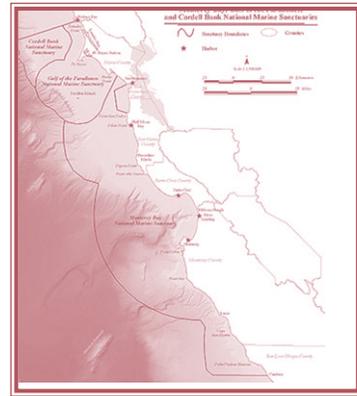


# The Joint Management Plan Review (JMPR)

"Multicultural Education for Resource Issues Threatening Oceans" (MERITO) is one of the action plans in the MBNMS 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

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>.



MERITO staff with students.

## 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 thirty 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.

## Resources

MERITO <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/merito/about-index.htm>

MERITO Program Report <http://montereybay.noaa.gov/educate/merito/resources-index.html>

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

