



# Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report



Volume 5, Number 5

A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

November 2007

## ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

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

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

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

### Blue Whale Strandings

On September 8, 2007 a dead blue whale was found floating in Long Beach Harbor. The whale was likely dragged in on the bow of a ship enroute to port. Two additional dead blue whales were spotted within the sanctuary and subsequently stranded on the Ventura County coastline on September 11 and September 19, respectively. Both whales were confirmed to have died from ship strikes. In September and October blue whales were feeding on a shallow layer of krill located in and around the shipping lanes that pass through the sanctuary. To provide real time locations of the whales to the shipping industry, sanctuary staff have been regularly flying over the shipping lanes, and logged a total of nine surveys between September 28 and October 24. Aircraft support has been provided by the California Department of Fish and Game and US Coast Guard. Sanctuary staff relayed the location of the whales to NOAA Fisheries, the US Coast Guard, and the Marine Exchange of Southern California to pass on to ships in the region. Blue whales have consistently been observed across all surveys, with a general 'hot spot' in the shipping lanes region north of Santa Cruz Island. Blue whales are typically found in the Santa Barbara Channel region between June and September and migrate southward during late autumn. Sanctuary and NOAA Fisheries staff have also worked with the US Coast Guard to issue a temporary *Local Notice to Mariners* that encourages ships in the Santa Barbara

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## Window on the Sanctuary

The bat ray (*Myliobatis californica*), is found in muddy or sandy sloughs, estuaries and bays, kelp beds and rocky-bottomed shoreline in the eastern Pacific Ocean, between the Oregon coast and the Gulf of California, and around the Galápagos Islands. The largest specimens can grow to a wingspan of 1.8 m and up, and a mass of 91 kg and up. Photo: Robert V. Schwemmer



Channel to be vigilant for whales and that provides a NOAA recommendation that ship speeds not exceed 10 knots. NOAA's National Weather Service has broadcasted a similar notice on marine weather radio. Additional information about the incident can be found on line at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/alert.html>.

## Marine Reserves Process

### *Channel Islands MPA Network Complete*

The California Fish and Game Commission closed the state water gaps in the Channel Islands marine protected area (MPA) network on October 12. Regulations will be filed with the state's Office of Administrative Law, and are expected to go into effect in early 2008.

### *Social Science Plan Available*

In September a new monitoring plan was finalized: *CINMS Social Science Plan: Socioeconomic Research and Monitoring of Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas*. The plan describes an explicit three-year effort to acquire and analyze scientifically rigorous socioeconomic data on all human uses of the Sanctuary. The plan includes a program of research and monitoring, a strategy for addressing reserve effects to all CINMS users, a consultative process for working with stakeholders, and a process for establishing priorities and allocating funds. Data are required to address three main objectives: (i) test socioeconomic predictions made prior to marine reserve network imposition, (ii) monitor human-sanctuary interactions to inform adaptive management of marine reserves, and (iii) contribute to an ecosystem-based approach to management. Download a copy of the report from <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/mrec.html>.

### *Public Outreach*

In the current reporting period, Sean Hastings (Sanctuary Resource Protection Coordinator) has provided outreach to several groups on the sanctuary and the Channel Islands MPA network. On October 18 Hastings spoke to volunteers and docents from the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, and Sea Center. On October 19 he spoke to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. On November 7 he spoke to a Coastal Marine Policy class at the University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB), Donald Bren School of Environmental

Science and Management. Finally, on November 14 he spoke to the Santa Barbara Rotary Club.

## Enforcement

On October 10, Matt Pickett (NMSP Aircraft Operations Coordinator), Ben Waltenberger (Sanctuary Physical Scientist), Sean Hastings, and NOAA law enforcement agents briefed pilots with the US Coast Guard (USCG) Helicopter Station at Los Angeles International Airport on CINMS regulations. The briefing focused on enforcement of the recently expanded MPA network within the Sanctuary, and emergency response to blue whale deaths.

## MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

At last report in September, Sanctuary staff had been working closely with the National Marine Sanctuary Program's (NMSP) West Coast Region office and were nearing completion on responding to all 674 comments received on the sanctuary's Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS). Sanctuary staff have now completed draft responses for all comments, and Regional office staff are now reviewing this work. This will be followed by reviews from NMSP headquarters staff and NOAA attorneys. Progress has also advanced on modifying draft documents into the Final Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement.

As previously reported, to more fully address graywater and sewage discharge issues from large vessels (greater than 300 gross registered tons), the NMSP will soon issue a Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement as a necessary step toward completion of the management plan revision 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. CINMS staff finalized the supplemental environmental documents in May, and have since been revising documents in response to agency reviewer comments.

To date, staff have addressed comments from: the NMSP West Coast Region (May-June), NMSP headquarters staff (June-August), the NMSP Deputy Director (July-September), the NOAA Office of General Counsel (August-October), attorneys with the



Department of Commerce (September), and the NOAA Office of Program Planning and Integration (October). Still to come are additional reviews from the NOAA Office of General Counsel, followed by reviews and sign-off from NOAA's National Ocean Service and NOAA headquarters. The supplemental documents will then be made available for public review and comment, and comments received will be considered and integrated into the Final Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement and a Final Rule.

Sanctuary staff will continue to provide updates on the Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Final Management Plan, Final Environmental Impact Statement, and Final Rule at upcoming Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings and via the sanctuary's management plan web page:

[channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/overview.html](http://channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/overview.html).

## SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

### 2007 Field Trip to Santa Cruz Island

Members of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) and sanctuary staff visited Santa Cruz Island on September 8, to connect with the sanctuary and observe the Chumash community *tomol* crossing. Advisory Council members watched as the Chumash *tomol* paddlers completed their 26-mile journey from the mainland to



(Lt. to rt.) Conservation Working Group member Shiva Polefka, Advisory Council Public-at-Large Alternate Matt Lum and son, enjoy the 2007 Advisory Council field trip to Santa Cruz Island. Photo: Jill Murray.

*Swaxil*, an ancestral Chumash village currently known as Scorpion Anchorage. Several Advisory Council members joined in the *tomol* crossing circle blessing, and also had opportunities to hike, snorkel, and learn more about the island and sanctuary.

### Sanctuary to Solicit Applications for Sanctuary Advisory Council Membership

For several seats on the Advisory Council, this winter will mark the end of two-year terms. As such, you can soon expect to hear more about how the public can apply for the following seats: Education (member and alternate), Chumash community (member and alternate), Recreational fishing (member and alternate), and Tourism (alternate position). Incumbent members may also reapply. Watch for upcoming announcements via email, in newspapers, and on the CINMS web site at <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>. If you would like to receive email notification, sign up here: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/list.html>.

## VESSEL & AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

### Vessel Program Support

During the reporting period (August 25 – October 19) the sanctuary research vessel R/V *Shearwater* completed the following undertakings:

#### *Research and Monitoring*

- Finfish Abundance surveys through the use of a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV), with researchers from the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE), 22-31 August, and 24 September-05 October.
- Fish specimen collection from the wreck of the *Pac Baroness* and San Miguel Island with researchers from Love Lab, UCSB, 04-07 September.
- Ongoing MPA surveys with divers from UCSB / Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), 11-13 September.
- On-going water quality monitoring in the Santa Barbara Channel with scientists from UCSB, 14 September, 09 October.
- On-going Kelp Forest Monitoring surveys with divers from the National Park Service, 10-12 October.

### *Social Science Monitoring*

- On-going private boater surveys tracking recreational use-patterns in the sanctuary, 15 September.

### *Partnerships*

- Vessel support for the Chumash community's annual Santa Barbara tomol channel, 08 September.
- Delivery of the tomol back to Santa Barbara upon completion of the channel crossing and other celebratory events held on Santa Cruz Island, 09 September.

### *Education and Public Outreach*

- Application of the field activities contained in the draft Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) Academy curriculum with local grade school teachers and students, 06 October.
- Public tours aboard *Shearwater* during the Santa Barbara Seafood Festival, 13 October
- The Teacher-at-Sea from Cabrillo High School was aboard during 3-4 days of the CDFG ROV project.

### *Submerged Cultural Resource Monitoring*

- On-going monitoring of various shipwrecks and sunken aircraft throughout the sanctuary, under the leadership of CINMS' Maritime Heritage Coordinator, Robert Schwemmer, 15-19 October.

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

### **New Addition to the CINMS Fleet**

CINMS will be accepting delivery of a new 41-foot catamaran to replace the *Xantu*, a 28-foot Wilson-built utility vessel. The new vessel should arrive during the spring time of 2008, and after proper outfitting, shake-down cruises, and commissioning, should be operational around June 01, 2008.

### **Aircraft Operations**

The sanctuary utilized contract aircraft to conduct all aerial monitoring during the current reporting period.

See *Research and Monitoring* (below) for more details about aerial monitoring.

## **RESEARCH & MONITORING**

### **Research and Monitoring Activities**

#### *Marine Reserves Monitoring Workshop*

Steve Katz (Sanctuary Research Coordinator), and Dani Lipski (Sanctuary Research Assistant), attended a three-day workshop October 2-4, to begin analysis for the 2008 five-year review of the state MPAs in the Channel Islands. Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and the sanctuary organized the workshop. Satie Airame of PISCO led the workshop, which was attended by scientists from CINMS, PISCO, CDFG, the Park, Cal State University Monterey Bay, the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF), Reef Check, UCSB, the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis and others. The group presented their research projects, discussed how to address the priorities outlined in the CDFG Monitoring Plan, and began data analysis. Two more workshops are planned for this fall, leading up to the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Monitoring Symposium in February 2008.

#### *Seabird and Marine Mammal Monitoring in Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary*

Dani Lipski participated in a Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) sea bird and marine mammal survey on September 23-24. Lipski joined Jan Roletto (GFNMS Research Coordinator) and other sea bird and mammal observers on the R/V *Fulmar* to learn the survey technique and data collection software. These techniques will be used in 2008 during a regional effort to monitor seabirds and marine mammals in the five west coast national marine sanctuaries. The team completed five transects to the south of San Francisco Bay and near Half Moon Bay, to record the distribution and abundance of animals. They observed high numbers of Common Murres and Cormorants, as well as a fair number of humpback whales. A highlight of the cruise was observing a Leatherback Turtle.

### *ROV Surveys Completed at Channel Islands*

Scientists from CDFG and Marine Applied Research and Exploration completed the first of two 2007 research cruises on R/V *Shearwater* in the sanctuary August 22-31. This is the fourth consecutive year of the project which aims to determine changes in finfish abundance in response to the establishment of state MPAs in 2003. Scientists employ the ROV to identify fish and record abundance, size, and habitat type at ten sites (five sites inside and five outside MPAs). The team benefited from exceptionally calm weather and was able to complete surveys at the outer islands. A second cruise from September 24-October 5 completed the remaining transects, as well as further studies of the fish sizing component of the project. A NOAA Teacher At Sea participated in this work (see p. 7 for more information).

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS! SYMPOSIUMS IN 2008**

Sanctuary staff are planning for the California Islands Symposium and the Channel Islands Marine Reserves Symposium in February 2008 at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Oxnard. The California Island Symposium is a forum for the presentation of natural and cultural resource information collected on any of the California Islands, including Baja, and their surrounding marine environments and will be held Tuesday, February 5 through Thursday, February 8, 2008. Abstracts are now being accepted. Please visit <http://californiaislands.org/> for more information. Registration information, including fees, will be posted soon.

The Channel Islands Marine Reserves Symposium will feature invited speakers for a five-year review of education, enforcement, socioeconomics, and biological monitoring of the state marine reserves established in 2003 at the Channel Islands. This special symposium will take place the evening of Thursday, February 7 (education, enforcement, socioeconomics) and all day Friday, February 8 (biological monitoring). This symposium will be free and open to the public. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend these important events.

### *Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring and Spatial Analysis (SAMSAP)*

Sanctuary staff conducted three SAMSAP flights between September 1 and October 19, 2007. CINMS are continuing to contract a Partenavia Observer high wing, twin-engine aircraft from Aspen Helicopters of Oxnard. The flights included both the collection of vessel use and distribution of marine mammals as well as marine reserve enforcement around the four northern Channel Islands and the shipping lanes in the Santa Barbara Channel.

The first survey of the reporting period was conducted during the Labor Day weekend on Sunday, September 2. Very high vessel use was recorded, particularly around Anacapa Island and Santa Cruz Island. Notably, over 50 boats were anchored at Smuggler's Cove, Santa Cruz Island. Unfavorable marine forecasts in the western portion of the sanctuary were reflected in few vessels around San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands. A variety of marine mammals was also observed, including several species of dolphins and blue whales.

The second survey was conducted on Tuesday, September 18. A variety of vessels was observed most notably on the south side of Anacapa Island, where both commercial dive boats and private recreational boats were observed.



Photo of Smugglers Cove, Santa Cruz Island, as observed on September 2, 2007 during a SAMSAP flight. Photo: NOAA/CINMS.

The final survey of the reporting period occurred on Columbus Day, Monday, October 8 of the four northern Channel Islands and the shipping lanes in the Santa Barbara Channel. Staff observed high numbers of commercial sea urchin divers around Santa Rosa Island, taking advantage of calm seas. Staff then flew the north and south bound shipping lanes to look for blue whales and observed seven of these animals. Sanctuary staff have been working with a variety of partners to collect spatial data on the locations of blue whales and provide updates to mariners.

### **Channel Islands Naturalist Corp (CINC) Volunteer Research and Citizen Science**

#### *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 done in cooperation during Plumes and Blooms research cruises scheduled throughout the year.

#### *Anacapa Island Larval Settlement Study*

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

#### *Spatial Analysis and Assessment of Non-consumptive Uses of California's Marine Sanctuaries*

From May 2007 through September 2007, ten CINC volunteers served as survey enumerators. They conducted intercept surveys of private boaters in the Channel Islands on board the R/V *Shearwater*. Volunteer survey enumerators assisted the study team during weekend surveys in the Channel Islands. This work is part of a multi-year study: *Spatial Analysis and Assessment of Non-consumptive Uses of California's Marine Sanctuaries*. As part of the study, CINC volunteers also assisted with boater postcard surveys at launch ramps in Santa Barbara, Ventura, and Channel Islands harbors on busy weekends through Labor Day.

#### *Blue and Humpback Whale Photographic Identification*

CINC volunteers are continuing participation in photographic identification of blue and humpback whales on select whale watch boats out of Santa Barbara and Ventura harbors. The data is collected in cooperation

with Cascadia Research Collective, the primary source for population and distribution trends of blue and humpback whales in California waters. CINC volunteers doubled the number of images taken this field season to over 4,000 shots. They also contributed sightings data to the American Cetacean Society on transient killer whales that were photographed on September 15 and 19, 2007.

To read about other CINC activities please see p. 10.

## **EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, & OUTREACH**

### **Special Events**

#### *2007 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series*

The 2007 lecture series continues to feature fascinating Channel Islands topics. On September 11 & 12, Marla Daily (Santa Cruz Island Foundation President) gave a fascinating 50-year history of Santa Cruz Island entitled "Carey Stanton's Santa Cruz Island, 1937-1987." Daily is a cultural anthropologist, and was Dr. Stanton's personal assistant during part of this time, and took over as president of the Santa Cruz Island Foundation upon his passing.

Christopher LaFranchi (Sanctuary Social Science Coordinator) spoke about "Understanding Boater Use of the Channel Islands," on October 9 and 10. He is conducting a multi-year study documenting the spatial use patterns, recreational activities, and economic contribution of boaters. LaFranchi discussed socioeconomic monitoring of MPAs and shared preliminary results of his study of boating activities in the sanctuary and Channel park.

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

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

Wednesday per month, with Tuesday lectures at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Munger Theatre, and Wednesday lectures at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center. For upcoming lectures please refer to the sanctuary calendar on p. 18, or for the complete schedule of 2007 lectures please visit the sanctuary's From Shore to Sea web page: <http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html>

#### *Channel Islands Live! Video Conference with Alliance for distance Education in California (ADEC)*

On October 25, 2007, Julie Bursek participated in a Spotlight Webcast hosted by ADEC entitled "Connecting Leaders to Solutions: 21st Century Educational Partnerships." The webcast interview focused on the Channel Islands Live! distance learning education program and partnership between the Ventura County Office of Education, Channel Islands National Park and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The purpose of the webcast was to highlight current and future cooperative initiatives between educational institutions, organizations and government entities that model the future of public education in California.

#### **MPA Education**

##### *Human Dimensions of Marine Reserves Lecture*

Christopher LaFranchi, CINMS Social Science Coordinator, was the featured speaker at the "From Shore to Sea" public lecture on October 9 and 10. LaFranchi discussed socioeconomic monitoring of marine reserves and shared the preliminary results of a recent study of boating activities in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park. LaFranchi has been conducting a multi-year study in collaboration with the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) to document boater use patterns, boater activities such as diving, fishing, and kayaking and economic impacts. This research will assess how boaters are responding to marine reserves designated in 2003 and will be valuable to inform policy decisions which account for the interests of boaters. The "From Shore to Sea" lecture series is jointly sponsored by Channel Islands National Park, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, and Santa Barbara Maritime Museum in an effort to further the understanding of research on the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. For more information contact Julie.Bursek@noaa.gov or Chris.Lafranchi@noaa.gov.

##### *New Interpretive Sign in Santa Barbara Harbor*

On September 27, sanctuary staff worked with the Santa Barbara Waterfront Department to install a new interpretive sign in the Santa Barbara Harbor that shows how the sanctuary and park work together to protect the Channel Islands and surrounding waters. The sign was designed to integrate with a series of existing signs along a "Fish Walk" in the Santa Barbara Harbor that interpret local commercial fisheries. The new sign was created as part of the California Signage Plan.



A new sanctuary sign explaining how the sanctuary and park work together to protect the Channel Islands and surrounding waters is now on display in Santa Barbara Harbor. Photo: Laura Francis.

##### *NOAA Teacher At Sea in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary*

Michele Poquette was selected as the next NOAA Teacher at Sea in CINMS to participate in ROV surveys aboard the R/V *Shearwater* September 29 through October 4. Poquette is a high school physics teacher from Cabrillo High School in Lompoc, California. She teaches a course on building ROVs as part of her 11th grade curriculum. Participating students work in teams to apply different principles in physics and mathematics to build their ROVs and enter them in an annual ROV competition. NOAA staff participate in judging the competition. Poquette is working alongside researchers from the CDFG and Deep Ocean Engineering to conduct ROV surveys of the Channel Islands MPA network. Poquette is the third NOAA Teacher At Sea in the sanctuary. She will be maintaining a cruise log detailing her experience that will be posted on the CINMS website. Poquette will also work with fellow NOAA

Teacher At Sea in the CINMS alumnus, Scott Dickison, to develop activities that use fish survey data and video images collected during the cruise. These activities will be posted on the CINMS website

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

### **Workshops, Lectures and Conferences**

#### *NOAA Project Design and Evaluation Training hosted by COSEE West and USC Sea Grant*

CINMS Education Coordinator Julie Bursek participated in a NOAA Project Design and Evaluation training on October 10 and 11 at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles California. The training was sponsored by USC Sea Grant and Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) West. Workshop participants represented USC Sea Grant, the Aquarium of the Pacific, Ocean Institute, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, California Science Center, and others who are interested in project/program design for informal science centers. Bursek worked on developing a preliminary plan for CINMS exhibit elements planned for the Boating Instruction and Sailing Center in Channel Islands Harbor, California.

#### *California Science Teacher Association Conference*

Three volunteers from the Channel Islands Naturalist Corp provided information on the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) and National Park programs to participants at the California Science Teacher Association Annual conference in Long Beach, October 25-28, 2007. This is a popular conference with the K-16 community with over 3,000 registered participants. At the conference CINMS Education Coordinator Julie Bursek presented a lecture titled "Teaching Ocean Science using the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary". Her lecture was part of an environmental education session hosted by Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) West and the South West Marine/Aquatic Education Association (SWMEA).

#### *SEEDS Educational Program of the Ecological Society of America*

On October 26, 2007, CINMS Education Coordinator Julie Bursek presented a lecture at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum about career opportunities in NOAA. Her lecture also included an overview of how science plays a role in the designation and monitoring of the Channel Islands Marine Protected Area Network.

Bursek's audience included 35 undergraduate students participating in SEEDS programs (Strategies for Ecology Education, Development, and Sustainability) from universities throughout the United States and internationally. Hosted by the UC Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute and UC Sea Grant, participating students were provided a working tour of Santa Barbara Harbor and were exposed to a variety of ocean science career opportunities. SEEDS is an education program of the Ecological Society of America (ESA) with a mission to diversify and advance the profession of ecology through opportunities that stimulate and nurture the interest of underrepresented students. Focused at the undergraduate level, opportunities sponsored by the program include student field trips, undergraduate research fellowships, ESA Annual Meeting travel awards, and campus ecology chapters. The core SEEDS program components offer hands-on, engaging experiences with ecology that exhibit the relevance and applications of the science. Each experience also provides opportunities to interact with a diverse group of ecologists and other motivated students to both broaden and deepen students' understanding of ecology and potential careers.

### **Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)**

#### *Successful 2nd MERITO Academy Educators Workshop*

On October 5th and 6th, the CINMS MERITO program and Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute, sponsored by a NOAA Bay Watershed Education and Training (B-WET) grant, trained 17 of 25 applicants during the 2nd annual MERITO Academy Educators Workshop (MAEW). Through the CINMS MERITO Academy (MA) program, 660 students will receive training on high quality, sustainable science programming. The programming integrates earth and ocean sciences into 4th to 8th grade level public education, and features extended learning programs for classrooms and in the field. MA staff will provide in-class support, field instruction and host field experiences to selected groups. On October 5th, Julie Bursek introduced CINMS resource protection and education programs to the MA participants, while Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, MA Program Manager, presented MERITO Academy program details. Shannon Newby, MA Coordinator, and Andrea Moe, MA curriculum developer, provided instruction on use of the curriculum and materials.





Teachers participating in the MERITO Academy Educators Workshop while at Santa Cruz Island (October 6, 2007).

On October 6th, the participating educators boarded the R/V *Shearwater* and headed to Santa Cruz Island, where they were trained on how to implement field activities such as water quality testing, wildlife observation, and plankton collection. They also participated in an interpretative hike and went snorkeling in the kelp forest at Scorpion Anchorage. Out of 17 educators participating, 16 work in public and charter schools in Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura and Oxnard, and one educator leads an after school program for GATE (Gifted and Talented) students in the Oxnard School district. A total of 600 students will be served during the 2007-2008 through the MERITO Academy program.



Shannon Newby, MERITO Academy (MA) Coordinator provides instructions on plankton collection during the MA Educators Workshop aboard the R/V *Shearwater* (October 6th, 2007).

### *2nd National Latino Congreso in Los Angeles*

On October 7th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, CINMS MERITO Bilingual Education and Outreach Specialist, presented on “Ocean Literacy for Multicultural Audiences” during the ‘Future of our Oceans’ workshop of the 2nd annual National Latino Congreso in Los Angeles. Other panelists included Dr. Mark Gold, President, Heal the Bay; Ms. Aida Navarro, Wildlife Conservation Program Manager, Wildcoast; Ms. Sara Wan, Coastal Commissioner, California Coastal Commission and Dr. Wallace J. Nichols, Senior Research Scientist, Ocean Conservancy. The “Future of the Oceans’ panel represented the first time ocean issues were part of the National Latino Congreso. The Latino Congreso is a comprehensive gathering of Latino organizational leaders, elected officials, and activists at all levels.

### *MERITO Grants*

During the late summer and early fall, CINMS Bilingual Education and Outreach Specialist, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton worked with various sanctuary staff and partners on writing and submitting funding applications for the implementation of MERITO at CINMS in fiscal year 2008. On August 25th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) Education Coordinator, Dawn Hayes, submitted a funding application to the Ernest Hollings Grant for development of MERITO Academy program content and audio visual support materials on ocean related threats both CINMS and MBNMS.

On September 13, Regional MERITO staff (CINMS and MBNMS) in collaboration with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation submitted a project pre-proposal for informal Science Education to the National Science Foundation. The proposal is targeted at implementation of the adult education and media and social marketing components of the regional MERITO program.

On October 9th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton in collaboration with Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute (CIMRI) submitted a proposal for project renewal of the MERITO Academy. The proposal is targeted at providing MERITO Academy service for 20 teachers and 800 underserved students of public and charter schools in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

On October 19th, Rocío Lozano-Knowlton submitted a pre-proposal to The Nature Conservancy for funding by AMGEN Inc. to partially sponsor of the field experiences and in-class support materials for students residing in Oxnard and their teachers participating in the MERITO Academy program.

## **Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program**

### *Program Overview*

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 capturing the presence of 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 and represent the sanctuary and park at marine-related community outreach events.

### *September and October Whale Watch Vessel Excursions*

The *Condor Express*, (based out of Sea Landing in Santa Barbara Harbor) led 28 whale watch trips in September, and 23 in October. The *Double Dolphin* (based out of the Santa Barbara Sailing Center in Santa Barbara Harbor) led one whale watching trip, ending their summer season on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Island Packers' vessels (based out of Ventura) *Island Adventure* and *Islander* led seven whale watching trips in September, ending their summer season on September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Boat operators led a total of 59 whale watching trips in September and October (36 in September and 23 in October). They extended their trips late into the season due to the fabulous blue whale watching season. See the CINC Report from the Field on p. 11 for information about the recent local blue whales strandings.

### *September and October Island Programs*

In September and October CINC island hike naturalists participated in the following trips. In September, Island Packers' *Island Adventure* and *Islander* offered 13 trips to Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island, and one trip to Santa Rosa Island. In October, they offered ten trips to Scorpion Anchorage, three trips to Santa Rosa Island, and one trip to San Miguel Island. Island Packers' vessel *Vanguard* (based out of Channel Islands Harbor)

offered ten trips to Anacapa Island in September, and four trips in October.

### *Special Field Trips*

On September 8, 2007, Paul Petrich (CINC island hike volunteer) interpreted sanctuary and park resources while onboard the Island Packers' trip to Santa Cruz Island, and led the hike past historic ranch buildings to Cavern Point for interested parties. Sanctuary staff and Sanctuary Advisory Council members were on board for the Advisory Council's annual field trip to the islands, and to witness the annual Chumash tomol crossing. See Sanctuary Advisory Council on p. 3. for trip details.

### *Island Hike Training*

A total of 38 CINC naturalists are trained and certified to lead hikes at the Channel Islands. Thirty-six additional volunteers are signed up for this fall's training. The remaining naturalists who attended previous training continue to "shadow" seasoned volunteers on island hikes as part of the certification process.

### *2007 CINC Island Hike Training Schedule*

#### October 30

6:00 – 7:15 pm Derek Lohuis, Introduction to the Island Naturalist Program

7:15 – 8:30 pm Yvonne Menard, Formal Interpretive Skills (emphasis on guided walks)

Location: Ventura, CINC Visitor Center

#### November 1

6:00 – 7:15 pm Kate Faulkner, CINC Natural Resource Overview (island restoration)

7:15 – 8:30 pm Ann Huston, CINC Cultural Resource Overview and Island History

8:00 – 8:30 pm Kelly Minas, Archeology

Location: Ventura, CINC Visitor Center

#### November 3

7:00 am – 6:00 pm

Group Day trip to Anacapa Island and Scorpion Ranch on Eastern Santa Cruz Island

Location: Ventura Harbor, CINMS R/V *Shearwater*

#### November 7

6:00 – 8:00 pm Steve Junak, Island Plants

Location: Santa Barbara Botanical Garden, 1212 Mission Canyon Road

## SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

### Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Field Report: September, 2007

After Dino Dal Bon and I picked up about 25 lbs of trash for Coastal Cleanup Day along East Beach, we decided to go to Ventura and check out the beached blue whale. When we got there, the freeway traffic was stopped with "lookie lous" and there were people everywhere! We saw a white tent and went to introduce ourselves to Krista Fahy (Associate Curator of Vertebrate Zoology at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History or SBMNH), and Easter Moorman (Public Affairs for the SBMNH). When they saw our shirts, they glowed and said, "Look who's here." We asked if they needed help and they were extremely grateful that we were there. As their crew was busy dissecting the whale, we could help with crowd control and information dissemination. I asked if they would like me to see about getting a note out on our listserv, and they gave us the details to send a note for help needed.

Our fellow CINC volunteer Ken Tatro (also a SBMNH Sea Center naturalist) had already arrived, and was helping to set up barriers. We spent the rest of the day talking to a zillion people, primarily about basic questions: "What is it?" "How did it die?" "How old was it?" "Was it male or female?" "Was it Pregnant?" "What are you going to do with it?" "Why bury it here vs. tow it out to sea?" "Is this the same one that was in Long Beach?" Dino and I answered questions for a constant flow of people, many whom had driven two to three hours throughout the Los Angeles area to see the whale after reading or hearing about it in the media. We were updated by Krista several times as the necropsy team discovered new things. This was truly fascinating for both us and the public.

When we had first arrived, a bit before noon on Saturday, we saw a completely intact blue whale. When we left at 6 pm, the contents of the stomach and several samples were removed, an eye was removed, the tail was cut off, one vertebra was removed, and the head was mostly detached. At first, the SBMNH was hoping to take the entire skeleton. However, upon examination, it was determined that a ship had struck the whale and crushed several bones. This made it impossible to have a complete specimen. When we returned to the beach on Sunday morning, the whale was completely buried except for its skull bones, to be removed by crane and sent to the SBMNH by flat bed truck. We continued with information dissemination as we watched the crew load the whale onto a truck. It was really amazing how in exactly 24 hours we saw a beach with a completely intact whale become a beach that was perfectly clean with no sign of the whale. As we left, people were still swarming in to look at the whale.

After seeing 38 blue whales last week on the Condor Express, and spending the last two days on the beach, I think I have a much greater understanding of the blue whale. I'm still waiting to see Orcas!

– Kevin Bailey  
Channel Islands Naturalist Corps 2007

Note from the Sanctuary Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator: Several CINC volunteers assisted the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History with the blue whale stranding on Faria Beach. Our volunteers were instrumental with crowd control and educating the public about our local marine life.

### Monthly In-Service Meetings

CINC monthly volunteer meetings are held from February through August. In September the sanctuary and park held the annual volunteer recognition event, from October through November the island hike training will be held, and from November through January orientation sessions and training classes for new volunteers will be held (a January training schedule will be completed in November/December).

*Volunteer Recognition and CINC Volunteer of the Year*  
On September 18, the sanctuary and park honored CINC volunteers and "Volunteers in Parks", at a joint volunteer recognition event. The annual event was held at Park headquarters in Ventura. A total of 220 sanctuary and Park volunteers and staff attended the event.



The sanctuary and park recently honored Kathy VanSlyke as the CINC Volunteer of the Year.

The CINC Volunteer of the Year performs above and beyond the required activities and hours in the program, while participating in all facets of the program. Kathy Van Slyke, a CINC volunteer since 2002, has contributed over 600 hours to the CINC over the past year with formal island hikes, whale watch interpretation, the

Channel Islands Live Underwater Video program, public outreach events, Xantus's Murrelet research at Anacapa Island, and most importantly, as the lead person who certifies new hikers for the CINC island naturalist program. The sanctuary and park appreciate a generous donation from Channel Islands Aviation, donating a trip for two to our volunteer of the year.

Additional volunteers were recognized for five years of service, 300 and 500 hours of service, and for support with our photo-ID research and marine mammal sightings database. Catherine French, a CINC volunteer since 2001, received an Exemplary Service Award for her support with media and countless hours working on volunteer time sheet data entry. All volunteers in the

CINC and VIP program who met the minimum hour requirements received an Island Packers gift certificate. From October 2006 – September 2007 CINC volunteers logged over 20,000 hours.

### *CINC Volunteer Bonus Field Report*

The September 8<sup>th</sup> Island Packers' trip to Santa Cruz Island was very special. Fifty-two of the 89 passengers were Advisory Council members and their families. The weather was perfect for a family outing on Scorpion's beach, and for swimming and snorkeling. Plus, most special of all, everyone aboard got to witness the 5th annual Chumash tomol channel crossing by the sea-worthy tomol *Elye'wun* and its determined paddlers! One mile from Scorpion Anchorage, we passed the *Elye'wun* and got to encourage its crew as they paddled into a strong head-wind! The tomol and its crew left Channel Island Harbor at 3:30 am, and we passed them at about 1:30 pm!! A large community of Chumash folk and supporters waited for them at the beach to partake in a reverent ceremony upon the Tomol's arrival. Many folks were camping at the lower Scorpion campsite, which is located near the site of *Swaxil*, the largest Chumash village that existed on this island, which the Chumash called *Limuw* and consider as the origin of their people. Most of the Advisory Council passengers waited on the beach for the Tomol arrival. However, 31 other passengers joined me on the Cavern Point hike. On the way back from the hike we had a wonderful view from up high of the ongoing ceremony and celebration after the Tomol arrival. Most of us had time to join in on its moving conclusion. The Chumash honored the sanctuary for providing support with the *Shearwater*, and for providing financial support to help avoid cancellation of this year's crossing. A couple of weeks earlier the tomol was damaged during a practice session, and emergency funding was needed for repairs. A \$2,000 donation from the sanctuary and the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash helped out.

- Paul Petrich, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer (2006) and Island Hike Naturalist

## Public Outreach

### *Clean Boating Conference*

The sanctuary hosted an outreach exhibit during the Clean Boating Conference on September 7<sup>th</sup> in Newport Beach. The conference included over 100 participants and was hosted by Project-GreenWorks and funded with a Proposition 13 Grant from the State Water Resources Control Board. This event is intended to bring agencies and organizations together with those that interact daily with boaters. The goal is to better “connect” the community to raise awareness about pollution issues effecting water quality. The objective is to provide available resources to individuals to change habits to ultimately improve the health of the ocean by reducing the generation of pollution.

### *California Coastal Cleanup Day*

Sanctuary staff and volunteers participated in California Coastal Cleanup Day on Saturday, September 15. Volunteers sponsored cleanup sites at Chase Palm Park Beach in Santa Barbara, and at Emma Wood State Beach in Ventura County as part of a statewide effort to promote clean beaches.

### *Santa Barbara Zoo Fox Festival*

CINC volunteers represented the sanctuary and park at the Santa Barbara Zoo's Fox Festival on October 7, to highlight the resources of both agencies and the status of the Channel Islands Fox.

### *Marine Debris Forum: “Creeks to the Sea”*

CINC volunteer Debra Herring, hosted a sanctuary information table at a Marine Debris “Creeks to the Sea” community forum held on Thursday, October 11 in Santa Barbara. The sanctuary received a very positive response to the NOAA marine debris educational materials that were shared with over 80 forum participants. Guest speakers included Holly Lohuis, a marine biologist and diver with Jean-Michel Cousteau's Ocean Futures Society, and Marcus Eriksen from the Algalita Marine Research Foundation. The forum was hosted as part of the City of Santa Barbara's eighth annual Creek Week to help community members learn more about local creeks and watersheds through hands-on activities and events including native planting, water quality monitoring, creek cleanups and more.

### *Santa Barbara Harbor & Seafood Festival*

The sanctuary participated in the Santa Barbara Harbor and Seafood Festival on Saturday, October 13.

Activities included a sanctuary and park information booth next to the Santa Barbara Fish Market, public dockside tours of the sanctuary's R/V *Shearwater*, and a marine-related arts and crafts activity booth. Sanctuary staff and volunteers supported the event, working side-by-side with Santa Barbara Harbor City staff and local fisherman to serve up local seafood favorites. The festival also raises awareness about the fact that the Santa Barbara Channel is a rich sources of high-quality seafood. Santa Barbara Harbor's 100+ local fishermen catch between six and ten million pounds of seafood annually, which, considering its positive effect on related businesses, equates to a \$35-\$40 million industry. Several thousand people participated in the event, which benefits the Page Youth Center.

### *Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival*

On Saturday, October 20, 2007, from 9:30 am – 7:30 pm, CINC volunteers represented the sanctuary and park at the Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival's main event, held at the Arlington Theater in Santa Barbara.

### *California Science Teacher's Association Conference*

The sanctuary participated in a joint exhibit space at the CSTA conference, held in Long Beach October 25-28. The exhibit space was coordinated in cooperation with the National Park Service and the NMSP West Coast Region Office. In addition to NMSP and sanctuary staff, several CINC volunteers attended to ensure full coverage at the exhibit booth. They distributed several hundred posters, DVDs, and other CINMS publications to science teachers from around the state.

## MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

### **2007 Chumash Tomol Crossing to Limuw (Santa Cruz Island)**

Julie Bursek (Sanctuary Education Coordinator), Mike Murray (Sanctuary SAC Coordinator), and Dani Lipski (Research Assistant) headed out with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council members aboard the Island Packer vessel *Island Adventure* to witness the Chumash tomol crossing and landing at Scorpions Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island on September 8th. Chris Mobley, Robert Schwemmer (CINMS

Maritime Heritage Coordinator), Lt. Kate Peet (Captain and Operations Officer), Dan Powell (SAC volunteer), and Dennis Carlson (volunteer) provided vessel support during the crossing aboard the R/V *Shearwater*.

Although the skies were clear and the day was sunny, there was a stiff afternoon breeze that made it even more challenging for the paddlers to finish the final leg of their journey to Scorpion. It was truly a memorable landing for the entire Chumash Community when the paddlers finally completed their journey that was followed by a special celebration on the beach with staff from the National Park Service, sanctuary, and friends of the Chumash.



Paddlers encounter dolphins during 'Elye'wun crossing from Channel Islands Harbor to Santa Cruz Island. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

## Education and Outreach

### *NMSP Maritime Heritage Program Coordinators Meeting*

On October 9th Schwemmer attended a NMSP Maritime Heritage Program coordinators meeting on board the San Diego Maritime Museum's tall ship *Star of India*. This planning meeting involved Maritime Heritage Program staff from across the National Marine Sanctuary System and NMSP headquarters.



The NMSP Maritime Heritage Program coordinators meetings was held on the tall ship *Star of India* in San Diego. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

### *Eighth Annual Maritime Heritage Conference*

From October 9th – 12th, Schwemmer attended the Eighth Maritime Heritage Conference at the San Diego Maritime Museum. The conference was co-sponsored by NOAA who played a major role at the event. NOAA hosted 14 different sessions, over 30 presentations, and three outreach/education areas including a NOAA 200th Anniversary tent, a joint NOAA Office of Education, National Weather Service and NMSP tent, and an 8-foot Maritime Heritage Program display. Maritime archaeologists and educators from across the NMSP attended the conference. Dan Basta (NMSP Director), gave a presentation entitled, "NOAA Past and Future - 200 Years and Counting - Celebrating Science, Service and Stewardship to the USA."

## Research, Monitoring and Resource Protection

October 15-19, an archaeological dive team recorded ship and aircraft wrecks at the Channel Islands during a five-day expedition on board the NOAA R/V *Shearwater*. Expedition team members included Robert Schwemmer, Steve Katz (Sanctuary Research Coordinator), Charles Lara (Vessel Operations) and Terrence Shinn (Captain) from the sanctuary, Ranger Ian Williams Channel Islands National Park Service and Patrick Smith with Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources group. Shipwrecks mapped included the California Gold Rush side-wheel steamer *Winfield Scott* (1850-1853), island cargo passenger schooner *Santa Cruz* (1893-1960), ex-WWII era miner sweeper *Spirit of America* and a Grumman AF2W Guardian airplane (1950-1954). One new deepwater site recorded off

Anacapa Island is known as the *Bar-bee* shipwreck and includes an early 3-cylinder diesel engine and associated ground tackle gear.



Diver Ian Williams using an underwater protractor measures the angle of the wing on the Grumman AF-2W Guardian airplane sunk off Santa Cruz Island. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

## Training

Robert Schwemmer traveled to Santa Maria on October 8th to participate in special offshore survival training called Helicopter Underwater Escape Training (HUET). Schwemmer completed this training as a requirement for NOAA employees who conduct aerial survey work over water.

## Window on the Past

Traveling either by car or boat along America's West Coast, travelers will encounter 19th century geographic place names that were designated in honor of the men of the Coast Survey or the vessels they used to conduct hydrographic surveys dating back to 1849. The geographic locations include points, harbors, coves, shoals, and submerged banks. In the Santa Barbara Channel, many of these historic place-names still exist today. Cuyler Harbor at San Miguel Island was named by Lieutenant Commander James Alden Jr. in honor of naval officer Richard M. Cuyler Acting Lieutenant of the U.S. Coast Survey. Alden, whose distinguished career included the exploring expedition under Lieutenant Charles Wilkes, reported to the Secretary of the Treasury for duty with the Coast Survey in 1849 and carried out survey work off the West Coast into 1860.

Forney's Cove located a half-mile east of Fraser Point on Santa Cruz Island is another name associated with the Coast Survey. The cove was named in honor of Assistant Stehman Forney who joined the Coast Survey in 1865, and was later promoted to sub-assistant in 1865 and assistant 1871. His career with the Survey included hydrographic work at the Channel Islands which lead him to relocate his family to Santa Barbara in 1881.

To learn more about the Coast Survey's history in the Santa Barbara region, refer to the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's journal *Maritime Currents* Fall 2007: Schwemmer, Robert V., [United States Coast Survey 200 Years Coast Survey's Legacy in The Santa Barbara Channel.](#)

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

## Recent Updates

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

Updates to the Marine Reserves homepage are available including the new map at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/marineres/main.html>

An informational page regarding the blue whale strandings that took place in the Santa Barbara channel is available for viewing at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/alert.html>

Additions to our Domoic Acid web page have been made to include new contact information available at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/dom.html>

Don't forget to check out our calendar of events to find out what's happening locally. <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/calendar.html>

## Upcoming Modifications

Discussions are in progress to re-design the marine reserves section of the web site to include a more dynamic interface and reorganization of content. A final review of the marine reserves education web site is currently underway.

In partnership with NOAA's National Weather Service, our online version of the 'weather kiosk' is being modified to host new links to the wind models, bouys, and forecast & warnings pages. The edits will also be applied to all the existing sanctuary kiosk units.

Please take a few moments to peruse 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 NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY PROGRAM (NMSP) NEWS



### **Media Coverage Up for National Marine Sanctuary Program**

Print media coverage on national marine sanctuaries in fiscal year 2007 exceeded 275,743,000 "impressions," with a comparable advertising value of nearly \$13 million. Impressions, or opportunities for views of an article, are calculated by multiplying the number of marine sanctuary articles by the circulation level of the paper in which they ran. The jump in coverage represents an increase of 30% over fiscal year 2006. Additional national network and cable television news stories yielded an estimate of 343,000,000 impressions for an advertising value of \$10,350,000. Online news site coverage yielded potential audiences in the tens of millions.

### **MPA Efforts Cited in Meeting of North American Leaders**

President Bush, Canadian Prime Minister Harper, and Mexican President Calderon identified work under the North American MPA Network (NAMPAN) as a "key accomplishment" in a joint statement issued on August 21, at their meeting in Montebello, Quebec: "To improve the ecological health of our shared marine resources, our governments continued to expand the North American Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Network. The Network will use our countries' marine protected areas in the development of a tri-national MPA-based monitoring program stretching from Baja to the Bering Strait." Several NOAA programs, led by the National MPA Center, are involved in the expanding NAMPAN partnership. NOAA partners include the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management, the National Marine Sanctuary Program, International Programs, and two NMFS offices (Science and Technology and Habitat Conservation).

### **First Time Identification of Marine Biotxin in Market Squid Alerts California Officials of Potential Health Risk**

National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) researchers and University of California at Santa Cruz collaborators detected the neurotoxin, domoic acid, for the first time in market squid harvested off central California. Although toxin levels were below the regulatory limit for seafood, domoic acid contamination of squid represents a potential health risk to people and wildlife. This issue has been brought to the attention of the appropriate health officials because squid is a major commercial seafood fishery and an important prey species for many predators, including marine mammals. Squid joins anchovies, sardines, and krill as potential vectors for domoic acid food-web transfer in the region.

### **West Coast Governors Release Plan to Improve Ocean Health**

Following the West Coast Governors' Agreement on Ocean Health, the states of Washington, Oregon, and California will release a draft action plan in the first week of October. The draft plan contains proposed actions relating to clean water, improved habitat, ecosystem-based management, alternative energy development, research and monitoring, ocean literacy, and sustainable coastal communities. The plan will be open for public comment for one month, and the final plan is anticipated for release in December 2007. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Minerals Management Service, and NOAA are the Federal co-leads for this effort, and the Northwest Fisheries Science Center is serving as the NOAA lead. NOAA's Coastal Services Center and Northwest Fisheries Science Center are providing staff support and technical assistance to

both Federal and State efforts. The draft plan will be available online at [www.westcoastoceans.gov](http://www.westcoastoceans.gov).

### **OBIS Catalogs Diversity of Marine Life**

The U.S. National Committee for the Census of Marine Life ([www.coml.org](http://www.coml.org)) met this week to determine how ocean observing systems could better document, measure, and monitor marine biodiversity. It also reviewed examples of large biological databases, including those maintained by the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) and NOAA Fisheries, for inclusion in the Ocean Biogeographic Information System (<http://www.coml.org/descrip/obis.htm>). An objective is to identify existing gaps in biological data collections that must be filled to establish an Internet product that meets the goals of cataloguing and mapping marine life and making the data available online in simple, visually oriented formats.

### **New Coastal LIDAR Data for Great Lakes and California**

Expanded LIDAR coverage for the Great Lakes and multiple dates of coverage in Southern California are now available from the NOAA Coastal Services Center website. The Great Lakes data set was provided by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Joint Airborne LIDAR Bathymetry Center of Excellence and extends the Center's coverage from Pennsylvania to Indiana.

Coastal elevation change data in Southern California, collected twice a year from 2002 to 2005, were provided

by Scripps Institute of Oceanography. These data sets are available for download at [www.csc.noaa.gov/ldart/](http://www.csc.noaa.gov/ldart/).

### **Vessel-Whale Collision Awareness Highlighted on Public Access TV Show**

National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) and partner agency staff were filmed for a one-hour television program to air on Hawaii's public access television system OLELO. The show was devoted to improving public understanding of the value of humpback whales, the role of the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, and what measures ocean users can take to reduce vessel-whale collisions. Three sanctuary staff as well as members of NOAA's Fisheries Service and other state staff participated on the show's panel.

### **NOAA Corps Song Reveals Agency's Fighting Spirit**

NOAA made National Public Radio yesterday, but not because of controversial trends in ecosystem health, departing senior executives, or late-summer weather disasters. Rather, they reported on the NOAA Corps marching song. To hear the song and learn more about it, visit

<http://www.noaacorps.noaa.gov/about/song.html>. The lyrics follow:

*Forward with NOAA, with the Corps that's got it all  
Science and service, we're always there to meet the call  
We survey the oceans and we track storms in the air  
Forward with NOAA, we're the NOAA Corps, we're  
always there!*

## THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER	
Nov. 6, 8	<i>Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Orientation Meetings</i> Tuesday: Chase Palm Park, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara Thursday: Channel Islands National Park Headquarters, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura
Nov. 13, 14	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Russell Galipeau, Channel Islands National Park & Chris Mobley, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary <i>Changes on the Channel Islands and Surrounding Waters</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)
Nov. 16	<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: <a href="http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html">channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</a>
Nov. 17	<i>NOAA West Day at the Aquarium of Pacific in Long Beach</i> Open house for the public to learn about National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration -- includes a film festival
DECEMBER	
Dec. 11	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Tim Coonan, Channel Islands National Park <i>Status of the Island Fox</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)
JANUARY	
TBA	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series</i> Visit our web site where information about the 2008 lecture series will be posted: <a href="http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html">http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html</a>
TBA	<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: <a href="http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html">channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html</a>
<b>Select November – January Nature Sightings</b>	<p>The winter months are excellent for tidepooling because afternoon low tides expose marine algae and invertebrates (November-February). Jellies of all kinds are abundant in California coastal waters as the oceanic season begins and upwelling winds start to relax (August through November). Gray whales (<i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>) travel through the sanctuary on their migration from Alaskan feeding grounds to warm calving lagoons in Baja California, Mexico (December through February). California Brown Pelicans (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>) begin nesting on Anacapa and Santa Barbara islands (January and February). Northern elephant seal (<i>Mirounga augustirostris</i>) pupping and breeding season on San Miguel Island (January and February).</p> <p>For more nature sightings information visit: <a href="http://channelislands.noaa.gov/seasons/november.html">http://channelislands.noaa.gov/seasons/november.html</a>. You can also record data about your own mammal sightings, as well as learn about past mammal sightings using our marine mammal sightings database: <a href="http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals/">http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals/</a>.</p>

## 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*  
Steve Katz – *Research Coordinator*  
Charles Lara – *Vessel Operator*  
Dani Lipski – *Research Assistant*  
Sarah MacWilliams – *Management Plan Specialist*  
Michael Murray – *Advisory Council and  
Management Plan Coordinator*  
Bill MacDuffee – *Vessel Captain*  
LTJG Kate Peet – *Operations Officer*  
Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*  
Natalie Senyk – *Scientific Advisor*  
Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*  
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 – *CINMS Volunteer Program & Administrative  
Assistant*  
Lorri Herr – *Program Support Specialist*  
Rocío Lozano de Knowlton – *Bilingual Education & Outreach  
Specialist*  
Tina Reed – *Administrative Support Coordinator*

### CINMS Interns

Michael S. Henry – *Policy, Planning, and Resource Protection  
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 Fackler – *West Coast Education Liaison*  
Sarah Marquis – *West Coast Media Coordinator*

### Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Kelly Darnell – *Acting Executive Director*

## Learn More About Your Sanctuary

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

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:  
<http://channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/main.html>.

## The National Marine Sanctuary Program

The National Marine Sanctuary System consists of 14 marine protected areas that encompass more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Marine National Monument." The NMSP, which manages the system, was established under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act of 1972. Visit the NMSP web site at: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/>.

## Channel Islands National Park

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

## GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

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

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

## - CONTACT INFORMATION -

### Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

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113 Harbor Way, Suite 150  
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93109  
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Oxnard Office  
Channel Islands Harbor  
3600 S. Harbor Blvd., Suite 111  
Oxnard, California  
93035  
Phone: (805) 382-6149  
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