

Limit of California's Santa Barbara Channel

## **DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS**

Induration. Decades Persistence

Induration. Decades Persistence

3-nautical-mile limit of California's State Waters

#### CONTINENTAL/ISLAND SHELF Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Shelf. Ripples. Medium Sand. Soft Substrate



Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Shelf. Bar. Sandy Gravel. Mixed Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence CONTINENTAL/ISLAND SLOPE Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Slope. Runnel/Rill. Silty Sand. Soft Substrate

Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Shelf. Apron. Gravelly Sand. Soft Substrate

Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Shelf. Bar. Pipeline Area. Decades Persistence

Induration. Decades Persistence Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Slope. Sandy Silt-Clay. Soft Substrate Induration. ransform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Slope, Rock Outcrop, Bedrock, Hard Substrate Induration. Centuries Persistence

### **EXPLANATION OF MAP SYMBOLS**

Area of "no data"—Areas beyond 3-nautical-mile limit of California's State Waters were not mapped as part of California Seafloor Mapping Program

Bathymetric contour (in meters)—Derived from modified 2-m-resolution bathymetry grid. Contour interval: 10 m

### **DISCUSSION**

This map shows physical marine benthic habitats in the Offshore of Gaviota map area. Marine benthic habitats represent a particular type of water quality, substrate, geomorphology, seafloor process, or any other attribute that may provide a habitat for a specific species or an assemblage of organisms. Marine benthic habitats are classified using the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard (CMECS), developed by representatives from a consortium of federal agencies. CMECS is the Federal standard for marine habitat characterization (available at https://www.fgdc.gov/standards/projects/FGDC-standards-projects/ cmecs-folder/CMECS\_Version\_06-2012\_FINAL.pdf). The standard provides an ecologically relevant structure for biologic-, geologic-, chemical-, and physical-habitat attributes.

This map illustrates the geoform and substrate components of the standard and their distribution in the Offshore of Gaviota map area. Geoform components describe the major geomorphic and structural characteristics of the coast and seafloor (that is, the tectonic and physiographic settings and the geological, biogenic, and anthropogenic features). This map was derived from the geologic and geomorphic map of the seafloor (see sheet 9) by translation of the map-unit descriptions into the best-fit values of the CMECS classes. The map also includes a temporal attribute for each unit that indicates time period of persistence, as well as an induration attribute that allows resymbolization of the data-catalog shapefile into a simple map of hard-mixed-soft attributes of Essential Fish Habitat assessment (Greene and Bizzarro, 2003). Table 1 shows the total area (in square meters) of each CMECS class mapped.

# REFERENCE CITED

Greene, H.G., and Bizzarro, J.J., 2003, Essential fish habitat characterization and mapping of the California continental margin: Final Report to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, CFDA #11-454, 14 p., available at http://marinehabitat.psmfc. org/files/source\_docs/EFH\_report\_with\_Appendices.pdf.

Map-unit	Area,
label	in square meters
S1	27,854,140
S2	10,364,978
S3	12,434,811
S4	1,068,996
S5	291,658
S6	12,574,410
S7	7,111
S9	349,274
S10	146,355
S11	1,116,801
S13	13,840,013
S14	41,005
S15	6,117,475
L1	3,239,731
L2	12,246,730
L3	99,409

**Table 1.** Total area, in square meters, of each marine benthic habitat class from Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard mapped in Offshore of Gaviota map

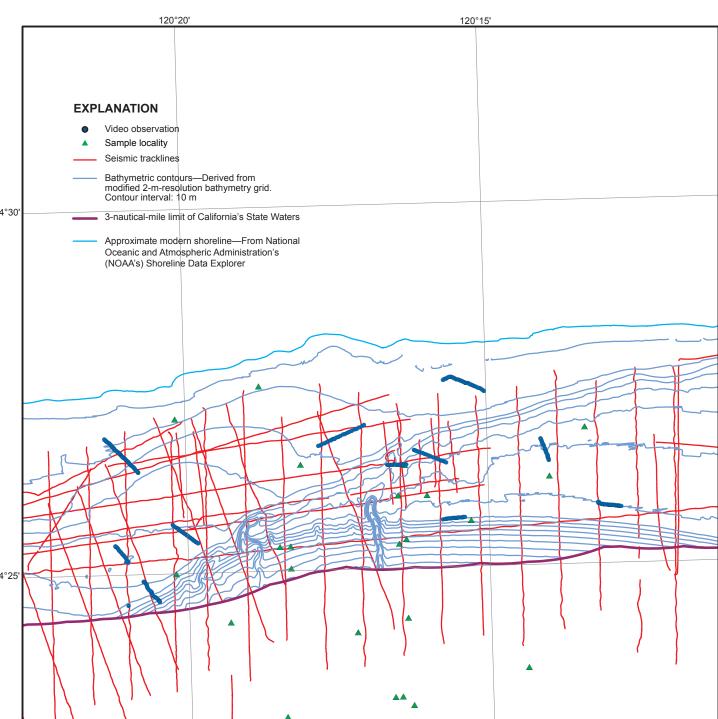


Figure 1. Map showing video-observation locations, sample localities, and seismic tracklines for Offshore of Gaviota map area.



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Marine Benthic Habitats from the Coastal and Marine Ecological Classification Standard, Offshore of Gaviota Map Area, California

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