

FY18 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: Monika Krach/GFA

SharktoberFest featured shark science, art, conservation, exhibits and films, drawing 1,500 ocean enthusiasts.



Photo: NOAA

Deep sea corals and sponges create critical living habitats for many other forms of sea life.



Photo: Michael Beattie/EIB

Point Arena Lighthouse is an iconic sight in northern Greater Farallones sanctuary.

SharktoberFest Draws 1,500 to Farallones Fete

White Sharks are key in balancing the ecosystem of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, receiving special protection while feeding there each fall. September's SharktoberFest celebrated the white sharks' annual return, bringing 1,500 ocean enthusiasts to the sanctuary's San Francisco Presidio campus. Featuring lectures, science exhibits, hands-on activities, games, live sharks, art projects, costumes, and a parade with mascot Sanctuary Sam, the event brings awareness to the public about sharks' roles in maintaining ecosystem balance. All ages found opportunities to learn more about and appreciate our sharks and rays.

Deep Sea Coral Habitats Granted Special Protection by Vote

Remotely Operated Vehicle investigation of the sanctuary revealed deep-sea coral and sponge communities to be reservoirs of biodiversity, vitally important to associated species, including commercially important fishes and invertebrates. This resulted in the Pacific Fishery Management Council authorizing new closures providing special protections to these communities. The data enables scientists to assess the condition of these assemblages in relation to potential man-made or environmental disturbances, understand their value, and provide information to support fisheries and sanctuary management needs.

Story Map Guides Visitors to Adventures

From the wave-battered cliffs of California's Redwood Coast to the elephant seals at Año Nuevo, visitors can experience 32 destinations of exceptional beauty, showcasing exotic wildlife and quiet majesty. Greater Farallones' Discover Your Sanctuary story map is a gateway to new worlds of adventure and exploration, from sandy beaches, to tide pools, to the deep blue sea. It provides insider perspectives on seasonal highlights, little-known destinations, and helpful logistical information.

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Looking Ahead to FY19

- Launching a trans-Pacific partnership, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument will collaborate on developing teacher workshops and tool kits to address the ocean's changing chemistry, inspiring students to explore solutions to reduce high-impact carbon emissions.
- In 2019, the sanctuary will collaborate on developing a regional coastal sediment management plan to minimize human-caused sediment imbalances, erosion, and storm damage impacts to critical habitats and infrastructure to enhance public safety and access for recreational tourism.
- Sanctuary educators will teach professional naturalists and wildlife enthusiasts about the sanctuary's habitats and wildlife, including seabirds, shorebirds, fish and marine mammals. The course will address conservation issues and highlight volunteer opportunities through field explorations.