

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



Photo: Chad King, NOAA

The rocky nearshore environment of Monterey Bay NMS is characterized by dense kelp forests.



Photo: Mike Baird, NOAA

Known as the “Serengeti of the Sea,” the sanctuary is an incredible place to view wildlife.



Photo: Chad King, NOAA

Monterey Bay NMS has one of the most diverse and abundant assemblages of marine mammals in the world.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) reaches along one quarter of the central California coast, from seven miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge to Cambria in the south. Covering 6,094 square miles of water, the sanctuary extends from the high tide line to as far as 53 miles offshore, and includes a separate, offshore seamount. Known as the “Serengeti of the Sea,” the sanctuary is home to 34 species of marine mammals, more than 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds, 525 species of fish, an abundance of invertebrates and algae, and 26 threatened or endangered species. The sanctuary’s seafloor also holds historic and cultural treasures.

Research and Monitoring

Research and monitoring programs in the sanctuary evaluate the status and health of marine species, habitats and ecosystems, provide critical information to resource managers, and coordinate activities with the array of world-class research institutions in the region. With more than 30 research institutions, the greater Monterey Bay community has emerged as a global leader in marine science. The information gained from the sanctuary research program is used to support ecosystem management decisions as well as education programs. Comprehensive, long-

term monitoring is a fundamental element of resource management and protection. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Research Program monitors ecosystem resources through SIMoN, the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network, a long-term program that takes an ecosystem approach to identify and understand changes in the sanctuary. It provides resource managers with the information needed for effective decision-making and integrates ongoing efforts at the regional marine research institutions.

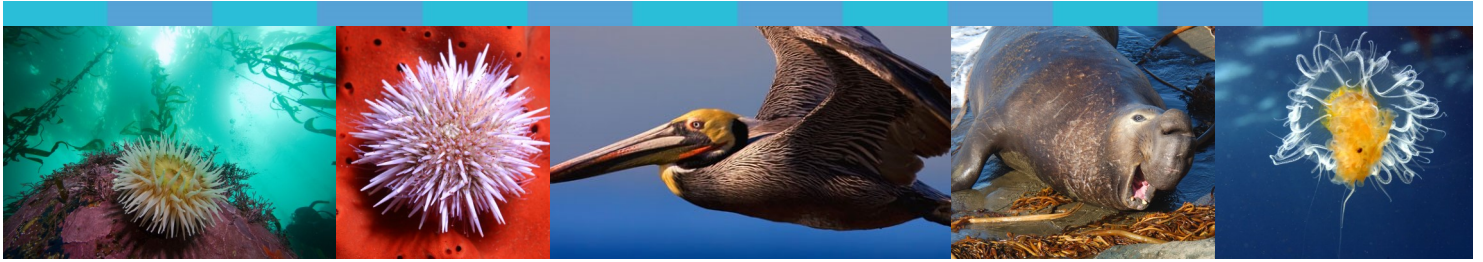
Education and Outreach

Education and outreach efforts help promote understanding, support, and participation in the protection and conservation of the sanctuary. A variety of means are used to enhance understanding and stewardship of this national treasure, ranging from sanctuary visitor centers and public events to volunteer and teacher education programs. The sanctuary is committed to promoting ocean literacy and conservation of MBNMS and the world’s ocean through its two interpretative centers, annual events and volunteer opportunities. Sanctuary programs are designed for educators and schools or for those interested in volunteering their time. Activities range from monitoring water quality and studying tide pools to interacting with sanctuary visitors.



Photo: NOAA

Visitor Centers like the Exploration Center in Santa Cruz showcase sanctuary resources and help visitors make the connection between their activities and the health of the ocean.



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SYSTEM

Location

Central California coast

Protected Area

6,094 square miles

Designation

September 1992

Habitats

Kelp forests
Pelagic, open ocean
Rocky shores
Sandy beaches
Seamounts
Submarine canyon
Wetlands

Key Species

Brown pelican
Giant kelp
Gray whale
Market squid
Rockfish
Sea otter

Olympic Coast

Greater Farallones

Cordell Bank

Papahānaumokuākea

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale

Monterey Bay

Channel Islands

American Samoa (U.S.)
(Including Rose Atoll)

Wisconsin - Lake Michigan

Thunder Bay

Stellwagen Bank

Mallows Bay - Potomac River

Monitor

Gray's Reef

Florida Keys

Flower Garden Banks



Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.

- National Marine Sanctuary
- Marine National Monument
- Proposed National Marine Sanctuary

Find Us

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On the Web

Email: Montereybay@noaa.gov
www.facebook.com/MBNMS
Twitter: @mbnms

Office of National Marine Sanctuaries

Network of marine protected areas
Encompasses more than 600,000 square miles
Established October 1972

On the Web

sanctuaries.noaa.gov
www.facebook.com/NOAAOfficeofNationalMarineSanctuaries
Instagram: @noaasanctuaries
Twitter: @sanctuaries
Tumblr: @noaasanctuaries



Photo: Steve Lonhart, NOAA

Exploring tide pools is a great way to see marine life without getting wet.



Photo: Kate Thompson, NOAA

The sanctuary offers exciting adventures, including kayaking, for everyone.



Photo: Mike Baird, NOAA

Southern sea otters spend hours grooming to keep their fur waterproof.

<http://montereybay.noaa.gov/>