



PROJECT DESCRIPTION

WHAT: The Applied California Current Ecosystem Studies (ACCESS) is a partnership that supports marine wildlife conservation and healthy marine ecosystems in northern and central California by conducting ocean research to inform resource managers, policy makers and conservation partners.

ACCESS members jointly conduct integrated, collaborative, and multi-disciplinary research to monitor distribution, abundance and demography of marine wildlife in the context of underlying physical oceanographic processes and inform managers, policy-makers and conservation partners about wildlife responses to changes in ocean conditions and human threats to mobilize public support for marine conservation.

WHY: Effective management and conservation of natural resources requires adaptive management strategies that are informed by robust analysis of past and present data and information at an ecosystem scale.

WHERE: ACCESS focuses on the oceanic habitats in Federal and State waters of northern and central California, encompassing NOAA – National Marine Sanctuary waters (Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones and Monterey Bay) and the potential National Marine Sanctuary expansion area south of Point Arena.

WHO: ACCESS was formed by Point Blue Conservation Science, Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary, and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary. Partners include the Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association, San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex, University of California Davis – Bodega Marine Lab, Hawai'i Pacific University, Pomona College, and the California State Universities in Sonoma, San Francisco, San Jose and Monterey, California Department of Public Health.

OBJECTIVES:

Research, monitoring and management

1. **Wildlife Conservation** – improve conservation of marine birds, mammals and their food webs.
2. **Ocean Zoning** – guide human uses to provide protection of the marine ecosystem.
3. **Climate Change** – document effects on the ecosystem and inform climate-smart conservation.
4. **Ocean Acidification** – document changes in water properties and assess biological responses.
5. **Ecosystem Indicators** – use long-term data to inform ecosystem-based management approaches.

Information management and sharing

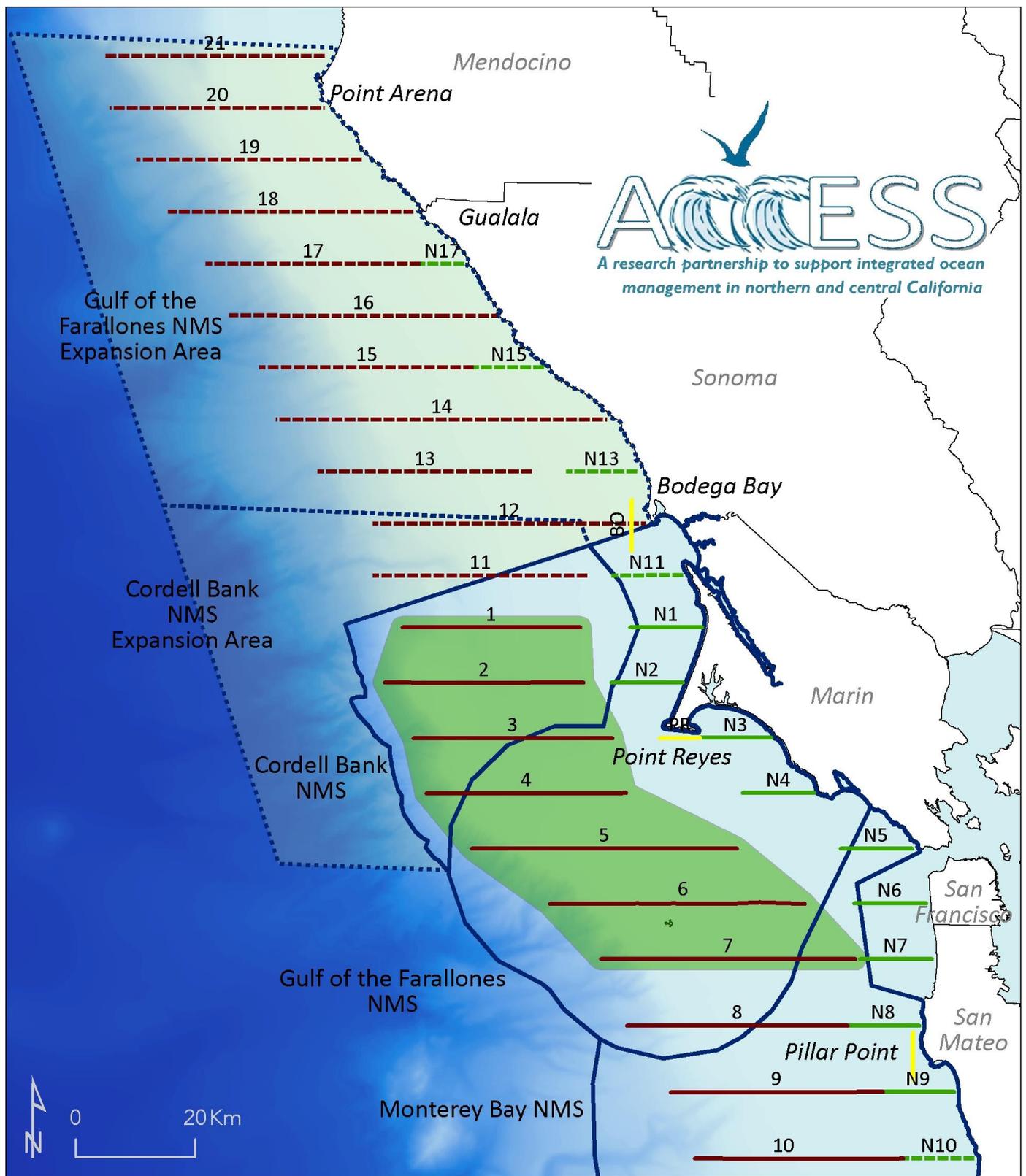
We communicate with the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and the Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System (PaCOOS) which focus on monitoring physical, chemical, and remotely sensed biological conditions in the ocean. The information we collect, while available upon request, is available on the California Avian Data Center (<http://data.prbo.org/cadc>). We produce and disseminate an annual 'Ocean Climate Indicators Status Report' to inform managers, policy-makers and conservation partners about wildlife responses to changes in ocean conditions and human threats to mobilize public support for marine conservation.

Education and outreach

We share information with the public and different user groups through various web sites, including ACCESS (<http://accessoceans.org/>) and Whale Alert (<http://westcoast.whalealert.org/>), and project pages on the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN, <http://www.sanctuarysimon.org>). NOAA's Teacher-at-Sea research experiences and undergraduate and graduate internships and collaborative projects provide opportunities for training new scientists and reaching broader audiences.

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For more information please visit www.accessoceans.org or contact Jaime Jahncke at jjahncke@prbo.org



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

Original and Expansion Area ACCESS Transect Lines

- Offshore Transect, Original
- - - Offshore Transect, Expansion
- Nearshore Transect, Original
- - - Nearshore Transect, Expansion
- Limited Survey Transect
- NMS Boundaries
- NMS Expansion Area
- Baseline Study Area

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