What is a SESA?

A Sanctuary Ecologically Significant Area (SESA) is a location within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary which contains specific habitat, and/or biological communities that are important to, or representative of, the marine environment. SESAs facilitate research to better understand natural and human caused variation within the Sanctuary.

Fish variation across SESAs

Why care about differences between SESAs?

An understanding of the communities within each SESA will aid the MBNMS in meeting its management objectives and can serve as a baseline against which any future change in the SESAs can be measured.