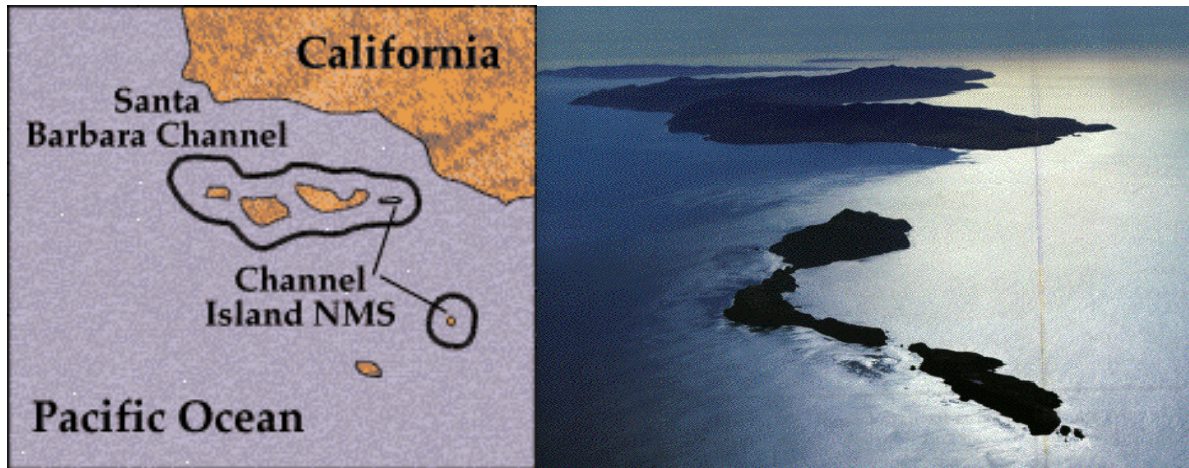


Channel Islands

(California)



Description:

The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary encompasses the waters surrounding San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa, and Santa Barbara Islands. A fertile combination of warm and cool currents results in a great variety of plants and animals, including: large nearshore forests of giant kelp, flourishing populations of fish and invertebrates, and abundant and diverse populations of cetaceans, pinnipeds, and marine birds.

Habitats and Key Species

Habitats

- Kelp forests
- Rocky shores
- Sandy beaches
- Seagrass meadows
- Pelagic, open ocean
- Deep rocky reefs

Key Species

California sea lion
Elephant & harbor seals
Blue & gray whales
Dolphins
Blue shark
Brown Pelican
Western Gull
Abalone
Garibaldi
Rockfish

Specifications

Location: About 25 miles off the coast of Santa Barbara, California

Protected Area: 1,658-square miles

Designation: September 1980

Education Activities

Interpretive exhibits, signage, and displays

Publications including newsletters, brochures, posters, and educational resource directory

Education programs and curriculum for teachers and students

Public programs, lectures, and events

Internship and volunteer programs

Research Activities

Support of oceanographic, seabird, marine mammal, kelp forest, and intertidal research by local, state, and federal agencies.

56-foot research vessel part of on-site assistance for regional research projects

Research bibliography with over 4,000 scientific references

Cosponsor of research symposia

Geographic information system database

Administration and Support

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