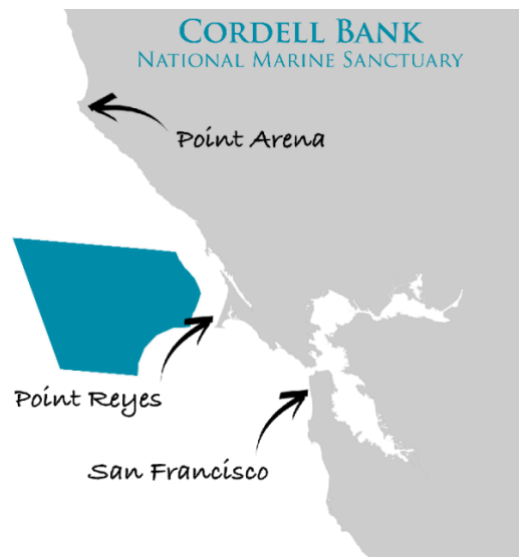


Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2021

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary was established in 1989 to protect and preserve the extraordinary marine ecosystem surrounding the Cordell Bank. Situated at the edge of the continental shelf, Cordell Bank is a rocky feature that provides homes to colorful and abundant invertebrates, algae, and fishes. Its surface waters are feeding areas for local and migratory seabirds and marine mammals. The sanctuary is entirely offshore and protects an area of 1,286 square miles.

Visit cordellbank.noaa.gov for more information.



Scientists Back On The Water

Sanctuary staff restarted research and monitoring efforts with COVID-19 safety protocols in place after a year off the water. The Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) at sea monitoring program gathered data to assess conditions which contribute to management decision making. Seafloor surveys continued with use of a remotely operated vehicle to monitor the seafloor. The site continued assessing hypoxia by monitoring how oxygen levels fluctuate through the oceanographic seasons. Gathering data to keep eyes and ears in the sanctuary helps management track the health of the sanctuary.



Remotely operated vehicle monitoring allows scientists to track conditions on the seafloor. Photo: NOAA

Condition Reports Contribute to Management Goals

Sanctuary staff kicked off the production of its condition report by hosting a series of workshops about sanctuary resources and programs. This report provides an updated and timely summary of known resources, resource pressures, current conditions and trends, and management responses to the pressures that threaten the integrity of the marine environment. The report will assist the sanctuary's upcoming management plan review where management actions are updated to reflect the current conditions of the sanctuary.



Humpback whales visit and feed in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary annually. Photo: NOAA

Creating Efficiencies for Ecosystem Management

Sanctuary staff teams at Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones national marine sanctuaries were combined as one team for management efficiency purposes. The sanctuaries neighbor each other and have had collaborative programs in place for years. Both sanctuaries are now led by one superintendent and one consolidated staff to reduce redundancy and foster efficiency for better outcomes for ecosystem protection for both sanctuaries.



The R/V *Fulmar* is a shared research platform between three national marine sanctuaries. Photo: NOAA

Looking Ahead

- Updated sanctuary exhibits at the Point Reyes National Seashore's Bear Valley Visitor Center will be installed with current images and information about the sanctuary. This will inspire park visitors to learn about the sanctuary waters that surround Point Reyes National Seashore.
- Sanctuary education, outreach, science, and resource protection programs will be fully integrated with Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary under the new consolidated "two sanctuaries, one staff" management model. The two sanctuaries total over 4,500 square miles of contiguous ocean waters.
- The sanctuary plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries through Get Into Your Sanctuary events in 2022.



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 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.