aggi

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

Cuba

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

Del Rio

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

Goldenhorn

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

Winfield Scott

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

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

Recent Updates

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

The Final Management Plan (FMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) documents are available online at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/overview.html>.

CINMS staff developed a press kit for members of the media to download assorted graphics and media at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/presskit.html>.

National marine sanctuaries have a presence on YouTube! Check out our education section for the link at: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/cool.html>.

A new map and sanctuary boundary description has been updated at:

<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/about.html> and

http://channelislands.noaa.gov/drop_down/mission.html.

The new *Protecting Your Channel Islands* brochure in Spanish is now available at:

http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/edu_pro.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>; and

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

Upcoming Modifications

Amy Cale (Sanctuary Web Developer) is continuing to develop and code the internal navigation structure of the CINMS web site with support from the ONMS headquarters web team. This includes dynamic html dropdown navigation to re-structure all of the internal department sections, with the Marine Reserves and Education sections being first and second in line, respectively. Cale is also developing Plumes and Blooms content, and met with sanctuary education staff to discuss the upgrade, design, and development of a MPA education website.

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.



NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA) AND OFFICE OF NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES (ONMS) NEWS



President Bush Designates Three New Marine National Monuments and Nominates a Fourth as a UNESCO World Heritage Site

On January 6, President Bush designated three marine national monuments in the Pacific Ocean: Marianas Trench, Pacific Remote Islands, and Rose Atoll. Combined, these designations represent the largest fully protected area in the world, consisting over 195,000 square miles. The Marianas Trench Marine National Monument includes some of the westernmost territory in the United States (5,600 miles from California), the Marianas Trench (the site of the deepest place on Earth), and a series of active undersea volcanoes and thermal vents. The Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument protects the pristine coral reef ecosystems around Kingman Reef, Palmyra Atoll, Howland, Baker, and Jarvis Islands, Johnston Atoll, and Wake Island – the site of a pivotal battle in World War II and an important military base today. The Rose Atoll Marine National Monument protects the pristine coral reef ecosystem around a remote part of American Samoa. The Secretary of Commerce, through NOAA, and the Secretary of the Interior will share management responsibility for the new marine national monuments. In addition, the marine areas of Rose Atoll are to be added to the Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary. For more information visit:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2009/01/20090106-9.html>.

Also on January 6, President Bush announced his nomination of the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

President-elect Obama Names New Head of NOAA

On December 19, 2008, President-elect Barack Obama named Dr. Jane Lubchenco as his choice for the next Administrator of NOAA. Lubchenco is currently the Wayne and Gladys Valley Professor of Marine Biology and a Distinguished Professor of Zoology at Oregon State University. She is also a PISCO Principal Investigator. On the PISCO web site, Lubchenco lists her research interests as: science and the environment; public understanding of science; marine conservation biology; ecosystem services; ecological causes and

consequences of global change; biodiversity; sustainable ecological systems; rocky intertidal shores; evolutionary community ecology; marine biology; plant-herbivore interactions; chemical ecology; biogeography; molluscs; echinoderms; seaweeds; and marine reserves. To learn more about Dr. Lubchenco, visit her page on the Oregon State University web site:

<http://lucile.science.oregonstate.edu/lubchenco/>.

West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health

In September 2006, the Governors of Oregon, Washington, and California signed the West Coast Governors' Agreement (WCGA) on Ocean Health. Under this agreement, the three states have worked together and consulted with Federal agency leads and stakeholders on appropriate actions to improve the health of our ocean and coastal resources. On July 29, 2008, the three states released a final action plan that outlines many activities on a range of issues. From October 27-28, the WCGA action teams on Ocean Health held their first workshop to solidify strategies for advancing each team's mission and actions, consider stakeholder recommendations for implementing the action plan and identifying implementation priorities, needs, challenges, and timelines. As a major sponsor and organizer of the meeting, NOAA contributed to the Action Teams on issues such as sea-floor mapping, climate change, marine debris, ocean education, water quality, sustainable coastal communities, alternative energy, integrated ecosystem assessments, and *Spartina* eradication. The marine debris action team is planning to establish a West Coast Marine Debris Alliance that will collaborate on marine debris issues and facilitate the execution of marine debris projects well into the future.

Sanctuaries Release Revised Management Plans

In November 2008, NOAA released final management plans for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries. The new management plans, and revised regulations address existing concerns and issues that have emerged since the original plans were formulated. A press release, summary information, maps, and photos are available at <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/jointplan>.

FOUR-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

JANUARY	
Jan. 13, 14	<p><i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Barbara Page of Ventura County Air Pollution Control District <i>Film Presentation: "Air: The Search for One Clean Breath"</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)</p>
Jan. 17	<p><i>Marine Science Career Day, 12 pm - 3 pm</i> Ty Warner Sea Center, Santa Barbara For more information visit the Sea Center's online calendar: http://www.sbnature.org/eventcal/</p>
Jan. 23	<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: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</p>
FEBRUARY	
Feb. 10	<p><i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Dr. Milton Love, Marine Science Institute, UCSB <i>Pelagic and Water Column Fishes of the Santa Barbara Channel</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)</p>
Feb. 14-16	<p><i>Ventura County Maritime Museum Anniversary</i> Channel Islands Harbor, Fisherman's Wharf, Oxnard, 11 am - 5 pm For more information visit: http://vcmm.org/</p>
MARCH	
Mar. 10, 11	<p><i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Russell Galipeau, Superintendent of Channel Islands National Park <i>Channel Islands National Park Turns 40</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)</p>
Mar. 15	<p><i>13th Annual Celebration of the Whales</i> Channel Islands Harbor, Marine Emporium Landing, Oxnard, 10 am - 5 pm For more information visit: http://www.channelislandsharbor.org/Events.cfm</p>
Mar. 19-22	<p><i>2009 National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA) Conference</i> New Orleans, LA For more information visit: http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009new/</p>
Mar. 20	<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: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</p>
APRIL	
Apr. 4	<p><i>Oxnard Earth Day Festival</i> Plaza Park, Oxnard</p>
Apr. 18	<p><i>Ventura Earth Day Celebration</i> Promenade Park, Ventura</p>
Apr. 19	<p><i>South Coast Earth Day Festival</i> Sunken Gardens, Santa Barbara</p>
Apr. 25-26	<p><i>Earth Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific</i> Long Beach</p>

CINMS Staff

Santa Barbara Harbor Office

Christopher Mobley *Superintendent*

Todd Jacobs *Deputy Superintendent*

Michael Murray *Deputy Superintendent,
Advisory Council and
Management Plan Coordinator*

Amy Cale – *Web Developer*

LTJG Matt Davis – *Operations Officer*

Steve Dyer – *Vessel Captain*

Laura Francis – *Education Coordinator*

Reginald Greenwood – *Vessel Operator*

Sean Hastings – *Resource Protection Coordinator*

Steve Katz – *Research Coordinator*

Sarah Kinsfather – *Management Plan Specialist*

Charles Lara – *Vessel Captain*

Dani Lipski – *Research Specialist*

Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*

Natalie Senyk – *Physical Scientist*

Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*

Ben Waltenberger – *Physical Scientist*

Rebecca Young – *Program Support Specialist*

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Julie Bursek – *Education Coordinator*

Clare Fritzsche – *CINM Volunteer Program & Administrative
Assistant*

Lorri Herr – *Program Support Specialist*

Rocío Lozano de Knowlton – *Bilingual Education & Outreach
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Tina Reed – *Administrative Support Coordinator*

ONMS West Coast Region Staff

William Douros – *Regional Superintendent*

Matt Brookhart – *Policy Coordinator*

Nicole Capps – *Management Support Specialist*

Dave Lott – *Operations Coordinator*

Local ONMS Staff

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 Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

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 Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The ONMS, which manages the system, was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972. Visit the ONMS 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 -

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