

# **Appendix I**

## **Preliminary List of Interpretive Themes for the CCNM**

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## ***General Information about the CCNM***

*Theme 1:* The CCNM protects the cultural, natural, and geologic resources found on more than 20,000 rocks and islands along the entire coastline of California.

**SUB-THEME 1A:** The Bureau of Land Management has the primary responsibility to manage this national monument, but works in partnership with its core managing partners, the California Department of Parks and Recreation and California Department of Fish and Game, and other state and federal agencies on a statewide basis, and local governments and communities on a regional basis, to protect and manage these areas.

**SUB-THEME 1B:** The CCNM was created in 2000 under a Presidential Proclamation. The proclamation in part directs the protection of “the geologic formations and the habitat that these rocks and islands provide for seabirds, sea mammals, and other plant and animal life within this portion of the coastal intertidal zone,” as well as the “irreplaceable scientific values vital to protecting the fragile ecosystem of the California coastline.”

**SUB-THEME 1C:** The CCNM boundaries begin at the mean high tide line and encompass all of the offshore rocks and islands not within other private or public ownership.

*Theme 2:* The public is encouraged to use and enjoy the CCNM in ways that do not affect or harm the resources for which the monument was created.

**SUB-THEME 2A:** The physical isolation from the mainland has protected the unique plants and animals living on the rocks and islands from most human disturbance, making it the last land-based frontier for research on coastal resources.

**SUB-THEME 2B:** The CCNM is safely viewed from the mainland or on the water by boat. Rough seas and slippery rocks make most of the rocks and islands too dangerous to explore.

### ***Specific Information about Resources Found within the Monument***

*Theme 3:* Nesting and roosting seabirds use the craggy cliffs and flat-topped islands to avoid predators found on the mainland.

**SUB-THEME 3A:** Because each bird species requires different nesting and roosting conditions, an island's shape, soil or lack of soil, and isolation from disturbance determine the types of nesting birds found there.

**SUB-THEME 3B:** The entire monument is a major migration corridor that supports birds flying north and south along the Pacific Flyway.

*Theme 4:* Seals and sea lions use the island beaches and smaller rocks to bask in the sun, rest, socialize, and even give birth. The islands and rocks offer safe refuge from the often overcrowded and dangerous mainland beaches.

**SUB-THEME 4A:** Harbor seals are the most commonly seen, and easily disturbed, marine mammal along the California coast. Groups of the mottled seals spend hours basking on rocks near the water's edge, saving precious body heat between hunts. Females give birth in summer and may leave their pups unattended on the beach while they hunt for food.

**SUB-THEME 4B:** The northern elephant seal, the largest seal found in California, gathers in large groups on sandy beaches to breed, give birth, nurse, and molt. Once reduced to less than a hundred animals found on Guadalupe Island in Baja California, the seals have made a remarkable recovery and now have major breeding colonies on mainland beaches and larger islands.

**SUB-THEME 4C:** The California sea lion and Steller's sea lion can generally be found in groups on larger rocks and islands off the California coast from fall through spring. In summer, the California sea lions migrate to Baja California to breed. The threatened Steller's sea lion breeds in California, but in relatively few numbers. Their distinctive barks, larger size, and brown color easily distinguish them from harbor seals.

*Theme 5:* Crashing waves, gale-force winds, and thin soils limit all but the hardiest plants from growing on these rugged islands. Adaptations to salt spray, a lack of fresh water, and drying winds have created a unique community of plants found nowhere else.

*Theme 6:* The coastal rocks and islands have been used by people for thousands of years.

**SUB-THEME 6A:** The seals, birds, and marine life that thrived on the rocks also sustained local families living in villages along the entire coastline.

**SUB-THEME 6B:** Individual islands served as spiritual centers and still do today for coastal Native Americans.

**SUB-THEME 6C:** During the 1800s, European settlers first harvested plants and animals from the rocks and islands; but later, coastal shipping left its marks in the form of piers, anchor rings, lighthouses, buoys, radio towers, and microwave antennas.

**SUB-THEME 6D:** The material evidence of times past reflects a heritage that is very much alive for the people still living in these coastal communities. Please respect this heritage and leave any items where you find them.

*Theme 7:* The geology of the California coast is complicated and dynamic.

**SUB-THEME 7A:** Ancient faults continue to move southern California slowly to the north, creating bays and islands along the fault lines. The erosion-resistant granite found in places like Monterey and Bodega Head can be traced to similar rock found in Baja California.

**SUB-THEME 7B:** Waves driven by annual storms off the Pacific carve away the soft coastal sandstones and mudstones, creating ephemeral tunnels, arches, and islands that erode to sand grains once again.

**SUB-THEME 7C:** Rising and falling sea levels over tens of thousands of years have carved a series of benches along the coast. Many of the larger, near-shore islands were once part of the mainland as you can see from their flat tops that mirror the benches carved into the mainland. These areas are comprised of relatively soft rock that is easily eroded by ocean waves.

### ***Information about Recreational Uses and Restrictions***

*Theme 8:* Sea kayaks and small motorized boats provide some of the best views of the monument's rocks and islands.

**SUB-THEME 8A:** Rough seas and unpredictable waves can turn an adventure into a tragedy. Check sea conditions before entering the water, stay clear of the rocks, and hire a guide if you are unfamiliar with the area.

**SUB-THEME 8B:** Yield to the wildlife. Sea kayaks and small boats easily frighten seals and sea lions from the rocks. Stay at least 100 yards away from the animals and watch them for signs of disturbance. If they begin to leave the rocks, back away.

*Theme 9:* The rocks and islands support a diverse community of underwater life that in turn supports recreational fishing, scuba diving, and snorkeling. While the boundaries of the CCNM do not extend below the mean high tide line, underwater recreation brings recreationists close to the rocks and islands.

**SUB-THEME 9A:** Follow the fishing regulations and dispose of line and trash back at the docks to maintain healthy fish and wildlife populations.

**SUB-THEME 9B:** Rough seas and unpredictable waves can turn an adventure into a tragedy. Check sea conditions before entering the water, stay clear of the rocks, and hire a guide if you are unfamiliar with the area.

*Theme 10:* The monument's rocks and islands attract a wide variety of wildlife that can be observed from the mainland.

**SUB-THEME 10A:** Adjoining mainland bluffs offer the perfect location to watch nesting and roosting birds, and resting seals and sea lions without disturbing them. Move slowly, speak softly, and use a spotting scope or binoculars to get a good view.

**SUB-THEME 10B:** While some rocks and islands can be accessed at low tide, avoid the temptation and use your binoculars from a distance to watch wildlife.

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