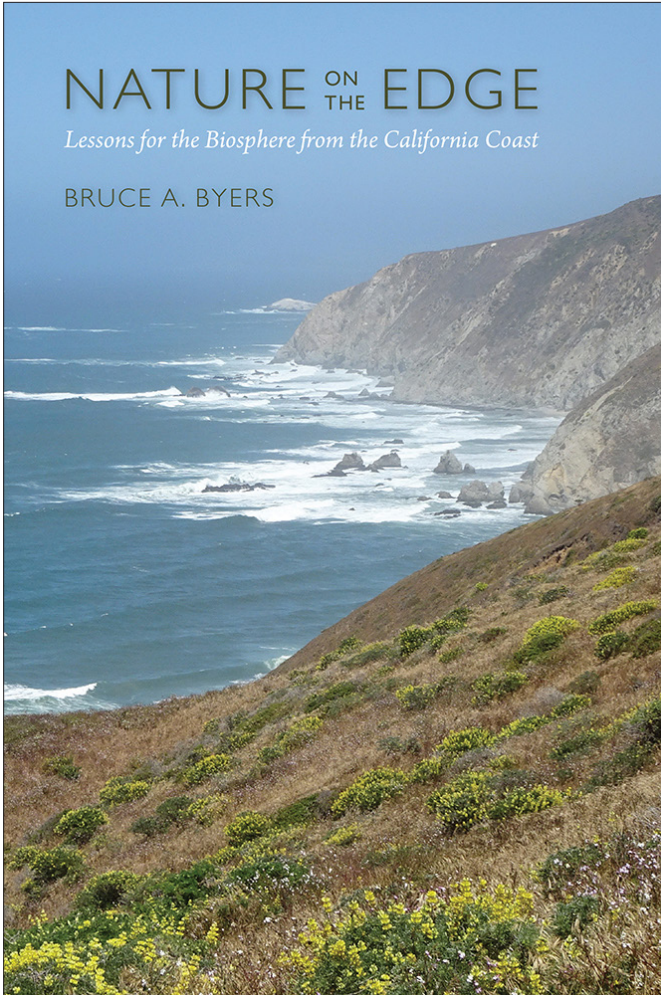


# Nature on the Edge

LESSONS FOR THE BIOSPHERE FROM THE CALIFORNIA COAST

Bruce A. Byers



In *Nature on the Edge*, ecologist Bruce Byers offers readers new perspectives on two iconic California coastal regions, San Francisco Bay and the Golden Gate and the Santa Barbara Channel Islands. While many people—in California and elsewhere—are familiar with these two areas, they may not know that they are part of a network of international biosphere reserves organized by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). *Nature on the Edge* traces the history of nature conservation in these places and introduces the committed individuals who led those efforts and model effective action.

In compelling dispatches from the edge of the continent, Byers explores topics ranging from butterflies to scrub jays, from salmon to whales. He describes the natural history, ecology, and evolution of key species and ecosystems in scientifically sound but accessible language, and notes that despite all we know, fascinating ecological mysteries still abound. Byers also surveys ecocentric philosophies and worldviews rooted in these places and argues for their importance in developing a more harmonious and sustainable relationship between humans and our home planet. By drawing attention to the important work being done in these reserves around the world, he inspires readers to reflection, action, and hope in the face of climate change, biodiversity loss, and other environmental challenges.

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