



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 PRBO 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, Sonoma State University, and San Francisco State University – Romberg Tiburon Lab, California Department of Public Health.

OBJECTIVES:

Research, monitoring and management

- 1) **Wildlife** – improve conservation of top predators and their food webs, and
- 2) **Ocean zoning** – guide human uses to provide protection of the marine ecosystem,
- 3) **Climate change** – document effects of environmental change on the marine ecosystem.
- 4) **Fish populations** – contribute to ecosystem-based management approaches,
- 5) **Water quality** – assess ecosystem effects of freshwater outflow,

Information management and sharing

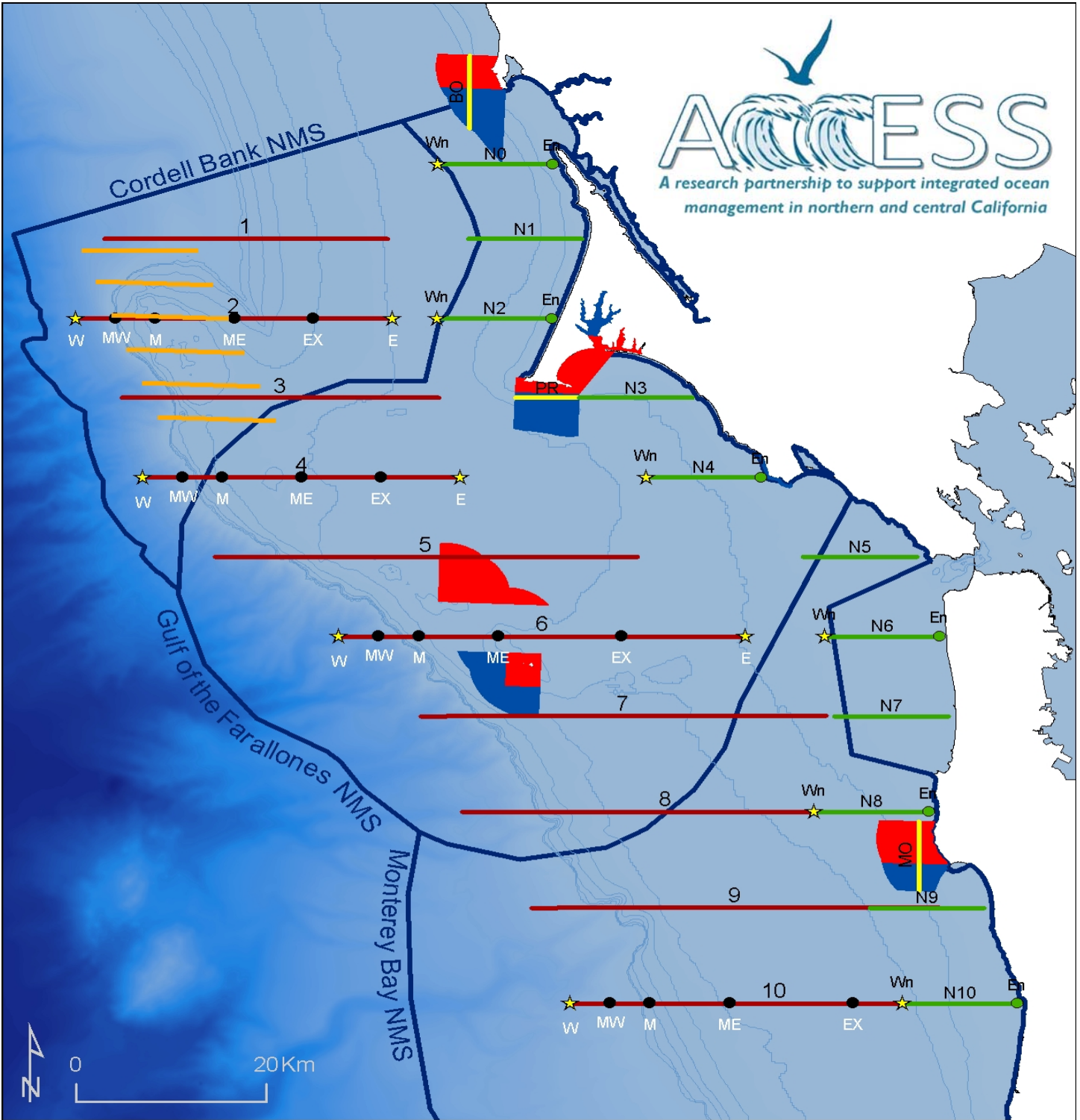
We will communicate with the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) and the Pacific Coast Ocean Observing System (PaCOOS) which focus on monitoring physical, chemical, and remotely sensed biological conditions in the ocean. The information we collect, while available upon request, will become available to collaborators as part of the California Avian Data Center (<http://data.prbo.org/cadc>). We will produce and disseminate an annual 'Northern and Central California Pelagic Ecosystem 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 will share information with the public and different user groups through various web sites, including an interactive spatial mapping tool (<http://www.prbo.org/sefimap>) 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



Proposed Nearshore and Offshore Transect Lines 2010

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Nearshore Transects | CTD / Phyto / Zoop Station |
| Limited Survey Transects | CA MPA - SMCA |
| Offshore Transects | CA MPA - SMR |
| Fine-scale Transects, Cordell Bank | NMS Boundaries |

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