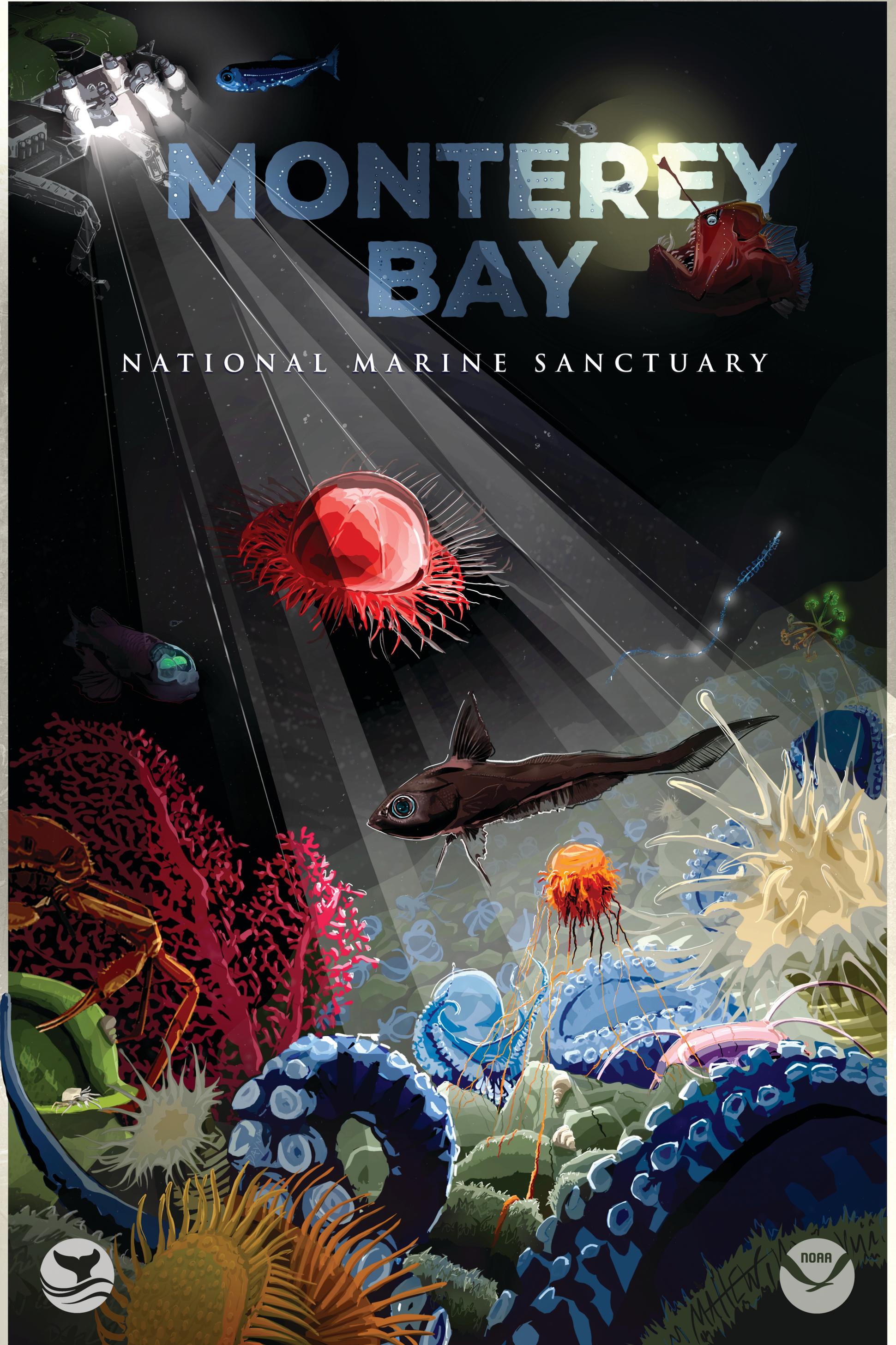


MONTEREY BAY

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY





Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary is located along 276 miles of California's coast, stretching from seven miles north of the Golden Gate Bridge south to Cambria. The 6,094 square miles of sanctuary waters contain extensive kelp forests, underwater canyons, and an underwater mountain teeming with life—Davidson Seamount. Known as the "Serengeti of the Sea," the sanctuary harbors incredible marine life, diverse habitats, and offer spectacular opportunities for diving, fishing, whale watching, and more. The sanctuary's seafloor contains a living museum with significant archaeological, historical, and cultural resources.

ABOUT THE ARTWORK

Davidson Seamount is an inactive underwater volcano located in the sanctuary. The undersea mountain is an impressive 7,480 feet tall, 26 miles long, and 8 miles wide, yet its summit still sits 4,100 feet below the ocean surface in complete darkness. Though without sunlight, this pristine seamount is an "oasis in the deep," hosting an abundance of deep-sea corals, vast sponge fields, deep-sea fishes, crustaceans, and jellies, many of which emit light and are new to science. In 2018, incredible octopus gardens were discovered, with thousands of females brooding their eggs on the flanks of the seamount.

LOCATION



QUICK FACTS

LOCATION

California central coast

PROTECTED AREA

6,094 square miles

DESIGNATION

September 1992

HABITATS

- Bays and estuaries
- Continental shelf and slope
- Deep-sea floor
- Kelp forests
- Open ocean
- Rocky and sandy shores
- Seamounts
- Submarine canyon

KEY SPECIES

- Deep-sea corals
- Giant kelp
- Gray whale
- Humpback whale
- Market squid
- Northern elephant seal
- Pacific harbor seal
- Pacific leatherback sea turtle
- Risso's dolphin
- Rockfish
- Southern sea otter



◀ **BLUE ROCKFISH** (*Sebastes mystinus*)
Kelp forest offer protection for schools of blue rockfish. Once plentiful, they were the most common rockfish marketed in San Francisco during the 19th century.



▶ **GRAY WHALE** (*Eschrichtius robustus*)
Gray whales pass through sanctuary waters twice a year on their trips between Alaska and Mexico. This migration is over 10,000 miles and one of the longest for mammals.



◀ **CALIFORNIA MARKET SQUID** (*Doryteuthis opalescens*)
Market squid is the largest commercial fishery in Monterey Bay, with the catch reaching thousands of tons per year.



▶ **SOUTHERN SEA OTTER** (*Enhydra lutris nereis*)
Finding refuge in kelp forests and sloughs, sea otters consume a quarter of their body weight daily by feeding on crabs, sea urchins, and mussels.



◀ **BRANDT'S CORMORANT** (*Urile penicillatus*)
These seabirds roost in colonies along the shoreline and dive for food offshore in the nutrient rich waters of the California Current.



▶ **NORTHERN ELEPHANT SEAL** (*Mirounga angustirostris*)
Nearly hunted to extinction in the late 1800s, this species rebounded due to international conservation efforts. Today, sanctuary beaches are home to the largest mainland rookeries (breeding areas) in the world.

BELOW

From beach entries to boat dives, there is no shortage of superb snorkeling and scuba diving sites that attract recreational enthusiasts from all over the world. Lured by the towering beauty of kelp forests, spectacular temperate rocky reefs, and unique Monterey shale beds, divers can be rewarded with a myriad of marine life in the nooks and crannies of this special underwater place.

AMERICA'S UNDERWATER TREASURES

NOAA's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries serves as the trustee for a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington state to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The network includes a system of 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments. For more information on the National Marine Sanctuary System, visit: sanctuaries.noaa.gov



● National Marine Sanctuary
▲ Marine National Monument
■ Proposed National Marine Sanctuary
Scale varies in this perspective. Adapted from National Geographic Maps.