



Sea Lion Encounter: Virtual Reality Fact Sheet

This fact sheet is associated with the [Sea Lion Encounter VR Video](#).



Sea lions catch a break from swimming while resting on a buoy in Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Photo: Douglas Croft



Kelp is the foundation of the ecosystem in Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Photo: Robert Schwemmer/NOAA



A garibaldi swims over purple sea urchins. Photo: Claire Fackler/NOAA

1. Kelp is a type of large brown algae.
2. The kelp seen in the VR video is giant kelp, which can grow up to 200 feet long and make a productive ecosystem.
3. Some sea lions can dive 1,000 feet (300 meters) deep and hold their breath for 20 minutes.
4. Sea lions are carnivores, which are animals that eat meat, and can eat up to 40 pounds of food a day, eating organisms like crab, squid, and anchovies.
5. The underwater arches and caves in the Channel Islands are created by the wind and water eroding the volcanic island.
6. Garibaldi are the California State Marine Fish and are very territorial fish who know exactly where their territory ends.
7. Garibaldi are found only off the coast of California and Mexico.
8. Thousands of species of marine animals, algae, and plants are protected within Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.