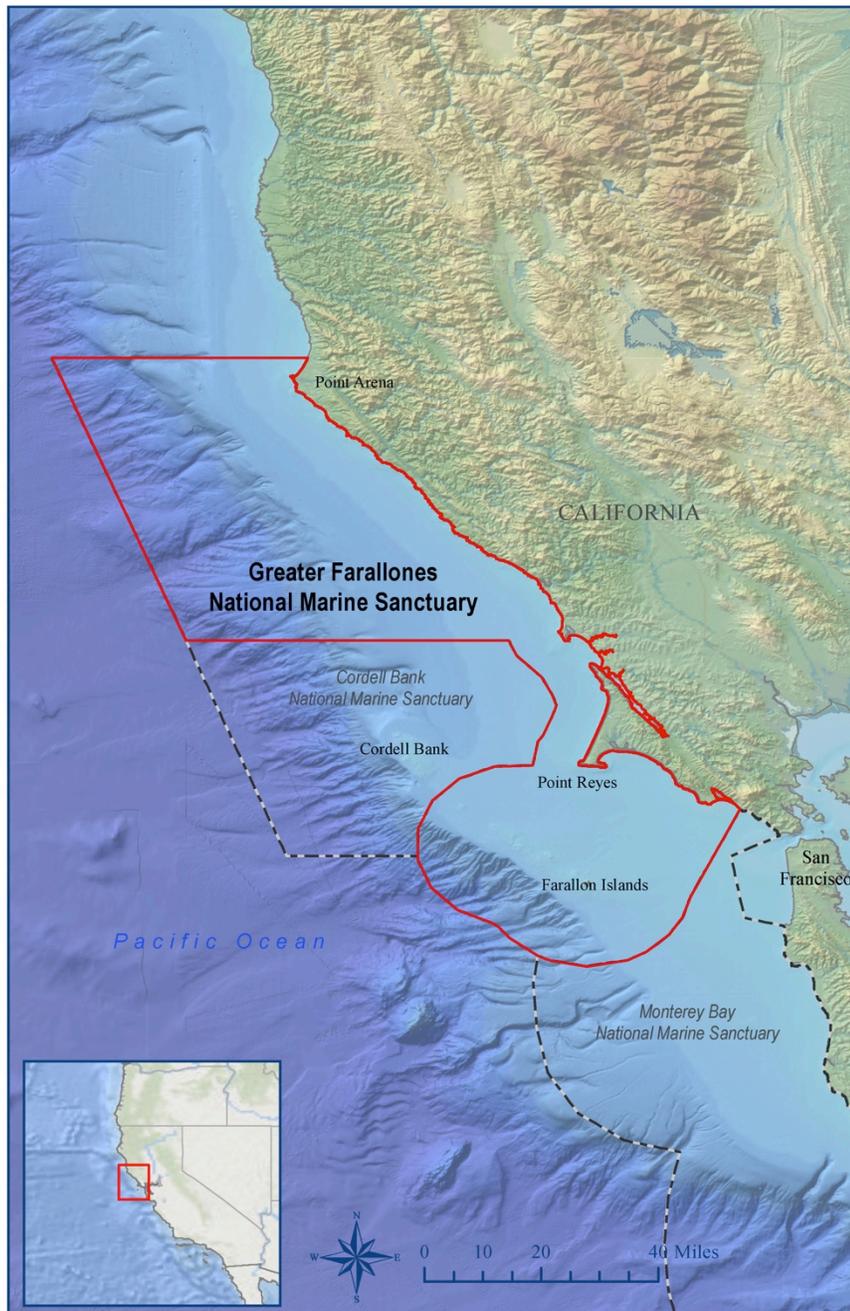


FY16 Accomplishments



BACKGROUND

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1989 and is an area of 3,295 square miles off the northern and central California coast. It protects the wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources of one of the most diverse and bountiful marine environments in the world. The waters within Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary are a nationally significant marine ecosystem, and support an abundance of life, including many threatened and endangered species.

Greater Farallones 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: Sara Heintzelman, NOAA

The Farallones Sanctuary Explorations Series provided monthly adventures, like kayaking in the sanctuary.

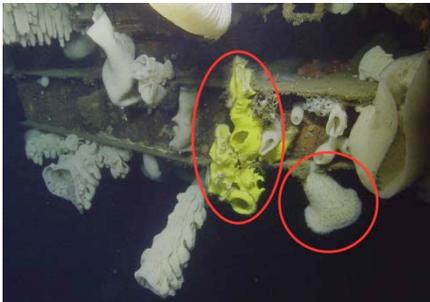


Photo: Ocean Exploration Trust/NOAA

A new sponge species was found on the USS *Independence*.



Photo: California State Parks

A schooner is loading at a lumber chute in Fisk Mill Cove.

Farallones Sanctuary Exploration Series: getting people into the sanctuary

The Farallones Sanctuary Explorations Series, presented by Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, provided monthly educational adventures: meaningful ways, to connect with our sanctuary. In FY 2016 the series offered bioluminescence kayaking, a beach art workshop, whale watching, elephant seal walks, tidepooling, a Farallon Islands nature cruise, and a habitat restoration hands-on participation day, bringing people outdoors to experience wildlife, habitats, and the changing seasons. With over \$127 million/year spent in and around the sanctuary, the fee-based series helped build a strong public constituency and promoted ocean literacy, a conservation ethic, and wildlife etiquette through experiential learning.

Scientists discover two new sponge species

Deep sea explorations are an important component in determining which habitats are essential to supporting valuable commercial fisheries and overall ecosystem health. Aboard Ocean Exploration Trust's Expedition Vessel *Nautilus*, sanctuary scientists and partners discovered two new sponge species growing on the wreck of the USS *Independence*. Extremely high species diversity among marine invertebrates and fish were documented using Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs) to explore deep sea canyons in the sanctuary.

Sonoma coast "doghole ports" explored

During August 2016, archaeologists and divers explored and documented the terrestrial and underwater remains of 11 Sonoma coast lumber ports, known as "dogholes," along with several shipwrecks illuminating the area's maritime landscape. This partnership between California State Parks and Office of National Marine Sanctuaries combines efforts to assess shared archaeological resources within Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. The doghole ports have been proposed for the National Register of Historic Places for maritime cultural landscape, recognizing the importance of the Sonoma coast to California's rich maritime history.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY17

- The sanctuary, in partnership with the Randall Museum, will double its Marine Explorers Camps, training future ocean explorers. The program will provide over 300 urban youth with hands-on experiences in diverse coastal habitats.
- The sanctuary, partnering with 20 local, state and federal agencies, scientific institutions and community groups, will assess outer coast erosion threats to highways and beaches in Marin and Sonoma counties including critical infrastructures threatened by sea level rise and storms.
- In order to assess the influence of ocean acidification, reduction of ship strike-related whale mortality and other human stressors, the sanctuary will continue research cruises through the Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies program.