Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Photo: Robert Lee, BAUE

Cordell Bank, the sanctuary's centerpiece, emerges from the soft sediments of the continental shelf.

Photo: NMFS Southwest Fisheries Science Center

Pacific white-sided dolphins are the most frequently sighted marine mammal in the sanctuary.

Photo: Steve Howell, NOAA

The sanctuary's food rich waters make it a major feeding destination for thousands of seabirds, like the black-footed albatross.

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

(CBNMS) was established in 1989 to protect and preserve the extraordinary marine ecosystem around Cordell Bank. In 2015, the sanctuary expanded north and west to include additional waters and submerged lands, such as Bodega Canyon. Surrounded by soft sediments of the continental shelf seafloor, Cordell Bank emerges with a rocky habitat, providing home to colorful and abundant invertebrates, algae and fishes. The productive waters attract migratory seabirds and marine mammals from all around the Pacific Ocean to feed in this dynamic food web.

Research and Monitoring

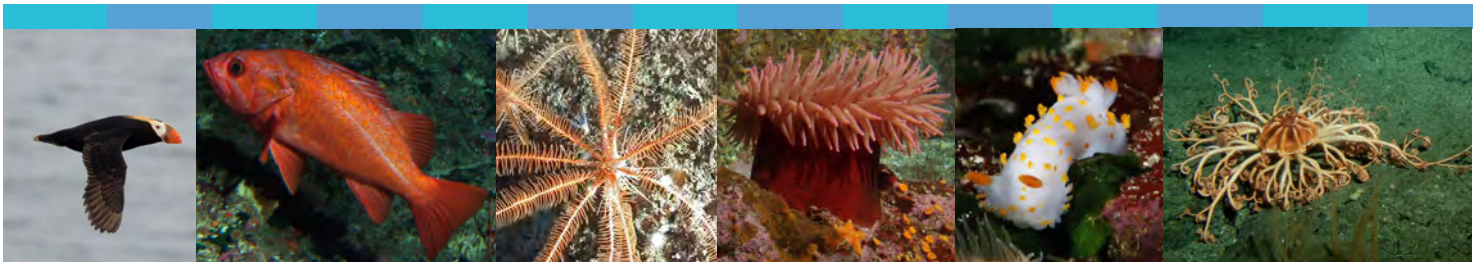
Scientific research and monitoring are essential, ongoing activities within the conservation science program at CBNMS. The sanctuary's goal is to research and monitor habitats and communities on the rocky habitat of Cordell Bank, the soft sediment surrounding the bank on the continental shelf, in Bodega Canyon and in the pelagic (open ocean) environment to detect changes over time, changes in response to stressors and recovery of species from overfishing due to regulatory changes. At CBNMS, monitoring projects focus on the status and condition of marine life and habitats to detect trends within the sanctuaries. Concurrently, research includes hypothesis-driven studies and models. Scientists conduct research to better understand the ecosystem and how it functions within the sanctuary. Through partnerships with state and federal agencies, and academic and research institutions, CBNMS seeks out the broader scientific community to ensure that the most effective and rigorous science can be attained for resource management, monitoring, interpretation, education, planning and policy needs.

Education and Outreach

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary may not be accessible to most people, but its importance in the marine ecosystem is emphasized through education and outreach programs. The sanctuary staff works with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries and partners to get ocean literacy based programs into schools . Through exhibits, a sanctuary radio program on KWMR, teacher workshops, field seminars, and occasional lectures and films, the sanctuary staff hopes to reach as many people as possible to emphasize the importance of a healthy ocean in our lives.

Photo: Clinton Bauder, BAUE

The combination of ocean conditions and undersea topography create a rich and diverse marine community in the sanctuary.



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

Location
52 miles west-northwest of San Francisco

Protected Area
1,286 square miles

Designation
May 1989

Habitats
Continental shelf and slope
Deep sea canyon
Open ocean
Rocky reefs

Key Species
Albatross
Blue whale
California hydrocoral
Dall's porpoise
Humpback whale
Krill
Rockfish
Shearwater

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On the Web
Email: cordellbank@noaa.gov
https://www.facebook.com/pages/Cordell-Bank-National-Marine-Sanctuary/355147797782
Twitter: @CordellBank

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
Network of marine protected areas
Encompasses more than 600,000 square miles
Established October 1972

On the Web
sanctuaries.noaa.gov
www.facebook.com/NOAAOfficeofNationalMarineSanctuaries
Instagram: @noaasanctuaries
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Photo: Matt Vieta, BAUE

The sanctuary's habitats support an abundance of fishes, like this rosy rockfish.

Photo: Jason Thompson, Mojoscoast

Ocean sunfish can grow up to 5000 pounds and feed primarily on jellyfish.

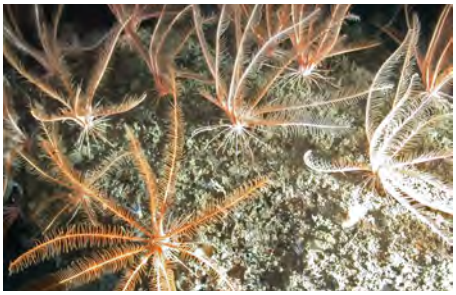

Photo: NOAA

Many species, like these crinoids, live on the surface of or buried in the soft sediments of the sanctuary's seafloor.

http://cordellbank.noaa.gov/