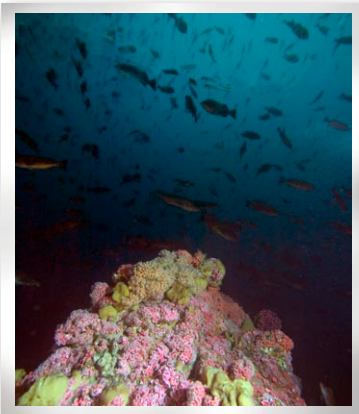


CORDELL BANK

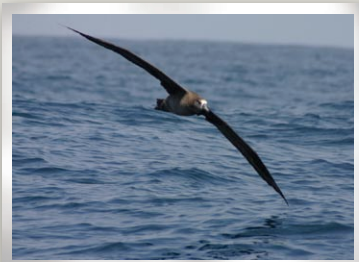
2 0 0 7 A C C O M P L I S H M E N T S



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary teems with fish and invertebrate life. Photo: NOAA



Researchers launch a camera sled off the R/V Fulmar. Photo: Jamie Hall



The black-footed albatross is a common sight in the sanctuary. Photo: NOAA

New Ocean Observing Station Installed at Cordell Bank

Sanctuary staff and UC Davis-Bodega Marine Lab installed an oceanographic buoy in the sanctuary that will help scientists better understand the physical oceanography of Cordell Bank — an area vital to the diverse marine food web in the sanctuary. The buoy provides near-real-time data that is linked with regional coastal ocean observing systems and the National Data Buoy Center, and are used by sanctuary staff, research oceanographers, and local communities to better understand offshore ocean conditions.

Students Get Hooked on Marine Stewardship by Tracking Ocean Animals

The sanctuary program continually strives to bring the oceans into America's classrooms and homes through innovative education and outreach efforts. Working with the U.S. Satellite Group and Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, sanctuary staff held two workshops, training 40 teachers how to track ocean animals in the classroom while teaching mandated standards. The program captures students' interest using ocean creatures and promotes exploration of issues and stewardship associated with the ocean. By using real data including NOAA satellite imagery, teachers and students gain knowledge about our connection to the ocean. Animals in Curriculum-Based Ecosystem Studies also offers a public Web interface that allows users to get online and track different ocean animals and explore their conservation status and research needs. Students, teachers and the public can explore the national marine sanctuaries and track seabirds, marine mammals and sea turtles online at <http://www.signalsofspring.net/aces>. This three-year project was funded by a 2006 NOAA Environmental Literacy Grant.

Connecting Visitors to the Coast with Sanctuaries

An interactive touch screen kiosk was installed in the Bear Valley Visitor Center at Point Reyes National Seashore. The kiosk allows visitors to learn about Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones national marine sanctuaries and provides real-time access to marine weather, including a live view of the sanctuary from a camera looking out from the Point Reyes Lighthouse. The kiosk was partially funded by a NOAA 200th celebration grant.

Shared Research Vessel Aids Research Efforts in the Sanctuary

The R/V *Fulmar*, shared between the three marine sanctuaries off California's central coast, has been a valuable asset in helping sanctuary staff and partners learn more about the Cordell Bank sanctuary's unique offshore environment. The 67-foot vessel provided an ideal platform for researchers to conduct various tasks in challenging offshore conditions. Some of the work included maintaining an offshore oceanographic buoy, conducting monthly monitoring of the ocean environment, recording marine mammal and seabird abundance, launching a remotely operated vehicle to locate and characterize derelict fishing gear, and towing a video camera sled to characterize soft bottom benthic communities. The new vessel better allows sanctuary staff to fulfill research needs, both through its own research as well as working with outside partners.

<http://cordellbank.noaa.gov>



CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

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Habitats
• Rocky reefs
• Open ocean
• Soft sediment
• Continental shelf and slope

Key Species
• Kill
• California hydrocod
• Rockfishes
• Humpback whale
• Blue whale
• Dall's porpoise
• Abalones
• Shearwaters



Map Key

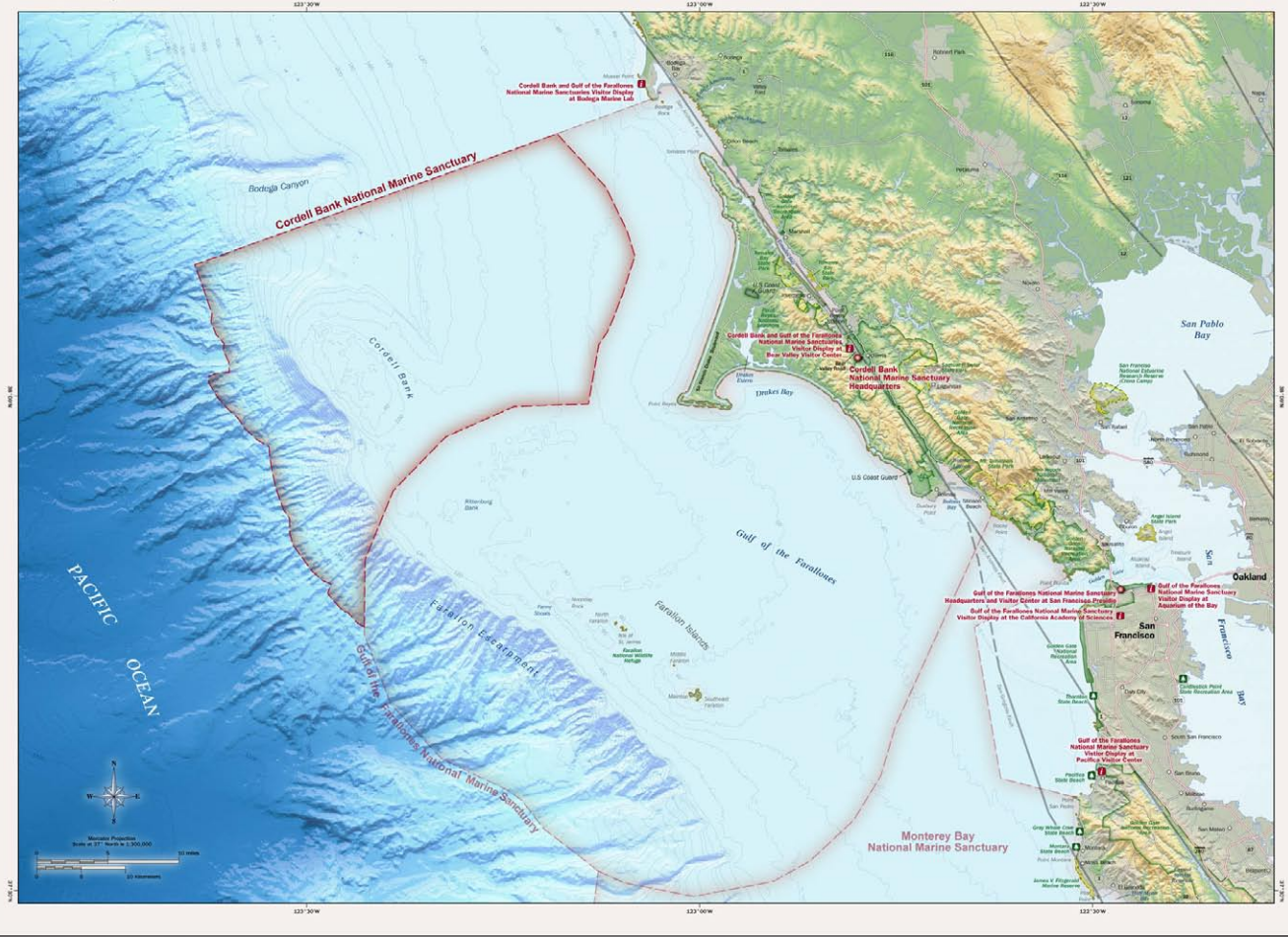
- National Marine Sanctuary
- California Coastal National Monument
- National Park
- Other Park
- Military Installation
- Fault Zone
- Sanctuary Office
- Sanctuary Visitor Information
- Other Park



Location
60 miles northwest of San Francisco

CORDELL BANK NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Protected Area
528-square miles
Designation
May 1989



Sanctuary maps available at sanctuaries.noaa.gov

Getting to Know the Softer Side of the Sanctuary

The marine sanctuary is best known for Cordell Bank, a high-relief rocky feature situated on the edge of the continental shelf. However, the bank only occupies approximately five percent of the sanctuary's total area. The remaining habitat is primarily soft sediments, and relatively little is known about these habitats and their associated living communities. In 2007, sanctuary research staff launched a study to characterize the soft substrate benthic community on the continental shelf. Several species of flatfish, anemones, and sea stars were prevalent in this habitat. An abundance of sea whips was also found, providing vertical structure in an otherwise flat environment and creating biological habitat that is potentially vulnerable to disturbance from activities such as bottom trawling. Exploring this area of the sanctuary provides information that can be used to assess and manage potential threats from future activities.

To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov

