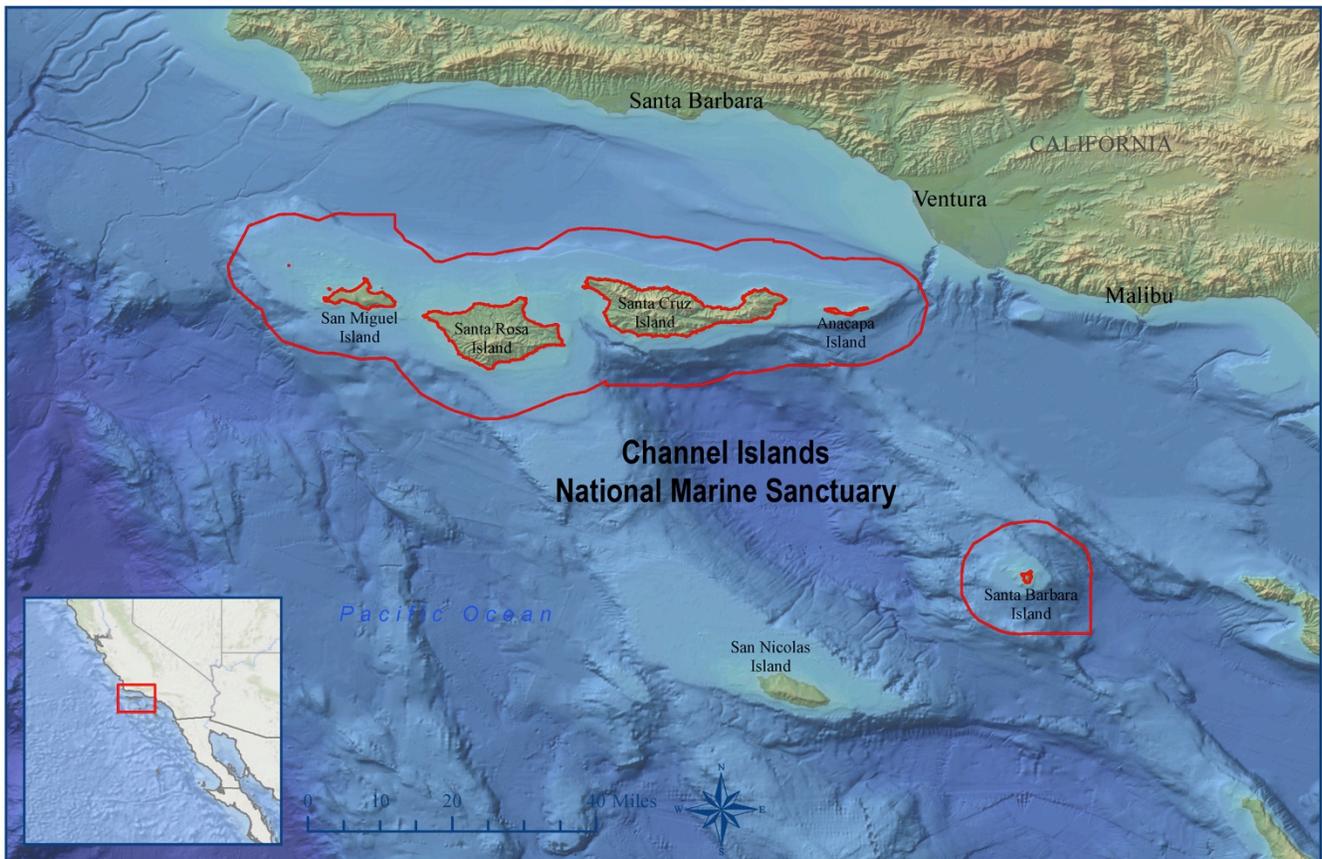


## FY16 Accomplishments



### BACKGROUND

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1980 and contains remarkable biodiversity, productive ecosystems, sensitive species and habitats. It also boasts shipwrecks and other maritime heritage artifacts. The sanctuary spans 1,470 square miles surrounding five of the Channel Islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara.

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is part of the National Marine Sanctuary System, which is a network of underwater parks encompassing more

than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. National marine sanctuaries are managed for the conservation of their natural and cultural resources, while supporting sustainable recreation, tourism and compatible commercial activities. The network includes a system of 13 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.



Photo: Jess Morten, NOAA

A container ship transits the Santa Barbara Channel, including a portion of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.



Photo: Robert Schwemmer, NOAA

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary staff embark on the *Nautilus* Live expedition to the sanctuary.

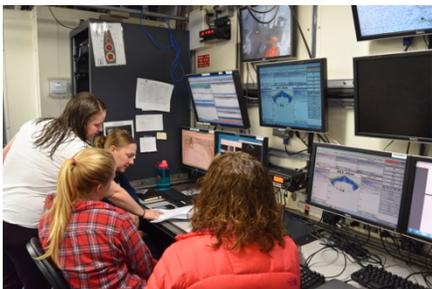


Photo: Nichia Huxtable

The mapping team from the 2016 *Shimada* cruise discusses mapping efforts around San Miguel Island.

### Blue whales and blue skies

Ten shipping lines participated in a voluntary incentivized 2016 Vessel Speed Reduction program within and adjacent to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS), slowing their vessels to 12 knots or less to save over 27 tons of smog-forming air pollutants from being emitted into local air basins and providing endangered whales greater protection from potentially fatal ship collisions. With industry support, the program is expected to repeat in 2017 through a collaboration of partners, including the CINMS, Santa Barbara and Ventura County air pollution control districts, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, and Volegenau Foundation.

### Connecting explorers of all ages to the ocean's depths

NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, Office of Exploration and Research, and National Centers for Coastal Ocean Studies were partners aboard Ocean Exploration Trust's exploration vessel (E/V) *Nautilus* for a *Nautilus* Live expedition to CINMS. Through telepresence technology, scientists from around the world were able to participate and contribute to the mission in real time. The telepresence brought national marine sanctuaries and ocean science to the classroom, with over 525 students per day across the country directly engaged with mission staff and operations.

### Improving navigational safety and management decisions

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary collaborated with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal and Ocean Sciences and National Marine Fisheries Service, and the Ocean Exploration Trust, to conduct mapping and seafloor characterization cruises in 2016. Researchers aboard the R/V *Bell M. Shimada*, R/V *Reuben Lasker* and E/V *Nautilus* were able to collect 5,317 km<sup>2</sup> of high-resolution seafloor data, which will improve navigational safety and better inform fisheries and resource management.

## Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY17

- A "Condition Report" will be developed to describe the condition and trends of sanctuary resources, explaining pressures on those resources, and summarizing management responses.
- The sanctuary will continue to advance use of mobile technology, working with partners on eFINS – a new app assisting law enforcement officials in the field. The sanctuary will also focus on strengthening the use of Whale Alert and Spotter Pro apps that have shown to be vital to whale conservation.
- The sanctuary and partners will continue participation in the Vessel Speed Reduction program. A voluntary incentivized approach will be used to slow ships passing through and near the sanctuary as a method to reduce lethal ship collisions with whales while also contributing to cleaner air.