



**GFNMS/CBNMS  
Superintendent's Report  
May 19, 2023**

**Maria Brown, Superintendent**



**GREATER FARALLONES  
& CORDELL BANK  
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES**

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## Help for Kelp!

- The Greater Farallones Association has been recommended for \$4.9 million to restore kelp forest habitat within GFNMS
- Funded through the Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law



Photo by Keith Johnson

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## Conservation Science

- CBNMS Condition report – Publication expected in June.
- ACCESS – Completed first cruise of the year on NOAA Ship *Bell M. Shimada* May 1-16. Partnered with National Marine Fisheries Service Rockfish Recruitment Ecosystem Assessment Surveys to conduct midwater trawls at night.
- Harbor seals – Sanctuary scientists, in collaboration with National Park Service, are conducting annual harbor seal counts for Northern CA. 20% of California's harbor seals breed in GFNMS.



Photo: J. Roletto/NOAA

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## Education and Outreach

- 165 adults attended Sea Urchin Soiree
- 563 K- 5th grade students in Half Moon Bay study Greater Farallones habitats
- Sanctuaries featured at the International Ocean Film Festival through exhibits, panels, and education sessions
- 25 adults attended Plankton Workshop in the Pier Classroom in collaboration with Queer Surf; an organization that “connect queers to their bodies, the ocean, and an inclusive surf community.”



Photo: Jeff Northam

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## Resource Protection

- Eelgrass assessment completed/Mooring surveys resumed on Tomales Bay
- GFNMS provided comment on the State MPA Decadal Review to the CA Fish and Game Commission
- Presented at an Ocean Protection Council workshop on the upcoming GFNMS management plan review
- Letters sent requesting ships to slow down May 1-Dec 15
- Draft Dry Dock Restoration Plan shared with Pacific Fishery Management Council working groups/comment period now closed.



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## Emergency Response and Enforcement Update

- Incident Name: Takao Galaxy (within northern MBNMS/Exclusion Area)
- Incident Date: April 18, 2023
- Description: A chemical tanker TAKAO GALAXY (9920069) experienced a loss of propulsion 6nm offshore Pacifica, CA. The vessel lost 4 of the 6 engines/cylinders the captain decided to cease transit and drop anchor in the South TSS to conduct repairs, at: 37-38.8N 122-38.2W. The tanker was carrying cooking oil (1200 metric tons) and tallow (1357 metric tons) and the fuel levels were high sulfur (646 metric tons), low sulfur (278 metric tons), and lube oil (50,509L). Three tugs responded and were on-scene within hours of the incident. USCG directed Tug DELTA DEANA to act as the main towing tug and the vessel was successfully towed/escorted by all 3 tugs back to port and safely anchored in Anchorage 9 the same day.
- Next steps: Incident was resolved. GFNMS/CBNMS recommends no further action on this incident.