

Monterey Bay

(California)



Description:

Monterey Bay, the nation's largest marine sanctuary, spans 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 on the west coast. 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 programs.

Habitats and Key Species

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

Specifications

Location: Central California coast

Protected Area: 5,328-square miles

Designation: September 1992

Education Activities

Interpretive exhibits and displays

Publications including natural history books, research and education directories, newsletters, brochures, posters, and videos

Public programs, lectures and events

Educational programs and curricula for teachers and students

Internship and volunteer programs

Research Activities

Developing research priorities with 20 local marine science institutions

Encouraging research through numerous avenues, including funding specific projects

Monitoring coastal ecosystem change

Evaluating the scientific component of resource management issues

Disseminating scientific information research publications and symposia

Administration and Support

Staff focus on education, research, water quality protection and management issues

Guided by a 24-member sanctuary advisory council with research, education and conservation working groups

Cooperative partnerships and programs with local organizations and agencies

Supported by a non-profit foundation

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