



Superintendent's Report



ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of approximately 1,243 square nautical miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

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



SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Advisory Council Turnover

In September, eight Advisory Council appointments were made as a number of members' two-year terms drew to a close. Sanctuary staff are delighted to see several members returning, and to welcome a few new individuals:

- Phyllis Grifman: appointed as Public At-Large member (replacing outgoing member Jim Knowlton)
- Matt Lum: reappointed as Public At-Large alternate
- Jim Marshall: appointed as Commercial Fishing member (replacing outgoing member Chris Hoeflinger)
- Bruce Steele: appointed as Commercial Fishing alternate
- Bob Warner: reappointed as Research member
- Greg Helms: reappointed as Conservation alternate
- Lauri Baker: reappointed as Tourism member
- John Rennell: appointed as Public At-Large alternate

Another Advisory Council recruitment period came to a close in late October, resulting in a strong number of highly qualified applications that are currently under review. The positions are: Conservation member, Business member and alternate, Research alternate, Public At-Large member, and Non-consumptive Recreation member and alternate. The review and appointment approval process should conclude in early January, 2007.

Sanctuary Advisory Council Members Contribute 1,282 Hours of Service

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary), Sanctuary Advisory Council (Advisory Council) members provided an impressive 1,282 hours of service in fiscal year 2006. The Advisory Council was established in December 1998 to ensure public participation in sanctuary management. Serving in a volunteer capacity, the Advisory Council's 21 voting members represent a variety of local user groups, as well as the

Window on the Sanctuary



2006 Blue Water Hunter Free Diving Spearfishing competition. Most of these white seabass were speared in CINMS. Photo: Sean Hastings.



general public, plus ten local, state, and federal government jurisdictions. Advisory Council representatives attend bimonthly council meetings, occasional working group meetings, and other events, such as Advisory Council orientations. In fiscal year 2006, members' volunteer time was spent: providing comments on the sanctuary's Draft Management Plan and on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Consideration of Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas within the sanctuary; drafting a letter to Vice Admiral Lautenbacher expressing support for funding for marine reserves monitoring; water quality program planning; and discussing marine reserves monitoring and compliance, and other issues relevant to sanctuary management.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Consideration of Marine Reserves and Conservation Areas

Public Comments Received on Sanctuary's Draft Environmental Impact Statement

The sanctuary received both written and verbal comments on its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Consideration of Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas. The public comment period for this document ran from August 11, 2006 to October 10, 2006. The DEIS contains proposed alternatives for a network of marine zones in the sanctuary, as well as a description of the affected environment, and an evaluation and comparison of environmental/economic consequences including cumulative impacts. More information about the DEIS is available at www.channelislands.noaa.gov (hint: click on "marine reserves").

During the public comment period, the sanctuary solicited comments at the following public meetings:

- Sept. 7, 2006, Santa Barbara – Recreational Fishing Working Group, Sanctuary Advisory Council
- Sept. 13, 2006, Foster City – Pacific Fishery Management Council
- Sept. 21, 2006, Santa Barbara – Conservation Working Group, Sanctuary Advisory Council
- Sept. 22, 2006, Santa Barbara – Sanctuary Advisory Council
- Sept. 26, 2006, Ventura – Public Hearing
- Sept. 28, 2006, Santa Barbara – Public Hearing

CINMS received numerous comments ranging from support for the proposed action, or the no action

alternative, or Alternative 2, to comments focused on technical information contained within the DEIS. Commenters submitted over 30,000 thousand letters, emails, and faxes in support of the proposed action. In general, commercial and sportfishing interests are against an amendment of the CINMS designation document, and against any action under the National Marine Sanctuaries Act. Many commercial and sportfishing interests stated that the proposed action is duplicative with existing fisheries management and authorities, and that if any action is taken it should be under the Magnuson Stevens Act, and that certain offshore areas should allow for the take of pelagic migratory species. Many members of the general public support Alternative 2. General support for fully closed areas rather than marine conservation areas was also recommended. In addition, several commenters recommended overlap of State closures, and permanent amendment to the CINMS designation document. Finally, several detailed technical comments and recommendations were submitted on particular sections and tables in the DEIS.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND ENFORCEMENT

Oil Spill and Emergency Response Preparedness in the Sanctuary

Ben Waltenberger (Sanctuary Physical Scientist) attended an initial U.S. Coast Guard meeting to pre-define areas within the CINMS that will be safe for equipment staging during oil spill and emergency response, as well as areas that are ecologically sensitive and would be off limits to personnel and equipment regardless of the severity of an oil spill. Other participants included Minerals Management Service, National Park Service, California Department of Fish and Game, and Exxon Mobil Corporation. The meeting was part of the ongoing National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) drill recently held in Southern California. Waltenberger represented the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSA) in the newly formed and somewhat experimental Area Command structure at U.S. Coast Guard Sector Command/Los Angeles during the drill in August and September. The Area Command structure allows resource trustees a seat at the table with the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC). Though the trustees are not voting members, the Area Command structure gives them a stronger voice with the FOSC than they have at an Incident Command.

MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

Resource Protection

From October 16-20, an archaeological dive team documented ship and aircraft wrecks in the sanctuary using high-definition video during a five-day expedition on board the research vessel (R/V) *Shearwater*. Expedition team members included Robert Schwemmer (Sanctuary Maritime Heritage Coordinator), Kelly Minas and Ian Williams (Channel Islands National Park divers), and Patrick Smith (Coastal Maritime Archaeology Resources diver). The expedition team also included John Brooks, who served as director/cameraman during the filming of the California Gold Rush side-wheel steamer *Winfield Scott* (1850-1853), passenger cargo steamer *Cuba* (1897-1923), and a Grumman AF2W Guardian airplane (1950-1954). The high-definition video will be used in several outreach products including a CINMS documentary, a National Maritime Heritage Program documentary, and shipwreck exhibits at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum. During the five-day expedition the dive team also recorded two additional shipwrecks as part of the annual shipwreck reconnaissance program: the 3-masted sailing vessel *Aggi* (1894-1915), and the fishing vessel *Del Rio* (1935-1952).

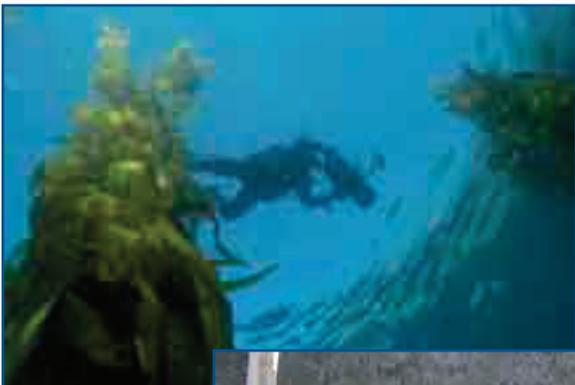


MBARI's R/V *Western Flyer* (top) and science team standing in front of MBARI's remotely operated vehicle (ROV) *Tiburon* (bottom).

Regional Maritime Heritage Program

From September 17-22, Schwemmer served as one of the Principal Investigators (PI) during a five-day archeological investigation of the USS *Macon* in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Other PIs included Bruce Terrell (NMSP Senior Archaeologist), Chris Grech (Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, or MBARI, Deputy Director), and Steve Rock (Stanford University Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics). The purpose of the investigation was to document two major debris fields associated with the wreck of the rigid airship USS *Macon*, a U.S. Navy dirigible lost off California's Big Sur coast on February 12, 1935.

The 785-foot USS *Macon* (ZRS-5) and its four Curtiss F9C-2 Sparrowhawk aircraft were lost during severe weather offshore of Point Sur on a routine flight from the Channel Islands to their home base at Moffett Field. The dirigible was the nation's largest, and the last U.S. built rigid lighter-than-air (LTA) craft. *Macon* was completed in 1933 as part of the U.S. Navy's LTA aviation program, and championed by Navy Chief of Aeronautics Admiral William A. Moffett, who died in 1933 as a result of the USS *Akron* crash, sister ship to the *Macon*. The airship was constructed with a built-in aircraft hanger and a trapeze launch and recovery system to facilitate fighters intended to protect the aircraft in war.



John Brook filming in kelp forest (top) and divers Robert Schwemmer & John Brooks at Anacapa Island (bottom).



The primary technical goal of the archaeological mission was comprehensive documentation of the site of the USS *Macon* and four aircraft that can be used to evaluate the archaeological context of the craft's remains. This will allow NOAA/NMSP and the U.S. Navy Historical Center to determine the condition of the site, the level of preservation of the archaeological remains, and the potential for future research at the site. It also provided an opportunity to identify the remaining elements of the aircraft.

During the research cruise, more than 40 hours of deepwater surveys were completed utilizing MBARI's remotely operated vehicle (ROV) *Tiburon*. The surveys visually recorded the wreckage of the USS *Macon* through high-definition videotape and still imagery that will be used to create a photo-mosaic of the two debris fields.

Some of the *Macon's* distinguishable features included a hangar bay containing four Sparrowhawk biplanes, and their detached landing gear. Five of the *Macon's* eight German-built Maybach 12-cylinder gasoline engines were also identified. Objects from the ship's galley were found, including two sections of the aluminum stove, propane tanks that supplied fuel for it, and the enlisted men's dining table and bench. A second debris field contained the *Macon's* bow section, including the mooring mast receptacle assembly. This field also contains aluminum chairs and desks that may have been in a port side officers' or meteorologist's office.



Port wing of Curtiss Sparrowhawk biplane (top) and inverted desk drawers near bow section (bottom).

Following the expedition, Schwemmer participated in a press conference at MBARI, provided a public lecture in Cambria on the results of the expedition, and provided a VIP lecture at the Point Sur Lighthouse. The PIs were interviewed by ABC World News Tonight, and the expedition received coverage by local television news along with over 75 written news stories that have reached over 5 continents.

For more information on Maritime Heritage Resources discussed in this report, please visit the following urls:

Shipwreck Aggi

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/aggi.html>
<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/shipwreck/dbase/cinms/aggi1.html>

Shipwreck Cuba

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

Shipwreck Del Rio

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

Shipwreck Winfield Scott

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

USS Macon 2006 Expedition

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

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEERS, AND OUTREACH

Special Events

1st Annual Channel Islands Beach Cleanup

On October 22, approximately 60 volunteers from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties joined forces for a beach cleanup around Santa Cruz Island. Eight vessel captains donated their time, vessels, and boating skills to transporting volunteers from Santa Barbara Harbor to designated Island beaches and anchorages, and back. The sanctuary, The Nature Conservancy, the City of Santa Barbara Waterfront Department, Santa Barbara Channelkeeper, and Marborg Industries supported this grass roots project. Santa Barbara chiropractor and boating enthusiast Dr. Jack Dawson initiated the project due to concerns about the amount of trash washing ashore at the islands. Jacklyn Kelly, former Sanctuary Advisory Council and Event Specialist who now works for The Nature Conservancy, organized the event. Beach cleanup



data is still being compiled, but most teams reported finding minimal amounts of debris. The cleanup team that included three sanctuary staff members, a former Sanctuary Advisory Council member, and one Sanctuary Advisory Council working group member, collected: fishing net, nylon rope, one lobster trap, several rubber balloons, and many small pieces of broken glass, plastic, paper, and styrofoam. One team reported collecting far more debris than any other, primarily plastic, including a plastic shopping cart (minus the metal frame and wheels). This team focused their efforts at Chinese Harbor, which functions like a catchment basin at the eastern end of the Island. Lessons learned from this pilot project will be considered in the development of future Channel Islands beach cleanups.

NOAA Teacher at Sea in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

The sanctuary hosted its first NOAA Teacher At Sea aboard the R/V *Shearwater* from October 1- 6, 2006. Scott Dickison, a high school teacher from Rhode Island, was selected to participate on the California Department of Fish and Game's (CDFG) ROV survey cruise in the Channel Islands marine reserve network. This project contributes to characterization of sanctuary resources and evaluation of marine protected areas in the Channel Islands. Dickison worked with Konstantine Karpov (CDFG principal investigator) to conduct underwater transects and experiment with ROV lasers to develop fish size frequency estimates. As a follow up, Dickison will develop a field training manual that CDFG will use to train future ROV field technicians, and online activities featuring the underwater video and laser fish mosaic measurements taken using the ROV. Dickison was ideally suited for this cruise. He teaches an ROV technology course, and his students participate in the Marine Advanced Technology and Education (MATE) annual ROV competition. This is a milestone for NOAA's small boat program and we look forward to hosting more teachers at sea aboard the R/V *Shearwater* in the future. For more information about the program see <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/tas.html>.



NOAA Teacher At Sea Scott Dickison assists with ROV work during research cruise in the sanctuary. Photo: Laura Francis.

Cabrillo High School ROV Competition

From November 16 - 17, Cabrillo High School in Lompoc, California will host their annual student ROV competition. The competition is for students participating in the ROV course (part of a physical science class). Julie Bursek will serve a contest judge. Over 40 students compete in this annual competition. Each year students from the ROV course also participate in a cruise aboard the R/V *Shearwater* to test their ROV designs (made from polyvinyl chloride, or PVC, pipe) in an ocean environment, and to "fly" a more technologically advanced version of an ROV off the decks of the *Shearwater*. For more information contact Julie. Bursek@noaa.gov.

2006 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series: White Abalone Restoration

Marine biologist Tom McCormick gave the October, 2006 From Shore to Sea lecture. The lectures series is sponsored by the sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park (CINP or park). McCormick focused on the natural history and ecology of white abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*), once found in rocky subtidal ocean waters off the west coast of North America, including the Channel Islands. In 2001 the white abalone became the first marine invertebrate listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1976 (66 FR 29053). McCormick's presentation, White Abalone Restoration, provided insight into white abalone natural history and efforts underway to reestablish populations in the sanctuary and park. Historic habitat surveys in the 1990s indicated that population densities had dropped to less than 0.1% of the estimated pre-exploitation population size. Fishing, poaching, disease, habitat change, and long gaps in reproduction have contributed to its decline. A cooperative research program is now providing information on many aspects of white abalone biology. For example, large-scale cultivation of hatchery-raised white abalone is providing an opportunity to study all life stages of this invertebrate. Such hatchery-raised white abalone may potentially be re-introduced to the Channel Islands as part of a long-term restoration effort. (See Research on p. 11 for information about a Channel Islands abalone recruitment study involving McCormick.)

The monthly From Shore to Sea Lecture Series is free and open to the public, and takes place at 7 p.m., with the Tuesday date in Santa Barbara at the Chase Palm Park Building (236 E. Cabrillo Blvd.), and the Wednesday date in Ventura at the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor).



Education, Volunteer and Outreach News

New Patagonia Partnership Efforts

CINMS is working with Patagonia to highlight the sanctuary in the Patagonia Oceans as Wilderness campaign, which runs from January 2006 through July 2007. On October 25, CINMS education and outreach staff supplied an outreach table at the monthly Patagonia Seafood Lunch and provided Patagonia staff with sanctuary information, including current issues and ways to get involved. The seafood lunch promotes environmentally friendly seafood choices for Patagonia staff. This month's featured fish was Tilapia. In addition, the Patagonia retail store will now begin featuring the sanctuary's "Protecting Your Channel Islands" brochure, the Alolko newsletter on Marine Reserves Monitoring, and the National Marine Sanctuaries of the West Coast field guides. Consequently, Patagonia will now be part of the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Adopt-A-Business program. For more information contact Julie.Bursek@noaa.gov.

Channel Islands High Definition Film Project

Chris Mobley (Sanctuary Superintendent), Todd Jacobs (Sanctuary Deputy Superintendent), Katherine Peet (Sanctuary Vessel Operations Officer), Laura Francis (Sanctuary Education Coordinator), Robert Schwemmer (Sanctuary Maritime Heritage Coordinator), and Claire Johnson (NMSP West Coast Education Liaison) will participate in upcoming filming trips aboard the R/V *Shearwater* from November 1-10. The goal of the trips is to capture footage for a 26-minute high-definition documentary being directed by John Brooks with the NOAA Ocean Media Center.

Upcoming 2006 From Shore To Sea Lectures

November 14 & 15

Tom McCormick

White Abalone Restoration

December 12 & 13

*Dirk Rosen and
Kon Karpov*

Remotely Operated Vehicle
Surveys of Marine
Protected Areas

Santa Barbara Lectures:

Tuesdays at Chase Palm Park
Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd.,
Santa Barbara

Ventura Lectures:

Wednesdays at Channel Islands
National Park, Robert J. Lago-
marsino Visitor Center, 1901
Spinnaker Drive, Ventura

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

Conferences

California and the World Oceans 2006 Conference

The sanctuary staff and Sanctuary Advisory Council members participated extensively in the California and the World Oceans Conference from September 18-20. Superintendent Chris Mobley provided a presentation, co-authored with Mike Murray (Management Plan Coordinator) and Sarah MacWilliams (Sanctuary Management Plan Specialist), focused on community involvement and partnerships in the sanctuary's Management Plan Review process. Sean Hastings provided a presentation focused on successes and challenges in designating and managing marine reserves within the sanctuary, and Shauna Bingham (Sanctuary Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator) gave a presentation on making volunteer programs work.

Workshops

Island Packers Participates in a LiMPETS Rocky Intertidal Training

On October 18, Julie Bursek (CINMS Education Coordinator) and Michele Kissinger (University of California Santa Barbara, or UCSB, Marine Science Institute) hosted a Long Term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) training session. Participants in the training, which focused on rocky intertidal monitoring, were exclusively Island Packers (a CINP concessionaire) staff. The LiMPETS-Islands Packers partnership is very strategic since once the Island Packers staff are trained, they will be able to work directly with teachers participating in the Channel Islands Live! program at Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island next winter and spring 2007. Island Packers staff will provide a source of quality control when teachers and students implement the monitoring protocols. To learn more about the Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island rocky intertidal monitoring site visit <http://limpets.noaa.gov/monitoring/rockyIntertidal/sites/cinms/frenchys.html>.



Sanctuary Education Staff Participate in Watershed Education Training Program

On September 29, Laura Francis participated in the first of eight Teacher Enrichment Adventure in Watershed Education and Training (TEAWET) teacher workshops. This workshop focused on introducing teachers to inquiry-based learning, watershed resources in the community, and LiMPETs sand crab monitoring. Francis also participated in a TEAWET Advisory Council meeting on Wednesday October 11. 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 will discover new ways to use inquiry and the local environment to teach science, and how to use the watershed (from mountaintops to creeks to beaches) as a context for teaching social studies, art, language skills, math, and other disciplines. Francis will co-lead one of the eight days of training that focuses on watershed connections to the ocean and the sanctuary.

Sanctuary Staff Represent NOAA at California Education and the Environment Initiative Writer's Workshop

The first California Education and the Environment Initiative (CA EEI) writer's workshop was held in Sacramento, California from September 14-15. The program encouraged the contracted curriculum writers to consider using NOAA content, such as maps, photos, charts, satellite images, and most importantly science-based data in the development of the EEI Model Curriculum. The presentation was well-received and many of the writers are very excited to have a point of contact for images and data for anything related to the ocean and atmosphere. The CA EEI Model Curriculum will likely be a model for other states to adopt similar environmental principles and concepts that are linked directly to their content standards. For more information about the CA EEI please contact claire.johnson@noaa.gov.

Meetings

Oxnard Convention & Visitors Bureau Board Retreat

Julie Bursek participated in the Oxnard Convention and Visitors Bureau (OCVB) Board Planning Retreat on October 25 to promote the city of Oxnard as a tourist destination. OCVB board members were tasked with identifying themes that define Oxnard. Bursek provided themes that feature Channel Islands Harbor, and the park and sanctuary as tourist destinations. Aspects of these themes will be used to develop a brand for tourism marketing efforts. This branding campaign will be incorporated into the new California Welcome Center, to

be opened in the City of Oxnard's Riverpark development. For more information contact Julie.Bursek@noaa.gov.

Teachers Provide Input on the Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science

On October 12, Laura Francis and Ali Whitmer (from the UCSB Marine Science Institute) led a focus group meeting for teachers from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. The purpose of the meeting was to obtain teacher input on the planned Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science (OCTOS), a marine education center being jointly developed by the sanctuary and UCSB Marine Science Institute, and which is to be housed on the UCSB campus. Teachers provided input on exhibit design concepts, and connections to the school curriculum. It is envisioned that OCTOS will be able to serve up to 180 teachers and students per day when it opens in 2009. A local group of teachers will participate in monthly meetings to provide feedback on the OCTOS program over the next nine months. For more information, contact laura.francis@noaa.gov.

Education Products

New "Alolkoy" Publication Focuses on Marine Reserves Monitoring

The sanctuary, in collaboration with the California Marine Sanctuary Foundation, published a 2006 Alolkoy newsletter focused on biological and socioeconomic marine reserves monitoring. The Alolkoy is an annual sanctuary publication that serves as an important tool for educating a broad audience about current Channel Islands issues, as well as about research, education, and policy initiatives. The sanctuary distributes the Alolkoy to a mailing list of over 4,500 marine professionals, students, teachers, legislators, and community members. Additional copies are distributed at community outreach events and sanctuary offices. For more information, contact laura.francis@noaa.gov.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) Volunteer Program

September and October Whale Watch Vessel Excursions

This is the off-season for whale watching until gray whale migration starts in December. However, dolphin cruise and island excursion trips were offered 4 days per week on board Santa Barbara's Condor Express with the interpretive assistance of CINC volunteers. For information on these cruises visit: <http://www.condorcruises.com/>.



Whale photo ID research activities concluded for this year with the end of the summer season. This research, which involves photographing blue whales' dorsal fins and humpback whales' flukes, helps Cascadia Research Collective (in Olympia, Washington) identify and monitor cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel. For more information on this project please visit: <http://www.cascadiaresearch.org/photoID.htm>.

September and October Island Programs

There are 26 CINC volunteers certified to lead hikes on the Channel Islands, and 29 are signed up to attend island hike training in the fall. Island hike naturalists participated in 12 Island Packers (<http://www.islandpackers.com/>) trips to Anacapa Island from Channel Islands Harbor in September, and two trips in October. In addition, they were on nine trips to Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island in September, and 10 in October; and on three trips to Santa Rosa Island in September, and three in October. Some island hike naturalists led multiple trips. During the current reporting period Truth Aquatics (<http://www.truthaquatics.com/>) hosted one trip to Scorpion Anchorage, Santa Cruz Island in September.

The Channel Islands Live! diver uplink program on Anacapa Island ended with the summer season. Additional CINC volunteers will be trained in spring 2007 by sanctuary and park staff.

CINC Island Hike Training

Island hike training with the park started on October 24 with an introduction to park resources. There are currently 27 CINC volunteers certified to lead hikes at the Channel Islands, and over 30 more attending the current training. On October 28, a special training trip on aboard the R/V *Shearwater* headed for Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands to prepare CINC members for certification to lead interpretive hikes on both islands.

CINC General Training for Volunteers

Monthly training meetings for 2006 CINC members concluded with the August meeting. The January 2007 training class for new CINC trainees will run from Tuesday, January 9 through Saturday, February 3, and will cover Channel Islands marine mammals, oceanography, geology, archeology, Chumash ethnohistory, interpretative skills, and program procedures and policy. This quality training is provided by local experts in these topics, and will be extended throughout the year with monthly meetings. 30 - 35 new CINC volunteers will be recruited for the 2007 season.

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps 2006 Volunteer Hours
120 Volunteers in the CINC program contributed over 16,000 hours in 2006 to park and sanctuary education, outreach, and research programs. The volunteer efforts of this program equal the support of almost eight full-time employees. After extensive training, CINC volunteers provide on-board interpretation on local whale watch vessels and island hiking tours in the sanctuary and park, as well as support for local outreach events, and sanctuary and park research and monitoring projects. 2006 was a very successful year for these endeavors, and the majority of CINC volunteers plan to continue into 2007.

Recognition Event/Volunteer of the Year

CINC volunteers had a wonderful time at the annual CINC recognition dinner on September 21. The dinner was held at the park, and both the sanctuary and park honored volunteer service. Chris Mobley and Russell Galipeau (Park Superintendent) presented awards.

The park, sanctuary, and CINC Program recognized Josh Kaye-Carr as CINC volunteer of the year for his 500 hours of service. In 2006 Kaye-Carr's volunteer efforts included: dedication to the Cascadia Research blue and humpback whale photo ID project, assistance with the Channel Islands Live! program at Anacapa Island, and interpretation on whale watch boats. Kaye-Carr was awarded a flight for two to Santa Rosa Island with Channel Islands Aviation, and a special plaque with an enlarged photo-ID shot of a lunge-feeding humpback whale.

CINC Research Assistance

CINC Volunteers will continue to conduct plankton tows on board the R/V *Shearwater* as part of a statewide study on Harmful Algal Blooms. The tows are done in cooperation with Plumes and Blooms research cruises. The next tow will be conducted during a November 14 research cruise.

Adopt a Business Program (Brochure Distribution)

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

Public Outreach

Santa Barbara Channel Swim: This September 15th fundraiser for Santa Barbara Channelkeeper was a relay-swim from Santa Cruz Island to Santa Barbara Harbor. Shirley Johnson (a CINC naturalist on-board a support vessel during this event), has written an exciting account. Johnson’s job was to educate the swimmers about the sanctuary and park as well as about the natural and cultural history of the islands and channel. Morgan Coffey (CINC volunteer) was one of the 80+ swimmers and earned an award for her successful completion of the swim.

International Coastal Clean-Up Day: On September 16, one dozen CINC volunteers participated in International Coastal Cleanup Day on two beaches sponsored by the sanctuary: Emma Wood in Ventura, and Chase Palm Park in Santa Barbara. This is a good annual opportunity for the volunteers to work alongside the public towards a common goal, while exposing the public to the sanctuary.

Ocean Futures PBS Film at Elings Park: On September 20, hundreds of people gathered in Santa Barbara for a special viewing of Jean-Michel Cousteau’s film entitled, “America’s Underwater Treasures,” about all 13 national marine sanctuaries. Cousteau greeted the audience and introduced his spectacular film about “our own ocean backyard.” CINC volunteers hosted an information booth to speak with attendees about NOAA, the NMSP, and the sanctuary.

Ventura Sea Fest: On September 24, CINC volunteers participated in the annual Ventura Harbor Sea Fest. Volunteers staffed a sanctuary information booth to educate the public about local marine life and the Channel Islands, and provided hands-on arts and crafts activities to teach children about jelly fish.

Public Hearings for Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Several CINC volunteers assisted with public hearings designed to solicit public comments on the sanctuary’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Consideration of Marine Reserves and Marine Conservation Areas. The hearings took place in Ventura and Santa Barbara on September 26 and 28, respectively. Participating CINC volunteers helped to greet the public and assisted with the comment process.

Superintendent Chris Mobley meets with Catalina Island Conservancy Board: On September 30th, Chris Mobley gave a presentation to the Catalina Island Conservancy Board at their board meeting and retreat on Santa Cruz Island. Russell Galipeau (Park Superintendent), and Ann Muscat (Executive Director of the Catalina Conservancy), also gave presentations. Catalina Island has over 1.5 million tourist and recreational visitors per year. The Conservancy is interested in adjusting its educational and outreach programs to become the “Gateway to the Channel Islands”, so that visitors to Catalina would have an opportunity to learn about all of the Channel Islands, including the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival: On October 14, Superintendent Chris Mobley and sanctuary staff worked alongside local fishermen to serve up locally-caught seafood at the Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival. CINC volunteers worked at a sanctuary information booth, provided a kelp printing activity for the kids’ area, and gave dockside tours of the sanctuary’s R/V *Shearwater*. The local fare included spiny lobster, sea urchin (uni), and several species of local crab. At least 8,000 people attended the event, with visitors coming all the way from San Diego to San Francisco. Insert two photos: Tara Brown, CINC Volunteer, helping kids with arts and crafts; SAC member Lauri Baker after completing her shift at the Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival.



Tara Brown, CINC volunteer, helps kids with arts and crafts during the Santa Barbara Harbor Seafood Festival, 2006. Photo courtesy Tina Reed.





Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival: The 3rd annual Santa Barbara Ocean Film Festival was held October 20th at UCSB. One CINC volunteer staffed a sanctuary outreach booth focused on ocean literacy. The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation was one of many sponsors of this year's Ocean Film Festival.

School Science Night: On October 26, Santa Barbara's Vieja Valley School held a science night for kindergarten through 6th-grade students. CINC volunteers offered a whale tail ID matching game for the science activity, and distributed a marine reserves "Wild for the Future" poster.

Volunteer Orientations: CINC volunteer recruiting begins with orientation sessions on November 2 and 7, in Ventura and Santa Barbara. During the orientations Shauna Bingham present an overview of NOAA, the sanctuary, and program specifics to local recruits. A CINC representative provided a park overview. New CINC volunteers will be selected in December, 2007.

American Cetacean Society Conference: CINMS co-sponsored the 10th Annual International American Cetacean Society (ACS) Conference held on November 10-12 in Ventura. The conference provided ACS members and the general public with the opportunity to participate in discussions with leading whale conservation biology experts from around the world. Shauna Bingham and Tina Reed (Sanctuary Education and Outreach Administrator) represented the sanctuary on the conference planning committee. CINC volunteers worked at an outreach booth to distribute information about the sanctuary and park to conference attendees, and a CINC volunteer participated in the conference whale watch field trip. Each conference participant received a National Marine Sanctuaries of the West Coast field guide, and Marine Mammals of the Eastern North Pacific National Marine Sanctuaries field guide in their registration packets.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)

National Latino Congress

On September 8, Rocio Lozano-Knowlton (Sanctuary MERITO Program Coordinator) represented the NMSP, CINMS, and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation (NMSF) at the National Latino Congress held in Los Angeles. This was the first comprehensive gathering of Hispanic leaders, organizations, and community members from all over the United States since 1977, and the first time the environment was included in the agenda. The

goal of the event was to educate and train Latino community leaders, elected officials, and activists on critical issues. The event drew about 2,000 participants from community organizations, labor and business communities, religious groups, student organizations, environmental, health, and community development groups. Presenters and panelists from the environment theme included Teresa Heinz, Antonio González (William C. Velasquez Institute), Antonio Villaraigosa (Los Angeles Mayor), Kathleen Rogers (Earth Day Network), and Roger Rivera (National Hispanic Environmental Council), to name a few. Topics included the future of energy, climate change, water quality, environmental justice and stewardship among the U.S. Latino community. Ocean related issues were neither discussed nor presented, although it was suggested that future Latino gatherings should include themes focused on ocean and marine-related issues. Lozano-Knowlton had the opportunity to talk to several of the organizers and to introduce the role of the National Marine Sanctuary Program to many of them for the first time. Additionally, Lozano-Knowlton had the opportunity to vote on resolutions as a delegate of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and suggested a friendly amendment to include the National Marine Sanctuary Program in a resolution proposed to support the U.S. Latino community through the National Park Association. For more information contact Rocio. Lozano@noaa.gov.

MERITO Academy Launched with Field Trip to Santa Cruz Island

On October 13 and 14, twelve Hispanic-serving teachers from public and charter schools in Santa Barbara, Carpinteria, Ventura, and Oxnard participated in the Pilot MERITO Academy Workshop. Through this pilot, 360 fifth to eighth grade Hispanic students will receive meaningful class and marine and watershed field experiences in the 2006-2007 academic year. In addition to receiving training on use of the MERITO curriculum, the teachers participated in an interpretative hike on Santa Cruz Island, learned about marine invertebrates, practiced water quality testing, and went snorkeling through a sanctuary kelp forest. The MERITO Academy is a partnership between the NMSP, Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute, and Oxnard College, and is funded by a NOAA B-WET grant. The MERITO Academy goal is to increase students' understanding of watershed and ocean issues through hands-on field and in-class activities while exposing them to careers in science, and building pride in and stewardship of their sanctuary and local environments. For more information, contact Rocio.Lozano@noaa.gov.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING

Students and Scientists study Abalone Recruitment at the Channel Islands

On October 12, 20 students from Oxnard College joined the sanctuary, park, and California Department of Fish and Game divers to sample Baby Abalone Recruitment Trackers (BARTs) at Santa Cruz Island. The students watched the divers from aboard the R/V *Shearwater* via a live underwater video link, and then counted and measured animals found in the BARTs once they were brought to the surface. The project monitors the recruitment of this once-abundant invertebrate into the kelp forest community at the Channel Islands. In addition, under the direction of Oxnard College instructors and abalone researchers Tom McCormick and Dr. Lori Buckley, students took water and plankton samples, conducted marine mammal surveys, practiced navigational charting, and interviewed scientists. The joint research and education cruise was made possible by a NOAA Educational Partnership Program with Minority Serving Institutions to Oxnard College.



Instructor Dr. Lori Buckley works with Oxnard College students on a charting exercise while underway on the R/V *Shearwater*. Photo: Tom McCormick.



Oxnard college students, instructors, park and sanctuary divers on board R/V *Shearwater* at the end of a day at sea studying marine field sampling techniques and white abalone research. Photo: Tom McCormick.

ROV Researchers Complete Annual Sanctuary Surveys for 2006

Researchers from the California Department of Fish and Game and Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE) completed 13 days of ROV surveys in the sanctuary on board the R/V *Shearwater*. The ROV project is designed to measure changes in fish density over time, and inside and outside of marine reserves. The researchers completed approximately 130% of the planned survey transects. In addition, the researchers completed an experiment that compared ROV and diver measurements of rugosity (or vertical relief), and an experiment that tested the accuracy of fish-size estimates. This project contributes to the characterization of sanctuary resources, and the data will be used to evaluate the system of marine protected areas in the Channel Islands. This cruise also marked the first time that a teacher in the NOAA Teacher-At-Sea program served their sea time aboard a NMSP *Shearwater*-class vessel. For more information on the Teacher-At-Sea please see p. 5.)

Kelp Forest Monitoring

In collaboration with CINMS, and others, David Kushner (CINP Biologist) led a team of scientists on a kelp forest monitoring trip on board the R/V *Shearwater* from October 23-27. This marks the 25th year of kelp forest monitoring in the park and sanctuary. Divers on SCUBA and surface-supplied-air used standardized techniques to count species along transects and in quadrats, as well as other survey techniques. Population dynamics of over 68 taxa (or categories) of algae, fish, and invertebrates are studied at each site.



PISCO Completes Another Marine Reserve Monitoring Cruise Aboard R/V Shearwater

From September 18-21, Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) researchers were on board the R/V *Shearwater* to conduct sub-tidal kelp forest community surveys, and marine reserves monitoring. Researchers completed visual surveys of invertebrates and algae on kelp reefs using SCUBA, and retrieved and deployed temperature loggers and current meters at five sites. Researchers completed surveys at San Pedro Point, Santa Cruz Island, and at three mainland sites for comparison. PISCO has implemented a large-scale, long-term study of the patterns of community structure in shallow sub-tidal habitats and the physical and ecological processes responsible for structuring these communities. These objectives meet many sanctuary goals as well as goals of the NMSA, including to “improve the conservation, understanding, management, and wise and sustainable use of marine resources.” The data will be used to evaluate the system of marine protected areas in the Channel Islands, and to help evaluate the statewide Marine Life Protection Act project.

VESSEL AND AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Vessel Crew Training

Whale Disentanglement Workshop

On September 25th, Terrence Shinn (R/V *Shearwater* Captain) attended a whale disentanglement training workshop in Santa Barbara. The training will help Shinn and other vessel crew know how to respond safely and in compliance with the Marine Mammal Protection Act and other requirements, in the event that they witness an entangled whale or other marine mammal while at sea.

Vessel Program Support

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

Education and Outreach

- NOAA/Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute Environmental Entrepreneurship Program: White Abalone Restoration as a Tool to Foster Participation and Entrepreneurship in Coastal Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Environmental Sciences, 12 October.
- Santa Barbara Seafood Festival, 14 October.

Research and Monitoring

- Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO) dive project with scientists from UCSB, 18-21 September.
- California Department of Fish and Game Remote-Operated Vehicle Survey of Quantitative Finfish Abundance of Santa Barbara Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas, 23 September - 07 October.
- National Park Service on-going kelp forest monitoring dive project, 23-27 October.

Maritime Heritage

- Channel Islands Shipwreck Reconnaissance Expedition, 16-20 October.

Vessel Repairs

Shearwater was in dry dock during the first two weeks of September, repairing signs of metal fatigue and surveying both hulls to ensure that their watertight integrity remained intact. The vessel returned to her originally scheduled operations on Monday, 18 September.

A Birdseye View:

Watching the Sanctuary from Above



Aircraft Maintenance and Operations

In the current reporting period Lt. Julie Helmers (Sanctuary Pilot) flew NOAA-64 (the sanctuary’s Sea Wolf aircraft) on several missions for a total of approximately nine hours. Flights included both Sanctuary Aerial Monitoring and Spatial Analysis (SAMSAP) surveys and marine reserve enforcement flights over all five islands in the park and sanctuary. During these flights Lt. Helmers and Co-Pilot Ben Waltenberger (Sanctuary Physical Scientist) observed a total of 2,400 common dolphins, 40 Risso’s dolphins, and two blue whales.

NOAA-64 has been grounded since late September due to immediate maintenance needs. The aircraft is also due for standard 50-hour maintenance.

Sanctuary Aircraft Participates in Santa Barbara Airport Adventure

On September 30, the Santa Barbara Airport hosted “Airport Adventure”, a salute to local aviation emergency responders. A number of airplanes, helicopters, and fire trucks were opened up for the public to examine. The show featured flybys of a North American T-28 Trojan and a Grumman F8F Bearcat. Five more T-28 Trojans arrived later in the morning. A Coast Guard Dolphin helicopter demonstrated the retrieval of a crewman as it hovered overhead. A Cessna Citation and a pair of Aerovodochody L-39 Albatrosses made two passes over the airport. (Story from the Goleta Air and Space Museum web site: <http://www.air-and-space.com/20060930%20SBA.htm>.) Helmers and Waltenberger were on hand to provide information about the sanctuary and its aircraft programs and capabilities, and to give the public a first hand look at the Sea Wolf’s interior.



Sanctuary Pilot Lt. Julie Helmers and Co-Pilot Ben Waltenberger teach Airport Adventure participants about the sanctuary and its Sea Wolf aircraft. Photo: Shauna Bingham.

MANAGEMENT PLAN

Management Plan Review Update

Sanctuary staff continue to analyze comments received on the Draft Management Plan/Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DMP/DEIS). During the public comment period, which closed on July 21, 2006, the sanctuary received approximately 80 sets of comments (via email, letter, and oral testimony) from organizations, agencies, members of the general public, and the Sanctuary Advisory Council. Comments range from simple statements in support of or in opposition to a particular proposed regulation change, to extensive and detailed comments on non-regulatory actions and proposed regulation changes. This fall and winter staff will be drafting responses to the comments received and adjusting the documents accordingly, and consulting with NMSP regional and headquarters leadership as needed. At Sanctuary Advisory Council meetings and via the Sanctuary’s web site (<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/overview.html>), staff will provide updates on progress toward developing the Final Management Plan, including a Final Rule that may revise sanctuary regulations. For more information, contact Mike Murray (michael.murray@noaa.gov) or Sarah MacWilliams (Sarah.MacWilliams@noaa.gov).

Management Plan Outreach

Sanctuary Presentation for the Navy’s Civil Engineer Corps Officers School

Sarah MacWilliams provided a presentation to an Ocean Resources Law Course at the U.S. Navy’s Civil Engineer Corps Officers School. MacWilliams covered basic information about the sanctuary and its Sanctuary Advisory Council, as well as general information about the sanctuary’s management plan and marine reserves environmental review processes. Students asked insightful questions, and the course was well received by the 32 participating students and instructor Melanie Ravan (Regional Environmental Counsel, Commander Navy Region Southwest).

Michigan Newspaper Interviews Sanctuary Staff About Management Plan Review

On September 21, a reporter from the Alpena News interviewed MacWilliams about the CINMS Management Plan Review. (Alpena, Michigan is the neighboring community of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.) The resulting article highlighted the upcoming Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Management Plan review process, with added insights about management plan review experiences at other national marine sanctuaries, including the Channel Islands.



NOAA and National Marine Sanctuary Program News



National Marine Sanctuary Program, An Excellent Performer

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) released a report of their completed review of the NMSP. The report, entitled “Ready to Perform? Planning and Management at the National Marine Sanctuary Program” evaluated the systems for planning and performance-based management of the NMSP. NAPA found that the NMSP “is on the road to building a strong performance-based management system” and “has made an excellent start and must continue its efforts to streamline its planning process and focus on performance.” A number of recommendations were made to help the NMSP continue the good progress it has made to date. The NMSP is preparing its response to the report.

Management Capacity Training Program in the Eastern Tropical Pacific

Laura Francis (CINMS) Anne Walton (NMSP) are representing NOAA in a joint effort with Conservation International to conduct a Marine Protected Area (MPA) Management Capacity Building training in the Eastern Tropical Pacific (ETP). The first two week training, from November 6-17th will be held on Isla Gorgona off the Pacific coast of Colombia. The islands and waters along the Pacific coast of Costa Rica, Panama, Columbia, and Ecuador are highly productive and part of one of the world’s most diverse biogeographic provinces. This region has a high degree of ecological connectivity as well as complex oceanographic characteristics, primarily due to the convergence of major marine currents. It also experiences cascading impacts from El Niño and La Niña events, compounded by human use impacts. Additionally, Cocos and the Galapagos are World Heritage Sites, while Malpelo and Coiba have been designated for nomination as Natural Sites by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The training curriculum will focus on developing management capacity across all five sites to meet management requirements for nomination as a World Heritage marine “cluster” site. ETP MPA managers completed an MPA management capacity building needs assessment survey during an initial meeting in September 2005, held in the Galapagos Islands. After the needs assessment analysis was presented to the managers at a meeting in Panama in May 2006, the managers recommended that three, two-week trainings over an 18-month period from fall 2006-spring 2008 be conducted in this region. The first training will focus

on management planning, sustainable tourism, and the development of demonstration projects.



Hammerhead sharks near Isla Gorgona, Colombia, host of an upcoming MPA training session (top, photo: Yves Lefevre), to be held at Henry von Prahl Science Station (left, photo: Juan Posada).

What's New On The Web

www.channelislands.noaa.gov



CINMS Web Update

Valarie Thorpe (NMSP Webmaster) is providing CINMS web support while Amy Cale (CINMS Web Developer) is on maternity leave. On October 9th Amy became the proud mother of a beautiful baby girl, Sofia Ann. Congratulations to Amy and Jim!



Under the Sea!

Animated Disney characters were enlisted to help the National Ocean Service (NOS) and other partners encourage Americans of all ages to do their part to keep the oceans clean. NOS and partners at the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation teamed up with the National Ad Council, Disney, and Environmental Defense to unveil a national ad campaign using Disney's *The Little Mermaid* characters as a way to let people know that everyone has a part to play in keeping our resources "Under the Sea" protected for future generations. About 400 people, many of them children, joined in the festivities as a remake of the Disney classic was screened in Washington, D.C. The ad campaign includes TV public service announcements and billboard advertisements, which began appearing across the country this week.

Draft Management Plans Released for Three California National Marine Sanctuaries

The NMSP publicly released the proposed rules, revised draft management plans, and joint draft environmental impact statement for Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries on October 6, 2006. The comment period for these documents is open until January 5, 2007. During this period, the three sites held public information workshops on October 19, 24 and 26, and will take comments at the public hearings on November 29 and 30, and December 5 and 6, 2006.

NOAA Research Vessel Fulmar Christened

Daniel J. Basta, NMSP Director, attended the Oct. 22nd christening of the 66-foot R/V *Fulmar* at its homeport in Monterey. Joining him were Jack Kelly, NOAA Deputy Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere; Representative Sam Farr as keynote speaker; Monterey Mayor Dan Albert; U.S. Coast Guard Capt. David Swatland; and ship sponsor Anita Ferrante. The vessel's primary function is research and monitoring within the Monterey Bay, Cordell Bank, and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries. It is expected to be heavily



NMSP vessels Shearwater (left) and Fulmar (right). Photo: Paul Chetirkin.

utilized for up to 180 key missions per year, including benthic monitoring along the remote Big Sur coastline, marine mammal and sea bird observations, tagging organisms, oceanographic monitoring, archeological/cultural research (primarily shipwrecks), and collecting baseline data for emerging management issues such as invasive species and marine reserves. The Fulmar is the sister ship to the CINMS R/V *Shearwater*, the P/V Gladding patrolling the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and the R/V *Auk* working in Stellwagen Banks National Marine Sanctuary.

CHANNEL ISLANDS:

STORIES FROM THE PAST

Seventy-six years ago a Los Angeles Times article reported on the delivery of elk to Santa Rosa Island. The original story, as published, appears below.

ELK HERD SENT TO SANTA ROSA

- Animals from Yellowstone Shipped to Island
- Sportsman Presents Game to Vail Company
- Deer Raised as Experiment of New Preserve

Twelve elk from Yellowstone National Park arrived at Wilmington terminal recently and have been sent out to Santa Rosa Island off Santa Barbara, where they are to be original stock of a herd that the Vail company expects to raise on that protected tract of land.

The herd consisted of nine females and three males and cost \$100 apiece landed at their new home. These animals are the gift of a well-known sportsman, who is interested in the preservation and the propagation of wild game for California.

This seems an ideal place to try this experiment of raising elk in the State for the Vail property is inaccessible to other animals that might disturb them and yet is a fine range for elk. The increase will be given to municipal, State and private zoos if the experiment works out as anticipated.

There are over 14,000 elk in the Yellowstone and each winter the park directors dispose of a number of them at cost of catching and shipping, yet local people feel that ones raised here in California and acclimated to this section will be more hardy and easier to care for in the zoos of the "State."



THREE-MONTH SANCTUARY CALENDAR

NOVEMBER	
Nov. 2	<i>Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Program 2007 Orientation Meeting – VENTURA</i> Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center, Ventura
Nov. 4	<i>Ventura Harbor Ocean Fire & Rescue Expo</i> Ventura Harbor Village
Nov. 7	<i>Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Program 2007 Orientation Meeting – SANTA BARBARA</i> Chase Palm Park Building, Santa Barbara Contact Shauna Bingham shauna.bingham@noaa.gov for more information.
Nov. 10-12	<i>American Cetacean Society 10th International Conference: Whales Without Borders</i> Ventura Beach Marriott, Ventura, California Contact shauna.bingham@noaa.gov for more information.
Nov. 14, 15	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Russell Galipeau, Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Channel Islands National Park: A Status Report Tuesday: 7:00 pm Chase Palm Park Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Nov. 17	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
DECEMBER	
Dec. 12, 13	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Dirk Rosen, Marine Applied Research and Exploration (MARE); and Kon Karpov, California Department of Fish and Game Remotely Operated Vehicle Surveys of Marine Protected Areas Tuesday: 7:00 pm Chase Palm Park Center, 236 E. Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
JANUARY	
Jan. 19	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: www.channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html

Seasons in the Sanctuary

November

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).

December

Most of the annual rainfall in the Channel Islands region occurs December - March.
Watch for great sunsets!

Gray Whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) travel through the sanctuary on their migration from Alaskan feeding grounds to warm calving lagoons in Baja California, Mexico (December through February).

January

California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) begin nesting on Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands (January and February).

Northern Elephant Seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*) pupping and breeding season on San Miguel Island (January and February).

Spotlight on Volunteers

2006 Santa Barbara Channel Swim: A Report From a Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer

Here is my report on the Third annual Santa Barbara Channel Swim which happened last weekend. The event is a relay swim - all night and all day from Santa Cruz Island to Goleta Beach - to raise funds to help protect the Channel for future generations. The event is mainly organized by ChannelKeeper and Ocean Ducks.

First off, our departure time of 9 pm Friday aboard the Conception was pushed back. It was nice and quiet in Santa Barbara Harbor, but we got reports that Conception's twin, the Vision, was being chased all round Santa Cruz Island (our starting point) by 40+mph winds, and spray shooting up 20+ feet past the wheelhouse. So, Conception's captain decided maybe our group of 80+ swimmers would not join the Vision (with scuba divers aboard) for that particular ride out at Santa Cruz. NOT a fun picture!

Wisely, the captain chose the most sheltered spot off Santa Barbara and the swim began some time after midnight. We headed out through substantial swells. I think some of you can relate to this: my favorite place on a boat is in the bow. Oh, I don't have a stomach of steel and I do get seasick, but I just love the roller coaster thrill of riding up and down the waves; like dancing with the sea. On this night, feeling the rhythm of the black sea on the bow, I hear "wheeeee! wheeeee!" to my right. To my surprise, I am joined by a fellow "sea-child," Emilio Casanueva, leader of the Ocean Ducks. Now, Emilio is very experienced, and I imagine he has been on many, many a boat prow.... and still, it's "wheeeeeee....."

Yeah, that is what it's all about. It must have been a lot of work for Emilio, Kelly Conerly and the other folks to put together this fundraiser, not to mention the swimmers who participated. All the work and the joy came together for a very successful event.

Lots of swimmers got to experience open ocean night swimming for the first time, under very safe conditions. Most of us landlubbers' first thoughts about this night channel swim were "SHARKS!" But really, the chances of any problems with sharks are nil and none, and this seemed to be the last thing on the swimmers minds. We even got some humorous commemorative temporary tattoo stickers: a white shark in a red circle with a line through it. What a shark repellent! I can just picture a great white, jaws agape, eyes rolling back into head, just glimpsing that little red circle tattoo on the swimmer at the last second. Jaws freeze open, then close and shark veers away. har har har.

The next morning was lovely and the swim continued about 4 miles offshore. So, while we didn't actually get to swim across the channel this year, it was a very successful and safe event. Our eagle-eyed captain constantly kept an eye on everyone in the water, along with the kayak crew and the skiff pilot. Everything went along like clockwork.

So, as the Conception pulls up to Goleta beach at the end, we can see the barbecue smoke going up on the beach, the kayaks are launched, the captain thanks everyone and bids us a fond farewell. Everybody was jumping, diving, and otherwise exiting the boat for the final swim into Goleta beach.

Congratulations to everybody, and I am so happy I was able to participate in this very worthwhile event. I wish to note that Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer Morgan Coffee did actually swim in this event.... for me, ahhhhh, maybe next year.

- Shirley Johnson, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer

CINMS Staff

Santa Barbara Harbor Office

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

Ventura County Field Office

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

CINMS Interns

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

NMSP West Coast Region Staff

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

NMSP Staff

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

Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation

Donna Schroeder – *Acting Executive Director*

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

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

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:

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

The National Marine Sanctuary Program

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

<http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/>

Channel Islands National Park

To learn about Channel Islands National Park visit their web site at:

<http://www.nps.gov/chis/homepage.htm>.

Get Involved and Stay Informed!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/involved.html>

Sign up for the CINMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events, and public meetings of the Sanctuary Advisory Council and its working groups:

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

Contact Information

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