

# Superintendent's Quarterly Report

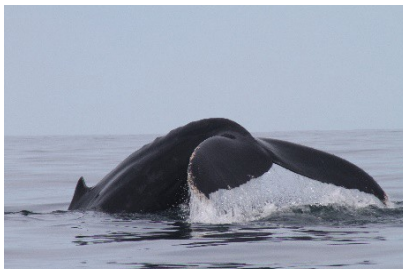
## July through September, 2020

### Rising from the ashes, redrawing the map: two models for resilient outreach

First the pandemic, then catastrophic wildfires impacted Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary staff and programs, and in unprecedented ways. Some lost homes in the fire and remain semi-nomadic; others struggle to work from makeshift home offices, while child-caring and teaching. Nonetheless, our determination to carry on remains undiminished. In fact, these disasters have proven to be catalysts for change.

They mandated the accelerated development of alternate ways to carry out our mission of education, research, stewardship, and conservation. Some programs easily accommodated modeling to online formats: e.g., we expanded our geographic range of classes, presentations, and lectures to an international audience. But others could not be replicated virtually: our Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies/ACCESS cruises to assess sanctuary health took a hit when COVID-19 forced the cancellation of all cruises this year. Socratic exchanges were, to some degree, hampered. Experiential teaching suffered the most: no longer can we place a sea star onto a child's open hand to feel its tiny suction feet, and watch him feel and learn the magic of it all, or have students observe shorebird behaviors at the beach. Nonetheless, two programs have met with exemplary success in their new incarnations.

In August, our Education Team launched a naturalist-led virtual voyage for ocean enthusiasts worldwide, a cyber-cruise into our sanctuary, unencumbered by the constraints of a crowded boat deck (or a need for Dramamine). Our online Farallones Nature Cruise became a vessel for exploration, excitement, and learning about wildlife and ecosystems during our "Get into Your Sanctuary" weekend. An estimated 400 viewers encountered blue whales, albatross, and white sharks; even "landed" on the Farallon Islands to learn how they interact with our surrounding sanctuary to form a Zagat-worthy B&B for marine wildlife. The program continues to be in demand.



Also, the Greater Farallones' Seabird Protection Network chapter partnered with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary to build awareness among the aviation community of national marine sanctuaries and wildlife. Using the FAA's high-tech production capabilities, the team reached over 400 pilots in a sophisticated and targeted virtual presentation on sanctuaries and their regulations to reduce disturbance to seabirds and other marine life along the California coast. This program will be repeated through an ongoing series. See details about both programs on Pages 5 and 6 of this report!

Photo: NEFSC-NOAA

## MANAGEMENT

### *Sanctuary Advisory Council*

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's Advisory Council (SAC) consults with the sanctuary superintendent, working with various experts and community representatives to provide recommendations for management strategies.

The sanctuary's advisory council held its third virtual meeting on August 24 via Google Meet. The SAC heard from Paul Michel on the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (MBNMS) Draft Management Plan (DMP) Review, and passed a resolution to make three comments: 1) They recommended clarifying the terms "clean dredge materials" and "harmful matter" to ensure there is a balance between using clean material but not overly restricting the materials; 2) They recommended it be noted in the plan that suitable dredge materials for beach restoration are available from other dredge sources, as not to limit the sources to the four sites mentioned in the DMP; and 3) They reiterated their previous recommendation to close personal motorized watercraft use Zone 1 at Pillar Point in MBNMS, but also support more study and assessment to evaluate the zone.

## CONSERVATION SCIENCE

### *Monitoring to Understand Long-Term Trends*

#### *Beach Watch*

Beach Watch is Greater Farallones' premiere citizen-science program that provides quality and legally defensible data for multiple management uses and enhances stewardship

and understanding of the sanctuaries. Sharing skills and expertise among federal management agencies and other stakeholders builds trust and cooperation to collaboratively address resource management actions and restore and maintain a healthy coastal environment.

#### **Coastal monitoring resumes with limited scope, safety protocols**

This summer, Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's Beach Watch surveys resumed at around 65% of the standardized surveys throughout our entire study area, from southern Mendocino County through San Mateo County. Volunteers completed standard Beach Watch surveys at beaches where only one surveyor is needed or when a survey team is from the same household, and when they are comfortable resuming surveys.

Beach Watch surveys are generally the first to detect mortality events, illegal discharge of oil in the sanctuary, and assess damages from boat groundings, such as recent vessel groundings and sinking. Reports of possible mortality events in common murre, Guadalupe fur seals, harbor porpoises, and ocean sunfish have arisen. We have also received reports of dead cetaceans from Stranding Network personnel. Expanding Beach Watch surveys will help identify whether these mortality events should be of concern to NOAA or if encounter rates are within normal range.

#### **California wildfires temporarily interrupt field operations**

In August, due to the extensive, aggressive, and unpredictable wildfires affecting the north-central California region (encompassing Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay national marine sanctuaries), the sanctuary suspended coastal field work by staff as well as by volunteers. This was to ensure worker safety, and also eliminated the chance that field operations could impede access for first responders to these remote areas. Programs affected include LiMPETS, Beach Watch, Bolinas Lagoon green crab removal, habitat restoration, and site visits.

## Sanctuary Ecosystem Assessment Surveys (SEAS)

### Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies - ACCESS

ACCESS is a long-term partnership project between CBNMS, GFNMS, and Point Blue Conservation Science for ecosystem monitoring in the sanctuaries. The 16-year ACCESS data set helps sanctuaries understand the status and trends of ecosystem conditions and informs management issues such as ship strike reduction, entanglement, changes from climate impacts, and ocean acidification.

#### 2019 Climate Indicators report available

This summer, research coordinators from Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones national marine sanctuaries, along with partner Point Blue Conservation Science, completed a new report, "[Ocean Climate Indicators Status Report – 2019](#)." The report includes data from two long-term monitoring projects: the 16-year data set from the Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) and Farallon Islands monitoring.

Forty-one parameters were measured and analyzed as part of ACCESS and Point Blue's Farallon Islands monitoring in response to climate indicator parameters identified in [sanctuary](#) and [NOAA](#) climate monitoring reports.

Overall, physical conditions in the sanctuaries in 2019 were average to poor. This was reflected in mostly average to poor conditions for seabirds. However, average to good conditions for krill supported typical abundances of blue whales and above average abundances of humpback whales.



*Humpback whale lunge-feeding. Photo: NOAA*

## RESOURCE PROTECTION

### Adapting to a Changing Climate

#### Learning to assess and improve sanctuary emissions post-COVID

As part of the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Climate Committee Program, this summer Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary staff presented "Sanctuary Emissions in a Post-COVID World." This internal interactive virtual learning exchange introduced 49 staffers from 10 sites and headquarters to the National Park Service's Climate Leadership in Parks (CLIP) tool for assessing emissions. Discussions included how pandemic-forced work life and operations changes can be leveraged to mitigate the climate impact of sanctuary operations. The exchange sparked a thoughtful discussion of how personal and institutional choices can lead to a more climate-conscious future for ONMS. All 88 registrants were sent a [recording](#) of the learning exchange.

The program was the first step in providing ONMS staff with the techniques required to conduct an emissions inventory and allowed them to participate in a discussion, and voice ideas, of how ONMS can operate in a more climate-conscious manner as a result of the knowledge gained and skills and strategies developed during mandatory telework.

## Protecting Natural Habitats

### International connections enhance kelp assessment project

On July 28, 2020 Farallones staff from the Kelp Recovery Program hosted a discussion with senior staff from the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) based in the United Kingdom. The JNCC Earth Observation Team advises groups on integrating remote sensing technologies into conservation priorities through data provision and ecosystem modeling. The Kelp Recovery Program is currently leading a project to assess kelp canopy mapping methods to develop recommendations and resources for West Coast national marine sanctuaries. The JNCC Senior Earth Observation Evidence Specialist provided resources for satellite imagery and will advise the kelp canopy assessment project as it develops.

The Kelp Recovery Program is an initiative under the Ocean Climate Program that seeks to implement strategies outlined in the Sonoma-Mendocino Bull Kelp Recovery Plan to address the severe loss of kelp forests in northern California.

### Funding received for new technology to assess and restore kelp

This quarter, the Kelp Recovery Program received \$57,000 from the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation to compare detection of kelp under low biomass conditions between aerial plane-based surveys, a multispectral sensor via UAV surveys, and high-resolution satellite platforms. We will develop a comprehensive analysis of various platforms used to map kelp forest canopy along the West Coast and provide recommended protocols and techniques for assessing restoration, recovery, and management of kelp forests within national marine sanctuaries on the West Coast.

2012



*Bull kelp in 2012, prior to die-off; now almost none remains. Photo: CDFW*

### Farallones staff attend international workshop on marine spatial planning

From August 17 through 19, Farallones staff from the Kelp Recovery Program attended a workshop hosted by the Interdisciplinary Marine Early Career Network (IMECaN) on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). The workshop had over 700 registrants from 60 countries. Presentations included tools and discussions surrounding interconnectivity between protected ocean spaces, climate change impacts, ecosystem-based management, and integration of social, cultural, and ecological objectives into MSP. Examples and case studies were used from around the world, including from Brazil, Norway, Germany, South Africa, Bangladesh, and Fiji.

### Greater Farallones responds to vessel grounding off Half Moon Bay

On June 7, 2020, a 25-foot Bayliner recreational vessel grounded on Francis State Beach in Half Moon Bay, in the Monterey Bay sanctuary's northern sector managed by Greater Farallones. Two persons were rescued and taken to the hospital. This vessel was comprised of plastic and wood, with a fuel tank on board. Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (GFNMS), worked quickly with California State Parks (State Parks) staff to develop a salvage plan and the two agencies cost-shared the removal of the vessel to prevent the craft from breaking up and scattering significant debris. The removal was

completed by Parker Diving Services on June 9 and GFNMS coordinated with State Parks staff to monitor for listed snowy plovers (none were spotted) and other wildlife on the beach during salvage operations. Contracting officers at NOAA Western Acquisition Division (WAD) in Boulder, Colorado acted quickly to assist with releasing NOAA funds for the salvage, even over a weekend. This quick action was a great success story for agency partnership during a response.

## Protecting Marine Mammals

NOAA has prioritized reducing the threat of whale deaths from anthropogenic causes such as ship strike and whale entanglement. Greater Farallones addresses these and other whale conservation issues through several programs.

### Assessing marine mammal climate change vulnerabilities along West Coast

This spring and summer, scientists from Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and 63 others have been working to provide assessments of West Coast marine mammal species' vulnerability to climate change. Experts are from various stakeholder groups including NOAA and state natural resource protection agencies, academic, and research institutions. The experts use the Delphi Method to evaluate anticipated impacts of 29 climate variables, such as exposure to climate parameters and sensitivity to potential changes in their habitats and prey species, for 147 species stocks. We have completed the first round of assessments. Through this fall, experts will gather as a group to review individual assessments and produce a manuscript to be used by NOAA management. Information in the final report can be used to determine species in need of additional protection to enhance their resilience to climate change.

The sharing of skills and expertise across management agencies, NGO's, tribes, and other stakeholders builds trust and cooperation that collaboratively addresses

resource management actions, and restores and maintains a healthy coastal environment.

## Protecting Seabird Colonies

### West Coast national marine sanctuaries partner with FAA on pilot outreach

This summer, Monterey Bay and Greater Farallones national marine sanctuaries are partnering with the Greater Farallones Association (GFA) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to conduct outreach to pilots. The effort aims to build awareness within the aviation community of national marine sanctuaries and their regulations. The initiative is led by [The Seabird Protection Network](#), a multi-organization collaborative whose mission is to reduce human disturbance to seabirds and other marine wildlife along the California coast, and whose founding chapter is managed by Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. An outreach email was distributed to around 26,000 California pilots, emphasizing the need to fly high over [NOAA regulated overflight zones](#) above West Coast national marine sanctuaries.

More than 400 pilots also attended a [virtual presentation](#) that highlighted marine wildlife, national marine sanctuaries, and wildlife protection regulations. This was the first of two presentations, and will be followed by additional outreach at the beginning of the 2021 seabird breeding season.



Sound advice from a high-flier. Photo: NOAA

## EDUCATION

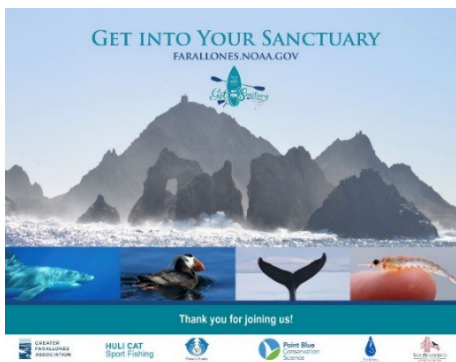
### Inspiring an Ocean Conservation Ethic

#### Get into Your Sanctuary: Recreation and Tourism

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) Recreation and Tourism Strategy identifies "travel and tourism" as a driver for coastal economies and encourages sites to "increase visibility and responsible visitation to the system and partner institutions."

#### Cyber-cruise into sanctuary reveals wonders of our "ocean backyard"

On August 1 and 2, approximately 400 ocean enthusiasts worldwide embarked on a virtual cruise into Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and the Farallon Islands, part of our annual *Get Into Your Sanctuary* weekend event. Sanctuary naturalists guided participants through San Francisco's Golden Gate, across the San Andreas Fault, around a shipwreck, and into wildlife-rich waters. Sightings included blue and humpback whales, sharks, sea lions, porpoises, albatross, and sunfish.



The group enjoyed a rare "visit" to Southeast Farallon Island, off-limits to the public, where a Point Blue

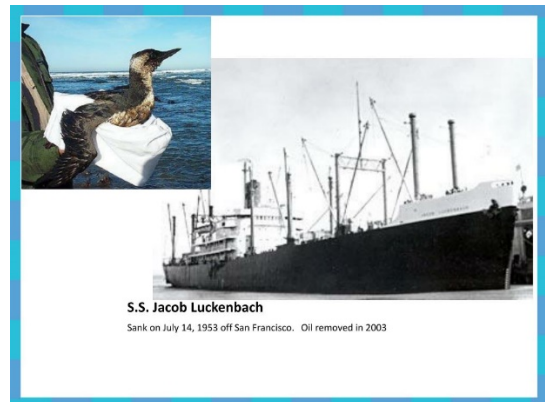
Conservation Research scientist led them to study sites for elephant seals and seabirds; they also visited the sanctuary's rocky intertidal monitoring sites. The Oceanic Society, San Francisco Whale Tours, Huli-Cat Sportfishing, the Marine Mammal Center, and Greater

Farallones Association provided pre-taped presentations to enrich the program.

#### Veterans embark on virtual visit to a shipwreck, seabird rookery, sharks

On September 11, 23 veterans embarked on a 27-mile virtual cruise through Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to the Farallon Islands, guided by Greater Farallones naturalists. Getting underway, the veterans passed through San Francisco's iconic Golden Gate, past the Point Bonita Lighthouse, and across the San Andreas Fault. They paused to learn about a Korean War-era shipwreck, the *S/S Jacob Luckenbach*, which was a source of chronic oil pollution until a multi-agency effort to remove the oil was completed. Whales, dolphins, puffins, albatross, sea lions and white sharks were among wildlife highlights.

The veterans "landed" on Southeast Farallon Island, off-limits to the public. A Point Blue Conservation research scientist led them to study sites for elephant seals, seabirds, and other wildlife. They also visited the sanctuary's own rocky intertidal monitoring sites.



*S/S Jacob Luckenbach shipwreck 17 miles off San Francisco; oil-fouled common murre. Photos: Luckenbach Trustee Council*

## Public Events

### Virtual Sharktoberfest™ reaches over 3,000 shark enthusiasts

On September 26, 1,206 people in 10 countries ranging from Indonesia to Croatia to New Zealand, tuned into the sanctuary's live first virtual Sharktoberfest™ – an annual event to celebrate the white sharks of Greater Farallones. Over 2,026 additional views have been logged since then.

The event featured the latest shark research, award-winning conservation films, and an “Awesome and Jawsome” expert panel discussion. Trivia and quizzes entertained and educated all ages. The event's dozen partners included NOAA Fisheries, Aquarium of the Bay, Mote Marine Laboratory, International Ocean Film Festival, and Marine Science Institute. Sharktoberfest™ was co-sponsored with the Greater Farallones Association and Shark Stewards. Normally held at the sanctuary's San Francisco campus, this event fostered appreciation of elasmobranchs in marine ecosystems worldwide.

Each year, Sharktoberfest™ educates and inspires stewardship for what once was “the fish you love to hate,” the shark. Understanding its value and vulnerabilities helps keep conservation in the public eye at a time when populations are threatened, some with extinction.



Jasmin Graham, Sharktoberfest panelist works to recover endangered sawfish populations. Photo: Chelle Blais/Mote Marine Laboratory

## Sanctuary Exploration Series

*On hiatus.* Sanctuary Exploration Series programs are monthly opportunities to explore habitats and experience wildlife; field programs will resume when COVID-19 restrictions are no longer in effect. Some programs may be offered virtually.

## Visitor Center

*Closed until further notice.* Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center serves ocean enthusiasts of all ages, from the San Francisco Bay Area and all over the world. It is located in San Francisco's Presidio National Park in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area and welcomes drop-in visitors, offers structured programs for various ages and interests, and hosts special events. School programs include plankton netting for view under a microscope, searching for shore crabs, and activities in the visitor center to learn about animal adaptations. Ordinarily, students would take part in indoor as well as outdoor activities on adjacent Crissy Field Beach.

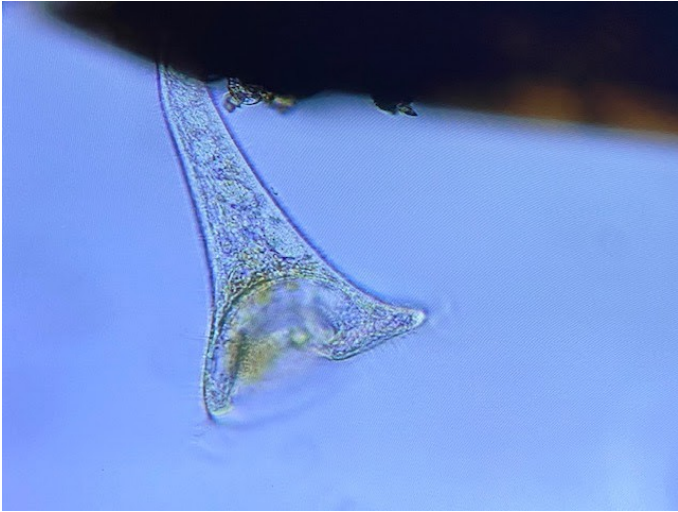
## Visitor Center Programs

### Sanctuary educators bring digitized live plankton to university students

On September 17, sanctuary staff taught 25 upper division undergraduates from San Francisco State's Biological Oceanography course. At the request of marine phytoplankton ecologist Professor Edward Carpenter, sanctuary educators developed a two-hour virtual field trip focused on the significance of national marine sanctuaries, an exploration of samples of living plankton streaming from two microscopes, and an introduction to scientific observation of plankton through nature journaling.

Visitor center-based and in-class programs have gone virtual, and are in high demand.

They are key and far-reaching methods for promoting ocean and climate literacy during distance learning experiences. Supporting teachers and professors during this time is important for maintaining and creating new partnerships between sanctuaries and universities.



*Trumpet-like Stentor sp. ciliate plankton. Photo: Janai Southworth/Pacific Plankton*

### **High school students learn about kelp recovery in Farallones sanctuary**

On July 1, Farallones sanctuary staff with the Kelp Recovery Program gave a virtual presentation to 18 high school students at Sonoma Academy during their Oceanology class. It described the causes of prolonged kelp loss on the northern California coastline, the formation and results of the Greater Farallones Sanctuary Advisory Council Kelp Recovery Working Group, a synopsis of the strategies presented in the “Sonoma-Mendocino Bull Kelp Recovery Plan,” and next steps for kelp forest restoration, research, and monitoring.

### **Visitor Center Field Trips**

*Now virtual!* GFNMS staff, working with our partner the Greater Farallones Association, continued to offer Visitor Center Field Trip programs virtually to promote ocean literacy and provide standards-based interactive programs for kindergarten through high school. Visitor center field trips served 107 students in four different programs this quarter

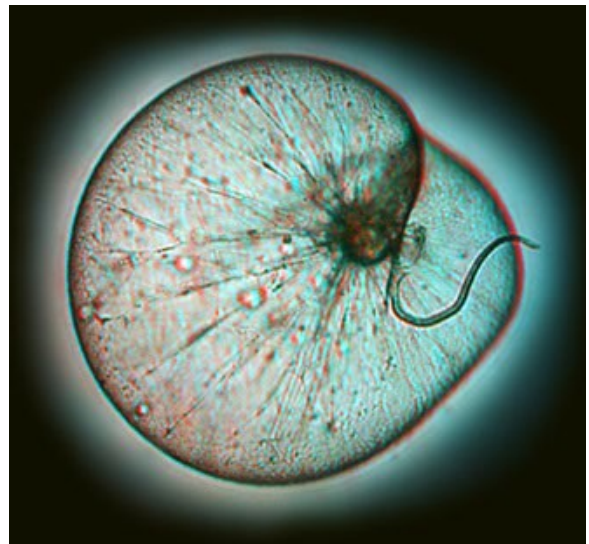
through use of a virtual format. Students “toured” the visitor center, watched the animals being fed, and interacted with sanctuary education staff.

### **Partner-Visitor Center Programs**

#### **Sanctuary educators teach virtual plankton workshop at museum event**

Greater Farallones educators led an exciting exploration of the weird and wonderful world of plankton to 90 participants ranging from 5-year-olds to adults on Saturday, July 25, in partnership with San Francisco Recreation and Parks’ Randall Museum. The hour-long presentation included a Google Earth flyover of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, live plankton samples streaming from two microscopes, a join-along barnacle life cycle dance, and an ocean acidification demonstration. The workshop was a marquee event of the Randall Museum’s “Ocean Week Online.”

<https://www.randallmuseum.org/ocean-week/>, encouraging life-long learning and discovery: “Curiosity Never Closes.”



*Noctiluca scintillans, plankton that bioluminesce, glow eerily blue. Photo: NOAA*

### **Weekend Family Workshops**

Weekend Family Workshops are offered twice a month through the Greater Farallones National



Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center. These programs foster connections within the sanctuary community and provide multi-generational environmental science education to children and adults. The planned on-site family workshops were cancelled. Instead, the education staff conducted front-end evaluations of alternatives and delivered virtual programs, maintaining connections with our community. This quarter, July through September, 84 people participated.

### **At Your School Programs**

*On hiatus until classrooms reopen.* At Your School (AYS) programs serve schools throughout the San Francisco Bay area and beyond, primarily during the school term. AYS has reached tens of thousands of students with programs such as the Crab Cab, Seabird Shuttle, Sharkmobile, and Ocean Acidification. AYS is an outreach program of Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Association designed to promote environmental literacy and increase students' awareness and knowledge of coastal and marine life. It includes standards-based interactive classroom programs for kindergarten through 12th grade.

### **Fisherman in the Classroom**

*On hiatus until classrooms reopen.* The Fisherman in The Classroom program promotes the principles of ocean literacy, sustainable fishing practices, and the value of commercial fishing in sanctuary waters to students in their classrooms.

### **Oceans after School**

*Programs cancelled until after-school programs resume.* Using the endless appeal of our local marine wildlife and habitats, the Sanctuary Education Team offers 18 hours of fun, hands-on, lively marine science learning through Oceans after School programs that cover topics such as sharks, salmon, seabirds,

whales, squid, and plankton. These enrichment programs are dynamic, interactive, and integrated into state standards. Sanctuary marine science educators deliver the programs during a nine-week window and primarily serve low-income, under-served students.

### **Greater Farallones annual Seven Tepees minority youth summer program**

Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and Association launched its annual WAVES (Watershed Advocacy via Environmental Science) summer camp with its partner, Seven Tepees Youth Program. Seven Tepees is a community-based group that provides comprehensive services to under-resourced inner-city youth in San Francisco to help them make lifelong positive choices. Greater Farallones provides science curriculum, a field they can explore, and possibly create their own opportunities for success. Of the students, 95% are Latino/Chicano and/or African American, and 100% are low income, living in the city's most challenged neighborhoods.

Thirty students took part in the four week long marine science camp. The youths learned about sanctuary wildlife and ecosystems during virtual online interactive programming, including dissections, quizzes, dance and movement activities, and live animal demonstrations.

The final week, the youths taught back the marine science programming they had themselves created to younger, middle-school members of their community.

This creative minority-targeted program teaches ocean literacy and career and life skills through sanctuary education techniques, to elevate learning and involvement levels in the marine sciences among underserved communities.

## ***LiMPETS – Long-term Monitoring Program & Experiential Training for Students***

The Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students—LiMPETS—is a statewide national marine sanctuary program managed by the association that trains teachers and students to become involved in real scientific investigations and become ocean stewards. It is a citizen science program that monitors the coastal ecosystems of California and helps youth develop a scientific understanding of the ocean. LiMPETS monitors the biology in rocky intertidal and sandy beach ecosystems and aims to provide publicly accessible, scientifically sound, long-term data to inform marine resource management and the scientific community. Due to extensive program cancellations, this past quarter one program served nine students.

### **LiMPETS contributes data to state MPA long term monitoring program**

Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) contributed data to California's [Marine protected area monitoring program 2019-2021](#) funded by the Ocean Protection Council in collaboration with Peter Raimondi at UC Santa Cruz. Students and staff monitored at 10 sites from Point Fermin in San Pedro, California to Fitzgerald Marine Reserve in Moss Beach, California. Given the approval to monitor safely, staff continued to collect data after student programs were cancelled in March 2020. Data were reported to the Multi Agency Rocky Intertidal Network (MARINE) for inclusion in their database and incorporated in California's 10-year MPA monitoring network report.

The LiMPETS Network exposes students to California's national marine sanctuaries, engaging them as ocean stewards. Students learn to monitor marine ecosystems the way scientists do and contribute to statewide efforts to understand the importance of Marine

Protected Areas in California. LiMPETS has become a significant member of West Coast wide intertidal monitoring efforts, contributing to understanding the status and trends of our intertidal ecosystems.

### **LiMPETS collaborates with multi agency network to monitor intertidal abalone**

The Greater Farallones Long-term Monitoring Program and Experiential Training for Students (LiMPETS) team followed public health safety guidelines while joining researchers with the [Multi Agency Rocky Intertidal Network \(MARINE\)](#) to monitor several sites for abalone, sea urchins, and sea stars. Intertidal distributions of these organisms along the Sonoma County coast have changed dramatically since the recent kelp collapse beginning in 2014.

To aid in restoration efforts of the kelp ecosystem, LiMPETS has been collaborating with the [Greater Farallones Association's Kelp Recovery Program](#) and MARINE researchers to incorporate protocols for abalone size measurements, counts for sea urchins, and identify candidate sites to inform kelp restoration projects. Data will help managers track black and red abalone that have moved higher in the intertidal in response to



competition for food with purple sea urchins in Northern California. *Black abalone.*  
Photo: NOAA

## ***Partner Events***

### **International Ocean Film Festival reaches nearly 2,800 viewers**

From July 30 through August 16, the virtual 17th Annual San Francisco International Ocean Film festival, of which Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary is a founding partner, reached 2,748 viewers from 31 countries. Films from

around the world featured ocean exploration, sports, marine science, coastal cultures, marine life, and conservation. Whales, sharks, and surfing were special focuses, but ocean conservation continues as the festival's main theme. When COVID-19 prohibited the scheduled live festival, organizers produced four free online mini-festivals: including special World Ocean Day and Earth Day events.

The July/August festival spotlighted "The Cordell Bank: A National Treasure" and Cordell Bank staff took part in the film's Q&A session. These events provided high visibility for NOAA and the Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Greater Farallones staff annually guides festival content for film selection, programs, and awards.

Film festivals excel in bringing together ocean lovers of different nations, backgrounds, interests, and perspectives. Cinema's visual impact can motivate viewers to become involved in marine conservation.



The documentary, "Dick Ogg, Fisherman" featured a local fisherman actively working to help prevent whale entanglement. Photo: SFIOFF



## 2020-21 Calendar Updates

*Note: all public activities are subject to COVID-19 restrictions in effect for the place and time.*

### November

- 14 Humpback Whale Soirée and SETI virtual gathering and lecture. See <https://farallones.org/events/>; tune

in at:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/FarallonesAssoc/live>

- 19 Advisory Council meeting (virtual)

NOTE: Future sanctuary advisory council meeting information will be updated on the GFNMS website,

<https://farallones.noaa.gov/manage/sac.html>

## Ongoing Public Programs

**Note: all public activities are subject to COVID-19 restrictions.**

### Sanctuary Exploration Series

*Temporarily suspended:* Year-round, the Greater Farallones Sanctuary Explorations Series provides monthly opportunities to connect with and experience the sanctuary and surrounding waters. Excursions include bioluminescence paddling, whale and wildlife cruises, coastal hikes, and tide pooling. Join one of our seasonal programs! Visit <http://farallones.noaa.gov/visit/exploration-program.html> for updates and possible virtual explorations.

### Greater Farallones Visitor Center

*Closed Until Further Notice:* The Visitor Center in the San Francisco Presidio offers exhibits and docents for drop-in visitors. It also conducts special Weekend Family Workshops about sharks, squid, salmon, octopuses, plankton, ROVs, and sea otters! These programs can also be booked for your exclusive birthday parties or special event. To book programs for individuals, or special events, contact

[Justin.Holl@noaa.gov](mailto:Justin.Holl@noaa.gov).

On Wednesdays through Sundays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., our visitor center naturalists can introduce you to our aquarium critters.

## Sanctuary Soirées

Now virtual during COVID SIP! Sanctuary soirées, held twice yearly, are sophisticated evening celebrations of science, art, and culture. They feature top-of-the-line scientist presentations blended with arts, music, and crafts for an adult (16+ yrs.) audience. These events are held each spring and late fall. Keep posted through our website at <http://farallones.noaa.gov/> and our nonprofit association at <http://farallones.org>.

## Get Involved, Stay Informed

Visit the Greater Farallones Association website for updates, details, and registration for sanctuary expeditions: [www.farallones.org](http://www.farallones.org), as well as the Association Facebook page. The Greater Farallones sanctuary Facebook is up and running at [www.facebook.com/GFNMS/](http://www.facebook.com/GFNMS/)

To learn how you can become involved in the sanctuary visit: <http://Farallones.noaa.gov>.

To subscribe to *Upwelling*, the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association newsletter, visit <http://www.Farallones.org> or see <https://twitter.com/GFNMS>

Learn about our Sanctuary Advisory Council: <http://Farallones.noaa.gov/manage/SanctuaryAdvisoryCouncil.htm> or contact Alayne Chappel at [alayne.chappel@noaa.gov](mailto:alayne.chappel@noaa.gov) to subscribe to the SAC list serve.



*Caught off guard by a hungry sea star.  
Photo: NOAA/OET E/V Nautilus cruise*

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### Greater Farallones NMS Superintendent's Quarterly Report

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