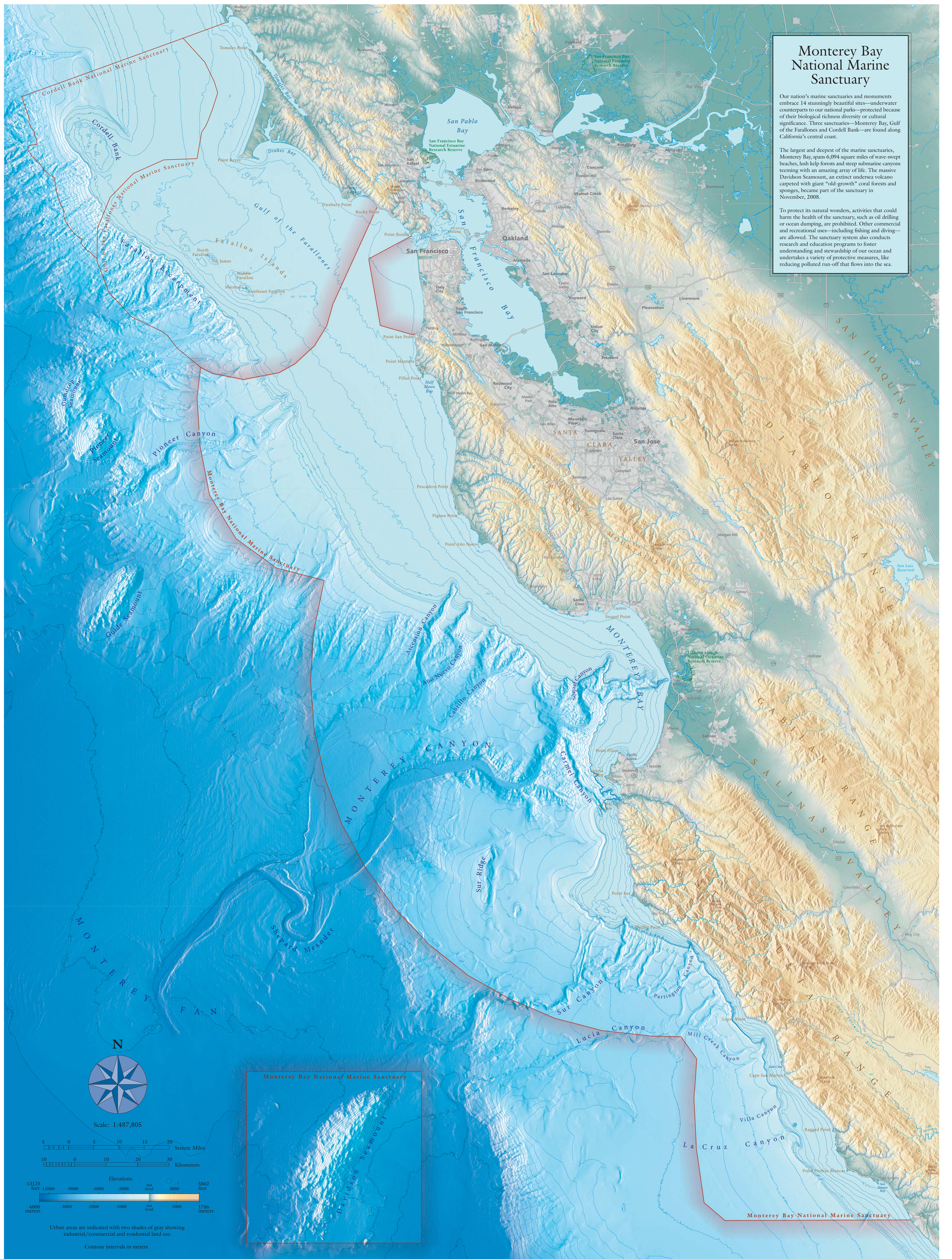


Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Our nation's marine sanctuaries and monuments embrace 14 stunningly beautiful sites—underwater counterparts to our national parks—protected because of their biological richness diversity or cultural significance. Three sanctuaries—Monterey Bay, Gulf of the Farallones and Cordell Bank—are found along California's central coast.

The largest and deepest of the marine sanctuaries, Monterey Bay, spans 6,094 square miles of wave-swept beaches, lush kelp forests and steep submarine canyons teeming with an amazing array of life. The massive Davidson Seamount, an extinct undersea volcano carpeted with giant "old-growth" coral forests and sponges, became part of the sanctuary in November, 2008.

To protect its natural wonders, activities that could harm the health of the sanctuary, such as oil drilling or ocean dumping, are prohibited. Other commercial and recreational uses—including fishing and diving—are allowed. The sanctuary system also conducts research and education programs to foster understanding and stewardship of our ocean and undertakes a variety of protective measures, like reducing polluted run-off that flows into the sea.



Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary



Special Thanks To
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