

A Look Ahead

Sanctuary to advise America's Cup campaign. Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary will serve as co-advisor to the America's Cup *Healthy Ocean Initiative*. The 2013 AC San Francisco regatta will be an effective platform for the critical message of ocean health, and its link to the health and prosperity of our world. The campaign will be multi-faceted and aim to reduce plastic pollution, increase ocean protection and promote sustainable seafood. Local marine sanctuaries provide models for sustainable practices and citizen stewardship of the marine environment.



America's Cup

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council Members

Officers

Chair: Richard Charter
Vice Chair: Barbara Emley
Secretary: Bob Wilson

Non-Governmental Members

Education: Bob Breen
Alternate: vacant
Research: John Largier
Alternate: Jaime Jahncke
Conservation: Richard Charter
Alternate: Bruce Bowser
Conservation: Bob Wilson
Alternate: Jackie Dragon
Maritime Activities/Commercial: Barbara Emley

Alternate: Peter Grenell
Maritime Activities/Recreation: Mick Menigoz
Alternate: George Clyde
At-Large San Francisco/San Mateo: Kellyx Nelson
Alternate: Timothy Duff
Community-At-Large/Marin and Sonoma: Dominique Richard
Alternate: Richard Kuehn

Governmental Members

State Government
California Environmental Protection Agency: Matthew Rodriguez
Alternate: Miriam Barcellona Ingenito
California Resources Agency: John Laird
Alternate: Janelle Beland

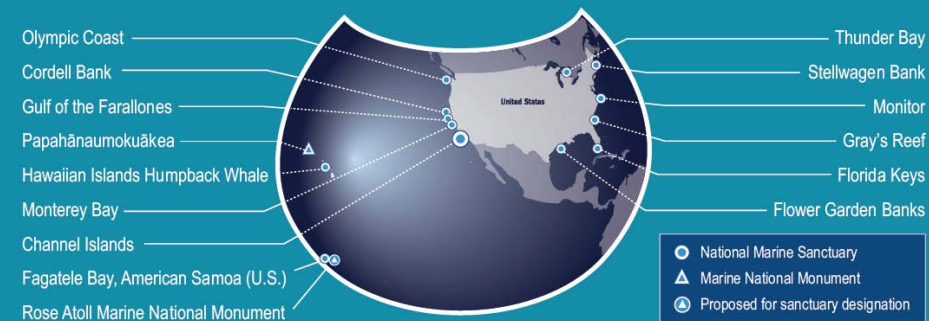
Federal Government

National Park Service: Cicely Muldoon
Alternate: Frank Dean
NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (non-voting): Patrick Rutten
Alternate: Natalie Cosentino-Manning
U.S. Coast Guard: LCDR Elisa Garrity
Alternate: vacant
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Mendel Stewart
Alternate: Gerry McChesney
NOAA Cordell Bank NMS (non-voting): Dan Howard
NOAA Monterey Bay NMS (non-voting): Paul Michel
NOAA Channel Islands NMS (non-voting): Chris Mobley
NOAA Gulf of the Farallones NMS (non-voting): Maria Brown

Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator
Leslie Abramson

<http://farallones.noaa.gov>

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is committed to supporting lives and livelihoods across the nation and in sanctuary communities through socioeconomic research and monitoring to understand the economic and social drivers of sanctuary resources and improve management practices.

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

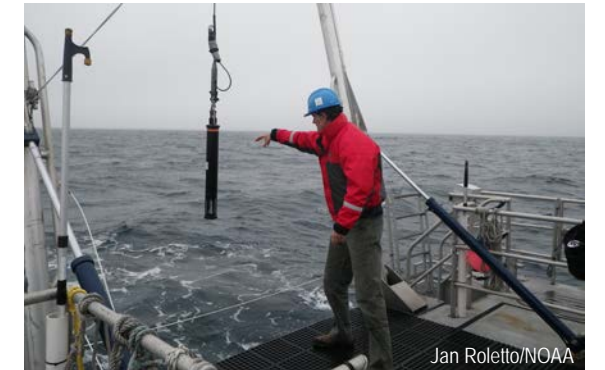
GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY



2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Derek Lee



Jan Roletto/NOAA

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary covers nearly 1,300 square miles of coastal and ocean wilderness west of San Francisco. The sanctuary is home to some of the largest concentrations of white sharks and blue whales on Earth, along with one fifth of California's breeding harbor seals and hundreds of thousands of breeding seabirds. The sanctuary also protects numerous estuaries, bays and beaches for the public to enjoy. Established Jan. 16, 1981.



Mary Jane Schramm/GFNMS



Regional consortium addresses climate change impacts

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is a founding member of the Bay Area Ecosystems Climate Change Consortium (BAECCC). BAECCC brings together natural resource managers, scientists and others to collaboratively understand and reduce the negative impacts of climate change on Bay Area ecosystems and communities. BAECCC members, in partnership with NOAA and the Department of Interior, are modeling impacts of climate change on the San Francisco Bay Area coast and developing tools for natural resource managers and land use planners to respond to a changing environment.



Protecting seabirds

The Seabird Protection Network, working with airport managers and the Federal Aviation Administration, achieved an unprecedented 100% success in preventing seabird displacement at the 2011 Pacific Coast Dream Machine Air Show. This represented the most successful effort at this event to date and will serve as a model for other air shows. The fly-in drew pilots from around the country in vintage "warbirds" and other classics, as well as experimental aircraft. Media outreach and direct pilot mailings gave advance notice on the potential for flushing seabirds, and penalties for disturbance.



Nearly \$39 million to restore oil-damaged resources

As part of the Natural Resource settlement for the 2007 *Cosco Busan* oil spill, trustees announced that \$36.8 million will go to restore damaged wildlife and habitat. The spill fouled San Francisco Bay and two adjacent national marine sanctuaries, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay, killing an estimated 6,849 birds, and impacting 14-29% of that winter's herring spawn. Approximately \$5 million is earmarked for bird restoration, \$4 million for habitat restoration, and \$2.5 million for fish and eelgrass habitat restoration.



Reducing vessel impacts on whales

A Joint Working Group on Acoustic Impacts and Vessel Strikes from Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank sanctuary advisory councils is assessing how to reduce vessel impacts, such as harmful underwater noise and ship strikes on endangered blue, humpback and fin whales. Sanctuary management is working to minimize these risks while maintaining vital commerce. Large-class vessels make over 6,000 transits yearly through Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary while entering and leaving San Francisco Bay. The West Coast national marine sanctuaries are working together to address this critical issue.



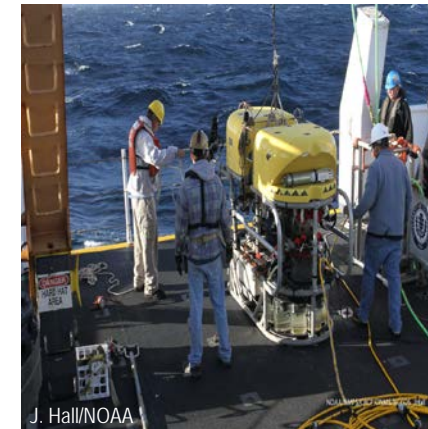
Signage celebrates fishing folk, sanctuaries

A suite of seven interpretive signs debuted at the Pillar Point Harbor in San Mateo County this year. The signs highlight and celebrate commercial and recreational fishing vessels, whale watching boats, and the NOAA research vessel *R/V Fulmar*. The signs will greet harbor visitors attending the Fisherman's Market, using pedestrian and bicycle trails, or just enjoying the salt sea air. The Chamber of Commerce is promoting the harbor as an official ecotourism destination.



Preparing to respond to oil spills

Gulf of the Farallones sanctuary is improving the efficacy and efficiency with which it responds to oil spills through increased preparedness, including trainings and online tools for sanctuary staff. For example, sanctuary staff compiled an online spill response portfolio that includes environmental sensitivity indexes and other relevant environmental data for the sanctuary and surrounding areas. In addition, the portfolio includes agency and resource-expert contact lists, hyperlinks to useful websites and critical documents, and site-specific mobilization plans, as well as links to national, regional and area contingency plans. Sanctuary staff also continued to assist in ongoing efforts related to the Deepwater Horizon spill, and contributed to the University of New Hampshire, Coastal Response Research Center's research on dispersant use.



Exploring for deep-sea corals and sponges

Gulf of the Farallones NMS, NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) and the U.S. Geological Survey, through the Coral Reef Conservation Program, conducted multi-beam sonar surveys aboard the *R/V Fulmar* and mapped bottom topography and substrate types. These maps will be used in 2012 to target areas for deep-sea coral exploration and characterization, using autonomous underwater vehicles and remotely operated underwater vehicles. Exploration data will be used to identify deep-sea coral habitat.



Bolinas Lagoon restoration underway

Phase 1 of restoring Bolinas Lagoon launched this summer with a roadwork project to improve water quality by reducing inflow of runoff-borne toxins and sediment. Local stakeholders, scientists, environmental organizations and state and federal agencies developed the Locally Preferred Plan, and outlined projects and initiatives for reducing human impacts to the lagoon and promoting its natural dynamic processes.