



NATIONAL MARINE  
SANCTUARIES <sup>TM</sup>

**Sanctuary Advisory Councils  
National Report  
2002**

March 2003

U.S. Department of Commerce  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
National Ocean Service  
National Marine Sanctuary Program



## Executive Summary

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is the nation's Federal marine protected area program. Established by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act in 1972 and celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the NMSP is also marking over ten years of working with Sanctuary Advisory Councils (Councils) with this national annual Council report. There are currently ten Councils established for the thirteen sanctuaries, as well as the Council for the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve/proposed Sanctuary.

The NMSP considers the heightened role of its Councils to be a mark of its continuing evolution as a maturing program. The NMSP is deeply committed to providing support and optimizing utilization of Councils now and in coming years.



2002 and early 2003 were marked by a series of great accomplishments for the NMSP's Councils. Many Councils were heavily involved in efforts to review and revise management plans for their sites. The Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay Councils continue to participate in the joint management plan review for their sites, having completed a prioritization of the complex array of issues and starting the operation of working groups that will help develop management strategies for the most important issues. The Florida Keys and Hawaiian Islands Humpback

Whale Councils both assisted their sites in the completion of five-year review efforts that updated the management plans for both those sites. The Gray's Reef and Channel Islands Councils continued to help the Sanctuary staff at their sites in completing Draft Management Plans and the Stellwagen Bank Council assisted their site in completing a successful scoping effort. The Olympic Coast Council is beginning preparations for their upcoming management plan review.

Similarly, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Council continued to do double duty and play an integral role in both the operation of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and the designation process to consider a Sanctuary in that region. The Council provided a substantial review of the draft Reserve Operations Plan and supported a successful scoping effort for the designation process. Having just helped complete a designation process of its own, the Thunder Bay Council made a successful transition to a Council



that focuses more on operation, highlighted by the establishment of their first working groups and the development of their first annual operating plan.

The Councils had a number of accomplishments that were not related to management plan review or designation. The Channel Islands Council continued its successful efforts from 2001 (that resulted in a decision by the California Fish and Game Commission to establish marine reserves in the state waters of the CINMS) by making recommendations on research and education to support the marine reserves. The Florida Keys Council was instrumental in obtaining an increase in the number of enforcement officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission dedicated to their Sanctuary. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Council helped initiate the planning of two important forthcoming workshops on vessel strikes and threat assessments. The Olympic Coast Council continued to press federal and state partners for increased support for a rescue tug for disabled vessels. The NMSP is also very proud that a number of Council members were selected to provide testimony before the U.S. Ocean Commission in its yearlong fact-finding mission around the United States.

Early 2003 also saw the completion of the third annual Chairs and Coordinators Meeting. This year's meeting was hosted by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in Santa Barbara, California on February 18, 19, and 20. The meeting included an informal discussion and problem-solving session with Council Coordinators from across the NMSP, presentation of a case study for each Council, input from Council Chairs on a number of policy topics facing the NMSP as a whole, and discussion of various "housekeeping" and procedural items.

The NMSP looks forward to continuing its support and cooperation with its Advisory Councils in 2003, with the enhancement of the kind and level of national support provided to Councils across the system. The NMSP expects to have a number of accomplishments for 2003, including the creation of new Councils for the *Monitor* and Fagatele Bay Sanctuaries, the first session of specialized training for Council Coordinators in late summer or early autumn, and the planning of the fourth annual Chairs and Coordinators meeting, tentatively scheduled for February 2004 in Savannah, Georgia.



*The participants of the 2003 Chairs and Coordinators Meeting during the close out session. Opposite Page: The participants of the 2003 Chairs and Coordinators Meeting during the public advice session. (photos: Jennifer Harris, NMSP)*

## Introduction

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is the nation's Federal marine protected area program. Established by the National Marine Sanctuaries Act in 1972 and celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the NMSP is also marking over ten years of working with Sanctuary Advisory Councils (Councils) with this national annual Council report.

The NMSP considers the increasing use and support of Councils to be a mark of its continuing evolution as a maturing program. The depth of the NMSP's commitment to Councils is embodied in its Council policy statement:

The NMSP regards the involvement of communities and the development of a stewardship ethic as vitally important to successfully protect Sanctuary resources. One key way the NMSP has achieved this involvement is the formation of Sanctuary Advisory Councils.

Sanctuary Advisory Councils bring together members of a diverse community to provide advice to the Sanctuary Manager (delegated from the Secretary of Commerce and the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere) on the management and protection of the Sanctuary, or to assist the NMSP in guiding a proposed site through the designation process.

The NMSP is committed to the full support, utilization, and enhancement of Councils at all Sanctuaries. In order for Councils to achieve their full potential, the NMSP will:

- At each site, provide sufficient support to allow Councils to operate efficiently and effectively;
- Provide support and guidance from the national office to help Councils operate efficiently and at a basic level of consistency across the system;
- Promote coordination and communication among Councils and among Sanctuary staff that work closely with Councils; and
- Develop training programs appropriate to Council officers and members, and Sanctuary Managers and staff.

There are currently eleven Councils established for the thirteen operational and one proposed site within the NMSP network (see Table 1).

Over the last few years, the NMSP has determined there are nine primary roles for a Council:

- Serve as a liaison between the Sanctuary and its community, disseminating information about the Sanctuary to the various constituencies of members and bringing the concerns of constituents and the public to the Sanctuary staff;
- Assist in identifying potential partners and constituent groups with which the Sanctuary should be working;
- Help identify and resolve issues and conflicts, including emerging issues of which the Sanctuary might not be aware;
- Prepare annual operating plans that identify those issues and projects in which the Council will be involved in the coming year;
- Hold an annual retreat for Council members and Sanctuary staff;
- Review and provide input on Sanctuary plans, proposals, and products;
- Help support friends' groups;
- Provide information to individuals or groups interested in establishing a friends' group or foundation to support a Sanctuary;

- Provide technical and background information on issues facing the Sanctuary; and
- Validate the accuracy and quality of information that the Sanctuary uses for decision-making purposes.

## Sanctuary Advisory Council Highlights for 2002

2002 and early 2003 were marked by a series of great accomplishments for the NMSP's Councils. Many Councils were heavily involved in efforts to review and revise management plans for their sites. The Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay Councils continue to participate in the joint management plan review for their sites, having completed a prioritization of the complex array of issues and starting the operation of working groups that will help develop management strategies for the most important issues. The Florida Keys and Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Councils both assisted their sites in the completion of five-year review efforts that updated the management plans for both those sites. The Gray's Reef and Channel Islands Councils continued to help the Sanctuary staff at their sites in completing Draft Management Plans and the Stellwagen Bank Council assisted their site in completing a successful scoping effort. The Olympic Coast Council is beginning preparations for their upcoming management plan review.

Similarly, the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Council continues to do double duty and play an integral role in both the operation of the Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve and the designation process to consider a Sanctuary in that region. The Council provided a substantial review of the draft Reserve Operations Plan and supported a successful scoping effort for the designation process. Having just helped complete a designation process of its own, the Thunder Bay Council made a successful transition to a Council that focuses more on operation, highlighted by the establishment of their first working groups and the development of their first annual operating plan.

The Councils had a number of accomplishments that were not related to management plan review or designation. The Channel Islands Council continued its successful efforts from 2001 (that resulted in a decision by the California Fish and Game Commission to establish marine

Table I: Existing and Developing Councils

Site	Year SAC Established	Total # Members	Primary Focus for 2002
Florida Keys	1991	20	Operations; MPR*
HI Humpback Whale	1992	31	Operations; MPR
Monterey Bay	1994	24	MPR
Stellwagen Bank	1992	23	MPR
Olympic Coast	1995	20	Operations
Thunder Bay	1997	16	Operations
Channel Islands	1998	23	MPR; Marine Reserves
Gray's Reef	1999	12	MPR
Northwestern HI	2001	25	Operations; Designation
Gulf of the Farallones	2001	11	MPR
Cordell Bank	2001	8	MPR
Fagatele Bay	in development	?	N/A
Monitor	in development	?	N/A
Flower Garden Banks	to be initiated	?	N/A

\*Management Plan Review

reserves in the state waters of the CINMS) by making recommendations on research and education to support the marine reserves. The Florida Keys Council was instrumental in obtaining an increase in the number of enforcement officers of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission dedicated to their Sanctuary. The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Council helped initiate the planning of two important forthcoming workshops on vessel strikes and threat assessments. The Olympic Coast Council continued to press federal and state partners for increased support for a rescue tug for disabled vessels. The NMSP is also very proud that a number of Council members were selected to provide testimony before the U.S. Ocean Commission in its yearlong fact-finding mission around the United States.

### **Report of 2003 Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting**

This year's Council Chairs and Coordinators Meeting was hosted by the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in Santa Barbara, California on February 18, 19, and 20. The meeting was attended by representatives from the NMSP's eleven Councils and staff from the eleven sites that have Councils, Fagatele Bay Sanctuary, and the NMSP's headquarters office. This year, for the first time, international observers from Canada attended the meeting as well. There were 32 participants in all (see Table 2).

The meeting began on Tuesday, February 18 with an informal discussion and problem-solving session with Council Coordinators from across the NMSP. Topics discussed during the session included:

- technical issues such as changes to existing Council procedures and to the Council Implementation Handbook;
- the role of Councils during the upcoming reauthorization of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act in 2005;
- the tracking of action items during and after a Council meeting;
- the role of Citizen/Community-at-Large members, which are common to many Councils;
- the use of voting vs. non-voting actions during Councils meetings and why each is important; and
- the continuing importance of good communication to, between, and among Councils.

A proposed enhancement of the national support provided to the Councils was also presented and discussed.

Wednesday, February 19 was spent on national reports and updates, and on the presentation and discussion of a case study from each of the Councils. The Director of the NMSP, Daniel J. Basta, highlighted a number of national projects and programs. Karen Brubeck and Elizabeth Moore provided an update on national Council activities, including the near-completion of the second edition of the national Council Handbook and the first-ever preparation of a national annual Council report (this document). The case studies from the site Councils covered a wide range of subjects, including marine reserves, water quality, research and monitoring programs, boundary issues, vessel traffic (Areas to be Avoided; marine mammal collisions), communication issues, and sanctuary designation. This wide range of topics demonstrates the diversity of issues and concerns being addressed by each Sanctuary and its Council.

As the NMSP continues to build its system identity and become more proactive in nature, it has become increasingly clear that national policy or guidance will be necessary on a number of issues. These issues are varied and far-ranging, and the NMSP is determining which of any

Table 2: Participants, National Chairs and Coordinators Meeting

Participant	Affiliation
Daniel J. Basta	NMSP Director, NMSP Headquarters
Nancy Berenson	Coordinator, Channel Islands NMS Advisory Council
Alan Brooks	Chair, Olympic Coast NMS Advisory Council
Karen Brubeck	National Council Coordinator, NMSP Headquarters
Matthew Cahn	Chair, Channel Islands NMS Advisory Council
Nicole Capps	Coordinator, Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council
Mary Jean Comfort	Observer, Canada Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Jim Coon	Chair, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Advisory Council
Bill Douros	Manager, Monterey Bay NMS
Barbara Emley	Chair, Gulf of the Farallones NMS Advisory Council
Rowena Forest	Coordinator, Cordell Bank NMS Advisory Council
Amy Glester	Coordinator, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale NMS Advisory Council
Helen Golde	Chief, Conservation Policy and Planning Branch, NMSP Headquarters
Stephanie Harlan	Chair, Monterey Bay NMS Advisory Council
Jennifer Harris	Policy Specialist, NMSP Headquarters
Tim Johns	Chair, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands CRER/pNMS Advisory Council
Nancy Klingener	Member, Florida Keys NMS Advisory Council
Sarah Marquis	West Coast Media Coordinator, NMSP
Dianne Meester	Member, Channel Islands NMS Advisory Council
Francine Mercier	Observer, Parks Canada
Chris Mobley	Manager, Channel Islands NMS
Elizabeth Moore	National Council Coordinator, NMSP Headquarters
Mike Murray	Coordinator, Channel Islands NMS Advisory Council
Moani Pai	Coordinator, Northwestern Hawaiian Islands CRER/pNMS Advisory Council
Andy Palmer	Coordinator, Olympic Coast NMS Advisory Council
George Sedberry	Vice Chair, Gray's Reef NMS Advisory Council
Carol Shafto	Chair, Thunder Bay NMS/Underwater Preserve Advisory Council
Mary Jane Schramm	Coordinator, Gulf of the Farallones NMS Advisory Council
Becky Shortland	Coordinator, Gray's Reef NMS Advisory Council
Kate Thompson	Coordinator, Thunder Bay NMS/Underwater Preserve Advisory Council
John Williamson	Member, Stellwagen Bank NMS Advisory Council
Fiona Wilmot	Coordinator, Florida Keys NMS Advisory Council

number of concerns to address first. Therefore, Thursday, February 20, the final day of the meeting, was the NMSP's first-ever attempt to ask its Chairs for input on a variety of programmatic policy topics related to sanctuary resource issues (these are issues considered to be of national importance/interest since they affect a majority of the sanctuaries in the system). The information received during this session will not only help the NMSP determine which policy topics to address on a priority basis, but also provided information on the content of potential policies and on site-specific differences that might need to be addressed. In general, the Chairs indicated (through prior preparatory work for the meeting and during discussions at the meeting itself) that fishing impacts (including expansive research), discharges, exotic species, marine debris, acoustic impacts, oil, gas, and mineral activities, and vessel traffic were among the issues needing to be addressed on a priority basis by the national program. Based on the discussion at the meeting, issues that would specifically benefit from national policies included acoustic impacts, oil, gas and mineral activities, marine debris, exotic species, and cultural protocols and practices.

## Conclusions and Future Priorities

2002 was an exciting year for the NMSP's Councils and there was unanimous agreement by all participants in the Chairs and Coordinators Meeting that this meeting was the best so far. So how will the NMSP work to top itself for 2003?

In 2003, the NMSP will continue and enhance the national support provided to its Sanctuary Advisory Councils by:

- completing the second edition of the national Council Implementation Handbook;
- updating the Council Member Directory;
- initiating and twice annually updating a national project and program report for Chairs;
- developing and updating an intranet site for Coordinators;
- developing a specialized training program for Coordinators, potentially to be offered in August; and
- increasing information flow from the national office to Chairs and Councils.

The NMSP will also respond to the input received from the Chairs at the meeting by summer, letting them know how their input will be used and what products they can expect to see in terms of national policy or guidance. At least two and potentially up to three new Councils will be formed, completing the network of Councils across the system of Sanctuaries. Finally, the fourth annual Chairs and Coordinators Meeting will be planned for February 2004, to be hosted by the Gray's Reef Sanctuary, in Savannah, Georgia.



*The participants of the 2003 Chairs and Coordinators Meeting*

## Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) is located off the coast of Ventura and Santa Barbara, California and encompasses 1,658 square miles of the waters surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands. A fertile combination of warm and cool currents results in a great variety of plants and animals, including: large nearshore forests of giant kelp, flourishing populations of fish and invertebrates, and abundant and diverse populations of cetaceans, pinnipeds, and marine birds. The site was designated in September 1980 and began a review of its management plan in 1999.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council was established in 1998, to support the management plan review and a process to consider the creation of marine reserves. There are twenty members, ten representing various local, state, and federal government partners and ten representing a variety of community interests (conservation, education, research, commercial fishing, tourism, recreation, business and industry, and the community at large). The council meets bimonthly and has formed a number of working groups, including those for conservation, fishing, military activities, ports and harbors, and education.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

While not reflecting a Council action that occurred in 2002, perhaps the year's most significant achievement for the Council, the CINMS, and the region was the final adoption of a network of marine reserves within the Sanctuary. From 1999-2002, the Council was instrumental in the creation, participation, and management of a community-based process to consider the designation of marine reserves (no-take zones) within the Sanctuary. The Council and its former Marine Reserve Working Group, Marine Reserve Science Advisory Panel, and Marine Reserve Socio-Economic Panel combined efforts for nearly three years to provide a scientifically robust, open, public process that enabled stakeholders to help shape final recommendations. This work laid a solid foundation upon which a final regulatory decision was made by the California Fish and Game Commission on October 23. Throughout 2002, the Council remained closely involved in the implementation planning for marine reserves.



*The blood star (Henricia leviuscula) is particularly fond of rocks encrusted with sponges and bryozoans and can live as deep as 400 meters (photo: Laura Francis).*

## Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

This year the Council made a number of important recommendations that helped shape the Sanctuary's role in implementation of marine reserves within the Sanctuary. In May, the Council provided recommendations on initial steps for development of an effective marine reserve biological monitoring program. These Council recommendations included advice on approaches for gathering relevant data, as well as specific suggestions on task force membership needed for developing an effective monitoring program. These recommendations have subsequently become the foundation of a multi-agency effort between the Sanctuary, the California Department of Fish and Game, and the Channel Islands National Park in development of a monitoring program for the newly-adopted marine reserves.

In November, the Council provided CINMS with a set of vital recommendations on how to provide effective notification and educational messages about the Sanctuary's newly established marine reserves. The timely advice was developed by the Council's Sanctuary Education Team (an education working group), which met diligently all year to produce a comprehensive recommendation. These recommendations are now being implemented by the Sanctuary office with help from the California Department of Fish and Game and other partners.

The Council provided valuable input to Sanctuary staff concerning how best to prioritize socio-economic monitoring program ideas to support marine reserves. This information is being used by Sanctuary staff to plan a workshop on monitoring program development scheduled for early 2003.

In November, the Council provided important input on the Sanctuary's Action Plans within the Staff Working Draft Management Plan. The Council's advice is helping staff to prioritize development of performance measures for management actions, and to better identify potential partnerships the Sanctuary should pursue.

## Major Administrative Changes

2002 was a big year for change in the membership of the CINMS Advisory Council. Nine appointments were made in January, reflecting the transition to a new three-year term and the turnover of many resigning charter members. An education working group of the Council, the Sanctuary Education Team, was formed early in 2002 and has been very active (see above).

## Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS), designated in 1989 and encompassing 526 square miles, contains the most productive offshore seamount on the west coast, where the combination of ocean conditions and undersea topography creates a highly diverse marine community. The Bank rises to within 115 feet of the sea surface with water depths of 6,000 feet only a few miles away. The prevailing California Current flows southward along the coast, and the upwelling of nutrient rich, deep ocean waters stimulates the growth of organisms at all levels of the marine food web. It is a destination feeding ground for many marine mammals and seabirds. The site is located 60 miles northwest of San Francisco, California.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council was established in 2001, to support the joint management plan review process currently underway for the CBNMS and its neighboring sanctuaries, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay. The smallest of the eleven Councils, this Council has members representing education, research, business/industry, and the community at large, as well as one of the CBNMS's primary partners, the National Marine Fisheries Service. The Council meets frequently as part of the management plan review process; its members are participating on a number of newly formed working groups to help develop new management strategies for these California sanctuaries.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

The Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) Advisory Council held regular meetings as well as a joint meeting with the Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay Sanctuaries during the joint management plan review (JMPR) process. The members of the Council also:

- Participated in scoping meetings along the Central and Northern California coast.
- Attended the Volunteer Appreciation event
- Participated in Sanctuary familiarization cruises to Cordell Bank and to the Gulf of the Farallones.
- Commented on cross cutting and site-specific issues
- Participated in Ocean Fest 2002, to celebrate the Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries.
- Received training in how to conduct upcoming Working Group meetings.

*Juvenile rockfish swarm over the invertebrate-covered pinnacles of Cordell Bank, far from protective cover early in life. (photo: Cordell Bank Expeditions)*



### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council participated in cross-cutting and site specific issue prioritization for the JMPR. The Council also made recommendations as to which issues were best dealt with via internal teams or working groups. These meetings resulted in the “Report on Sanctuary Issue Prioritization Workshops.”

### Major Administrative Changes

The Council unanimously elected Carol Keiper (Research Seat) as Council Chair, and Joe Smith (Community-at-Large Seat) as Vice Chair. Starting last summer, Mary Jane Schramm acted as CBNMS Advisory Council Coordinator until Rowena Forest was selected as CBNMS Council Coordinator for 2003 in December 2002.

## Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (FKNMS) was designated in 1990 and encompasses 3,801 square miles of waters around the archipelago of the Florida Keys. FKNMS supports one of the most diverse assemblages of underwater plants and animals in continental North America. Although best known for its coral reefs, the shallow nearshore waters contain interdependent marine habitats that include fringing mangroves, seagrass meadows, hardbottom regions, as well as patch and bank reefs. This complex marine ecosystem is the foundation for the tourism and commercial fishing based economies that are so important to Florida.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The oldest of the Councils, this Council was established in 1991 and has twenty members covering the wide spectrum of the interests in the Florida Keys community. Members represent interests such as conservation, education, research, commercial and recreational fishing, diving, boating, tourism, cultural resources, local government, and the community at large. The council meets bimonthly and currently has fifteen working groups covering the full range of site operations and projects.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

The Council has had a number of major accomplishments this year. The first was establishing working groups to review and revise the individual Action Plans and the Management Plan for the five-year review of the FKNMS. The revised Management Plan was presented by Sanctuary managers on August 27, 2002 to the Governor and Cabinet of the State of Florida in Tallahassee and accepted. SAC member Nancy Klingener read a SAC resolution commending Cabinet support for the Sanctuary. Council members also marked the first anniversary of implementation of the Tortugas Ecological Reserve (TER) with presentations by scientific investigators working in the Sanctuary on the impacts of marine protected areas on fish communities and benthic habitats throughout the Keys. They learned that species richness is highest in protected areas, as is size of organisms, and the condition of organisms is healthier, particularly in the TER.

*The seagrass community of South Florida is the largest seagrass meadow in the world. Of the seven species of seagrass in Florida, three are prominent in the Keys: turtle grass (*Thalassia testudinum*), manatee grass (*Syringodium filiforme*), and shoal grass (*Halodule wrightii*). (photo: Heather Dine - Florida Keys NMS)*



The Council was pleased to learn that its repeated requests to Sanctuary managers has contributed to the number of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) law enforcement officers being increased from 7 to 17. The Council also held a special meeting to address ways to limit the damage to resources caused by the two-day sport diver lobster mini-season, passing recommendations to FWC commissioners who added the subject to the November agenda. Many of the Council's recommendations will be taken to FWC staff workshops in the new year.

Finally, Council members identified the major issues for the Council to address in the coming year, including water quality, Everglades restoration, enforcement, and marine protected areas.

Other issues and projects will be addressed as necessary and as time allows.

### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

In 2002, the Council considered and provided recommendations on a number of different issues and projects:

- **Cetacean Strandings:** A nine-hour special meeting with panel presentations by legal, scientific, and stranding experts, as well as significant public comment, culminated in the Council making a number of recommendations to the National Marine Fisheries Service regarding the South East Stranding Network. All concerns have now been addressed by Dr. Hogarth and his staff. At the request of the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) of Monroe County, the Council revisited the stranding issue and recommended that at this time the BOCC not take up the responsibility for strandings in the Florida Keys.
- **Florida Keys Carrying Capacity Study:** Council members requested that NOAA conduct an independent review of the final product of the Florida Keys Carrying Capacity Study, a state-mandated growth management tool. NOAA, other agencies and a number of nongovernmental organizations have agreed to underwrite a panel from the National Academy of Sciences to undertake that review.
- **Ballyhoo Fishery:** After panel presentations from fisheries biologists, fisheries managers and commercial fishermen, the Council made regulatory recommendations to the FWC. These are under consideration.
- **Cooper's Reef:** The Council recommended to the Sanctuary Superintendent that a reef be named in the Tortugas Ecological Reserve in memory of Doug Cooper, a member of the Sanctuary Mooring Buoy Team, tragically killed in an automobile accident. A site has been selected.
- **Boater Registration Fee:** The Council supported the initiative for an increase in the boater registration fee to offset the cost of boater impact in Monroe County.
- **Fish Traps:** Council members requested that Sanctuary managers communicate to the Gulf of Mexico Fisheries Management Council the urgent need to ban all fish traps within their jurisdiction.

## Major Administrative Changes

The Council has had some changes in membership and staff:

- Katherine Andrews replaced Anna Marie Hartman as the State representative from Florida Department of Environmental Protection attending Council meetings.
- Captain Jayson Horadam replaced Lt. Bob Currul as the FWC law enforcement officer attending SAC meetings.
- Upper Keys Citizen-at-Large council member Karen Lee retired, as did Tom Davidson representing Recreational Fishermen.
- New Boating representative Bruce Popham joined the Council.
- Applications have been received for all vacant seats, including Alternates, and final selection of new members is pending.
- Fiona Wilmot was appointed Sanctuary Advisory Council Liaison.

A Large Vessel Working Group was formed to address concerns about additional traffic in Key West Harbor from the Navy and cruise ship industry. Industry representatives, Navy, Coast Guard, harbor pilots, and regulatory agencies are part of the membership, as well as individual stakeholders and members of the Council. It is in the fact-finding stages.

A South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Working Group has been identified and is in the planning process.

## Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (GRNMS) is one of the largest nearshore rocky reefs in the southeastern United States. The Sanctuary is located 20 miles off the coast of Georgia, protecting approximately 23 square miles of open ocean. The area earned sanctuary designation in 1981. Rock outcroppings and ledges up to 7 feet in height separate the sandy, flat-bottomed troughs in a reef that combines temperate and tropical qualities. The rocky platform, some 60 to 70 feet below the Atlantic Ocean's surface, is carpeted with corals, sponges and other invertebrates and is known as a "live bottom" habitat. This flourishing ecosystem provides not only vertical relief, but also a solid base for an abundant marine invertebrate community. The reef attracts mackerel, grouper, black sea bass, angelfish, and a host of other fishes. As a result, GRNMS is one of the most popular sport fishing and diving areas along the Georgia coast.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The GRNMS Council is one of the smallest, at eleven members covering conservation, education, research, recreational fishing, and federal and state agency partners. The Council was formed in 1999 in support of the site's management plan review which began the same year. The Council meets bimonthly, or as necessary to support the management plan review process. It has formed one working group (see discussion below).

### Major Achievements and Milestones/Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The review and revision of the GRNMS 1983 Management Plan has been the primary focus of the Council over the last three years. Council members helped to design and run a total of eight scoping meetings during December 1999 and January 2000. Upon completion of the meetings and comment period, members put considerable time and effort into reviewing and editing the "State of the Sanctuary Report," a key element in ongoing constituent communications.

Council members reviewed and revised site goals and objectives during a retreat held in September 2000. The Council then worked closely with staff to focus on issues to be considered in the revised management plan, as well as clearly defining the problems and potential solutions. Members also reviewed other key elements of the revised plan, such as the socioeconomic profile.



*Loggerhead sea turtles (Caretta caretta) are commonly seen at Gray's Reef basking on the ocean's surface, swimming, and resting at the bottom under the natural reef ledges. (photo: Henry Ansley/Georgia DNR)*

With Council support, several workshops were designed and held to further define the issues and determine strategies for the new management plan. All members served as working participants in the workshops on species conservation, habitat conservation, education and outreach, research and monitoring, and enforcement. Council members also reviewed results of these workshops.

#### Major Administrative Changes

During the summer of 2000, the Council determined that membership should be expanded to include a representative from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA Fisheries (National Marine Fisheries Service). Amendments to the charter were completed and the representatives were appointed.

In December 2002, the Council began discussions to establish its first working group to evaluate the concept of a research area in GRNMS.

## Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), running along the California coast north and west of San Francisco, includes nurseries and spawning grounds for commercially valuable fish species, at least 36 species of marine mammals, and 15 species of breeding seabirds. One fifth of California's harbor seals breed within the Sanctuary. The Farallon Islands are home to the largest concentration of breeding seabirds in the contiguous United States. The Sanctuary boundaries include the coastline up to mean high tide, protecting open ocean and a number of lagoons, estuaries, bays, and beaches for the public. GFNMS was designated in 1981 and covers 1,255 square miles.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council was established in 2001, to support the joint management plan review process currently underway for the GFNMS and its neighboring sanctuaries, Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay. Among the smallest of the eleven Councils, this Council has members representing education, research, business/industry, and the community at large, as well as one of the GFNMS's primary partners, the National Park Service. The Council meets frequently as part of the management plan review process; its members are participating on a number of newly formed working groups to help develop new management strategies for these California sanctuaries.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

The Council held six regular meetings and a joint meeting with the Cordell Bank and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries, to discuss the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR). Members of the Farallones' highly motivated and involved Council participated in public scoping meetings, identified and prioritized cross cutting and site specific issues, and formed 14 working groups to examine issues of concern. Council members met with other stakeholders to discuss water quality, education and exotic species; other topics are to be covered in early 2003.



*A nineteen-foot white shark cruises the waters around Southeast Farallon searching for its next meal of an unsuspecting juvenile elephant seal. October is the peak month for shark attacks in this region. The sharks are drawn to the Farallones because of the large concentration of immature elephant seals which haul out annually to molt. (photo: Scot Anderson)*

Council members were involved in public outreach at the Sanctuary's Ocean Fest 2002 celebration, took part in a familiarization cruise in the Gulf, and were acknowledged, along with other Sanctuary volunteers from the Beach Watch and SEALS monitoring programs, at a Volunteer Appreciation event.

#### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council recommended that, since the Council's previous request that a joint GF/MB Council Working Group deal with a boundary issue between GFNMS and MBNMS instead of an Internal Team was denied, a letter be sent from the Council to the NMSP Director requesting their initial recommendation be adopted. Jim Kelly (Research primary) moved that this be done, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

The Council also made recommendations as to which issues were best dealt with via internal teams or working groups. These meetings resulted in the "Report on Sanctuary Issue Prioritization Workshops."

#### Major Administrative Changes

This summer, Maria Brown was hired as Assistant Sanctuary Manager. Also, Mary Jane Schramm took over the responsibilities of Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator for the Gulf of the Farallones NMS. The Council unanimously elected Barbara Emley as Council Chair, and Bob Breen as Vice Chair.

## Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (HIHWNMS) lies within the shallow (less than 600 feet), warm waters surrounding the main Hawaiian Islands and constitutes one of the world's most important humpback whale habitats. Scientists estimate that two-thirds of the entire North Pacific humpback whale population migrate to Hawaiian waters each winter to engage in breeding, calving, and nursing activities. The continued protection of humpback whales and their habitat is crucial to the long-term recovery of this endangered species. The Sanctuary was designated in 1992 and encompasses 1,370 square miles.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

Formed in 1992, the HIHWNMS Council is one of the older Councils and also the largest at 31 members. Representatives cover all facets of the Sanctuary community, including conservation, education, research, fishing, whalewatching, tourism, recreation, shipping, business/industry, Native Hawaiian, local government, community at large, and a number of state and federal partners. The Council has formed three subcommittees for education, research, and conservation that meet on a frequent basis; the whole Council meets bimonthly.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

In 2002, the Council provided invaluable assistance on conducting the five-year review of the HIHWNMS, by helping prepare and review new action plans for research, education, natural resource protection, cultural resource enhancement, and operations. The five-year review resulted in a new final management plan in September, the first since the NMSP began its system-wide management plan review efforts in 1998. The Council also continued to provide advice on site operations during the review (see the following discussion on recommendations and decisions) and to participate extensively in HIHWNMS events and programs. Three Council members were chosen to testify before the U.S. Ocean Commission during its meeting in Hawai'i in May.



Photo: Dave Matilla - NMFS Permit # 807

*Humpback whales are very protective of their calves and prefer the shallow areas around the islands of Maui, Molokai and Lanai, possibly due to calmer water conditions.  
(photo: Dave Matilla - NMFS Permit #807)*

### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council supported and will help develop two workshops for 2003, one on vessel strikes on whales and a second on threat assessment to look at potential impacts facing humpback whales in Hawai'i. The Council has also encouraged the establishment of a HIHWNMS field office in Kona on the Big Island and enhanced support for the Marine Mammal Stranding Network in Hawai'i.

### Major Administrative Changes

In 2002, the Council revised and updated its Charter, and added a seat for the U.S. Navy. One new subcommittee, composed solely of Council members, was formed to assist the HIHWNMS in management planning and budget development efforts and three new working groups, composed of both Council members and individuals from the community, were formed for the vessel strike workshop, boater outreach, and naturalist training. The Council also began to develop its first ever annual work plan to help the Council focus its efforts in 2003.

## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) was designated in 1992 as the nation's largest Marine Sanctuary, spanning over 5,300 square miles of coastal waters off central California. Within its boundaries are a rich array of habitats, from rugged rocky shores and lush kelp forests to one of the deepest underwater canyons in North America. These habitats abound with life, from tiny plants to huge blue whales. With its great diversity of habitats and life, the Sanctuary is a national focus for marine research and education.

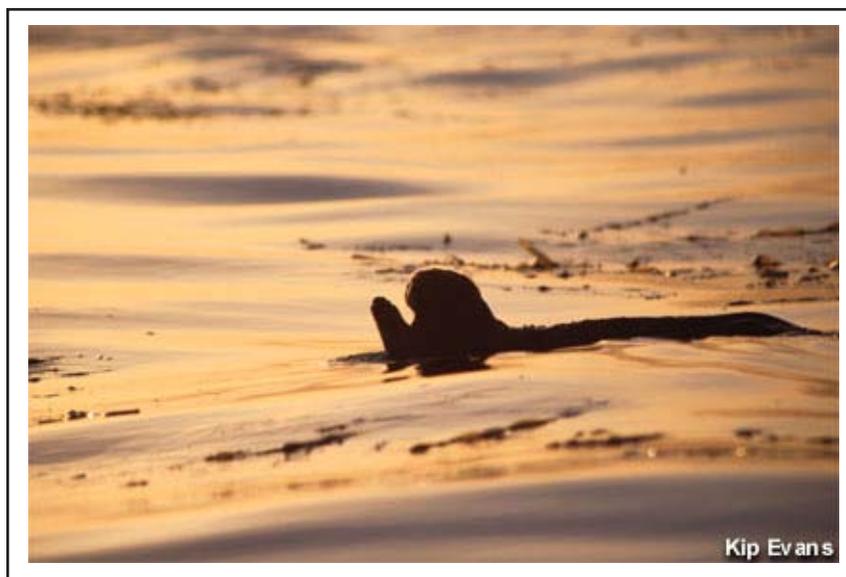
### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

One of the older Councils, this Council was established in 1994. It is also one of the largest, with 24 members covering such diverse interests as conservation, education, research, fishing, diving, tourism, recreation, harbors/ports, business/industry, agriculture, the community at large, and regional, state, and federal agency partners. The Council meets bimonthly and has four working groups (conservation, education, research, and business and tourism) that meet more frequently. The Council focuses both on providing advice on sanctuary operation and is also extensively involved in the joint management plan review (JMPR) process currently underway for the MBNMS and its neighboring sanctuaries, Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

During the JMPR process, the Council has made a special effort to involve the public and receive their comments. A special public comment period was held the evening before the August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting dedicated to JMPR priority issues. The comment period attracted over 60 people; approximately 30 people addressed the Council. Public comment focused primarily on the sanctuary protection for the waters off San Luis Obispo County.

During the month of September the MBNMS celebrated its tenth anniversary. Four celebrations were held at different locations throughout the Sanctuary. Many Council members participated.



*Sea otters are early morning risers. Before the sun comes up, they start their daily feeding which requires that they consume about a quarter of their body weight in food each day. (photo: Kip Evans)*

PEW Oceans Commission Chair and former Congressman Leon Panetta gave a 90-minute presentation, summarizing the work of the Commission and some of the most pressing ocean issues.

Advisory Council members attended the 2002 California & World Oceans conference in Santa Barbara in October. Council member Brian Baird of the California Resources Agency was the principal organizer of the conference and NOAA was a key sponsor. This conference was attended by over 900 participants and included local, state, and national leaders involved with ocean management issues.

### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

At the June 7<sup>th</sup> Council meeting, a discussion was introduced by Holly Price, Resource Protection Coordinator, on Special Use Permits and how they are being granted for fiber optic cables and their maintenance. Kaitilin Gaffney, Conservation alternate, made a motion for the Council to submit a letter to the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries asking it to reconsider whether the Special Use Permits are the appropriate permit to approve fiber optic cable maintenance. The motion was passed and the Council submitted a letter.

The August 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting was dedicated to the JMPR Priority Issues. The Council was asked to give comments on the cross-cutting and site-specific issues. Dan Haifley, Recreation primary and SAC Secretary, made a motion to accept Table 4.1, a table showing the placement of all issues under cross-cutting and site-specific, and make amendments to the table. The Council took action and made nine amendments to the table.

Richard Nutter, Agriculture primary and Council Vice-Chair, commented that the waiver for non-point source discharges associated with the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) plan is expiring at the beginning of year 2003. He asked the Council to send a letter to the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) to consider the program that the MBNMS has in place now with the Agricultural industry. The motion was passed and the Council submitted a letter to the RWQCB asking them to factor in the MBNMS Agricultural Plan as they adopt their TMDL program.

### Major Administrative Changes

The Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator, Karen Grimmer, moved on to her new role as the Manager of MERITO, a bilingual education program. Nicole Capps started as the new Sanctuary Advisory Council Coordinator. Rachel Saunders, Community and Public Relations Coordinator, also took on duties as a liaison with the Council.

The resignation of both the primary and alternate Citizen At-Large seat representing the Northern part of the Sanctuary were given at the August meeting. Recruitment for new members began in November. The California Department of Fish and Game announced Fred Wendell and Paul Reilly as their primary and alternate members. Frank Degnan, Diving primary, George Cook, California State Parks primary, and Monty Criss, Tourism alternate, were sworn in at the June meeting.

## Northwestern Hawaiian Islands Coral Reef Reserve/Proposed Sanctuary

### Site Profile

The expansive coral reef ecosystem of the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI) encompasses an array of resources of natural, cultural, and historic significance unique to Hawai'i, the United States, and the world. The coral reefs are the foundation of an ecosystem that hosts a distinctive assemblage of marine mammals, fish, sea turtles, birds, algae, and invertebrates. Federally protected species include the endangered Hawaiian monk seal and threatened green sea turtle, several resident cetacean species and millions of migratory seabirds. The coral reefs and lands that support these species represent an amazing biological evolution that includes the highest percentage of marine endemism found in the world's oceans. These diverse natural resources are complemented by the area's rich cultural and historical significance. Numerous artifacts on Necker and Nihoa Islands establish a close relationship with the Hawaiian culture in the main Hawaiian Islands, as well as early Polynesian cultures. The area played an important role during early European exploration of the archipelago, the Pacific whaling era, as well as a pivotal role in the World War II including the Battle of Midway, considered to be the most decisive U.S. victory and the turning point of the Pacific war. The NWHI were declared a Coral Reef Ecosystem Reserve by Executive Order in 2000 and are presently being considered as a Sanctuary by a designation process that began in 2001.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

This Council was established in 2001 to provide advice on the operation of the Reserve and the designation process to consider a Sanctuary. Twenty-five members represent a broad spectrum of interest groups, including conservation, education, research, recreational and commercial fishing, tourism, Native Hawaiians, and the community at large, as well as ten state and federal agency partners. The Council generally meets bimonthly and has formed a number of working groups, including for education, cultural resources, rules and regulations, and fishing issues.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

The Council has had another busy year, providing advice on both Reserve operations and Sanctuary designation, through four two-day meetings, including two on neighboring islands. These meetings resulted in a substantial list of recommendations to the NMSP and NOAA (see discussion below). The two major achievements of the Council include providing substantial comments to the NMSP on the Draft Reserve Operations Plan and attending, supporting, and helping complete a very successful scoping process for the designation process.

The Council also participated in the planning of and endorsed the Mokupapapa NWHI Learning Center in Hilo.

### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

Among the major resolutions passed by the Council were:

- Comments submitted on the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council's Coral Reef Ecosystem Fishery Management Plan and State of Hawai'i's proposed NWHI Fishery Management Area;

- Data requested from the State of Hawai'i and federal agencies regarding bottomfishing, commercial trolling, and recreational fishing, as needed to set caps and assess impacts of restrictions on bottomfishing;
- Recommendations submitted regarding fishing caps for the bottomfish fishery, including a cap of zero for the lobster fishery and caps for the two limited entry bottomfish permits reserved for the Hawaiian Community Development Program;
- Recommendations submitted on straight-line boundaries for the Reserve and Reserve Preservation Areas;
- Adoption recommended for Reserve regulations as needed to implement and enforce Executive Orders creating the Reserve;
- Clarification requested of the environmental impact statement approach to be followed for the Sanctuary Designation process and the position of NOAA regarding the requirement of Executive Order 13178 that a NWHI National Marine Sanctuary shall supplement or complement the Reserve;
- Report requested and received from the State of Hawai'i regarding the status of bioprospecting efforts currently underway in ocean waters of the Hawaiian Islands.
- Working groups requested to develop biological and cultural protocols for vessels entering the NWHI; and
- Inventory requested of all research activities in the NWHI.

#### Major Administrative Changes

In 2002, the Council changed the existing Fishing Caps Working Group to the Fishing Issues Working Group to cover all fishing issues related to the NWHI. Two new working groups were added, the Tourism, Recreational and Commercial Activities Working Group and the Rules and Regulations Working Group.



*Hawaiian monk seal in the NWHI.*

## Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS) spans 3,310-square miles of marine waters off the rugged Olympic Peninsula coastline, from Cape Flattery to the mouth of the Copalis River, and extending 25 to 50 miles seaward. The OCNMS covers much of the continental shelf and several major submarine canyons, and protects a productive upwelling zone—home to rich marine mammal and seabird faunas, diverse populations of kelp and intertidal algae, and thriving invertebrate communities. The Sanctuary is also rich in cultural resources, with over 150 documented historical shipwrecks and the vibrant contemporary cultures of Makah, Quinault, Hoh, and Quileute Nations. The OCNMS was designated in July 1994.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The OCNMS Council was established in 1995 and has nineteen members, including fifteen members representing conservation, education, research, fishing, tourism, harbors/ports, community at large, and the four Native American tribes of the region. Four non-government voting seats represent the Sanctuary's federal and state partners. The Council meets bimonthly. Three working groups—ones on research, marine conservation, and the Area to be Avoided—and the Resource Protection subcommittee provide additional support and information to the Council and Sanctuary.

### Major Achievements and Milestones

Selected Council members gave presentations on components of the current Sanctuary management plan. The goal was to familiarize the Council with the contents of the current management plan in anticipation of the OCNMS management plan review process. Each presentation was followed by a discussion of how the implementation of each section compared to what actually occurred and why the actual programs differed from the plan.

The Marine Conservation Working Group continued to work on developing recommendations for marine zoning in the intertidal zone of the Sanctuary.



*Northern sea lions (Eumetopias jubatus) use haul-outs on many offshore rocks and island. (photo: Steve Fisher)*

The Council also received briefing on the following issues impacting Sanctuary management and resource protection issues:

- A presentation from AquaEnergy officials on their proposal for a wave energy generating buoy field to be sited within the Sanctuary. The Council received several follow-up briefings by the Superintendent about the installation by the company of data gathering buoys in preparation for an environmental impact statement or environmental assessment to be prepared for the project.
- A presentation on “West Coast Offshore Vessel Risk Management Project Report” on recommended routing of offshore vessel traffic routing along the West Coast.
- A presentation on Washington State’s initiative to revise the state’s oil spill response regulations.
- A presentation by the Quileute Tribe on the Tribal Harmful Algal Bloom Project. The aim of the Project is to gain early detection of potential outbreaks of algal generated toxin events in coastal shellfish.
- A briefing by Commander of the Port Angeles Coast Guard Station on the role and duties of the Coast Guard within the Sanctuary.
- A presentation on the Paleoshorelines Project being undertaken jointly by the Sanctuary and the Makah Tribe. The Project will involve underwater reconnaissance to locate potential sites of previous habitation in and around Cape Flattery/Makah Bay.

#### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council adopted a letter to the Washington State Governor, the State Senate Majority Leader, and the State House Speaker urging continuance of state funding for the rescue tug at Neah Bay. This letter was also conveyed to the U.S. Coast for their consideration in determining the expenditure of certain federal funds for marine safety in Washington waters as contained in the Department of Transportation Appropriations bill pending before the Congress. The Council also approved written comments and recommendations on the West Coast Offshore Vessel Routing Study to be sent to the Superintendent. The Council recommended that the importance of a rescue tug at Neah Bay be highlighted, that agreements covering tankers and tank barges be expanded to cover foreign flagged tank vessels, and that the 25-nautical mile offshore distance be marked on charts.

The Council voted to send a letter to the Superintendent commenting on the “Fair Market Value Analysis for a Submarine Cable Permit in National Marine Sanctuaries” formulated by NOAA. The Council recommended discouraging the use of sanctuaries for cables, but if cables are to be sited within Sanctuary waters, then NOAA should use the highest value of the range established for right-of-way and require that a bond be posted covering costs of monitoring and compliance.

The Council made written comments to the Superintendent on the “Draft Code of Conduct for Responsible Aquaculture in the U.S. Exclusive Economic Zone” *Federal Register* notice by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Comments pointed out deficiencies in the draft regarding environmental impacts and the regulatory role of national marine sanctuaries in citing aquaculture operations within or adjacent to a Sanctuary.

Finally, the Council gave Sanctuary staff comments on the Draft Science Framework Plan that were incorporated into the final document. The Council approved the Science Framework Plan at the September meeting and recommended it to the Superintendent.

#### Major Administrative Changes

The Council created a Resource Protection Subcommittee to take on issues relating to protection of Sanctuary resources. The initial focus of the group is on marine transportation safety issues. The Council felt that the number and increasing complexity of resource protection issues warranted the establishment of a committee that could examine issues more fully than the entire Council and could make recommendations for actions by the full Council. The Council also established an ad hoc Area to be Avoided (ATBA) working group to assist the Sanctuary in education and outreach to the commercial marine industry, including ports, about the significant changes to the Sanctuary ATBA that were adopted by the IMO.

The charter was amended to include a new seat for a representative of the U.S. Navy. This is a non-voting seat, consistent with the representation of the other four Federal agencies. The Council also completed the task of recruiting and obtaining approval for alternates for all the non-governmental positions.

## Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

### Site Profile

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (SBNMS), designated in November 1992, sits at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay between Cape Ann and Cape Cod. The 824-square mile Sanctuary encompasses mud-filled basins, rock ledges and boulder fields and the gravel and coarse sand bank which was formed by the retreat of glaciers from the last Ice Age. The bank's position at the mouth of Massachusetts Bay forces an upwelling of nutrient-rich water from the Gulf of Maine—leading to high productivity and a multilayered food web with species ranging from single-celled phytoplankton to the great whales.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council for SBNMS was established in 1992 and reformed in October 2001 to support the ongoing management plan review. The Council has 21 members, with fifteen representing various facets of the community, including conservation, education, research, fishing, whalewatching, recreation, business/industry, and the community at large. The remaining seats represent the SBNMS's state and federal partners. The Council generally meets bimonthly and has not as yet established any working groups.

### Major Achievements and Milestones/Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council has focused on the management plan review underway at the SBNMS. In 2002, the Council reviewed and provided comments the site's *State of the Sanctuary Report* in preparation for the scoping process. Members also supported and participated in the very successful scoping process which resulted in over 18,000 individuals submitting written and oral comments via mail, email, and through public meetings.

*Many species of birds visit the Sanctuary throughout the year, including summer visitors like these greater shearwaters (*Puffinus gravis*). A long-distance migration takes them to the southern hemisphere where they breed during the northern winter. (photo: Dann Blackwood, USGS)*



### Major Administrative Changes

The Council elected new officers, selecting Bill Amaru (Mobile Gear Commercial Fishing representative) as Chair, Sally Yozell (Citizen at Large representative), and John Williamson (Citizen at Large representative) as Secretary. Nathalie Ward joined the SBNMS staff in December 2002 as the new Council Coordinator.

## Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary/Underwater Preserve

### Site Profile

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve (TBNMS/UP), designated in October 2000, boasts an impressive array of underwater cultural resources including shipwrecks, historical remnants of docks and piers, and probable materials from historic and prehistoric Native Americans. The area contains a nationally significant collection of approximately 116 shipwrecks that spans over two centuries of Great Lakes shipping history. The TBNMS/UP is 448 square miles in area and located in northern Lake Huron, near Alpena, Michigan.

### Sanctuary Advisory Council Profile

The Council for TBNMS/UP was established in 1997 and has fifteen members, all representing facets of the Sanctuary community, including education, research, fishing, diving, tourism, cultural resources, business/industry, and the community at large. Five seats represent local community governments. The Council meets monthly, while working groups (on mooring buoys, education, and outreach) meet as needed.

### Major Achievements and Milestones/Major Administrative Changes

The current TBNMS/UP Advisory Council was appointed in September 2001 as the first “post-designation” Council. In 2002, the Council met eight times. The meetings included presentations by Dan Basta, Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Program, submerged cultural resources staff from other sanctuaries, and Lori Arguelles, Executive Director of the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

The Council established three working groups: the Education Working Group (WG), the Outreach/Promotion Working Group, and the Mooring Buoy Working Group. The Education WG and the Outreach/Promotion WG each developed plans highlighting high priority initiatives to be considered by the Sanctuary for adoption. The Mooring Buoy WG proposed a mooring buoy design and implementation plan to the Sanctuary. Based on this plan, the Sanctuary purchased nine buoys in 2002.

*The bow of the wreck Grecian, one of the shipwrecks of the TBNMS.*





The Council held its first all-day retreat in June 2002. Members reached agreement on its most important roles and defined the Council's priorities in 2003. The priorities include establishing a Council speakers' bureau; having a presence at community events; helping create a program for oral history; helping to establish a friends' group; becoming more knowledgeable about the Sanctuary; developing a "local" logo; becoming involved in the interpretive center planning; and supporting the Thunder Bay remote underwater vehicle team's project.

#### Council Recommendations and Sanctuary Decisions

The Council passed two resolutions, one in opposition to a proposed increase in docking fees at the Alpena Small Boat Harbor; the other to support a Department of Natural Resources grant for a coastal land acquisition by the Nature Conservancy.

The working groups played a vital role in providing ideas and expertise to Sanctuary staff.

