

## 2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### FARALLONES SPONSORS OCEAN CLIMATE SUMMIT

Over 140 people representing agencies, scientific institutions, academia, conservation groups and others addressing climate change and ocean acidification in the Central-northern California region attended the "Third Biennial Ocean Climate Summit: Strength Through Collaboration" in February 2013. The goal of the summit was to connect information, resources and people across disciplines to collaboratively sustain local marine ecosystem health. The event announced both the North-central coast "Our Coast, Our Future" flood mapping tool and ocean climate indicators, and included an Engaging the Community in Climate Change panel and poster session.



### SHIPPING LANES CHANGED IN BAY AREA SANCTUARIES

To prevent whale deaths from accidental ship strikes, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuaries, NOAA Fisheries, and Point Blue Conservation Science provided the U.S. Coast Guard with whale-related information, as well as recommendations for a local area Port Access Route Study and an International Maritime Organization-recommended lane change. The Coast Guard rulemaking was finalized in June 2013. The changes created traffic lanes that would shift vessel traffic away from areas where feeding whales frequent. Special notices also alerted ships to avoid known areas of seasonal whale density.

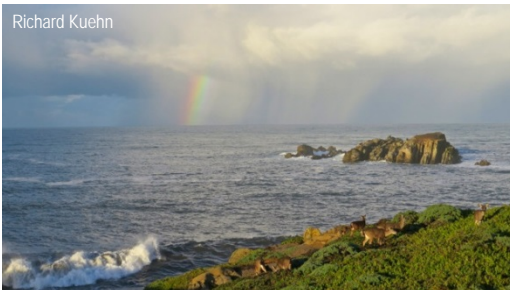


### OVER 400,000 VIEW NEW FARALLONES SANCTUARY EXHIBIT

On World Ocean Day, "*Travesia: Journey of the Gray Whale*," a bilingual, multi-media art and science exhibition, opened at the San Francisco Zoo, which also featured a Farallones sanctuary exhibit. *Travesia* follows a gray whale's migration from Mexico, through the national marine sanctuaries off San Francisco - Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay. Mexico's National Council for Culture and the Arts/Conaculta, and the Foreign Affairs Secretariat/SRE sponsored the exhibition, which attracted over 400,000 visitors in its first three months. The Farallones sanctuary exhibit is now a permanent zoo feature.

### NORTHWARD EXPANSION PROPOSED FOR SANCTUARIES

Since 2004, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey has introduced legislation to expand the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones sanctuaries north along the Sonoma/Mendocino coast. In winter and spring 2013, NOAA held three public scoping meetings to outline the proposal and hear comments of coastal residents. The expansion would protect the Point Arena upwelling center – source waters that convey nutrients down-current to the sanctuaries. Topics covered current and proposed sanctuary regulations and programs, oil exploration and development, conservation, tourism, and fisheries. Comments following the scoping meetings were generally encouraging.





## LOOKING AHEAD

- The Farallones White Shark Programmatic Environmental Assessment will be released in 2014. This document outlines current research and educational activities involving the Farallones white shark, as well as potential impacts, actions to minimize threats and steps to advance knowledge of this population.
- 2014 marks the tenth anniversary of Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies, a collaboration of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries and Point Blue Conservation Science. Researchers assessed ecosystem health, identified sensitive areas and gathered data to prevent whale deaths from ship strikes.
- In 2014, the sanctuary will launch a vessel mooring plan for Tomales Bay, a Ramsar site, to improve water quality, protect wildlife and habitats, protect public health, and promote recreation. It will specify mooring types, siting, sanitary devices, installation and maintenance.

**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.

*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.*

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Olympic Coast  
Cordell Bank  
Gulf of the Farallones  
Papahānaumokuākea  
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
Monterey Bay  
Channel Islands  
American Samoa (U.S.)



Thunder Bay  
Stellwagen Bank  
Monitor  
Gray's Reef  
Florida Keys  
Flower Garden Banks

Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas encompassing 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. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>