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Sanctuaries seek protection of maritime history

Advances in diving gear, navigational electronics, and aquatic robots are bringing historical sunken vessels within the reach of marine archaeologists and recreational divers alike. Concerned recreational divers are now joining with scientists to take an active role in preserving and documenting underwater maritime history and educating others as to the importance of conserving it.

[More about NOAA's role](#)

[Stories from 2001](#)

Ocean Report offers support to U.S. sanctuaries

[Stories from 2000](#)

[Stories from 1999](#)

On September 2, Vice President Al Gore announced new actions to help preserve and protect our nation's oceans and coasts in a special report given at the New England Aquarium in Boston. One proposal in the "The Ocean Report would enlist commercial fishermen and divers in research efforts at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in California.

[Read more about "The Ocean Report"](#)

NOAA's Shipwreck Trail

Sanctuary News

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Weather and war, uncharted waters and human error enacted a deadly toll on seagoing vessels traveling the waters now contained within the boundaries of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries. The new Shipwreck Trail offers a thematic map of significant, accessible, commonly-dived shipwrecks and artificial reefs through the sanctuary's waters.

[For more on the new diving adventure](#)

Monitor Mission 1999

A joint Navy and NOAA expedition completed part one of a two-part mission this summer to salvage and shore up the historical remains of the *Monitor*, the famous Civil War ironclad that foundered and sank in a storm 137 years ago.

[For more on the *Monitor* mission including daily updates.](#)

From vessel grounding to reef recovery

On August 10, 1994, the R/V *Columbus Iselin*, a research ship studying the currents on the Florida Straits, smashed through a coral reef colony in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The damaged area, Looe Key, contains some of the most aesthetically valuable and heavily visited reefs in the continental U.S. part of the Florida Reef Tract, it is the third largest barrier reef in the world. Now five-years later, the Looe Key reef restoration has begun.

[For more on the Columbus Iselin reef restoration](#)

One fish, two fish, rockfish, bluefish!

For two weeks in July, the annual Great American Fish Count sends recreational divers and snorkelers into the water to help scientists learn more about fish diversity and populations. Waters include five

national marine sanctuaries: Channel Islands and Monterey Bay, California; Flower Garden Banks, Texas; Florida Keys, Florida; and Gray's Reef, Georgia.

[For more on the Great American Fish Count](#)

First Great Lakes sanctuary moves closer to designation

Shipwrecks spanning more than a century of Great Lakes shipping -- early wooden sailboats to steel-hulled lakes steamers -- may soon receive protection as part of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary system. An important step in the designation process of Thunder Bay, Michigan, took place recently with the publication of a Final Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan.

[For more on the proposed Thunder Bay Sanctuary](#)

Sustainable Seas Expeditions head east

In early July, the Sustainable Seas Expeditions move to the East Coast where aquanauts will explore the rich boulder reefs and sandy plains of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary, 25 miles east of Boston, Mass. protects 842-square miles of open ocean.

[Learn more about SSE](#)

Sustainable Seas Expeditions

After a year of planning, the Sustainable Seas Expeditions kicks off its unprecedented deep sea exploration of NOAA's twelve national marine sanctuaries this month.

[For more on Sustainable Seas Expeditions](#)

New Navigation System Protects Florida's Coral Reefs

In early March the federal government installed state-of-the-art navigational aids in NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to help ships avoid grounding on fragile, threatened coral reefs.

[For full story](#)

Sanctuary educators praised for environmental work

Sarah Mitchell and Becky Shortland of NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary were honored recently in a *Savannah Morning News* series for their positive and significant roles in preserving ocean and coastal environments.

[Praise for Gray's Reef Marine Sanctuary educators](#)

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary honored as conservation accomplishment of the century

As the 20th century draws to a close, The Audubon Society, the nation's first bird preservation organization, took the opportunity to reflect back on the greatest conservation accomplishments of the past 100 years.

[For full story](#)

Coast Guard pilots help sanctuary protect coral reefs

NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary staff Shelley Du Puy and Emma Hickerson once had to travel eleven hours to reach sanctuary boundaries located 100 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. Now U.S. Coast Guard pilots help sanctuary staff reach the sanctuary in 45 minutes.

[For more "eyes in the sky"](#)

September 17, 2001

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Feature Stories



Safety is Job One at Our National Marine Sanctuaries

By Gail Krueger and David Hall

The cry "Man overboard!" was heard at a number of NOAA's national marine sanctuaries last month. There was also a wave of fires, hurricanes, and even earthquakes. In each case the response was quick and no lives were lost.



These were only mock disasters, staged during the sanctuary program's first annual "Safety Week." But should such events actually occur sanctuary staff will be well prepared, thanks to an intense week of hands-on safety programs and drills.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's Karen Grimmer (left) and Deirdre Hall practice a "man overboard" drill aboard the sanctuary vessel SHARK CAT. Photo: Brad Damitz/MBNMS

At sanctuaries throughout the 14-site National Marine Sanctuary System, staff learned how to handle everything from heart attacks to hazardous waste spills.

Because many sanctuary staffers spend time on or under the water, boat and diver safety drills were an important part of the safety stand-down.

At several sanctuaries, staff members simulated boat evacuations by donning bright orange immersion, or "Gumby," suits and jumping into the water. Each orange-clad staffer then drifted toward a life raft or

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[Shades of Gray](#)

Monitor
Cheesebox

sanctuary vessel and practiced climbing aboard.

Sanctuary staff also practiced various forms of “man overboard” drills. In each case, lessons were learned.

Monterey Bay

“We now know which sanctuary boat we have to use to get people out of the water and transport them to safety,” said Steve Baumgartner, operation manager for the lower region of Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. “One particular boat worked out very well. We would definitely turn to that one first [in that situation].”

Olympic Coast
e-news

Gerry E. Studds
Stellwagen Bank
Soundings

“The entire program made me feel that I, too, could help in a dive or other emergency on either of the sanctuary’s boats,” said Becky Shortland, policy coordinator for Gray’s Reef Sanctuary. Shortland and other non-diving members of the Gray’s Reef staff often go out with researchers as assistants and observers on both research dives and routine patrols.

Thunder Bay
Beneath the Waves

Safety Week was not confined to boating safety drills, however. Staff throughout the sanctuary system, including its Silver Spring headquarters, reviewed emergency procedures, supplies and equipment.

“Our safety stand-down is about more than just safe boating,” said NOAA Capt. Ted Lillestolen, NMSP’s deputy director for facilities, vessels, aircraft and safety. “It’s a host of carefully-planned, comprehensive training exercises for all sanctuary program staff, regardless of where they work. We want to be sure that when people come to sanctuaries, they are in an environment that is as safe as we can make it.”

“This was a very important learning experience,” said Sarah Fangman, the Safety Week coordinator for Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. “I was really pleased to see how seriously my colleagues took this day of training. They were fully engaged, asked really important questions and offered fantastic ideas on how we could better prepare ourselves for emergency situations.”

“This has been a valuable opportunity for team-building as well as an important commitment to safety,” said Gray’s Reef Sanctuary Manager Reed Bohne.

While the sanctuary program plans to make Safety Week an annual event, Lillestolen and NMSP Director Daniel J. Basta say the sanctuary program won’t wait a year before updating emergency procedures and providing additional safety training to staff. “It will be an ongoing activity,” said Lillestolen.

“We value the health and well-being of our employees, those who volunteer in our sanctuaries, those who visit them, and those who conduct research in them. That’s what’s driving this effort.” said Basta. “Like our other NOAA colleagues, we know that safety is our first responsibility.” -- [[Click here](#) for field site reports]

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Press Releases



[Jan. 7, 2005](#) --Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, managed by the U.S. Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is seeking applicants for four Sanctuary Advisory Council seats.

[Jan. 3, 2005](#) --The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (CBNMS) is seeking applicants to fill sanctuary advisory council seats representing research, conservation, maritime activity, education and community-at-large interests. NOAA is an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

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January 2005

Natural Events

Gray whales (*Eschrichtius robustus*) migrate south through the Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones, and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries. From December through February, the whales swim along the coastline and may be visible from shore as they head for the warm waters of Mexico's west coast lagoons for calving and mating.

January is the peak month for Northern elephant seal pup births in the Monterey Bay and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries. Females give birth to a single pup within a week of hauling out on the beach. Pups will be nursed for three to four weeks before weaning.

In Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, rockfish spawning peaks this month.

Northern elephant seal (*Mirounga augustirostris*) pupping and breeding season on San Miguel Island in Channel Islands continues through February. On Anacapa and Santa Barbara Islands, California Brown Pelicans (*Pelecanus occidentalis californicus*) begin nesting through the month of February. The seals also breed on Southeast Farallon Islands and at nearby Pt. Reyes National Seashore.

Hammerhead sharks and spotted rays school around the East and West Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary, through early April.

In mid January, North Atlantic right whale return to Cape Cod Bay and the southern end of the Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary to feed on early bloom of copepods.

Winter gull migration begins.

Female northern right whales calve off the coast of Georgia and North Florida, Gray's Reef Sanctuary.

Alcids, such as razorbills and dovebies, overwinter at Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.



A portion of the critically endangered North Atlantic right whale population returns to Cape Cod Bay and Stellwagen Bank region to feed on patches of copepods.

Legions of seabirds feast on the abundant food resources present at Cordell Bank.

The winter months are excellent for tidepooling in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary because afternoon low tides expose marine algae and invertebrates. The low tides which began in November continue though February.

Minus tides in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary permit intensive intertidal algae and invertebrate surveys at S.E. Farallon Island.

Sanctuary Events

Jan. 11 • Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
"FROM SHORE TO SEA" Speaker Series

Speaker to be announced

This speaker series is free and open to the public.

7pm at Chase Palm Park Center

236 E Cabrillo Blvd., Santa Barbara, CA.

**Jan. 12 • Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
FROM SHORE TO SEA Speaker Series
Speaker to be announced**

This speaker series is free and open to the public.
7pm @ the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center
1901 Spinnaker Drive in the Ventura Harbor.

**Jan. 14 • Monterey Bay Sanctuary Research Activity Panel (RAP)
Meeting, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m., USGS office, Santa Cruz. For more
information contact Andrew Devogelaere at (831) 647-4213. [Click here](#)
for more information.**

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SANCTUARY WATCH



Four times a year, the National Marine Sanctuary Program publishes a national newsletter in print and electronic format to keep our colleagues, collaborators and constituents informed about the many program activities and accomplishments that take place within our 13 national marine sanctuaries.

[Click here](#) for instructions on how to receive an html formatted e-mail version of the Sanctuary Watch newsletter.

Please e-mail the [editor](#) if you would like to be added to the mailing list or to receive a hard copy of the newsletter.

If you do not have Adobe Acrobat Reader, [please download](#) the free program.

Links to additional Sanctuary Newsletters

[Florida Keys Sounding Line](#)

[Gray's Reef Shades of Gray](#)

[Humpback Whale Ke Leo O Ke Kohola](#)

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 3 Fall 2004 - Special Issue: Diving into Education

- Sanctuary Education Programs for Teachers and Students
- Critter Files: Black-footed Albatross
- Newsplash
- Star of the Sea: Kim Rusk
- Sanctuary Voices: Consortium for Oceanographic Research and Education

[\[Download Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 3 -- pdf document, 2.2 MB\]](#)

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- Olympic Coast Sanctuary Celebrates 10 Years of Stewardship
- Critter Files: Sea Otter
- Studying Humpback Whales Across North America
- Star of the Sea: Stephanie Harlan
- Sanctuary Voices: U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy

[Download [Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 2](#) -- pdf document, 2.9 MB]



Sanctuary Watch Summer 2004

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 5 No. 1
Spring 2004

- Spotlight on Exploration
- Sound Science
- Hunt for the *Alligator*
- James Christley: Star of the Sea
- Warty Sea Slug
- Sanctuary Voices: Reaching Out to Boaters

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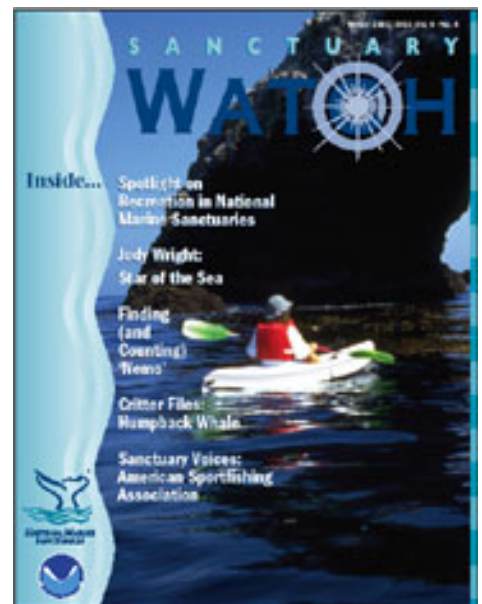


Sanctuary Watch Spring 2004

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 4 No. 4 Winter 2003

- Sanctuaries: Something for Everyone
- Paddling Through Paradise
- Sanctuaries are for the Birds
- Finding (and Counting) 'Nemo'
- Critter Files: Whale Watching/
Humpback Whale
- Sanctuary Voices: American
Sportfishing Association

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Sanctuary Watch Vol. 4 No. 3 Fall 2003

- Seabirds Find a Home at Gray's Reef Sanctuary
- Revisiting the *USS Monitor*
- Critter Files: White Shark
- Gordon Bennett and Al Brooks: Stars of the Sea
- The 'Canaries' of Fagatele Bay Sing the Blues
- New Sanctuaries Managers

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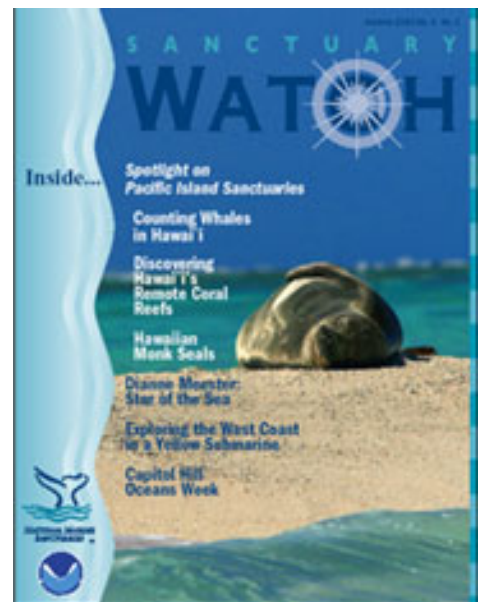


Sanctuary Watch Fall 2003

***Sanctuary Watch* Vol. 4 No. 2 Summer 2003**

- Spotlight on Pacific Island Sanctuaries
- Counting Whales in Hawai'i
- Discovering Hawai'i's Remote Coral Reefs
- Hawaiian Monk Seals
- Dianne Meester: Star of the Sea
- Exploring the West Coast in a Yellow Submarine
- Capitol Hill Oceans Week

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Sanctuary Watch Summer 2003

***Sanctuary Watch* Vol. 4 No. 1 Winter 2002/2003**

- Sanctuary Discoveries: *Pacbaroness*, *Portland*, Thunder Bay
- Sanctuary Watch Star of the Sea: Billy Causy, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary
- New Vessel Helps Scientists, Students Study the Sea
- Monitor Expedition 2002
- Follow that Fish! Tagging Program Helps Researchers get to the Bottom of a Fishy Mystery
- U.S. Senator Breaux honored for work with Flower Garden Banks Sanctuary
- Channel Islands Sanctuary Explorer Ballard Take Students From 'Shore to Sea'



Sanctuary Watch Feb/April 2003

[\[Download Sanctuary Watch Vol. 4 No. 1 -- pdf document, 4.5 MB\]](#)

Sanctuary Watch Vol. 3 No. 6 December 2002/January 2003

- California Creates Marine Reserve in Channel Islands
- Sanctuary Managers Promote Program Around the Globe
- California Mystery Oil Spill Solved
- National Marine Sanctuary Program Joins in Korean MPA Planning Workshop
- Channel Islands Welcomes New Sanctuary Manager Christopher Mobley
- More explorations at the *Portland* site in Gerry. E. Studds



Spiny lobsters scuttling along the ocean floor now have additional protections in the Channel Islands.

Photo: Shane Anderson

Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary

- Sanctuary Staff John C. Halas and Andrea Hrusovsky Awarded NOAA's Bronze Medal 2002
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Park Manager Jeff Gray Joins Search for WWII Japanese Sub
- Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary Field Station for Sensor Tests
- Scenes from the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary 10th Anniversary
- "Rescuing "Beany," a California Baby Sea Lion
- Safe Havens in Half Moon Bay--the National Marine Sanctuary Program Celebrates its Newest California Field Office
- Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary Student ROV Competes for Florida Prize
- U.S. Reefs Receive International Protection
- National Aquarium Gets Sanctuary Facelift
- Sanctuary Reefs on Coral Reef Task Force Agenda
- December 2002/January 2003 Calendar Highlights

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Sanctuary Watch Archives

[Click here](#) for the Sanctuary Watch newsletter archives covering the years 2000 to 2002.

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Sanctuary Boat Captain Honored for Heroic Rescue

The U.S. Department of Commerce recently awarded its Gold Medal in Heroism to Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary NOAA Corp LCDR Mark H. Pickett for "exemplary courage and heroism" in saving the lives of two U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) employees after a capsizing of the Channel Islands Sanctuary vessel *R/V Ballena* on November 4, 2000.

[More](#)

Sanctuary Explorer Describes Life Below the Waves

Cathy Sakas, education coordinator for the Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary, and five other aquanauts spent nine days in Aquarius, an undersea laboratory off Key Largo in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary.

[Read about her adventures](#)

Sanctuary's Researchers Reach Deep Dives

A Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary research team, monitoring the effects of fiber-optic cables on the ocean floor, reaped additional benefits. Using *Delta*, a two-person submersible, scientists conducted 55 dives throughout the mission.

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[Learn more](#)

National Marine Sanctuary System's New Director

On January 10, 2001, Dr. James D. Baker, the NOAA's Administrator and Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, named Daniel J. Basta as Director of the National Marine Sanctuary System.

[More on Dan Basta](#)

Great Lakes Marine Sanctuary Manager Search

Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve, the nation's newest marine sanctuary, began a search for a sanctuary manager to help in the protection of a nationally significant collection of over 100 shipwrecks, spanning over a century of Great Lakes shipping history.

[For more details](#)

Sanctuary scientists discover shipwreck

Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary archaeologists and staff have located the steel hull of the *Temple Bar*, wrecked among the Quillayute Needles in 1939.

[More on the Olympic Coast wreck](#)

'Elye'wun's Historic Channel Crossing

It's been more than 125 years since a Chumash tomol was paddled across the rough waters of the Channel Islands. On September 8, NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (CINMS) staff members, aboard the NOAA support research vessel *Xantu*, were witness to an historic tomol crossing reports the sanctuary's Cultural Resources Coordinator Robert Schwemmer.

[Learn more](#)

January 8, 2002

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New National Marine Sanctuary Designated in Great Lakes

The new Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Underwater Preserve was designated on October 7, 2000 in Alpena, Michigan. This new sanctuary is the first marine sanctuary in the Great Lakes, the first one in freshwater, and only the second designated to protect underwater cultural resources!

[Learn more about our newest sanctuary](#)

[Stories from 2001](#)

[Stories from 2000](#)

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Agreement reached on Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary

[Designation planned for Great Lakes sanctuary](#)

Snapshot day Volunteers Test Monterey Bay Sanctuary Waters

On Earth Day 2000, local citizens celebrated the event along California's Central Coast by participating in the first annual Monterey

Bay National Marine Sanctuary "Snapshot Day," a sanctuary-wide watershed monitoring event designed to increase public awareness of water quality issues affecting sanctuary watersheds.

[Volunteers help to protect Monterey Bay waters](#)

Students join scientists in Gray's Reef Sanctuary Research

Braving howling wind and high seas four high school students-at-sea from Gray's Reef's Student Ocean Council assisted scientists Dr. Jeff Hyland, Cindy Cooksey and Len Balthis from NOAA's ORCA Lab in Charleston, South Carolina in a mission to Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary.

[Learn more about their discoveries.](#)

Joining Forces on Salmon and Steelhead Habitat Programs

NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the Southwest Region of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) recently embarked on a joint effort to promote public awareness and support for conserving threatened salmon and steelhead in the California Central Coast area.

[Read more about the partnership.](#)

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Announces Diving Photo Contest

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary announces a new diving photo contest for coastal and underwater enthusiasts starting on May 2 and ending on September 1, 2000. Contest winners will have their work prominently featured in a new brochure being developed by the Sanctuary and members of its Diver Partnership Program.

[Learn more about it.](#)

NOAA's Marine Sanctuaries Celebrate Earth Day

From the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, the national marine sanctuaries will be celebrating Earth Day, reminding us of the important connections between land and sea.

[Join the fun.](#)

Sustainable Seas Expeditions in Hawaii

Over 400 students in Hawaii were fortunate to get a closer look at the Sustainable Seas Expeditions (SSE) during its two week visit to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback National Marine Sanctuary.

[Learn more about their ocean adventures.](#)

Sanctuary Assists in Alaska Airlines Flight 261

On January 31, 2000 Alaska Airlines Flight 261 went down about three miles from Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. More about the recovery efforts within the sanctuary is available at <http://www.nos.noaa.gov/news/flt261/flight261.html>

Sanctuaries Join to Aid Samoan Coral Reef

Coral reefs threatened by the removal of grounded vessels in Pago Pago Harbor, American Samoa are now a little bit safer through the efforts of the Florida Keys and Fagatale Bay National Marine Sanctuaries and NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration.

[More about the coral recovery](#)

DOC Silver Medal awarded to Sanctuary Staff

Managers of National Marine Sanctuaries are no strangers to putting out fires. NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Manager Lieutenant Commander Ed Cassano quickly moved from fighting metaphorical fires to actual firefighting when he joined sanctuary staff and others in the Santa Barbara community to fight an intense fire engulfing a historic seaside wharf.

[More about the award](#)

Sustainable Seas Expedition 2000

After a successful year conducting more than 150 submersible dives in nine of NOAA's national marine sanctuaries, Sustainable Seas Expedition explorers are looking to 2000 with renewed energy and enthusiasm in their quest to learn more about these unique protected areas.

[Learn more about SSE 2000](#)

New *Monitor* Exhibit Opens

A nearly full-scale replica of the *Monitor's* famous revolving turret is the centerpiece of a dramatic new exhibition on the USS *Monitor* and the *Monitor* Sanctuary that opened at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, on September 25.

[More about the *Monitor*](#)

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Participants practice underwater mapping on land at marine archaeology workshop. (Photo: Bruce Terrell)

Sanctuaries seek protection of maritime history

Advances in diving gear, navigational electronics, and aquatic robotics are bringing historical sunken vessels around the world within the reach of marine archaeologists and recreational divers alike. Shipwreck diving is gaining popularity in the Great Lakes in particular, as more and more divers discover the mysterious allure of these well-preserved historic resources. Many divers are interested in learning more about the history of the sunken "time capsules" they visit and want to practice low-impact diving techniques to ensure shipwreck preservation. Concerned recreational divers are now joining with scientists to take an active role in preserving and documenting underwater maritime history and educating others as to the importance of conserving it.

Recently Bruce Terrell, NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program marine archaeologist, and Jessica Pitelka, staff member at the proposed Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, took part in an important training workshop that brought together recreational divers

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and historians. The workshop, "Avocational Underwater Archaeology and Maritime Historical Research" was funded in part by NOAA and was hosted by the Michigan State University's Department of Park, Recreation & Tourism Resources and the Center for Maritime & Underwater Resource Management. Other sponsors included the Michigan Department of State's Michigan Historical Center, the Archaeology & Heritage Planning division of Ontario's Ministry of Citizenship, Culture and Recreation, local divers, and ZZ Underwater World. The workshop was held at Camp Chickagami in Presque Isle, Michigan on October 1-3, 1999.

During the workshop Terrell spoke to the audience about NOAA's involvement in the management of underwater cultural resources and the agency's experience with avocational programs. Participants also focused on maritime historical research, wooden shipbuilding, archaeological theory, site mapping techniques, and the process for nominating archaeological sites to the National National Register of Historic Places.

"Having worked with avocational archaeological divers around the country at several of the National Marine Sanctuaries, I am very impressed at the high level of knowledge and commitment of many of Michigan's divers to preserve and protect historic shipwrecks," said Terrell.

Divers participating in the workshop had the opportunity to practice their new mapping skills underwater - first in a pool, then on a real wreck site. They received Nautical Archaeological Society Level I Certification upon completion of the course.

"The divers who attended the workshop were anxious to find out how they could apply their new skills to protecting Michigan's shipwrecks," said Pitelka. "If the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary is designated, NOAA, in partnership with the state of Michigan, could establish a volunteer diving program to inventory and document the sanctuary's underwater cultural resources and encourage low-impact diving on the shipwrecks."

NOAA plans to develop underwater archaeology and maritime history education programs if this proposed sanctuary is designated.

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Vice President offers support for National Marine Sanctuaries

On September 2 Vice President Al Gore announced new actions by the United States to help preserve and protect our nation's oceans and coasts. In a special event at the New England Aquarium in Boston, the Vice President described the first new ocean initiatives in 30 years.

The Ocean Report, entitled "Turning to the Sea: American's Ocean Future," was the result of a national dialogue that began last year at the Ocean Conference held at California's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. At the conference,



Fishing boats in the Channel Islands may one day help in research efforts that benefit the sanctuary.

President Clinton directed his Cabinet to report back with recommendations for a comprehensive ocean policy to guide federal efforts in the 21st century.

The Report calls for a \$300,000 pilot program to enlist commercial fishermen in research efforts at the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary in California. The Channel Islands Sanctuary, located 25 miles (22 nautical miles) off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, encompasses the waters surrounding Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara islands. Fishing boats harvest

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kelp, fish and invertebrates within these waters.

During the event, the Vice President also urged Congress to approve the Administration's Lands Legacy Initiative introduced at the 1998 Ocean Conference.

The Land's Legacy Initiative includes \$183 million to protect ocean and coastal resources in fiscal year 2000, including \$29 million for national marine sanctuaries, \$25 million to acquire and protect critical fish habitat, and \$10.3 million to protect and restore fragile coral reefs.

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September 7, 1999

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NOAA's Shipwreck Trail an adventure to dive for!

Weather and war, uncharted waters and human error enacted a deadly toll on seagoing vessels traveling the waters now contained within the boundaries of the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuaries. The reasons for shipwrecks are many: a sailor's inability to accurately determine position, inadequate charts, lack of navigational aids such as lighthouses and buoys, unpredictable currents, lack of wind, and hurricanes. The grave losses of vessels from earlier eras now provide a rich historical resource for visitors to Florida Keys Shipwreck Trail.

The Shipwreck Trail, inaugurated in July 1999, is the result of cooperative efforts on the part of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries Program, federal and state agencies, and local communities and businesses and an army of dedicated volunteers. The Nature Conservancy, Florida Heritage, the Keys Association of Dive Operations are just a few of the groups who worked to create a Shipwreck Trail among many others. In promoting the Trail, the National Marine Sanctuary Program hopes to do more than provide opportunities for historians and biologists to conduct research or divers to learn more about maritime history. Shipwrecks in their final resting place become



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artificial reefs and provide a special habitat for the colorful variety of fish common to Florida's waters. As more visitors learn about the Shipwreck Trail's value as a diving destination, the trail will help to divert diving pressure from the major natural reefs in the state.

The Shipwreck Trail in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary includes the vessel *Duane* now an artificial reef. (Photo: Paul Caputo)

The Shipwreck Trail is not a path in the physical sense rather it is a thematic map of significant, accessible, commonly-dived shipwrecks and artificial reefs through the sanctuary's waters. The nine sites represent three broad periods of Keys maritime history: European Colonial, American, and Modern. Along the trail that stretches from Key Largo to Key West, visitors learn not only about the human element in maritime history, but discover the materials, craftsmanship, and the methods used by artisans who built these vessels.



The Florida Keys Shipwreck Trail extends north to Key Largo and south to Key West. (Photo: NOAA)

The Dutch-built *San Pedro*, was part of a Spanish treasure fleet wrecked by a hurricane in 1733. Today an anchor, replica cannons, and a ballast pile rest in a sand pocket one- and -a quarter miles south of Indian Key in 18 feet of water and are the only

remaining evidence of the 18th century vessel. During the 1800s when New Orleans prospered as a port of great commerce, so many wrecks went down in the Keys that several thriving communities of wreckers sprang up to retrieve cargo and vessel remains. Two shipwrecks of this period are included on the Shipwreck Trail: The *Adelaide Baker*, south of Duck Key, and a wreck believed to be the *North America* located on Delta Shoals. The most recent shipwreck -- a decommissioned Coast Guard Cutter *Duane* -- was purposely sunk in 120 feet of water off Molasses Key to create an artificial reef for marine creatures.

Local dives shops and the Florida Keys Sanctuary's three offices carry underwater site guides (waterproof slates) for each of the nine sites which are easily accessible by private boat or dive shop charters and

identifiable by a spar buoy. These guides help to enrich a visitor's understanding and appreciation for these historic treasures. Guides give shipwreck and mooring buoy locations, history, a site map, and identifies marine life divers can expect to see.

Conditions on the Shipwreck Trail vary from easy dives in shallow water to deeper dives of 100 feet or more into areas of swift currents. Some of the deeper sites require mooring to submerged buoys. Diving and snorkeling charters, underwater site guides, and additional information for each site are available from area dive shops.

Visitors to the site are reminded that the shipwreck was chosen for its historic, biologic or aesthetic worth and so extra care must be taken while visiting. Controlling buoyancy while diving and care while anchoring will prevent further deterioration and protect these sites for visitors who follow..

The Shipwreck Trail makes available a shared cultural and historical legacy, as well as physical property, that belongs to all the people of the United States. Removing artifacts or damaging the resources is not only forbidden by law, but it also violates the public trust and deprives others of the joy of viewing the remnants of vessels from the past.

For more information about the Shipwreck Trail, contact Karen Bareford, Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, 305-852-7717.

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New Monitor Exhibit Opens

A nearly full-scale replica of the *Monitor's* famous revolving turret is the centerpiece of a dramatic new exhibition on the USS *Monitor* and the *Monitor* Sanctuary that opened at The Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Virginia, on September 25. The 9-foot high, 20-foot diameter turret (the *Monitor's* turret is actually 22 feet) has interior exhibit space featuring the brass signal lantern recovered from the Sanctuary in 1977. Archivists believe that this lantern may be the one used as a distress signal the night the *Monitor* sank off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. The exhibition holds numerous other artifacts recovered from the *Monitor* including the unique four-fluked anchor designed by John Ericsson. Photographs and video of the wreck tell the story of NOAA's efforts to preserve this significant part of American history.

The *Monitor* Collection was established in 1984 to formally incorporate all historical and research data that had been generated by NOAA and

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agencies and individuals who had assisted in various aspects of research and management of the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary. In 1986, NOAA recognized the need for specialized care of this collection and solicited proposals from maritime museums for long-term curation of the Collection, which was expanded to include artifacts recovered from the sanctuary. In 1987, The Mariners' Museum was selected principal museum for the *Monitor* National Marine Sanctuary.



The exhibit holds a distress lantern that may have been lit the night the *Monitor* sank off the coast of Cape Hatteras? (Photo: Monitor NMS)

Because the *Monitor* Collection is a federal collection under the ultimate jurisdiction of the National Archives, the museum was designated a regional repository under National Archives guidelines. Under a cooperative agreement with NOAA, the museum provides curatorial services for the Collection, including reviewing and making recommendations on requests for artifact loans.

The more than 100 artifacts recovered from the wreck of the *Monitor* includes the ship's anchor, numerous condiment bottles, dinnerware, a portion of leather bookbinding, and the brass signal lantern with a red lens. Papers in the Monitor Collection include historical information on the *Monitor's* officers and crew, technical and historical reports and studies, news articles, publications, and information on other monitor-type vessels as well as CSS *Virginia*. The collection also includes slides, photographs, and videotapes generated by numerous expeditions to the site. Several private collections of *Monitor* material have been donated to the Monitor Collection, most recently the papers of Capt. Ernest W. Peterkin (USNR Ret.) a long-time Monitor researcher and expert on her construction.

The Monitor Collection is housed in The Mariners' Museum Research Library and is available to the public by appointment Monday through Friday. See the Mariners' Museum Web Page for more information <http://www.mariner.org/>.

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Healthy Looe Key coral reef tract near *Columbus Iselin* grounding site. (Photo: Harold Hudson)

From vessel grounding to reef recovery

On August 10, 1994, the R/V *Columbus Iselin*, a research ship studying the currents on the Florida Straits, smashed through a coral reef colony in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The damaged area, Looe Key, contains some of the most aesthetically valuable and heavily visited reefs in the continental U.S. Part of the Florida Reef Tract, it is the third largest barrier reef in the world. Now five-years later, the Looe Key reef restoration has begun.

When the 155-foot research vessel was removed 38 hours after the accident, some 345 square meters of living spur and groove corals were pulverized along with much of their underlying structure. Although the sanctuary was able to salvage a few corals that had survived the impact and reattach them onto nearby reefs, the remainder would

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require greater restoration efforts. Months after the event, the sanctuary discovered that the biological and physical impacts on the reef community led to widespread mortality of benthic fauna and displacement of mobile fauna.

As a result of the National Marine Sanctuaries Act, which mandates that parties who "destroy, cause the loss of, or injure any sanctuary resources are liable to the U.S.," the vessel's owners were held responsible for the injury. A multi-million dollar settlement is funding the restoration which is scheduled to begin on July 6.

Team Land Development, Inc. a Florida-based construction company, will be carrying out the physical restoration of certain sections of the injured reef. After this initial restoration of the reef framework, the sanctuary will carry out biological restoration and monitoring of the recovery at the site, as well other compensatory projects.

The progress of the *Columbus Iselin* restoration--mission logs and additional background stories--can be shared via the Internet on the sanctuaries' special offerings web page, <http://www.restorereef.nos.noaa.gov>.

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One fish, two fish, rockfish, bluefish!

For two weeks in July, the annual Great American Fish Count sends recreational

divers and snorkelers into the water to help scientists learn more about fish diversity and populations. Once volunteers are trained in established scientific methodologies, they take waterproof pen and tablets and begin counting what they see in waters on both coasts. These waters include six of the National Marine Sanctuaries: Channel Islands and Monterey Bay, California; Flower Garden Banks, Texas; Florida Keys, Florida; and Gray's Reef, Georgia. The American Oceans Campaign and Reef Environmental Education Foundation (REEF) are also important partners in this annual event.



Black Rockfish. (Photo: Monterey Bay NMS)

"The Great American Fish Count is about more than just counting fish," said Ted Danson, president of American Oceans Campaign, one of the event's partners. "It is about instilling awareness about fish populations and trends, and understanding our oceans and the relationship of our own health to the health of the marine environment."

"Fish populations and behavior are barometers of environmental pressures such as pollution, global warming, over fishing, and habitat depletion. So not only is it great fun for divers and snorkelers to learn about fish identification and to conduct the surveys, the information

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they gather is immensely valuable to researchers, resource managers, and policy makers who cannot acquire this data on their own," Danson said. "Literally, each diver who gets in the water and counts fish is a scientist for a day. These volunteers make a real contribution in helping to save our oceans."

The Great American Fish Count was started in 1992 by Gary Davis at the Channel Islands National Park as a way to encourage sport divers to report fish sightings. Fifty divers participated in the first GAFC at Anacapa Island in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. GAFC is today funded by the Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation, the PADI Project Aware Foundation, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

The nationwide mission of the Great American Fish Count is simple: to educate divers and the public on the importance of healthy marine habitats and to raise awareness about fish populations and the marine environment; to provide the scientific community with information regarding trends in fish populations; and to encourage involvement of divers and snorkelers in ongoing fish monitoring.

GAFC organizers hope that its ocean of volunteer divers once introduced to the pleasure of counting fish will be inspired to participate in year-round volunteering monitoring programs such as the Reef Environmental Education Foundation's (REEF) fish monitoring program. REEF data on the distribution and relative abundance of species of reef fish in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is being used to evaluate the effectiveness of "no-take zones" in increasing fish species diversity and abundance. At the Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, located in the Gulf of Mexico about 100 miles south of Galveston, Texas, REEF data is used to develop the list of fish species present in the sanctuary, and to detect invasive species. In many coastal areas, it is often the case that sport divers or fishers will give anecdotal accounts of how fish resources have changed drastically over the past decade or two, but there is no recorded evidence to back it up. The REEF program is aimed at providing the evidence to document such significant changes.

For more information on how you can participate, contact Brian Huff, Great American Fish Count Coordinator, at GAFC@yahoo.com or 1-800-8ocean0. Check out the event's website at <http://www.fishcount>.

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Dr. Jay C. Martin, director of the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, gets a closer look at the remains of the *Monohansett*, a steamer built in 1872 that sank in 1907. Dr. Martin has conducted research to determine the potential for National Historic Landmark status of a number of wrecks within the sanctuary. (Photo: Great Lakes Visual/Research)

First Great Lakes sanctuary moves closer to designation

Shipwrecks spanning more than a century of Great Lakes shipping--from wooden sailboats to steel-hulled steamers--may soon receive protection from NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary system. An important step in the designation process of Thunder Bay, Michigan, took place recently as the proposed sanctuary completed its Final Environmental Impact Statement/Management Plan.

"Thunder Bay's historic maritime significance can be a great asset to the country's national marine sanctuary system," said Ellen Brody,

project coordinator for the proposed sanctuary. "The Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary would be the first Great Lakes sanctuary and the first dedicated solely to protecting a large collection of underwater cultural resources."

In the early 1970s, the Alpena, Michigan community began exploring the possibility of an underwater shipwreck park in the Thunder Bay region. An inventory of the region's underwater cultural resources, conducted by Michigan State University in 1975, suggested that the number of wrecks resting below warranted the establishment of an underwater "reserve." A local diving club supported this idea and, under state law, Thunder Bay was declared Michigan's first Great Lakes Bottomland Preserve in 1981.

At the same time, NOAA was developing a "Site Evaluation List" that identified potential national marine sanctuaries around the country. Several Alpena community members submitted a proposal to NOAA for a Thunder Bay Marine Sanctuary, and following public comment, Thunder Bay was added to the list of potential sanctuary candidates in 1983. The formal process to determine the feasibility of a sanctuary began in July 1991.

If approved, the 808 square miles of Thunder Bay and surrounding waters in Lake Huron will become the Nation's 13th national marine sanctuary. The proposed sanctuary harbors an extraordinary collection of nationally-significant underwater cultural resources, including over 160 shipwrecks. A recent study indicates that the collection of shipwrecks in and around Thunder Bay is qualified for National Historic Landmark status.

If designated, the local sanctuary office will work formally with the Sanctuary Advisory Council, a fifteen-member group representing local sport and commercial anglers, sport and commercial divers, charter boat operators, local tourism councils, festival organizers, historic preservationists, education and research institutions, and city and county governments. The Council's job will be to advise and provide recommendations to the sanctuary manager about issues relating to resource protection, research, education, and implementation of the five-year Management Plan.

Designation promises to bring national media attention and a score of educational and research benefits to Thunder Bay. As in other sanctuaries, NOAA would provide federal funds that can be used in Thunder Bay for outreach activities, such as live video hook-ups in school classrooms that will allow children to watch researchers study

shipwrecks, an interpretive "shipwreck trail," and other maritime heritage education programs.

Once established, the sanctuary will work in partnership with local governments in developing a maritime heritage center and interpretive outreach programs for residents and tourists. The sanctuary also plans to collaborate with lighthouses, coastal parks, and marinas in projects that will provide opportunities for groups and individuals to enjoy the maritime heritage of Thunder Bay.

Publication of the [Final Environmental Impact Statement and Management Plan](#) on June 25, 1999, starts a 30-day "cooling off" period. Following this 30-day period, NOAA will publish the final regulations in the Federal Register, which starts a 45-day period of continuous Congressional session. Assuming no objection by the Governor, the Sanctuary will be designated, most likely in late 1999 or early 2000.

For more information about the proposed sanctuary, or to be placed on the mailing list, please contact:

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Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary boulder reef. (Photo: US Geological Survey)

Sustainable Seas expeditions head east

In early July, the Sustainable Seas Expeditions move to the East Coast where skilled aquanauts will explore the rich boulder reefs and sandy plains of the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The sanctuary, 25 miles east of Boston, Massachusetts, protects 842-square miles of open ocean and a diverse array of seafloor habitats. The nutrient rich waters attract a vast diversity of marine creatures from single-celled phytoplankton to great whales.

Sustainable Seas Expeditions, a 5-year scientific mission to explore the waters of our nation's twelve marine sanctuaries, is administered by the National Geographic Society in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and funded by the Richard

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and Rhoda Goldman Fund. The mission is led by National Geographic Society Explorer-in-Residence Dr. Sylvia Earle and Project Manager Francesca Cava.

The mission gives the scientific community and the American public an unprecedented view of a the fascinating undersea world just off our shore using an innovative one-person submersible called DeepWorker. To date few of the sanctuaries have been studied below 100 feet.

The Expeditions were launched on the West Coast in April 1999 and research has already been conducted in three California marine sanctuaries: Gulf of the Farallones, Monterey Bay and Cordell Bank. An expedition to the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in Washington state was completed in June.

In its first east coast exploration, Sustainable Seas Expeditions pilots will focus on the ecology of the Bank's deep boulder reefs, with particular attention to day-night differences in behavior of fishes in and above the reef. Grab sampling will help researchers learn more about the microbial diversity within the sediments surrounding the reefs.

An additional aspect of the research program will be undertaken by high schools students from the American School for Deaf in Hartford, Connecticut, who will be working aboard the well-known sailing vessel *Mimi*. The vessel was used in building a marine science curriculum and was the basis for a popular video series, *The Voyage of the Mimi*. The students, part of an intensive, physics and acoustics program developed by the American School for the Deaf and the National Undersea Research Center at the University of Connecticut will be studying background noise on the reefs in conjunction with the sub divers as well as continuing an ongoing program in noise and its potential effects on whale behavior and hearing.

Stellwagen Bank Sanctuary has arranged a number of public events along with the undersea explorations, including a Teacher Open House and an SSE exhibition at the New England Aquarium, Boston, July 4-17.

To learn more about Sustainable Seas, and to follow the daily mission logs, go to <http://sustainableseas.noaa.gov>

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Sustainable Seas Expeditions



After a year of planning, the Sustainable Seas Expeditions kicks off its unprecedented deep sea exploration of NOAA's twelve national marine sanctuaries this month. Throughout the coming year, trained aquanauts in the Expeditions will use the innovative technology of DeepWorker 2000 submersibles to travel to

depths of 2,000 feet. Their mission--greater knowledge of the oceans gained by photodocumenting each sanctuary's plants, animals, and habitats. What the aquanauts discover will enable scientists to establish monitoring programs to document the long-term health of the sanctuaries. These discoveries will be shared with the world through mission logs, publications, public events and student summits, and chronicled on the World Wide Web.

Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Society's Explorer-in Residence, leads the five-year project of ocean exploration that was made possible through a \$5 million grant from the Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund. Announced last April in a ceremony at the National Geographic Society's headquarters in Washington, D.C., the Sustainable Seas Expeditions builds a new private and public partnership between The National Geographic Society and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Joining them also are the U.S. Navy, NASA, Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, Mote Marine Laboratory, Center for Marine Conservation, and SeaWeb—and the list continues to grow. These partnerships will result in the most comprehensive survey ever of the national marine sanctuaries, and at most sanctuaries, the first time manned submersibles have been used so extensively for research and education.

"With knowing comes



caring, and with caring there is hope that an ocean ethic will arise that will secure a sustainable future for ourselves and for the seas."--Dr. Sylvia Earle, National Geographic Society Explorer-in Residence

The Sustainable Seas Expeditions begins its explorations on the west coast, in the four California sanctuaries, Gulf of the Farallones, Cordell Bank, Monterey Bay, and Channel Islands, followed by the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary in Washington. In summer 1999, the submersibles will explore Stellwagen Bank, off the coast of Massachusetts; the coral reefs of the Flower Garden Banks, 100 miles south of Galveston, Texas; Gray's Reef, Georgia; and the 2800 square mile Florida Keys reef tract. In December and January, the first year of the Expeditions will end with visits to the Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary and Fagatale Bay Sanctuary in American Samoa.

The Sustainable Seas Expeditions is voyaging into a deep sea as uncharted as was the vast interior of the nation when President Jefferson commissioned Lewis and Clark to explore and document the resources of the American West. Like the Lewis and Clark expeditions, Sustainable Seas Expeditions have great potential to produce significant exploration discoveries and new understanding of the marine world.

"Whatever else is achieved, the ultimate success will be in the project's overall impact on dispelling ignorance about the sea," said Dr. Sylvia Earle. "With knowing comes caring, and with caring there is hope that an ocean ethic will arise that will secure a sustainable future for ourselves and for the seas."

The official Sustainable Seas Expeditions web page is available at sustainableseas.noaa.gov. Additional information can be found by clicking the Sustainable Seas wave above.

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New Navigation System Protects Florida's Coral Reefs

In early March the federal government installed state-of-the-art navigational aids in NOAA's Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary to help ships avoid grounding on fragile, threatened coral reefs. The new beacons were purchased by the owners of a ship that grounded on a coral reef in 1997, as part of a damage assessment and restoration agreement.



Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary now ringed by Racon beacons.
(Map courtesy of NOAA)

Officials with the U.S. Coast Guard and NOAA installed the northernmost of eight Racon radar transponder beacons at Fowey Rocks, approximately 20 miles southeast of Miami.

"The coral reefs of the Florida Keys are a national treasure. Providing a navigation system that will help prevent vessel groundings is a truly creative and innovative approach to repairing harm to the public's resources," said Terry Garcia, assistant secretary of

commerce for oceans and atmosphere.

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The beacons are mounted on navigational structures along the Florida reef tract,

stretching from Miami to Loggerhead Key in the Dry Tortugas, 70 nautical miles west of Key West. The devices emit unique signals that appear on ship radar, allowing mariners to precisely identify the location of navigational aids and warn ships that they are nearing a reef. Each signal has a range of 15-20 nautical miles.

The owners of the containership, *Houston*, a 613-foot container ship that went aground on a coral reef near Maryland Shoal off the lower Florida Keys, purchased the beacons. The installation of this navigation system represents a creative solution to compensating the public for the injury that was done to the reef by reducing the likelihood of future navigational errors. The U.S. Coast Guard installed the system and has agreed to maintain the beacons.

The hull of the *Houston* cut a swath through the reef, crushing and breaking corals for approximately 400 meters. Under federal and state statutes, the parties that injure resources in national marine sanctuaries are responsible for restoring the injured resources and the services they provide.

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The restoration subsequent to the vessel's grounding is the result of unprecedented cooperation between *Houston's* owner, insurer, NOAA, and the state of Florida. From the start, the owner and insurer assisted with assessment and emergency restoration of the injured coral reef habitat. As a result, restoration activities were completed within 10 months of the vessel grounding.

Shortly after the grounding, more than 3,000 injured pieces of coral



A Coast Guard official prepares a Racon beacon for installation at Fowey Rocks, 20 miles southeast of Miami. (Photo courtesy of Andy Newman.)

were reattached to the reef substrate, and pieces of reef debris were removed or stabilized with epoxy to prevent ongoing injury to the reef and marine life. The vessel owners paid for and deployed flexible concrete mats to stabilize more than 7,650 square feet of reef substrate and also placed large boulders to provide three dimensional habitat for resident organisms.

"This effort brought together a great team of federal, state and private partners that was able to do more with less, and provide a new era of protection for our coral reefs," said NOAA Sanctuary Superintendent Billy Causey.

NOAA's Marine Sanctuaries Division, Damage Assessment and Restoration Program, the U.S. Coast Guard and the state of Florida all made significant contributions to the successful resolution of this incident. The Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary is one of 12 national marine sanctuaries administered by NOAA, which operates under the U.S. Department of Commerce. Together the 12 marine sanctuaries protect more than 18,000 square miles of important marine habitats, including coral reefs, kelp forests, intertidal, sandy beach and open ocean.

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For more information, contact Cheva Heck (305) 292-0311 or Justin Kenney (301) 529-1857.

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Sanctuary educators praised for environmental work

Sarah Mitchell and Becky Shortland of NOAA's Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary were honored recently in a *Savannah Morning News* series for their positive and significant roles in preserving ocean and coastal environments.

Over the last decade, Mitchell has developed nationally recognized outreach and educational programs at the Sanctuary including the acclaimed video, *From Whaling to Watching*, which illuminates the plight of the endangered Northern right whale. In 1998, Mitchell was honored as Georgia's educator of the year by the Georgia Wildlife Federation. She also recently received the Millie Graham award and named Georgia's best marine educator by the Georgia Association of Marine Educators. Millie Graham, a past president of the association, worked as geologist for Georgia State University and was a driving force in the creation of the marine association.



Sarah Mitchell is joined by Dr. Sylvia Earle (left) at the start of a turtle tagging cruise. (photo credit: Justin Kenney, NMS)

Mitchell currently works as project manager, with a budget of \$25

million, for NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries proposed national and regional Marine Visitor Centers. When completed, the centers will offer exhibits to educate the public about the nation's 12 national marine sanctuaries while promoting a new ocean ethic of marine stewardship. Unlike a traditional aquarium or museum, the centers will teach the public about science using live, interactive exhibits and bring visitors and scientists together through computers and satellite links. The first center is planned for construction at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf within the next five years.



Becky Shortland and Judy Jennings, Sierra Club photo credit: *Savannah Morning News*

Also honored by the newspaper series was Becky Shortland, who works as planning and outreach coordinator at Gray's Reef Sanctuary. Shortland is the recipient of a US Fish and Wildlife Service National Wetlands Conservation Award as the outstanding individual on a national basis in the conservation and restoration of wetlands. She received the 1998 Virginia Gunn Coastal Georgia Environmental Award from Senator Max Cleland.

In addition, the newspaper honored Shortland and Judy Jennings of the Sierra Club for their work in the negotiations with DuPont to protect the Okefenokee swamp. The newspaper notes that Shortland was instrumental in helping to move the talks from pro-mining vs. anti-mining standoff to a negotiation moving toward a no-mining solution.

Shortland is developing a Sanctuary Advisory Council for Gray's Reef and leading the effort underway at the sanctuary to revise and reissue the sanctuary management plan.

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February 5,1999

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NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary honored as conservation accomplishment of the century

As the 20th century draws to a close, The Audubon Society, the nation's first bird preservation organization, took the opportunity to reflect back on the greatest conservation accomplishments of the past 100 years.

In its December 1998 issue of *Audubon*, entitled "The Century of Conservation," the society lists "10 of the top gems" in the nation's "crown jewels of its natural heritage." Within this distinguished list that includes the Grand Canyon National Park, Nebraska's Tallgrass Prairie Preserve, California's Mono Lake, and the Florida Everglades is NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

A century ago the notion of public conservation was still in its infancy. In 1886, the Audubon Society formed in response to the wholesale slaughter of birds for decoration or food. From this early movement, a system of national parks was created, but a larger movement to protect our natural resources didn't completely take hold. By the 1940s, Aldo



NOAA's Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, the nation's largest sanctuary, spans over 5,300 square miles. (Photo: Kip Evans)

"...Americans are increasingly seeing the benefits to extending our legacy of public conservation to the ocean, as embodied by NOAA's 12 national marine sanctuaries."
--Dr. D. James Baker, NOAA Undersecretary for Oceans and Atmosphere

Leopold's "land ethic," raised an urgent call for stewardship of our natural resources, re-igniting the conservation of public lands. The environmental movement of the late 60s and early 70s that followed led to the passage of new laws to protect our air, water, and the ocean.

"Everyone within NOAA can take pride in this recognition," says NOAA Administrator Dr. D. James Baker. "The staff at each of the twelve marine sanctuaries employs the full range of NOAA's expertise and services to best protect these premier marine environments. Thanks to the success of the 1998 Year of the Ocean, Americans are increasingly seeing the benefits to extending our legacy of public conservation to the ocean, as embodied by NOAA's 12 national marine sanctuaries."

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Coast Guard pilots protect sanctuary coral reefs with "eyes in the sky"

NOAA's Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary staff Shelley Du Puy and Emma Hickerson once had to travel by car some three hours to the coast and then another seven to eight hours by boat to reach the sanctuary grounds located 100 miles off the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. If vessels were damaging the sanctuary's coral reefs, anchoring or fishing illegally, or illegally pulling lobster and conch from the waters, identifying the vessels at the moment was near impossible.



Shelley Du Puy and Emma Hickerson with Coast Guard crew on first aerial trip out to the sanctuary, Corpus Christi, Texas. (Photo credit: US Coast Guard)

The new partnership with the Coast Guard started when Sanctuary Acting Manager Shelley Du Puy called the base to see if the pilots would be willing to be "the eyes in the sky" over sanctuary waters...and the

Now through the help of U.S. Coast Guard pilots, each month sanctuary staff can climb aboard a Falcon jet and reach the sanctuary in 45 minutes. Sitting in the jump seat, they can observe the waters as pilots fly down as low as 150 feet above the surface.

The new partnership with the Coast Guard started when then Acting Sanctuary Manager Shelley Du Puy called the base to see if the pilots would be willing to be "the eyes in the sky" over sanctuary waters. Du

officer in charge asked, "what can we do?"

Puy learned that pilots were already making weekly flights over the sanctuary, and the officer in charge asked, "what can we do?"

During a presentation to the pilots and crew, Du Puy explained the significance of the sanctuary's coral reefs and the importance of protecting them. "With education comes concern," says Du Puy, "and now we hope the pilots will communicate the names of vessels sighted in the protected areas to the sanctuary office after their routine weekly fly-overs."

The sanctuary, in turn, provides the Coast Guard with information on the rules and regulations of the sanctuary and provides them with maps showing its boundaries. This information is helpful to the Coast Guard, explains Hickerson, because the sanctuary, which was designated in 1992, is not yet listed in international shipping charts.

Sanctuary staff is currently working with the Coast Guard to expand education efforts to ship crews.

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