California Coast; USA

Underwater still photograph of a kelp forest in nearshore waters. The field of view in mid-range is approximately 10 meters.

General location map
CMECS Classification

Biogeographic Setting:
• Realm: Temperate Northern Pacific
• Province: Cold Temperate Northeast Pacific
• Ecoregion: Northern California

Aquatic Setting:
• System: Marine
• Subsystem: Nearshore
• Tidal Zone: Subtidal

Water Column Component:
• Water Column Layer: Marine Nearshore Upper Water Column
• Salinity Regime: Upper Euhaline Water
• Temperature Regime: Cold Water

Geoform Component:
• Tectonic Setting: Convergent Active Continental Margin
• Physiographic Setting: Bight
• Geoform Origin: Geologic
• Level 1 Geoform: Rock Outcrop
• Level 1 Geoform Type: Undifferentiated

Substrate Component:
• Substrate Origin: Geologic Substrate
• Substrate Class: Rock Substrate
• Substrate Subclass: Bedrock
• Substrate Group: N/A
• Substrate Subgroup: N/A

Biotic Component
• Biotic Setting: Benthic/Attached Biota
• Biotic Class: Aquatic Vegetation Bed
• Biotic Subclass: Benthic Macroalgae
• Biotic Group: Canopy-Forming Algal Bed
• Biotic Community: *Macrocystis* Communities