

Project Description

Who We Are

ACCESS is a private/public partnership formed by Point Blue Conservation Science, Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries that supports marine wildlife conservation and healthy marine ecosystems in north-central California

What We Do

ACCESS members jointly conduct integrated, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary research to monitor distribution and abundance marine wildlife in the context of underlying physical oceanographic processes and inform about wildlife responses to changes in ocean conditions and human threats.

Where We Work

ACCESS focuses on the oceanic habitats in Federal and State waters within Cordell Bank, Greater Farallones and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries. National Marine Sanctuaries are considered “sentinel sites” and are ideal places to conduct recurring studies that are critical for tracking ecosystem changes.

Tracking Ocean Climate

ACCESS produces an annual ‘Ocean Climate Indicators Report’ that provides information about the status and trends of physical and biological climate change indicators in the region. These indicators were selected by a working group of the Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council with input from over 50 regional scientists and resource managers after a 2-year collaborative process.

Solving Ocean Problems

ACCESS recommends solutions to critical ocean problems focusing on the following management issues:

- 1) Saving whales from ship strikes – recommend management approaches to save whales from strikes
- 2) Reducing whale entanglements – identify high risk areas to decrease entanglements in crab fisheries,
- 3) Protecting wildlife hotspots – protect wildlife and decrease conflicts with proposed new human uses,
- 4) Developing ecosystem indicators – track ecosystem responses to climate and inform conservation,
- 5) Tracking ocean acidification – document changes in water chemistry and assess biological responses.

Training Ocean Stewards

ACCESS train ocean stewards by hosting a NOAA Teacher-at-Sea each year, offering lab internships to recent college graduates interested in pursuing careers in marine science and providing research opportunities to graduate students interested in collaborating on physical/biological oceanography and ecology projects.

ACCESS Study Area

Informing Ocean Management in North-Central California



Point Blue
Conservation
Science



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES



A research partnership to support integrated ocean management in northern and central California



Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS)

For more information visit www.pointblue.org or contact Jaime Jahncke at jjahncke@pointblue.org