

A Look Ahead

Farallones Marks 30 Years with Climate Change Initiative and Concept Design for Ocean Stewardship “Destination”
In 2011, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary will mark its 30th year with the unveiling of a concept plan for establishing a world-class icon for marine stewardship. The concept plan will outline a sustainably designed campus in a historic waterfront setting and will showcase the sanctuary’s marine life and cultural heritage. The sanctuary campus will be a destination for greater ocean literacy in the 21st century. The sanctuary will also mark its anniversary by embarking on a climate change initiative. The Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary has taken the lead in forming a multi-agency task force to address sea level rise associated with ocean climate change in the San Francisco Bay Area region. In 2011, sanctuary staff will work collaboratively with NOAA’s world-renowned climate scientists and experts. The sanctuary, U.S. Geological Survey and PRBO Conservation Science will assess coastal vulnerability to sea level rise and extreme storm events along the Bay Area’s outer coastline and develop a Web-based decision support tool and interactive maps for local resource managers, planners, and decision makers.

Supporting Jobs, Communities and Cultures

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is adjacent to one of the largest urban concentrations in North America with approximately 8 million people living within 50 miles of its shoreline, many of whom rely on sanctuary resources for pleasure or work. A wide range of human-use activities occur in and around the waters of the sanctuary. The major near and offshore activities include commercial fishing and mariculture, commercial shipping, recreation, and research. The sanctuary is a popular recreation area because of its many outstanding natural features and its proximity to the San Francisco Bay metropolitan area. More than 58 coastal access points in Sonoma, Marin, San Francisco, and San Mateo Counties provide direct access to and views of the sanctuary. The most important commercial harvests include Dungeness crab, salmon, squid, albacore, groundfish and Pacific herring. Three major shipping lanes converge in the sanctuary just west of the Golden Gate Bridge at the entrance to San Francisco Bay. The volume of traffic in and out of San Francisco Bay is significant, totaling approximately 6,000 vessel transits annually.

NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Officers

Chair: Richard Charter

Vice Chair: Barbara Emley

Secretary: Bob Wilson

Non-Governmental Members

Education: Bob Breen

Alternate: vacant

Research: John Largier

Alternate: Jaime Jahncke

Conservation: Richard Charter

Alternate: Bruce Bowser

Conservation: Bob Wilson

Alternate: Jackie Dragon

Maritime Activities/Commercial: Barbara Emley

Alternate: Peter Grenell

Maritime Activities/Recreation: Mick Menigoz

Alternate: George Clyde

At-Large San Francisco/San Mateo: Kellyx Nelson

Alternate: Timothy Duff

Community-At-Large/Marin and Sonoma:

Dominique Richard

Alternate: Richard Kuehn

Governmental Members

State Government

California Environmental Protection Agency:

Secretary: Linda S. Adams

Alternate: Cindy Tuck

California Resources Agency: Brian Baird

Alternate: Amy Viera

Federal Government

National Park Service: Cicely Muldoon

Alternate: Frank Dean

NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (non-voting):

Patrick Ruitten

Alternate: Natalie Cosentino-Manning

U.S. Coast Guard: vacant

Alternate: LT Steve Arnwine

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: vacant

Alternate: vacant

NOAA Cordell Bank NMS (non-voting):

Dan Howard

NOAA Monterey Bay NMS (non-voting):

Paul Michel

NOAA Channel Islands NMS (non-voting):

Chris Mobley

NOAA Gulf of the Farallones NMS (non-voting):

Maria Brown

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator

Leslie Abramson



Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary covers nearly 1,300 square miles of coastal and ocean wilderness west of San Francisco. The sanctuary is home to some of the largest concentrations of white sharks and blue whales on Earth, along with one-fifth of California’s breeding harbor seals and hundreds of thousands of breeding seabirds. The sanctuary also protects numerous estuaries, bays and beaches for the public to enjoy. Established Jan. 16, 1981.



Chad King, MBNMS

Advisory Council Produces Climate Change Impacts Report

In June, the advisory councils of the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries released their report, "Climate Change Impacts: Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries." It is the outcome of a year and a half of intensive collaboration among local experts representing 16 agencies, organizations, and academic institutions. Existing observations and science-based expectations were used to identify an extensive suite of already detected and potential climate change impacts to habitats, plants, and animals within Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries. The multi-disciplinary working group also made recommendations for lines of future management actions, and for developing strategies for addressing climate change impacts specific to the site, its communities, and the region. The report and executive summary are available at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/eco/climate/report.html>



Sarah Lenz, SMOP

Stairway Brings Visitors Safely to Sanctuary Shores

Through collaboration between NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the San Mateo County Parks Department, a new interpretive stairway now provides safe and convenient access to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve, part of the northern sector of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Descending from scenic coastal cliffs and marine terrace to the ocean below, it offers panoramic views with adjacent interpretive signs that spotlight the area's features. Sanctuary education staff trained twenty-five docents on site-specific interpretive techniques and the area's special features. Docents currently provide personalized tours for over 100,000 students and families annually to this newly designated California Marine Protected Area, already a San Mateo County reserve. By training reserve docents, the sanctuary can exponentially increase the impact of sanctuary messages through guided ideepool experiences. Congresswoman Jackie Speier presided at a ceremonial ribbon-cutting to mark the stairway's opening.

Thousands Attend San Francisco Ocean Film Festival

The February 2010, 7th Annual San Francisco Ocean Film Festival, the nation's premier "cinemaquatic" film event, drew over 3,700 people to inform, inspire, and foster stewardship of the ocean, and raise awareness of issues affecting it. It again included a special youth film program in which nearly one thousand students participated without fee, which featured short films made by an international group of students who participated in the 2009 Ocean For Life. The festival each year reaches people from all walks of life who share a love for and an interest in the sea. The Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary is a founding partner of the festival, and in 2010 NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries was the presenting sponsor for this important public outreach vehicle. The 8th annual festival is scheduled for March 9-13, 2011.



Alison Young, FIMS

Educators Reach Over Ten Thousand Bay Area Students

During the 2009/2010 school year 11,300 students and their teachers participated in Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary education programs. Teachers indicated without exception that they would recommend the programs to others, and 95 percent ranked the programs as "excellent." Students learned about the sanctuary, its habitats, inhabitants and ecosystems through hands-on interactive programs in our Sanctuary Visitor Center, through our At Your School programs and along sanctuary shores on beaches and rocky shores with our Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LIMPETS) program. The programs incorporate grade-appropriate California Science Standards, to reinforce important science concepts and include Ocean Literacy principles. Through these programs local students had opportunities to explore their sanctuary, gain an appreciation for the diverse life and vast ecosystem of the sanctuary and learn how to be better ocean and sanctuary stewards.

Report Reveals Threats to Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary

This year Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary released its first comprehensive report on the status of its biological and maritime cultural resources. It details the health and trends of the area from Point Ano Nuevo north to Bodega Head. The sanctuary condition report was prepared by the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries in consultation with outside experts, who reviewed the final version. Because the sanctuary encompasses significant outer coast and offshore habitats, and very different nearshore estuary and lagoon habitats with heavier human impacts, the report's ratings were broken out accordingly. It indicates that, overall, the sanctuary's marine life and habitats for the outer coast and offshore areas are relatively good. The report identifies historic and current pressures from nearly eight million people in the greater Bay Area and the impacts they have on sanctuary resources.

<http://farallones.noaa.gov/science/conditionreport.html>



May-Jane Schramm, GFNMS

Ecosystem Scale Research Looks at Changing Ocean

This year the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuaries worked in partnership with PRBO Conservation Science and other agencies to support marine wildlife conservation and healthy ecosystems by conducting ocean research to inform resource managers, policy makers and conservation partners. The Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) cruises promote effective management and conservation of natural resources that requires adaptive management strategies informed by robust analysis of past and present data and information at an ecosystem scale. ACCESS focuses on the oceanic habitats in federal and state waters off northern and central California, encompassing marine sanctuary waters and the potential national marine sanctuary expansion area north of the two sanctuaries, to just past Point Arena's major upwelling system. The research focuses on the distribution, abundance and demography of marine wildlife in the context of underlying physical oceanographic processes. The information will also alert managers, policy-makers and conservation partners about wildlife responses to changes in ocean conditions.



Sophie Webb, PRBO/NOAA

Greening the Blue Planet

In 2010, the Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary saw the completion of the first "green" structure on its campus: the 1890s-era Coast Guard Commandant's Residence has been transformed into the sanctuary's Ocean Climate Center Headquarters. Incorporated into the new building are such power-saving devices as motion-sensing light switches, dual-flush toilets, "flash" water heaters, Energy Star appliances, zoned area heating, and insulation. Natural light and ventilation are supplemented by LED lighting. Through reduced transportation and improved waste management, sanctuary staff have cut carbon emissions by an average of 0.83 metric tons carbon dioxide equivalent per person. The visitor center now offers paperless program registration, and reuses batteries from the adjacent historic Golden Gate Tide Station for exhibits. Aquarium creatures are "rescued" from ships being hauled out and bottom-scraped. Specially designed solar-assisted water coolers and aquaria will be fully operational in the coming year.



May-Jane Schramm, GFNMS