



UNESCO's World Heritage Program California Current Conservation Complex

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World Heritage

Highest Level of International Recognition



- **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**
- **1972 Convention – presently 165 member states**
- **Identify, protect and preserve cultural and natural heritage sites around the world considered to be of outstanding value to humanity**
- **The Convention outlines process for identifying potential sites, nominating sites, selecting sites and responsibilities regarding ongoing management and conservation of inscribed sites**
- **Most significant and iconic natural history sites worldwide**







Process for World Heritage



1. Member state develops Tentative List
2. Nomination submitted to World Heritage Center
3. Nomination reviewed by Advisory Bodies (IUCN for Natural Heritage site)
4. World Heritage Committee meets annually and is sole decision maker



Current World Heritage List



1,052 Inscribed Sites

814 Cultural

203 Natural

35 Mixed

Of these, 47 sites include marine component

Virtually none in temperate, upwelling coastal areas; most marine sites are tropical and surround islands



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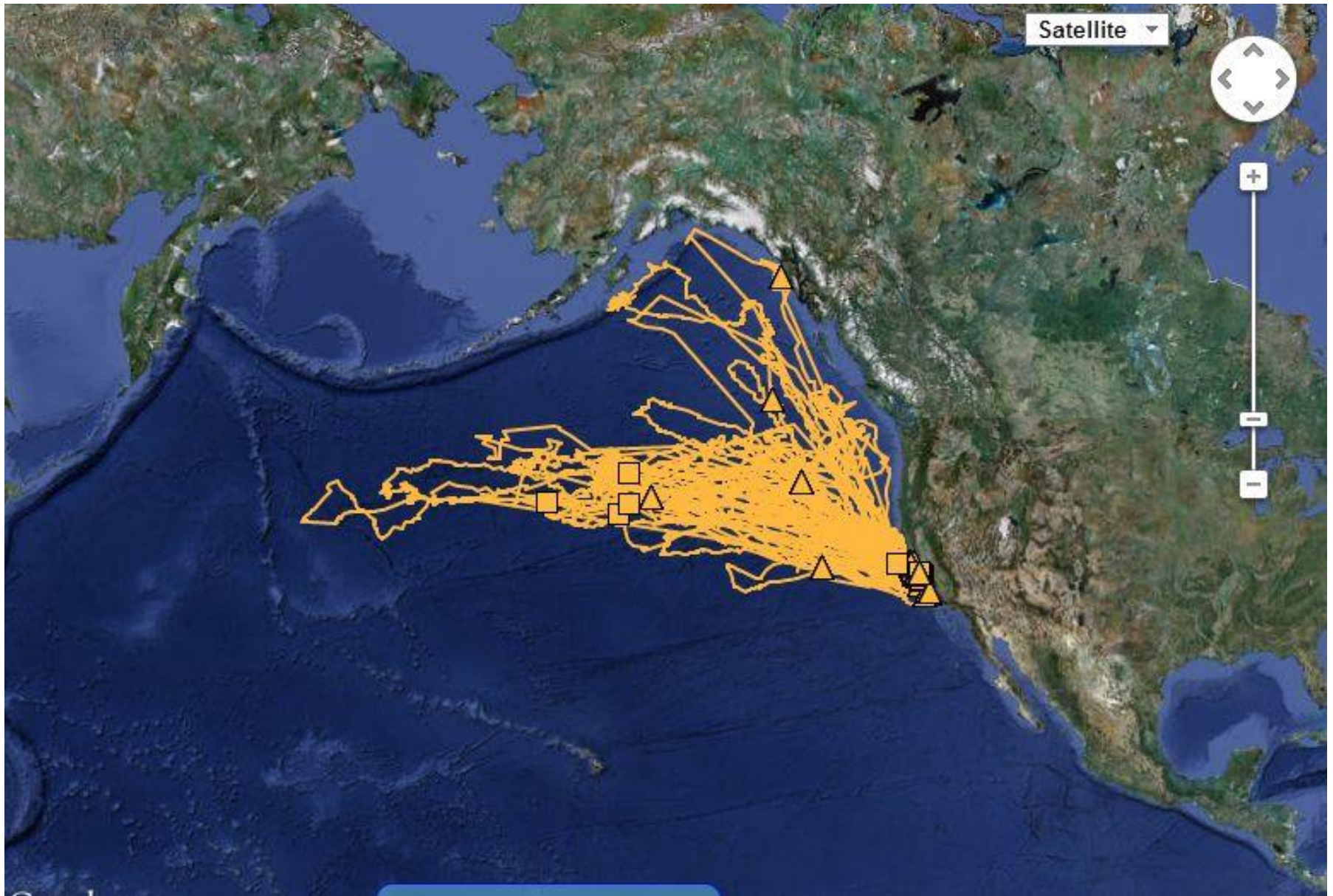
- Last updated in 2008; 14 sites, 10 still active
- 2012 NPS announced update by 2016
- Oct. 2015 convened experts panel
- Considered sites from various sources
- July '16 NOAA forwarded four sites
- Oct. 2016 experts panel to reconvene, evaluate potential sites, winnow to 10 new
- Fall 2016, public review of potential site list
- NPS to send revised Tentative List to UNESCO



Elephant Seals



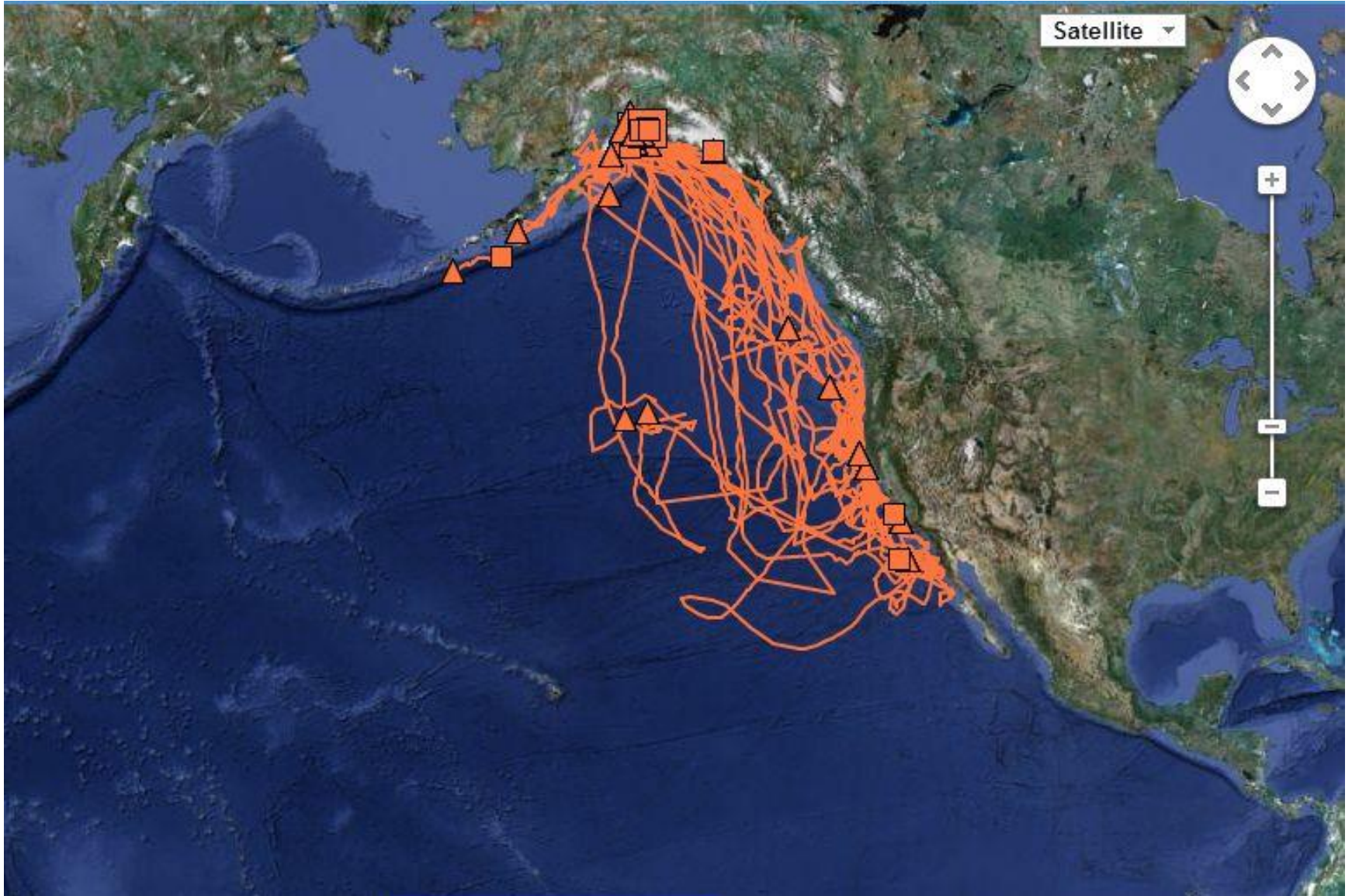
Elephant Seals



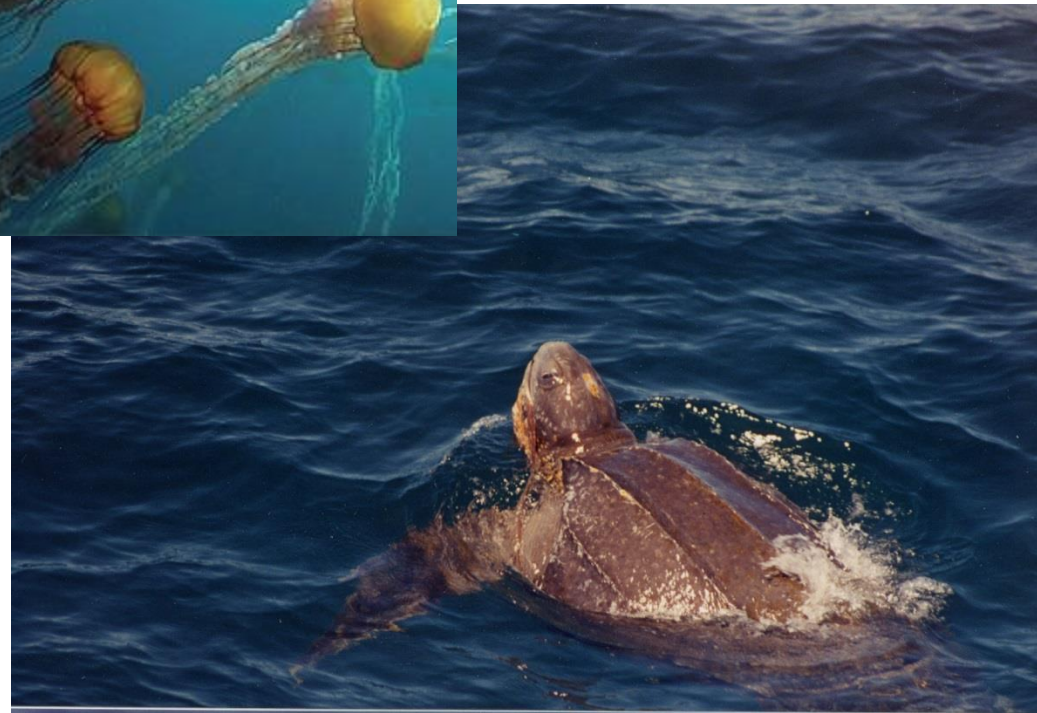
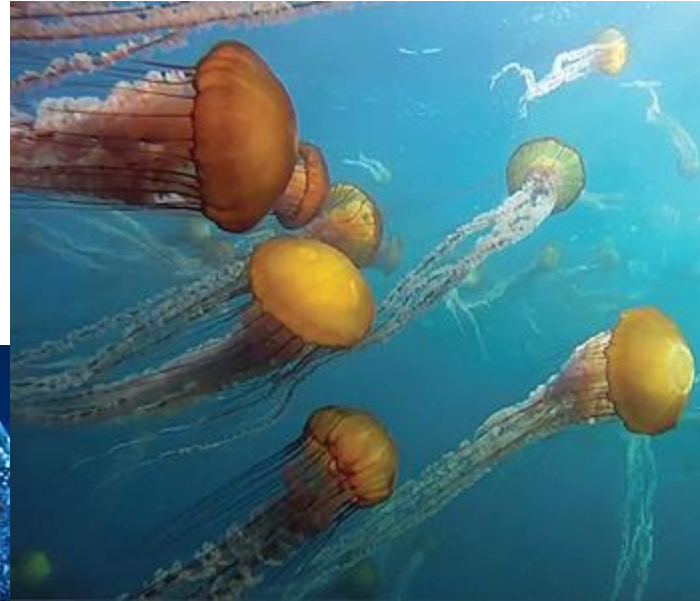
Salmon Shark



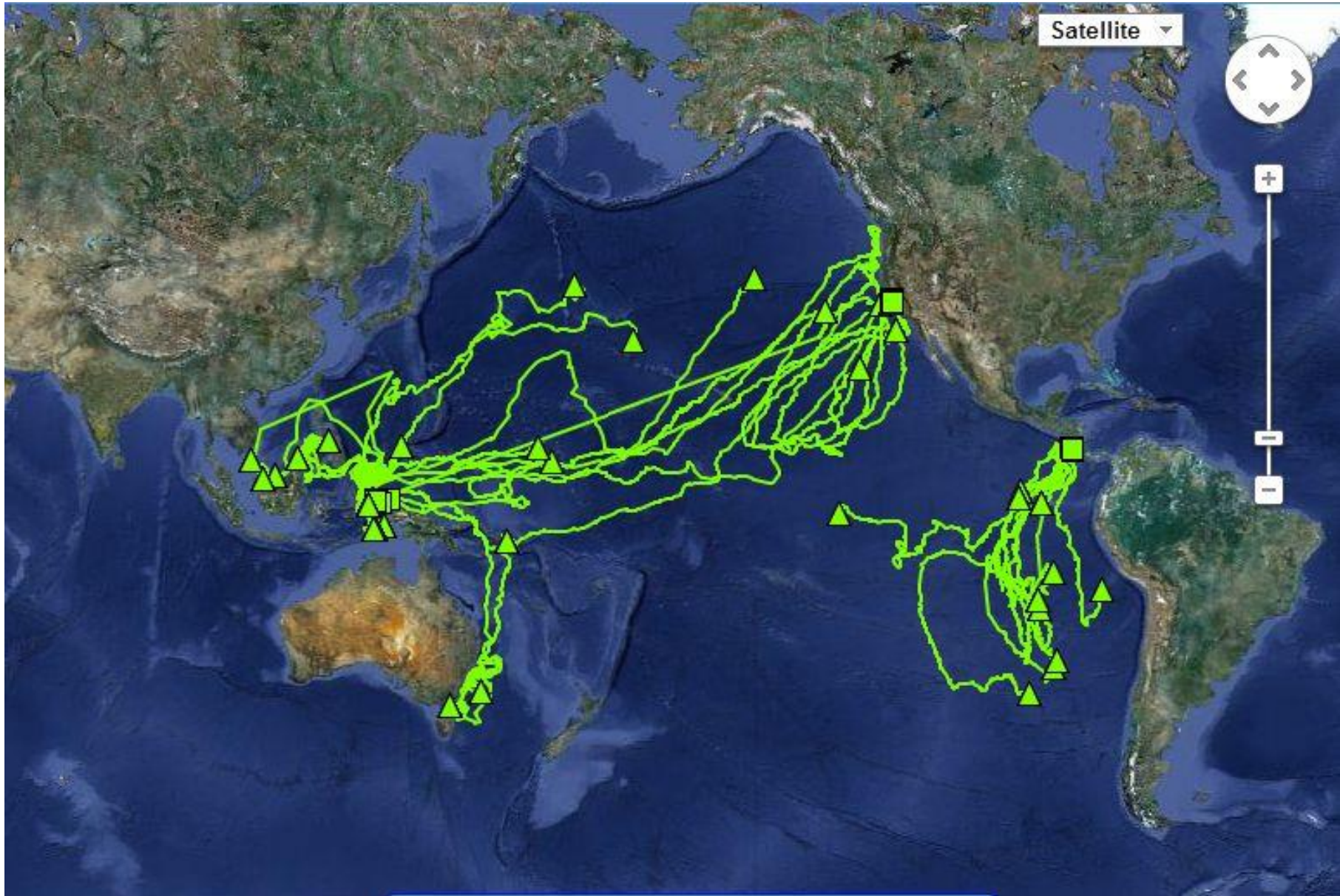
Salmon Sharks



Leatherback Sea Turtles



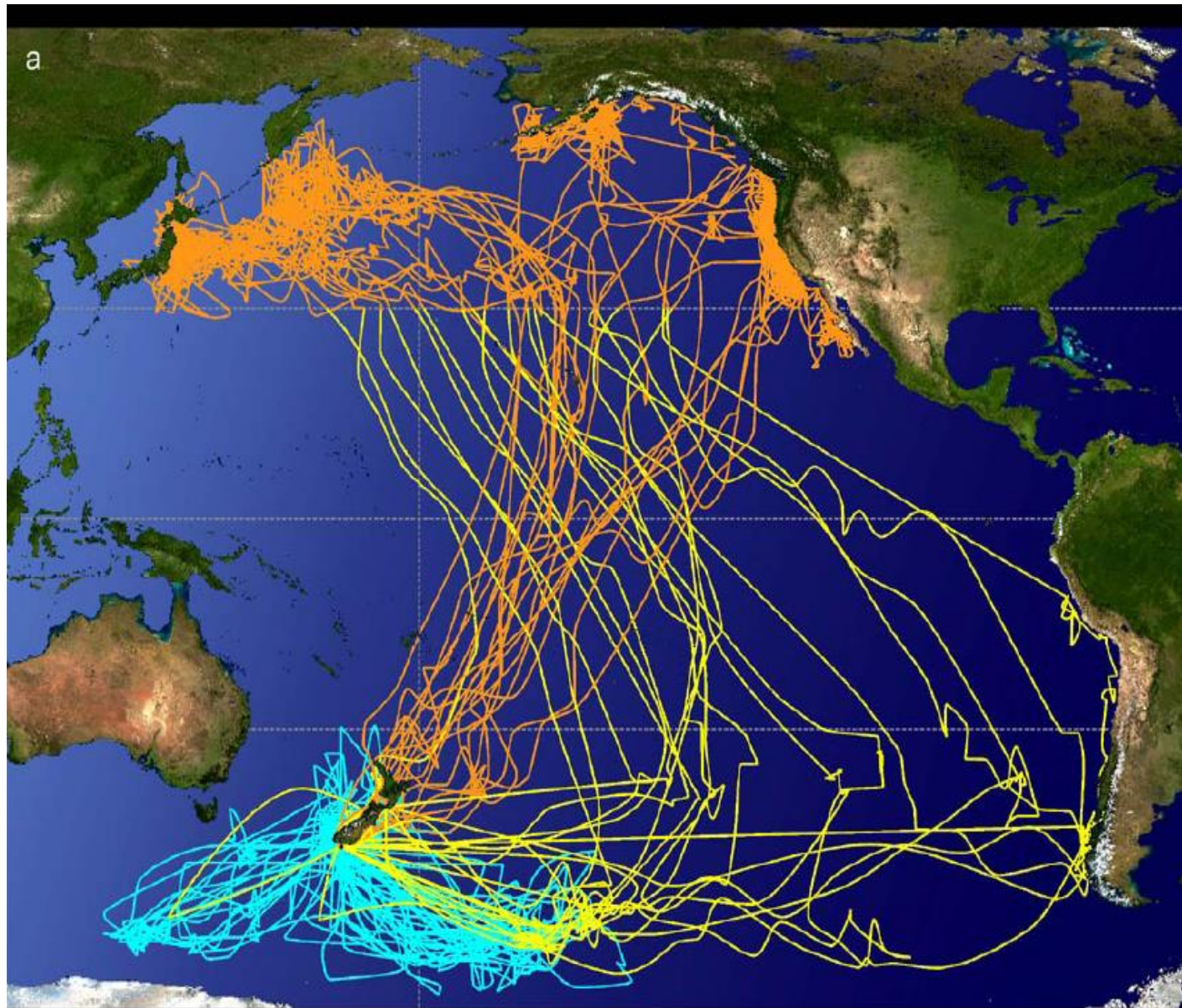
Leatherback Sea Turtles



Sooty Shearwaters



Sooty Shearwaters



National Marine Sanctuaries

U.S. West Coast



California Current

Proposed World Heritage
Nomination for US Tentative
List

Includes:

Three NMSies

Two NPs

One Wildlife Refuge

One Coastal Monument

Numerous State Parks, state-
designated MPAs



California Current

Exceeds Four Outstanding Universal Values



- *(vii) contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance*
- *(viii) outstanding examples representing major stages of Earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological process in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features;*
- *(ix) outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals;*
- *(x) contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation.*

Numerous Benefits



- **Highest level of international recognition**
 - For amazing natural resources within the site
 - For conservation successes to date
 - To maintain momentum and attention to address future issues
- **Can bring tourism to the site, particularly international visitors**
- **May facilitate partnerships with private sector, NGOs and government agencies to study and protect**
- **Promotes local, regional and national pride in conservation programs, natural resources, and the areas themselves**

More details regarding World Heritage Program:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/>



NOAA's National Marine Sanctuaries
<http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>