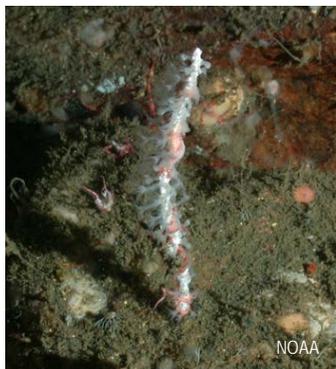


2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



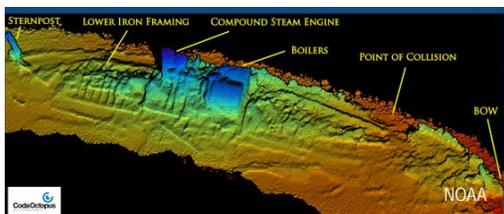
RESEARCHERS DISCOVER NEW CORAL SPECIES

In collaboration with Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS) research staff led a multi-agency cruise to explore the deep waters in the proposed sanctuary expansion areas. During the cruise, researchers catalogued and determined the extent and ecological importance of benthic invertebrates, fish and bottom habitats. An important discovery was a previously undescribed coral species of the genus *Leptogorgia*. The research team explored and collected images of the seafloor, submarine canyon walls and other features. The cruise revealed fish, invertebrates, corals and sponges.



NEW CALIFORNIA COAST EXHIBIT OPENS IN SAN FRANCISCO

Sanctuary education staff worked with the California Academy of Sciences to produce a new exhibit that provides insight into the spectacular underwater ecosystems in California's national marine sanctuaries. Exhibit highlights include a 2,000-gallon tank filled with brittle stars, painted greenlings and rosy rockfish. The exhibit also features interactive displays tracking the extraordinary migration pathways of sea turtles, sharks and other long-distance travelers. New information, maps and underwater footage shed light on the remarkable biodiversity that thrives in the 100,000-gallon "Gulf of the Farallones" tank. <http://www.calacademy.org/exhibits/california-coast>



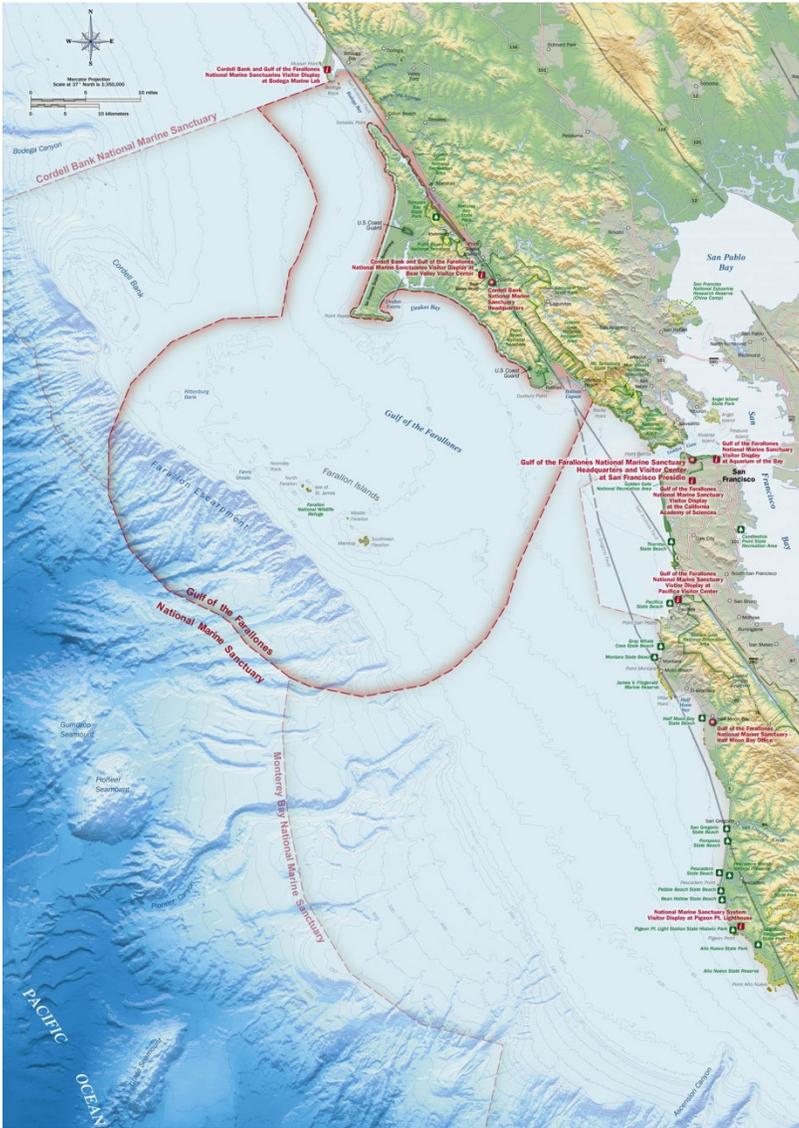
FARALLONES GAINS GLOBAL PROMINENCE IN THE NEWS

GFNMS spearheaded media efforts on projects ranging from deep sea corals to shipwrecks. In April, publicity for the 1888 wreck *City of Chester* spotlighted cutting-edge imaging technology and corrected early reports of the disaster, resulting in more than 1.2 billion story impressions. Last fall, a cruise to explore deep-sea habitats revealed a new coral species. Additionally, Associated Press, UPI and Reuters coverage resulted in more than 80 million news hits on the discovery.



GFNMS SCHOOL PROGRAMS ENGAGE 7,323 STUDENTS

GFNMS school programs inspire a greater appreciation of healthy ocean ecosystems by connecting the next generation of scientists, managers, and educators with an amazing diversity of ocean wildlife and habitats. Through experiential programs, the sanctuary engaged students across six counties in the San Francisco Bay Area. Students participated in several activities including outdoor field studies, squid dissections, plankton trawls, climate change experiments, ocean art activities and stewardship projects. All programs incorporated Next Generation Science Standards, Ocean Literacy Principles, and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math education.



LOOKING AHEAD

- NOAA is expanding GFNMS and CBNMS, more than doubling the size of the sanctuaries. The announcement comes after a two-year public comment process. NOAA received more than 1,000 comments regarding the proposed expansion, most supporting geographic expansion.
- Beach Watch, NOAA's award-winning citizen science monitoring project will be implemented in the newly expanded portions of GFNMS in partnership with the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, the Resources Legacy Fund and the California Ocean Science Trust.
- The sanctuary will publish a programmatic environmental assessment on the potential effects on white sharks from research and tourism activities in the sanctuary. The final assessment is expected to be completed in Spring 2015 and will help inform future management decisions.

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. The sanctuary was established on January 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

○ National Marine Sanctuary
△ Marine National Monument
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>