

Liz Fox: Hi, this is Liz Fox at Positively Ocean where we celebrate the ocean and look at what's working well. This week's story starts right here in your ears. We can take it back to the studio in Point Reyes Station where will find Ocean Currents radio creator Jennifer Stock. She doesn't know this but I've been speaking to her colleagues and friends to highlight the work that she herself does to advocate for the ocean. She's hearing the segment for the first time on air so thank you Jennifer and congratulations on your 100th episode of Ocean Currents radio. Jennifer's job as Education Outreach Coordinator for Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary comes with that particular challenge, bringing to life a world that is just remote and inaccessible enough that most of her audience will never experience it firsthand. 6 miles offshore there are no islands or beaches that indicate Cordell Bank is submerged 400 feet below without Jennifer's work the sanctuary would appear as a meager outline on nautical charts so unless you are at the helm of the vessel, an oceanographer, an experienced diver or a strawberry anemone Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary would be an idea. It's quite a feat to communicate the value of a place that is essentially invisible and show how we depend and effect what happens out there so I asked Jennifer's community just how she does it decade after decade.

"I think it's her passion for the ocean. Jenny loves the ocean." "She's incredibly energetic and enthusiastic and by default a happy person." "Enthusiasm, Jenny's got bundles of that." "She also has a really quick wit and a bubbling personality that brings hope to dealing with even the hardest topics." And there's more. "She has great ideas and I love the question she asks, sometimes I will be involved in a discussion and she will come in with a question, and I say that's exactly what I was thinking or I didn't think of that, that's a great question." That was Dan Howard superintendent of Cordell Bank National Marine sanctuary, Cleo Vilett Marine artist, David Work director at Catalina Island Marine Institute, and Amy Bilstrom associate director of learning initiatives at the Oakland Museum of California, and Julie Bursek team lead education outreach for NOAA's Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

It is by far an incomplete list of the hundreds of people with whom Jennifer's worked. Jennifer's colleagues who frequently become her friends also admire her creativity, dedication and cooperation as she tackles huge problems. Daily Jennifer pours over the minutia and marvels at the grandiosity of the ocean. She hooks her mind around a concept and teases out a storyline and creates curricula and experiences that amplify the message. Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary is an ocean resource worth protecting for generations.

Again Jennifer's former boss David Work. "It's not just an academic exercise, oh well, let's just take some facts and try to convey them to people. She's the kind of person that

really has the kind of internal passion when you've got that it makes it a lot easier to find those creative ways to get that across the people."

"Jennifer's a pro who is not afraid of taking on new challenges" And here is collaborator and friend Cleo Villet. "She does so many things just to get the word out, yay, I'm going to do this radio show just to see what happens. Here we are at a 100 episodes and she's still really enjoying it." Beyond her creativity Jennifer's ability to seek and build partnerships that contributed to her success she collaborates regularly with fishermen, scientists, communities and policymakers.

Here is Jennifer's boss and Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary Superintendent Dan Howard. "She's just very comfortable working in a partnership situation as part of a larger group working towards common goal." Jennifer's partnerships can last for years as is in the case of the Oakland Museum of California. Jennifer approached the museum with a small proposal while they were in the process of a lengthy renovation. By the time the work was complete she had scored space for and developed a permanent exhibit in a subterranean corner of the natural sciences floor.

Again Amy Bilstrom. "She's persistent, that is what it will take for us all to be successful in saving the ocean and to do it in a way that really respects where people are coming from." So, thank you Jennifer I know there are hundreds more people out there who appreciate you and your work. And if the ocean could it would say thanks to. But it will probably just oscillate, transfer energy and and wave (!) and that's an example of folks doing right by the ocean until next time I'll be searching for all things positively ocean. For Ocean Currents on KWMR radio, I'm Liz Fox.