A GUIDE TO CATALINA ISLAND'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Guide Updated: 2022

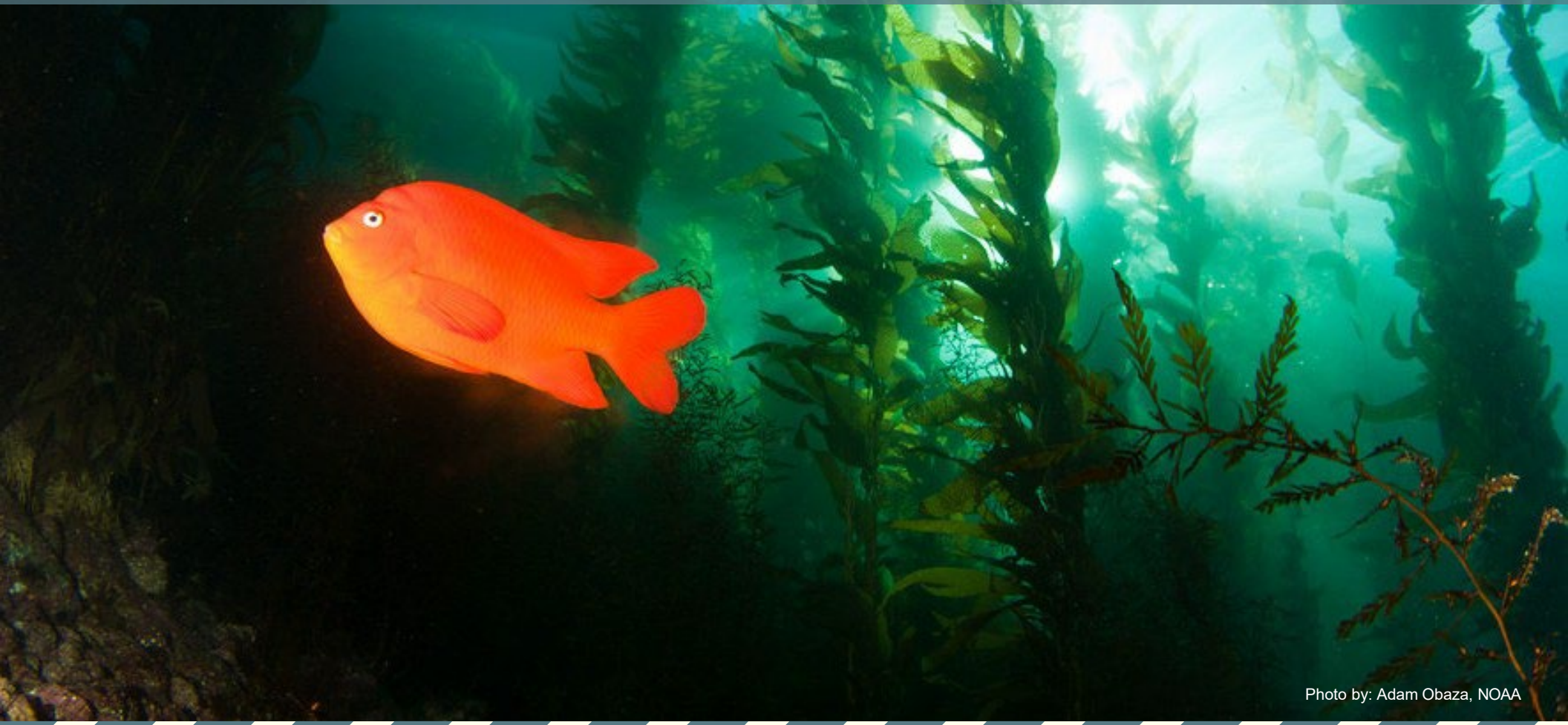


Photo by: Adam Obaza, NOAA

Photo by: Michael Zeigler

Giant sea bass *(Stereolepis gigas)*

What Are MPAs?

Marine protected areas, or MPAs, are areas of coastal ocean set aside to protect ocean life & habitat.

Natural & cultural resources are given greater protection than those in the surrounding waters.

Photo by: Port of Los Angeles

Before Avalon: prehistoric Tongva village on Catalina Island

Artist: Gabriel Robles [gabrielrobeless@gmail.com]

Gabriel's illustration depicts what is now referred to as Avalon Harbor and Casino Point.

Tongva Cultural History

- Santa Catalina Island (*Pimu*) has always been attractive to humans because of its plentiful marine resources such as shellfish, pelagic fish, and sea mammals, abundant freshwater springs, and stone resources (i.e., soapstone).
- At one time, as many as 2,500 Catalina Island Tongva lived in autonomous villages, comprised of extended families, with populations of 50 to 200 people.
- The Tongva occupied Santa Catalina (*Pimu*), and the other three southern Channel Islands of Santa Barbara Island, San Clemente Island (*Kiinkepar*), and San Nicolas Island (*Xaraashnga*).
- The Tongva also occupied large portions of what is now Los Angeles County, the northern part of Orange County, and small sections of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties for at least 10,000 years.
- Tongva built ocean-going redwood plank canoes (*ti'ats*) to travel between the Channel Islands and the mainland.
- A few Tongva families currently live on Catalina Island. Tongva people are working with the Catalina MPA Collaborative and community to help protect the traces that their ancestors left on the island, strength their ties, and reestablish their responsibilities to the land, water, plant, and animal relatives.

Credit: Desiree R. Martinez, Tongva Archaeologist

Why are MPAs Effective?

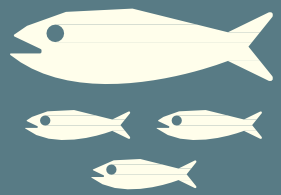
Increased Diversity

Species diversity increased by an average of 21%

Bigger Fish

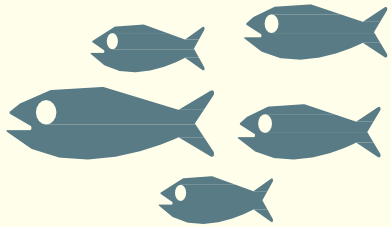
Body size increased by an average of 28%

More fish



Density increased by an average of 166%

- Fished species often showed the most notable increases - e.g., spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) and sheephead (*Semicossyphus pulcher)*



- Established MPAs are more resistant to invasive species - e.g., Devil weed (*Sargassum horneri)*

PISCO 2007

A harbor seal (*Phoca vitulina*) plays in a forest of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) at Catalina Island

“Knowing is the key to caring, and with caring there is hope that people will be motivated to take positive actions. They might not care even if they know, but they can’t care if they are unaware.”

— Sylvia A. Earle

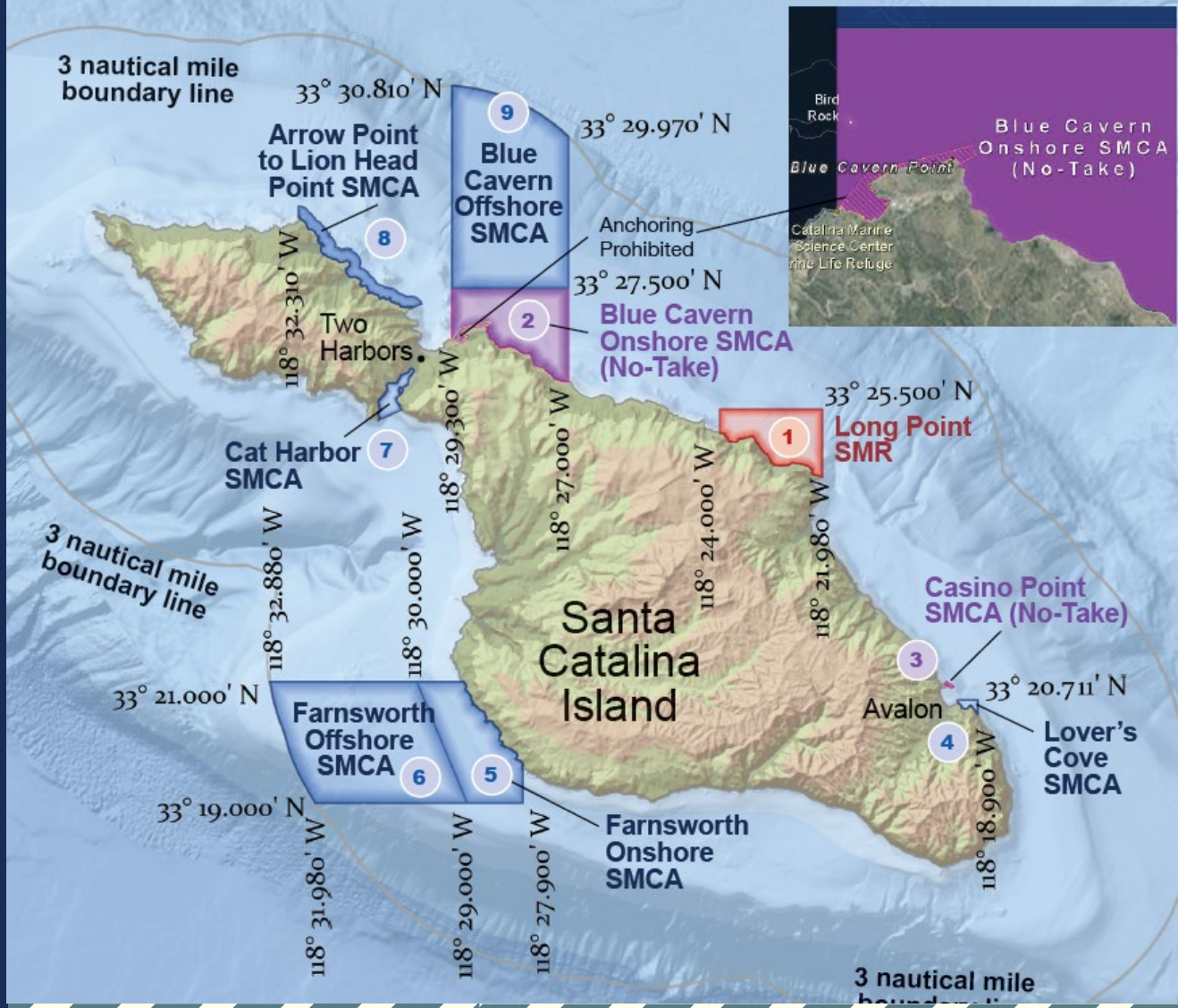
Catalina Island MPAs

MPAs		PROHIBITED/PERMITTED USES
State Marine Reserve (SMR)		
Long Point	1	**Long Point** - It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource. See CCR T14 §632(b) for details.
No-Take State Marine Conservation Area (No-Take SMCA)		It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, **EXCEPT:**
Blue Cavern Onshore	2	**Blue Cavern** - Take incidental to the maintenance of artificial structures may be allowed. *There is a no anchorage zone in Blue Cavern Onshore SMCA, see full map.
Casino Point	3	**Casino Point** - Feeding of fish for marine life viewing is allowed
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)		It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes **EXCEPT:**
Lover's Cove	4	**Lover's Cove** - The recreational take by hook-and-line from the Cabrillo Mole and feeding of fish for marine life viewing is allowed.
Farnsworth Onshore	5	**Farnsworth Onshore** - The recreational take of white seabass and pelagic finfish by spearfishing; marlin, tunas and dorado by trolling; and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed. The commercial take of swordfish by harpoon; and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat is allowed.
Farnsworth Offshore	6	**Farnsworth Offshore** - The recreational take of pelagic finfish by hook-and-line or by spearfishing; white seabass by spearfishing; marlin, tunas and dorado (dolphinfish) by trolling; and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed. The commercial take of swordfish by harpoon; and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat is allowed.
Cat Harbor	7	**Cat Harbor** - The recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line or by spearfishing, market squid by hook-and-line, and spiny lobster and sea urchin is allowed. The commercial take of sea cucumbers by diving only, and spiny lobster and sea urchin is allowed.
Arrow Point to Lion Head Point	8	**Arrow Point to Lion Head Point** - All recreational and commercial take is allowed in accordance with current regulations, except the recreational take of invertebrates is prohibited.
Blue Cavern Offshore	9	**Blue Cavern Offshore** - The recreational take of pelagic finfish by hook-and-line or by spearfishing, white seabass by spearfishing and market squid by handheld dip net is allowed. The commercial take of pelagic finfish* by hook-and-line and swordfish by harpoon is allowed.

Know the Rules Before You Head Out

CDFW mobile

Map not to be used for navigation



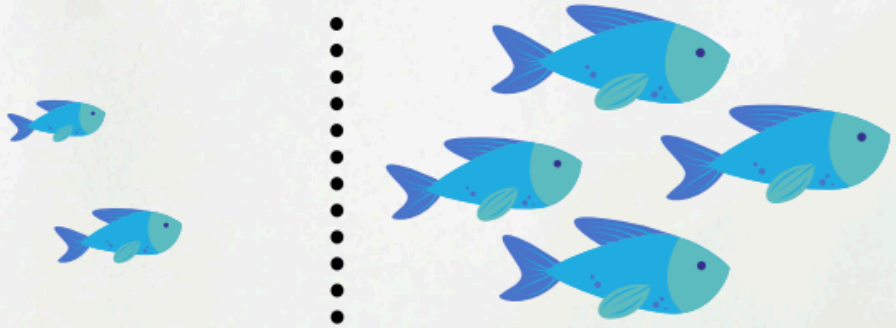
TEN YEARS LATER

MPAs ARE WORKING TO RESTORE OCEAN HEALTH

Sheephead density and size increased inside MPAs

1 More & Larger Fish

Fish are **larger** and **more abundant** inside MPAs across the state compared to reference areas open to fishing. **79%** of species were larger inside MPAs and **71%** of species saw a higher catch per unit effort (CPUE) inside MPAs.



Long-Term Monitoring Results

- Positive effects on spiny lobster in five Southern California MPAs

The South Coast Lobster Research Group surveyed inside and outside these MPAs.

Long-term monitoring reports showed increases in fish species in Channel Islands MPAs (below)

South

California Sheephead	↑	↑	↑
Copper Rockfish	↑	↑	↑
Gopher Rockfish	↑	↑	↑
Kelp Bass	↑	↑	↑
Ocean Whitefish	↑	↑	↑

(OceanSpaces 2015;
DMR long-term monitoring reports, 2022)

Get Involved!

- Join the Catalina MPA Collaborative!
- Education & outreach
- Monitoring human uses (e.g., MPA Watch)

MPA WATCH

MPA COLLABORATIVE NETWORK

Innovative partnerships for effective implementation.

Regional MPA Collaboratives:

LOS ANGELES MPA COLLABORATIVE

Catalina Island MPA Collaborative

Photo by: Lauren Czarnecki Oudin

References & Links

(by slide number)

1.Title page (none)

2. What are MPAs (none)

3. Artwork by Gabriel Robles, Tongva Tribal member

4. Tongva text by Desiree R. Martinez, Tongva Archaeologist

5. Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO). 2007. “Science of Marine Reserves” (2nd Edition, United States Version).

6. Quote by Sylvia A. Earle

7. Regulations adapted from California Department of Fish and Wildlife. https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs

8. Baseline Highlights from California’s South Coast Spiny Lobster Populations: Monitoring Spiny Creatures of the Night. 2015. California Ocean Science Trust, Ocean Protection Council, California Sea Grant, California Department of Fish & Wildlife, and OceanSpaces. http://oceanspaces.org/sc-spiny-lobster

9. MPA Collaborative Network and Catalina MPA Collaborative. https://www.mpacollaborative.org/ and https://www.mpacollaborative.org/catalina/