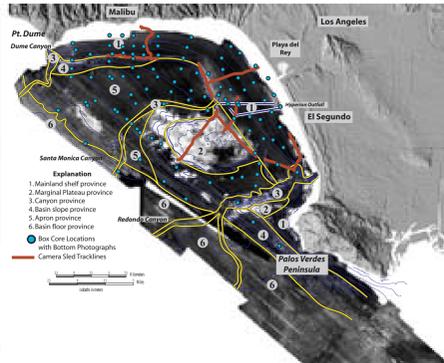
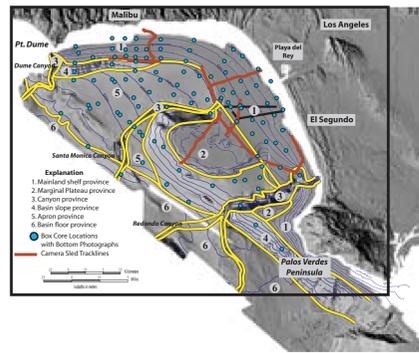
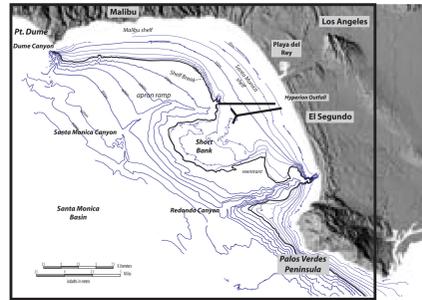


1 INTRODUCTION

BENTHIC HABITATS are places on or near the seafloor where marine organisms live. Within Santa Monica Bay, offshore of Los Angeles, CA, vast regions of unconsolidated sediment and areas of exposed bedrock provide shelter, a living environment, and food for a diverse faunal population that includes marine mammals, demersal (bottom dwelling) fish, and benthic invertebrates.

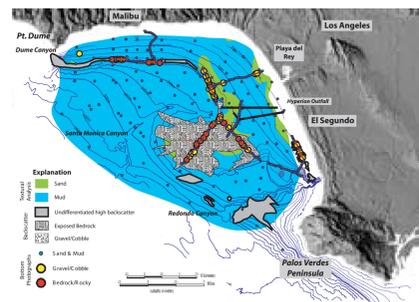
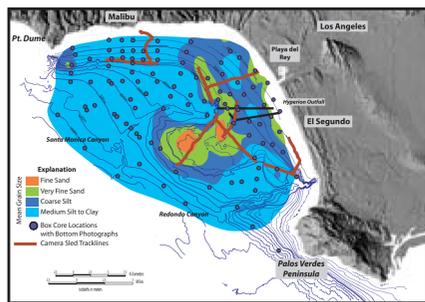
Although many benthic organisms tolerate a wide variety of seafloor conditions, many are restricted to specific habitats. As a result of proximity of the Los Angeles metropolitan area, the potential exists for numerous chemical pollutants to be deposited into the Santa Monica Bay through waste disposal outfalls as well as from agricultural and municipal runoff. If deposited these pollutants can stress the Bay's fauna and their environment.



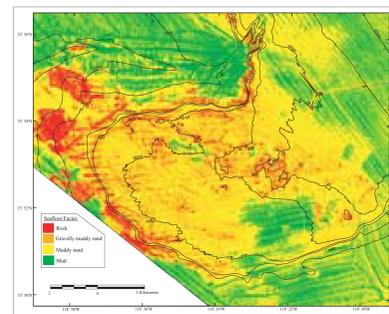
Perspective View of the Greater Los Angeles Basin



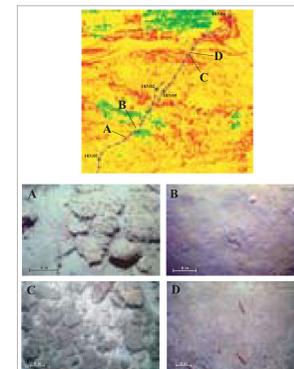
2 SEDIMENTARY FACIES & OUTCROPS



3 MAPPING TECHNIQUES

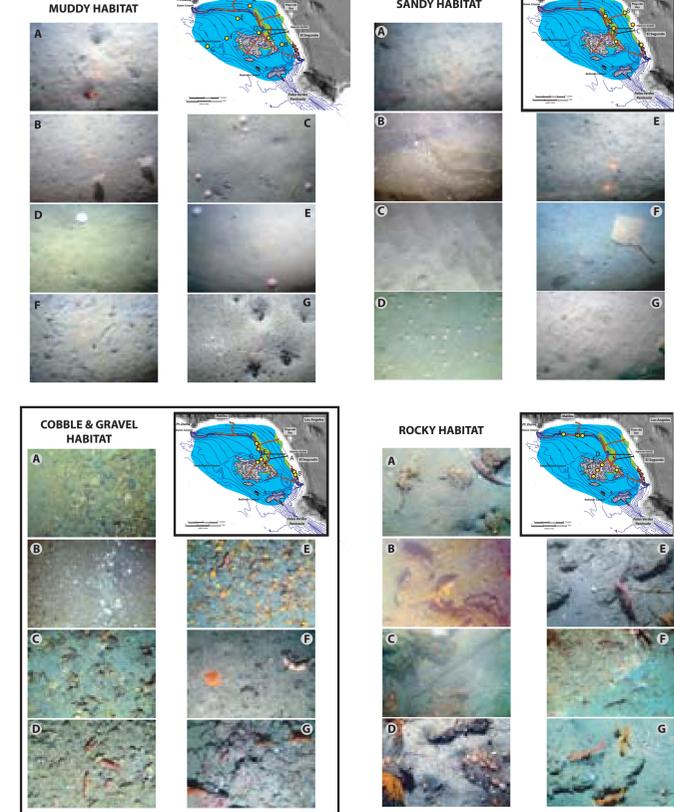


Predicted Seafloor Facies of Short Bank, Santa Monica Bay, CA (noise class removed).

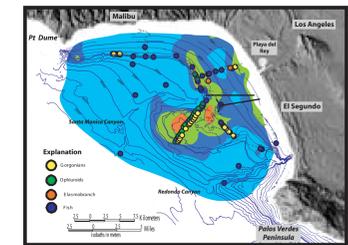
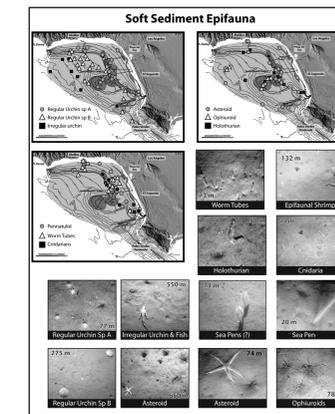


Comparisons between bottom photographs and predicted seafloor facies.

4 HABITATS



5 FAUNAL IDENTIFICATION



Map of Santa Monica Bay showing faunal identification locations.