

National Marine Sanctuaries  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

# Ecosystem-based Management Initiative Update

Sanctuary Advisory Council

December 8, 2011



# Background



- 2000**
- Joint Management Plan Review
  - MPA planning process
  - Agency and stakeholder feedback
  - Changes in management seascape



**2009**

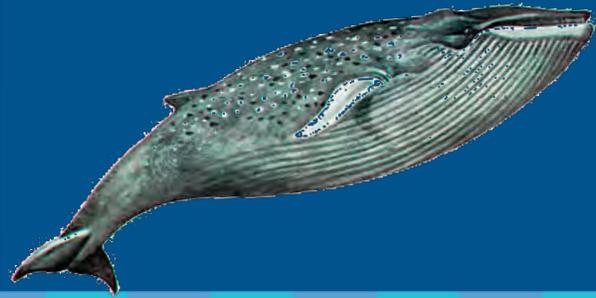
***Transition to EBM Initiative***



# EBM Initiative Goals



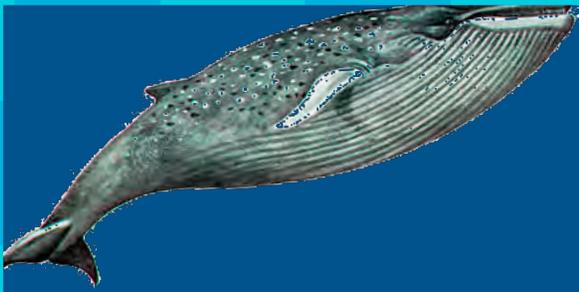
- 1) Maintain/restore marine ecosystem health and function;
- 2) Ensure protection of unique and rare features;
- 3) Facilitate research to differentiate between natural variation versus human impacts;
- 4) Facilitate ecologically and economically sustainable uses, including fisheries.



# Recent Activities



1. Publication of Research Workshop Report
2. Unique and Features Workshop  
(outline report in review)
3. Series of discussions with boating community
4. Engagement with Pacific Fisheries Management Council on research priorities



# Today



1. EBM – ecosystem components
2. EBM – partners and stakeholders
3. Opportunities – NMFS Integrated Ecosystem Assessment
4. Opportunities – Essential Fish Habitat Review
5. Advisory Council participation

# Ecosystem Components

1. The big pieces of the ecosystem puzzle
2. Benthic habitat
3. Key food web components – forage
4. Water quality
5. Birds and mammals



# Examples of external processes that influence the EBM Initiative

**PFMC:** Essential Fish Habitat Review

Fisheries Ecosystem Plan

**CDFG – OPC:** Marine Life Protection Act Review

**SWRCB:** Areas of Special Biological Significance

**USCG:** Port Access Route Study

# Partner and Stakeholder Opportunities

1. Research and Protection
2. Benthic habitat – EFH review
3. Forage – NMFS research and IEA
4. Water quality – Regional monitoring, ASBS
5. Birds and mammals – WCRO, NMFS, USCG





# Research Coordination with NMFS and PFMC



Ecosystem-based management (MBNMS) and  
Ecosystem-based fisheries management (NMFS)

- Specifying and aligning research questions
- Cooperating on data synthesis
- Ecological indicators
- Robust Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA)



# Focal research objectives for the EBM Initiative

- Long-term cooperative research sites (sentinel sites)
- Priority science questions which cannot be addressed given current spatial management
- Research to evaluate management options



