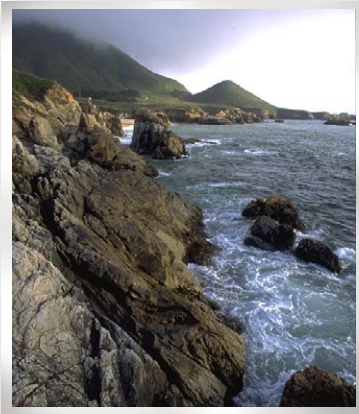
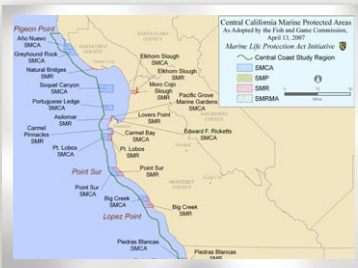


MONTEREY BAY

2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



The sanctuary and scenic coastline now have added protection with a new state marine reserve network. Photo: NOAA



This map lists state marine protected areas off California's central coast.



MERITO cartoon contest winners display their entries. Photo: NOAA

New Marine Reserve Network off California's Central Coast

After one of the most intensive public processes in ocean governance, 29 new marine protected areas, covering 204 square miles, went into effect in California state waters. This included nine no-take, state marine reserves within the sanctuary. Understanding the role the new and expanded MPAs will play in protecting the ecosystem is a high priority for the sanctuary. One of the high-priority habitats within these regions is kelp forests, which serve as nursery grounds for ecologically and economically important fish and invertebrates.

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Goes Green

The sanctuary's main office in Monterey was certified as a Green Business of Monterey County through the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program. As part of the process, offices were audited by county professionals in energy conservation, water conservation and recycling, and were found to meet Green Business Program environmental guidelines. The certification shows the sanctuary program is dedicated to making the workplace more environmentally friendly, and understands the benefits of saving energy, water, raw materials and money.

Ocean Observing Data Tool Aids Monitoring Programs

The OceanObs system, a Web-based tool designed by the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network, was used extensively in 2007 by regional ocean observing programs to inventory and track their activities in the central and Northern California region. Information hosted by OceanObs was used to help decide how ocean observatories can support monitoring initiatives focused on water quality and marine protected areas. The design of OceanObs is currently being used as a template for the development of an observing activity inventory for the entire United States.

Multicultural Programs Reach Out to Communities

The Monterey Bay sanctuary's Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans (MERITO) program has had a banner year. Its Afterschool Academy program has grown from a single site in 2003 to 28 sites, serving over 900 children, teachers and youth leaders. This effort to engage the area's Latino population — including adults and families — with meaningful long-term ocean and marine conservation programming has been highly successful. This success in engaging this important constituency was reflected in the 400 written comments received in Spanish received on the Monterey Bay management plan.

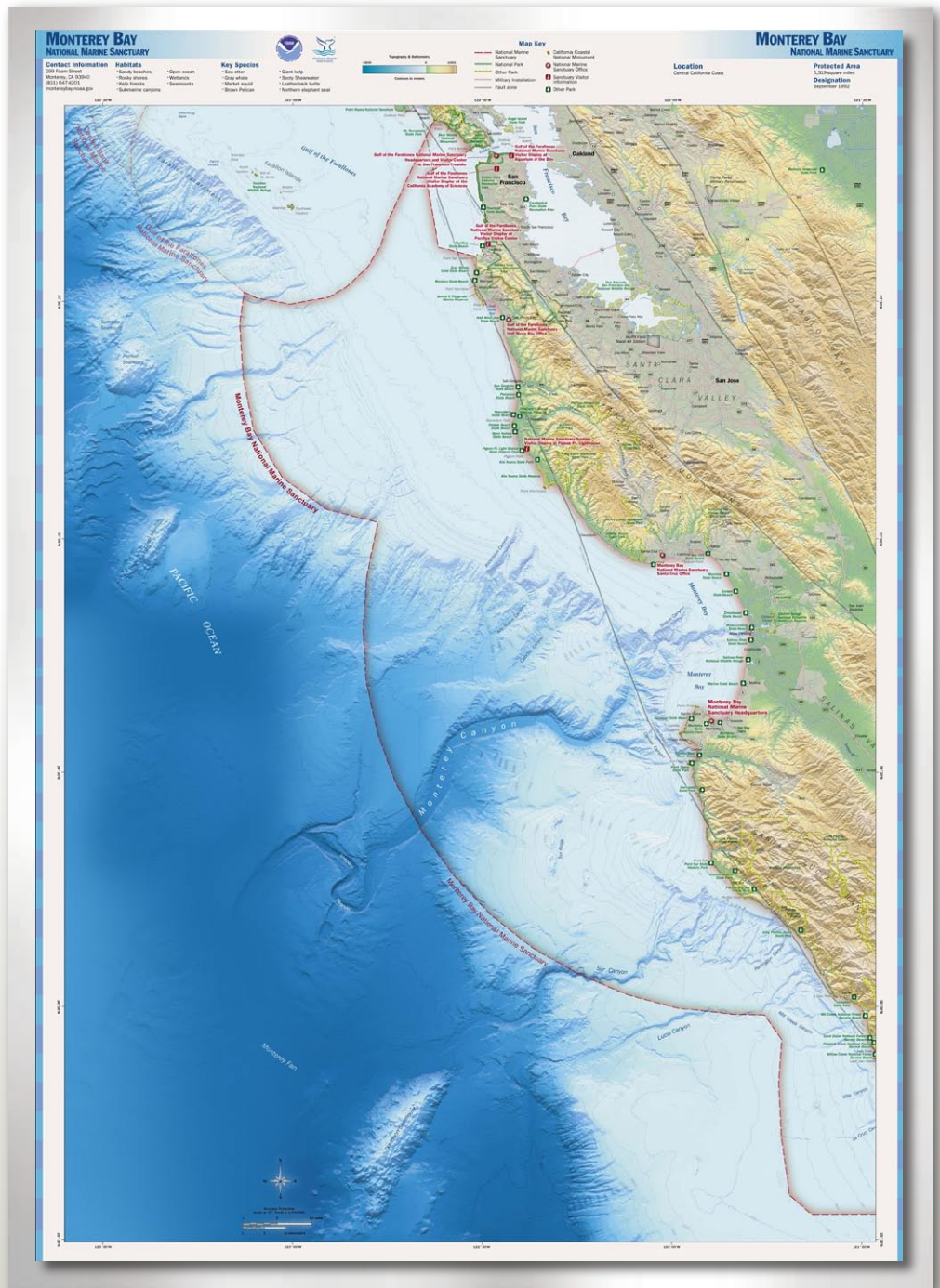
<http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Sanctuary Celebrates 15 Years of Stewardship

In 2007, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary celebrated the 15-year anniversary of its designation on Sept. 18, 1992. Protection of this special marine area has increased over the years through a wide variety of programs, products and targeted outreach. Programs like the Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network, Water Quality Protection Program and the sanctuary's multicultural program have helped increase the protection and understanding of sanctuary resources and have engaged the local community to participate in stewardship of this special place.

R/V Fulmar Completes Busy First Year of Service

In August 2006, the new state-of-the-art vessel R/V *Fulmar* began operating research, education and emergency response missions in Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank national marine sanctuaries. During 2007 the ship successfully completed 151 days at sea, conducting a variety of missions including benthic habitat monitoring along remote Big Sur coastline, sea-bird and marine mammal observations, and oceanographic monitoring for the Cordell Bank Ocean Monitoring Program.



Sanctuary maps available at sanctuaries.noaa.gov

*To learn more about these and other accomplishments,
visit sanctuaries.noaa.gov*

