The central coast of California was first inhabited by one of the few ocean-going bands among the First People of the New World. A nomination for National Marine Sanctuary status submitted by the Chumash has shown that these coastal waters deserve recognition and protection for their cultural and biological significance.

A marine sanctuary’s prohibitions against offshore oil exploration are permanent and not subject to politics. The Sierra Club is proud to aid in the effort to establish a Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary for the Central Coast of California. **You can make it happen!**

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Protect California’s Central Coast!
Establish the Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary

We have a chance to permanently protect this biologically and culturally rich area from offshore oil development and other threats to the marine environment.

California’s Central Coast is an area of extraordinary biodiversity. Endangered whales, dolphins, sea otters, seals, pelicans and other wildlife thrive here, feeding on rich nutrient upwellings. The new Chumash National Marine Sanctuary would stretch from Gaviota, near the recent oil spill, to Cambria and the border of the Monterey Bay NMS. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently expanded two Northern California sanctuaries and is evaluating potential new sanctuaries. The proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary is a prime candidate. Sign the petition asking NOAA to act now!

Learn more at chumashsanctuary.com