



NATIONAL MARINE
SANCTUARIES™

FISHING-RELATED EDUCATION AND RESEARCH

Action Plan Summary

MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

THE ISSUE:

Fishing is a significant human activity within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) and it is important to ensure the sustainability of the sanctuary's fisheries. Educating the public about fishing, and facilitating collaboration among fishermen and scientists are important elements in creating or maintaining sustainable fisheries.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Commercial and recreational fishing have played a large role in the economic, historical, and cultural fabric of our central coast region. In Monterey Bay, humans have been harvesting marine life for over 7,500 years. Today about 1,200 commercial vessels fish in sanctuary waters each year and recreational fishing is an increasingly popular activity. More than 200 species of invertebrates and fishes have been harvested from sanctuary waters. Frequently caught commercial species include squid, sardine, rockfishes, sole, anchovy, salmon, mackerel, albacore, and sablefish. Commonly caught

recreational species include rockfishes, surfperches, greenlings, lingcod, flatfishes, salmon, and sculpin.

Four goals – **resource protection**, **research**, **education**, and **public use** – direct how the sanctuary is managed. Because fishing is a significant human activity within the sanctuary, it is important to ensure the public is informed about **fisheries** and issues related to fishing, such as **fisheries management**, **sustainability**, **ecosystem health**, and **fish population trends**.

OUR GOAL

The Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's (MBNMS) goal is to develop education and outreach programs to increase public understanding of fishing and the role of fisheries in the sanctuary. The sanctuary also wants to involve fishermen in research using their knowledge to inform or complement scientific information used in resource management and decision-making.



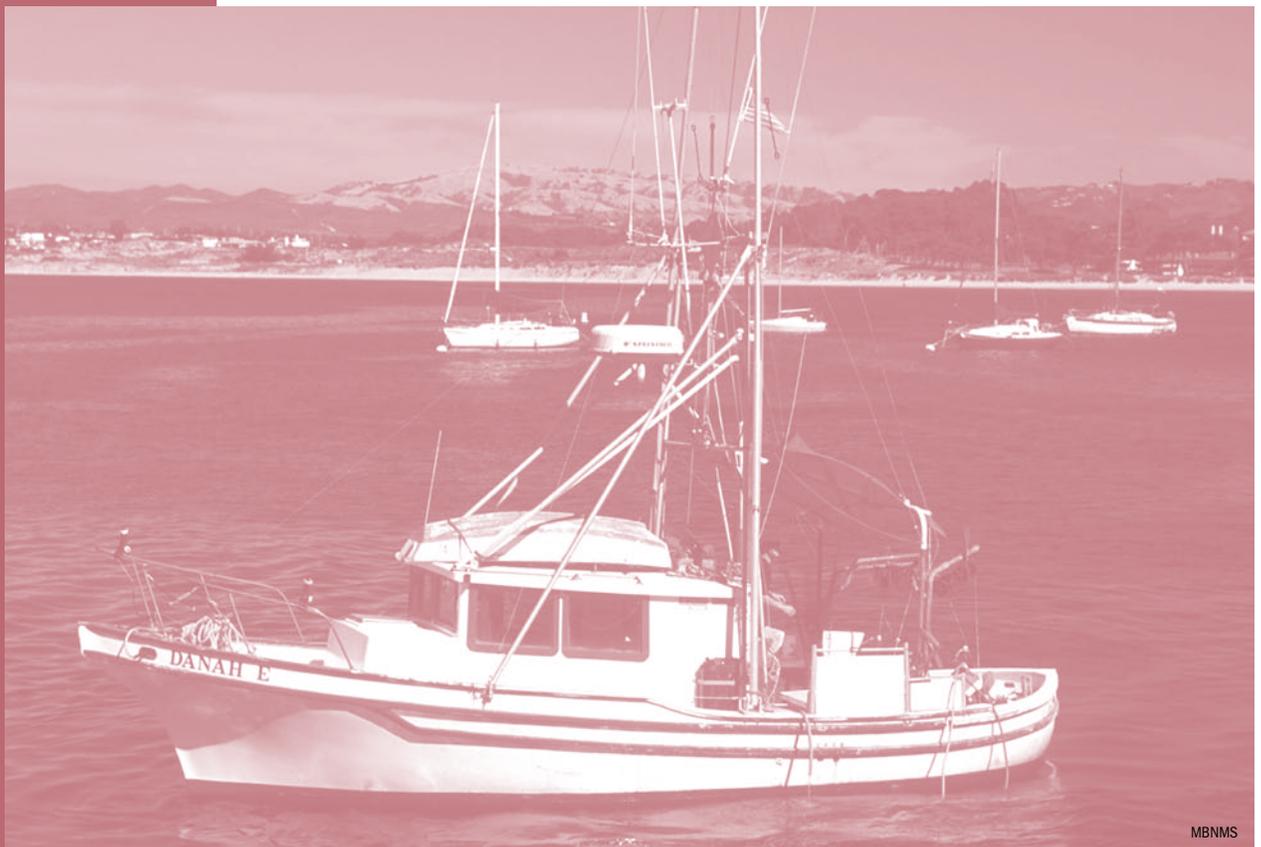
There has traditionally been a lack of fishermen involved in research activities related to understanding fish populations in the MBNMS.

Traditionally fishermen have not been involved in scientific research to understand fish populations in the sanctuary. Yet their local knowledge can inform or complement scientific information used for resource management and decision-making. Scientists and fishermen should communicate and work together to ensure the sustainability of the resource.

Education and research are critical to carrying our mission of protecting the natural and cultural resources of the sanctuary. Because fishing is a significant human use of the sanctuary, it is

important to inform the public about fisheries management and sustainability issues, as well as the importance of maintaining healthy fish populations and ecosystems.

Fishermen spend a great deal of time fishing in sanctuary waters, and possess a unique knowledge of the marine environment and fish populations. Our goal is to promote communication and collaboration between fishermen, scientists and resource managers.



THE SANCTUARY'S ACTION PLAN

The sanctuary's "Fishing-Related Education and Research Action Plan" was developed jointly with a variety of stakeholders and partners and includes the following components:

- Educating the public about fisheries management
- Enhancing communication between fishermen, resource managers, scientists, environmentalists, and the public
- Facilitating the development of sustainable fisheries
- Involving fishermen in the development of education and outreach programs
- Collecting and distributing information about the health and trends of fisheries and fish populations
- Collecting and distributing information about the socio-economic, cultural, and historical aspects of fishing
- Conducting outreach to increase public awareness about the links between ecosystem health and fisheries



For a complete listing of the sanctuary's "Fishing-Related Education and Research Action Plan" please visit http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/m_reptoad.html and scroll down the page.

GLOSSARY

Commercial fishing:

Catching fish to sell for economic gain.

Ecosystem:

The natural system in which energy and nutrients cycle between plants, animals and their environment.

Fish population:

The total number of fish in a particular species.

Fisheries management:

The effort to regulate where, when and how people fish, how many fish they catch, and protect fish populations so people can continue to fish. Most often done by government agencies such as the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service.

Fishery:

The organized harvest of a certain species of fish or shellfish for example "the Monterey Bay squid fishery" means all the squid caught in Monterey Bay.

Recreational Fishing:

Catching fish for sport or pleasure.

Resource protection:

The practice of protecting nature and/or cultural relics from loss or damage.

Species:

A particular type of plant, animal, or other organism. Species differ from one another in at least one characteristic, and generally do not interbreed.

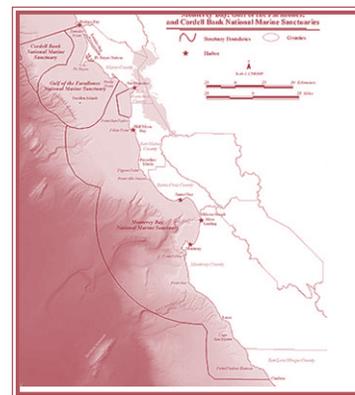
Sustainability:

Using natural resources without destroying the ecological balance of a particular area.

The Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR)

"Fishing Related Education and Research" is one of the action plans in the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Draft Management Plan. The MBNMS Draft Management Plan includes twenty-eight plans that, once finalized, will guide sanctuary management for the next five years. The plan is a revision of the original management plan, adopted with sanctuary designation in 1992, and is focused on how to best understand and protect the sanctuary's resources.

The National Marine Sanctuary Program (NMSP) is updating the management plans for the Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries a process known as the Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR).



How You Can Get Involved in the MBNMS Management Plan Process



MBNMS outreach activities.

The MBNMS welcomes your ideas about important resource management issues in the sanctuary. A Draft Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are scheduled for release to the public in 2006. Following their release, hearings will be held in several locations throughout the region to gather public comment. Written comments will be accepted as well. To find out about public hearings, or how to submit written comments, please visit our website at <http://www.sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan>.

Resources

California Department of Fish and Game <http://www.dfg.ca.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary <http://montereybay.noaa.gov>

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: Joint Management Plan Review
http://sanctuaries.nos.noaa.gov/jointplan/mb_incorp.html

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: Anadromous Fishes <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/sitechar/fish.html>

National Marine Fisheries Service <http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission <http://www.psmfc.org>

Sanctuary Integrated Monitoring Network (SIMoN) <http://www.mbnms-simon.org>

Trends in Fisheries and Fishery Resources Associated with the Monterey Bay

National Marine Sanctuary (2002) Richard M. Starr, Jason M. Cope and Lisa A. Kerr



THE MONTEREY BAY NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Stretching from Marin to Cambria, the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary encompasses 276 miles of shoreline and 5,322 square miles (4,625 nautical miles) of ocean, extending an average distance of 30 miles from shore. At its deepest point, the sanctuary reaches down 10,663 feet (more than two miles). The sanctuary was established for the purposes of resource protection, research, education, and public use. Its natural resources include one of our nation's largest kelp forests and one of North America's largest underwater canyons. It is home to one of the most diverse marine ecosystems in the world, including 33 marine mammal species, 94 seabird species, 345 fish species, and numerous invertebrates and plants. This remarkably productive marine environment is fringed by spectacular coastal scenery, including sandy beaches, rocky cliffs, rolling hills, and steep mountains.