Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESAs)

Sanctuary Advisory Council Meeting
April 18, 2013

Outline

I. What are SESAs?
II. Why
III. Where
IV. How
V. Next steps
VI. EFH timeline & process
VII. SESA GIS online map

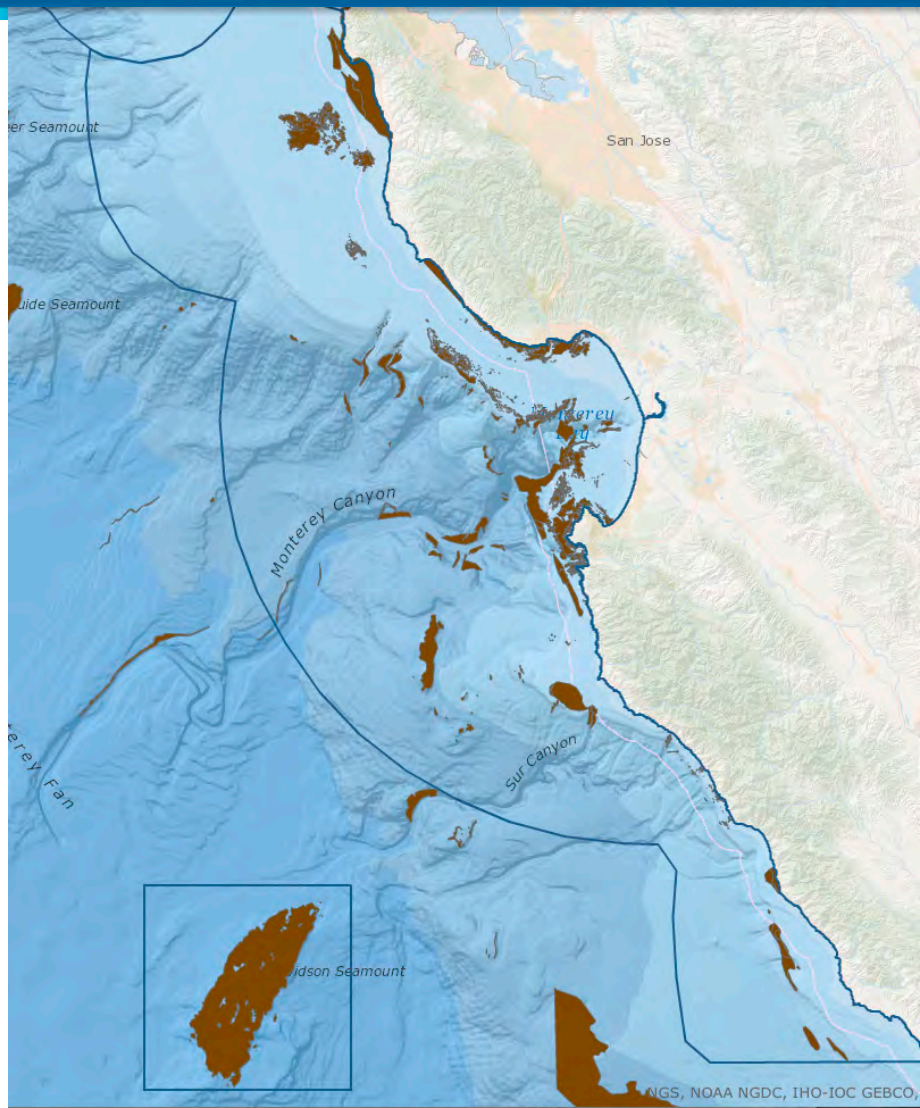
SAC Input and Discussion
April 18, 2013

I. What are Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas (SESAs)?

Definition

- **SESAs encompass remarkable, representative and/or sensitive marine habitats, communities and ecological processes.**

- **SESAs are focal areas for facilitating research to better understand natural and human-induced variation**



II. Why SESAs?

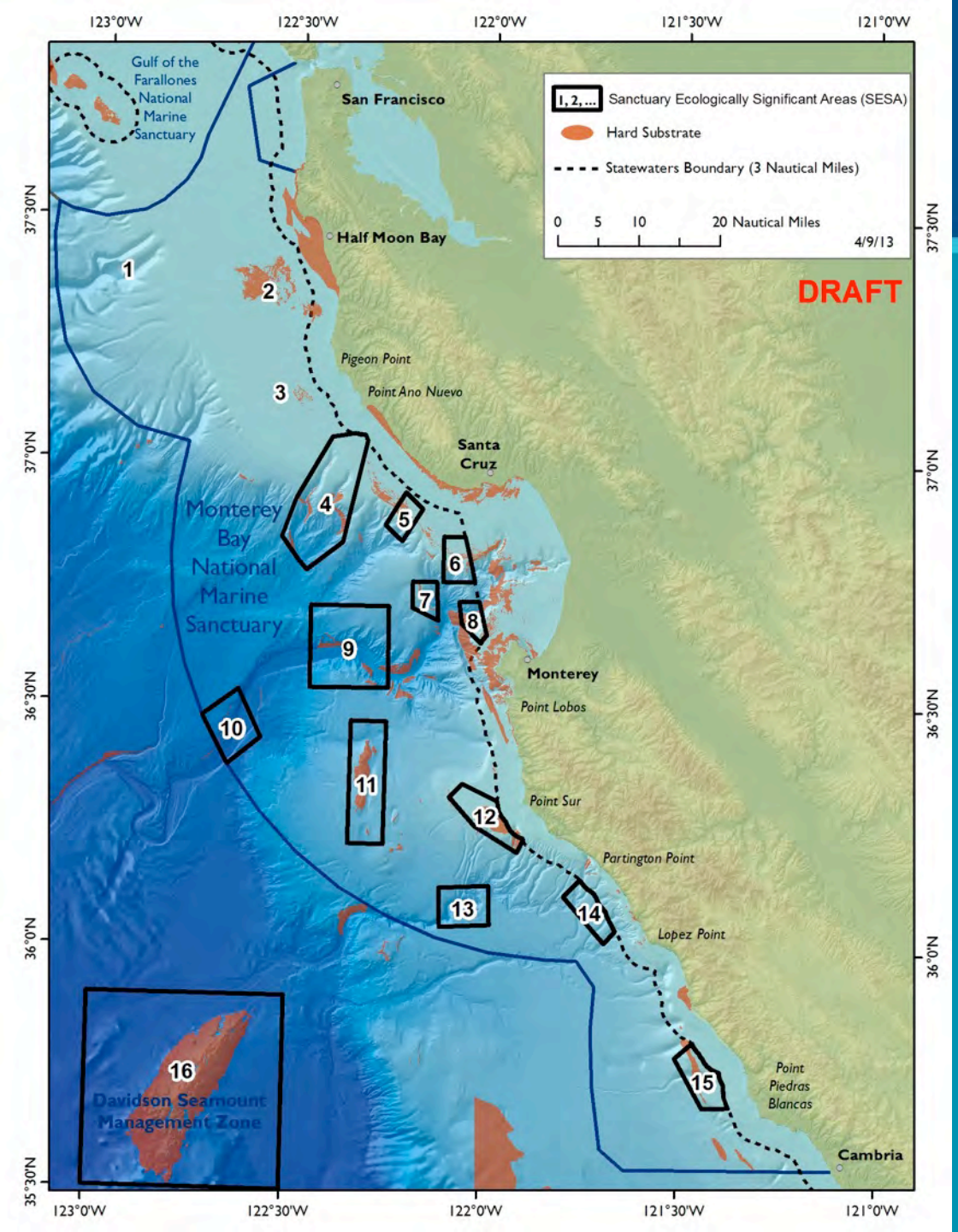
1) Understand the area under MBNMS jurisdiction

2) Evaluate high value habitat within a large region

3) Use adaptive management approach

4) Engage on resource policy processes

5) Enhance research & monitoring efforts



NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

NOAA

III. Where are SESAs?

IV. How we identified SESAs

- **Defined SESAs and objectives**
- Compiled best available information on resources in MBNMS
- Selected primary & secondary criteria; modified based on input
- Gathered local knowledge from stakeholders, scientists and partners on MBNMS resources
- Identified & mapped draft locations & circulated to stakeholders for input
- Launched public GIS on-line map

Selection of SESA Criteria

- Remarkable resources
- Representative habitats, communities and processes in MBNMS
- Sensitive resources
- Locations that are feasible for future scientific studies
- Locations that facilitate long-term monitoring

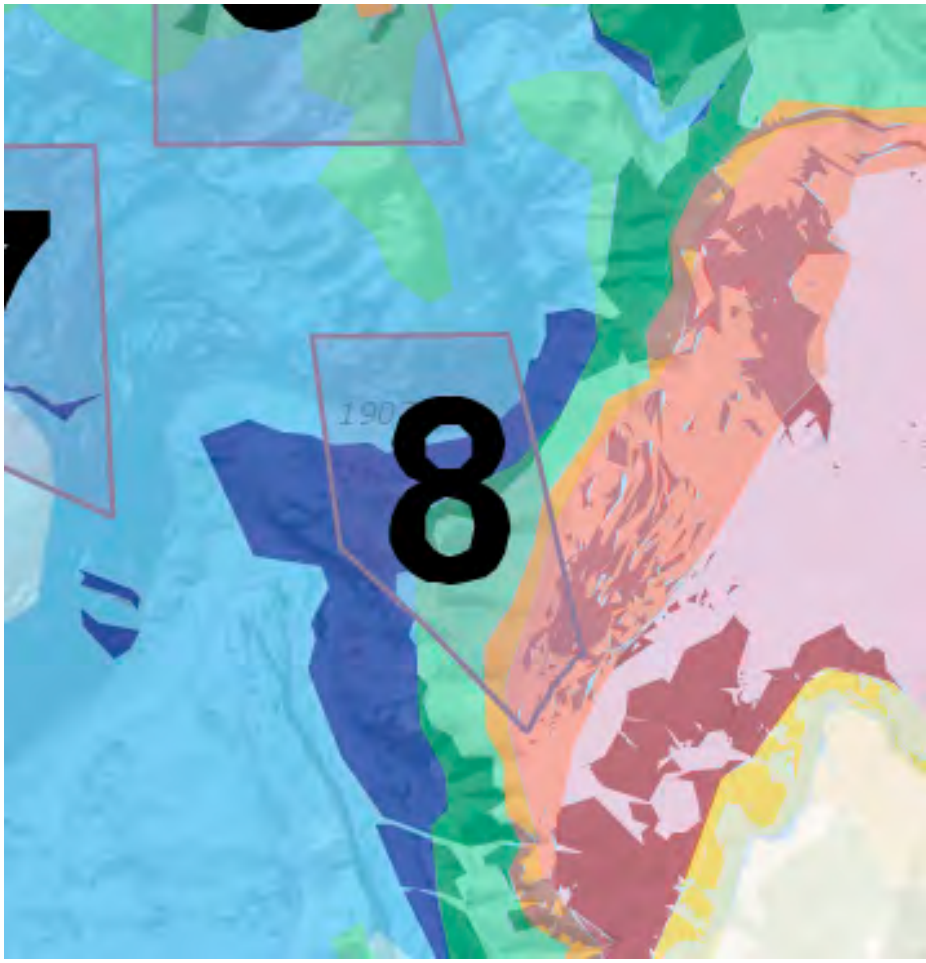
Primary Criteria

Focus on benthic resources or scientific research

- Benthic habitat heterogeneity
- Structure-forming invertebrates
- Benthic biodiversity
- Past research and monitoring

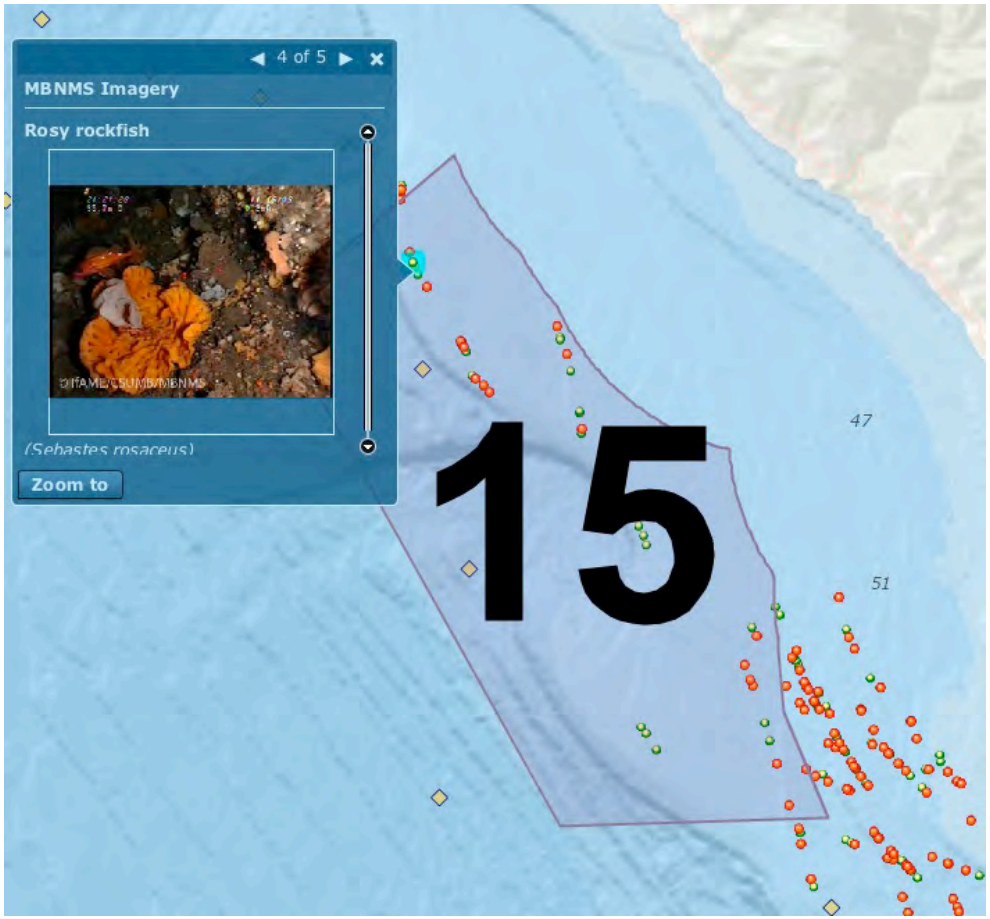
Primary Criteria

- **Benthic habitat heterogeneity**
  - Hard bottom
  - Large geologic features
    - (e.g. canyons, seamounts, ridges)
  - Primary benthic habitat types
    - (e.g. depth and substrate type)
  - Habitat richness and diversity
  - Steepness
- Structure-forming invertebrates
- Benthic biodiversity
- Research and monitoring



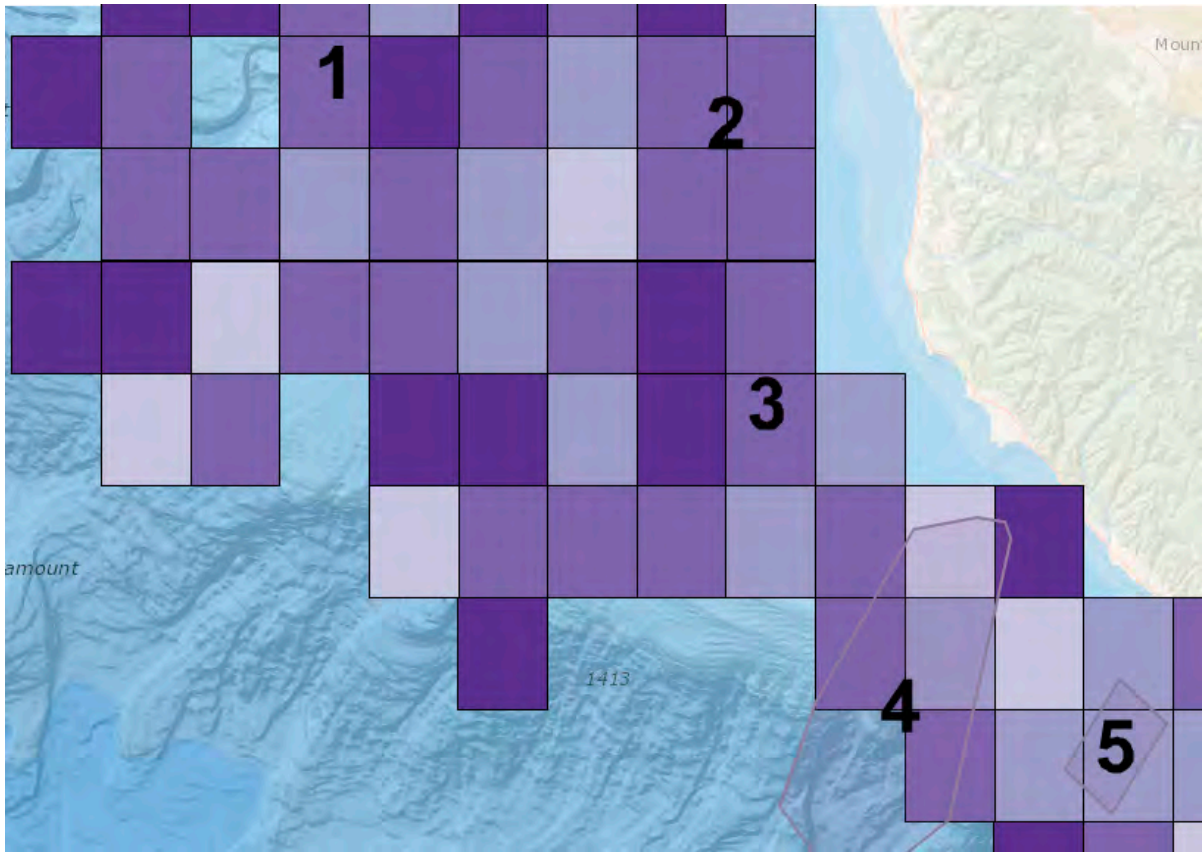
Primary Criteria

- Benthic habitat heterogeneity
- Structure-forming invertebrates
  - Corals and sponges
  - Chemosynthetic Biological Communities (aka cold seeps)
  - Other (e.g., crinoids, brachiopod beds)
- Benthic biodiversity
- Research and monitoring



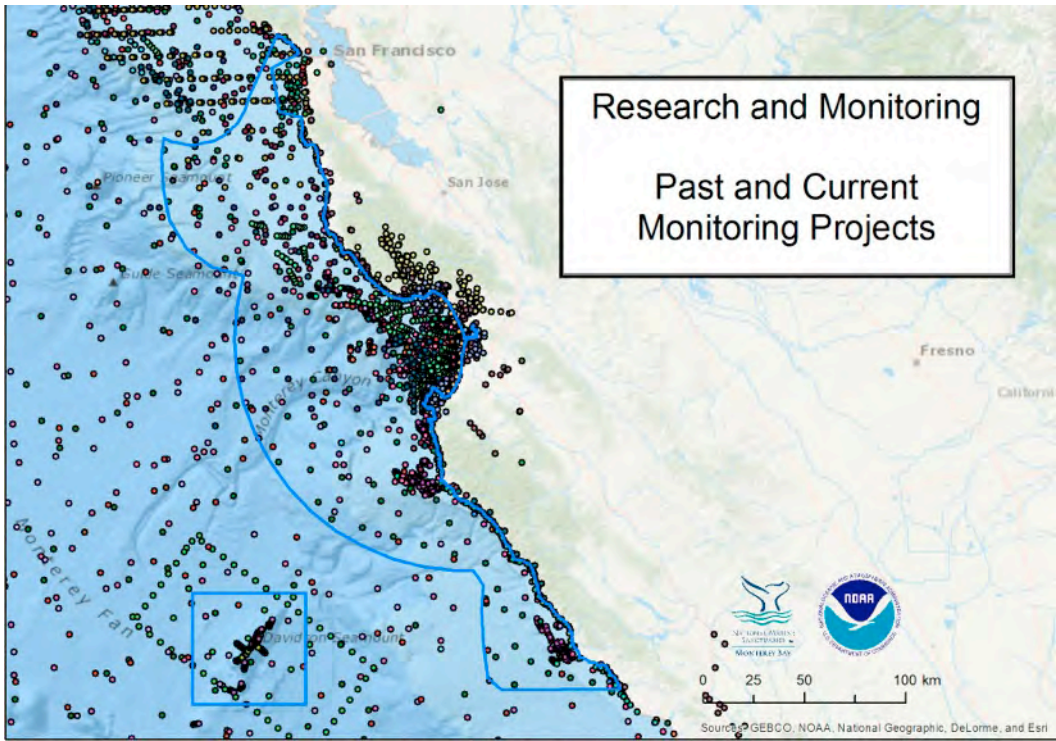
Primary Criteria

- Benthic habitat heterogeneity
- Structure-forming invertebrates
- Benthic biodiversity
  - Species richness
  - Species diversity
- Research and monitoring



Primary Criteria

- Benthic habitat heterogeneity
- Structure-forming invertebrates
- Benthic biodiversity
- **Research and Monitoring**
  - Imagery Available
  - Fixed Monitoring Station
  - Past Research
  - SIMoN Monitoring Projects



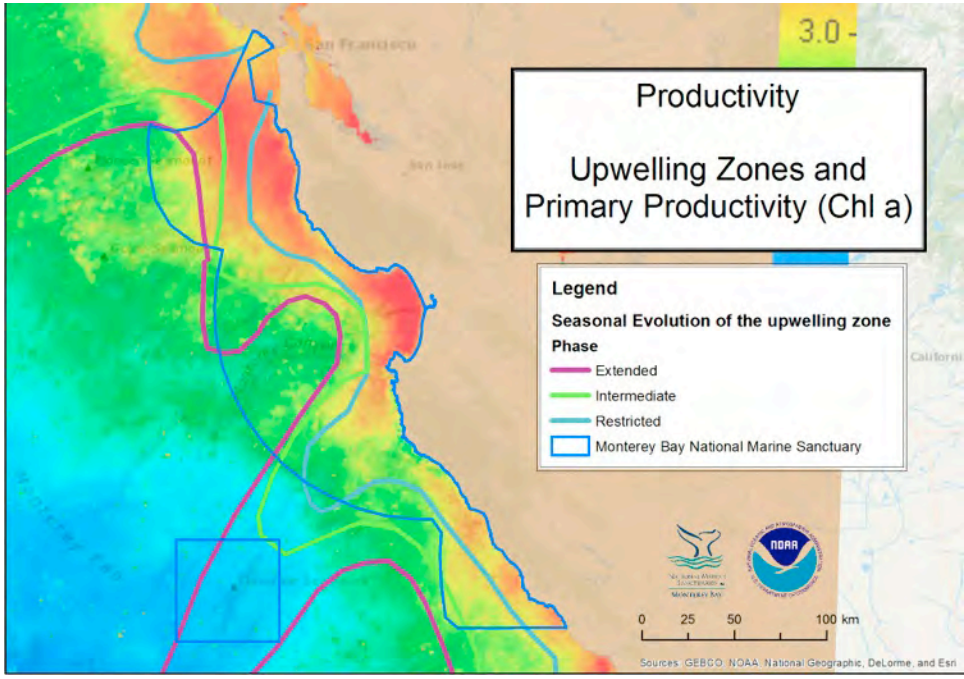
Secondary Criteria

Refine selection of SESAs:

- Primary Productivity and Hotspots
- Relevant Spatial Management
- Past Benthic Impacts

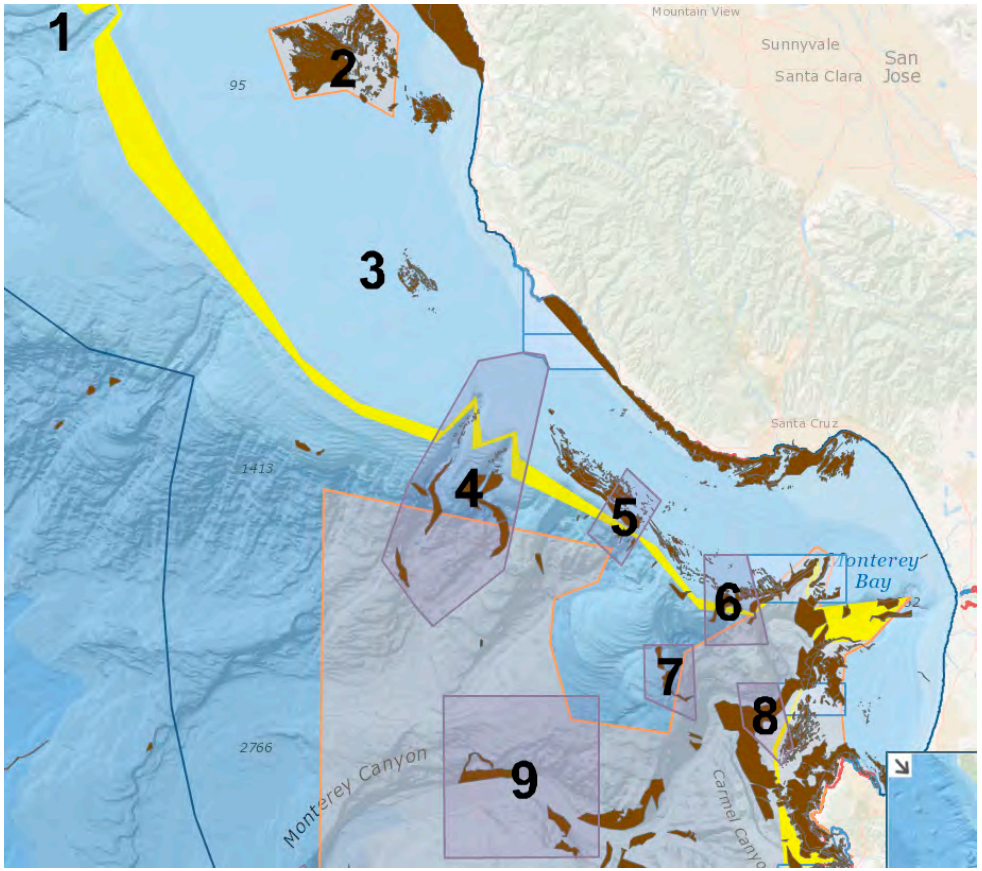
Secondary Criteria

- Primary Productivity and Hotspots
  - Upwelling Zones
  - Primary Productivity
  - Bird, Mammals, Turtle Hot spots/Important Foraging Areas
  - Krill hotspots
- Relevant Spatial Management
- Past benthic impacts



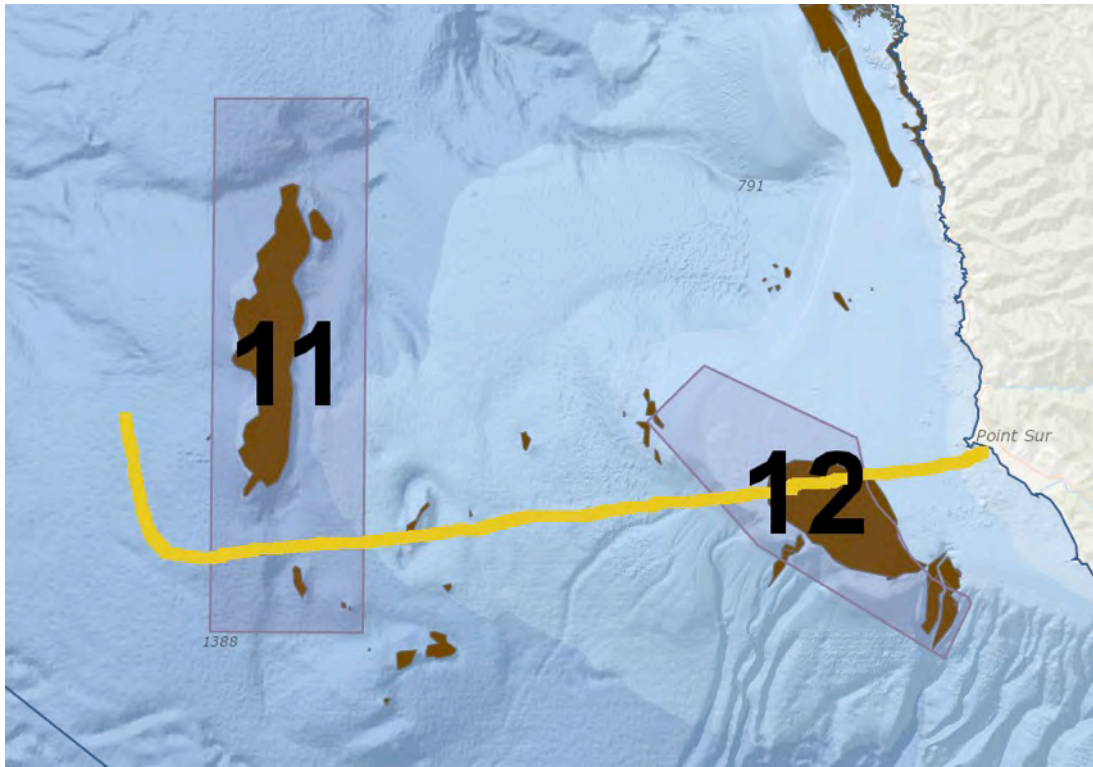
Secondary Criteria

- Pelagic Biodiversity & Productivity
- Relevant Spatial Management
  - State MLPA MPAs
  - Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area
  - EFH Conservation Areas
  - 700 fathom polygon
  - Northern Management Area
- Past benthic impacts



Secondary Criteria

- Pelagic Biodiversity & Productivity
- Relevant Spatial Management
- Past Benthic Impacts
  - Submerged cables
  - Marine debris
    - Lost containers
    - Lost fishing gear



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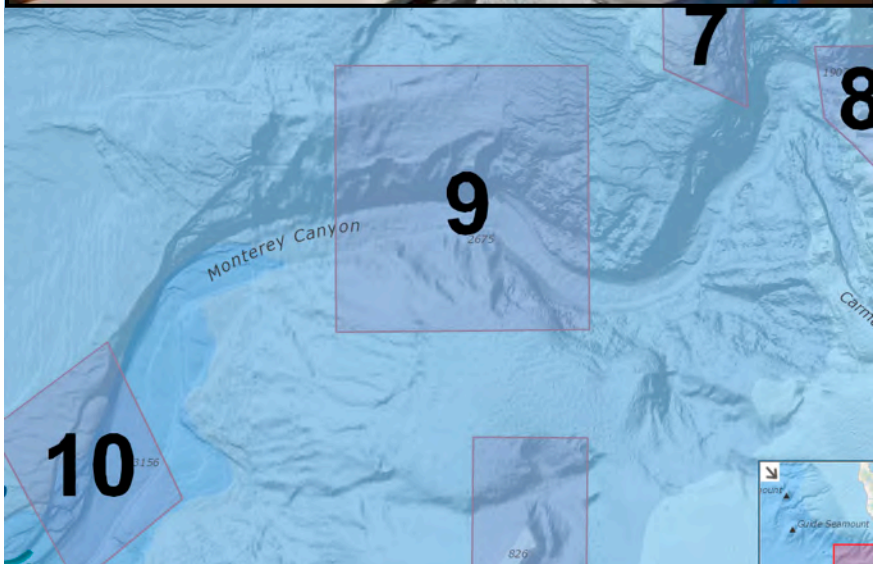
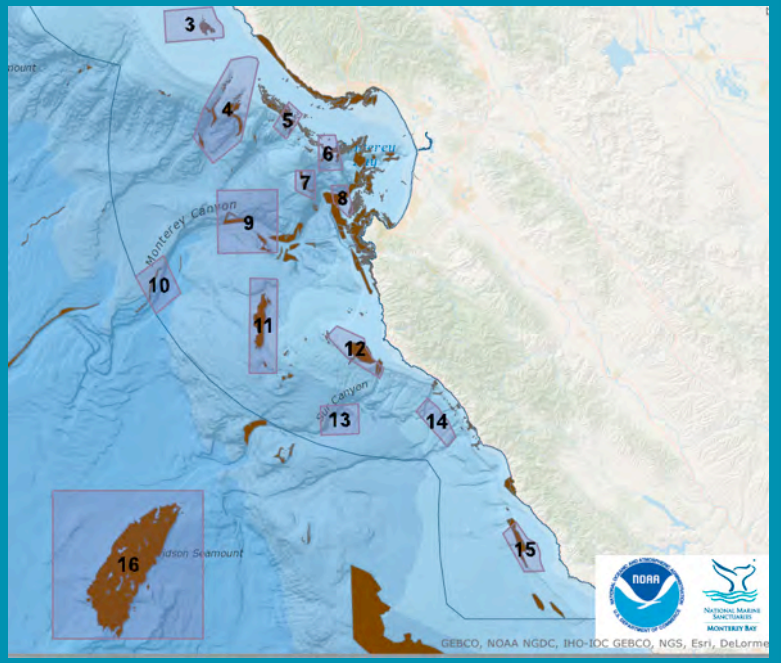


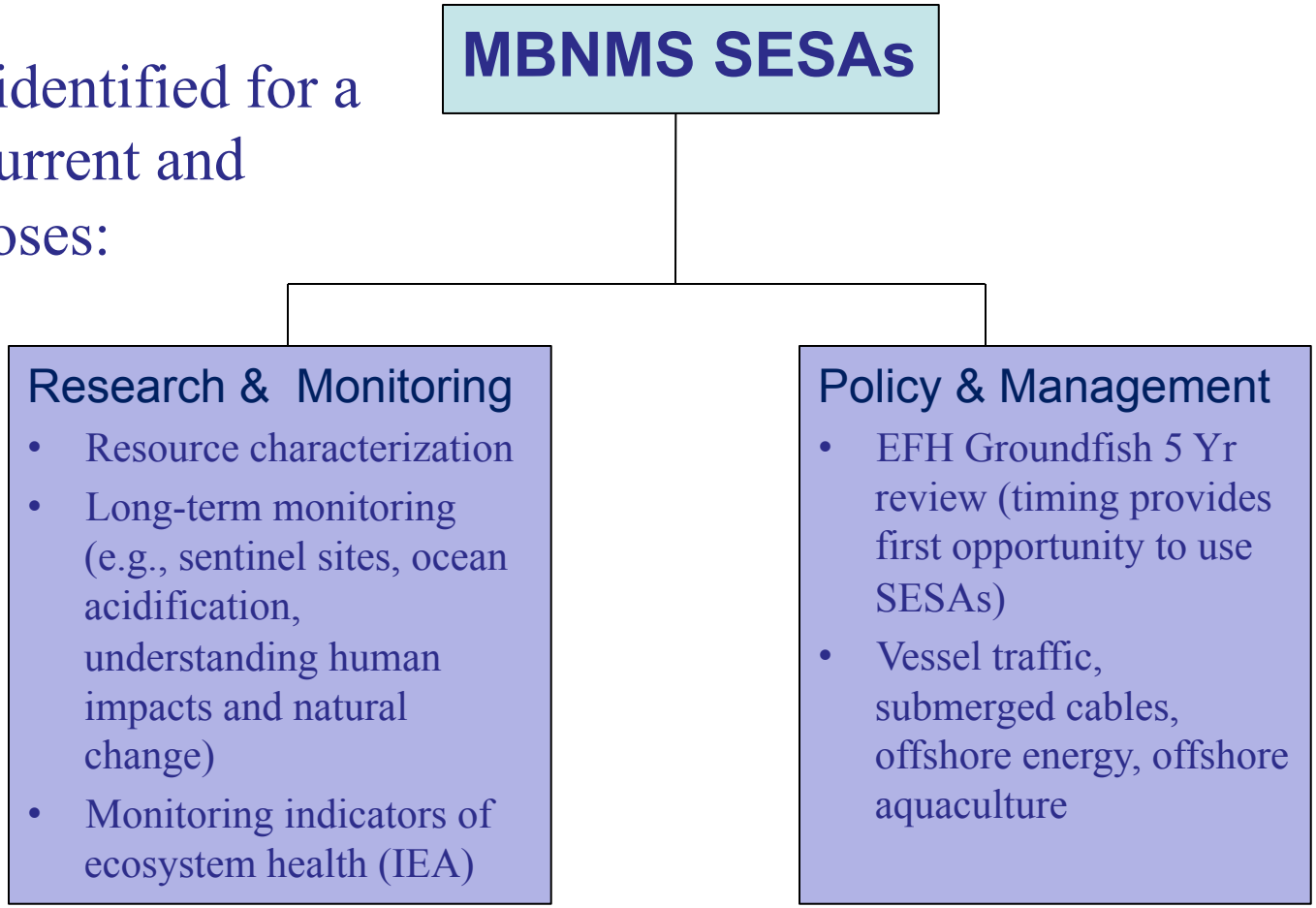
V. Next Steps

- Launch online SESA map tool – today!
- Finalize SESAs by mid May
- Products include:
  - Fact sheet
  - MBNMS & SIMoN webpages
  - Completed data matrix
  - Technical report
- Plan Research Workshop for fall



I. How will Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Areas be used?

SESAs are identified for a variety of current and future purposes:



Pacific Coast Groundfish Five Yr Essential Fish Habitat Review

Aug 2012 - Mar 2013	Meetings with Groundfish Trawl Fleet to gather local knowledge on important trawling areas & discuss potential EFH boundary modifications
Mar 2013	Meetings with NGOs & CWG to discuss MBNMS SESAs and plan for collaborative EFH proposal
April 2013	NMFS Synthesis Report released & PFMC issues RFP for proposals for EFH boundary modifications
May 2013	Host meetings with trawl fleet & NGOs to discuss draft objectives & potential EFH boundary modifications
June 2013	Collaborative draft EFH proposal is drafted & reviewed by fishermen, NGOs, & interested stakeholders
July 2013	EFH proposals due to Pacific Fisheries Management Council
Nov 2013	PFMC decides if moving forward with EFH boundary modifications

Outcomes

1) Submit collaborative proposal
2) Inform PFMC process

DRAFT SESAs

VI. Launch Public GIS Online Map!