

GULF OF THE FARALLONES NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

1st Quarter FY2012
October through December 2011

SUPERINTENDENT'S MEDIA REPORT



Highlights from the News About or Of Interest to the Sanctuary

October 2, Marin Independent Journal, “Researchers delve into uncharted territory, the life off of Marin's coast” By Mark Prado. “Bobbing in five-foot swells in the dark green waters north of the Farallon Islands about 20 miles south of Point Reyes, researchers drop nets and tubes more than 600 feet into the ocean deep. They are trying to determine what lies below the surface. ... Specifically, researchers are aiming to unravel the distribution and abundance of marine wildlife in the ocean by conducting surveys for sea birds and marine mammals as well as the microscopic building blocks of the aquatic food chain.
http://www.marinij.com/marinnews/ci_19007739

October 3, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, “Scientists at work in nature's abundant pantry” by Guy Kovner. “More than 40 miles out from the Golden Gate Bridge and over an undersea slope plunging from the edge of the continental shelf, a team of scientists lowered a specialized net into the cold, green Pacific Ocean. ... Jaime Jahncke, director of marine ecology at Petaluma-based PRBO Conservation Science, already knew the catch would be slim. “Honestly, right now there’s not much of it here,” Jahncke said last week aboard the Fulmar. Echo soundings displayed on a screen inside the Fulmar’s cabin showed a relatively small mass of krill, a transparent, shrimp-like crustacean, in the depths below. ...”
<http://www.pressdemocrat.com/article/20111003/ARTICLES/111009881/1350?Title=Scientists-at-work-in-nature-s-abundant-pantry>

October 4, www.sfsu.edu . “Geographer works with local people, technology to protect marine life. In the Gulf of Thailand, where Associate Professor of Geography Ellen Hines conducts her field work. ...Working with the Point Reyes



Bird Observatory and other agencies, Dransfield took part in a week-long boat survey of marine mammals in the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary this summer. "I'm using GIS to overlay maps of the humpback whale sightings with maps of water temperature, salinity, topography of the ocean floor and primary productivity ..."

October 11, KQED Quest, "Guadalupe Island: Protecting Sharks through Ecotourism" by David McGuire. Today, white shark watching occurs off the Farallon Islands under permit by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary requiring trained naturalists and using strict best watching practices.

October 12, Half Moon Bay Review, "Pillar Point Harbor considers building coastal office. District shares big plans for Perched Beach. " ... Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary has for several years proposed a visitors center on the San Mateo County coast. The national organization formed a working group in 2009 to determine the goals of a visitors center and consider a half-dozen locations. Out of those discussions came a concept plan that identifies Pillar Point Harbor as the preferred site. But the marine sanctuary had to close its Half Moon Bay office in May due to severe budget cuts. It's unclear whether it would be able to pay for space at the harbor. http://www.hmbreview.com/news/harbor-considers-building-coastal-office/article_cd72735a-f524-11e0-89a2-001cc4c002e0.html

October 14, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, "Ocean's garbage content appalls bird researchers" by Guy Kovner. " ... From their nests in the sand on tiny atolls in the northwestern Hawaiian Islands, Black-footed albatross fly 2,800 miles to the food-rich waters off the Sonoma coast. So far, the Sonoma Coast — considered part of the Greater Gulf of the Farallones — is doing well, owing largely to the coast's sparse population, which minimizes land-based pollution. ..."

October 26, KQED Quest, "Sanctuary for Whales, Sanctuary for Sharks" by David McGuire from QUEST Northern California. "Yesterday I led another expedition out into the Gulf of the Farallones on the Outer Limits with Captain Jimmy. These wildlife tours transit the waters of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary and visit the southeast Farallon Island, then continue on to the continental shelf where the coastal plane drops into the abyss of the deep sea. Primarily billed as whale watching, these trips are really about the entire ecosystem, ..."

November 2, FIS.com/Fish Information & Services, "Black abalone's critical habitat: NOAA NOAA's Fisheries Service filed with the Federal Register a final rule that identifies black abalone critical (*Haliotis cracherodii*) habitat along the California coast to include rocky habitats, and the coastal marine waters above the benthos from the mean higher high water (MHHW) line, or average high tide, to a depth of six meters (approximately 20 feet) in the following areas ... From Del Mar Landing Ecological Reserve to Point Bonita, From the southern point at the mouth of San Francisco Bay to Natural Bridges State Beach ... The circumference of: the Farallon Islands; Año Nuevo Island ..."

November 7, Bloginity, "San Francisco Ocean Film Festival Cast Out a Call for Entries" Presented by Aquarium of the Bay, The Bay Institute and NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries, the Festival is fittingly held at the edge of San Francisco Bay, ..."

November 8, PRNewswire, “San Francisco Ocean Film Festival Casts Out a Call for Entries: 9th Annual Festival to be Held March 8-11, 2012. North America's premier cinemaquatic© event, the San Francisco Ocean Film Festival, is casting out a call for entries to its ninth annual festival, March 8–11, 2012. Presented by Aquarium of the Bay, The Bay Institute and NOAA's Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary ...”

November 15, Bay Area Indymedia, “Winter wildlife sighting on California's coast” by Kaitilin Gaffney. “ ... and the Farallon Islands have been set aside as state marine protected areas and are included in national marine sanctuaries to help protect and restore ...

November 16, Globe and Mail, “... Mr. Barron argues that tourism is crucial to conservation, raising awareness of the 70 million to 100 million sharks that die annually due to habitat loss and a brutal global fishery that hacks off fins for soup, and jaws and teeth for keepsakes. His permit doesn't allow scenting, though, and regulators here oppose it for anything but research, fearing that it may alter behaviour. (In fact, the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary website lists tourism as a “threat” to sharks, alongside the fin fishery and curio trade.) ...”

November 21, San Francisco Examiner, “Cutthroat dolphins on the attack in Bay Area waters
By: Andrea Koskey “Water wars: Marine experts say bottlenose dolphins are suspected in the deaths of harbor porpoises in Bay Area waters. A gang of young males was blamed for past deaths, according to a recent report from the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, and experts say they are likely to blame for five August killings as well.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/2011/11/cutthroat-dolphins-attack-bay-area-waters>

November 22, PRBO.org, “Preventing Whale Strikes by Modifying Shipping Lanes
Approaching San Francisco Bay - Project Summary

Protecting Ocean Wildlife and Food Webs Nearly 50 whales have ...

management in the central California National Marine Sanctuaries. ... National Marine Sanctuaries (Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay) are ...

www.prbo.org/.../ProtectingOceanWildlifeandFoodWebs2.pdf

November 22, redgreenandblue.org, “With four national marine sanctuaries off our coast and the nation's first statewide network of marine protected areas almost completed, California has made clear the importance of protecting its most beloved natural asset – our coast. ...As the Cosco Busan and BP disasters have shown, even under the best of conditions and using the most current technologies, producing and transporting oil is an inherently risky business, and can and does result in catastrophic oil spills. <http://redgreenandblue.org/2011/11/22/things-to-be-thankful-for-new-ocean-drilling-plan-could-be-worse/>

November 27, ProNews/ConnectAmarillo.com, “Dolphins attack, sexually assault porpoises in San Francisco by Kyndel Lee-Bates. “Recent studies show more and more porpoise carcasses have been washing up on Bay Area shores in California as results of attacks by ever-so-loved dolphins. According to some research, the attacks may not only be territorial, but sexual, as well. In a release by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, bottlenose dolphins were reported to likely be behind an unusually high number of porpoise slayings ...”

November 29, KQED Quest, "Various Voyages of Sea Turtles" by David McGuire from QUEST Northern California. "In October and November, three different species of sea turtles have been reported in Monterey Bay and the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary waters. It's unusual for sea turtles to venture into temperate waters. Other species also visit when surface waters warm up, and this fall has been unusually warm with surface temperatures approaching 60 degrees F. ..."

December 7, "Research funded by Rep. Lois Capps' bill will allow us to understand the best techniques for protecting and preserving our oceans and their ecosystems for future generations," Rep. Woolsey said. "These national treasures deserve streamlined interagency coordination, the use of advanced technology, and investment in the best methods to protect the ocean, environment and public health. We must take steps to stop the degradation of our vital resources through bills such as this and my bill, H.R. 192, the Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries Boundary Modification and Protection Act."

December 7, Noozhawk.com, "Capps Introduces Bill to Research Links Between Ocean Resources, Human Health" By Ashley Schapitl for Rep. Lois Capps. Legislation would reauthorize the Oceans and Human Health Initiative national research program ..."
http://www.noozhawk.com/noozhawk/article/120711_capps_introduces_bill_to_research_ocean_resources/

December 13, NBC TV GFNMS: "Is Southern California Moving North? (Maria Brown) As political debates about climate change continue to swirl, evidence of a warming climate right here in the Bay Area continues to mount. NBC Bay Area's Doug McConnell discovers that the ocean and air temperatures along our coast have increased and that our marine ecosystem is being transformed. <http://www.nbcbayarea.com/video/#!/on-air/as-seen-on/Is-Southern-California-Moving-North-/135347353>

December 19, Santa Cruz Sentinel, Santa Cruz Sentinel, "Actor Gerard Butler survives pounding at Mavericks" by Stephen Baxter. "The star of "Of Men and Mavericks" got a taste of the true danger of big-wave surfing on Sunday when he was clobbered by a set of giant waves while shooting a scene at Mavericks... http://www.santacruzsentinel.com/localnews/ci_19581188

December 19, Mercurynews.com, Associated Press, "Actor Gerard Butler OK after getting held underwater by waves at Mavericks" By Joshua Melvin. "The star of "Of Men and Mavericks" got a taste of the true danger of big-wave surfing Sunday when he was clobbered by a set of giant waves while shooting a scene at Mavericks ([MBNMS]. ..."

December 20, Associated Press, mercurynews.com, "Gerard Butler is OK after being held underwater by some big waves while filming for a movie about a surfer at Mavericks, a famed Northern California surf break known for treacherous, stories-high waves. ..."
http://www.mercurynews.com/ci_19584462

December 20, theblaze.com, "Entertainment Actor Gerard Butler Pulled Up From California Mavericks Dangerous Waves While Filming For Movie" Gerard Butler had to be rescued from

large waves holding him under while filming for a movie about a surfer at Mavericks [MBNMS], a famed Northern California surf break known for treacherous, stories-high waves. Butler is reported as OK. <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/actor-gerard-butler-pulled-up-from-california-mavericks-dangerous-waves-while-filming-for-movie/>”

December 21, “Gerard Butler's 'near death' surf mishap. Actor Gerard Butler was hospitalized after being pummeled by big waves while filming a new surfing movie over the weekend, according to ESPN.com. Butler was held under water after being caught inside at Mavericks, the notorious big wave surf spot in Northern California that's been the scene of several deaths. <http://content.usatoday.com/communities/gameon/post/2011/12/actor-gerald-butlers-near-death-surf-mishap-at-mavericks-of-men-and-mavericks-movie/1>

– 30 –

Compiled by Mary Jane Schramm