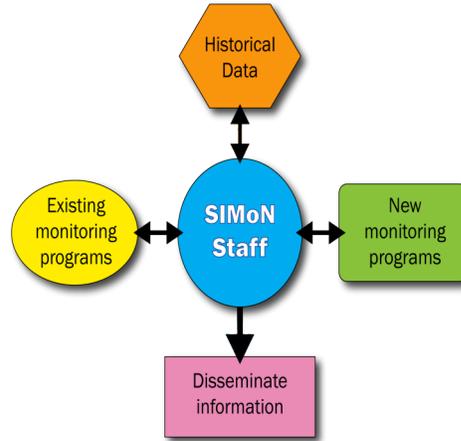


Request For Project Information

SANCTUARY INTEGRATED MONITORING NETWORK (SIMoN)

Background:

SIMoN is an integrated, long-term program that takes an ecosystem approach to identify and understand changes to the sanctuary resources. It provides resource managers with the information needed for effective decision-making and promotes an unparalleled basic understanding of a complex and unique marine ecosystem. By gathering summary metadata on current and historic monitoring projects within the sanctuary, SIMoN facilitates the critical but often inadequate exchange of information between researchers, resource managers, educators, and the public.



SIMoN is as an information hub

SIMoN Goals:

- Manage a database to track current and historic monitoring programs
- Integrate existing monitoring programs conducted in the Sanctuary to provide a synoptic overview of the regional marine ecosystem
- Initiate basic surveys or characterizations of all habitats and regions within the sanctuary
- Establish long-term monitoring efforts to fill critical knowledge gaps
- Initiate specific, question-driven monitoring efforts with fixed durations
- Provide timely and pertinent information to managers and decision makers, the research community, and the general public via a web-site

Purpose of this Document:

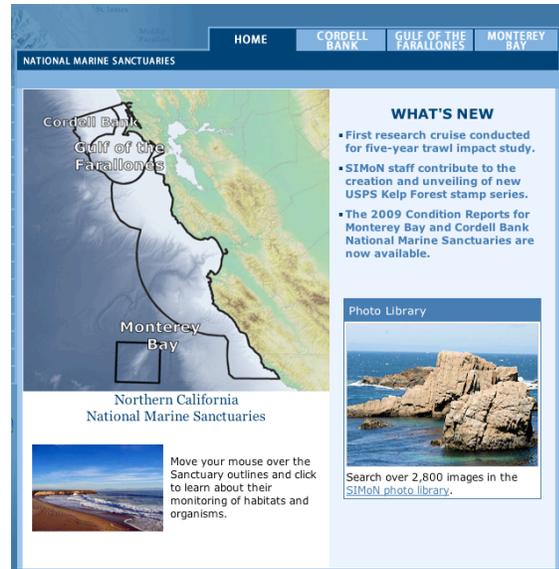
Information about current and historic monitoring projects is critical for the accomplishment of SIMoN goals. This document is one mechanism to collect metadata on programs, establishing the “who, what, where, when, and why” for monitoring projects.

SIMoN provides an overview of each monitoring project within the sanctuary. Projects are indexed in the SIMoN database, searchable by website visitors, and have a unique webpage on sanctuariesimon.org. Information displayed on each project webpage, such as abstract, discussion, and findings, are provided by the researcher. Appropriate digital images, graphs, maps, and GIS shape-files from a project may also be displayed on the SIMoN website.

SIMoN Website

The Web:

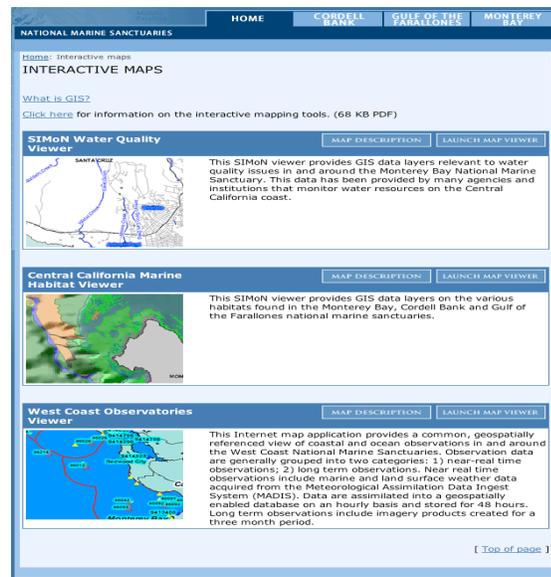
The SIMoN website (www.sanctuariesimon.org) is the primary tool for disseminating sanctuary monitoring information to the general public by providing facts and trends on sanctuary habitats and issues. For scientists and resource managers, sanctuariesimon.org details current and historic monitoring efforts and provides maps, figures, and photos of these resources.



SIMoN web site: www.sanctuariesimon.org

Mapping:

The interactive mapping portion of sanctuariesimon.org provides GIS data of monitoring projects in the form of active shape-files and layers. Using ArcIMS, web-site visitors can dynamically create maps of the sanctuary showing various biotic and abiotic layers. This interactive mapping provides a customized biogeographical look at the sanctuary.



SIMoN interactive map layers



Request For Your Project Information

Benefits:

Sharing your monitoring project metadata and summary results with SIMoN can benefit your program, the regional research community, local resource management efforts, the national marine sanctuaries program, educators, and the general public. The benefits of sharing this information with SIMoN greatly outweigh the nominal costs of gathering and submitting the necessary materials. Some of these expected benefits include:

- More informed decisions by local, regional, and national resource managers because monitoring information is in a format that is easily accessed and interpreted;
- Enhanced educational opportunities and activities developed in association with monitoring projects on the SIMoN web site;
- Increased collaborations across marine disciplines;
- Increased funding and support for applied projects aiding resource management and education programs;
- Increased availability of monitoring information to inform environmental debates, the public and elected officials.

Requested Monitoring Information:

- Title of project
- Date started (and completed, if appropriate)
- Lead institution/agency
- Principal investigator and co-PIs
- Project objectives
- Collaborators
- What the monitoring data are used for
- Brief abstract of proposal
- Brief summary of major findings
- Representative sample of specific results/trends
- A species list and parameters list from the study
- Overview of study methods
- List of publications derived from this project

Submit Information Over the Internet:

SIMoN has developed a set of concise, web-based forms that allows you to submit your monitoring project information over the Internet. Many of the fields can be filled by simple cut and paste operations from existing electronic documents (e.g., from an NSF proposal). SIMoN will also accept additional supporting materials from the project such as GIS data, digital images, and documents.



SIMoN does not seek to acquire raw data sets. However, if raw data are provided, then SIMoN will facilitate the archiving of the data with the National Oceanographic Data Center.

Share Your Information

To share your monitoring information through the SIMoN website, use our web-based forms (infoShare) at:

www.sanctuariesimon.org/infoshare

If you have questions, contact Dr. Steve Lonhart by phone at (831) 420 – 3661 or by email: Steve.Lonhart@noaa.gov

