The Santa Barbara Channel Marine Biodiversity Observation Network (SBCMBON) tracks long-term patterns in species abundance and diversity. This dataset contains cover of kelp forest sessile invertebrates, understory macroalgae, and substrate types by integrating data from four contributing projects working in the kelp forests of the Santa Barbara Channel, USA. Divers collect data on using either uniform point contact (UPC) or random point contact (RPC) methods.

The four contributing projects are two research projects: The Santa Barbara Coastal LTER (SBC LTER) and the Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO), and the kelp forest monitoring program of the Santa Barbara Channel National Park, and the San Nicolas Island monitoring program supported by USGS. Together, these projects have recorded data for more than 200 species at approximately 100 sites on both the mainland coast and on the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. Sampling began in 1982 and is ongoing.

Percent cover is recorded for taxa where individuals cannot be counted. Cover can be calculated from the data here as the fraction of total points at which the taxon was present x 100. With UPC and RPC, multiple species can be recorded at any given point. The total percent cover of all species combined using this method can exceed 100%; however, the percent cover of any single species cannot exceed 100%. See Methods for information on integration and data processing.

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For users who are interested in using all or part of this integrated datasets, please contact data owners to discuss your research interests, citation for the data package, data related issues or any other questions. In addition, any manuscript generated using this dataset is expected to be sent to the data owners before publication so we can be sure the data is used in the proper context and methods are reported accurately.:

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