



# Coal Oil Point Reserve

# Education, Research and Outreach



# Kelp Forests



The amber patches you see floating on the surface of the ocean are the terminal blades of giant kelp.

Giant kelp grows along coastlines that have an upwelling of cool, nutrient-rich waters. Over 750 organisms are found in kelp forests.

Giant kelp attaches to rocks with a holdfast. The stalk or stipe attaches to the blades, the major site of photosynthetic activity. Sporephyll, a type of blade, releases spores that eventually develop into male and female plants. Air-filled floats or pneumatocysts, attached to each frond, keep the plant upright in the water.

The canopy of the kelp forest is crowded with juvenile fish and invertebrate larvae, providing food for seabirds and fish.

Population explosions of sea urchins can destroy a kelp forest. Fortunately, Sea Otters eat urchins, helping to keep urchin populations in check. Sea Otters are a federally protected species.



Gopher Rockfish



Fish-Eating Anemone



A Harbor Seal in the kelp forest.

A four page factbook containing additional information is available at [coastalfund.ucsb.edu](http://coastalfund.ucsb.edu). Sign#Pubcast #1 of 19



# Volunteers



# COPR Nature Center



