

Monterey Bay



Habitats

Sandy beaches

Rocky shores

Kelp forests

Submarine canyon

Pelagic, open ocean

Wetlands

Key Species

Sea otter

Gray whale

Market squid

Brown Pelican

Rockfish

Giant kelp

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is the nation's

largest marine sanctuary, spanning over

5,300-square miles of coastal waters off

central California. Within its boundaries

are a rich array of habitats, from rugged

rocky shores and lush kelp forests to one

of the deepest underwater canyons in

North America. These habitats abound

with life, from tiny plants to huge blue

whales. With its great diversity of habitats

and life, the sanctuary is a national focus

for marine research and education

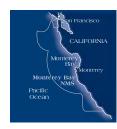
Research Activities

The sanctuary develops regional research priorities with 20 local marine science institutions and encourages research through numerous avenues, including funding specific projects. Research activities include monitoring coastal ecosystem change, evaluating the scientific component of resource management issues and disseminating scientific information through publications and symposia.



Sanctuary publications are comprised of natural history books, research and education directories, newsletters, brochures, posters, and videos. Interpretive exhibits and displays are circulated around the area. Public lectures and events, teacher training and curricula for students, internship and volunteer programs complete the range of sanctuary activities.





Location Central California coast

Protected Area 5,328-square miles

Designation September 1992

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Above: common dolphins (photo: Kip Evans); left to right: colorful tide pool; California sea lions; huge sea star surrounded by ea stars, urchins, and anemone







