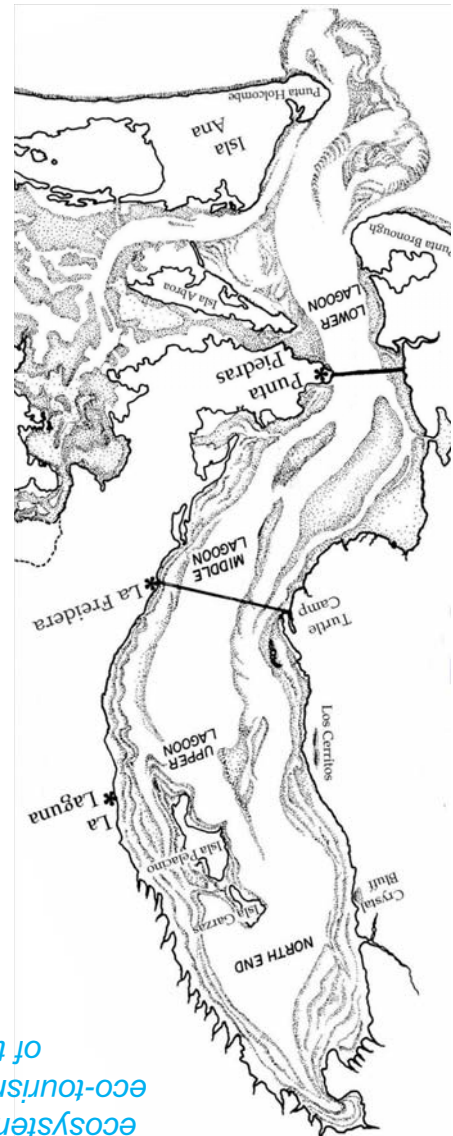


*Learn more and become a LSSSS supporter, visit our website at [www.lsiecosystem.org](http://www.lsiecosystem.org)*

*The GOAL of the program is to provide sound scientific information to the community and to involve the community in the monitoring and conservation of the Laguna San Ignacio and its surrounding ecosystem to ensure that this lagoon and coastal wetlands habitat is sustained for whales and other marine wildlife that spend all or a portion of their lives there.*

*Our MISSION is to develop and sustain an ecosystem based science program that provides the wildlife managers and the local community with information on the status and trends of the Laguna San Ignacio ecosystem and its wildlife, addresses complex ecosystem issues that are relevant to management questions, and that recognizes how natural environmental events and human activities affect the ecosystem. Such information is fundamental to evaluate conservation alternatives and options, and to assess the outcome of management and conservation measures to evaluate the achievement of their intended purposes.*

*Our Vision: A ecologically robust marine protected area that benefits the wildlife that depend on this unique coastal marine ecosystem that hosts sustained, low-impact, environmentally friendly eco-tourism and fishing operations for the economic and social benefit of the local communities of Baja California Sur, Mexico.*



# Laguna San Ignacio ecosystem science program

a project of The Ocean Foundation

*Science that supports the conservation of a most unique marine protected area in Baja California Sur, Mexico*





The non-profit **Laguna San Ignacio Science Program (LSIESP)** investigates the ecological status of the lagoon and its living marine resources, and provides science based information that is relevant to resource management questions and concerns about development, eco-tourism and the sustainability of the lagoon ecosystem as a viable habitat for marine wildlife. The program monitors the gray whales that visit the lagoon each winter, the lagoon as a unique marine habitat, and it's wildlife as an entire inter-related system. LSIESP encourages social awareness, education and community participation in the conservation of this unique marine protected area, promotes human activities and alternatives that are in balance with the natural components of the region, and that recognize the needs of the local community.



**UNIVERSITY TRAINING:** The program provides graduate students opportunities to participate in applied wildlife field research and to learn skills that will serve them in their careers as wildlife conservation scientists. As appropriate, the program forms partnerships and collaborations with other conservation and wildlife management groups and organizations investigating various aspects of the Laguna San Ignacio marine protected area.

**OUTREACH & EDUCATION :**LSIESP researchers provide classroom presentations at local schools on the lagoon's wildlife and its significance as a coastal resource for marine life and the local economy. Primary, secondary, and high school students visit the lagoon where they participate in "hands on" learning activities led by LSIESP researchers. This educational outreach program strengthens the students' awareness of the need to conserve Laguna San Ignacio and its living marine resources for future generations. LSIESP researcher host annual community workshops ("Reunions") to review scientific findings and provide a public forum for the exchange of information on the lagoon and human activities that affect it. The workshop participants include subject experts, representatives of government regulatory agencies, eco-tourism operators, local residents, non-government environmental organizations, students and instructors from local schools, and interested public. Information generated by the LSIESP is distributed via the program's internet Website ([www.lsiecosystem.org](http://www.lsiecosystem.org)), in peer reviewed published articles, in the local media, at professional scientific meetings, and in local publications.

