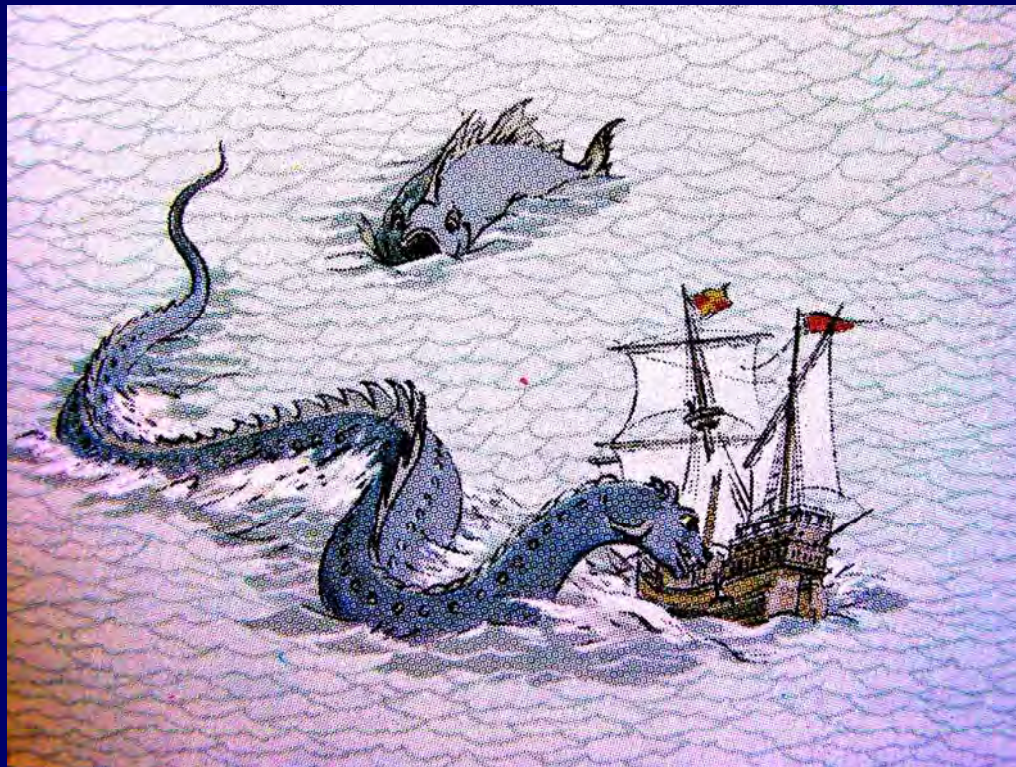


Getting Beyond the Fish: Suggestions for including Cultural Heritage Resources in California Marine Protected Areas



John W. Foster
State Underwater Archaeologist, California State Parks
MPA/FAC Meeting, Charleston SC
April 21, 2010

Status of Designated MPAs in California

- 72 listed among charter MPAs (April 2009)
- established under the Marine Life Protection Act/ using designations approved by the State Fish and Game Commission
- excellent science-based process for dealing with the conservation of marine life and the commercial and sports take
- extensive public input and stakeholder meetings
- other MPAs established for the purpose of protecting water quality





Results to Date:

State Marine Reserve

State Marine Conservation Area

Area of Special Biological Significance

The main designations used to protect habitats, marine life and water quality

State Marine Park

not used

Existing system of UW Parks ARE NOT emerging as MPAs under the MLPA process as management entities. Cultural and Recreational sites are not being designated.

To add more diverse MPA designations - use the Marine Managed Area Improvement Act to add:

State Marine Cultural Preservation Area

State Marine Recreational Management Area

No affect on fishing regulations (commercial or sport). Can overlap other MPA designations. Classifications can be adopted by the State Parks and Recreation Commission.

A diver is seen from behind, swimming in clear blue water. The diver is wearing a mask and fins. The seabed is rocky and uneven. The lighting is bright, creating a high-contrast scene.

The Potential for Including Significant Cultural Heritage Resources in California MPAs is very High

Rich maritime history of California Indigenous peoples
Ancient California was colonized by sea

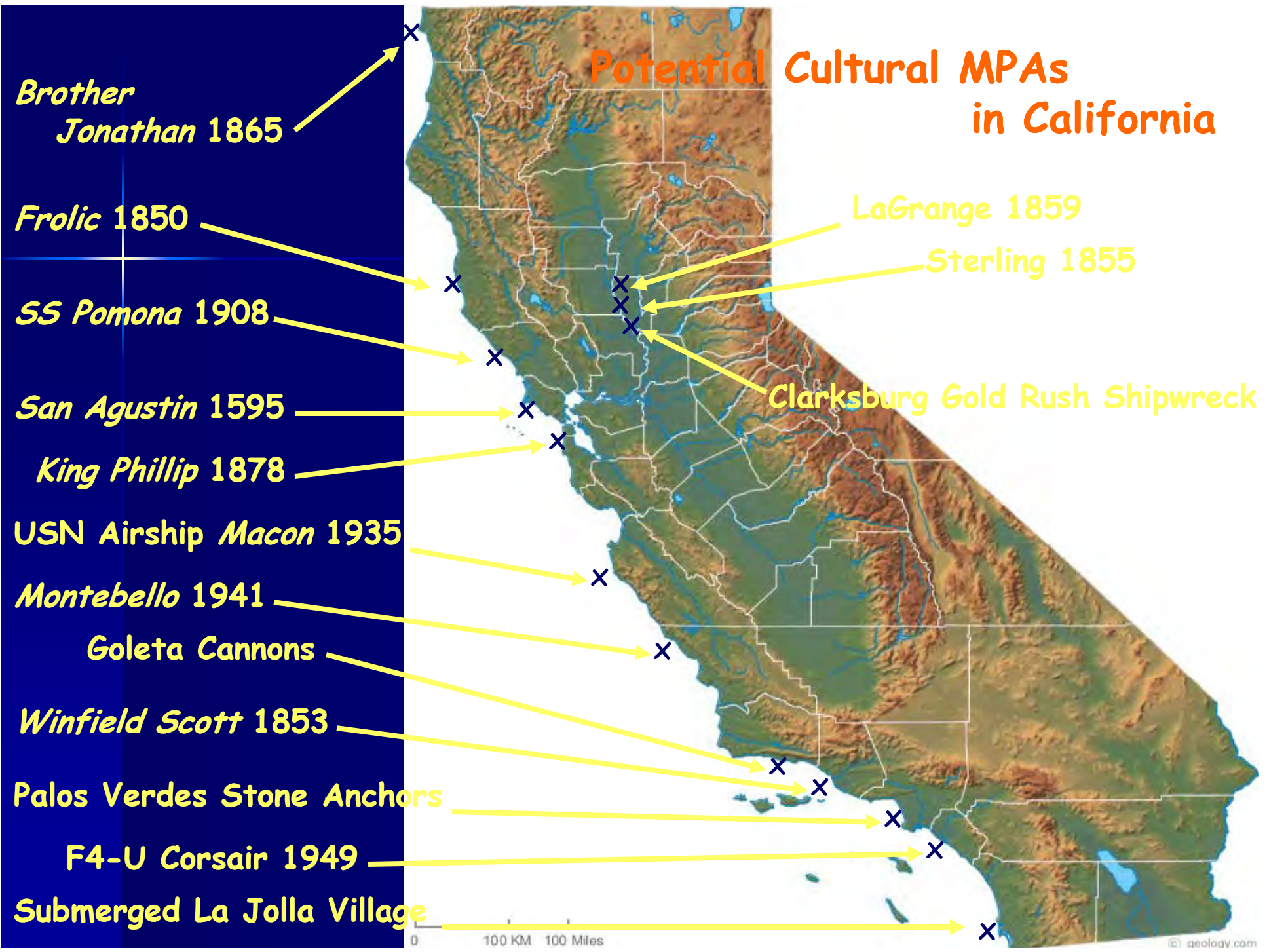
Maritime traditions are important to California Native people

Vast Pacific coastal terrace now a submerged cultural landscape
Submerged villages, resource procurement areas and ceremonial sites

15,000+ shipwrecks in the state database. Many sites are embedded in
MLPA designated areas

Sites representing significant themes in California and US history are well
documented. (ancient seafaring, European colonization, Mission history
Gold-Rush, maritime disasters, WWII, etc.)

Potential Cultural MPAs in California

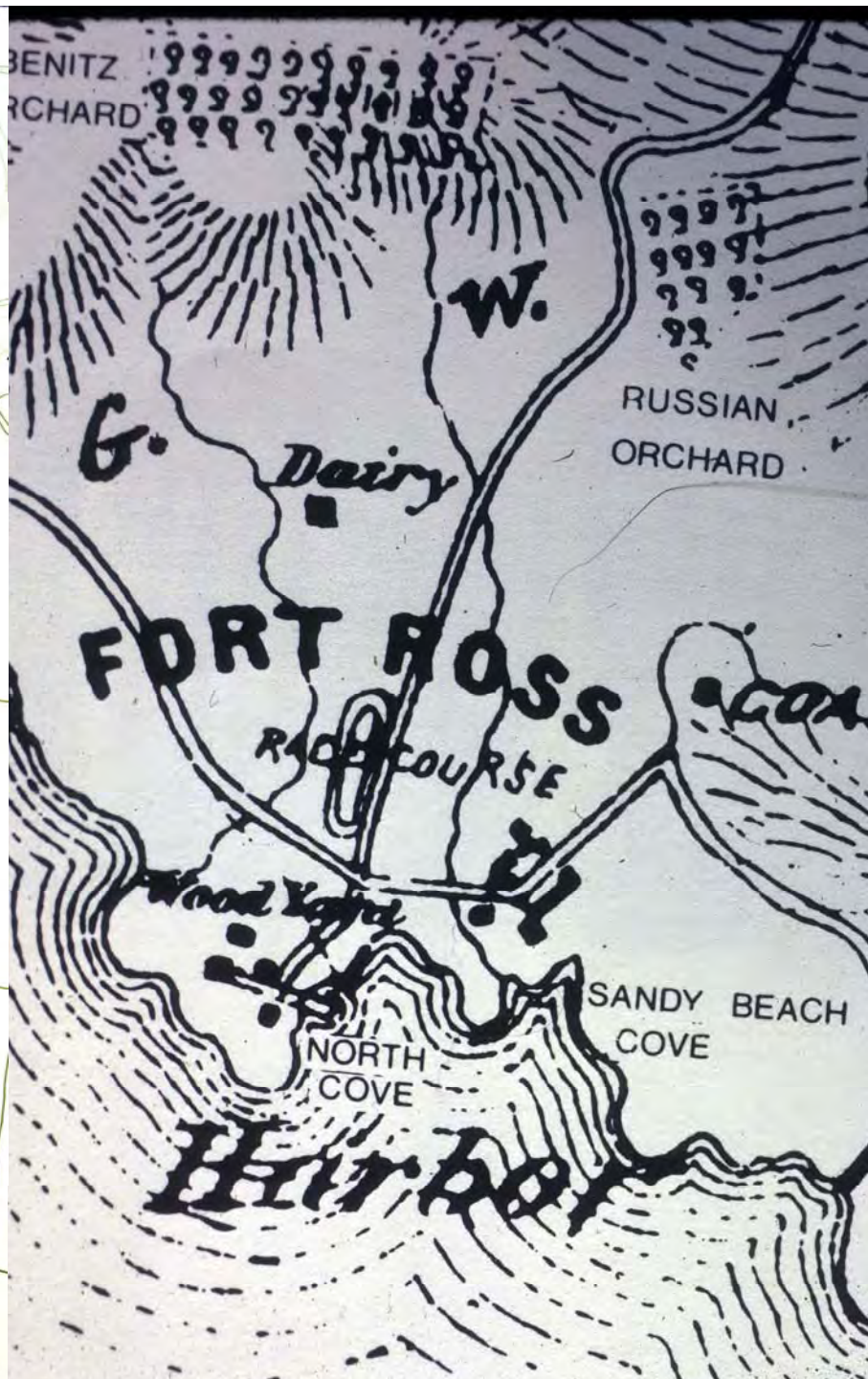


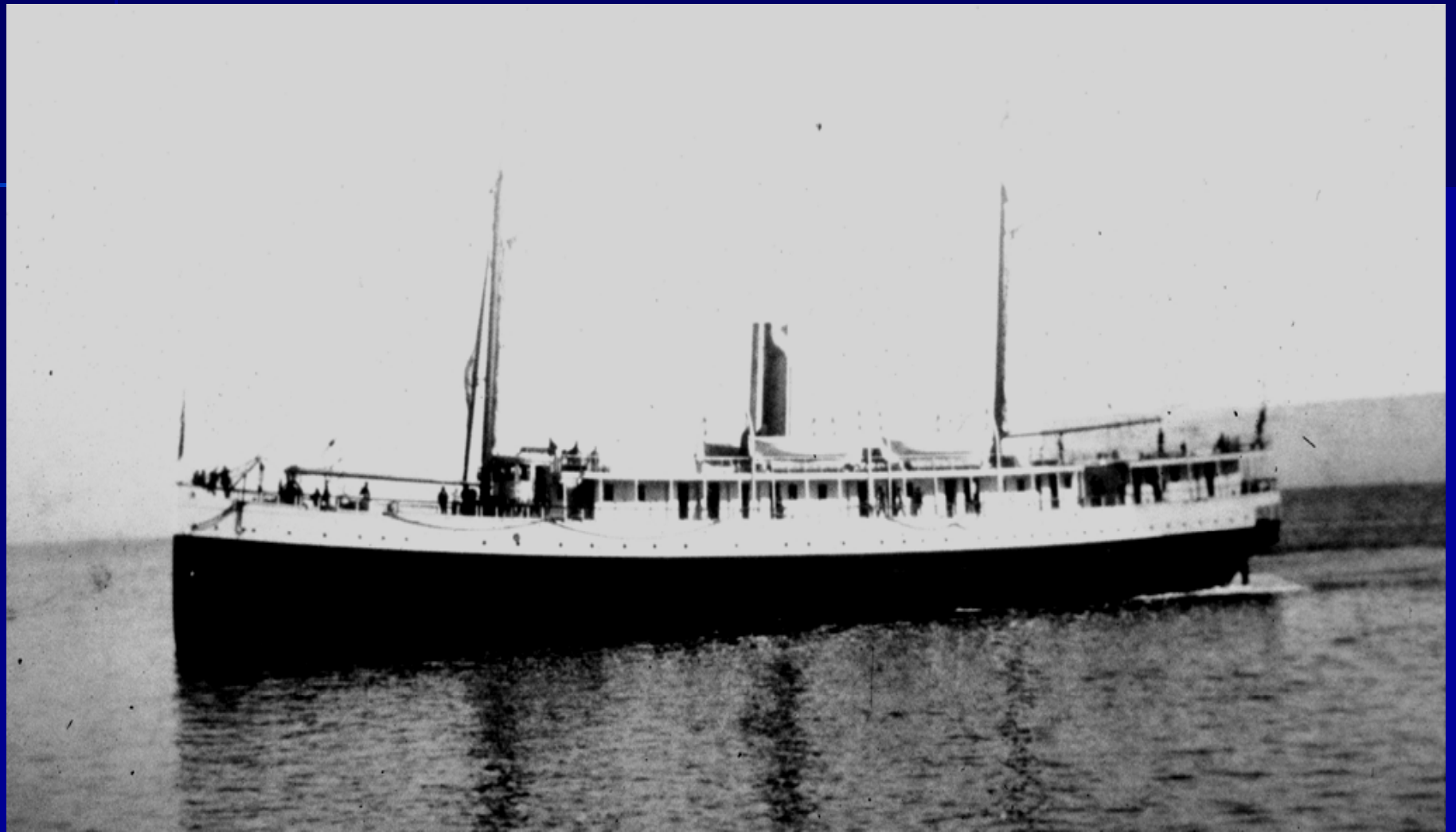
0 100 KM 100 Miles



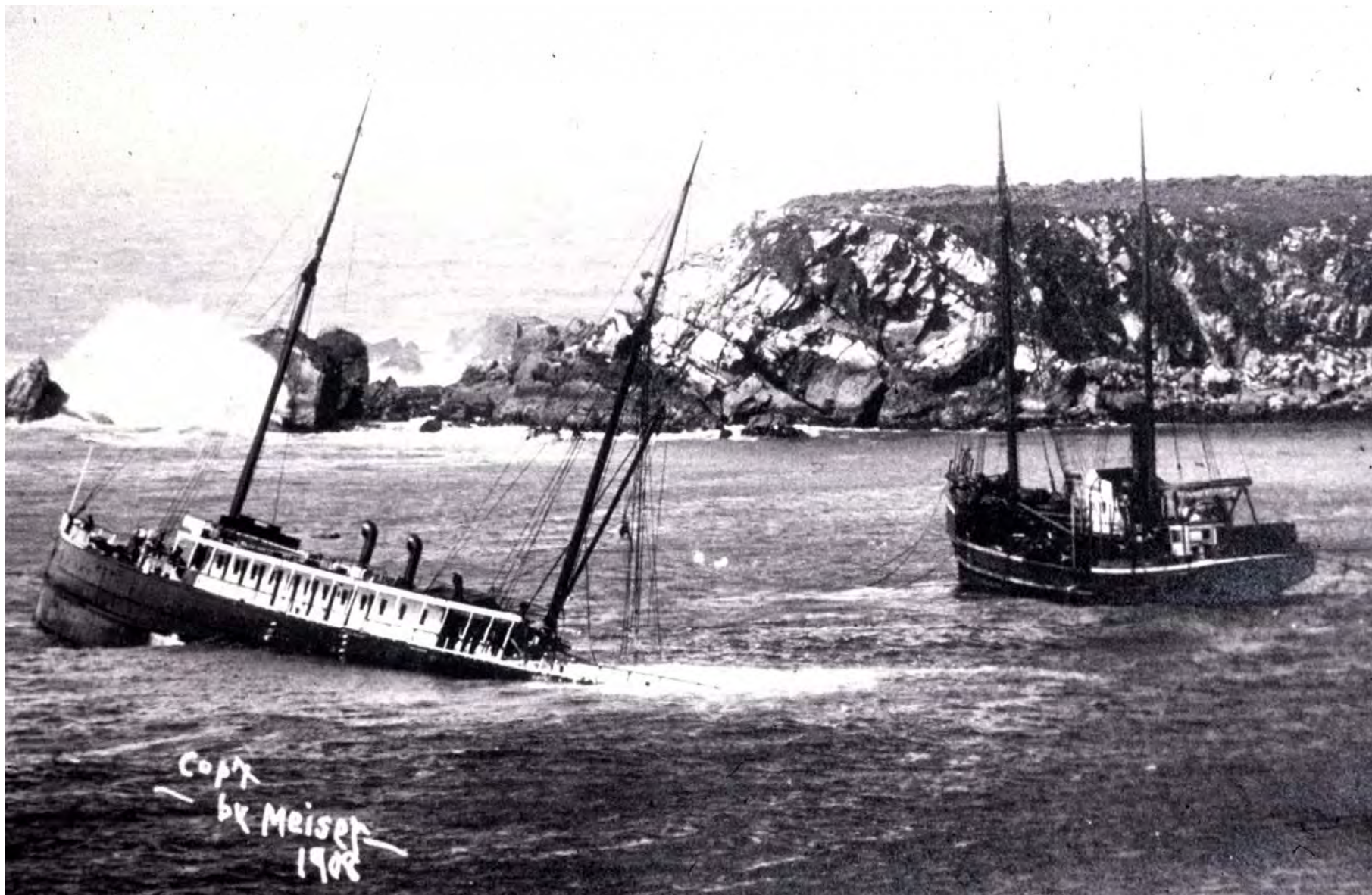


**Fort Ross State Historic Park
Russian Capital of California 1811-1841**





SS Pomona on her maiden voyage, 1888

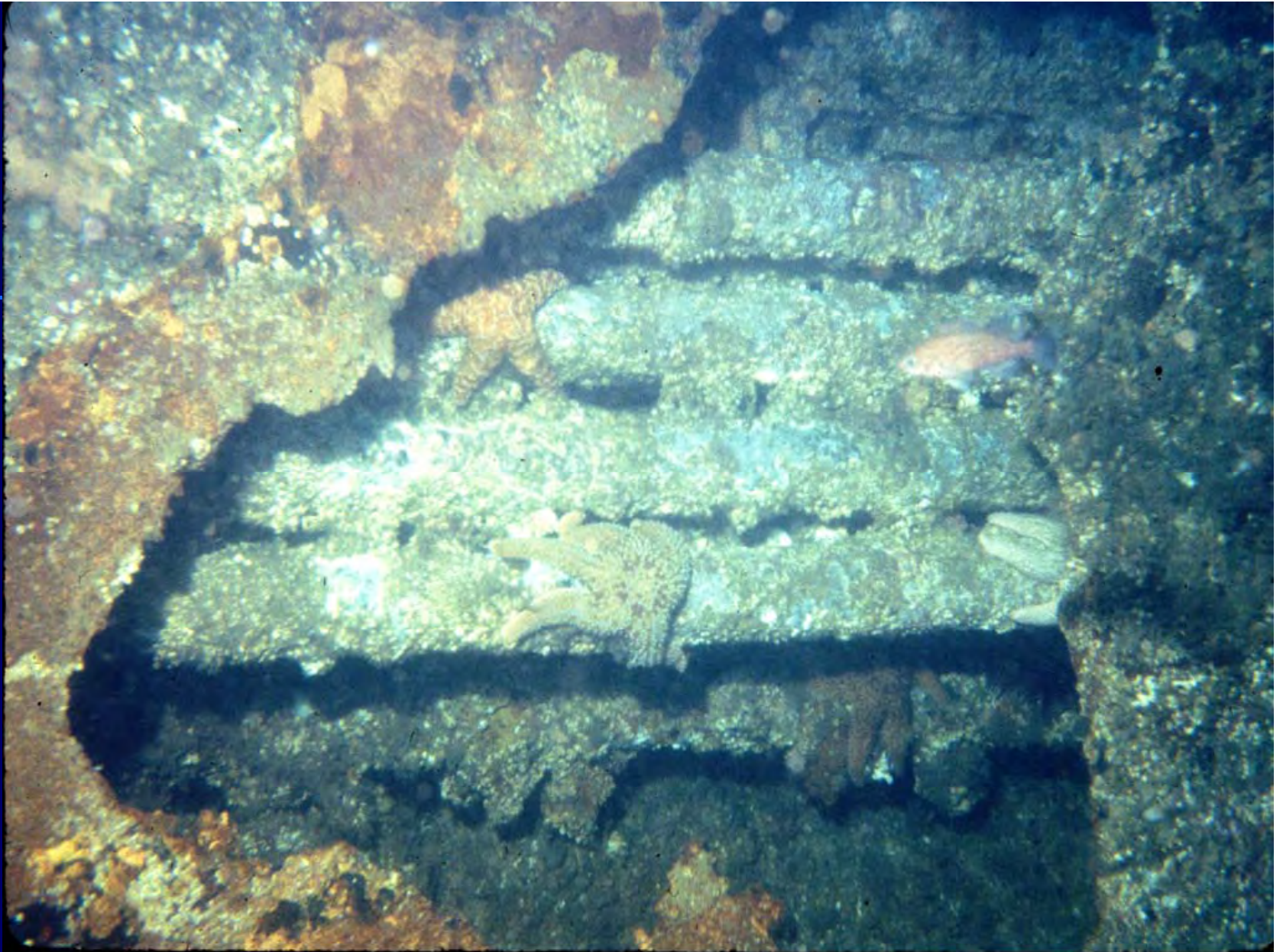


SS Pomona lost at Fort Ross, March 17, 1908

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places - March 17, 2008



SS Pomona has become a popular dive site



Steam tubes from the starboard boiler, *SS Pomona*

Union Oil Company tanker *Montebello*



Photo courtesy of the Vancouver Maritime Museum

Delta was used by NOAA to explore and document the *Montebello*

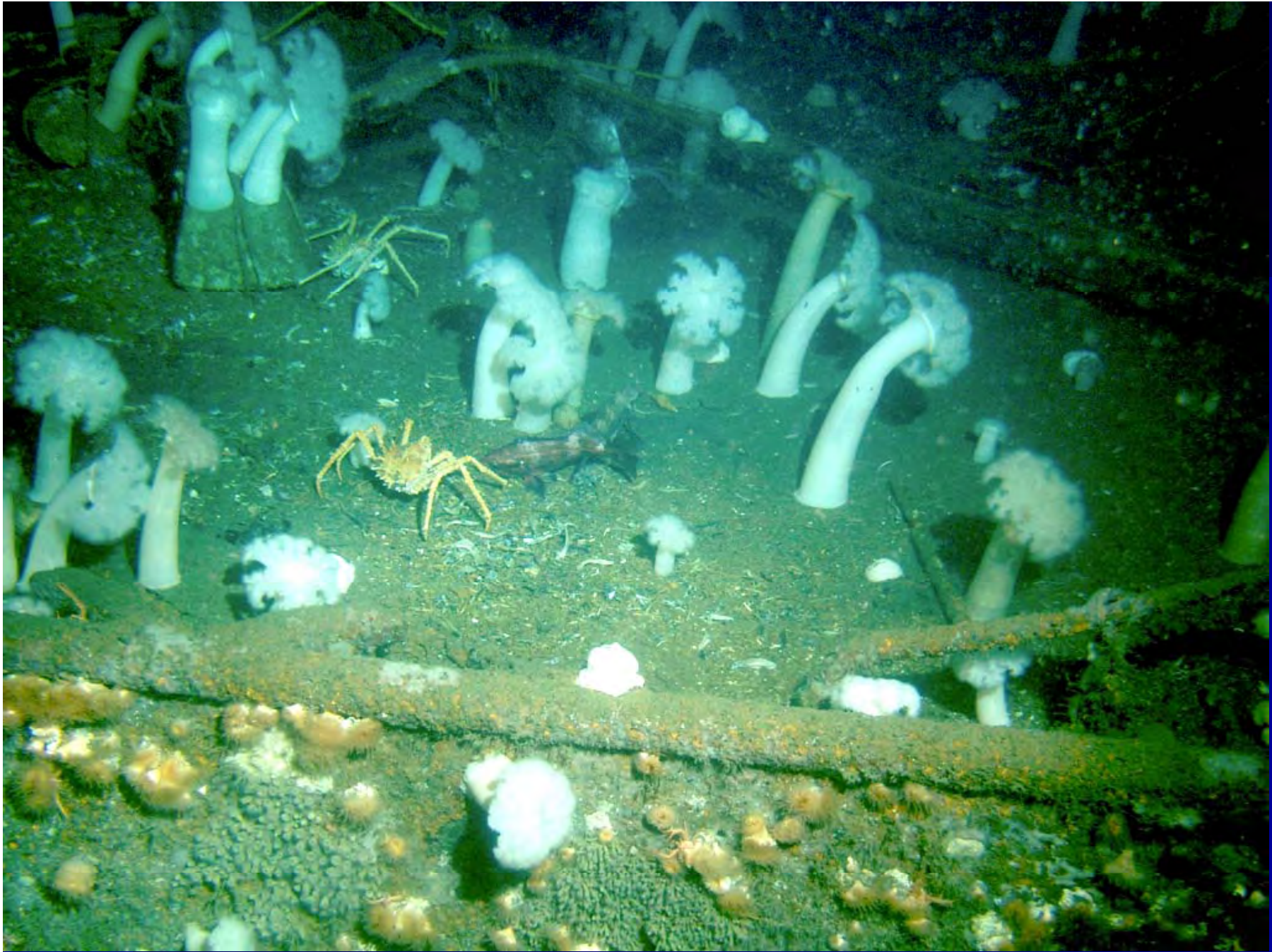


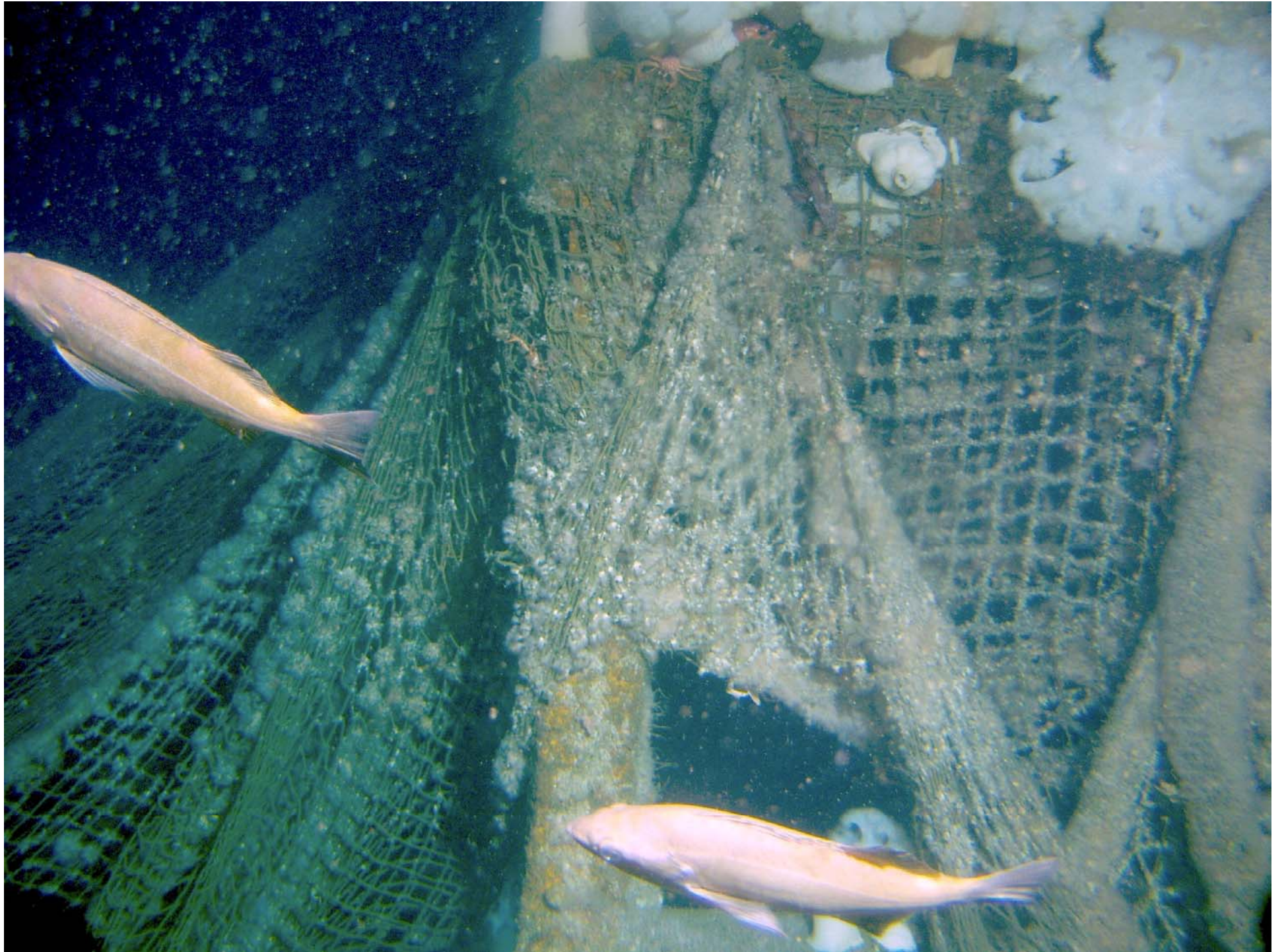
Montebello rests at upright on the bottom at a depth of 880 feet



fishing nets drape the *Montebello*







Benefits of Adding Cultural MPAs in California

- *Greater appreciation of significant heritage resources
- *Greater application of traditional knowledge and management techniques
- *Enhanced overall public support for the MPA concept
- *Improved management of shipwrecks can yield important habitat benefits

