

Farallones Sanctuary Wins Prestigious PRBO Conservation Partner Award

In May, Gulf of the Farallones NMS received the prestigious 2008 PRBO Conservation Science Award at PRBO's annual membership meeting for our successful collaborations in research, conservation, restoration, policy development, education and outreach. Formerly the Point Reyes Bird Observatory, for over two decades the award-winning research group has worked with the Farallones sanctuary to study and conserve marine species in the California Current Ecosystem through such programs as a study of contaminant levels in the region's declining Steller sea lion population, monitoring white sharks, food web surveys, and other conservation-directed projects. Education and Outreach partnerships include Seabird Aware to protect seabirds against fisheries interactions and disturbance; Webs Under Waves to teach students about seabirds and marine food webs; the Bolinas Lagoon restoration project; and other joint undertakings.

In 2007 the Farallones Sanctuary Education and Outreach Team Serve 834,000 People

In May the Education and Outreach "2007 Team Accomplishments Report" was released. A total of 833,908 people learned about the Farallones sanctuary last year through direct contacts. The sanctuary used two education strategies: Through the sanctuary Public Programs (visitor centers, lectures, excursions, exhibits, etc.) the sanctuary reached 817,790 people. These are in fulfillment of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries' National Program Initiatives on Awareness and Community Involvement, and Ecosystem Protection Issues such as Wildlife Disturbance. Also, the sanctuary served an additional 16,118 students and teachers through its School Programs and Visitor Center Programs in fulfillment of the National Program Initiative for Ocean Literacy. In addition, tens of thousands learned of the sanctuary and its issues via indirect contact, including the Sanctuary and Association web sites and local and national media.

HEALTH OF THE SANCTUARY

Investigating Harbor Porpoise Die-off in Farallones Marine Sanctuary

The Farallones sanctuary is working with NOAA Fisheries Marine Mammal Stranding Network, The Marine Mammal Center, California Academy of Sciences, and California Department of Public Health (CDPH) to determine the cause of numerous harbor porpoise strandings in the region: 16 dead harbor porpoises stranded in a 21-day period. Most early strandings were females with full term dead fetuses. Beach Watch data indicates this is a two- to three-fold increase in stranding rates for this area. Domoic Acid (DA) poisoning is one potential cause, the result of an extreme proliferation of marine algae – a Harmful Algal Bloom (HAB). It can cause brain degeneration and sometimes death in marine mammals, seabirds and humans, so the sanctuary works closely with the Department of Public Health. The sanctuary's recent SEAS surveys sampled phytoplankton in offshore waters providing the CDPH with a baseline for comparing plankton levels; Beach Watch data yielded stranding patterns.

Seabirds Establish New Breeding Colony in Sanctuary

Common Murres have established their first new colony in north-central California in at least several decades. This spring the Farallones marine sanctuary's SEAS-Beach Watch and SEAS-Pelagic Surveys discovered murres attending Bird Island in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary off Rodeo Beach, near Point Bonita at the entrance of the Golden Gate. An estimated 500 birds have been seen there since at least early May, and murre eggs were seen on June 7. Brandt's Cormorants are also breeding on Bird Island for the first time in over 10 years. The sanctuary is working with the National Park Service and US Fish and Wildlife Service to track the success of the breeding murres and cormorants.

Cormorant Die-off at New Rookeries Being Examined

Science staff is currently reviewing trends in cormorant die-offs in mid-June near breeding colonies along Drakes Bay and Rodeo Beach/Marin Headlands detected by SEAS-Beach Watch long-term monitoring. In previous years Brandt's Cormorant's breeding colonies were primarily along the Drakes Bay rocks and islands, near Millers Rocks, Stormy Stack and Double Point. This year cormorants, primarily Brandt's Cormorants, have established thousands of nests southward, along the offshore rocks nearer the mouth of San Francisco Bay. Along with the high numbers of breeding birds, we have seen an increase in dead cormorants. We are comparing these current numbers to past trends at other breeding colonies, to determine if there should be management actions or future investigations into the cause of the die-off. SEAS monitoring determine trends in local populations and informs management of environmental and anthropogenic perturbations.

In addition, PRBO reports from Southeast Farallon Island that almost all seabirds are doing very well this year, with the exception of the Brand's Cormorants: The all island census was conducted on June 9th through the 14th, resulting in an estimate of 3, 548 breeding Brandts. This is down from 20,788 during the same period last season.

RESEARCH

Monitoring To Understand Long-Term Trends

Farallones science staff worked with CeNCOOS and state's Ocean Protection Council staff to develop a plan to outline how ocean observing systems can better address management issues. A final report from the workshop is now available: <http://www.cencoos.org/California-Workshop-Report-FINAL.pdf>. The plan focuses on water quality issues and outlines how monitoring programs can be focused to produce information useful for management of marine protected areas, including sanctuaries and the state's new marine zones. The plan dovetails with GFNMS' management plan to better characterize sanctuary habitats, provide monitoring data on the status and trends of living resources and habitats, and to strengthen our partnerships with other state and federal marine resource protection agencies.

Sanctuary Ecosystem Assessment Surveys (SEA Surveys)

Staff completed SEAS-Pelagic Surveys for June aboard the *R/V Fulmar*. This recent series of at-sea surveys was conducted in collaboration with researchers and students from San Francisco State University/Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies. The emphasis of the surveys was to collect monitoring data on the nutrient loads from San Francisco Bay and its role on productivity in the California Current upwelling process. Data on the abundance and distribution of seabirds, mammals, vessel activities and marine debris were also collected. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff provided on-board technical support for the survey team and assisted with quality control and formatting the captured data. The data will be queried to produce abundance and distribution maps.

CONSERVATION

Minimizing Risk from Oil Spills and Vessels

Potential Places of Refuge for Distressed Vessels

Sanctuary staff is working with natural resource trustee agencies to identify sensitive resources for the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) Potential Places of Refuge effort. Participants included the National Park Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of the Interior, and the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response. This natural resource information will be added to a database used by the USCG to evaluate the appropriateness of using Drakes Bay as a potential place of refuge for deep-draft vessels in distress.

Oil Spill Response

During the week of June 9 a notable re-oiling event from the *Cosco Busan* oil spill was discovered at Rodeo Beach in Marin County, seven months after the original spill. Sanctuary staff was a member of the team that discovered the oil after three months of citizen reports of children/adults getting oiled while recreating. The Park Service instituted a partial beach closure. The oil, which was geochemically typed to the *Cosco Busan* spill, was relatively fresh and was speculated to be uncovered oil that had been buried for the last seven months. Clean-up operations were carried out.

Reducing Wildlife Disturbance

Protecting Breeding Seabird Colonies—Special Closures

On June 11, the California Department of Fish and Game Commission decided on a preferred alternative for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) analysis regarding Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) implementation. In addition to the network of marine protected areas, the preferred alternative included Special Closures recommended by the Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary. Special closures are vessel no-go zones designed to protect critical seabird and marine mammal breeding grounds. Sanctuary staff have been working with and educating stakeholders and decision makers over the last year to include seabird and marine mammal protection as part of the MLPA. Special closures are also part of every alternative proposal included in the CEQA analysis. A final decision is expected this winter.

Protecting Breeding Seabird Colonies—Education and Outreach

Seabird Colony Protection Program staff met with the airport manager, operations manager, and construction manager of the Half Moon Bay and San Carlos airports to discuss possibilities for bird-friendly flight techniques that could be promoted by the airports. Information on low-overflight regulations and the effects of low overflights on marine wildlife will be included in their next airport newsletter. The program provided the San Carlos Airport manager, with 400 pilot guide brochures to send out with the airport mailings. The manager also included a paragraph about the program in the May airport notes indicating that the program would be at the Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show. At the Pacific Coast Dream Machines Show staff provided pilots with information on how to reduce disturbance to seabirds and marine mammals by maintaining certain overflight recommendations while flying within the Sanctuary. In addition to providing the Half Moon Bay and San Carlos airports with brochures, the Seabird Colony Protection Program also provided the Novato airport with 50 pilot brochures to distribute and over 100 brochures for private pilot clubs in the Bay Area.

Improving water quality

Sanctuary staff attended a meeting at the Pillar Point Air Force station near Half Moon Bay to discuss plans and environmental considerations for a surface water runoff discharge diversion project. The Air Force currently discharges high metal and bacteria-laden surface waters into the sanctuary. Proposed plans include different source control and water treatment measures prior to discharging either into the sanctuary, Pillar Point Marsh, or Pillar Point Harbor.

Restoring Sanctuary Habitat

Bolinas Lagoon Restoration Plan

On May 21 the sanctuary released the draft Locally Preferred Plan to restore the lagoon and issued a press release to ensure broad outreach and involvement, especially critical for this project, which is the culmination of over a decade of discussion and study. In June, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Marin County Open Space in cooperation with the Army Corp of Engineers hosted a Public Workshop for the Bolinas Lagoon Ecosystem Restoration Project. Marin County Supervisor Steve Kinsey plus over 60 community members participated in the Public Workshop. Public comments were accepted until June 22, 2008. Following the public comment period, the Working Group convened for a final meeting to consider revisions to the plan.

Developing Solutions to Respond to Climate Change

Taking a Leadership Role in Addressing Climate Change in the Marine Environment

On April 29 the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary held the inaugural “Biennial Ocean Climate Summit” for the Bay Area’s coast and ocean. Over 100 participants represented federal, state, and local agencies, non-profit organizations, foundations, and academic institutions throughout the region. Office of Marine Sanctuaries Director Dan Basta and other leadership staff from headquarters, regional offices, and all of the west coast sanctuary sites participated. The panels convened experts on “Ocean Impacts, Ecosystem Response, and Human Adaptation,” “Perceptions, Behaviors, and Economics within a Changing Ocean Environment,” and “Regional Climate Change Actions.” Susi Moser, editor of “Creating a Climate for Change” was the keynote speaker. For the summit, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff from the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) compiled data sets of coastal vulnerability, environmental sensitivity and predicted sea level rise. These data sets were combined into maps highlighting the varying sensitivity of complex shorelines to sea level rise, which were then presented at the summit to facilitate discussion. Breakout groups built and strengthened partnerships and developed strategies on means to address climate change issues. GFNMS will provide summit proceedings and begin work on a Climate Change Solutions Action Plan.

International Leadership

Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary staff traveled to Gijon, Spain May 19 through 23 to present a paper titled, "Local Solutions to Manage the Effects of Global Climate Change: A Process Guide for Natural Resource Managers" at the international symposium, "Effects of Climate Change on the World's Oceans." The paper was presented in Theme Session 5.2, "Adaptation and mitigation of effects in the marine environment and ecosystems." The convenors/plenary speakers for the session were Jane Lubchenko, Oregon State University and William T. Peterson, Hatfield Marine Science Center, National marine Fisheries Service. All presentations will be posted to the symposium website.

National Leadership

NOAA’s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI), American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the California Council on Science and Technology co-sponsored an Ocean Science Summit on May 27-29, in Monterey. Farallones staff attended, along with leaders in the fields of science, resource management and the government to discuss climate change and ocean science needs for the future. Senator Sheldon Whitehouse, Congressman Sam Farr, Congresswoman Lois Capps, and staff from dozens of congressional offices and senate and house committees attended.

In June, Farallones staff presented “Navigating the Future: Working to Reduce the Effects of Climate Change—A Community-based Approach” at Capitol Hill Oceans Week in Washington, DC. Staff presented findings and recommendations gathered from the Biennial Ocean Climate Summit for the Bay Area’s coast and ocean as well as current actions the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary are implementing to address climate change.

EDUCATION

Increasing Awareness of the Sanctuary

Field Adventures	Location	Attendance
“Coastal Flower Walk” with author Toni Corelli	Pescadero	17
“Spotting the Nesting Seabirds of Alcatraz” with Stephanie Bishop	San Francisco	
“Kayaking the Sanctuary”	San Francisco	20
Outreach Events		
Marine Science Institute’s Earth Day	Redwood City	358
Earth Stroll Crissy Field	San Francisco	150
Aquarium of the Bay’s Earth Fest	San Francisco	110
Seaside Storytime	Half Moon Bay	20
SalmonAid	Oakland	500

School Programs

LiMPETS—Long-term Monitoring Program & Experiential Training for Students

The LiMPETS program trains middle school, high school, and other young groups to monitor the rocky intertidal, sandy shore and offshore areas of the five west coast National Marine Sanctuaries. Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association staff trained 62 educators and teachers in five workshops this quarter to participate in the LiMPETS Sandy Beach Monitoring Programs. This training is part of a series of four workshops during the school year that engages teachers in Sanctuary education programs and increases teacher knowledge about the sanctuaries and ocean sciences. All workshops aim to increase teachers' awareness of the sanctuaries and sanctuary programs and aim to increase the amount of time teachers spend teaching ocean sciences in the classroom.

The Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association staff reached a broad and diverse group of students from all over the Bay Area this quarter. The students all participated in monitoring programs at their local Sanctuary beaches and rocky intertidal areas. The LiMPETS program strives to connect students with the ocean and engage them in hands-on science.

On Saturday, June 14th, twenty LiMPETS teachers and Sanctuary education partners were treated to a special professional development opportunity aboard the *R/V Fulmar*. Teachers learned about seabird biology, identification, and classroom activities while exploring the wide reaches of Sanctuary. Many teachers sighted puffins and albatross for the first time in their lives.

The LiMPETS Program has wrapped up the 2007-08 school year, training a total of **443** students from **21** schools around the San Francisco Bay Area how to monitor the sanctuary.

At-Your-School (AYS) Programs

At Your School programs are an outreach program of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary designed to promote ocean literacy and increase students’ awareness and knowledge of coastal and marine life. It includes standards-based interactive classroom programs for

kindergarten through sixth grades. The AYS Program has wrapped up the 2007-08 school year, reaching out to a total of **3,263** students at various schools around the San Francisco Bay Area. The primary AYS programs are Crab Cab, Sharkmobile, and Webs Under Waves.

The Crab Cab (Kindergarten through 3rd grade) program was presented to schools throughout the Bay Area, reaching 1,562 students. These budding marine science students were excited to work with live crabs (later returned to their habitats), and enjoyed the opportunity to learn the tools of scientific observation, even at their young age. They determined if crabs were males or females, what kinds they were, and learned about adaptations to their rocky intertidal habitats and environmental conditions.

CRAB CAB

	Fall 07	Winter 08	Spring 08	Total
Number of Programs:	21	36	29	86
Number of Classes:	20	36	29	85
Number of Students:	434	591	537	1562
Number of Adults:	31	62	56	149
Total Participants:	465	653	593	1711
Number of schools visited:	7	9	10	25
Type of School:				
Public	5	7	7	19
Private	2	1	3	6
Other		1		1
Counties Served:				
San Mateo	2	3	4	9
San Francisco	6	2	2	10
Marin		1	1	2
Contra Costa		2	2	4
Solano				0
Sonoma				0
Alameda		1	1	
Total	2	5	5	5

Sharkmobile

The Sharkmobile is a classroom program on the biology, natural history and conservation of sharks. The Sharkmobile reached out to classes (grades 4 through 6) and taught **3,263** students about sharks, and their cousins the skates and rays. Topics include evolution, adaptations to the marine environment, specialized functions of various organs, and addressed common shark myths that have led to their becoming “the fish you love to hate.” Students are surprised to learn that very few sharks pose any real threat to humans, and to discover that although an average of 10 people a year die from interactions with sharks, roughly 10 million sharks are killed each year by humans. Sharks are also important elements in the health of the marine ecosystem.

	SHARKMOBILE				WEBS UNDER WAVES			
	Fall 07	Winter 08	Spring 08	Total	Fall 07	Winter 08	Spring 08	Total
Number of Programs:	25	64	68	157		3	14	17
Number of Classes:	24	62	71	157		3	16	19
Number of Students:	513	1282	1468	3263		98	337	435
Number of Adults:	38	105	105	248		3	29	32
Total Participants:	551	1387	1573	3511		101	366	467
Number of schools visited:	9	17	19	45		1	6	7
Type of School:								
Public	8	13	13	34		1	3	4
Private	2	3	6	11			3	3
Other		1		1				0
Counties Served:								
San Mateo	2	4	7	13		1	1	2
San Francisco	6	5	3	14			1	1
Marin		2	1	3				0
Contra Costa		3	3	6			2	2
Santa Clara	1			1				0
Solano				0				0
Sonoma				0			2	2
Alameda		3	6	9		1	4	5

Summer Programs

SEA Campers Explore Diverse Sanctuary Habitats

The Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association staff manages and facilitates SEA Camp and Sanctuary Explorers Camp for 6 weeks during the summer. Campers, ages 8-11, explore sandy beach, rocky intertidal and estuarine habitats. This is a fee-for-service camp open to all families in our community, and the Sanctuary Association offers partial and full scholarships for families in need of financial assistance. One special group benefiting from this program is the San Francisco based organization "Home Away From Homelessness" -which serves homeless and recently homeless youth from the Bay Area. Campers have fun exploring the sanctuary, canoeing in San Francisco Bay, and tidepooling (at dawn) at Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

STEWARDSHIP

Fostering Stewardship

National Volunteer of the Year

The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation's Volunteer of the Year Award went to Beach Watch and former SEALS volunteer Mary Cantini in a June 3rd ceremony in Washington, D.C. Mary, a nine-year volunteer, helped conduct beach monitoring and clean-up efforts during the Cosco Busan Oil Spill in San Francisco. She was praised for her "dedication, skill and tireless efforts during a major oil spill" which contributed valuable information to the Gulf of the Farallones

National Marine Sanctuary and authorities in spill response. Her systematic pre-spill surveys established a baseline of wildlife data on some of the most heavily oiled beaches. For nearly a decade Mary has contributed to the science and resource protection of the Sanctuary.

New Class of Beach Watch Citizen Scientists

On Saturday, May 31, the sanctuary celebrated its 15th Anniversary of Beach Watch coastal monitoring by graduating 28 new Beach Watch volunteers from the spring 2008 training class – eight weeks of evening lectures and weekend field excursions. The new recruits learned survey protocols, bird and marine mammal identification, coastal ecology, oil documentation, oil sampling and more. The 80-hour intensive training prepares Beach Watch volunteers for their monthly surveys of the Sanctuary shoreline and oil spill response, and in oil spill “forensics” – handling evidence such that it can be admitted in a court of law. Beach Watch surveyors played a key role in the sanctuary’s response during the November 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill.

Volunteers Testing the Waters

On May 3rd, 18 Farallones sanctuary volunteers participated in Snapshot Day in the Bay Area with a group from the State Water Resources Board. The volunteers collected and tested water samples from five creek and runoff sites at Bolinas Lagoon and Agate Beach. Snapshot Day is a statewide water monitoring day conducted the first Saturday in May. This is the fifth year in which volunteers have lent a hand at these sites.

Significant Press Coverage:

NOAA Coastal Services Magazine (May/June 2008) feature article on “Sharkmobile.”

March 31, ens-newswire.com “House Votes to Expand Marine Sanctuaries on California Coast.” “Today, the U.S. House of Representatives voted to protect one of the nation's most biologically important stretches of coastal waters. The measure would increase the size of two existing marine sanctuaries along the coast of Northern California to safeguard a unique upwelling marine ecosystem. The House approved H.R. 1187, which would expand the boundaries of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Banks National Marine Sanctuaries northward to Point Arena ...”

March 31, San Mateo County Times, “Pillar Point dredging no simple issue” By Julia Scott. ”A growing chorus of voices, surfers among them, suggest this [beach sand replenishment] is the perfect solution for both Pillar Point and Surfer's Beach, which could clearly use the sand. The problem is, that's not an option at Surfer's Beach, which lies within the protected boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. ... The Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary has asked harbor district General Manager Peter Grenell for a full proposal of the dredge-and-dispose plan ...”

April 1, San Francisco Chronicle, “House votes to protect coast from oil drilling” by Zachary Coile, Chronicle Washington Bureau. “California moved a step closer to permanently protecting its shores from offshore oil drilling Monday when the House approved legislation to ban development in federal waters along all 76 miles of Sonoma County's coastline and off the southern tip of Mendocino County's coast. The measure would more than double the size of two

existing National Marine Sanctuaries near San Francisco and Marin - Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank”

April 1 CBS TV5 News, “House Passes Bill To Protect North Bay Coast Environment. The House of Representatives Monday passed a bill to protect the Sonoma, Marin and Mendocino counties' coasts from oil exploration and drilling, Rep. Lynn Woolsey said Monday afternoon. Woolsey, D-Petaluma, said the House passed the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Protection and Modification Act ...”

April 1, Santa Rosa Press Democrat/NYT Regional Newspapers, “Permanent drilling ban sought for Sonoma County coast” by Kirsten B. Mitchell. “The House on Monday endorsed a plan to permanently bar oil drilling off the Sonoma County coast, sending the measure to the Senate where both California senators support it ... The bill, sponsored by Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Petaluma, and 51 other House members, would roughly double the size of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries ...”

April 11th, AllAmericanPatriots.com, “Nancy Pelosi: This morning, Speaker Nancy Pelosi participated in a Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation hearing on the Department of Homeland Security’s Inspector General investigation into the Cosco Busan oil spill. Pelosi submitted the following statement in the record ... “And we appreciate the precious ecosystem that exists on the beaches, in the estuaries, under the water and in the nearby National Marine Sanctuary – the Gulf of the Farallones ...”

April 9, United Press International, “U.S. House votes to protect more coastline. Observers said the U.S. Senate this week is expected to approve a plan to protect 1,000 square miles off the California coast from oil drilling. The bill, passed last week in the House, would expand the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries in northern California ...”

April 9, Christian Science Monitor, “More waters off California may be off limits to oil drilling. Congress is poised to expand two marine sanctuaries along the state's wild north coast” by Daniel B. Wood. “A stretch of the Pacific Ocean off California's wild north coast seems poised to get permanent federal protection from oil exploration and other development, in recognition that the area lies within one of the four richest marine feeding grounds in the world ... If the legislation is approved, it would double the size of two existing national marine sanctuaries near San Francisco and Marin, called Cordell Bank and Gulf of Farallones.”

April 15, Coastsider.com, “Farallones Sanctuary offers spring excursions into Coastside environments” by Barry Parr. “The Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is offering excursions into our marine and land habitats this spring”

April 30, Marin Independent Journal, “Boaters urged to watch out for migrating whales.” “Boaters should be careful to steer clear of migrating whales this spring, according to the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary ...”

April 29, Environmental News Service, “Portal Opens to Northern California's Three Marine Sanctuaries.” “The latest scientific research conducted within three West Coast national marine

sanctuaries is now displayed on a new website hosted by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA and enriched by nearly 100 contributing partners. The site, <http://sanctuariesimon.org>, integrates ...”

May 1, Coastal Post, “Unprecedented Online Collection of Scientific Research From Northern California Marine Sanctuaries.” “NOAA and partners have launched a comprehensive, user-friendly online resource featuring the latest scientific research conducted within three West Coast national marine sanctuaries. The Web site, <http://sanctuariesimon.org>, integrates scientific monitoring data from Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries ...”

May 3, Marin Independent Journal, “Oil spill's environmental impact studied six months later” by Mark Prado. “ “ ... The Gulf of the Farallones Marine Sanctuary has volunteers documenting many Marin beaches along the Pacific and has not signed off on the cleanliness of Bolinas Lagoon and Rodeo Beach, as evidence of the spill remains ...”

May 15, Santa Rosa Press Democrat/ NYT regional news, “Oil drilling ban wins key Senate vote” by Kirsten B. Mitchell. “A proposed permanent ban on oil drilling off Sonoma County's jagged coast cleared another hurdle Thursday, winning U.S. Senate committee endorsement. The measure by Rep. Lynn Woolsey, a Petaluma Democrat, passed the House in March and is ready for a full Senate vote, which has not yet been set. The Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation unanimously endorsed the plan, which would roughly double the size of the Gulf of Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. Oil drilling is permanently barred in national marine sanctuaries ...”

May 16, E&E Daily, “OCEANS: Senate panel approves sanctuary expansions, double hull legislation” by Josh Voorhees. “The Senate Commerce Committee yesterday unanimously approved legislation to require new ships to be built with double hulls to prevent oil spills and vastly expand existing marine sanctuaries ... H.R. 1187 would add more than 1,000 square nautical miles to Northern California's extensive network of marine sanctuaries. The proposal would nearly double the size of the Gulf of Farrallones and Cordell Banks sanctuaries ...”

May 27, Marin Independent Journal, “Meeting to consider Bolinas Lagoon's future.” “The fate of Bolinas Lagoon will be discussed ... The meeting, hosted by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Marin County Open Space District, will present recommendations for the restoration and management of Bolinas Lagoon, and will address the impacts of logging, grazing and development on the 1,100-acre tidal estuary ...”

June 1, San Francisco Chronicle, “Word to the wise: Hungry sharks are expanding their range” by Tom Stienstra. “The Big Dude in the Gray Suit has been hungry this spring ... You may recognize him as the great white shark, but by any name, he's been creating havoc ... there have been sightings of giant great white sharks this winter roaming along Año Nuevo State Reserve near Pescadero [MBNMS], the Farallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary, with a few sightings in winter off Stinson Beach [GFNMS].

June 1, "Our Ocean Backyard: Spineless sea creatures saved our shores" by Dan Haifley. "The true heroes in the recent, successful effort to protect our coastline are spineless, wet and slimy. They are invertebrates living in tide pools near Half Moon Bay. In 1992, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was approved, its boundary stretched from northern San Luis Obispo County northward to the contiguous Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary ..."

June 6, CBS TV 5, "SF: Woman honored for volunteer response to Cosco Busan oil spill." "A San Francisco woman who helped monitor and clean beaches after nearly 54,000 gallons of oil spilled into the San Francisco Bay in November has been honored for her efforts in Washington, D.C. Mary Cantini was named volunteer of the year by the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation at a ceremony Tuesday for conducting beach monitoring and clean-up efforts, according to the foundation ..."

June 4, San Francisco Chronicle, "Outdoors, Bay and beyond: Clear your head. Gape at the view. Get some exercise. Change your scenery. Meet some creatures. You're in the Bay Area, after all. ... Weekly scheduled, expert-guided day cruises to the Farallon National Wildlife Refuge and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, through November ..."

Sunday, June 1, San Francisco Chronicle, "Humpback whales thriving - and putting on a show - off the Farallon Islands" by Tom Stienstra. "... the salmon off the Bay Area Coast may be in decline, with this year's season shut down, but humpback whales, harbor porpoises and other marine mammals and seabirds appear to be flourishing at the Farallon Islands Marine Sanctuary

June 3, Great Western Coastal Post, "Entangled Whale Off Coast." A young humpback whale was sighted off Santa Cruz, California, last month, entangled in commercial fishing gear ... Bob Wilson, Interim Director of the non-profit Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, noted that the association is working with the Farallones sanctuary to start up a marine debris removal program which will initially focus on removal of derelict (abandoned) fishing gear, primarily crab traps ..."

June , Coastal Post, "Bolinás Lagoon Restoration Plan Unveiled." "NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones Sanctuary Seeks Public Input On Management and Restoration of Bolinas Lagoon [GFNMS] ... NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary will co-sponsor a workshop with the Marin County Open Space District on June 11 to present recommendations for the restoration and management of Bolinas Lagoon ..."

June 22, San Francisco Chronicle, "Outdoors" by Tom Stienstra. "... Wildlife paradise: The trip to the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is becoming a must-do, with high food production in the ocean this spring and excellent wildlife sightings. Last week, observers saw humpback whales, pilot whales, a mother gray whale with a calf , and in one sequence, 20 harbor porpoises and 15 Pacific white-sided dolphins. Pick a calm day ..."

June 22, Redorbit News, "San Francisco Bay Becoming an Oil Slick" by Anonymous. "Imagine if someone put a superhighway through Yosemite National Park. That is exactly what is happening just outside California's Golden Gate ... The San Francisco Bay area is home to the

contiguous National Marine Sanctuaries-Cordell Bank, Monterrey [sic] Bay, and Gulf of the Farallones ...”

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Staff

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Get Involved and Stay Informed

Sign up for the GFNMS listserv to receive email notices about upcoming sanctuary events and public meetings. To learn how to get involved in the sanctuary visit:
<http://farallones.noaa.gov>

To learn more about the Sanctuary Advisory Council please visit:
<http://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

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