



## Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Accomplishments

Fiscal Year 2022

Designated in 1992, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary protects windswept beaches, jewel-like tide pools, lush kelp forests, steep canyons and an offshore seamount teeming with life. Known as the "Serengeti of the Sea," the sanctuary is home to at least 36 species of marine mammals, more than 180 species of seabirds and shorebirds, 525 species of fish, and an abundance of invertebrates and algae. Off the coast of California, the sanctuary stretches 276 miles of shoreline and encompasses a total of 6,094 square miles. At its deepest point, the sanctuary reaches 12,743 feet (more than 2 miles).

Visit [montereybay.noaa.gov](https://montereybay.noaa.gov) for more information.

### Celebrating Anniversaries

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary's 30th anniversary was celebrated through multiple community engagements. In July, the sanctuary partnered with Shared Adventures for Day on the Beach, an ocean recreation event for people with disabilities. In September, the sanctuary hosted Sanctuary Fest that featured a partner exhibitor fair, kayaking, paddle boarding, science talks, and highlighted the National Marine Sanctuary System's 50th anniversary. Throughout the summer, a series of media stories were published in numerous magazines and local newspapers to increase awareness and recognition of Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary milestones in research, resource protection, and education since its designation 30 years ago.

### Increasing White Shark Detection Capabilities

In collaboration with local universities and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, sanctuary divers installed great white shark receivers on motorized personal watercraft buoys located near Santa Cruz, Moss Landing, and Monterey. These receivers have greatly improved our ability to detect tagged white sharks that visit Monterey Bay. Over the last year, 27 individual sharks have been detected. With juvenile white shark detections more numerous in the sanctuary recently, experts suspect the shark's migratory patterns are linked to warming ocean conditions.



Partners participate in Sanctuary Fest. Photo: NOAA



The white shark (*Carcharodon carcharias*) has become a more frequent visitor to the sanctuary. Photo: NOAA

## Increasing Access for Diverse Communities

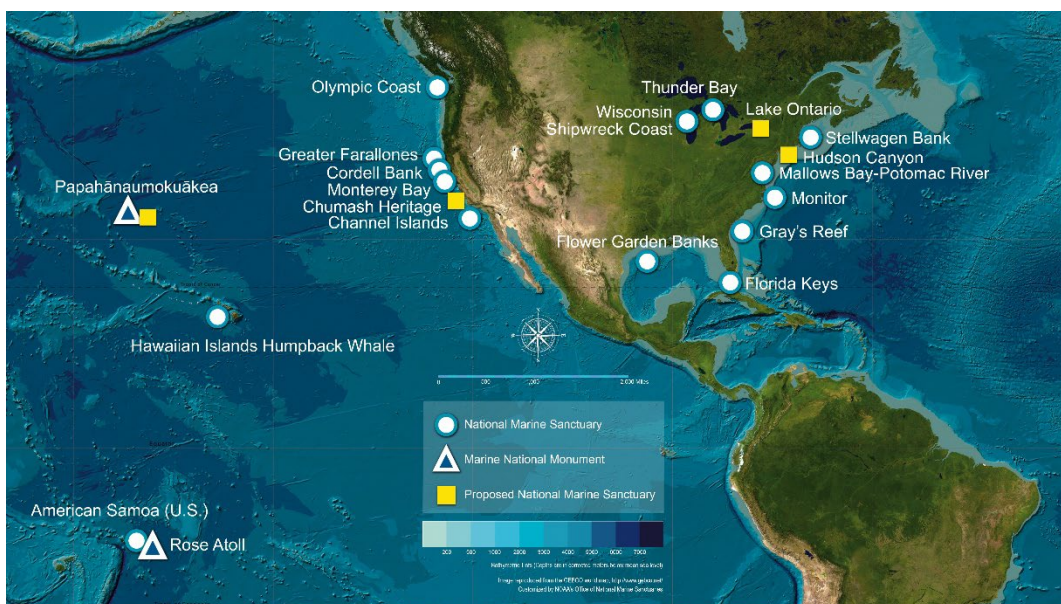
In partnership with the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation, Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary received a four-year Outdoor Equity Program Grant from California State Parks to help advance California's Outdoors for All Initiative. The project, "Connecting Watsonville to Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary," supports internships for bilingual college students and conducts bilingual programs for diverse K-12 grade students. Sanctuary staff are partnering with the City of Watsonville to offer family programs through the Watsonville Nature Center and host an annual "Dia de Comunidad" at the Sanctuary Exploration Center.



Students conducting water quality tests in the sanctuary. Photo: Alicia Telfer Photography

## Looking Ahead

- The sanctuary will be installing new interpretative signage in Santa Cruz, Monterey, Pacific Grove, and San Simeon for visitors to learn about local habitats and wildlife, cultural history, and how to responsibly enjoy and protect sanctuary resources.
- Staff and partners are seeking multi-year funding to support the development of new technology to recycle agricultural plastic mulch and reduce microplastics entering into sanctuary waters, as well as the removal of two sunken vessels and lost anchors and chains from 16 sanctuary buoys.
- The sanctuary's Research Activity Panel will provide feedback on proposed science projects to inform giant kelp restoration strategies that may be used by the sanctuary and partners in future years.



The National Marine Sanctuary System is a network of underwater parks encompassing more than 620,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters. The network includes a system of 15 national marine sanctuaries and Papahānaumokuākea and Rose Atoll marine national monuments.