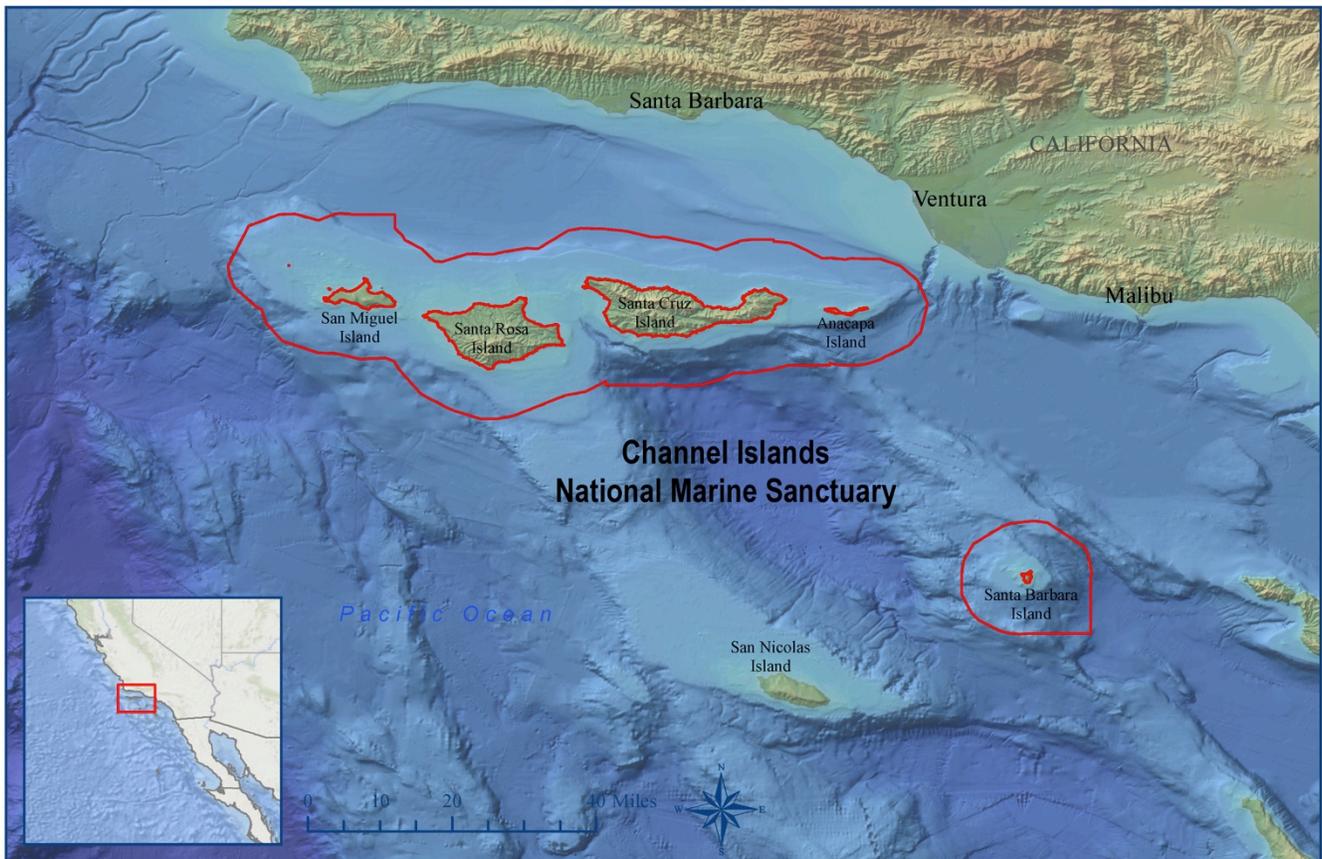


FY19 Accomplishments



BACKGROUND

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1980 and contains remarkable biodiversity, productive ecosystems, sensitive species and habitats. The sanctuary spans 1,470 square miles surrounding five of the Channel Islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara. Channel Islands 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 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 14 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

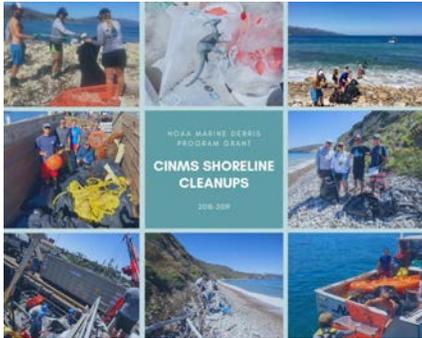


Photo: NOAA

In 2019, multiple marine debris clean up events were held in cooperation with local partners.



Photo: Sean Hastings/NOAA

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary protects 1,470 square miles of water surrounding the Channel Islands.



Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA

Native youth are empowered to develop relationships with and protect Chumash traditional homelands.

Teaming up with lobster fishermen to tackle marine debris

NOAA's Marine Debris Program and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation funded shoreline cleanups in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, which coincided with "Get Into Your Sanctuary" weekend. Ninety-two participants were involved, including sanctuary staff and interns, sanctuary advisory council members, National Park Service, California State University, and Santa Barbara lobster fishermen. Over 8,480 pounds of debris were removed. These cleanups fostered a productive partnership between the sanctuary and local fishermen.

Channel Islands Volume 2 Condition Report completed

A new condition report shows that Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is doing quite well, especially with regard to the abundance and diversity of wildlife. This updated scientific report describes how sanctuary resources are faring, while also highlighting status and trends in human uses, water quality, habitats, marine life, and maritime heritage resources. The report also assesses how Channel Islands ecosystems support human well-being and includes more quantitative data on select ecosystem indicators. This comprehensive review will serve as a roadmap going forward.

Sanctuary management lessons from Chumash community wisdom

Chumash community representatives appointed to the sanctuary advisory council developed an assessment of the sanctuary's ecosystem with a focus on Chumash perspectives and place-based values connected to their sacred homeland islands and surrounding ocean waters. Sanctuary managers gained a stronger appreciation for the indigenous group's relationship to the sanctuary's marine environment built over thousands of years.

Looking Ahead to FY20

- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary's current management plan is up for review to ensure responsiveness to current and emerging issues, technologies, and management needs. A public process is currently underway to revise the plan.
- Sanctuary staff have been leading efforts to obtain high resolution seafloor mapping data throughout the sanctuary. Having reached 92% mapping coverage in 2019, staff expect in 2020 to close in on completion of this mapping endeavor.
- In 2020, a group of students from the mechanical engineering department at UC Santa Barbara, working closely with sanctuary staff, will design and test a novel recovery system that can help retrieve research equipment anchor weights.