

Do You Know How Your Ocean Neighbors Are Doing?

The Report Card takes a deep dive into 30 marine species found in California.



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BLUE HERON

Ardea herodias

Despite habitat loss and sensitivity to other human disturbance, great blue heron populations are stable.



WESTERN SNOWY PLOVER

Charadrius alexandrinus

Maintaining a stable population of western snowy plovers requires protecting beach nesting sites.



BRANDT'S CORMORANT

Phalacrocorax penicillatus

Brandt's cormorants have a large population that is stable or even increasing in some regions.



CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN

Pelecanus occidentalis

California brown pelicans are a conservation success story and were delisted in 2009 after 37 years on the Endangered Species list.



CALIFORNIA SHEEPHEAD

Bodianus pulcher

California sheephead populations are relatively stable as a result of management measures such as seasonal closures and bag limits.

STABLE POPULATION TRENDS



GARIBALDI

Hypsypops rubicundus

Populations of the state's official marine fish, Garibaldi, are stable, but warming ocean temperatures may impact their future.



KELP BASS

Paralabrax clathratus

Kelp bass populations have remained stable despite being a favored species for recreational anglers.



GRAY WHALE

Eschrichtius robustus

The recovery of the Eastern North Pacific gray whale from near extinction is one of conservation's greatest success stories.

POPULATION TREND ICONS AND QUANTITIES



STRONG INCREASE



WEAK INCREASE



STABLE WITH FLUCTUATIONS



WEAK DECLINE



STRONG DECLINE



MARINE SPECIES REPORT CARD

THE REPORT CARD informs the public on the state of 30 marine species found in California's coastal areas. Population trends are evaluated across the last 25 years using long-term, publicly available monitoring data. Learn about the species' natural history, threats they are facing, and the actions people are taking to conserve them.



GREEN SEA TURTLE

Chelonia mydas

An eleven year community science project documents an increasing green sea turtle population in Southern California.



NORTHERN ANCHOVY

Engraulis mordax

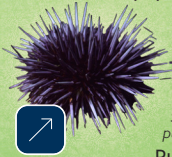
Northern anchovy populations have a boom-and-bust population cycle, and at present they have no immediate overharvest threat.



CALIFORNIA SPINY LOBSTER

Panulirus interruptus

California spiny lobsters are currently thriving in Southern California because of marine protected areas and strict fishing regulations.



PURPLE SEA URCHIN

Strongylocentrotus purpuratus

Purple urchins have undergone a recent population explosion due to a wasting disease that ravaged their predators' populations.



OWL LIMPET

Lottia gigantea

Although owl limpets are common in some areas, they remain at risk of being unsustainably harvested.



SOUTHERN SEA OTTER

Enhydra lutris nereis

Southern sea otters once occupied the entire California coastline, but are now restricted to the central coast.



SURFGRASS

Phyllospadix scouleri

Surfgrass cover at index sites in California is relatively stable, though the plant is susceptible to several threats.

INCREASING POPULATION TRENDS

BLACK OYSTERCATCHER

Haematopus bachmani

Black oystercatchers are vulnerable to several threats and are a USFWS Focal Species for Conservation Action.



CALIFORNIA SEA LION

Zalophus californianus

California sea lions are thought to be at carrying capacity, meaning food availability is limiting their population.



GIANT SEA BASS

Stereolepis gigas

Giant sea bass are a recovery success story, with community science and government monitoring demonstrating an increasing population.



GIANT KELP

Macrocystis pyrifera

Low canopy cover of giant kelp in recent years have been so extensive that local recovery has been impacted in some areas.



CALIFORNIA MUSSEL

Mytilus californianus

California mussels may be suffering a slow decline in Southern California and sustained monitoring is needed.



GOLDEN ROCKWEED

Silvetia compressa

Golden rockweed has suffered recent declines but restoration via transplantation of individuals offers hope of recovery.



CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN

Sterna antillarum

Conservation efforts have spared the California least tern from extinction however it remains vulnerable to human disturbance.

DECLINING POPULATION TRENDS



HARBOR SEAL

Phoca vitulina

There is variability in population trend of harbor seal across different parts of the California coast.



PACIFIC SARDINE

Sardinops sagax

Pacific sardines have seen declines and currently there is a moratorium on commercial fishing to allow the population to rebuild.



SUNFLOWER SEA STAR

Pycnopodia helianthoides

Sunflower sea stars are nearly extinct in California, however conservation aquaculture programs offer hope for recovery.

OCHRE SEA STAR

Pisaster ochraceus

Ochre sea stars are a keystone predator that was ravaged by a wasting disease that caused up to 99% mortality in some locales.



BLACK ABALONE

Haliotis cracherodii

Black abalone populations are depleted and their recovery is hindered by disease and habitat degradation.



WHITE ABALONE

Haliotis sorenseni

Over-exploitation reduced the white abalone population by 99% and efforts to recover the species are ongoing and offer hope.



SEA PALM

Postelsia palmaeformis

Sea palms at index sites are showing weak declines, perhaps associated with increasing ocean temperatures.



BULL KELP

Nereocystis luetkeana

Bull kelp in California has experienced steep declines with some areas of the coastline experiencing 90% loss.