

Ocean & Great Lakes National Parks

- 80 park units: >6,000 mi shoreline, 3.2 million ac ocean & Great Lakes waters
- 29 in Natl Syst of MPAs and 11 to be added
- Diverse ecosystems—arctic to tropics - coral reefs, kelp forests, tidewater glaciers, wetlands
- Important features of our nation's maritime heritage – shipwrecks, lighthouses, middens



Submerged Ocean Parks in the National Park System

U.S. Department of the Interior



Authorities & Evolution Ocean Park System

- ✓ NPS established by Congress (NPS Organic Act- 1916)
- ✓ Presidential Proclamation (Antiquities Act Monuments)
- ✓ Enabling legislation for each park

- ✓ First: Cabrillo NM, San Diego, California in 1913
- ✓ Most recent: Port Chicago NHS, San Francisco Bay in 2009





1916 National Park Service Organic Act

Congress created the National Park Service and prescribed that *the fundamental purpose* of national parks, monuments and other reservations is “to *conserve* the scenery, and the natural and historic objects and *wild life* therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same ... *as will leave them unimpaired* for the enjoyment of future generations.”

Enabling Legislation

Each park has own enabling legislation.

The Channel Islands National Park was established by Congress in 1980 through Public Law 96-199

-to protect the nationally significant natural scenic, wildlife, marine, ecological, archaeological, cultural, and scientific values of the Channel Islands in the State of California.”



EXPERIENCE YOUR
AMERICA

Recent Authorities

- Executive Order 13366 Committee on Ocean Policy, 2004
- NPS Ocean Park Stewardship Action Plan, 2007
- Pacific Ocean Parks Strategic Plan: Conserving our Coastal, Island and Marine Resources, 2008





Ocean Park Stewardship National Strategy



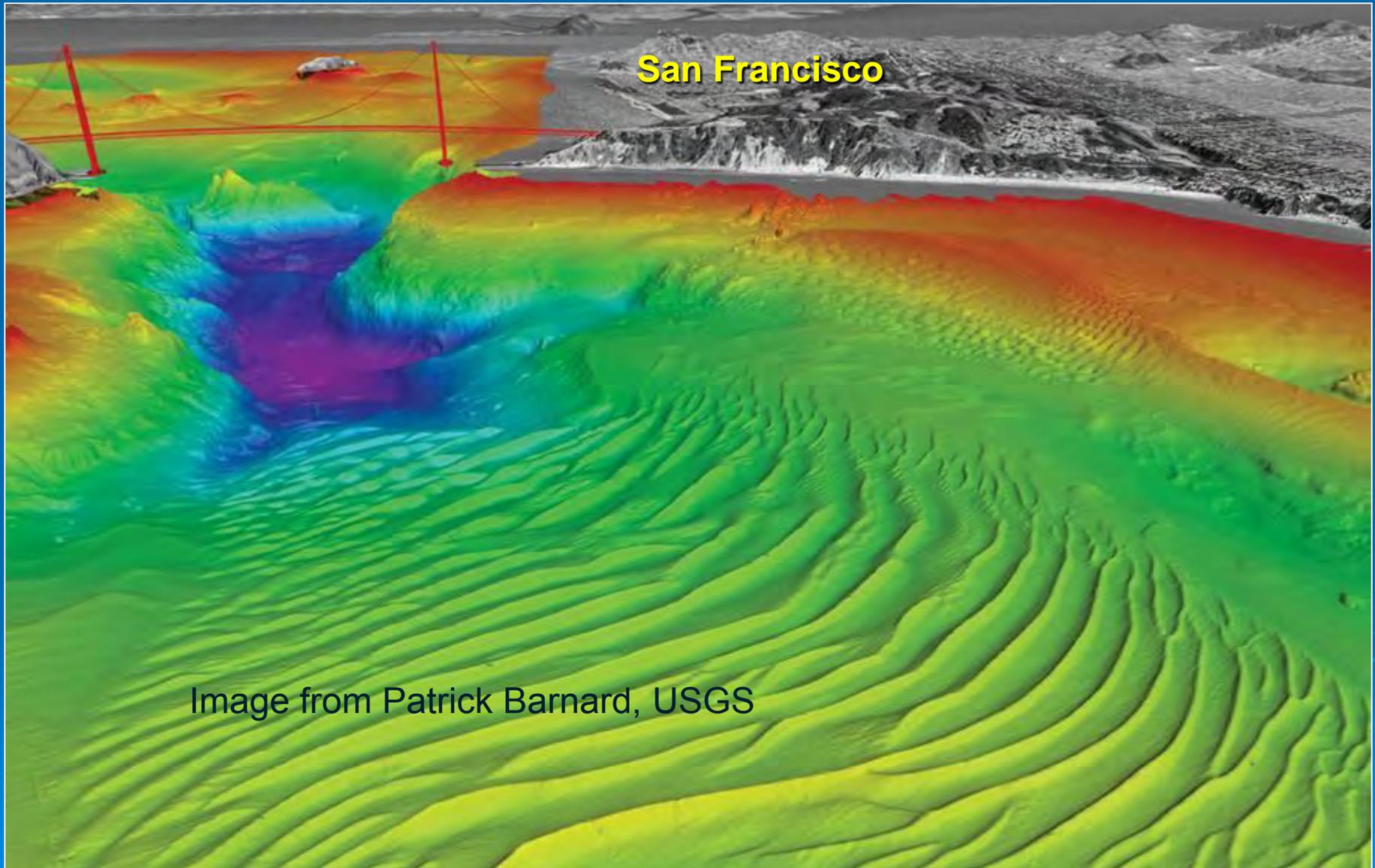
- ❖ Establish a seamless system of ocean parks, sanctuaries, refuges and reserves
- ❖ Discover, map, and protect ocean parks
- ❖ Strengthen partnerships with NOAA, USGS, states, academia and stakeholders
- ❖ Engage visitors in ocean park stewardship
- ❖ Develop core NPS biological and oceanographic technical capacities
- ❖ Implement Regional Strategies such as for Pacific Ocean Parks

Interagency Partnerships

- ❖ NPS-NOAA Interagency Agreement signed June 09
- ❖ NPS-State Agreements
- ❖ Habitat maps and inventory plant and animal communities
- ❖ Assess condition and monitor trends
- ❖ Restore resources
- ❖ Enhance resilience to climate change
- ❖ Science communication

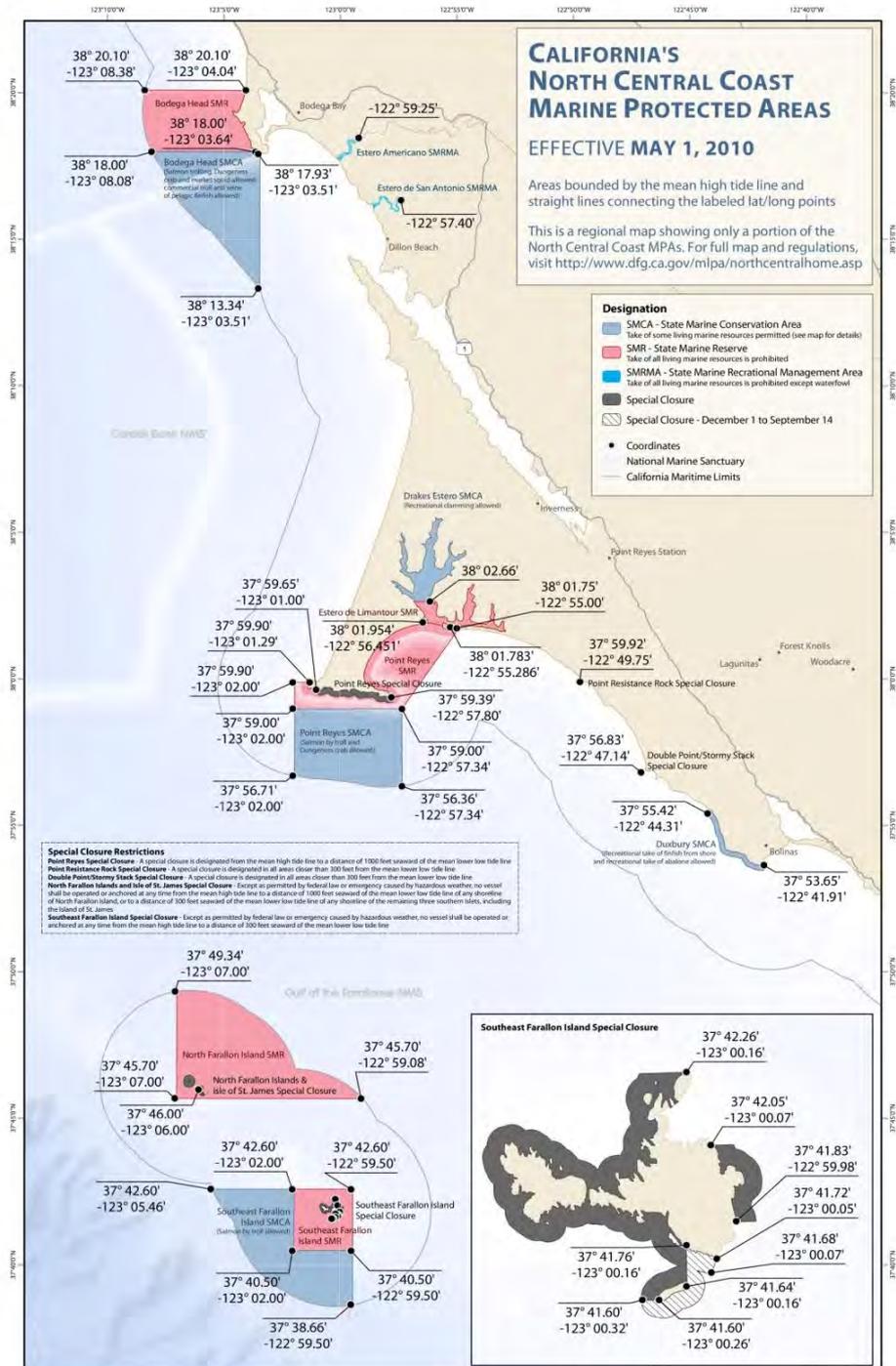


Subtidal mapping with Multibeam



State and Federal

California State Marine Life Protection Act is creating a network protected areas throughout California



Challenges to designing MPA network

- Inherent challenges working with partners
 - different mission and legislative authorities
 - cultural differences between partners and stakeholders
 - different language
- Jurisdiction – IA to allow cross boundary study
- Enforcement – MOU with state in California
- Science communication - education and outreach
 - Parks interact with millions of visitors each day



Level of Capacity

Nation – Ocean and Coastal Resources Branch (2007)

- Umbrella support with 4 people - technical assistance to parks and regions

Region – 1 oceans coordinator per region (2010)

- 3 regional positions filled

Parks – Varies

- Personnel
- Facilities
- Laboratory space
- Boat access
- Field Assistants
- GIS spatial data
- Volunteers

