**Community Involvement**

New Program will Reduce Dolphin Harassment

In 2007, the National Ocean Service and the National Marine Sanctuaries Program launched a new program known as “Dolphin and Human Interaction: Solutions Toward Equilibrium.” The program focuses on reducing the harassment of dolphins by people and ships. The program’s goals are to reduce bottlenose dolphin harassment and to improve the health of marine ecosystems. The program’s activities include public outreach, education, and research. The program’s success will depend on the cooperation of all stakeholders.

**Education & Outreach**

Coast Survey Shipwreck Explored in Alaska

In 2007, the National Ocean Service, in cooperation with the National Park Service and the Alaska State Historical Society, conducted an archaeological and environmental assessment of the Wreck of the USS Macaw, a Coast Survey vessel that sank in 1898 off Eldred Rock, Alaska. The objectives of the study were to determine the potential for cultural and environmental resources to be preserved and to identify the best course of action for the site.

**Maritime Heritage**

Archaeologists Explore Sites at Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument

In 2007, the National Park Service and the National Marine Sanctuaries Program conducted an archaeological and environmental assessment of the sites at Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument. The objectives of the study were to determine the potential for cultural and environmental resources to be preserved and to identify the best course of action for the site.

Over 32 metric tons of debris was recovered from the site, including a variety of artifacts and marine life. The debris was removed from the site to prevent it from being transported by currents and to reduce the potential for harm to marine life. The debris was removed using a variety of methods, including hand labor and a remotely operated vehicle. The debris was then transported to a shore-based facility for further analysis and disposal.

**New Visitor Centers Open in 2007**

One of the best ways to help people form a connection with their marine environment is through visitor centers, aquaria and marine laboratories. In 2007, new visitor centers opened at the Monterey Bay Aquarium and the New England Aquarium. The visitor centers provide visitors with opportunities to learn about the marine environment, its inhabitants and the threats facing it. The visitor centers also provide visitors with opportunities to contribute to the conservation of the marine environment through various programs and activities.

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This report highlights the National 2007 accomplishments and leadership protection, science, management and educational programs. A major reason involved the dedication of numerous partners such as aquariums, volunteers who dedicate thousands of our fragile ocean ecosystems and maritime heritage. To learn more about these accomplishments visit:

The federal action adds nine new marine zones, eight of which are no-take marine reserves and one limited-take marine conservation area. The marine reserves prohibit all extractive activities and injury to sanctuary national lobster fishing and recreational fishing for pelagic species — all other resource extraction and injury is prohibited.

With this added protection, the abundance, size, biomass and diversity of fished species are expected to increase within the reserves relative to benefit through reduced disturbance as well.

A First “Megapclick” Recorded

For the first time, researchers have recorded “megapclicks” — a series of sound, normally associated with toothed whales. Research into the behavior in and around Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary. The study offers the first documentation that baleen whales produce behaviors — in and around Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary.

Reports on Health of Sanctuaries Released in 2007

The 2007 Cooperative Monitoring Program’s report on the health of the world’s marine sanctuaries is now available online. The program monitors the health of marine sanctuaries around the world and identifies threats to those ecosystems. The report includes 14 sanctuaries, six new to the program in 2007: Anacapa Island, Fagatele Bay, Flower Garden Banks, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Monument, John Pennekamp Coral Reef National Marine Sanctuary, and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary.

New Regulations To Protect Gray’s Reef

New regulations to protect Gray’s Reef National Marine Sanctuary went into effect in February 2007. The regulations prohibit anchoring, discharge and certain types of fishing near the reef. The protection of Gray’s Reef is particularly important as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has recently added the gray reef shark to the list of endangered species. The new regulations are an important step in protecting the gray reef shark, which is known to be at grave risk of extinction in the wild.