



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Sanctuary Superintendent's Report



Volume 7, Number 1

A report for the Sanctuary Advisory Council and Sanctuary Constituents

March 2009

ABOUT THE SANCTUARY

Designated in 1980, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) consists of an area off the coast of California of approximately 1,470 square miles adjacent to the following islands and offshore rocks: San Miguel Island, Santa Cruz Island, Santa Rosa Island, Anacapa Island, Santa Barbara Island, Richardson Rock, and Castle Rock, extending seaward to a distance of six nautical miles. The islands vary in distance from 12 to 40 nautical miles offshore from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in southern California.

A fertile combination of warm and cool currents in this area results in a great variety of plants and animals including kelp forests, fish, 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.

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MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW

Revised Sanctuary Regulations to Take Effect on March 19, 2009

Revised regulations for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS or sanctuary) are scheduled to become effective as of March 19, 2009. The regulatory changes are a component of the revised sanctuary management plan previously released on January 16.

Changes to sanctuary regulations clarify and strengthen protections for marine habitats, sensitive species, water quality and submerged cultural and historical resources. In general, the revised sanctuary regulations:

- Continue to prohibit oil and gas exploration, production, and development.
- Prohibit mineral exploration, production and development.
- Continue, but expand to the whole sanctuary, the prohibition on altering the sanctuary's seabed/submerged lands.
- Continue, but strengthen, the prohibition on moving, removing, injuring or possessing sanctuary cultural resources.

(Continued on next page.)

Window on the Sanctuary

Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*), also known as the sea hawk, is a large, fish-eating, bird of prey that can reach up to 24 inches in length with a wingspan of up to six feet. Photo: Aundrea Tavakkoly ©. Tavakkoly is a photographer and physics teacher at Santa Barbara City College and is currently the featured artist at the Chase Palm Park Center in Santa Barbara.



Revised sanctuary regulations (continued):

- Continue to prohibit discharges and deposits of material or matter, with changes that:
 - clarify that discharges allowed from marine sanitation devices must be treated by a Type I or II marine sanitation device;
 - prohibit graywater and treated sewage discharges from large vessels (> 300 gross registered tons), with an exception for oceangoing ships without sufficient holding tank capacity to hold these wastes while within the sanctuary, but no exception for cruise ships;
 - prohibit discharges or deposits from beyond the sanctuary that subsequently enter the sanctuary and injure a sanctuary resource or quality; and
 - prohibit food waste discharges and chumming for non-fishing purposes.
- Prohibit abandoning material or other matter on or in the sanctuary's submerged lands.
- Continue, but strengthen, the prohibition on operating large vessels within 1 nautical mile of islands and certain offshore rocks within the sanctuary.
- Continue to prohibit disturbing marine mammals or seabirds by low-flying aircraft.
- Prohibit taking or possessing marine mammals, seabirds or sea turtles.
- Continue to prohibit the take of sanctuary resources in marine reserves and conservation areas.
- Prohibit tampering with signs.
- Prohibit releasing introduced species.
- Prohibit operating motorized personal watercraft, but only within an area already banned by the National Park Service (within one nautical mile of the Islands).
- Continue, but strengthen requirements for allowed military activities and clarify consultation requirements for new activities.
- Continue, but clarify, strengthen, and augment permit categories, criteria, and procedures.

The above is a summary listing only and does not depict actual regulatory language. Full details on the revised regulations can be found in the associated Final Rule, available from the sanctuary web site at

<http://www.channelislands.noaa.gov/manplan/documents.html>. Additionally, sanctuary regulations are recorded in the Code of Federal Regulations (15 CFR 922.70 - 922.74). Also available from the sanctuary web site are

the final management plan and final environmental impact statement.

RESOURCE PROTECTION

Enforcement

Multi-Agency Joint Enforcement Planning Meeting – Including Aerial Surveys of Shipping Lanes
Sanctuary staff participated in the second, semi-annual, joint enforcement planning meeting for the Channel Islands Region. The U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Los Angeles hosted the meeting. Attendees included representatives from the NOAA Office for Law Enforcement, Channel Islands National Park (CINP or park), and California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The meeting focused on coordination of all agency assets for priority enforcement needs for the next six months. Major subjects included scheduling of NOAA, CINP, and CDFG observers on Coast Guard helicopter enforcement flights and coordinating aerial enforcement and reconnaissance with vessel enforcement. Sanctuary Physical Scientists Ben Waltenberger and Natalie Senyk provided a review of 2007 and 2008 aerial surveys of shipping lanes for whale-ship strike response in the Santa Barbara Channel, and discussed planning efforts for 2009. Todd Jacobs (Sanctuary Deputy Superintendent) provided a briefing on unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) testing for enforcement. Matt Pickett (Aviation Coordinator, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries) discussed the new NOAA Twin Otter aircraft stationed in Monterey, California.

Marine Debris Removal

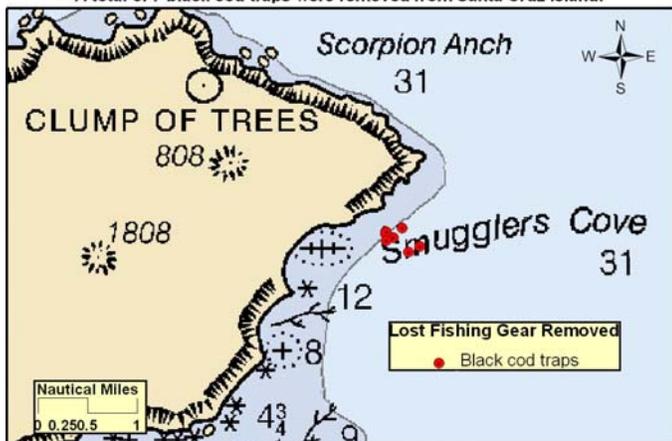
From December 5-7 and 16-18, 2008, the California Lost Fishing Gear Recovery Project conducted lost fishing gear survey and removal operations within the sanctuary and park. The project is led by the SeaDoc Society (a program of the University of California Davis Wildlife Health Center), and funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the NOAA Marine Debris Program, and private foundations. For more information on the project go to: www.lostfishinggear.org.

For the first leg of work in the sanctuary and park, Project Manager Jennifer Renzullo worked off of the fishing vessel (F/V) *Janice Anne*, with Captain Mark



**Lost Fishing Gear Removed From Santa Cruz Island,
 December 2008**

* A total of 7 black cod traps were removed from Santa Cruz Island.

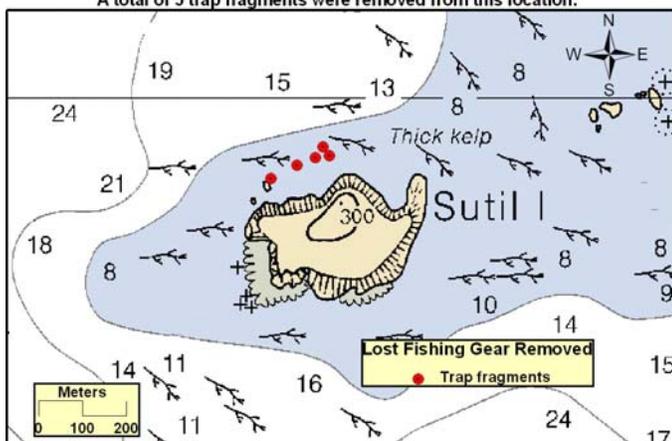


Brubaker and crew. They removed a purse seine net from a depth of 90 – 100 feet on rocky reef and sandy bottom habitat off the northwest end of West Anacapa Island. In addition, they removed seven large (approximately seven foot diameter) black cod traps from a depth of 55 feet off Santa Cruz Island (see figure at above). The retrieved gear had no observed entanglements. The 1,360 pound net and 3,120 pounds of black cod traps were subsequently transported to a Santa Barbara County landfill.

For the second leg of work in the sanctuary and park, Project staff member Kirsten Gilardi worked off of the F/V *Triton*, with Triton Diving, Inc., Mike Neil and Tony Schroeder. They attempted to locate and recover a previously observed purse seine net lost off Santa Barbara Island, but were unable to locate the net due to unsafe ocean conditions for deploying divers. Instead, they worked on the leeward side of Santa Barbara Island, inside Sutil Island, and recovered five lobster trap fragments (see figure below). They wrapped up

**Lost Fishing Gear Removed from Sutil Island
 off Santa Barbara Island December, 2008**

* A total of 5 trap fragments were removed from this location.



the week with the recovery of a large purse seine net from Gull Island Marine Reserve off Santa Cruz Island at a depth of 60-65 feet in rocky reef and sandy bottom habitat. Retrieved gear had no observed entanglements. The 1,927 pound net was transported to a Ventura County landfill.

SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Sanctuary Education Team

Outreach Strategy for Large Cetacean Ship Strikes Within the Sanctuary & Santa Barbara Channel
 Julie Bursek (Team Leader for Education and Outreach) and Shauna Bingham (Volunteer outreach Coordinator) are working with the Sanctuary Advisory Council's Sanctuary Education Team (SET) to identify potential communication and outreach strategies for the shipping industry. SET members have been identifying images that will be useful in the development of outreach presentations and materials to address the large cetacean (i.e., whale) ship strike issue with different agencies within the shipping industry. The Marine Exchange of Southern California helped to identify different agents for vessels that frequently transit the Santa Barbara Channel. Next steps will be to establish a relationship with some of these agents and vet our outreach ideas through them. Captain Dick McKenna (Marine Exchange of Southern California Executive Director, and Advisory Council member) will host a meeting between Santa Barbara Channel frequent flyer shipping agents and SET members in March. The group is also still exploring existing outreach materials and approaches by NOAA organizations on the east coast to address Atlantic right whale ship strike issues.

VESSEL & AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS

Sanctuary Operations and Research Staff Prepare for Field Season

Sanctuary operations staff have drafted a 2009 vessel schedule for the sanctuary research vessel (R/V) *Shearwater* and the new 41-foot vessel (temporarily referred to as R4107 until a proper name is selected). The schedule includes about 160 days at sea on *Shearwater* and R4107 to support research, education, and outreach missions. The vessels underwent repairs

during an extended haul out period this winter. The *Shearwater* repairs are now completed, and R4107 is fully operational. Upcoming projects include intertidal monitoring and an automated underwater vehicle project with NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries). The vessel calendar is now available online at

<http://cisanctuary.org/RVShearwater/2009.html>.

Twin Otter Aircraft Arrives in the West Coast Region

On January 12, NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) and the NOAA Aircraft Operations Center held a ceremony in Monterey, California to dedicate the Twin Otter aircraft that will support NOAA's west coast operations. Ceremony speakers included U.S. Rep. Sam Farr, John H. Dunnigan (NOAA Assistant Administrator for the National Ocean Service), Rear Adm. Jonathan W. Bailey (NOAA Corps Director and NOAA Office of Marine and Aviation Operations Director). Bill Douros (ONMS West Coast Region Director) was Master of Ceremonies, and Superintendent Chris Mobley represented Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

The aircraft will support visual surveys, remote sensing, and other ocean research and management operations along the west coast. The speakers and west coast staff participated in a survey demonstration flight along the Big Sur coast following the ceremony.

RESEARCH & MONITORING

NOAA Fisheries and ONMS Staff Discuss Permits for Research in Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

On February 10, NOAA Fisheries scientists and ONMS West Coast Region resource protection and research staff met to discuss ONMS permit procedures and NOAA Fisheries survey needs. The workshop was developed to improve collective understanding of permit and survey needs and to streamline the permitting process. Sean Hastings (Sanctuary Resource Protection Coordinator), provided an overview of CINMS regulations, and led a discussion on permit application review criteria regarding permits for take in marine reserves. Dani Lipski (Sanctuary Research Specialist), provided a presentation on the mechanics of applying for

a permit. Chris Mobley (Sanctuary Superintendent), and Steve Katz (Sanctuary Research Coordinator), also participated in the discussions. The meeting resulted in the formation of smaller working groups to continue to develop tools that will help both parties. The message of the day was "early and often communication" for a smoother permit process. The meeting occurred in Santa Cruz with some participants joining by video conference from Seattle and La Jolla.

Southern California Environmental Sensitivity Index Map Updates

Ben Waltenberger and Natalie Senyk participated in an initial joint Federal and State meeting to update the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI). The ESI is the primary dataset for natural resource impacts that is used by oil spill emergency responders. NOAA, through its contractor RPI, has begun updating the ESI for the Southern California Region, which was last revised in 1997. Other agencies participating in the update include the Coast Guard, CDFG, the National Park Service, Minerals Management Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The group will hold several more meetings to refine the update as well as to improve the usability of the ESI.

Citizen Science

Blue and Humpback Whale Photo-ID

Photo identification of humpback and blue whales with Cascadia Research is starting early this year. This is typically a summertime effort due to seasonal migrations, however, blue and humpback whales have been seen in the Santa Barbara Channel recently. A special photo ID training session for Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) volunteers will be held on March 17, 2009.

CINC volunteers collect photo-ID data on blue and humpback whales on board the Condor Express and Island Packers vessels. The data and images support Cascadia Research Collective's long-term population and abundance studies of blue and humpback whales in the Santa Barbara Channel. CINC volunteers are specially trained to conduct photo-ID by John Calambokidis, founder of Cascadia Research, and by Josh Kaye-Carr, lead CINC volunteer supporting the program. Photo-ID trips start on February 19, 2009, on the Condor Express and shortly on select Island Packers trips.



Whale Monitoring Continues in Sanctuary

Sanctuary staff continue to work with agency partners to monitor whales in the Santa Barbara Channel (SBC), and to collect daily sightings reports by Channel Islands Naturalist Corps (CINC) volunteers working aboard the Condor Express, a local whale watch vessel. The Local Notice To Mariners was terminated on December 1 following a decrease in blue whale sightings as well as the usual end of blue whale season in the Santa Barbara Channel. However, the latest sightings indicate that at least some of the population has not yet left the region. Therefore, aerial surveys of the shipping lanes are currently intermittent.

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. The California Department of Public Health's Marine Biotxin Monitoring Program monthly reports can be found on the following web page for viewing or downloading:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/healthinfo/environhealth/water/Pages/Shellfish.aspx>

Anacapa Island Larval Settlement Study

Several CINC volunteers continue to assist with a benthic larval settlement study in conjunction with Channel Islands National Park and the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB). They collect samples two times per month at Anacapa Island with transportation on board the National Park Service vessel *Sea Ranger*.

Marine Mammal Sightings Reports

CINC volunteers continue to enter marine mammal sightings data from the Santa Barbara Channel into the Marine Mammal Sightings Database

<http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals/>. Over 9,000 reports have been entered over the past six years,

representing over 18 species of marine mammals and thousands of individual animals. This data will also be integrated into the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN), which helps researchers monitor the sanctuary effectively by integrating the existing monitoring programs and identifying gaps in information. SIMoN makes the monitoring data available to managers, decision makers, the research community, and the general public. In addition, data collected by CINC volunteers has been used to track blue whale sightings as part of the *Prevention and Emergency Response Plan to Reduce Ship Strikes on Blue Whales and Other Large Cetaceans in the Santa Barbara Channel*.

For more information on the CINC please see p. 9.

EDUCATION, VOLUNTEER, & OUTREACH

Special Events

2008 From Shore To Sea Lecture Series

Barbara Page from the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District showed a film entitled "*Air: The Search for One Clean Breath*" on January 11 and 12. This movie took the public on a worldwide tour of the story of air, from its ancient beginnings to today's clean air technologies.

On February 10 and 11, Dr. Milton Love of the Marine Science Institute at UCSB spoke about *Pelagic and Water Column Fishes of the Santa Barbara Channel*. Love described the natural history of the many species of fish and sharks that live in open water.

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 Public Access Television!

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

Channel 21 in Santa Barbara:

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

Wednesday per month, with Tuesday lectures at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum's Munger Theatre, and Wednesday lectures at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center. For upcoming lectures please refer to the sanctuary calendar on p. 17, or visit the sanctuary's From Shore to Sea Web page: channelislands.noaa.gov/edu/shoretosea.html.

Students Conduct Long Term Monitoring and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) Rocky Intertidal Monitoring at Anacapa Island

On February 23 and 24, sanctuary education staff, Laura Francis and Julie Bursek, assisted 130 Channel Islands Live! students from Blackstock School in Oxnard, California with collecting rocky intertidal data from Frenchy's Cove, Anacapa Island. Students worked in teams to implement random quadrat counts of rocky intertidal macroinvertebrates and macrophytes, owl limpet (*Lottia gigantea*) size frequency measurements, and total organism counts of ochre stars (*Pisaster ochraceus*) and anemones (*Xanthopleura* spp). Students entered their data into the LiMPETS database when they returned to the classroom: <http://limpetsmonitoring.org>. Channel Islands Live! is a NOAA Bay-Watershed Education Training (B-WET) funded project designed to provide students with meaningful watershed experiences and connect them to sanctuary resources.

Workshops and Trainings

Sanctuary Educators to Participate in Exhibits and Programs Workshop With Grand Canyon Interpreters
From March 22nd to 25th Julie Bursek and Laura Francis will participate in workshop with West Coast Educators, Grand Canyon Interpreters, and the West Coast Region on the interconnectedness in West Coast Visitors Centers and Exhibits. On March 25th, the group will present their findings and recommendations to the West Coast Sanctuary Superintendents' Leadership Team.

Marine Life Protection Act South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Work Sessions

Sanctuary Team Leader for Education and Outreach, Julie Bursek participated in southern California Marine Life Protection Act Resource Stakeholder Group (RSG) work sessions from January through March 2009. The purpose of these work sessions is to begin developing marine protected area alternate proposals to establish a network of state marine reserves, marine conservation

areas and marine parks along the southern California coast and the southern Channel Islands. Bursek represents education and outreach interests on the RSG. For more information about this process visit http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/meetings_sc.asp

Sanctuary participates in Marine Life Protection Act South Coast Tribal Forums

Julie Bursek, Team Leader for Education and Outreach, attended the Marine Life Protection Act South Coast Tribal Forums on February 27 and 28 in Pacific Palisades, California. The purpose of the tribal forum was to provide information about the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), the MLPA initiative, and the process to interested tribal members in southern California. A desired outcome from the tribal forum was to initiate steps for tribal participation in the MLPA Initiative process, and determine best ways for tribes to share information on tribal-ocean relationships and current and traditional ocean uses. The sanctuary has a long standing relationship working with the Chumash communities of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Bursek's role was to act as a representative of a federal agency and be available a resource for participating southern California tribes and individuals. Julie Bursek serves as a member of the Marine Life Protection Act South Coast Regional Stakeholder Group representing education and outreach.

Teacher Enrichment Adventure in Watershed Education (TEAWET) Program

Laura Francis and Advisory Council education representative Maria Petueli, piloted a series of web-based lessons focusing on research related to phytoplankton blooms and sediment plumes in the sanctuary on Saturday January 10th, 2009. Twenty 4th-8th grade teachers participating in UCSB's Gevirtz Graduate School of Education's TEAWET program attended the workshop. After piloting the lessons, Laura and Maria guided the teachers on a tour of the Hollister Ranch Beach rocky intertidal habitat, and led a LiMPETS training to instruct teachers on how to conduct rocky intertidal monitoring with their students. TEAWET is a B-WET funded professional development project for teachers focusing on watershed issues in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Participating teachers from Lompoc, Santa Barbara and Ventura 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.

Sanctuary Coordinates Online Evaluation Training for West Coast Educators

Sanctuary Education Coordinator Laura Francis is coordinating an online evaluation training for West Coast sanctuary educators with Dawn Hayes from Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Pam Kylstra from NOAA Coastal Services Center. The training started on January 15th and is comprised of six online workshops that will go through March 26th, 2009. Twenty two educators are participating in the training which covers development of needs assessments, logic models, smart objectives and an evaluation plan.

Educational Products

Education Web Site Features Sanctuary Education Coordinator as a "Cool Scientist You Should Know"

For the month of February, Sanctuary Education Coordinator Laura Francis was featured as a "Cool Scientist You Should Know" on the Dive Into Your Imagination web site. This web portal, created by Santa Barbara underwater videographer and educator Annie Crawley, was developed to educate and entertain everyone about our ocean, while encouraging citizens to wake up, get involved and learn what they can do to keep the oceans healthy. For more information:

<http://www.diveintoyourimagination.com/cool-scientists-you-should-know/cool-scientists/laura-francis-140.html>

Draft Conceptual Exhibit Design Meeting held with Channel Islands Harbor Boating Center Partners

On January 15, 2009, DeZignSkape presented the draft conceptual exhibit design plan to the partner institutions supporting the Channel Islands Harbor Boating Instruction and Safety Center. The purpose of the meeting was for the boating center partners to provide input and feedback on the exhibit concepts to ensure the theme elements will benefit future boating and marine science programs. The exhibits proposed for the new boating center will focus boating safety and awareness, navigation, influences of weather patterns on ocean conditions, the biodiversity of the Santa Barbara Channel and Channel Islands, ocean exploration and sanctuary maritime heritage resources.

Meetings

Sanctuary Staff Participate in Centers for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence (COSEE) West Advisory Meeting

Julie Bursek attended the COSEE - West (Coastal Oceans Science Education Excellence) advisory board meeting on February 19 at UCSB. The purpose of the meeting was to review COSEE funded projects and to provide input on partnership opportunities with the sanctuary. Bursek serves as a COSEE-West Advisory Board member. For more information about upcoming teacher workshops/programs hosted by COSEE-West visit <http://www.usc.edu/org/cosee-west/>.

Channel Islands Argonauts



Parents assisted at the Channel Islands Argonauts Orientation meeting at Channel Islands National Park in January 2009.
Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

Students Selected as 2009 Channel Islands Argonauts

On January 31, twenty-three 4th-6th grade level students became "Channel Islands Argonauts," and, as such, will advocate in 2009 for their coastal and ocean environments including the sanctuary. The Argonauts will participate in a number of local environmental events including Earth Day in Oxnard, beach clean ups at Ormond Beach, and a trip to the CINMS during live dive broadcasting scheduled for June 11. On March 5th, the students presented poster projects related to Channel Islands resources or ocean related threats to the Ventura County Office of Education. The 23 nominated Argonaut students are residents of Ventura County and

are enrolled in Title 1, Head Start or free lunch programs at public schools participating in the CINMS Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) Academy program. The Channel Islands Argonauts program is part of the NOAA B-WET grant-sponsored Channel Islands Live! Program, a partnership of CINMS, Channel Islands National Park and Ventura County Office of Education.

Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO)



Program manager, Shannon Newby from Oxnard College presents the newly adapted lesson plans on ocean threats to participants in the MERITO Academy Educators Follow up workshop at UCSB in February 2009. Photo: Rocío Lozano-Knowlton.

Successful MERITO Academy Educators Workshop

On Feb. 7th, nineteen educators from public elementary schools and Boys and Girls Clubs participated in a MERITO Academy workshop conducted by sanctuary staff. Held at UCSB's Marine Science Institute, the workshop provided professional training to minority-serving educators who reach 660 unprivileged 4th-7th grade level students. This year, a new addition to the workshop included the introduction of the MERITO Academy's "It's all connected!" module, a joint project of the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries, sponsored by an Ernest Hollings grant. The module contains seven lesson plans on ocean threats such as climate change, over fishing, marine debris, and mitigation measures. Participating educators will test the lessons and provide feedback to MERITO Academy staff over the next 4-5 weeks. The MERITO Academy workshop also included training on sandy

beach and rocky intertidal monitoring protocols (LIMPETS) by Julie Bursek, CINMS Education Coordinator. The MERITO Academy is currently sponsored by the CINMS, a NOAA B-WET grant, and the Amgen Foundation and operated through a partnerships between CINMS, the Channel Islands Marine Resource Institute (CIMRI) and The Nature Conservancy in collaboration with a variety of local organizations.

The MERITO Academy at CINMS has been awarded NOAA B-WET funding for 2009-2012

CIMRI has received notification of being awarded a NOAA B-WET grant for the period of 2009-2012 to support implementation of the MERITO Academy program, a partnership of CIMRI, CINMS and The Nature Conservancy. The MERITO Academy program, a hands-on Earth and Ocean sciences education and conservation program geared for 4th-7th grade multicultural students has served 1,660 underserved students and 38 minority-serving educators between 2006-2009. The NOAA B-WET funding will allow the partnership program to continue providing professional training to minority serving teachers, and meaningful field experiences to their students for the next three years. NOAA B-WET funding will help insure continuation of the program reflecting the commitment of NOAA and the Department of Commerce with the underserved communities of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

65 Minority Students Experience a Watershed Connection to the Ocean

On February 26, a "Watersheds Connection to Oceans" field experience was provided for 65 fifth grade students from Montalvo Elementary school in Ventura, California. The trip was led by CINMS MERITO Academy staff, along with partner agencies. Students visited the Ormond Beach Wastewater Treatment Plant, tested water quality at a local creek, identified birds, and participated in native plant restoration at Ormond Beach. Plant restoration activities were sponsored by the City of Oxnard and led by Ormond Pointe Restoration Nursery Director, Nancy Pederson. The MERITO Academy program is a hands-on earth and ocean sciences education and conservation program geared for 4th-7th grade multicultural students, and tailored for environments of the Santa Barbara Channel.

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 through 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, represent the sanctuary and Park at marine-related community outreach events, and distribute outreach materials to area marine-related businesses through the Adopt-A-Business Program.

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

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

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

Island Programs

Day hikes: In January, CINC island hike naturalists participated in eleven Island Packers trips to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*, and one trip to Anacapa Island aboard the *Vanguard*. In February, naturalists participated in four Island Packers trips to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage and one trip to Prisoner's Harbor, along with two trips to Anacapa Island, aboard the *Island Adventure* and *Islander*. In February, they also participated in three trips to Anacapa Island aboard the *Vanguard*. In total, CINC naturalists participated in 22 island hike trips in January and February.

Overnight trips: In January, CINC island hike naturalists participated in four multi-day (*i.e.*, two-to-three or more days) trips: one to Anacapa Island, and three to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage. In February, CINC island hike naturalists participated in four multi-day trips, all to Santa Cruz Island's Scorpion Anchorage.

Whale Watch Vessel Excursions

This is peak season for viewing gray whales. In addition, humpback and blue whales have recently been seen in the Santa Barbara Channel. Santa Barbara Sailing Center started up whale watching cruises on February 14. Island Packers started their trips on the 26th of December.

There were a total of 206 whale watching trips in the first two months of 2009 (72 in January and 134 in February). In the table below, the number of excursions listed for each vessel includes only those with CINC volunteers on board. Note also that trips may have multiple naturalists aboard, and there may be multiple trips in one day.

Whale Watch Vessel Excursions in January and February					
Harbor	Santa Barbara		Ventura	Channel Islands	
Vessel	<i>Condor Express</i>	<i>Double Dolphin</i>	<i>Island Adventure & Islander</i>	<i>Island Adventure & Islander</i>	<i>Ranger 85</i>
Business	Sea Landing	Santa Barbara Sailing Center	Island Packers	Island Packers	Channel Islands Sportfishing
January trips	17		19	16	20
February trips	48	27	24	8	27

Channel Islands Live Day Trips

NOAA's California B-WET program provides funding to agencies such as the Ventura County Office of Education (VCOE) to support environment-based education throughout the watersheds of San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay, and Santa Barbara Channel.

Along with the park, the sanctuary and other regional agencies, VCOE is working with area teachers to provide students with the opportunity to explore one of the most diverse marine environments in the world through an integrated learning experience that is supported by standards-based, interactive curriculum; active participation in monitoring and gathering data on the local environment; and live interaction with researchers working in and around park and sanctuary.

Two naturalists and CINMS staff are participating in each of six island trips in March to Frenchy's Cove on Anacapa Island and Scorpion Cove on Santa Cruz Island through the B-WET Program. The trips involve four elementary schools with students in fourth, fifth and sixth grades. CINC and staff will engage with the students during the monitoring portion of the trip and help students problem solve with species identification in the rocky intertidal monitoring zone.

Trainings

CINC Island Hike Training: The training continues with shadow trips to the Channel Islands with a trained CINC volunteer and an evaluation trip with CINP staff to complete the certification process. There are currently a total of 48 volunteers certified to lead island hikes. The park provided a free trip to Santa Rosa Island on October 4 to familiarize volunteers with outer islands that are visited less frequently by the public. Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteers, other Volunteers-in-Parks, park staff, and sanctuary staff participated in the Santa Rosa Island trip. The Santa Barbara Island trip was cancelled due to inclement weather, but will be rescheduled in April 2009.

Photo ID Training: A special photo ID training session for CINC volunteers will be held on March 17, 2009. Please see *Blue and Humpback Whale Photo-ID* under *Citizen Science* on p. 4.

Monthly In-Service Meetings

Monthly in-service training meetings for the CINC will be held January through October in 2009 on the third Tuesday of each month. Due to the fact that new volunteers were not added in 2009, returning volunteers will benefit from two extra training sessions in January and September 2009, and the annual volunteer recognition event will be on October 20, 2009.

Russell Galipeau of the Channel Islands National Park presented information on the current status of park programs in the first monthly meeting of the year on January 27. Program coordinators Shauna Bingham of the sanctuary and Derek Lohuis of CINP gave updates on the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps program for continuing volunteers.

On February 17, Chris Mobley, sanctuary superintendent, gave CINMS program and final management plan updates and spoke about the expansion and construction of new administrative offices at the UCSB campus. In addition, Elaine Gibson, education specialist at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History, gave a presentation on inquiry-based interpretation, and volunteers conducted round table discussions to develop inquiry-based questions that can be used by CINC volunteers.

The next monthly meeting will be on March 17, 2009, on the island fox recovery program with Tim Coonan, wildlife biologist at the Channel Islands National Park.

In addition to professional development, CINC training meetings serve an important role in volunteer communication and scheduling. Average attendance at the monthly meetings is from 90-100 volunteers.

2009 Volunteer Recruitment

A new volunteer orientation and recruitment for the 2010 season will be held in November 2009.

CINC Volunteers Kick-off Gray Whale Season and Support Marine Mammal Research

The day after Christmas marked the start of the gray whale migration through the sanctuary. The sanctuary's gray whale season typically runs from December through May. CINC volunteers, specially trained naturalists coordinated and trained by the sanctuary and park, represent both agencies on board local whale watch trips, provide natural history information for passengers,

and collect data on marine mammal sightings. These volunteers also conduct photo-identification of several species and were even able to photograph killer whales on December 21 and 28 in the Santa Barbara Channel. The data and images collected benefit researchers with the American Cetacean Society studying transient killer whale populations in Southern California.

Floating Lab Trips

CINC volunteers participate on board the Channel Islands Marine Floating Lab's vessel *Coral Sea* in assisting students with conducting hands-on oceanographic experiments in Channel Islands Harbor. Using a station rotation process, CIMFL staff operate separate work stations in order to analyze the biological, chemical and physical properties of the ocean, and identify harbor marine life during the 3 1/2 hour on-board lab program. CINC volunteers assisted with two floating lab trips in February.

Public Outreach

California Watchable Wildlife "Building Nature Tourism Partnerships" Forum

On January 14, Sanctuary Volunteer and Outreach Coordinator Shauna Bingham participated in a California Watchable Wildlife Forum, "Building Nature Tourism Partnerships" held at park headquarters in Ventura. The forum coincided with the 5th Annual California Cultural Heritage Tourism Symposium and generated discussion about the potential for collaboration between public land managers, business owners, and visitor and convention bureaus to promote visitation to regions with high wildlife value such as the sanctuary and park. California Watchable Wildlife recently launched a new interactive website that inventories viewing sites by location and species, and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary will apply to be designated as a "Wildlife Viewing Area" in the database. For more details visit <http://www.cawatchablewildlife.org/index.php>.

Sanctuary Participates in Marine Science Career Day

On January 17, CINC volunteers represented the sanctuary and park at the Ty Warner Sea Center Marine Science Career Day. Internship opportunities, volunteer information, and educational materials were distributed to hundreds of aquarium visitors.

Foothill School Science Night

On January 29, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteers, Carol Celic and Debra Herring, provided hands-on activities about the sanctuary and park including a whale photo-id matching game, interpretation of whale specimens, and poster give aways. Several hundred parents and students attended the Foothill School Science Night in Goleta.

Sanctuary Presentation About Whales

Shauna Bingham will give a presentation on whales in the Santa Barbara Channel at the Thousand Oaks Library on Sunday, March 29, 2009. This talk will enhance the presence of the CINMS exhibit "Year Round Whale Watching in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary/Visit your Sanctuary" in the main hall of the Grant R. Brimhall Library.

Sanctuary and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to Collaborate on Outreach

On February 9, 2009 Shauna Bingham met with Kate Eschelbach, Education and Outreach Specialist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Ventura Office, to share ideas on regional collaboration for community outreach. USFWS has recently allocated resources and staff for education and have developed several themes around connecting people with nature including climate change, "Let's Go Outside", and spatial literacy. USFWS manages several threatened and endangered species that occur in the sanctuary and park and are willing to provide educational resources for sanctuary and park education and outreach programs.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS

Channel Islands Naturalist Corps Volunteer Field Report: February 12, 2009

I intended to lead a day hike on Anacapa Island, but *Islander* Capt. Anthony took us to Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island instead due to weather and swells. There was a wonderful group from Elderhostel on board, many of whom debarked at the island. On the hike to Cavern Point, led by Ally from Island Packers, we first saw a Red-tailed hawk, then, at the top, we saw a statuesque Peregrine falcon. One of the visitors photographed two island fox. By the way, the new National Park Service displays at Scorpion are wonderful! The visitors raved about the displays, and the ravens raved over the visitors' lunch, backpacks, books and anything else they could get into.

Other naturalists on board for the whale watching were Carol Shoemaker and Tom Flor. We saw a couple of gray whales out between Anacapa and Santa Cruz islands, a megapod (1000-2000??) of common dolphins en route each way, and a few bottlenose dolphins, upon our return, right inside the Ventura Marina. A long, but fulfilling day in the Channel was topped off by attending the From Shore-to-Sea Lecture on pelagic fish by Dr. Milton Love. As they say, what a "hoot" this man is – providing informative and excellent stand-up comedy.

- Polly Blackburn
Channel Islands Naturalist Corps 2003 & Island Hike Naturalist 2008

Volunteer Field Report: February 13, 2009

There are humpbacks in the Channel! During my shift with the gray whale count on Wednesday afternoon, we spotted three humpbacks in the area between Platform Holly and Santa Rosa Island.

- Carol Celic
Channel Islands Naturalist Corps 2008

CHANNEL ISLANDS: STORIES FROM THE PAST

Looking back 141 years ago, a classified ad in the San Francisco *Daily Evening Bulletin* dated September 18, 1868 read:

ISLAND FOR SALE.

A MAGNIFICENT SHEEP RANCH

THE ISLAND OF SAN MIGUEL, lying in the Santa Barbara Channel, about 25 miles south of Point Conception, 8 miles long by 2 ½ miles wide, containing about 13,000 acres, some hundreds of which are farming land, together with improvements and stock. IS NOW OFFERED FOR SALE ON REASONABLE TERMS.

The island has three fine springs and watering places, and an excellent harbor, known as Cuyler's harbor. The improvements comprise three houses and three corrals. Four horses and some 1,500 sheep (gentle) will be sold with the ground. The surface of the island is comparatively level – every portion being accessible in carriage. There are no dogs or wild animals to molest the flocks. The sheep do not become wild, as in a mountainous country. This fine property will be offered for a short time only, and if not sold will be stocked by the proprietor. Title satisfactory. For further particulars and terms, inquire of McLEAN & HARDY, Real Estate Agents, 14 Stevenson's Block, corner of Montgomery and California streets, San Francisco; also, Broadway, Oakland.



Giant Coreopsis on San Miguel Island.
Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

Adopt-A-Business Program

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

MARITIME HERITAGE PROGRAM

West Coast Region Maritime Heritage Program



(Left to right) Mike Racine, Jim Gibbs, Walter Jaccard and Robert Schwemmer during interview at Cleft of The Rock Lighthouse.
Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

In January, ONMS West Coast Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator Robert Schwemmer traveled to Oregon, joining Mike Racine and Walter Jaccard who are members of SECRET/WAS, a volunteer dive organization that recently supported archaeological surveys for the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). The team conducted a three-hour oral interview with shipwreck historian and author James Gibbs to highlight his career that included ship patrols and lighthouse keeper duties for the U.S. Coast Guard during World War II in the Pacific Northwest, and discussed regional shipwrecks and the changing maritime heritage landscape in the West Coast region

that includes Oregon and Washington (OCNMS). The interview was conducted on Gibbs' 87th birthday at his privately owned lighthouse that is located at Cape Perpetua on the Oregon coast.



Boiler in the rocks from the shipwreck *J. Marhoffer* on the Oregon Coast. Photo: Robert Schwemmer.

While in Oregon Schwemmer was in contact with the editor of *Oregon Coast Today* who is conducting research on local shipwrecks in Lincoln County. Schwemmer agreed to assist in the research effort as part of ongoing West Coast regional support to the State of Oregon aimed at enhancing knowledge of their maritime heritage resources.



Near-shore shipwrecks on the Oregon Coast are impacted by high-energy waves. Photo: Robert Schwemmer..

During January, Schwemmer traveled to San Diego along with Tim Runyan, Acting-Manager ONMS Maritime Heritage Program and Paul Chetirkin, ONMS videographer to attend a conference at the Maritime Museum of San Diego. The conference focused on the future construction of a replica ship of Juan Rodriquez Cabrillo's Spanish galleon *San Salvador* that explored the California coast in 1542-1543. Attendees included key museum staff and trustees; regional historians; Doug Sharp, naval architect; Carla Rahn Phillips, Spanish galleon historian from the University of Minnesota; Eric Speth, naval architect and director of marine operations for Jamestown settlement; Fillipe Castro, archaeologist from Texas A & M; and representatives from the Cabrillo National Monument. Conference sessions covered historical background of Cabrillo's voyage of discovery that included survey and recorded observations of the waters that now make up the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries, construction details to reflect replicating a 16th century galleon but also meeting operational needs as a dockside/seagoing exhibit and floating classroom, education and outreach initiatives related to public viewing of the construction of *San Salvador* and future expeditions at sea in collaboration with the museum, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, National Park Service and California Coastal Conservancy.

In February, The National Geographic Channel aired a documentary title "Flying Aircraft Carrier" that included high-definition video footage from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (MBNMS) USS *Macon* 2006 expedition. The *Macon*, a 785-foot dirigible, was lost offshore of Point Sur on February 12, 1935 when she foundered tail first into the chilly waters of the Pacific Ocean. For decades, her underwater location remained a mystery. In 1990 and 1991, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) and the U.S. Navy located the *Macon*'s remains in deep water. In 2006 a group of scientists from the MBNMS, MBARI, ONMS West Coast Region and Maritime Heritage Program returned to the site to conduct a visual survey of the wreckage and are currently working on a National Register nomination.

For more information visit these web sites:

The National Geographic Channel

<http://channel.nationalgeographic.com/episode/flying-aircraft-carrier-3772>

USS *Macon* Expedition

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

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

Recent Updates

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

The R/V *Shearwater* vessel schedule is now online in near real-time at:

<http://cisanctuary.org/RVShearwater/2009.html>.

CINMS now offers a link to the *Thank You Ocean* report podcast focusing on interesting and exciting California ocean topics such as marine mammals, the latest news on ocean health, timely ocean issues and fascinating ocean facts. It is available at:

<http://www.thankyouocean.org/podcast>.

The From Shore to Sea Lecture Series 2009 calendar is now available online at:

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

Sanctuary boundary information has been updated and a new map is provided at:

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

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

The 2009 scheduled Advisory Council meetings are listed online and available at:

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Modifications

We are in continued development of the internal navigation structure of the CINMS web site. With support from the ONMS web team, a restructuring will occur for all of the sanctuary program web site sections. The marine reserves section is halfway redesigned, and the education section will follow in April 2009. A web "scrub" meeting was held with the CINMS staff on February 17th to discuss upgrading the web site's content and moving toward a more standardized format.

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



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



Monument Nominated as World Heritage Site

On January 6, President Bush announced the nomination of Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (PMNM) to the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage List. Staff from PMNM worked closely with a consortium of agencies, including the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the State of Hawaii, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, to develop the nomination package over the past ten months. The nomination is now en route to UNESCO's World Heritage Center. Over the next 18 months,

UNESCO, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, and the International Council on Monuments and Sites will review the application. The World Heritage Committee will vote on adding the site to the World Heritage List in July, 2010. The nomination application is available at www.papahanaumokuakea.gov.

First Lionfish Invader Captured in Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

On January 7, rapid responders removed the first reported invasive lionfish from the waters of the Florida

Keys National Marine Sanctuary within 24 hours of notification. This event marks the first arrival of lionfish into the Florida Keys since their establishment in U.S. waters. Once established, marine invaders are nearly impossible to eradicate. The responders—staff from the Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF), Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, and a local dive operator—removed the juvenile lionfish from Benwood Ledge off Key Largo, FL. The removal demonstrated a new early detection and rapid response program initiated in South Florida by NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), REEF, and the U.S. Geological Survey. Future efforts will involve streamlining rapid response coordination efforts and development of a manual on survey methods and removal of invaders.

New Climate Change Web Page Launched

NOAA's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) has launched a climate change Web page on the OCRM Web site. Designed as a resource for coastal managers as well as to inform the public about the effects of climate change on coastal habitats and communities, the site includes discussions of such climate change impacts as sea level rise, ocean acidification, and changing species distribution. A section on OCRM activities explains some ways the office is helping coastal and National Estuarine Research Reserve System managers address climate change. Another section features case studies of NOAA state and local partners' climate change projects around the country. Visitors to the site also will find links to other climate information sites, including other NOAA sites, in the "Resources" section. Check it out at: <http://coastalmanagement.noaa.gov/climate.html>.

Chemical Stressors Interact to Cause Seizures in Animals

NCCOS researchers have determined that exposure to two environmental poisons—DDT and domoic acid—during brain development can increase the number of seizures and their intensity in a zebrafish model for epilepsy. The study is the first report of the interaction of these environmental poisons and provides new insight into how multiple stressors may cause greater harm. The findings appear in the January issue of *Environmental*

Health Perspectives. DDT, a pesticide banned in the 1970s, persists at high levels off the southern California coast. Domoic acid is a toxin produced from harmful algal blooms that have appeared over the last decade in high frequency in this region. For information on domoic acid visit this sanctuary Web page: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/focus/dom.html>. Read more about the NCCOS study here: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20090211_toxins.html.

Evidence Analysis Helps Enforce Marine Mammal Protection Laws

During the week of December 18, an NCCOS scientist used DNA to identify evidence as shortfin pilot whale and killer whale in two NOAA Fisheries' Office for Law Enforcement cases. The smoked meat was claimed to be "blackfish," a common name for pilot whale, and offering it for sale represents a violation of the Marine Mammal Protection Act and likely the Lacey Act as well. Forensic analysis of evidence items allows NOAA to identify processed meat from animals involved in the multi-billion dollar illegal wildlife trade and to enforce laws intended to protect our Nation's marine resources.

Recognition of NOAA Historic Shipwreck Support Marks Progress

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey (OCS) recently attended the annual Society for Historical Archaeology and Underwater Archaeology Conference in Toronto, Ontario. At the meeting, OCS was lauded for helping to protect sensitive historic shipwrecks via the successful distribution of many shipwreck reports to State Historic Preservation Offices and national marine sanctuaries. Members of the UNESCO Advisory Council for Underwater Archaeology also commended OCS for revising the 2008 Field Procedures Manual to include archaeological and historical communities, as well as NOAA's efforts to reach out to these communities with shipwreck reports and feedback. The increased communication between the Coast Survey and various state and federal agencies improves collaboration with agencies tasked with the protection of submerged cultural resources.

THREE-MONTH CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY CALENDAR

MARCH	
Mar. 10, 11	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> Russell Galipeau, Superintendent of Channel Islands National Park <i>Channel Islands National Park Turns 40</i> Tuesday: 7:00 pm Santa Barbara Maritime Museum (113 Harbor Way in Santa Barbara) Wednesday: 7:00 pm Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura)
Mar. 15	<i>13th Annual Celebration of the Whales</i> Channel Islands Harbor, Marine Emporium Landing, Oxnard, 10 am - 5 pm For information: http://www.channelislandsharbor.org/Events.cfm
Mar. 19-22	<i>2009 National Science Teacher's Association (NSTA) Conference</i> New Orleans, LA For information: http://www.nsta.org/conferences/2009new/
Mar. 20	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center (1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
APRIL	
Apr. 4	<i>Oxnard Earth Day Festival</i> Plaza Park, Oxnard. For information: http://publicworks.cityofoxnard.org/Department.aspx?DepartmentID=14&DivisionID=4&ResourceID=827
Apr. 18	<i>Ventura Earth Day Celebration</i> Promenade Park, Ventura. For information: http://www.venturacharterschool.org/earthday/
Apr. 19	<i>South Coast Earth Day Festival</i> Alameda Park, Santa Barbara. For information: http://www.communityenvironmentalcouncil.org/Events/earthday/
Apr. 25-26	<i>Earth Day at the Aquarium of the Pacific</i> Long Beach. For information: http://www.aquariumofpacific.org/newsevents/eventsdetail/earth_day/
MAY	
May 5	<i>Santa Barbara Harbor Clean Sweep</i> Santa Barbara Harbor, Santa Barbara.
May 9	<i>Third Annual Safe Boating Expo</i> Channel Islands Harbor, Oxnard. For information: http://www.channelislandsharbor.org/events.cfm
May 12, 13	<i>From Shore to Sea Lecture Series:</i> John Calambokidis, Cascadia Research Collective <i>SPLASH - Update on Blue and Humpback Whale Pacific NE Populations</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)
May 15	<i>Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting</i> Casa Las Palmas (323 E. Cabrillo Blvd. in Santa Barbara) An agenda, directions and more information will be posted at: channelislands.noaa.gov/sac/announcement.html
May 16	<i>Family Service Agency Children's Festival</i> Alameda Park, Santa Barbara. For information: http://www.fsacares.org/volunteer.htm
Select March – May Nature Sightings	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). Pacific Harbor Seal (<i>Phoca vitulina</i>) pupping season on San Miguel Island (February through May). Peak egg-laying season for California Brown Pelicans (<i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>) on Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands (March and April). Xantus's Murrelets (<i>Synthiboramphus hypoleucus</i>) breed and nest on the Channel Islands (March through July). Island Fox (<i>Urocyon littoralis</i>) pups are born in early spring on the Channel Islands (March and April). Island wildflowers such as the Giant Coreopsis (<i>Coreopsis gigantea</i>) are in full bloom (March through early April). For more nature sightings information visit: http://channelislands.noaa.gov/seasons/march.html . You can also record data about your own mammal sightings, as well as learn about past mammal sightings using our marine mammal sightings database: http://www.cisanctuary.org/mammals/ .

CINMS Staff

Santa Barbara Harbor Office

Christopher Mobley *Superintendent*

Todd Jacobs *Deputy Superintendent for
Administration and Operations*

Michael Murray *Deputy Superintendent for Programs*

Amy Cale – *Web and Kiosk Developer*

LTJG Matt Davis – *Operations Officer*

Laura Francis – *Education Coordinator*

Reginald Greenwood – *Vessel Operator*

Sean Hastings – *Resource Protection Coordinator*

Dr. Steven Katz – *Research Coordinator*

Sarah Kinsfather – *Management Plan Specialist*

Charles Lara – *Vessel Captain*

Dani Lipski – *Research Specialist*

Robert Schwemmer – *Regional Maritime Heritage Coordinator*

Natalie Senyk – *Physical Scientist*

Terrence Shinn – *Vessel Captain*

Ben Waltenberger – *Physical Scientist*

Rebecca Young – *Program Support Specialist*

Ventura County Field Office

Julie Bursek – *Team Leader for Education and Outreach*

Shauna Bingham – *Volunteer Program and Outreach
Coordinator*

Clare Fritzsche – *CINM Volunteer Program & Administrative
Assistant*

Lorri Herr – *Program Support Specialist*

Tina Johnson – *Administrative Support Coordinator*

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

CINMS Interns

Jamie Gibbon – *Resource Protection Intern*

Leslie Abramson – *Resource Protection Intern*

ONMS West Coast Region Staff

William Douros – *Regional Superintendent*

Matt Brookhart – *Policy Coordinator*

Nicole Capps – *Management Support Specialist*

Dave Lott – *Operations Coordinator*

Local ONMS Staff

Claire Fackler – *West Coast Education Liaison*

Sarah Marquis – *West Coast Media Coordinator*

Matt Pickett – *ONMS Aviation Coordinator*

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>.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS)

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

Channel Islands National Park

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

GET INVOLVED AND STAY INFORMED!

To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:

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

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

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

- CONTACT INFORMATION -

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