

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Socioeconomics Factsheet



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary supports vibrant local economies by protecting important ocean habitat.



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary is located 50 miles northwest of the San Francisco Bay area and its eight million residents. This area is among the top tourist destinations in the world and the healthy coastal environment is a major attraction for visitors and locals. Recreational and commercial activities contribute to the socioeconomic value of this region.



Primary activities in Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary include commercial and recreational fishing, wildlife viewing, research and education. All commercial vessel traffic using the northern shipping lane of San Francisco Bay passes through sanctuary waters.



In 2013, the California Fish Harvester Model was used to estimate the economic impact of commercial fishing operations on a seven-county area. According to the three-year average (measured in 2013 dollars, for years 2010-2012), 49 commercial fishing operations earned almost \$993 thousand in harvest revenue from catch in the sanctuary. This revenue generated almost \$1.67 million in total output/sales, approximately \$1 million in value-added, \$929 thousand in total income, and 48 full-time and part-time jobs. If wholesaling, processing, retail and restaurant sector impacts were included, past studies suggest the total impacts could be two to three times higher.

I've participated in the research and educational activities at the Cordell Bank [National Marine Sanctuary]- from bird and whale watching expeditions to the scientific research of non-profits - and I'm always amazed to see the staff and resources devoted to these projects. In addition to these "cottage industries" that are directly stimulated by the sanctuary, are the local recreational and commercial fishing activities and environmental tourism. All these depend on the healthy oceans that the sanctuary protects at Cordell Bank.

– George Clyde

Local resident and member, Cordell Bank Sanctuary Advisory Council