

Gulf of the Farallones



Habitats

Coastal beaches

Rocky intertidal

Mud & tidal flats

Salt marsh

Esteros

Pelagic, open ocean

Deep benthos, continental shelf and slope

Key Species Dungeness crab

California gray whale

Stellar sea lion

Common Murre

Ashy Storm-petrel

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

includes nurseries and spawning grounds for

commercially valuable species, at least 36

species of marine mammals, and 154 species

of birds use the Sanctuary during breeding.

One fifth of California's harbor seals breed

within the sanctuary. The Farallon Islands are

home to the largest concentration of breeding

seabirds in the contiguous United States. The

sanctuary boundaries include the coastline up

to mean high tide, protecting a number

of lagoons, estuaries, bays, and beaches for

the public.

Above: Harbor seals; left to right: gray whale; kayakers and fishermen share Tomales Bay; Farallon

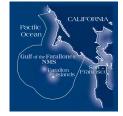


Research Activities

The Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary brings monitoring and restoration, assessment. and development in a variety of research activities. Its monitoring program studies rocky intertidal habitats within the sanctuary. In the Beach Watch program volunteers are trained to conduct shoreline monitoring. The sanctuary is helping to restore marshes in Bolinas Lagoon and Tomales Bay and working to reintroduce Common Murre populations to their historical breeding areas along the coast. Development of a Geographical Information System (GIS) is part of sanctuary research endeavors. Assessments of pollutants in seabirds and Stellar sea lions and Ashy Storm-petrel population studies have been carried out.

Education Activities

Each year the Sanctuary Explorers Camp holds a week-long summer camp for children. During the school year the sanctuary developed curriculum and teacher training to further marine education. Ongoing community outreach involve seminars, presentations, and publications of marine programs.



Location
Along the coast of
California north and
west of San Francisco

Protected Area 1,255-square miles

Designation January 1981

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