

# EXHIBITS

## NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

2008 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Photo: TBMS

### Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Unveils Redesigned Shipwreck Exhibit

In June 2008, Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary unveiled its Exploring the Shipwreck Century exhibit at NOAA's Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center in Alpena, Mich. Two years in the making, the 9,000-square-foot exhibit reveals the secrets of Thunder Bay's nearly 200 shipwrecks and NOAA's role in protecting America's maritime heritage. The exhibit's centerpiece is a full-size replica of a storm-tossed Great Lakes schooner making its way into Thunder Bay in the 1880s. Visitors can explore the ship's deck and cabin, then move on and find themselves amidst the remains of replica shipwreck on the bottom of Thunder Bay – complete with clear climbing tubes overhead that provide a “diver's eye view” of the wreck. Visitors will also find hundreds shipwreck artifacts on display, as well as both traditional and interactive exhibit components. Future plans call for the re-installation of NOAA's Science on a Sphere exhibit, as well as a live video feed to one of the sanctuary's most popular shipwrecks. For more information, visit <http://thunderbay.noaa.gov>.



Photo: SBMS

### Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, Cal Academy of Sciences Debut Major Farallones Exhibit

At the California Academy of Sciences' grand reopening in September 2008, the Academy unveiled a new three-story, 100,000-gallon “California Coast” tank highlighting the habitats of Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Constructed in partnership with the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the exhibit showcases the marine animals and plants of the California Current ecosystem, focusing on the Farallones sanctuary's rich and diverse rocky intertidal zone. An estimated 1.2 million people are expected to visit the Academy every year and learn how the sanctuary system protects its valuable natural, cultural and historical resources. In addition to the exhibit, the Farallones sanctuary and the Academy are training 500 docents to be interpreters on the sanctuary reefs as well as at the exhibit, promoting enjoyment of intertidal habitats without harming marine life. For more information, visit <http://www.calacademy.org>.



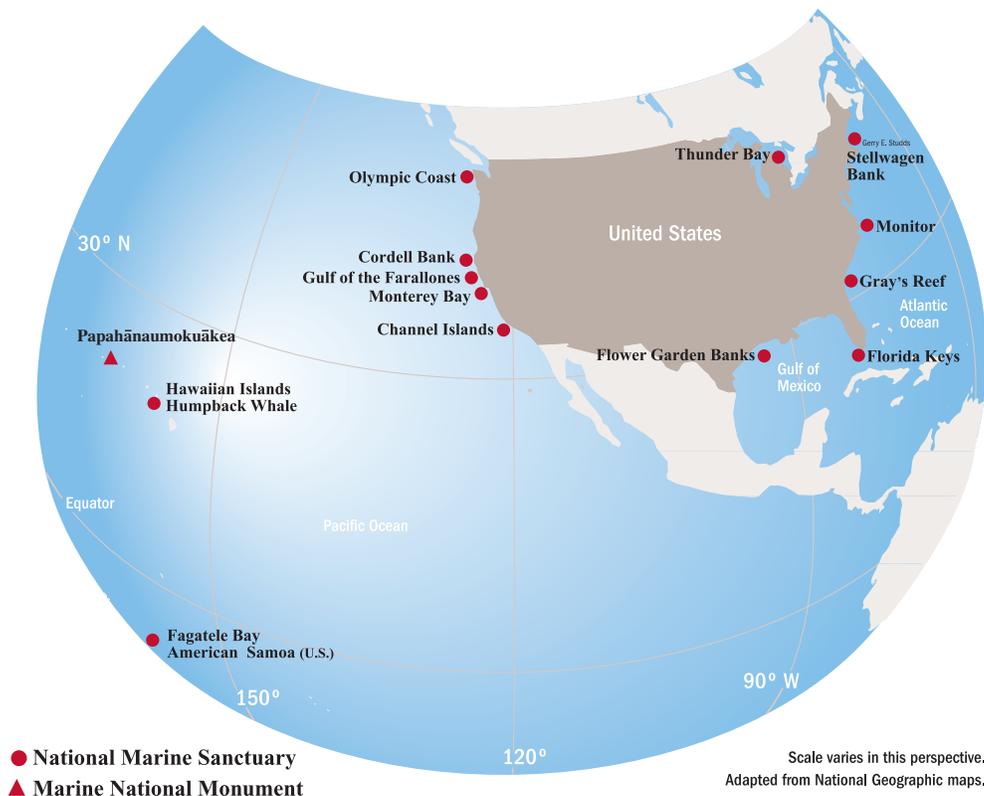
Photo: Cal Academy of Sciences

### California Plan Adopted as Template for Sanctuary System Signage

In 2008, the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries opted to use the California Signage Plan as the approved template for all National Marine Sanctuary System interpretive signage. The plan was created to provide a template for signs with a common look and feel across California's four marine sanctuaries, and 45 of the signs were installed along the California coastline between June 1, 2007, and May 31, 2008. The signage plan emphasizes the use of colors and photographs that are attractive and eye-catching, along with well-balanced content and educational elements. The incorporation of ONMS graphic elements such as the signature blue tones, dashed rule and logos helps give the signs a common look and feel and promotes awareness of the sanctuary system. The success of the California Signage Plan and its adaptability sparked the decision to use the plan as the model for the rest of the sanctuary system.



Photo: ONMS/NOAA



### Stellwagen Bank NMS Upgrades Exhibits at Gloucester Maritime Heritage Museum

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary's exhibit hall at the Gloucester Maritime Heritage Center added additional display space in 2008, with new units showcasing the evolution of mapping techniques over the past two centuries and satellite imagery illustrating ocean productivity and regional geography. A seafloor habitats section, relocated due to the installation of a handicapped-accessible elevator at the center, benefited from the move with revised and expanded content. The sanctuary exhibit has become a popular feature at the center, which has been drawing steadily increasing visitation over the past few years.

### Monterey Bay NMS Moves Forward on Design for Santa Cruz Exploration Center

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries is collaborating with the city of Santa Cruz, Calif., and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation in a partnership to design and build the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Exploration Center in Santa Cruz. It will encourage visitors to examine this productive marine environment, the issues impacting the sanctuary, and their personal roles in protecting one of our nation's special ocean places. Located just steps from the ocean in Santa Cruz's famed beach area, this facility will provide state-of-the-art, interactive interpretive exhibits to an anticipated 200,000 visitors annually. The new center will also highlight environmentally sustainable design and construction methods.

To learn more about these and other accomplishments, visit [sanctuaries.noaa.gov](http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov)

