

DESCRIPTION OF MAP UNITS

CONTINENTAL/ISLAND SHELF

S1	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Ripples. Medium Sand. Soft Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence
S2	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Ripples. Rock Outcrop. Sand. Bedrock. Mixed Substrate Induration. Years Persistence
S3	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Ripples. Rock Outcrop. Hard Substrate Induration. Centuries Persistence
S4	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Peckmark Fine. Fine Unconsolidated Substrate. Soft Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence
S5	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Sandy Gravel. Soft Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence
S6	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Sandy Silt-Clay. Soft Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence
S7	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Scour Depression. Gravelly Sand. Soft Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence
S8	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Sediment Wave Field. Slightly Gravelly Sand. Soft Substrate Induration. Years Persistence
S9	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Tar Mound. Rock Substrate. Hard Substrate Induration. Centuries Persistence
S10	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Wreck. Centuries Persistence
S14	Transform Continental Margin. Continental Island Shelf. Apron. Gravelly Sand. Soft Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence

CONTINENTAL SLOPE

L1	Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Slope. Runnel/Rill. Silty Sand. Soft Substrate Induration. Decades Persistence
L2	Transform Continental Margin. Continental/Island Slope. Sandy Silt-Clay. Soft Substrate Induration Years Persistence

EXPLANATION OF MAP SYMBOLS

 Contact
 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
 3-nautical-mile limit of California's State Waters
 20 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 Point Conception 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/TGDC-standards-projects/cmeecs-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 geomorphic and substrate components of the standard and their distribution in the Offshore of Point Conception map area. Geomorph 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 description into the best-fit values of the CMCECS classes. The map also includes a temporal attribute for each unit that indicates the time period of persistence, as well as an induration attribute that allows resymbolization of the data-category shapefile into a simple map of hard-mixed-soil attributes of Essential Fish Habitat assessment (Greene and Bizzarro, 2003). Table 1 shows the total area (in square meters) of each CMCECS 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 label	Area, in square meters
S1	79,521,877
S2	7,569,000
S3	23,757,954
S4	4,200,360
S5	233,981
S6	11,751,758
S7	253,503
S8	1,152,962
S10	2,591,275
S12	3,496
S14	77,285
L1	585,047
L2	5,385,351

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

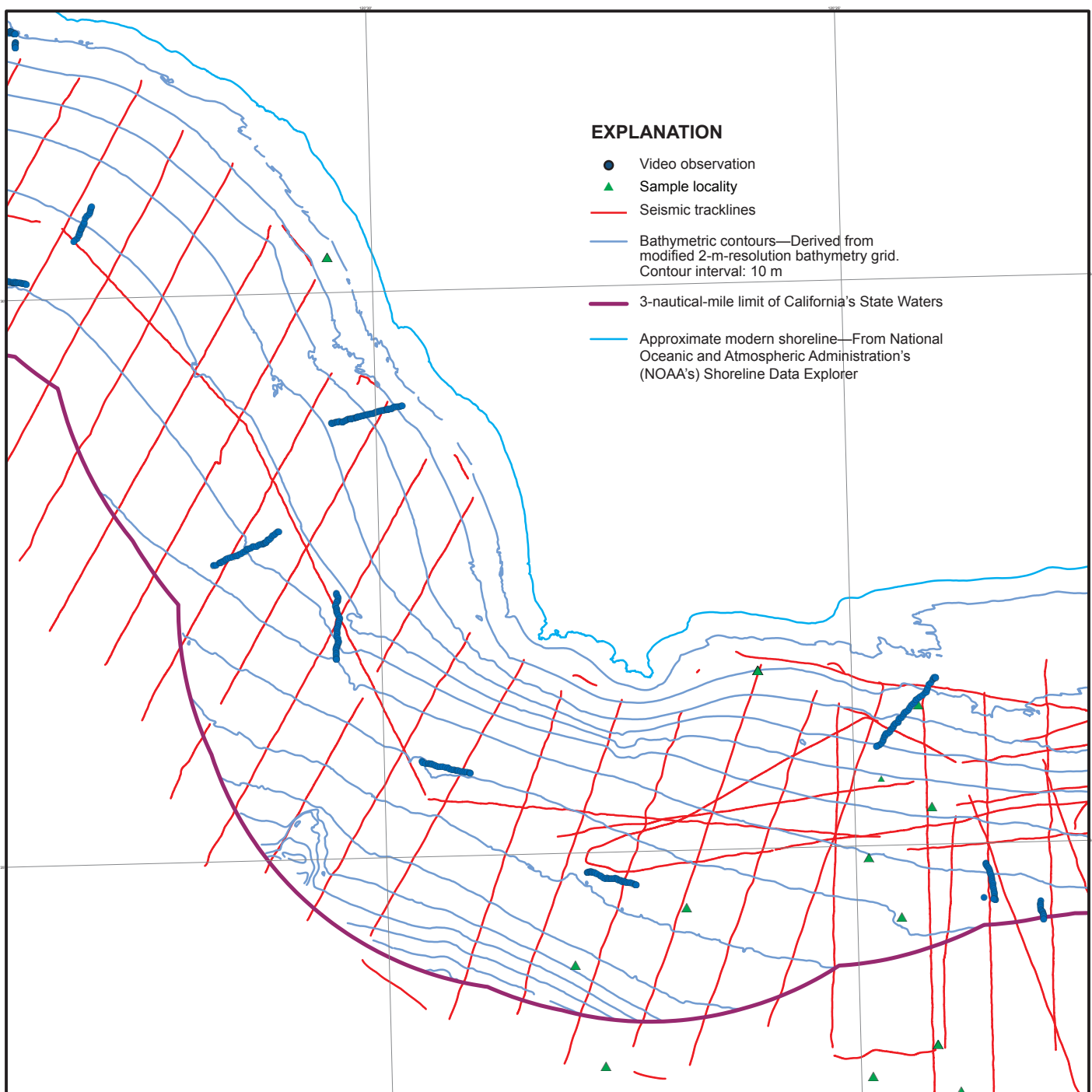


Figure 1. Map showing video-observation locations, sample localities, and seismic tracklines for Offshore of Point Conception map area.