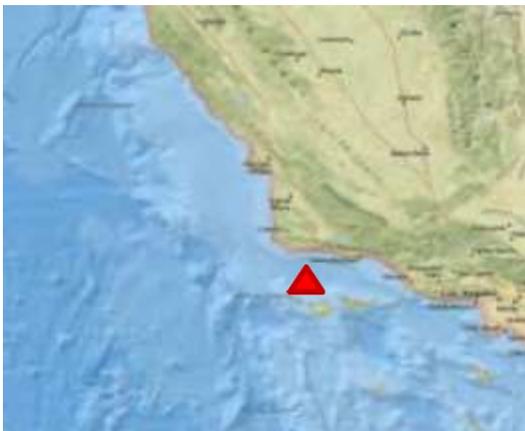


California Coast; USA



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