

*Jennifer Stock:*

Hello everybody, and welcome! You're listening to Ocean Currents, I'm Jennifer Stock, and on Ocean Currents we delve into the blue watery part of our planet and highlight ocean related topics. We talk with scientists, educators, explorers, policy makers, ocean enthusiasts, ocean adventurers, ocean archaeologists, and more, all trying to learn more about that mysterious and vital part of our planet. I bring this show to you from NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary. Cordell Bank is located just off of the KWMR listening radius, off the Marin/Sonoma Coast. I love hearing from listeners so feel free to send me an email at [Jennifer.stock@noaa.gov](mailto:Jennifer.stock@noaa.gov). I love to hear people are listening, and what you like and what you want to hear more of. This is going to be an interesting show today, my guest is going to be calling in a little bit.

Today my guest is a west Marin resident Josh Berry. Josh falls under the category of ocean adventurer, enthusiast and artist. As he is an active ocean user, involved in film festivals, advocacy, and general awareness raising about the ocean internationally. Josh is on a mission right now to raise some funds to fund an art series including films, sculpture and performance and writing to explore the deeper part of the ocean found in all of us. He's preparing for a challenging adventure in our backyard in Point Reyes here, and I'm really looking forward to hearing about all the preparation and anticipation for this event, so Josh, welcome, your live on the air here!

*Josh Berry:*

Thank you hello beautiful west Marin!

*Jennifer Stock:*

So nice to have you in the studio!

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah

*Jennifer Stock:*

How's it going today? Have you been in the ocean today?

*Josh Berry:*

Today I have not been in the ocean; I've been working in Point Reyes station today. I was in Tomales bay yesterday, it was beautiful

*Jennifer Stock:*

I got my first swim in two weeks ago and it was fantastic

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah I went in at low tide so it was a little muddy but it was healthy mud

*Jennifer Stock:*

Healthy mud, that's good. I see we have a caller here, do you think maybe you could call back around 130 that would be fantastic, um

we're going to get started with our interview with Josh. So you grew up here in west Marin, this is a special place where the power of the ocean is apparent and the water is a playground for some of us not everybody, tell us about how your connection to the ocean started?

*Josh Berry:*

It started on Tomales bay, at Shell Beach, I learned how to swim there with the Tomales Bay Water Dogs sometime in the 80s, and it was amazing. I met my best friends there, we were probably 8 or 9 years old learning how to swim, and it was often cold, and muddy, learning how to swim in July in west Marin can be foggy and really cold, so it was tough. It was not that comfortable at first, but it was fascinating the green/blue perfect waters of Tomales Bay was just, it was wonderful. Even as a shivering 8 year old in the fog in west Marin summer fog. So that's how it started learning to swim on Tomales Bay with great friends who I'm still friends with 25 years later.

*Jennifer Stock:*

I think learning to swim in open water is a great thing, I learned to swim in a swimming pool but quickly learned swimming in the Long Island Sound and Atlantic ocean where I grew up, but I learned to scuba dive in the ocean itself instead of a swimming pool which I recommend.

*Josh Berry:*

Its funny you mention that, because when I was younger, around 5 or 6, I had a terrible experience in a swimming pool, and ended up on the bottom of the pool fighting for my life, but since then its been nothing but good news and wonderful experiences thanks to the ocean

*Jennifer Stock:*

That's awesome! Ha-ha one of the things about Tomales bay, for people who have only seen it once or twice, is that its hard to see the beauty that's below the water and I saw in your video that's promoting the event that you're doing, I was amazed to see the beautiful video footage, please talk about a little bit of your exploration of Tomales bay, have you spent any time underwater, sounds like you've been snorkeling, maybe, or diving and swimming?

*Josh Berry:*

Just diving, really, and swimming and paddling, paddle far up the bay from Inverness, with an underwater camera, and I just put that camera in the water and filmed, found amazing underwater forests, grass, incredible, in the shallows of Tomales bay there's leopard sharks, there's huge bat rays, I think I've seen the biggest bat ray I've seen has maybe a four foot wide wingspan and just following those with cameras is incredible because its like a flying spaceship

underwater, they're like this crazy secret spaceship flying through the shallows of Tomales bay and you can watch them, and they look like this surreal otherworld spaceship in outer space but its right in our backyard right here.

*Jennifer Stock:*

I know you get entranced, where is it going, what's it going to do, its so fun to follow marine life like that

*Josh Berry:*

I know its funny because Tomales bay is teeming with that kind of life. And all you have to do is go out there and sit there and watch and it kind of comes out of the shallows, its all there right in front of you but you don't really see it unless you just sit there and arte patient and eventually it all comes to you, its pretty amazing.

*Jennifer Stock:*

That's true, and some of the pieces here that you're talking about, we're going to be talking about the deeper side of the ocean found in everyone, part of your film project and expedition to explore this a little bit and document it in many art forms, and tell us a little bit about this project, your preparing for a pretty exciting for a pretty exciting challenging paddle that you're also going to create this wonderful art form for other people to enjoy, lets talk a little bit about it, the ocean inside!

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah so I'm going to paddle about 25 miles down the Point Reyes coastline, on the Oceanside of Point Reyes, and camp and paddle along the way, in Point Reyes national seashore, and its something that I've wanted to do for a long time, I'm just kind of fascinated with long distance adventure paddles, and any kind of human powered long distance adventure, done a lot of biking and in south America did a lot of coastal paddles, and back home here is a place that I've never really explored to that extent, and its our backyard here and its literally my homeland, I grew up here, and its just ripe for exploration

*Jennifer Stock:*

It really is, its close but so far, because it's so rugged

*Josh Berry:*

Its so close, but its such a distant shore at the same time, and its amazing to me because its like another reality out there on the open ocean, just off the shore of the teeming California civilization, with suburbs and traffic and tourism and industry and highways and freeways and there's so much going on here in California but just offshore 2 miles from where were sitting right now it's the ultimate remote wilderness and its another world under the ocean there's so much going on with all the marine life, underwater forests that are spectacular that are huge, and no one is ever out there, its totally deserted except for fishing boats and the occasional park ranger,

and a few crazy hikers and swimmers, it's so close but just another world

*Jennifer Stock:*

Now you talk about this other reality and I'm translating that the biological world that your describing here but when you get to experience these places with your time on the water it sounds like you enter a new reality in yourself and in your brain and where you are, can you describe what that's like, when I'm swimming or in wilderness I transform, so talk a little bit about that because this is a big part of what you're trying to explore with this expedition, what the time span for this?

*Josh Berry:*

Maybe after a few years and serious training I'll do 20 days, but for now its 20 miles so that probably will be 2 or 3 days, camp overnight or 2 nights in the national park here, so one thing that fascinates me is how we all come from the ocean, all life on earth came from the ocean originally, and the earth is something like 70% ocean water, and yet its not really present in most peoples lives, but its where we came from, and our blood, human blood is extremely similar chemically to seawater, so we are seawater, and we are the ocean. And for me, its just like I'm going to the womb, back to my origins when I step in the ocean, its incredible, completely different reality, another universe going into the ocean, and you feel so tiny out there with the power of the waves, and the ocean currents, and just the vastness of open water that's just so inspiring and so different from land based reality. And I think humans historically have been deeply inspired by the ocean, and by being in the water and just reconnecting to that kind of original experience of coming from the ocean and its this incredible creative spring of inspiration out there, that I really love to tap into and create some art and writing and interesting stuff from.

*Jennifer Stock:*

That's great. So you're going to launch from Drake's Beach, and head south?

*Josh Berry:*

It all depends on the weather, you never know with the ocean what's going to be happening, I've got a window of time sometime in august when were hoping to hit the water.

*Jennifer Stock:*

August is a nice time, things typically are pretty abundant and it may warm up a little bit

*Josh Berry:*

You never know, it might be densely foggy or not

*Jennifer Stock:*

Last week there were reports of blue whales right off the beach, and I had the great fortune to go out and see it, because its just so

rare to see blue whales from the shore, they are so elusive and mysterious and were so lucky to see them when we see them but to go to the beach and see blue whales, and my first thought was “I get to meet this guy Josh!”

*Josh Berry:*

Were they at Drake’s Beach?

*Jennifer Stock:*

They were off of North Beach but they're moving around, and the week before our science team that does monitoring studies saw a mix pod of humpbacks and fin whales and some unidentified baling whales near drakes bay, there’s a lot of activity near shore right now, have you seen whales while paddling in the ocean, gray whales are pretty typical, but these huge baling whales that are 50-100 feet long!

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah I've seen hundreds of whales in the 25 years I've been here, and its interesting when I was younger growing up out here, I didn’t see that many whales, but in the past 3-4 years I've seen more whales than I've seen in my whole life out here, some days ill see 10-15 big whales cruising right off shore, sometimes with baby calves, sometimes solo, and its amazing you can stand up on the dunes if you’re on the beach and you can watch them sometimes for 15 20 minutes because they’re just slowly swimming by, its fascinating and they’re such intelligent creatures, they have some serious brainpower, and they use it and its awesome

*Jennifer Stock:*

Have you been underwater and seen whales?

*Josh Berry:*

I've been on the water, I don’t think I've actually been underwater diving with whales, that’s intense

*Jennifer Stock:*

I know I can’t imagine, I think my heart would be flying outside my body if that happened

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah but I think they’re pretty smart and pretty gentle around humans

*Jennifer Stock:*

I know this last week I was telling everybody, go to the ocean! See some whales!

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah I’m really impressed with all the whales I've seen just in the last 2 years, its seems like there’s more and more going by now

*Jennifer Stock:*

The humpback population has really come back post whaling, you know we were whaling as a population up until 1972 and we really decimated those populations, but humpbacks have come back and

blue whales have not, it's a concern that blue whale populations have not come back and there's some thoughts about why that is, related to ship traffic, large ships, and ship strikes on them, the sanctuaries have been working on that, trying to find a way to help these whales and work with people to help reduce these impacts, but there has been an increase in whales so it's great to hear people saying yeah, there's more whales!

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah I've definitely been seeing lots of them, and often year round, not even just in this Pacific season that you think of as whale watching season, but now I think year round I've been seeing whales

*Jennifer Stock:*

It's a testament to the diversity of the ocean, this increase in whale populations

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah

*Jennifer Stock:*

I imagine getting ready for this, this is a 20 mile paddle and you're also preparing for just the way to document this for other people to be inspired I imagine, do you have a specific group or audience in mind, or are you hoping to get as many people to see and learn from your experience after?

*Josh Berry:*

I don't think number of people is important to me, but my audience is humans, maybe some dolphins also, but I can't figure out yet how to reach the dolphins, probably a psychic connection I'm having with them, so yeah humans, dolphins, whales, any cetacean could probably appreciate what I'm doing. Hopefully the sharks will hear it too.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Yeah they need it

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah

*Jennifer Stock:*

So you have a Kickstarter campaign, tell us a little bit about it, what do you want to get from this?

*Josh Berry:*

Kickstarter is an online crowd funding platform where you go to this website and read about the project called the ocean inside and you can pledge financial support anywhere from a dollar to as much as you want, to help me fund the creative art film production that I want to do after the paddle, so I'm going to be filming some of this paddle, and I'm going to be creating a whole exhibition of sculpture and photography and creative non-fiction writing from this whole adventure. That all costs money, so I'm trying to raise

some funds to help fund all of this, and I really need everyone's support for this to really work the way I want to make it work and to share it with the world, and also if you go to kickstarter.com and search for the ocean inside, or just search my name Josh Berry, you'll find a short video, a trailer explaining the whole project and a little write up of what it's all about and how you can help

*Jennifer Stock:*

Excellent, it's a great way to do it, it only charges people if the full amount is raised, right?

*Josh Berry:*

Exactly. So I'm trying to raise 9000 dollars and it's going slow, so now it's crunch time, we've got about 10 days left before we hit our deadline of having to raise 9000 dollars, and so I need everyone to go online and check it out, you don't have to donate a lot of money, you can do as little as 1 dollar, it all helps, and you get awesome rewards if you pledge

*Jennifer Stock:*

I saw that! You have all these really cool things if people pledge a certain amount of money, there are little things like a preview or a preview party or a special book,

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah I'm making a small book that will feature photography and writing from this whole adventure, and then producing this film, which will be exhibiting out here in west Marin and also in San Francisco, I want to do this whole film art exhibition that's all integrated together and if you pledge your support you get invited to the event, and you might get a copy of the book that we're producing, all kinds of interesting stuff like that.

*Jennifer Stock:*

That's great! So kickstarter.com, check it out, look for the ocean inside or Josh Berry and check out his little film, it's really nice, I loved the sound and the photography so well bring that up again for folks.

*Josh Berry:*

And this project, I want to point out, I'm not profiting off of it, none of us involved in producing it are going to profit, but we are trying to cover expenses, there's travel expenses, film expenses, and production of interesting content, you know, so we're just trying to pay for the production of some of this content.

*Jennifer Stock:*

So while you're on the board, it's a stand up paddleboard, not a surfboard, right?

*Josh Berry:*

It's an extra-large stand up paddle board, the board I'm hoping to use, I'm not sure which board yet but the board I'm hoping to paddle is 14 feet long, and it's big, it's wide, it's heavy, it's kind of a

boat extra large surfboard, designed for open water paddling, and its kind of a boat beast out on the water, and I like that because well be paddling in remote wild stretches of coastline so the more board the better when out there for safety reasons, and speed and just being out there on the open water like that.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Yeah, do you have some support, in terms of communication to land, is there going to be someone else paddling with you?

*Josh Berry:*

I'm coordinating with the national park, so they'll be aware of what I'm doing, and one of our campsites will be in Point Reyes national seashore at wildcat camp, so ill have probably one or two persons support crew that will hike in and ill meet them from the water, so wildcat camp is pretty close to the water, almost right on the coast in the middle of the national park, so ill have one or two people camping there with supplies and support, and I'm not sure yet if ill be paddling alone, or trying to invite some friends along, well see who actually does it. But I'm inviting a few people, and hopefully someone will be with me in the water too, or maybe they'll just step in for a couple hours and paddle away, and well see what happens

*Jennifer Stock:*

You know when I've been on the water with the intention, we have a row boat and we love to row, and we have these underwater cameras, nothing fancy at all, but we became obsessed with field grass, floating around, and I found myself sometimes realizing gosh were spending so much time filming instead of enjoying this place and being here, are you expecting that in terms of paddling and moving forward, but you also want to document, how do you manage that?

*Josh Berry:*

I think being out on these open waters here in northern California is extremely demanding, its not a friendly environment at all, I've been training for this for 6 months, and I've been exploring these waters here for 20+ years, so I have a lot of experience and a lot of training put in, and I'm pretty comfortable on the coast here in any condition, so that's going to help a lot, but I think also that being out in these demanding ocean conditions really forces you to be in the moment regardless of what you're doing, because if you're not in the moment and totally tuned in, you're not going to survive, because its not a friendly environment and you have to be completely tuned in the other ocean conditions and the weather and your body and you have to be really in the moment and totally committed to what you're doing, or you're not going to make it so I think just being in the water out here immediately puts you in that frame of mind.

*Jennifer Stock:*

So I take it you'll have a lot of time at the end of the day to reflect and to share a bit, are you going to try and record live, in terms of this is what I've experienced?

*Josh Berry:*

I've got a tiny waterproof camera that attaches to my board, and that'll be filming automatically most of the time, so I won't even have to think about that, it'll just be attached to my board, paddling, recording whatever's happening. And then you know when in calm moments, when things are quiet, I can be more working at filming and capturing stuff, I'll also have a tiny camera at the ready in case a whale jumps on me or you know, dolphins frolicking or anything I want to capture like that, so I can do that pretty quickly, and I've been filming on the ocean now for 5 years so I'm pretty good at being on the water and knowing when to have the camera out ready to shoot and when to be paddling.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Yeah you have 20 miles to go you can't sit around filming all day. You made a couple films, is there somewhere where people can see your films online? You mentioned you did a film earlier while we were talking about you produced a 15 minute film and it ended up going around the world to film festivals or something, tell us about it?

*Josh Berry:*

Lets see, I think it was in 2006 I was in Chile, working for Save the Waves Coalition, and I was doing this whole Chile program on coastal conservation on water quality and conservation based on how surfers and coastal people are affected by all these environmental issues and pollution and water quality, and I started filming with a friend, filming some experiences we had, and he was a up and coming cinematographer, and I had no idea what I was doing, but I was just helping him produce stuff, make stuff happen, and we shot this 15 minute film on a budget of about 2000 dollars, and it was kind of a documentary activist adventure film called pulp, poo and perfection. There's a lot of pulp mill pollution, and also sewage pollution and how surfers and fishermen and coastal people are affected by all that stuff, and it ended up a 15 minute short film and decided that the final product was awesome and we submitted it to a ton of film festivals, and it traveled all over the world, I think it was in over 20 film festivals between 2007-2009.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Was this in the SF Film Festival? I think I saw it!

*Josh Berry:*

Yes, 2008 maybe?

*Jennifer Stock:*

I think I saw your film, and I didn't even know it! I saw a film about the pulp industry in Chile, and the surfers.

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah, I presented it there in Fort Mason.

*Jennifer Stock:*

This is great, so that kicked it all off on how to document, share, and edit and now you've produced this thing that many people have seen, that's exciting

*Josh Berry:*

After that we made 2 more films about Chilean coastal issues from a surfers perspective, and one of them was another 15 minute short about coal plant pollution on the coast in Chile, and another one was a 5 minute short called "All points South" about pulp pollution and fisherman's activism about the pollution on the coast down there. With each film, we got more experience and more time in, editing and shooting and finding these crazy stories out there, and it's just kind of snowballed into some interesting film work.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Well we're going to take a short break, and we'll come back and explore the ocean inside just a little bit further with Josh Berry  
Were back,

You mentioned, Josh, about this idea of human powered exploration, how this really is something fascinating to you, and I'm excited about that, I had Roz Savage on our show a while ago, she's a long distance rower, and I was fascinated because its an incredible test of skill and preparation and talk about how you got into this?

*Josh Berry:*

Yeah, I think that I've traveled all over the world on jet planes, I've had some incredible unforgettable adventures in the most exotic places in south America and southeast Asia and Europe and Africa, but it was all jet fueled, and I was realizing that there's this deep tradition of human powered exploration that's literally created civilizations all over the world, I mean the south Americans, Peruvian adventurers, Polynesian adventurers, people walked from Russia across the Bering strait all the way down into the Americas, and this was all human powered! And its literally created probably every civilization and now that's a lost art, but were still totally capable of doing these long distance adventures and exploring the world without all this fancy modern technology and without all the jet fuel and gasoline and engines we don't need any of that, we can literally step outside in our backyard and go as far as we want to go. Its all right here, and so that's something that I've been getting more and more interested in, just instead of going on some tropical fantasy exotic vacation, which everyone seems to want to do, why don't you just step outside and do an adventure right in your own

backyard? It'll be just as incredible, just as challenging, if not more challenging, and its right here! You don't have to go halfway around the world, you can do it all right here and its fascinating, that to me is just amazing, and that's been going on for millennia, and people just wanting to get away, and they start walking or swimming or sailing or whatever they do, and amazing stuff happens.

*Jennifer Stock:*

I can relate to that, I've been exploring and getting outside, that time ahs been more compressed now that I have a baby but I'm starting to see the windows open up again, and if I get an hour swim after work at the beach, and I get to see a fish playing around at my toes and its exciting and I get reconnected again right away in such a short amount of time, and I really encourage other people to do that, explore our backyard! Were really lucky here to have this amazing biodiversity at our fingertips

*Josh Berry:*

You know in 2006 I was working a dead end office job, I wasn't very happy, and I was riding my bike to work one day, and a friend of mine stopped me on the road, said hey do you want to sail to Hawaii this week? We need an extra deckhand. I had barely any sailing experience but I could cook, I could tie ropes, I could hold my own, so I quit my job and two days later I found myself sailing out under the golden gate bridge out of San Francisco and it was the most incredible challenging unforgettable adventure I've ever had in my life and it was all just from wind power and human powered exploration going out of San Francisco and we ended up in the middle of the ocean on Kauai, it was spectacular, best thing I've done in my life, and I didn't have any experience really, just in the right place at the right time, and decided to step away from the office job and get out there and explore! And I did it and it was the most incredible thing I've ever done, thanks to the ocean and the wind.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Not everyone can do that though, some can step away from a career or a job but the majority of us have very intertwined lives with jobs, careers, homes, families, what do you say for people who represent that dynamic?

*Josh Berry:*

Its only hard to do if you think its hard to do in your head, ultimately its just in your head, do whatever you want to do, its just society telling you you need to pay your house mortgage, or educate your kids in a certain way in a certain school, and pay tuition, or you need to pay for 500 dollars a month for health insurance, all that stuff adds up. Ultimately though, you don't need any of that stuff, you don't need to pay a crazy cell phone bill, or

work many hard hours to fund all this fancy stuff, ultimately its all just stuff in your head that society is telling you you need but you can make the decision to step away from that and do something else if you want to.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Or maybe there's somewhere in between

*Josh Berry:*

Absolutely, you could always just step outside on your backyard and explore this beautiful place we live in. Enjoy the moment wherever you are ultimately, and you can enjoy it creatively, there's always something awesome going on that you can enjoy and it's happening right now.

*Jennifer Stock:*

I like that that's what you're trying to do, its great that you're doing these paddles and experiences, but I really like how you're trying to share and interpret this to other people, so are you going to announce to anybody when you're going to take off? Or is it just going to be going for it?

*Josh Berry:*

I'm just going for it, it really depends on the weather and ocean conditions and it'll be sometime in early august, sometime in early august, I can say that much, but I cant say exactly when because you never know, might be high surf or strong winds and you cant go anywhere fort a week, you never know with the weather, so lets just say it'll happen soon.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Well Josh thanks for coming in today, to share a little bit about your experiences

*Josh Berry:*

Thanks for having me, thanks for listening!

*Jennifer Stock:*

Its fun, I get to keep imagining myself, I was able to try paddle boarding this weekend and on the ocean it's pretty intimidating, so good luck

*Josh Berry:*

Thank you

*Jennifer Stock:*

The website, and the project name again?

*Josh Berry:*

So go to kickstarter.com, search for The Ocean Inside and you can find the project description and all the goodies, 10 days left so I need your support.

*Jennifer Stock:*

Were going to take a break, come back with some other ocean announcements, and thanks Josh and thanks for tuning in!

*Jennifer Stock:*

We're back, this is Jennifer Stock, just talked to Josh Berry, west Marinite here, doing lots of cool ocean exploration and adventuring and thinking about marine power of all this, how does the ocean affect us personally and emotionally, which is really wonderful and I think a lot of us need to tune in more, its so relaxing, for me it's a huge thing. So I want to thank Josh for coming in while getting ready for this big paddle on this stretch of coastline here, very unexplored so it will be interesting to see what comes of that. I have a couple other announcements here, updates of things that are going on, we mentioned earlier there have been a lot of whales in the area, humpback whales, blue whales, fin whales, there's are all baling whales, and they've been pretty near shore, we have reports of our science team that's part of a team called ACCESS, a collaboration between PRBO and Gulf of the Faralones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries, we can really get a sense of what's going on out on the water, oceanographic conditions as well as the surface wildlife that can be seen, and they had a cruise about a week and a half ago, had a lot of near-shore sightings of whales, it seems early for that in terms of seeing the amount that they did, a lot of whales, and excitingly enough, some of them were visible from shore, so I got a chance to go out to the beach when I heard about some blue whales sighted near shore, and sure enough, less than a mile off shore we saw a couple blue whales, and you don't get to see that very often, it was just thinking about what josh was saying earlier about getting out, it was so wonderful to be out at the beach, and hearing the waves, feeling the wind, seeing whales, just felt so lucky to be here and see them in their element, and I hope that folks will take the time to get out if you can and just get out and scan the water, look for those blows, who knows they're moving all the time, most likely there were food near shore, krill, blue whales eat krill, so I think a lot of those blue whales were following near shore krill. However, having blue whales so close to shore is a concern for the large ship traffic that comes and goes from San Francisco bay, a fin whale was found on a beach out here in west Marin that had definite impact from a large container ship, and unfortunately it was dead, and this is not uncommon unfortunately, so I wanted to tell you a little bit about the work being done and I think well have a future show dedicated to this. The Gulf of the Faralones and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries are right off of shore here north of San Francisco, and outside here where whales tend to congregate because of the great food, but its also where the ships come through, so our sanctuary advisor councils have a joint working group that included people of different expertise, people from shipping, from the government with NOAA, really looking at

the big issue for over a year and having all these experts come in and make a series of recommendations about how we can help reduce the impacts on the cetaceans, on the large whales, so a series of recommendations were put together and presented, and next steps are now with NOAA and the NMS and Fisheries Service to figure what to do with these recommendations. You can read up on it if interested, you can get the recommendations on [farallones.noaa.gov](http://farallones.noaa.gov), it will be on the Cordell Bank website really soon, you can read a short version there that tells the types of things that people will potentially do to reduce the impact, so that is exciting work that these working groups on behalf of the sanctuary advisory councils did to better protect the animals that are using the very special waters. Another opportunity to get out on the water is the Cordell Bank Field Seminar, and this is a classroom seminar half day where we do an introduction to seabirds, whales, and underwater stuff, then we do field trips on a boat the day after and another boat trip the following week, you can go on either or boat trips, but its one of the only trips that goes to Cordell Bank through the NMS to see the wildlife that is there, we try to go one of the best times of the year, in September, usually the whales are still around and we can have usually decent sea conditions, but you can go to [ptreyes.org](http://ptreyes.org), and go to field institute and check out how to register for that event, its September 15,16, and 23 and its great, I love meeting new people out there, trying to learn more about this place and get their own ocean experience off shore, its exciting. Lastly, I have been getting reports about tsunami debris, mostly on the north coast of Oregon and Washington, and its definitely a concern for us here, just one story to share, a large dock came across that definitely had its origins in Japan, it carried with it a lot of invertebrates that are not form around here, and they were alive, and that could lead to invasive species overtaking a native ecosystem, so there are things that are starting to was up along the west coast, I thought I should remind people that if you are out on the beach and concerned of something that you see, let people know, on the national seashore you can let the national seashore know, there's also NOAA looking for information if there's something specific you can report to [disasterdebris@noaa.gov](mailto:disasterdebris@noaa.gov) and give them as much information as possible about what you see, location, date and time, photos are helpful, and report to your local authorities as well if it is big and hazardous or any potential that there may be human remains involved. Just something to think about, I've had a lot of emails from people saying they've found things and wondering if they've found it form the tsunami, but its hard to say because we get a lot of things that are from the other parts of the pacific ocean due to the gyre that moves things around naturally on its own, so some

things will be easier to tell than others, but definitely all hands to help clean up is a great thing but be careful, and use your common sense for how to deal with that. You can hear past episodes of ocean currents on the Cordell bank website just click on education and you can hear all the past 6 years of ocean currents radio programs, you can also go to Itunes.

Thanks again for tuning in, it was really fun having Josh in the studio, its summertime make some time to get outside and enjoy the coast if you can, get in for a swim or a walk and tune in to how the ocean makes you feel it's a good thing.

Thank you for listening to ocean currents. This show is brought to you by NOAA's Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary on West Marin's Community Radio KWMR. Views expressed by guests on this program may or may not be that of the NOAA, and are meant to be educational in nature. To learn more about Cordell Bank, go to [Cordellbank.noaa.gov](http://Cordellbank.noaa.gov).