

A Blue Beacon for the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary



The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation is raising the profile of the proposed St. George Unangan National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of Alaska and Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary off the coast of California, creating momentum for their designation via their Blue Beacon Series.

Blue Beacon events bring to light the ocean's biggest challenges through panels, lectures, and film screenings hosted around the country to build communities of support for marine protected areas. The series builds on the momentum of Capitol Hill Ocean Week, the nation's premier conference on ocean and Great Lakes policy issues, by bringing these conversations into locally relevant contexts.

A September Blue Beacon event featuring both the St. George Unangan and Chumash Heritage NMS communities will include a discussion of the protection of biocultural resources in sanctuaries, the role of traditional ecological knowledge and wisdom in surmounting challenges posed by climate change, and how the proposed Chumash and St. George sanctuaries can serve as models for cooperative conservation.

Live and pre-taped video will showcase these special places, our communities, and how things are changing. (If you've haven't seen it, Courtney Gerard's "[Sacred Waters](#)," documenting the Chumash Heritage NMS campaign, is worth your time:)

Watch this space for the date and time of the September event.



In our backyard Opalescent nudibranch off Shell Beach. Photo: Terry Lilley.