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The Center for Integrated Marine Technologies Observing Ocean Health in Monterey Bay

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Abstract:
The Center for Integrated Marine Technologies' (CIMT) has been monitoring the indicators of ocean health through their ocean observing system in Monterey Bay. CIMT’s mission is to create a coastal ocean observing and forecasting system that provides a scientific basis for the management and conservation of the Monterey Bay, and serves as a model for all of California's coastal marine resources. This research unit of the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS) has been simultaneously collecting data via moorings, shipboard surveys, apex predator tagging and tracking, and satellite, aircraft, and land-based remote sensing since 2002 and is build on a foundation of data from the Wind to Whales effort since 1997. Within CeNCOOS CIMT addresses ecosystem indicators with strengths in marine populations and water quality. CIMT efforts have led to community outreach activities in many areas of ocean health including informing management decisions, providing education, informing recreational activities and developing regional coordination concerning harmful algae blooms (HABs), ocean conditions, fisheries and water quality.