



# Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

## Final Management Plan



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**NATIONAL  
MARINE  
SANCTUARIES**

Cover photos (left to right, top to bottom):

Northern elephant seal (*Mirounga angustirostris*). Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA

Horned Aeolid (*Hermisenda crassicornis*). Photo: Steve Lonhart/NOAA

Juvenile copper rockfish (*Sebastes caurinus*). Photo: Steve Lonhart/NOAA

Bixby Bridge and Big Sur coastline. Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA

California hydrocoral (*Stylaster californicus*) and purple sea urchin (*Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*).

Photo: Steve Lonhart/NOAA

Scouler's surf grass (*Phyllospadix scouleri*). Photo: Chad King/NOAA

Small rock with colorful creatures and giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*). Photo: Chad King/NOAA

In accordance with the National Marine Sanctuaries Act (NMSA; 16 U.S.C. §§ 1431 et seq.), the management plan for Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS) has been updated. The updated plan applies to the entire area encompassed by the sanctuary. The issue areas and programs addressed in this document were built with guidance from the general public, sanctuary staff, agency representatives, experts in the field, and the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

For readers wanting to learn more about the management plan, MBNMS policies and community-based management processes, we encourage you to visit the sanctuary's website at <https://montereybay.noaa.gov/>. Readers who do not have internet access may call the sanctuary office at (831) 647-4201 to request relevant documents or further information.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS) 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.

NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) is the parent organizational unit within NOAA for ONMS and is dedicated to exploring, understanding, conserving, and restoring the nation's coasts and oceans. NOS works to balance environmental protection with economic prosperity, promoting safe navigation, supporting coastal communities, sustaining coastal habitats, and mitigating coastal hazards.

NOAA, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

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