

## Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2020

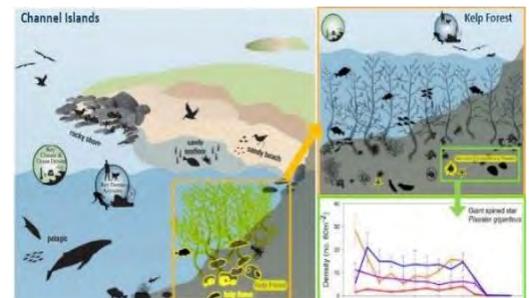
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary protects 1,470 square miles of ocean waters around five of the Channel Islands: Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara islands. Designated in 1980, the sanctuary supports remarkable marine biodiversity, productive ecosystems, endangered species, sensitive habitats, historic shipwrecks, and cultural resources and provides protection through research, education, conservation, and stewardship.

Visit [channelislands.noaa.gov](https://channelislands.noaa.gov) for more information.



### Channel Islands web-based condition report

Through an exciting collaboration that leverages expertise across NOAA's Integrated Ecosystem Assessment Program and Integrated Ocean Observing System, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary developed web-based, interactive tools to explore and better understand the changing nature of the sanctuary's ecosystems. These user-friendly online tools bring ecosystem tracking and assessment information to the fingertips of resource managers, scientists, educators, and the public. Using this online platform will help stakeholders interpret the Channel Islands' latest condition status report.



Online graphics provide links to ecosystem monitoring data and assessment information.

Photo: NOAA

### Shipping industry cooperates to protect whales

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary continued to help administer the Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Incentive-Based Vessel Speed Reduction Program to reduce fatal ship strikes. In 2020, 15 companies were recognized for slowing ships to 10 knots or less for over 99,000 nautical miles in California during the 2019 whale season, achieving reductions of more than 500 tons of nitrogen oxide emissions and more than 17,000 metric tons of greenhouse gases. Enrollment in 2020 increased to 16 companies, and the slow speed zone for southern California was expanded to include nearly half of the southern California Bight.



MSC, Hapag Lloyd, GALI, and Polynesia Line shipping companies achieved the Sapphire award level in the 2019 Vessel Speed Reduction Program. Photo: Jess Morton

## Management plan update process launched

NOAA invited the public to weigh in on future management priorities for the sanctuary. Hundreds of public scoping comments were received, and the sanctuary advisory council provided input on management priorities. The sanctuary identified and outlined topics for a series of action plans focused on climate change, marine debris, vessel traffic, introduced species, marine zones, education, research and monitoring, resource protection, and maritime heritage. NOAA is now working to develop a draft environmental assessment and management plan.

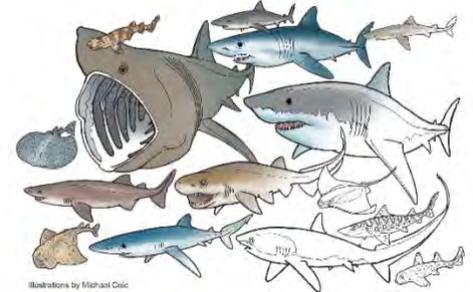
## New shark-themed educational resources

A new coloring book and poster focused on sharks is now available for kids and kids at heart! The coloring book was created by Channel Islands Naturalist Corps volunteer and professional graphic designer Terri Wright, and illustrations were donated by Michael Cole. The new coloring book includes species descriptions, samples of natural colors, activities, and a coloring poster. The coloring book is available on the [National Marine Sanctuaries Games and Activities page](#). The new product brings awareness to the diversity of sharks found within the sanctuary.



The waters around San Miguel Island are part of the sanctuary.

Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA



Illustrations by Michael Cole

New outreach products support community interest in sharks and sanctuary wildlife.

Photo: NOAA

## Looking Ahead

- To help reduce fatal ship strikes on endangered blue, fin, and humpback whales, the sanctuary will submit a proposal to the International Maritime Organization to expand an existing Area to Be Avoided and extend the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Santa Barbara Channel and sanctuary.
- The sanctuary will release an updated management plan, working closely with the sanctuary advisory council to identify action plans to address a variety of priority threats to the sanctuary's resources, including climate change, marine debris, and invasive species.
- The sanctuary will evaluate and assess technologies to better understand the spatial and temporal patterns of human use in the sanctuary, crucial for resource management, including enforcement, quantification of MPA efficacy, and valuation of ecosystem services.

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



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

The National Marine Sanctuary System is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 600,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes a system of 14 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.