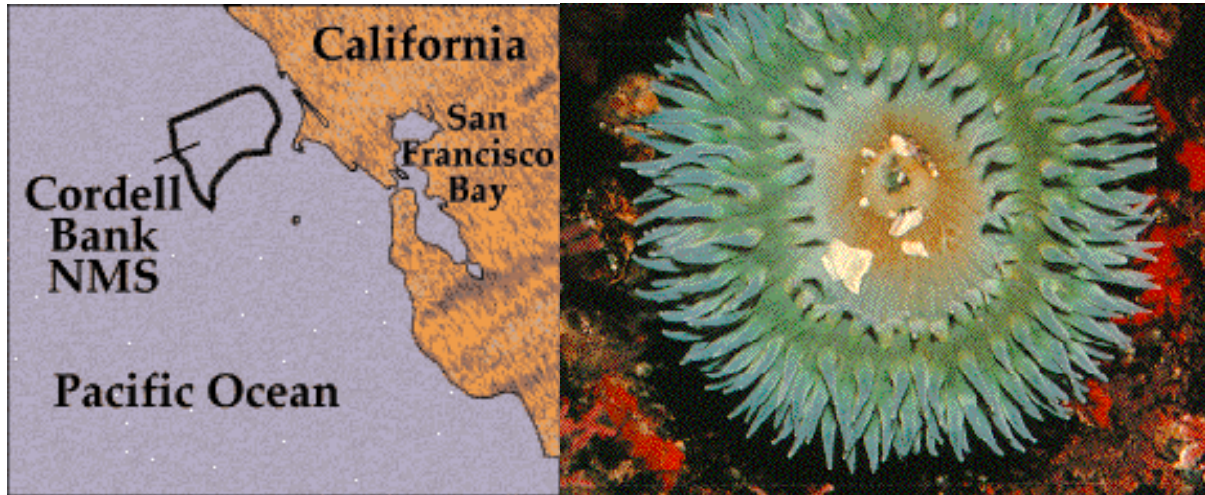


Cordell Bank

(California)



Description:

Cordell Bank is an offshore seamount where the combination of oceanic conditions and undersea topography creates a highly productive marine environment. The Bank rises to within 115 feet of the sea surface with water depths of 6,000 feet only a few miles away. The prevailing California Current flows southward along the coast and the upwelling of nutrient-rich, deep ocean waters stimulates the growth of organisms at all levels of the marine food web. It is a destination feeding ground for many mammals and seabirds.

Habitats and Key Species

Habitats

- Rocky subtidal
- Pelagic, open ocean
- Soft sediment continental shelf and slope
- Seamount

Key Species

Krill
Pacific salmon
Rockfish
Humpback whale
Blue whale
Dall's porpoise
Albatross
Shearwater

Specifications

Location: 60 miles northwest of San Francisco

Protected Area: 526-square miles

Designation: May 1989

Education Activities

Educational unit on deep ocean ecology and pelagic ecosystems

Interpretive boards located at viewing stations along the coast, and interactive exhibits at aquarium and university environmental education centers

Staff presentations

Teacher workshops and training

Research Activities

Pelagic surveys for seabirds and marine mammals

Sampling for state biotoxin monitoring program

Monitoring abundance and distribution of krill within sanctuary

Research on feeding ecology of minke whales

Administration and Support

Cordell Bank and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuaries are manager, assistant manager, and research coordinator

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