



Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2022

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 for more information.



Get into Your Sanctuary Programs Highlight Fishing

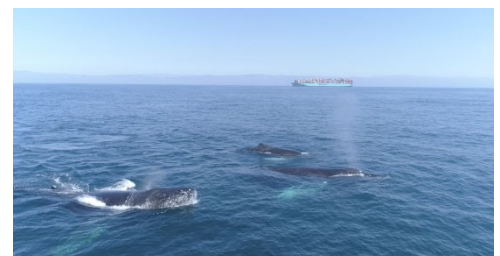
This summer, the sanctuary partnered with Reel Guppy Outdoors to host a “Get into Your Sanctuary” Youth Fishing Trip on the sportfishing vessel *Gentleman* with 31 kids from the Port Hueneme area. The program was an educational fishing experience in the sanctuary that emphasized sustainable fishing, environmental stewardship, and healthy ecosystems. Engaging youth and community partners in best practices for recreational fishing, such as the proper disposal of monofilament line and marine debris prevention, promotes stewardship and support for the long-term protection of our nation's underwater treasures.



Participants from Get into Your Sanctuary Youth Fishing Trip aboard the *Gentlemen* Sportfishing Vessel. Photo: NOAA.

Reducing Fatal Ship Strikes on Endangered Whales

The 2022 Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program expanded to 24 global shipping lines, who receive incentives to reduce speeds to 10 knots to reduce air pollution, underwater noise, and ship strike risk. Staff worked with the International Maritime Organization to extend shipping lanes and an Area to Be Avoided that separates ships and whales. Staff authored and published a research article in *Frontiers in Marine Science* evaluating the effectiveness of voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction efforts and concluded that mandatory speed limits warrant consideration in the region.



Humpback whales feeding in proximity to the shipping lanes in the Santa Barbara Channel. Photo: Adam Ernster/Condor Express.

Marine Debris Cleanups in Channel Islands

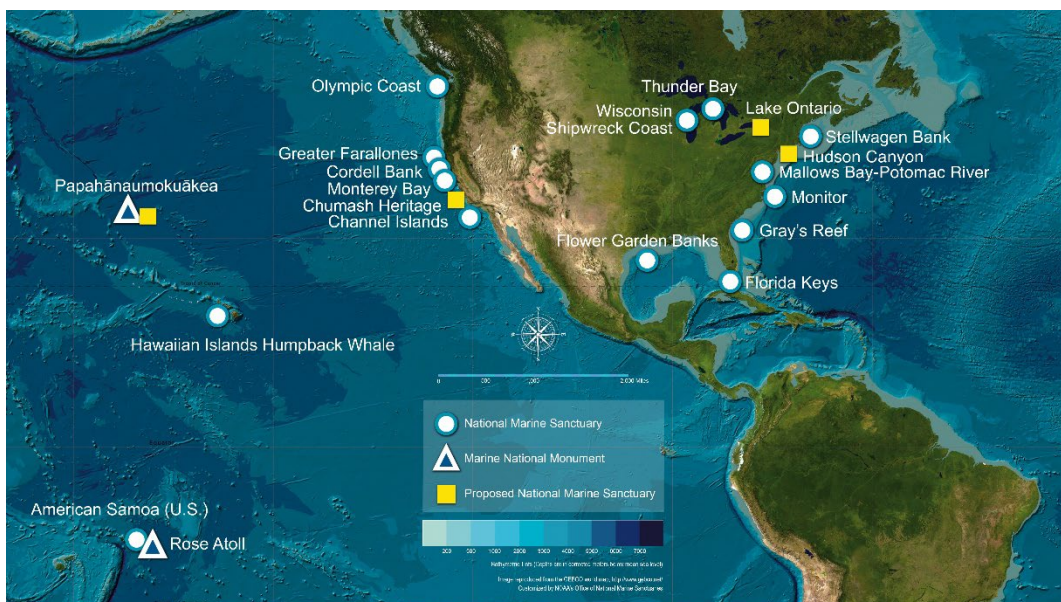
Sanctuary staff worked with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to host two marine debris shoreline cleanups in association with Get into Your Sanctuary, California Cleanup Day, and the *Goal: Clean Seas Channel Islands* program. Dozens of volunteers from NOAA, US Coast Guard, Santa Barbara Channel Keeper, Island Packers, Cal State University Channel Islands, Environmental Defense Center, Channel Islands Naturalist Corps and local lobstermen removed over 1,900 pounds of lost fishing gear, plastics and other marine debris from Santa Cruz and Anacapa Islands.



Fishing line and a plastic ball removed from the sanctuary. Photo: NOAA

Looking Ahead

- In 2023 a new 29-foot sanctuary research vessel will begin operations, replacing the *Shark Cat*. The vessel is being built in Goleta, California by Radon Boats, and will be ideal for SCUBA dive operations and a variety of other missions.
- A Final Management Plan will be published in early 2023, charting a course for the next 5-10 years. Plan priorities include climate change, marine debris, introduced species, vessel traffic, zone management, sustaining core program areas, diversity and inclusion, and Chumash community engagement.
- Implementation of a sanctuary Climate Change Action Plan will commence in 2023. To address vulnerabilities of sanctuary resources to climate change effects, this new work will include planning and conducting expert workshops to assess future conditions, risks, and potential tipping points.



The National Marine Sanctuary System is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 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.