

2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



TRAVELING EXHIBIT BRINGS SANCTUARY TO COMMUNITIES

In 2014, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary's (CBNMS) traveling photography exhibit reached an estimated 10,000 people at four different locations in Marin and Sonoma counties. Due to Cordell Bank's remote location, most people are unable to see it in person. The sanctuary works to bring Cordell Bank to communities through a traveling photography exhibit highlighting the amazing biodiversity above and below the water. CBNMS also organized talks, lectures and student activities at each location, including a 25th anniversary celebration of the designation of Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary.



ROVS COMPLETE SURVEYS OF CORDELL BANK

The sanctuary completed a successful research mission to Cordell Bank using a remotely-operated vehicle (ROV) on the R/V *Fulmar*. The ROV team surveyed the shallowest parts of the bank and collected video and still imagery to conduct a characterization of the invertebrate community. In seven days of field operations, the team completed 17 transects, collecting more than 2000 still images and nearly 20 hours of video. Data analysis will look at relative abundance of species and habitat characteristics.



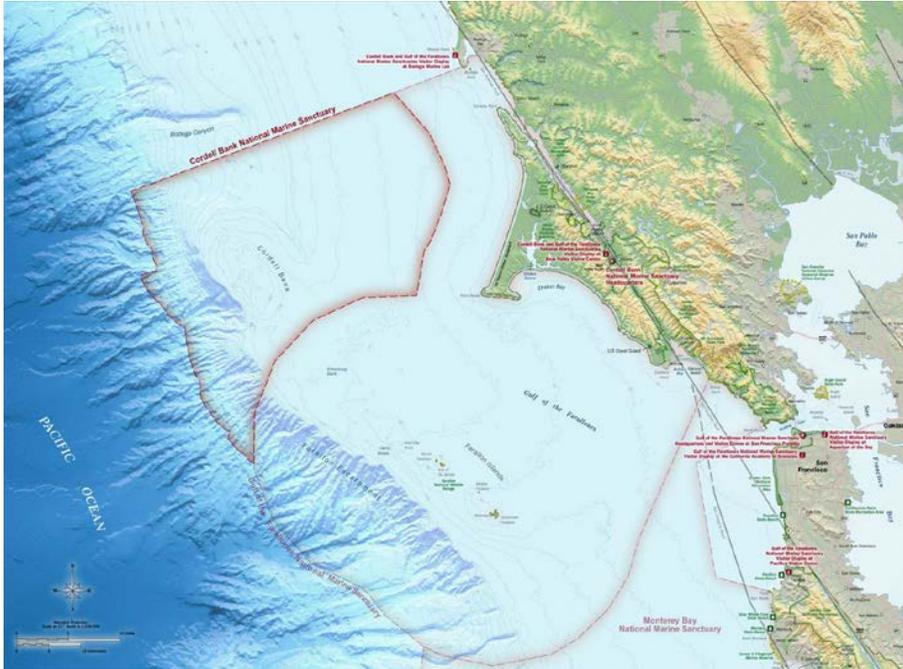
HYPOXIA MONITORING MOORINGS DEPLOYED

CBNMS staff collaborated with Bodega Marine Lab to deploy two moorings with sensors to study the extent of unusually low dissolved oxygen conditions in nearshore waters. The sensors measured dissolved oxygen and temperature near Cordell Bank during the summer months of 2014. Initial analysis indicates that these events occurred in June. Further analysis and planning for future work is underway. Hypoxia occurs when the amount of dissolved oxygen in water becomes too low to support most aquatic life. Understanding the extent of hypoxic zones is critical in this economically important fisheries region. Scientists at Bodega Marine Lab first detected this phenomenon in nearshore waters in 2013.



SANCTUARY SPONSORS STUDENT FILM COMPETITION

For the third year in a row, the sanctuary sponsored a student film competition at the San Francisco International Ocean Film Festival. Students in grades 6-12 from around the world created and submitted their own ocean films. The students used film to interpret present-day issues facing the ocean. The top 10 films were shown on the big screen at the annual festival. Filmmakers could talk about their films to the audience and top honors were recognized.



Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary gets its name from the underwater mountain that rises to within 115 feet of the ocean's surface off Point Reyes, California. Upwelling of nutrient-rich deep water supports a flourishing ecosystem on and around Cordell Bank, making the 529-square-mile sanctuary a productive feeding destination for diverse marine creatures. Common sanctuary inhabitants and migratory visitors include whales, dolphins, sea lions, seabirds, rockfish and Pacific salmon. The sanctuary was established on May 24, 1989.

LOOKING AHEAD

- After a two-year public process, NOAA announced the expansion of Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. The expansion more than doubles the sizes of the existing sanctuaries.
- An ocean interpretive center will be built at the Point Reyes Lighthouse area adjacent and connected to the seashore visitor center. The center will immerse visitors in the biodiversity of surrounding sanctuary waters.
- In collaboration with NatureBridge and San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, CBNMS will host a Coastal Science Teachers workshop to engage teachers in the upcoming Next Generation Science Standards in the context of local coastal habitats.

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.

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

The Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a system of 14 marine protected areas encompassing more than 150,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>