

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary spans over 4,000 square nautical miles of shore and the surrounding continental shelf and is roughly equal in size to the state of Connecticut. A faultline extends from the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary near San Francisco, south past San Simeon in Central California and then the high sea floor in approximately 80 miles offshore.

The sanctuary's geology is characterized by a recently formed continental shelf and a continental slope cut by many canyons. The most dramatic of these is Monterey Canyon, beginning only 120 miles offshore from Miller Landing. The canyon extends about 45 nautical miles to the foot of the continental slope and reaches depths of 3,000 meters. It also runs into and across the wide and shallow Monterey Bay. The canyon walls are steep and a flight through the Grand Canyon. The canyon walls are steep and a flight through the Grand Canyon. The canyon walls are steep and a flight through the Grand Canyon.

The Monterey Bay region is situated on the Salinas Block, a major structural unit of the Earth's continental crust. Displaced southwest from the northern Sierra Nevada Mountain range some 20 miles east and by movement along the San Andreas Fault, across the area now lies among two major fault zones, the Pine-Cataraque San Geronimo and the Monterey Bay. The area experienced about 100,000 years of tectonic activity and the Monterey Bay region is a tectonically active area.

The variety of habitats found within the sanctuary's diverse continental shelf, slope, and deep-sea regions, including Monterey Bay, the Monterey Peninsula, and the Gulf of the Farallones, are among the most diverse in the United States. The Monterey Bay region has long been recognized as one of the most productive in the United States. Our country's first marine conservation area, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, was established in 1989.

Monterey Canyon
Recent NOAA satellite imagery revealed the bathymetry of the canyon floor facilitates the gathering of cold bottom water from the ocean floor to the surface. A process known as upwelling, which is essential to the Monterey Bay ecosystem, occurs in the Monterey Bay region. The Monterey Bay region is a tectonically active area.

Sea Otter
The sea otter, Pacific white-sided dolphin and on occasion the blue whale join the blue whale in gathering the canyon's cold and nutrient-rich water. Although largely unexplored, the Monterey Bay region is a tectonically active area. The Monterey Bay region is a tectonically active area.

Monterey Bay
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Redwood Forest
The redwood forest is a large forest ecosystem of the coastal growing plant on both a ground up to 12 meters in the air and reaches heights of over 100 meters. The redwood forest is a large forest ecosystem of the coastal growing plant on both a ground up to 12 meters in the air and reaches heights of over 100 meters.

Seal
Seal is in only one of the hundreds of species that inhabit the Monterey Bay region. The Monterey Bay region is a tectonically active area.

Marine Mammal Zone
The sanctuary's marine mammal habitat can be seen from the shore. The Monterey Bay region is a tectonically active area.

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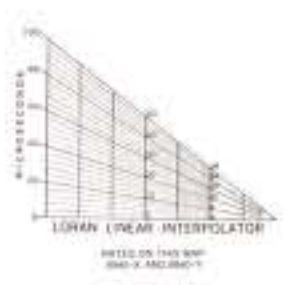
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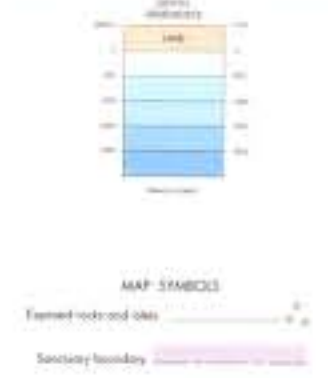
Marine Mammal Zone
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Map information including bathymetry was compiled by the National Ocean Service (NOS). Bathymetry was compiled from NOAA multibeam and conventional hydrographic survey data which comply with International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) Standard Publication 44 country standards or those used in lieu of the standard. As this map is not maintained through a regular update for revised and navigation information, this product is not intended for navigational purposes. For navigation safety, mariners must use recent charts.

United States Marine Protection and Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1201) (www.noaa.gov) - 1972
North American Datum 1983



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MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY BATHYMETRIC MAP MS-2

