

## 2014 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



### SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL VESSEL SPEED REDUCTION TRIAL

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) was part of a coalition of government and non-profit groups that implemented a Vessel Speed Reduction Trial incentive program in the Santa Barbara Channel. The coalition introduced the program to slow cargo ships down in an effort to reduce air pollution and increase protection of endangered whales. Seven global shipping companies slowed ship speeds for 27 trips through the Channel to 12 knots or less for an incentive payment of \$2,500 per trip. The trial achieved a 50 percent reduction in nitrogen oxides and greenhouse gas emissions from baseline amounts for participating vessels.



### EXPLORING DEEP WATERS OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

In August 2014, researchers from Marine Applied Research and Exploration returned to 10 “baseline” sites in marine protected areas (MPAs) within CINMS. Researchers filmed and processed more than 500 kilometers of video transects both inside and outside of select MPAs at all four northern Channel Islands. The Channel Islands MPA network was initially established in state waters in 2003 and expanded to federal waters in 2007. The MPA network has provided protection for more than a decade and has the longest-running time series of deep water data collected specifically for MPA monitoring.



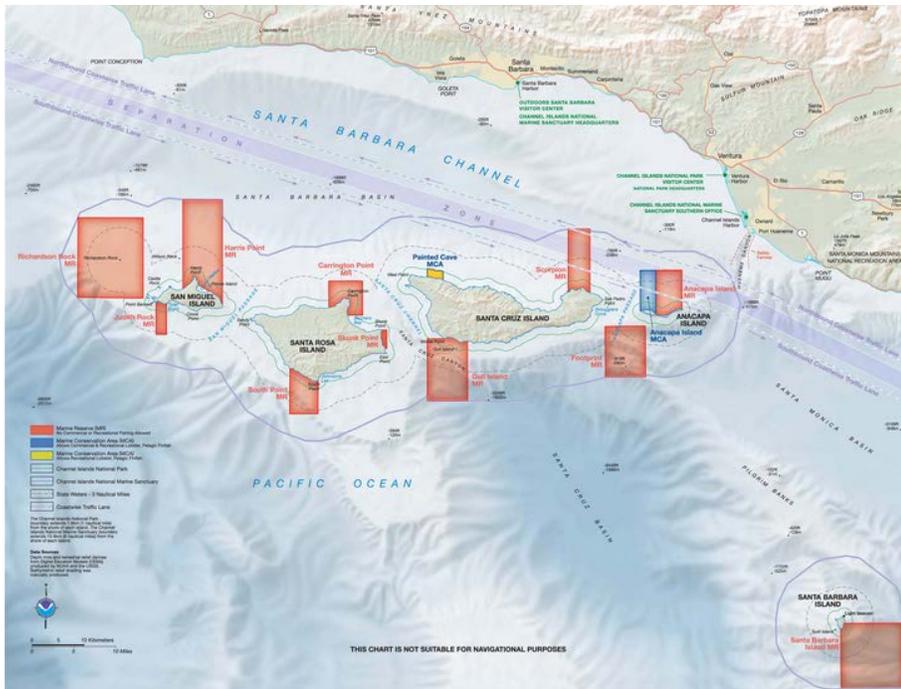
### HUMPBACK WHALES FREED FROM FISHING GEAR

In May 2014, responders and crew aboard CINMS research vessel *Shearwater* freed an endangered humpback whale from crab fishing gear in the Santa Barbara Channel, successfully ending a 17-day response effort. In June 2014, *Shearwater* and crew helped responders free a second humpback whale from fishing gear within the sanctuary. Responses were coordinated by the NOAA Fisheries Protected Resources Division, the Whale Entanglement Team (WET), and Sea World Rescue, with support from CINMS.



### PARTNERSHIP HOSTS WORKSHOP ON TEACHING ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

In June 2014, CINMS partnered with NatureBridge, Channel Islands National Park and the University of California – Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute to host a week-long professional development workshop for 23 middle and high school teachers and science coordinators from southern California. Expert scientists and guest speakers provided insight to the latest scientific thinking on climate change and ocean acidification. Classroom and field-based activities featured Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) intertidal monitoring and provided teachers real-world data sets and collection methods for project-based learning.



**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary** encompasses the waters surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands off the coast of Southern California, encircling Channel Islands National Park. The combination of warm and cold ocean currents around the islands results in a great variety of plants and animals, including large forests of giant kelp, flourishing populations of fish and invertebrates, and abundant populations of whales, dolphins, sea lions, seals and seabirds. Also plentiful are maritime heritage resources such as shipwrecks and historic artifacts. The sanctuary was established on September 22, 1980.

## LOOKING AHEAD

- The proposed Center of Excellence for Unmanned Technologies at CINMS will serve as an operational hub for testing and evaluation of unmanned aerial systems and other craft, assessing these tools for potential research and management use.
- Starting in February 2015, stakeholders and experts of the sanctuary advisory council's Marine Shipping Working Group will begin work to find management solutions for a variety of shipping issues including air pollution, ship-whale strikes, navigational safety and ocean use conflicts.
- The sanctuary will continue to work with the UCSB and California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) on activities including development of UCSB's Outreach Center for Teaching Ocean Science and programming at CSUCI's Channel Islands Boating Center.

*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

Olympic Coast  
Cordell Bank  
Gulf of the Farallones  
Papahānaumokuākea  
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale  
Monterey Bay  
Channel Islands  
American Samoa (U.S.)



Thunder Bay  
Stellwagen Bank  
Monitor  
Gray's Reef  
Florida Keys  
Flower Garden Banks

○ National Marine Sanctuary  
△ Marine National Monument

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>