

S E R I E S

# BEST ECOTOURISM PRACTICES

IN NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS

FLORA AND FAUNA PROTECTION AREA

# GULF OF CALIFORNIA ISLANDS



# BEST ECOTOURISM PRACTICES

**“A responsible relationship between people and nature...  
...a strong compromise towards conservation.”**

**Contents:**

Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna “Islas del Golfo de California”

**Produced by:**

Dirección de Comunicación Estrategia e Identidad

**Photographs:**

Juan Carlos Godínez, Vicente Bracho, José Luis León, Archivo Reserva, Fulvio Eccardi, Roberto López, Ernesto Vázquez, Claudio Contreras Koob, Victor Flores, Eduardo Struck.

**Graphic Design:**

Alemán Garrido & asociados





# INTRODUCTION

The islands and waters of the Gulf of California are internationally recognized as an ecosystem of significant biological, social, and economic value. Within the world's 20th largest saltwater sea, the islands of the Gulf of California were designated a Flora and Fauna Protection Area by the government of Mexico in 1978, and UNESCO recognizes the area as a Biosphere Reserve.

The beauty and natural richness of the desert islands and surrounding marine areas attract many visitors who have an opportunity to learn from and enjoy this unique ecosystem. In recent years, the islands of the Gulf of California have become popular destinations for tourists and recreational sports enthusiasts. Visitors need to be aware that the ecosystem is fragile and that there are clear procedures for avoiding these problems to the natural environment.

This document presents a Code of Ethics for visitors and tour operators, as well as serving as a guide for environmentally ethical tourism practices on the islands and in the surrounding sea. These recommendations have been designed to complement, not replace, the legal requirements within the Protection Area. By following this Code of Ethics and good environmental practices, the need to maintain enforcement agents can be partly replaced with self-regulation by visitors and tour operators.

We invite you to adopt and promote this Code of Ethics and good environmental practices. Acting responsibly increases your enjoyment and aids in the protection of the natural resources in the Gulf of California.





Ecotourism links nature tourism with environmental conservation and improving the livelihoods of local communities. To achieve this objective, tour operators should be familiar with the code of ethics that maximizes the benefits of tourism for the entire area.

The following recommendations reflect this philosophy involving tourists and outdoor enthusiasts in the conservation efforts in the Gulf of California.

# CODE OF ETHICS

## FOR TOUR OPERATORS

- Maintain the natural integrity of the places you visit.
- Become informed and involved in the conservation efforts that are being carried out at the sites you visit.
- Respect the livelihood and culture of the local people.
- Make a concerted effort to be less wasteful with natural resources. Recycle, reuse, reduce!
- Ensure that waste disposal has no environmental impact.
- Develop a recycling program.
- Support companies (hotels, tour operators, etc.) that work under a good environmental conservation policy.
- Network with other tour companies, particularly those in the local area, to keep abreast of new conservation programs, environmental policies, and environmentally friendly techniques. Promote this Code of Ethics.
- Obtain appropriate education and training about ecotourism and low impact techniques. Learn to speak with the local people, obtain training in natural sciences, and become knowledgeable and respectful of the environment and local culture.
- Support local economy, but do not buy goods made from threatened or endangered species, such as ironwood and turtles.
- Never intentionally disturb or encourage the disturbance of wildlife or wildlife habitats.
- Abide by the rules and regulations of Protected Areas.
- Advertise truthfully and inform your clients about natural and local history, including useful written material.
- Make sure you communicate with your clients about regulations, acceptable behavior, and the code of ethics applicable to the area you visit.
- Treat your customers well and make their experience satisfying. Excel in your business services.
- Develop or support an environmental education program in local communities.
- Ensure that your company follows a "do not leave trace" philosophy. Encourage your clients to take only pictures, leave only footprints. Do not collect natural souvenirs (bones, shells, rocks).
- Commit to the Code of Ethics and good environmental practices when involved in recreational activities on the islands and surrounding marine areas of the Gulf of California.

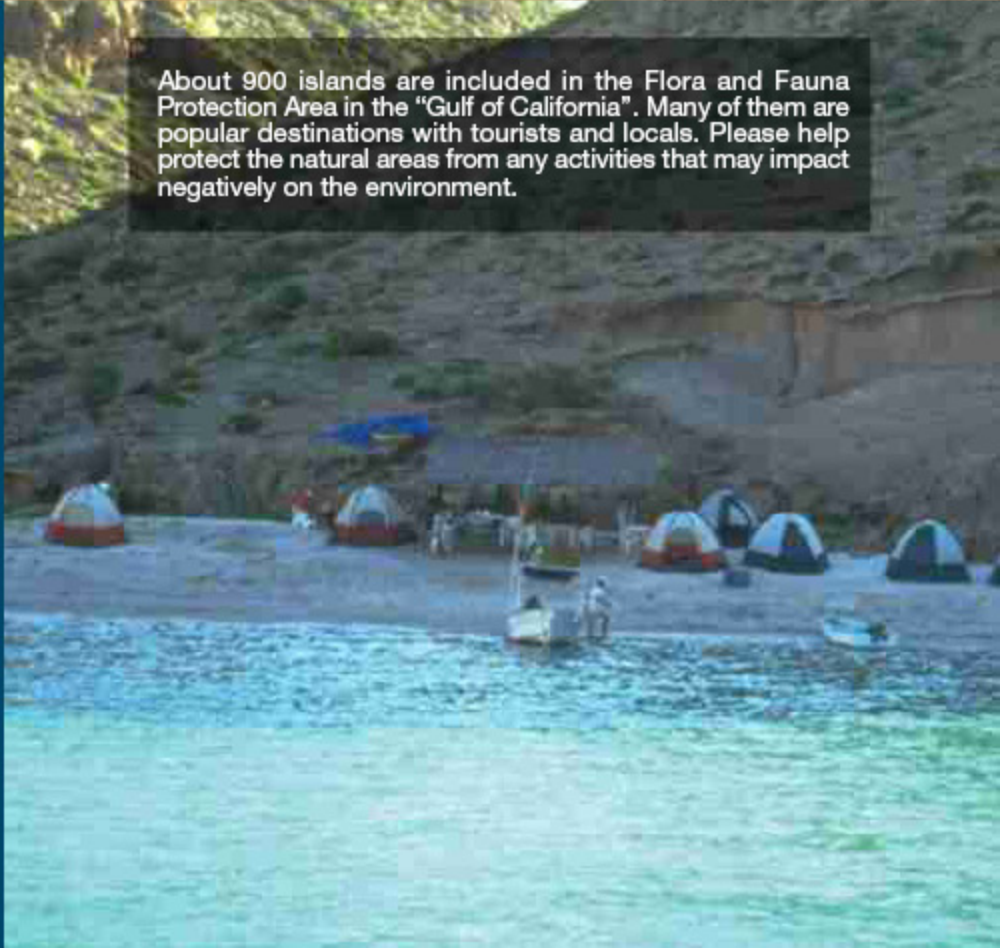




# ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICES

## Environmental practices while visiting islands:

- Before visiting the islands, check for special requirements and obtain your permit from SEMARNAT through the Office of the "Islands of the Gulf of California" Flora and Fauna Protection Area.
- Before landing, remove any seeds or plants from your clothing or shoes.
- Check for plants, seeds, insects, and animals in your equipment to prevent introducing non-native organisms to the islands.
- Do not feed native animals.
- Do not build new campsites. Camp only at designated campsites or naturally clear areas. Respect the privacy of other camping groups.
- Take all litter back to the mainland, including toilet paper. If possible, collect additional litter for removal, if you can.
- Use only biodegradable products for dishwashing in all waterways. Sand works well for scrubbing dishes.
- Use gas or liquid fuel stoves for cooking. Camp fires and collecting driftwood are not encouraged on the islands.
- Use latrines or portable-potty, where provided when you are in large groups. If only a very few individuals, use a spot at least 300 feet from campsites and watercourses. Bury all fecal waste at least 6 inches deep. We strongly recommend using the intertidal zone as a potty area.
- Do not make new trails. Use existing trails.
- Do not disturb wildlife. Avoid making loud noises, using strong lights, or making sudden movements near their habitat.
- Do not graffiti rocks or trees.
- Do not run generators or compressors unless you have permission from the Director of the Protection Area. Keep noise levels low and do not use amplified music on the islands.



About 900 islands are included in the Flora and Fauna Protection Area in the "Gulf of California". Many of them are popular destinations with tourists and locals. Please help protect the natural areas from any activities that may impact negatively on the environment.



# BIRD WATCHING



The islands of the Gulf of California are home to thousands of seabirds. Many islands play a critical role as breeding, resting, and feeding sites. Obtain information about protected areas and seasonal closures. Take special care to ensure the safety of the birds. They are protected by government decree and international treaty, and it is illegal to hunt them or collect their eggs.

## Environmental practices for bird watching:

- To have a more rewarding experience, it is better to hire a guide.
- Watch from a distance. Getting too close will disturb or stress them. If they are nesting, you may force the birds to take flight and leave their nests and chicks.
- If seabirds exhibit wild behavior, such as raucous calling or swooping, leave the area immediately, taking care to avoid crushing well-camouflaged eggs.
- When approaching birds, tread quietly and avoid rapid or sudden movements. Respect their space.
- Never attempt to touch birds, chicks, or eggs.
- Avoid using lights near or in bird colonies.
- If for any reason you land on a breeding island, take special care during the following situations:
  - Late afternoon and early evening,
  - The hottest part of the day,
  - Wet and/or cold weather,
  - Brightly moonlit nights, or
  - When eggs or naked or downy chicks are in their nests.



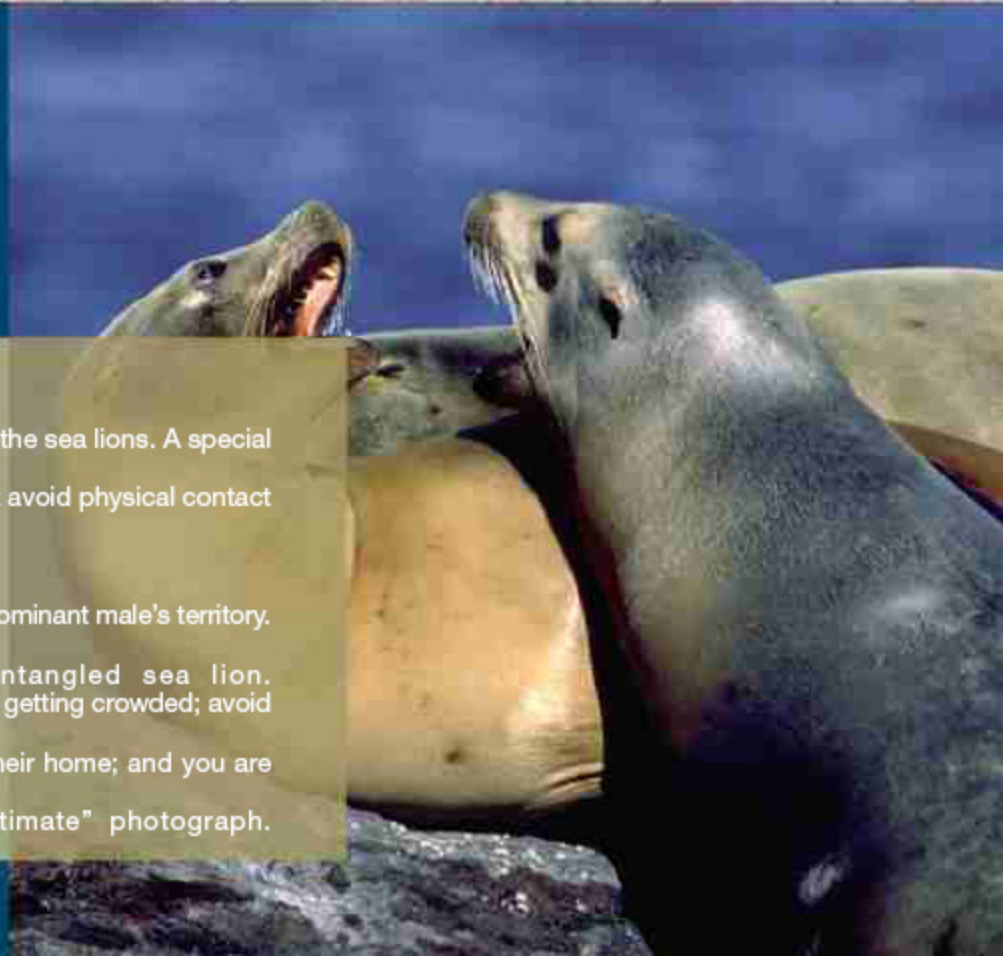


# SEA LIONS

In the Gulf of California, there are outstanding rookeries of California sea lions. Although some of these rookeries receive many visitors and the sea lions are accustomed to human presence, it is necessary to be cautious, especially during their breeding season (May to September). On land, this species react to natural and human disturbances in a distinctive way. At the sight of a human or in response to auditory stimuli, they panic and attempt to reach the water. Depending on the intensity of disturbance, sea lions may startle to the point of a massive stampede, crushing and/or abandoning newborn pups or injuring other animals.

Environmental practices while observing or approaching sea lions:

- Do not land on rocks and islets occupied by sea lions. It is dangerous for you and the sea lions. A special permit is required to land on their islets.
- When swimming near sea lions, do not approach them; let them approach you, but avoid physical contact with them.
- Avoid making loud noises and using strong lights near the colonies.
- Keep your boat at least 90 feet (30 meters) away from the rocks and islets.
- Be extremely careful during their mating season. Definitely avoid getting close to a dominant male's territory.
- If a stampede occurs, get away of the site immediately.
- Contact the Protected Area administration if you observe an entangled sea lion.
- To enjoy the experience, stay in the area just the right time. Move away if the area is getting crowded; avoid human congestion.
- Never get between a sea lion and its path. They have the right of the way; it's their home; and you are merely a visitor.
- Never harass or chase them for the sake of a better look or an "ultimate" photograph.





# DIVING AND SNORKELING



Scuba diving and snorkeling are the most popular ways to experience the unique and beautiful underwater world of this sea. However, when divers are not properly weighted and buoyancy becomes a problem, the coral and bottom-dwelling organisms can be damaged. Keep impacts to the minimum and help us to protect the beauty and natural richness of the Gulf of California.

While diving and snorkeling, be aware that the law forbids damaging or removing coral and other marine organisms.

Environmental practices while diving and snorkeling:

- Ensure that you are weighted properly before diving and practice buoyancy control away from coral formations.
- Secure all diving equipment, such as gauges, so that nothing drags along the bottom.
- Do not stand on coral or any other marine life.
- Avoid touching anything with your fins and avoid disturbing sediment or coral.
- "Look, but do not touch."
- Do not chase, harass, or attempt to ride or grab any marine life.
- Do not collect natural "souvenirs", such as coral or shells.
- If possible, practice "underwater clean up".
- Dive safely for your own health and survival and the marine environment.



# RECREATIONAL BOATING ETIQUETE

Anchors and chains can damage coral and other sensitive marine organisms. Frequent anchoring at popular sites can destroy the natural beauty that people have come to see. Familiarize yourself with the area where you will be anchoring and ensure that you have the appropriate anchoring gear on board. Coral are living organisms and anchors can destroy these fragile organisms.

Environmental practices for recreational boats:

- Safety is first! Carry emergency gear and report your departure to the Harbor Master.
- Carry litter disposal containers and make sure people use them. The final destiny of litter is at the marinas and harbor. Adopt a policy of recycle, reuse, reduce.
- Do not spill oil, diesel, or discharge sewage waste into the sea, use the nearest pump-out facilities at a harbor or marina.
- Carry enough chain for the depth.
- Check out the area before anchoring and anchor over sand or mud away from coral formations.
- When hauling in the anchor, avoid dragging it along the bottom. Motor towards the anchor.
- Where available, use approved public moorings.
- Avoid being part of the crowd at diving sites.
- Avoid using jet skis or water skis inside bays and coves of the islands.

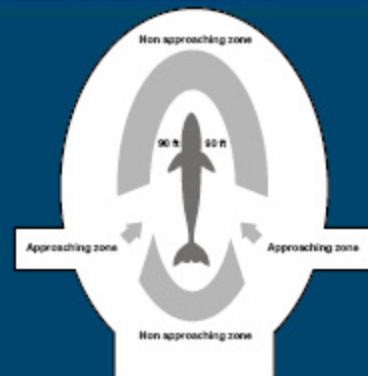




# WHALES AND DOLPHINS



The Gulf of California is an important breeding and feeding ground for cetaceans, such as whales and dolphins. There are special regulations for whale watching, and it is a requirement that all commercial operators obtain permission from SEMARNAT before they conduct whale-watching activities. Interfering with whales, including harassment, chasing, and herding, can stress a nursing mother to abandon her calf.



## Environmental practices for dolphin and whale watching:

- First, watch their behavior (direction and diving pattern) from a distance and then approach slowly from the rear. Avoid sudden movements or acceleration.
- Never harass the animals. Keep your boat parallel to the route of the animal at a distance greater than 90 feet. Never cross their travel route.
- Do not interfere with the movements of the animals. Do not use animal attraction devices.
- Avoid physical contact with whales with calves. If they are interested they will come to you.
- Do not get between members of the group. If the animals spread out, maintain a position on the periphery of the group, not in the middle.
- If there is a sudden change in whale behavior, move away.
- Report sick, injured, or stranded whales or dolphins to the appropriate authority.
- Use certified, commercial whale-watching vessels, when possible, rather than private vessels. Hire trained and certified guides.
- Stay just the right time to enjoy the experience. Do not become part of the crowd. When departing, move away slowly.





# WHALE SHARKS AND MANTA RAYS

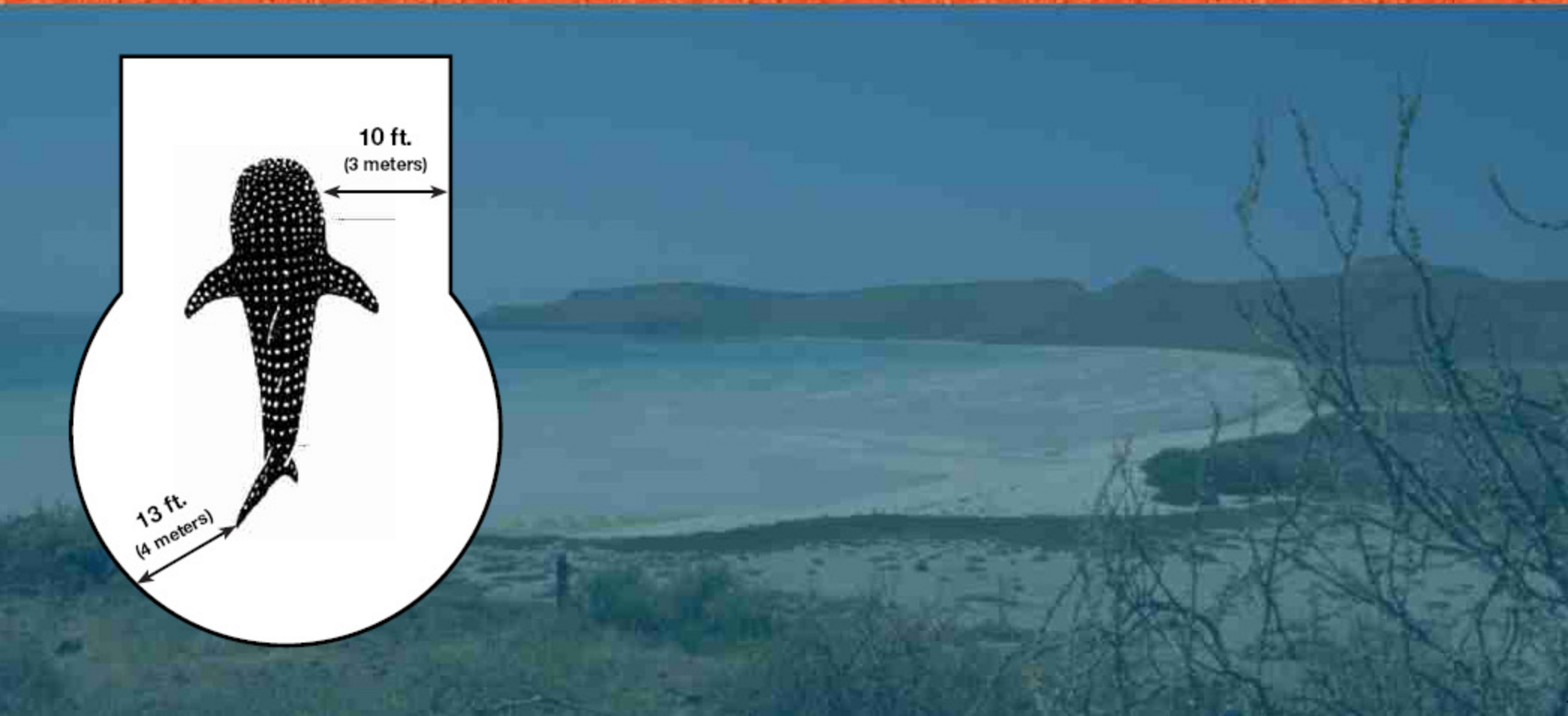
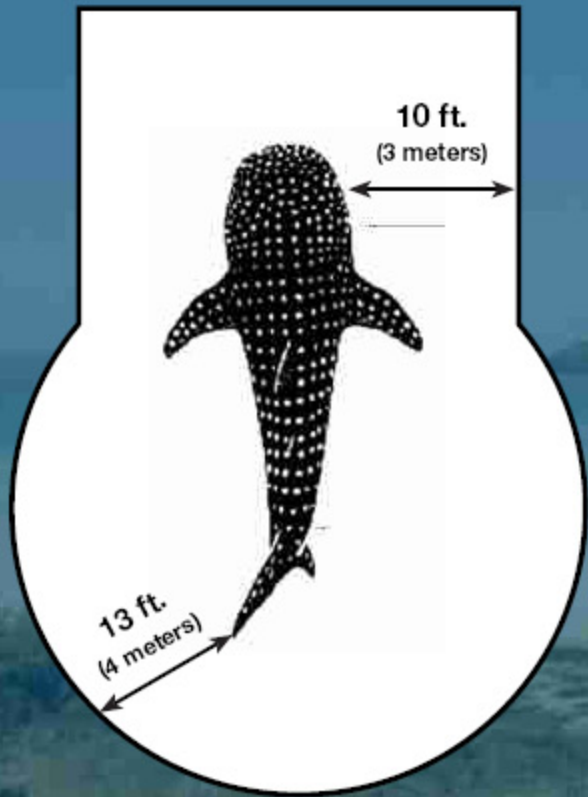
Snorkeling and diving with whale sharks and manta rays is an increasingly popular tourism activity in the Gulf of California. Although whale sharks can be seen in the gulf throughout the year, its presence in the Bay of La Paz seems to be higher during May-June and October-November. The unregulated growth in tourists interacting with whale sharks and manta rays may modify feeding and migratory habits of these species. To ensure that you have a safe and enjoyable experience and prevent the animals from being harmed or disturbed, the following environmental practices apply.

Environmental practices for interacting with whale sharks and manta rays:

- Limit interaction with these species to snorkeling while the animals feed at the surface.
- Avoid physical contact with whale sharks and manta rays. Do not attempt to touch or ride them.
- Do not restrict the normal movements and behavior of the animals. Do not try to attract them. Stay at least 10 ft. (3 meters) from the whale shark's head and body and 13 ft. (4 meters) from the tail. With manta rays, stay at least 3 feet from the animals.
- Observe their behavior and approach slowly from the side.
- Do not become part of the crowd.
- Report injured or sick animals to the authorities.
- Avoid using flash when photographing whale shark or manta ray heads.
- Do not use motorized propulsion (scooters) near these animals.
- Do not approach these animals by boat. Stay at least 100 feet (30 meters) from the animals.
- Reduce the speed of your boat in areas where whale sharks tend to concentrate or when you see them.
- Avoid anchoring your boat in areas where manta rays gather to protect them from the anchor line. This species has a blind zone in front, and they cannot see what is in front of them.









# INTERTIDAL ZONE

Intertidal walks are a popular and educational way to explore the coastal area of the islands. It is particularly so for those who are not able to swim. However, intertidal walks need to be conducted carefully to avoid serious damage to the environment.

Environmental practices for intertidal walks:

- Take a guide with you. You will learn more and will avoid potential injury to yourself or damage to the environment.
- Avoid stepping on coral or other living organisms.
- If there is no marked trail, look for regularly used routes or follow sand channels and rock paths.
- Use a pole or a stick for balance. Do not poke animals.
- If you pick up anything, living or dead, always return it to the exact position where you found it.
- Do not dislodge species attached to rocks.
- A permit is needed to collect organisms.





# SPORT FISHING



Fishing is one of the most popular activities in the Gulf of California. As commercial and sports fishing continue to grow, the fisheries are being depleted. Size limits and seasonal closures are designed to maintain fish stocks at a sustainable level. Before fishing, be sure you are familiar with the legal restrictions. Your local SAGARPA office provides zoning maps and information on official bag/size/tackle limits, protected species, and seasonal closures.

## Environmental practices for sport fishing:

- Obtain your permit.
- Take only what you need and respect official limits.
- Practice "Catch and Release".
- Return all undersize or unwanted fish to the water carefully and quickly. Careful treatment and handling of fish is essential for giving them the best chance of survival, when released.
- Avoid fishing in areas where fish are gathering to spawn or feed.
- Keep the beaches free of carcasses. Throw them in deep water (90 feet) to avoid flies and bad odors.
- Report sightings of large groups of dead fish to SEMARNAT, PROFEPA, or the Director of the Flora and Fauna Protection Area of the Gulf of California Islands. Note the circumstances and collect specimens, if possible.
- Report all illegal activities to the proper authorities.

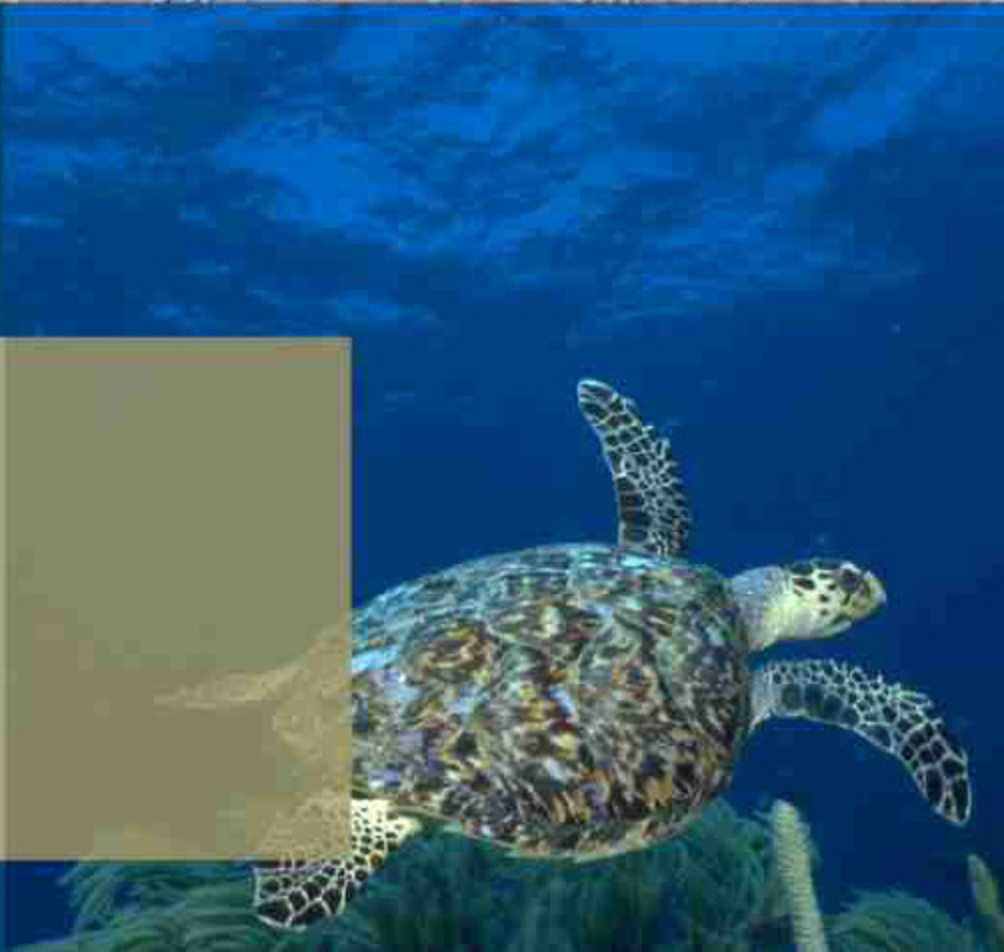


# TURTLES

Marine turtles are one of the most enjoyable animals that can be observed while snorkeling, diving, or walking beaches. However, for the best enjoyment while watching them, do not disturb them, and follow certain precautions.

Environmental practices for turtle watching:

- Never attempt to ride turtles, either while swimming or on the beach.
- Keep a minimum distance of 15 feet at all times on land and in the water.
- While turtles are laying eggs, keep movements and noise to a minimum.
- Avoid artificial lights and camera flashes.
- Do not handle turtle eggs.
- Do not interfere with turtles on their way out of or back to the sea.





# HOW CAN YOU HELP ?



By adopting and practicing this "Code of Ethics" and environmental practices, you will be helping to protect the environment you are visiting. However, there are other ways you can support us in protecting the island and marine environments. One of them is reporting unlawful or irregular activities you observe within the area to the "Direction of the Area de Protección de Flora y Fauna "Islas del Golfo de California", PROFEPA, or BAGARPA. Addresses and telephone numbers are listed below.

Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA) [Federal Agency for Environmental Protection]  
Periférico Sur #5000, Col. Insurgentes Cuicuilco, Coyoacán. C.R. 04530, México D.F. Toll Free (In México): 01 800 00 842 00, 01 800 PROFEPA, and Fax: 01 (5) 528 55 54.

In the city of La Paz: Isabel la Católica esq. Nicolás Bravo s/n. C.R. 23000. Tel. 122 97 94, 125 58 84, 123 05 02, and Fax: 122 19 88.

Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna "Islas del Golfo de California" Oficina Regional en B.C.B. [Flora and Fauna Protection Area of the Islands of the Gulf of California]  
Ocampo 1045, 2do Piso, Col. Centro. C.P. 23000, La Paz, B.C.B. Tel. 128 41 70 and Fax: 128 41 71.

Secretaría de Agricultura, Ganadería Desarrollo Rural Pesca y Alimentación (BAGARPA) [Secretary of Rural Development of Agriculture, Ranching, Fishing, and Nourishment]  
Agricultura y México y Durango s/n. Col. Emiliano Zapata C.R. 23070. La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. 122 35 11 and Fax: 122 77 80

All reports should be accompanied by:

- The description of the problem.
- Information that allows an agency to identify the source of pollution or the location where the environmental disturbance is taking place.
- Evidence of the problem, such as video or photos.
- If your initial report was made by telephone, a written copy will be necessary.

We provide a list of the most critical environmental activities that are unlawful and that we hope you can help prevent.

- Introduce species to the islands. Any plant or animal that is not native to the islands, especially dogs, cats, goats, domestic rats, and plants is unlawful.
- Remove or transport plants from island to island.
- Damage to the vegetation. Cutting, marking, gouging, or removing cacti, trees, shrubs, or ground plants by means of machetes, knives, clothes lines, or tents.
- Illegal traffic of native species, especially cacti, endemic reptiles, birds, and reef fish.
- Collecting or acquiring any plant, animal, fossil, archaeological, or inorganic and organic vestiges found on the islands.
- Disturb or chase birds, marine animals, especially sea lions, whales, turtles, dolphins, and whale sharks.
- Feed native animals.
- Anchor less than 60 feet from sea lion rookeries and nesting birds, as well as drop anchor over coral areas.
- Land on sea lion rookery islets and bird nesting sites.
- Discharge sewage in shallow and nearby closed body waters (bays and coves) or in or near recreational sites.
- Dispose or burn inorganic litter, either on land or at sea.
- Use unauthorized sewage disposal while camping.
- Engage in commercial tourism, research, or filming and photography activities without a permit.
- Painting rocks and plants.
- Fishing with SCUBA equipment, lamps, explosives, and nets in combination with SCUBA equipment.
- Trolling for shrimp within bays and estuaries.

In addition, we provide a list of organizations involved in research, conservation, and management of coastal natural resources and protected areas that you can support to protect the natural resources of the Gulf of California.

## Natural Protected Areas

**Parque Nacional "Bahía de Loreto"**  
Director: Btl. Benito Bermúdez Almada  
Paseo Adolfo López Mateos esq. Atanacio Carrillo  
23880, Loreto, B.C.B.  
Tel. (613) 135 14 29 and Fax: 135 04 77  
E-mail: [parquenacional@prodigy.net.mx](mailto:parquenacional@prodigy.net.mx)

**Reserva de la Biosfera "Alto Golfo de California y Delta del Río Colorado"**  
Director: Btl. José Rafael Campo y Fabela  
Avenida Jalisco #903, s/c calle 9 y 10, Col. Sonora  
83404, San Luis Río Colorado, Sonora  
Tel and Fax: (653) 536 37 57  
E-mail: [delta2@telnet.net](mailto:delta2@telnet.net)

**Reserva de la Biosfera "El Vizcaino"**  
Director: Btl. Víctor Sánchez Botomayor  
Ave. Profesor Domingo Carballo Félix s/n esq. Ruiz Cortines  
Col. Marcelo rubio  
23940, Guerrero Negro, B.C.B.  
Tel. (615) 157 01 77 and Fax: 157 17 77  
E-mail: [elvizcaino@pcvision.com.mx](mailto:elvizcaino@pcvision.com.mx)

**Área de Protección de Flora y Fauna "Islas del Golfo de California"**  
*Guaymas*  
Director: M.C. Ana Luisa Figueroa de Gallo  
Terminación Bahía de Bacochibampo s/n  
Fracc. Lomas de Cortés  
85400, Guaymas, Sonora  
Tel. (622) 221 04 00 and Fax: 221 03 00  
E-mail: [islas-gc@campus.gym.itesm.mx](mailto:islas-gc@campus.gym.itesm.mx)

**La Paz**  
Director: M.M.M. Gabriela Anaya Reyna  
Ocampo 1045, 2nd floor  
SEMARNAT  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 128 41 70 and Fax: 128 41 71  
E-mail: [islasgo@lapaz.cromwell.com.mx](mailto:islasgo@lapaz.cromwell.com.mx)

**Ensenada**  
Director: Alfredo Zavala González  
Ave. Del Puerto #375, Loc. 24  
Fracc. Playas de Ensenada  
22880, Ensenada, B.C.  
Tel. (646) 176 01 90 and Fax: 172 59 05  
E-mail: [islasbc@clceee.mx](mailto:islasbc@clceee.mx)

Next we offer you a list of the most critical environmental unlawful you could help to prevent.

- Introduction of species into the islands. Any sort of flora or fauna that does not belong to the islands, specially dogs, cats, goats, domestic rats and plants.
- Remove or transport plants from island to island.
- Damage to the vegetation such as of cutting, marking or removing cacti or trees by means of machetes, knives, clothes lines or tents
- Illegal traffic of native species, specially cacti, endemic reptiles, birds and reef fish.
- To collect or acquire any sort of flora and fauna, archaeological, inorganic and organic vestiges and fossils found in the islands.
- Disturb or chase birds, marine animals, specially sea lions, whales, turtles, dolphins and whale sharks.
- To feed native animals.
- To anchor less than 60 feet from the sea lion rookeries and nesting birds, as well as to throw anchors over corals.
- To land on sea lion rookeries and nesting birds sites.
- Discharge sewage in shallow and close body waters (bays and coves) as well as in recreational sites.
- To dispose or burn inorganic litter either on land or sea.
- To use unauthorised sewage disposal while camping.
- Commercial tourism, research, filming and photography activities with out a permit.
- Painting over rocks and plants.
- Fishing with SCUBA equipment, lamps, explosives and nets in combination with SCUBA equipment.
- Trolling for shrimp within bays and estuaries.

SPECIES		CRITICAL SEASON											
SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
<i>Fregata magnificens</i>	Frigatebird												
<i>Larus heermanni</i>	Heerman's Gull												
<i>Larus livens</i>	Yellow-footed Gull												
<i>Oceanodroma melania</i>	Black Storm-petrel												
<i>Oceanodroma microsoma</i>	Least Storm-petrel												
<i>Pelecanus occidentalis</i>	Brown Pelican												
<i>Phaeton aethereus</i>	Red-Billed tropic bird												
<i>Phaethon rubricauda</i>	Brandt's Cormorant												
<i>Sterna elegans</i>	Elegant Tern												
<i>Sterna antillarum</i>	Least Tern												
<i>Sterna maxima</i>	Royal Tern												
<i>Sula leucogaster</i>	Brown Booby												
<i>Sula nebouxi</i>	Blue-footed booby												
<i>Synthliboramphus craveri</i>	Craver's Murrelet												

A critical season is the time when birds are endangered by human presence. Your behavior could have a negative impact on bird colonies (based on studies by Bourillon et al., 1989 and Tershy et al., 1992). See birdwatching chapter for recommendations.



#### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

**Centro Regional de Investigaciones Pesqueras (CRIP)**  
Director: Luis Gerardo López Lomas  
Km. 1 carretera a Pichilingue, Col. Estero  
23020, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 122 13 07 and Fax: 125 16 23  
E-mail: llopez@rip.sernamap.gob.mx

**Procuraduría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (PROFEPA)**  
Representativa in La Paz: Víctor Manuel Martínez de Escobar Cobela  
Isabela la Católica esq. Nicolás Bravo s/n. Col. Centro  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. 122 07 94, 125 58 84, 123 05 02 and Fax: 12 210 88  
Toll free call to Mexico City: 01 800 PROFEPA

**Ministry of Tourism in Baja California**  
Paseo de los Héroes #10289, 4th floor, Zona Rio  
22320, Tijuana, B.C.  
Tel. (662) 634 06 30, 634 09 18 and Fax: 634 71 57  
**Ministry of Tourism in Baja California Sur**  
Carretera al Norte Km. 5.5, Frasco. Fidepaz.  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 124 01 00, 124 01 03 and Fax: 124 07 22  
E-mail: turismo@comnet.com.mx

#### Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT)

**México**  
Labor: Victor Lichtinger Weisman  
Natural Resource Conservation and Use Center  
(ITESM-CACARENA)  
Col. Jardines en la Montaña  
14210, México, D.F.  
Tel. (55) 59 28 06 02-06 and Fax: 56 26 06 43/44  
E-mail: vlichtinger@semarnat.gob.mx  
Web page: http://semarnat.gob.mx

**Baja California Sur**  
Representative: Carlos Fernando Acosta García  
Colmapo #1045, Col. Centro  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 122 44 14 and Fax: 125 49 45

**Baja California**  
Representative: Juan Carlos Rubio  
Ave. Masdero #597 al Morales y México  
21110, Mexicali, B.C.  
Tel. (662) 552 49 98 and Fax: 552 49 97

**Sonora**  
Representative: José Luis Luna Urquidiz  
Edif. Hermosillo 2nd. level, Comofort y Vado del Rio  
83270, Hermosillo, Sonora

**National Commission of Natural Protected Areas (CONANP)**  
President: Ernesto Enrique Hoefflich  
Camino al Ajusco #200, Ala Norte, 3rd. floor  
14210, México, D.F.  
Tel. (55) 54 40 63 93

**Secretaría de Gobernación**  
Departamento de Administración del Territorio Insular  
Abraham González, 48, Col. Juárez  
06000, México, D.F.  
Tel. (55) 50 93 39 12; (55) 50 93 37 48

#### Academic Institutions

**Centro de Investigaciones Científicas y Educación Superior de Ensenada (CICESE)**  
Carretera Tijuana-Ensenada km. 107, Ensenada, B.C.  
Tel. (640) 175 05 40 and Fax: 175 05 74  
Web page: http://www.cicese.mx

**Centro de Investigación en Alimentación y Desarrollo (CIAD)**  
Director: Inocencio Figueroa Chaparra

**Carretera a la Victoria km. 0.6**  
83000, Hermosillo, Sonora  
Tel. (662) 280 00 57 and Fax: 280 00 55  
E-mail: higuera@casacab.dad.mx

**Centro de Investigaciones Biológicas del Noroeste (CIBNOR)**  
Director: Dr. Mario Martínez García  
Mar Barmajo #165, Col. Sta. Rita  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 125 36 33 and Fax: 125 47 10  
Web page: http://www.cibnor.mx

**Centro Interdisciplinario de Estudios de Desiertos y Océanos A.C. (CEDEO)**  
President: Daniel Luna Polhado  
Edificio Aguahú Cortés, Frasco, Las Conchas  
83650, Puerto Peñasco, Sonora  
Tel. y Fax: (639) 382 01 13 and 382 01 15  
E-mail: ocd@intercultural.org

**Centro Interdisciplinario de Ciencias Marinas (CICIMAR-IPN)**  
Director: Dr. Francisco Amaguchi Sánchez  
Ave. Instituto Politécnico Nacional, Playa Palo de Sta. Rita  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 122 53 44 and Fax: 122 53 22  
Web page: http://cicimar.ipn.mx

**Instituto Tecnológico de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey**  
Natural Resource Conservation and Use Center  
(ITESM-CACARENA)  
Director: Guillermo Sobaron Chávez  
Bahía Cochabampo s/n Col. Lomas de Cortés  
85460, Guaymas, Sonora  
Tel. (662) 221 03 84, 221 03 15 and Fax: 221 02 43  
Web page: http://iub.gym.itesm.mx

**Universidad Autónoma de Baja California**  
Marine Biology Faculty (UABC-FOM)  
Director: Roberto Millán Nuñez  
Km. 103 carretera Tijuana-Ensenada  
22800, Ensenada, B.C.  
Tel. (646) 174 45 70 and Fax: 174 41 03  
Web page: http://www.sns.uabc.mx/omv

**Universidad Autónoma de Baja California Sur (UABCS)**  
Marine Biology  
Coordinator: Jorge García Pámanes  
Km. 5.5 carretera al Sur  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 128 07 75 and Fax: 128 08 01  
Web page: http://www.uabcs.mx

**Universidad de Sonora (UNISON-DICTUS)**  
Department of Technology and Scientific Research  
Director: Martín Armando Bolaño Rubalcava  
Rosales y Niños Héroes, Col. Centro  
83000, Hermosillo, Sonora  
Tel. (662) 212 19 05 and Fax: 212 32 71  
E-mail: mibola@eguas.con.unison.mx

**Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM)**  
Marine Biology and Limnology Institute  
Director: Adolfo García Garza  
Circuito Exterior, Ciudad Universitaria  
04510, México, D.F.  
Tel. (55) 56 22 57 70 and Fax: 56 16 27 45  
Web page: http://unam.mx

**Universidad Pedagógica Nacional**  
Environmental Education Program (EDUCAM)  
Director: Lic. Roberto Colorado Manzo  
J. A. Torres y Río Mochitico, Col. Independencia Magisterial  
21200, Mexicali, B.C.  
Tel. (662) 580 67 27 and Fax: 586 20 80  
E-mail: upnmedica1@yahoo.com

#### International Organizations

**Prescott College**  
220 Grove Avenue  
Prescott, AZ 86301, USA  
Tel. (520) 778 2090 and Fax: 776 5137

**San Diego Natural History Museum**  
Director: Dr. Michael Hager  
Biodiversity Research Center of the California  
1778 El Prado, Balboa Park  
P.O. Box 121300,  
San Diego, CA, USA  
Tel. (619) 232 3821 and Fax: 232 0048  
Web page: http://www.sdnhm.org

**The Nature Conservancy**  
Baja California Program, México Division  
Director: Marianne Kalberg  
Alvaro Obregón #490, Loc. 206-207  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. and Fax: (612) 125 04 44  
E-mail: mkalberg@nrc.org  
Web page: http://www.nrc.org

**Wetlands International**  
Coordinator: Dr. Gerard C. Bours  
P.O. Box 471 Dronsvaardsesteeg 3A  
6700 AL Wageningen, Paises Bajos  
Tel. (61 517) 479 697 and Fax: 478 850  
E-mail: wetlands@wetlands.org  
Web page: http://www.wetlands.org

**World Wildlife Fund**  
Gulf of California Program  
Program leader: Juan Carlos Barrera  
Dr. Pasquel 106-B, Col. Centenario  
83000, Hermosillo, Sonora  
Tel. (662) 213 50 20 and Fax: 213 50 30  
E-mail: juanera@wwfnet.org  
Web page: http://www.wwf.org

#### Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

**Amigos del Estero de San José**  
Contact: Erik Gibson  
Bvd. Miras #12  
23400, San José del Cabo, B.C.B.

**Asociación Sudcaliforniana de Protección al Medio Ambiente y a la Tortuga Marina, A.C. (ASUPMATOMA)**  
President: Rinael Pinaí  
Bvd. Marina, soc. Protección Matamoros  
23410, Cabo San Lucas, B.C.B.  
Tel. (624) 143 04 58 and Fax: 143 01 34  
E-mail: asupmatoma@coabot.com.mx

**Comunidad y Biodiversidad, A.C. (COB)**  
Director: Luis Enrique Miralbe  
Terminación Bahía Bacochibampo s/n Frasco. Lomas de Cortés  
85460, Guaymas, Sonora  
Tel. (622) 221 26 70 and Fax: 221 26 71  
E-mail: cobl@campus.gym.itam.mx  
Web page: http://www.cob.org.mx

**Conservación del Territorio Insular Mexicano, A.C.-Isla**  
Director: Eloy María Elena Martínez Delgado  
Alvaro Obregón #735 al Salvatierra y Torre Iglesias  
23020, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 123 43 18 and Fax: 123 00 85  
E-mail: isla@prodigy.net.mx  
Web page: http://www.isla.org.mx

**Conservation International México, A.C.**  
Gulf of California Program

**Director at Guaymas: María de los Ángeles Carvajal**  
Calle Benamitón s/n Lota 18 Manzana 1, Frasco. Lomas de Cortés  
85460, Guaymas, Sonora  
Tel. (622) 221 01 94 and Fax: 221 20 30  
E-mail: dmexpg@prodigy.net.mx  
Web page: http://www.conservation.org

**Mexican Fund for Nature Conservancy, A.C. (FMNC)**  
Director: Lorenzo Rosentwieg Pasquel  
Calle Damas #48, Col. San José Indulgencias  
03000, México, D.F.  
Tel. and Fax: (55) 56 11 07 70  
E-mail: info@mfnc.org  
Web page: http://www.fmcn.org

**Grupo Ecologista Antares (GEA)**  
President: Fernando Arcas  
Ave. Hidalgo s/n esq. Colegio, Col. Centro  
Loreto, B.C.B.  
Tel. and Fax: (613) 135 00 00  
E-mail: gae@orionweb.com.mx

**Instituto del Medio Ambiente y el Desarrollo Sustentable del Estado de Sonora (IMADES)**  
General Director: Carlos E. Zatarain González  
Reyes y Aguascalientes s/n Col. San Benito  
83100, Hermosillo, Sonora  
Tel. (662) 215 98 81 and Fax: 214 05 08  
E-mail: zatarain@cdson.mx  
Web page: http://www.eldesoson.mx

**Investigación y Conservación de Mamíferos Marinos de Ensenada, A.C.**  
President: M. an C. Gisela Heckel  
Pérez Mata #2309, Dpto. D-5 Las Rincas  
22830, Ensenada, B.C.  
Tel. and Fax: (640) 178 73 01  
E-mail: mmm@iicm.ans.uabcs.mx  
Web page: http://www.iicm.ans.uabcs.mx

**Mulegé Alerta, A.C.**  
President: Ricardo Castillo  
A. P. #21  
23000, Mulegé, B.C.B.  
Tel. (615) 153 00 78 and Fax: 153 04 50  
Web page: http://www.bajasquest.com

**Organización Vida Silvestre, A.C. (OVIS)**  
Director: Sergio Jiménez Lezama  
Ave. Ricardo Margán #440 Col. Valle del Campestre  
06205, Garza García, Nuevo León  
Tel. (51) 83 20 16 20 and Fax: 83 20 16 25  
E-mail: ovis@vto.com  
Web page: http://www.ovis.vto.com

**Pro Esteros, Lagunas y Marismas de las Californias, S.C. (PROELMC)**  
Director: Laura Martínez Ríos del Río  
Ave. Ruiz #1002, Zona Centro  
22800, Ensenada, B.C.  
Tel. (640) 178 00 50 and Fax: 178 01 62  
E-mail: proester@telnor.net

**Ponadura Península de Baja California**  
Director: Dr. Rubén Lara Larín  
Rivoraí #724 2nd floor, Zona Centro  
22830, Ensenada, B.C.  
Tel. (640) 177 30 80 and Fax: 176 46 88  
E-mail: ppbio@telnor.net

**Sociedad de Historia Natural Niparoja, A.C.**  
President: Susana Melioux  
Alvaro Obregón #490, Loc. 209  
23000, La Paz, B.C.B.  
Tel. (612) 122 14 71 and Fax: 122 12 88  
E-mail: suvimex@hpaz.com.mx



For further information:

**NATIONAL COMISION  
OF NATURAL PROTECTED AREAS**

Address: Camino al Ajusco No. 200,  
Colonia Jardines en la Montaña, Tlalpan,  
Mexico, D.F., C.P. 14210.

E-mail: [info@conanp.gob.mx](mailto:info@conanp.gob.mx)

Web page: [www.conanp.gob.mx](http://www.conanp.gob.mx)

**FLORA AND FAUNA PROTECTION AREA  
"GULF OF CALIFORNIA ISLANDS"**

**Office La Paz**  
Melchor Ocampo # 1045 2do piso  
entre Lic. Primo Verdad y Prof. M. Rubio Diaz  
Delegación de SEMARNAT  
C.P. 23000, La Paz, B.C.S.  
Tel. (612) 126 41 70 y Fax: 126 41 71

E-mail:  
[lapaz@conanp.gob.mx](mailto:lapaz@conanp.gob.mx)

**Office Guaymas**  
Terminación Bahía de Bacoahbampo s/n  
Fraccionamiento Lomas de Cortés  
C.P. 85400, Guaymas, Sonora  
Tel. (622) 221 04 00 y Fax: 221 03 00

E-mail:  
[islas-go@campus.gym.itesm.mx](mailto:islas-go@campus.gym.itesm.mx)

**Office Ensenada**  
Avenida del Puerto # 370 Loc. 24  
Fraccionamiento Playas de Ensenada  
C.P. 22660, Ensenada, B.C.  
Tel. (646) 176 01 90 y Fax: 172 69 05

E-mail:  
[islasbc@icese.mx](mailto:islasbc@icese.mx)



**COMISION NACIONAL DE  
ÁREAS NATURALES  
PROTEGIDAS**