



DISCUSSION

Mapping California's State Waters has produced a vast amount of acoustic and visual data, including bathymetry, acoustic backscatter, seismic-reflection profiles, and seafloor video and photography. These data are used by researchers to develop maps, reports, and other tools to assist in the coastal and marine spatial planning capability of coastal-zone managers and other stakeholders. Seafloor-character, habitat, and geologic maps may be used for fisheries management, for designation of Marine Protected Areas, for monitoring of environmental change such as sea-level-rise impacts, for prediction of sediment and contaminant budgets and transport, and for assessment of earthquake and tsunami hazards. To achieve these goals, it is helpful to integrate the different datasets and then view the results in three-dimensional representations such as those displayed on this data integration and visualization sheet for the Offshore of Coal Oil Point map area.

The map view in the center of the sheet is similar to the colored shaded-relief bathymetry map of the Offshore of Coal Oil Point map area (see sheet 1 of this report). Numbered arrows show viewing directions of the perspective views on this sheet (figs. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6); the numbers indicate the figure number of the perspective view.

The perspective views and bathymetric profiles in figures 2, 3, and 6 show the colored shaded-relief bathymetry of the Offshore of Coal Oil Point map area, as viewed from different directions. These views show a few examples of the complex shelf morphology in this map area, as well as the head of the submarine Goleta landslide complex.

Draping the acoustic-backscatter imagery (see sheet 3 of this report) over the bathymetry data (figs. 1, 5, 6) highlights the relations between the backscatter intensity and the seafloor morphology, as well as any anthropogenic influences on the seafloor.

Video-mosaic images created from seafloor digital video (fig. 4) display the geologic (rock, sand, mud) and biologic complexity of the seafloor. Whereas photographs capture high-quality snapshots of a small area of the seafloor, video mosaics can capture larger areas and, thus, can show transitional zones between different seafloor environments.

Block diagrams (fig. 1), which combine the acoustic-backscatter imagery with seismic-reflection-profile data (see sheet 8 of this report), help reveal the stratigraphic and structural relations between the surface and subsurface.

REFERENCES CITED

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Sitter, R.W., Triceberg, P.J., Hart, P.L., Drake, A.E., Normark, W.R., and Conrad, J.E., 2008, High-resolution chirp and mini-sparker seismic-reflection data from the southern California continental shelf—Covinto to Mugu Canyon, U.S. Geological Survey Open-File Report 2008–1246, available at <http://pubs.usgs.gov/ofr/2008/1246/>.

EXPLANATION

