



Marine Protected Areas



Interpreter Reference Guide

Orange Coast District



OCMPAC
ORANGE COUNTY MARINE
PROTECTED AREA COUNCIL



**COLLABORATIVE
NETWORK**

Orange County Marine Protected Areas



Presented by the Orange County MPA Council (OCMPAC) and the MPA Collaborative Network, in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Funded by the California Ocean Protection Council.

This manual is provided as a courtesy for field interpreters, docents, stewards and other uniformed non-citing personnel and does not replace the regulations found in Fish and Game Code and California Code of Regulations Title 14. Go to www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs for the latest regulations and full text of FGC 2852 and CCR Title 14, section 632.

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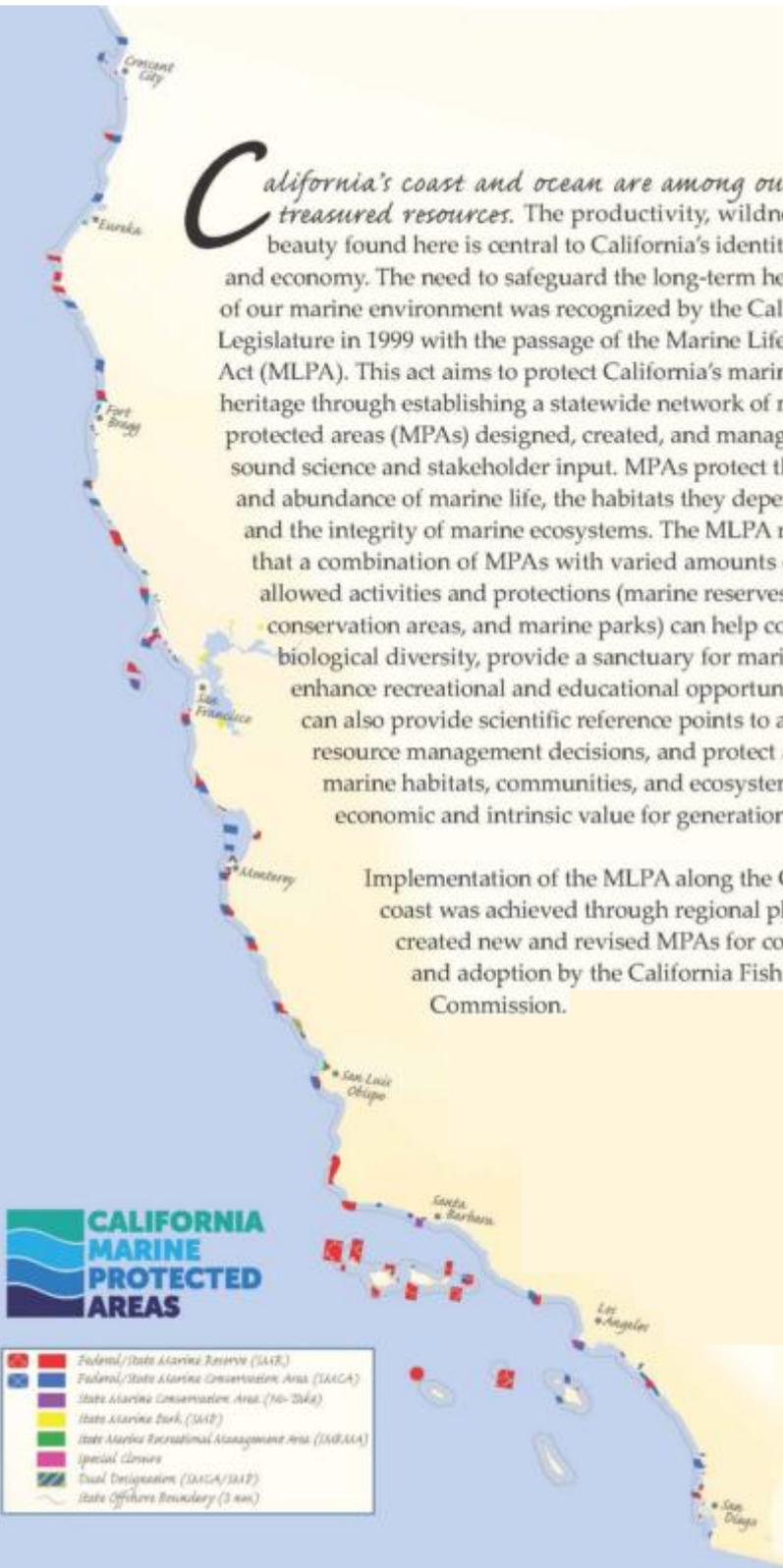
California's coast and ocean are among our most treasured resources. The productivity, wildness, and beauty found here is central to California's identity, heritage, and economy. The need to safeguard the long-term health of our marine environment was recognized by the California Legislature in 1999 with the passage of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). This act aims to protect California's marine natural heritage through establishing a statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs) designed, created, and managed using sound science and stakeholder input. MPAs protect the diversity and abundance of marine life, the habitats they depend on, and the integrity of marine ecosystems. The MLPA recognizes that a combination of MPAs with varied amounts of allowed activities and protections (marine reserves, marine conservation areas, and marine parks) can help conserve biological diversity, provide a sanctuary for marine life, and enhance recreational and educational opportunities. MPAs can also provide scientific reference points to assist in resource management decisions, and protect a variety of marine habitats, communities, and ecosystems for their economic and intrinsic value for generations to come.

Implementation of the MLPA along the California coast was achieved through regional planning that created new and revised MPAs for consideration and adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission.



**CALIFORNIA
MARINE
PROTECTED
AREAS**

-  Federal/State Marine Reserve (SMR)
-  Federal/State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
-  State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
-  State Marine Park (SMP)
-  State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)
-  Special Closure
-  Dual Designation (SMCA/SMP)
-  State Offshore Boundary (3 nm)



Features of California's Marine Protected Areas

State Marine Reserve

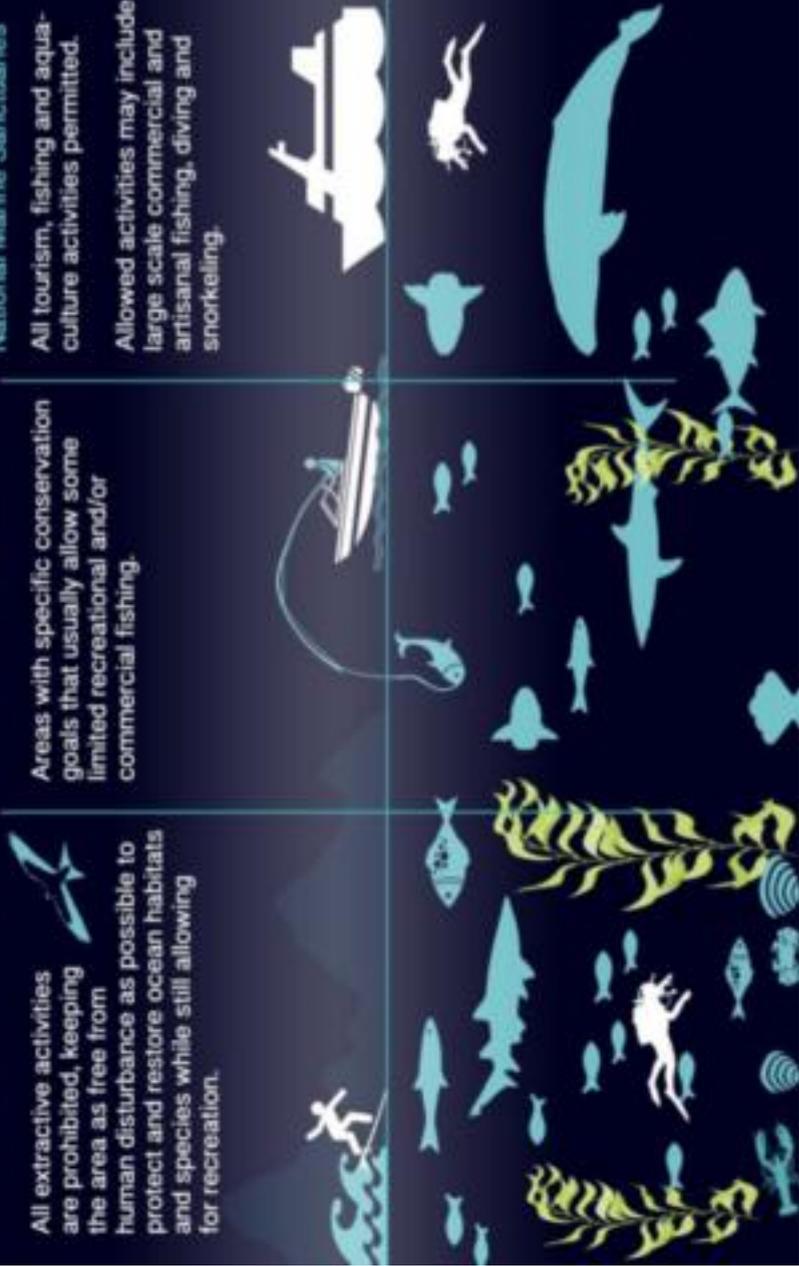
All extractive activities are prohibited, keeping the area as free from human disturbance as possible to protect and restore ocean habitats and species while still allowing for recreation.

State Marine Conservation Area

Areas with specific conservation goals that usually allow some limited recreational and/or commercial fishing.

Multi-Use Area National Marine Sanctuaries

All tourism, fishing and aquaculture activities permitted.
Allowed activities may include large scale commercial and artisanal fishing, diving and snorkeling.



what are marine protected areas

Over 100 years ago, the United States protected our natural wonders by creating National Parks. Now, California is doing the same for our ocean through the Marine Life Protection Act. Marine

protected areas are underwater parks where sea life can thrive.

Who decided where to put MPAs?

Areas were selected based on the best available science and input from the community. The process was a collaboration between divers, fishermen, conservationists, and members of the public. Recommendations were

reviewed by experts before adoption by California's Fish and Game Commission.

What can I do in MPAs?

Like National Parks, MPAs are open to the public for education, research and appreciation. They offer great opportunities for diving, kayaking, surfing and wildlife viewing.

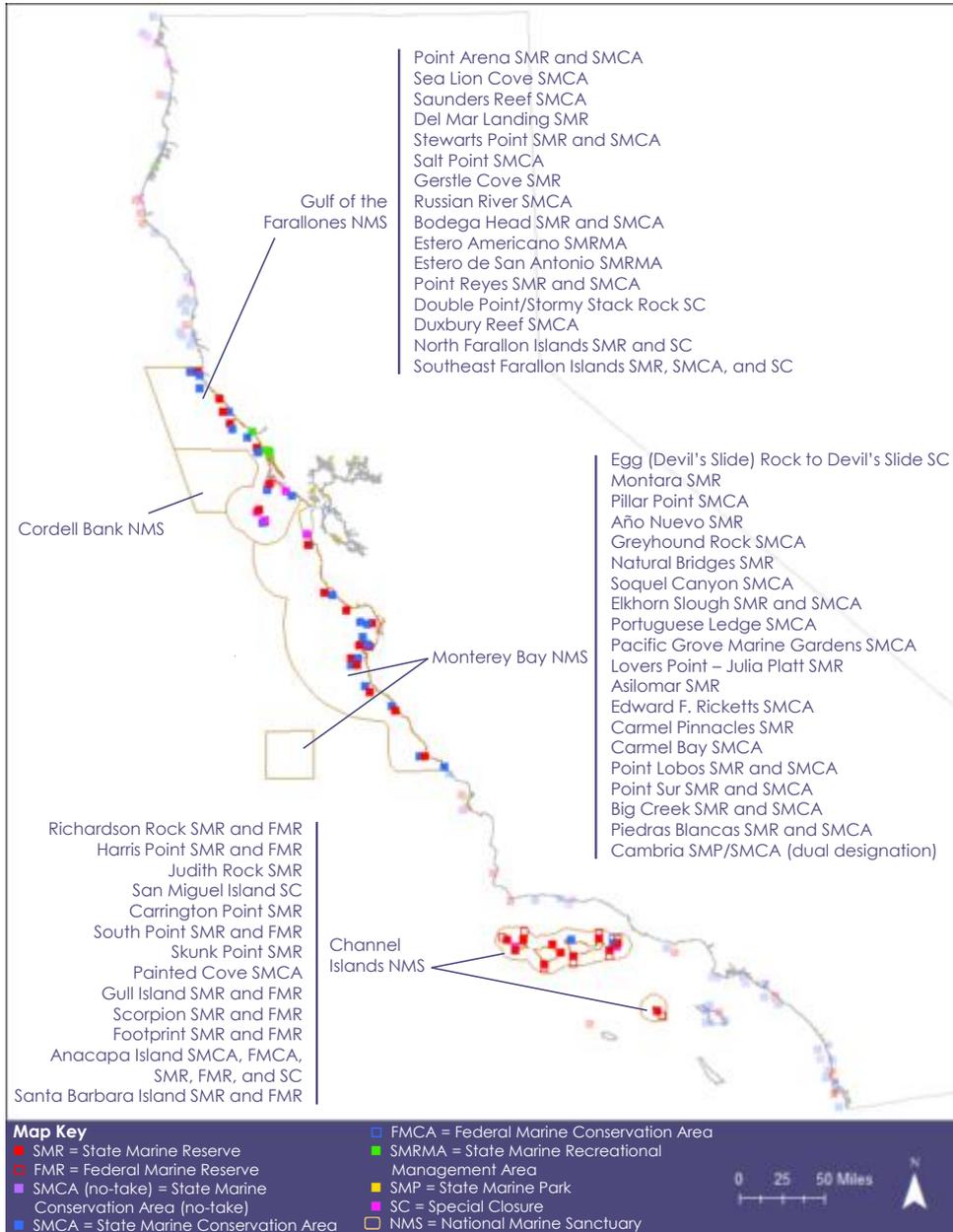
What are National Marine Sanctuaries?

National Marine Sanctuaries, a type of MPA, work to protect habitats and biological communities by prohibiting oil exploration, drilling, discharge and other harmful activities.

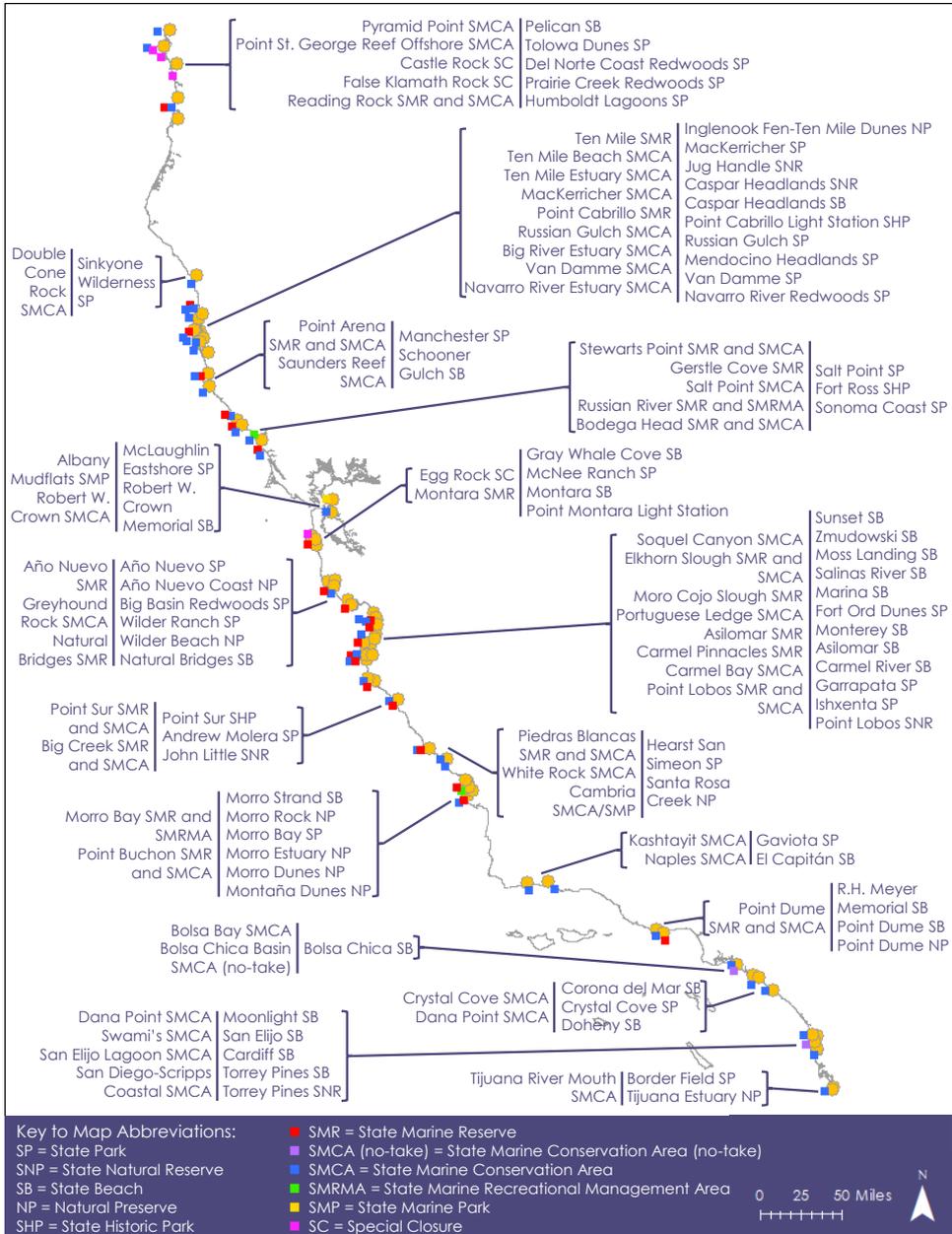
Where can I find California's MPAs?

There are 124 MPAs in California's statewide coastal network. These MPAs extend from Oregon to the Mexican border.

MAP OF STATE MPAS ADJACENT TO NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES



MAP OF STATE MPAS ADJACENT TO STATE PARKS



SUPPORTING MPA COMPLIANCE

This chart helps to understand the overall roles and responsibilities of on-site personnel working to educate and improve compliance within our network of MPAs.

	Field Educators	Non-Ticketing Uniformed Personnel	Law Enforcement Officers	Fish and Wildlife Wardens
Educate	✓	✓	✓	✓
Advise of regulations	✓	✓	✓	✓
Interpretation of regulations to gain compliance		✓	✓	✓
Issue citations for non-compliance or assist wardens with severe violations			✓	✓
Build cases from and respond to CalTIPs for citation and prosecution				✓

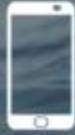
CALTIP (Californians Turn In Poachers and Polluters) is a confidential secret witness program that encourages the public to provide Fish and Wildlife with factual information leading to the arrest of poachers and polluters.

If you witness a poaching or polluting incident or any fish and wildlife violation, or have information about such a violation, immediately dial the toll free CALTIP number 1 888 334-CALTIP (888 334-2258), 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Or you may submit anonymous tips to CDFW using tip411. tip411 an internet based tool from CitizenObserver.com that enables the public to text message an anonymous tip to wildlife officers and lets the officers respond back creating an anonymous two-way conversation. Anyone with a cell phone may send an anonymous tip to CDFW by texting "CALTIP", followed by a space and the message, to 847411 (tip411).

Or download the free CALTIP smartphone App which operates similarly to tip411 by creating an anonymous two-way conversation with wildlife officers to report wildlife and pollution violations. The CALTIP App can be downloaded for free via the Google Play Store and iTunes App Store.

If you witness a violation, practice these steps.



Call CalTIP (1-888-334-2258) or submit a report or photo on the CalTIP app. Add this number to your contacts now!



Call local enforcement response if applicable



Educate if the situation allows (e.g., a child picking up hermit crabs)

When Calling CalTIP



Be prepared to give the fullest possible account of the incident including the

- name, address, age, and description of the suspect,
- vehicle description including license plate,
- direction of travel,
- type of violation, and
- when and where it occurred.

You DO NOT have to give your name.

QUICK REFERENCE FOR EMERGENCIES

California Department of Fish and Wildlife:

(MPA violations, unlawful take)

CalTIP: (888) 334-CalTIP or (888) 334-2258

California State Parks

(State Park Code violations, immediate back-up)

Southern Dispatch: (951) 443-2969

California State Parks - Orange Coast District office: (949) 492-0802

School Group Reservations:

To request a field trip, whether guided or self-guided, please contact the Park Interpretive Office at **949.497.7647** or e-mail **winter.bonnin@parks.ca.gov**

Orange County Sheriff Harbor Patrol: (949) 723-1002

City of Newport Beach Police Department: (949) 644-3681

School Group Reservations:

If you have a group that is interested in visiting the tidepools, please call **949-644-3036** or email **tidepools@newportbeachca.gov** to schedule your visit.

City of Laguna Beach

Marine Safety Department: (949) 494-6571

City of Laguna Beach Police Department: (949) 497-0701

Orange County Parks: (949) 923-2270 or (866) OCPARKS

City of Dana Point: (949) 248-3527

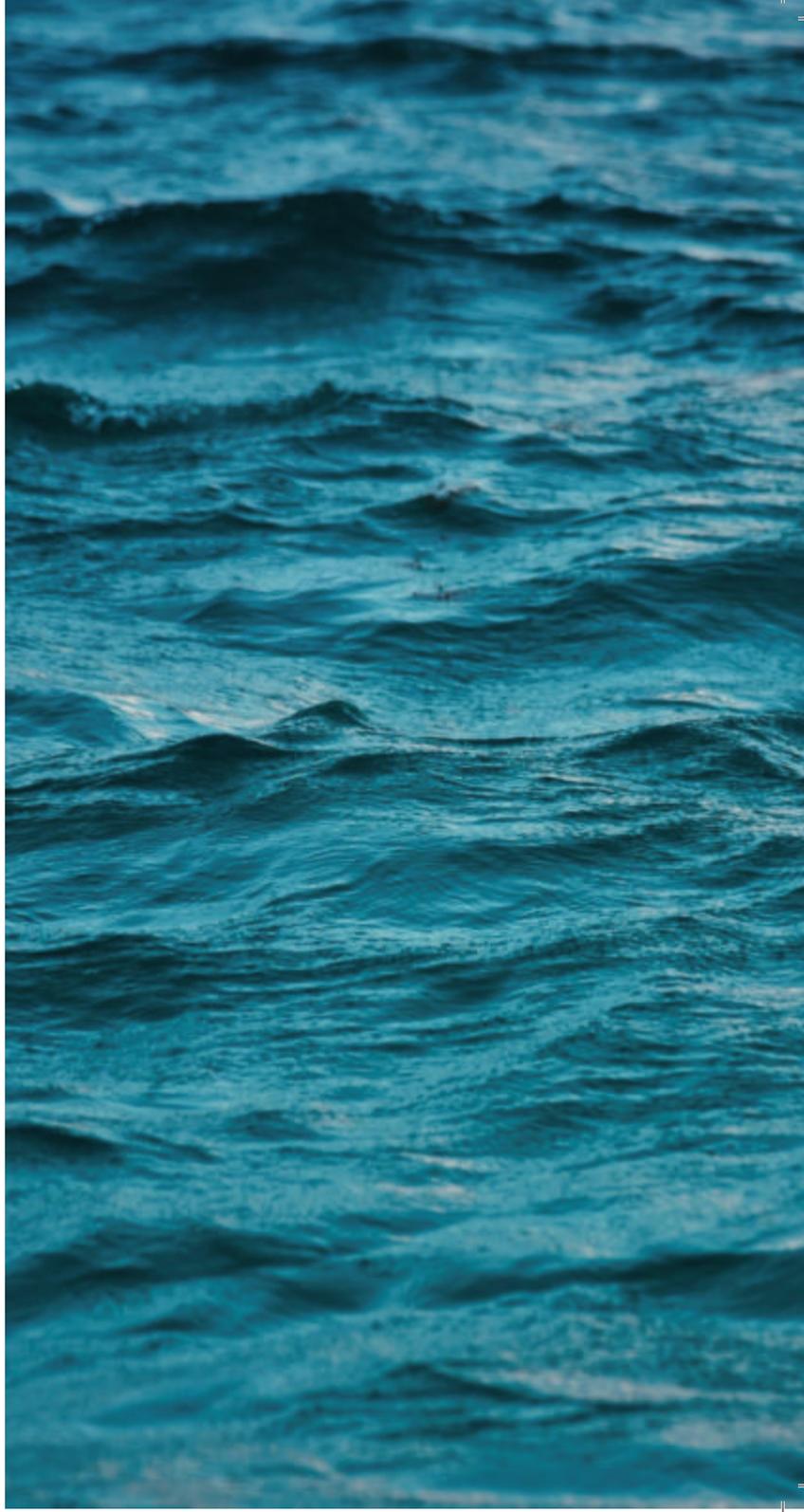
OC Lifeguards: (949) 276-5050

Dana Point Harbor: (949) 723-1000

US Coast Guard, Sector LA, Long Beach (310) 521-3600

NOAA hotline (800) 853-1964

Introduction to South Coast Marine Protected Areas



MARINE LIFE PROTECTION ACT

The Marine Life Protection Act was passed into law in 1999. The purpose of the Marine Life Protection Act was to establish a network of marine protected areas in California waters to protect marine habitats and preserve ecosystem integrity.

Six goals for the MLPA are established in Section 2853(b):

1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.
2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
3. To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.
4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value.
5. To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
6. To ensure that the state's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has the responsibility for enforcing the marine protected areas mandated by the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) and designated by the Fish and Game Commission. Local coastal enforcement agencies have agreed to help CDFW enforce the MPAs that fall within their jurisdiction according to the cite authority granted by their respective agencies.

COMMONLY USED TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

Take

“Take” means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. - Fish and Game Code section 86.

Marine Protected Area (MPA)

MPAs are named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas seaward of the mean high tide line or the mouth of a coastal river, including any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora and fauna, that have been designated by law or administrative action to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. There are three types of state MPAs: state marine reserve (SMR), state marine park (SMP - none exist in the Southern California region), and state marine conservation area (SMCA). While not technically MPAs, special closures are managed within the MPA network and are included here for ease of identification by the public. “Take” may be authorized for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes in any MPA under a scientific collecting permit. The following types of MPA are found in Southern California:

State Marine Reserve (SMR, shown in red on maps)

An MPA where it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

State Marine Conservation Area (no-take) (SMCA, shown in purple on maps)

An MPA where it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, EXCEPT for take incidental to specified activities permitted by other agencies (for example, infrastructure maintenance, sand renourishment, etc.).

State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA, shown in blue on maps)

An MPA, where it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes EXCEPT for species expressly allowed for recreational and/or commercial take (species and gear exception vary by location).

Special Closure (shown in pink on maps)

An area designated by the California Fish and Game Commission that prohibits or restricts access and/or boating activities in waters adjacent to sea bird rookeries or marine mammal haul out sites.

*MPA protections are fully defined in California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a)(1)

GENERAL RULES THAT APPLY TO ALL MPAs

There are several general rules that apply to all MPAs, including rules regarding access, anchoring, transit and drifting, introducing species, feeding fish, and public safety. The complete language is found in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 632(a).

Anchoring Inside MPAs

Anchoring is allowed inside MPAs with the following restrictions: Vessels shall be allowed to anchor in any MPA with catch onboard unless otherwise specified in sub-section 632(b), Area and Special Regulations for Use. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while anchoring in a state marine reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified

as allowed for take in subsection 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while anchored in a state marine recreational management area, state marine park or state marine conservation area. Anchoring regulations shall be consistent with federal law and allowances made for anchoring required by emergency or severe weather.



Transit or Drifting

Vessels shall be allowed to transit through MPAs with catch onboard. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified as allowed for take in subsection 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine recreational management area, state marine park or state marine conservation area.

Spearfishermen with or without catch shall be allowed to transit through MPAs. While transiting areas that prohibit spearfishing or while in possession of species not identified as allowed for take in the area being transited, spearfishing gear shall be in an unloaded condition, not carried in hand, and the diver shall remain at the surface.

Access (including entering an MPA for non-fishing activities such as swimming, diving, or surfing): Access into MPAs for non-consumptive uses including, but not limited to, swimming, surfing, diving, boating, hiking and walking, is

allowed unless otherwise specified in subsection 632(b), Areas and Special Regulations for Use. Note that in Southern California, access is restricted in several estuarine MPAs.

Public Safety (activities that protect the public): Public safety activities, including installation, maintenance and/or seasonal placement and removal of safety-related artificial structures including, but not limited to, lifeguard towers, are allowed within any MPA classification pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).



Introduction of Species

(Including catching or otherwise bringing fish, plants and invertebrates to an MPA and releasing them): Unless authorized by the California Fish and Game Commission or as a result of authorized fishing activities, the release of any fish or wildlife species, including domestic or domesticated species, or the introduction of any plant species, is prohibited. CDFW may reintroduce native species to marine protected areas for management purposes.

Feeding of Fish and Wildlife

The feeding of fish and wildlife is prohibited, except for permitted scientific collection pursuant to Section 650 or as a result of authorized fishing within SMCAs, or unless feeding of fish is specifically authorized for purposes of marine life viewing. Note that at Catalina Island, two MPAs specifically authorize the feeding of fish.

Shore Fishing

Shore fishing means take of living marine resources from shore, including beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore. Unless specifically authorized in subsections 623(b), no vessel, watercraft (motorized or non-motorized), or floating device may be used to assist in the take, transport or possession of species taken while shore fishing.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS*

Q How much area was set aside off the Southern California coast as MPAs?

This region encompasses approximately 2,351 square miles of state waters from Point Conception (Santa Barbara County) south to the California-Mexico border, including state waters around the Channel Islands. A network of 50 MPAs and two special closures (including 13 MPAs previously established at the northern Channel Islands) covers approximately 355 square miles, or about 15 percent, of state waters off Southern California.

Southern California State Protected Areas			
Type	Number	Area (mi ²)	Percent of Southern California State Waters
SMR	19	241.46	10.27%
SMCA (no-take)	10	33.60	1.43%
SMCA	21	80.36	3.42%
Special Closure	2	1.89	0.08%
Total¹	50	355.42	15.12%

¹ Totals do not include special closures

Q How were the Southern California MPAs created?

The Southern California MPAs were designed through a collaborative public process, facilitated by the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, that included a regional stakeholder group that had extensive knowledge of Southern California and its resources. The group included commercial and recreational fishermen, tribal leaders, educators, and conservationists among others. The regional stakeholder group designed the Southern California MPAs, which then underwent science and policy reviews by a science advisory team and a “blue ribbon” task force. The CDFW, as the lead agency, California State Parks, and others also reviewed the proposed MPAs, which were ultimately approved by the California Fish and Game Commission, the final decision-making body under the Marine Life Protection Act.



Q Fishing may be restricted, but what other activities are permitted in an MPA?

Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities such as diving, surfing, swimming, and boating are allowed within MPAs, as long as take restrictions are followed. It’s a good idea to review the regulations before visiting an MPA.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q How do Southern California MPAs affect existing fisheries management and closures?

The Southern California MPAs are intended to complement existing fishing regulations, not replace them. MPAs address a broad array of ecosystem concerns and, especially in reserves, allow for more natural interactions between popular, heavily-fished species and species that fishermen normally don't target. Any changes to fishing regulations that are required in response to MPAs would occur through existing systems established in fisheries management plans and other regulatory frameworks.



Q The maps show both SMRs (red), and some “No-Take” SMCAs (purple). What is the difference between the two designations?

Both SMRs and No-Take SMCAs (indicated by purple color on maps) do not allow direct take, injury, damage, or possession of living, geological, or cultural marine resources. In No-Take SMCAs, however, some indirect take is authorized during permitted operations within the MPA, such as sand renourishment or maintenance of artificial structures. These ongoing operations may result in take incidental to the activities. While the operations themselves are permitted by other agencies, the incidental take associated with them is permitted under MPA rules.

Q What plants and animals live in Southern California MPAs?

The Southern California MPAs span the California Bight, which includes ocean waters relatively close to shore from Point Conception to the California-Mexico border. In the California Bight, waters from two major biogeographic regions intersect: cold, temperate water from the north, and warmer water from the south, forming a complex system of currents and environmental conditions. Southern California MPAs include diverse habitats ranging from sandy beaches and rocky coasts to soft- and hard- bottom deep water habitat. Some include kelp forests dominated by giant kelp, where white seabass and spiny lobster hunt and hide; others encompass tidal estuaries, lagoons, or offshore islands used by many creatures for foraging, breeding, and nurseries. In total, this area is home to 481 species of fish, four species of sea turtles, 195 species of birds, seven species of seals and sea lions, and more than 5,000 species of invertebrates.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Where can I find more information about MPAs?

The CDFW maintains several websites with extensive MPA information, including current, past, and future activities related to California's MPAs. As the lead agency in MPA development, implementation, and now monitoring, the CDFW strives for transparency and encourages public engagement and feedback. Please visit the following websites for more information:

- California Marine Protected Area website:
wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- Mobile-Device Friendly MPA website:
wildlife.ca.gov/m/MPA
- Boater: To view or print MPAs on nautical charts or other background "basemap," visit MarineBIOS, CDFW's interactive online marine and coastal map view at:
wildlife.ca.gov/MarineBIOS



QUESTIONS:

Email AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

*Information provided by CDFW Marine Region

WHERE TO FIND CALIFORNIA MPA INFORMATION

CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

WHERE TO FIND INFORMATION



California Department of
Fish and Wildlife

MOBILE SITE

A mobile site with MPA boundaries,
regulations & habitat information.



OCEAN SPORT FISHING INTERACTIVE WEB MAP

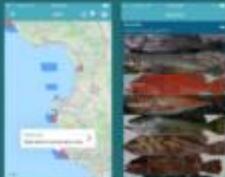


An interactive map showing MPA boundaries,
regulations & habitat information.

Visit wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/GIS

FishLegal

SALTWATER FISHING MAPS & REGULATIONS MOBILE APPLICATION



This mobile application includes MPA
boundaries, associated regulations and allows
for map and information access
without cellular signal. Users are able to
pinpoint their exact location relative to each
MPA. The app is free to download from the
iTunes App store and on Google Play.

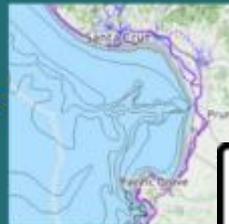


*FishLegal is not sponsored by the State of California. Please visit wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing for current regulations.



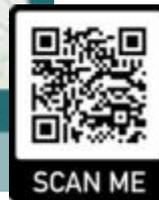
MOBILE APPLICATION & MARINE CHARTS

Mobile app and charts showing MPAs available for download.
Go cruising, fishing and sailing with the same detailed charts
and advanced features used on the best GPS plotters - get the
most out of your time on the water.



*Navionics is not sponsored by the State of California. Please visit wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing for current regulations.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
CALIFORNIAMPAS.ORG/ONLINEMOBILERESOURCES



SCAN ME

General MPA Regulations



GENERAL MPA REGULATIONS

govt.westlaw.com/calregs

CCR Title 14, section 632 - Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), and Special Closures.

(a) General Rules and Regulations:

The areas specified in this section have been declared by the commission to be marine protected areas, marine managed areas, or special closures. Public use of marine protected areas, marine managed areas, or special closures shall be compatible with the primary purposes of such areas. MPAs, MMAs, and special closures are subject to the following general rules and regulations in addition to existing Fish and Game Code statutes and regulations of the commission, except as otherwise provided for in subsection 632(b), areas and special regulations for use. Nothing in this section expressly or implicitly precludes, restricts or requires modification of current or future uses of the waters identified as marine protected areas, special closures, or the lands or waters adjacent to these designated areas by the Department of Defense, its allies or agents.

(1) Protection of Resources in MPAs and MMAs, as defined in Public Resources Code Section 36710:

(A) State Marine Reserves: In a state marine reserve, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a scientific collecting permit issued by the department pursuant to Section 650 or specific authorization from the commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

(B) State Marine Parks: In a state marine park, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living or nonliving marine resource for commercial purposes. Any human use that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community or habitat, or geological, cultural, or recreational features, may be restricted by the commission as specified in subsection 632(b), areas and special regulations for use. The department may issue scientific collecting permits pursuant to Section 650. The commission may authorize research, monitoring, and educational activities and certain recreational harvest in a manner consistent with protecting resource values.

(C) State Marine Conservation Areas: In a state marine conservation area, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial or recreational purposes, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes except as specified in subsection 632(b), areas and special regulations for use. The department may issue scientific collecting permits pursuant to

Section 650. The commission may authorize research, education, and recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources, provided that these uses do not compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat, or geological features.

(D) State Marine Recreational Management Areas: In a state marine recreational management area, it is unlawful to perform any activity that would compromise the recreational values for which the area may be designated. Recreational opportunities may be protected, enhanced, or restricted, while preserving basic resource values of the area. No other use is restricted unless specified in subsection 632(b), areas and special regulations for use.

(E) It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, retain, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource in any marine managed area except as otherwise specified in subsections 632(a)(1)(A)-(D).

(2) Finfish. Finfish, for the purpose of this section, are defined as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.

(3) Pelagic Finfish. Pelagic finfish, for the purpose of this section, are a subset of finfish defined as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena spp.*), billfishes* (family *Istiophoridae*), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher sharks (*Alopias spp.*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family *Scombridae*) including Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*).
*Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

(4) Coastal Pelagic Species. Coastal pelagic species, for the purposes of this section, include the following: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens*).

(5) Access. Access into marine protected areas or marine managed areas for non-consumptive uses including but not limited to swimming, surfing, diving, boating, hiking and walking is allowed unless otherwise specified in subsection 632(b), Areas and Special Regulations for Use.

(6) Introduction of Species. Unless authorized by the commission or as a result of authorized fishing activities, the release of any fish or wildlife species, including domestic or domesticated species, or the introduction of any plant species, is prohibited. The department may reintroduce endemic species to marine protected areas or marine managed areas for management purposes.

(7) Feeding of Fish and Wildlife. The feeding of fish and wildlife is prohibited except permitted scientific collection pursuant to Section 650 or as a result of authorized fishing within state marine conservation areas, state marine parks, and state marine recreational management areas, or unless feeding of fish is specifically authorized in subsection 632(b) for purposes of marine life viewing.

(8) Anchoring. Vessels shall be allowed to anchor in any marine protected area or marine managed area with catch onboard unless otherwise specified in subsection 632(b), areas and special regulations for use. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while anchored in a state marine reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified as allowed for take in subsection 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while anchored in a state marine recreational management area, state marine park or state marine conservation area. Anchoring regulations shall be consistent with federal law and allowances made for anchoring required by emergency or severe weather.

(9) Transit or Drifting.

(A) Vessels shall be allowed to transit through MPAs and Marine Managed Areas (MMAs) with catch onboard. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified as allowed for take in subsection 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine recreational management area, state marine park or state marine conservation area.

(B) Spear-fishermen with or without catch shall be allowed to transit through MPAs and MMAs. While transiting MPAs and MMAs that prohibit spearfishing or while in possession of species not identified as allowed for take in the MPA or MMA being transited, spearfishing gear shall be in an unloaded condition, not carried in hand, and the diver shall remain at the surface.

(10) Water Quality Monitoring. Sampling of water, sediment and marine life, for water quality monitoring or pollution research, or as required in a Monitoring and Reporting Program of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements issued by the State or Regional Water Boards pursuant to the United States Clean Water Act and the California Water Code, is allowed within state marine reserves, state marine conservation areas, state marine parks, and state marine recreational management areas pursuant to a valid scientific collecting permit issued by the department.

(11) Public Safety. Public safety activities, including installation, maintenance and/or seasonal placement and removal of safety-related artificial structures, including but not limited to lifeguard towers, are allowed within any MPA classification pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department.

(12) Tribal Take. For purposes of this regulation, “federally recognized tribe” means any tribe on the *List of Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible to Receive Services from the United States Bureau of Indian Affairs*, published annually in the Federal Register. Any member of a federally recognized tribe authorized to take living marine resources from an area with area-specific take restrictions in subsection 632(b), when engaging in take within an authorized area shall possess on his person, in his immediate possession, or where otherwise specifically required by law to be kept, any valid license, report card, tag, stamp, validation, permit, or any other entitlement that is required in the Fish and Game Code, or required by other state, federal, or local entities, in order to take living marine resources. Members shall possess a valid photo identification card issued by a federally recognized tribe that contains expiration date, tribal name, tribal member number, name, signature, date of birth, height, color of eyes, color of hair, weight, and sex; and display any of the items listed above upon demand to any peace officer. Members taking living marine resources under this provision are subject to current seasonal, bag, possession, gear and size limits in existing Fish and Game Code statutes and regulations of the commission, except as otherwise provided for in subsection 632(b). No member, while taking living marine resources pursuant to this section, may be assisted by any person who does not possess a valid tribal identification card and is not properly licensed to take living marine resources. Nothing in the regulation is intended to conflict with, or supersede, any state or federal law regarding the take of protected, threatened or endangered species.

(13) Shore Fishing. Take from shore, or shore fishing, for purposes of this section, means take of living marine resources from shore, including beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore. Unless specifically authorized in subsection 632(b), no vessel, watercraft (motorized or non-motorized), or floating device may be used to assist in the take, transport or possession of species taken while shore fishing, except that a float tube or similar flotation device may be used when taking abalone only.

(14) Incidental Take Buffer Zone for Pre-Existing Artificial Structures (Incidental Take Buffer Zones). For the purpose of this section, an “incidental take buffer zone” is established in the peripheral area surrounding a pre-existing artificial structure as defined in subsection 632(a)(13). The incidental take buffer zone shall include the entirety of the surrounding water column within 250 linear feet in any direction from the pre-existing artificial structure, not including areas above the mean high tide line.

(15) Identification and Permit or Lease Requirement for Pre-existing Artificial Structure Activities. At all times, when conducting any operation, maintenance, repair, removal or replacement activity of a pre-existing artificial structure authorized by a federal, state, or local permit or lease, the leaseholder(s), permittee(s), and their agent(s) shall carry in their possession a valid government-issued form of identification, and a digital or printed copy of the permit or lease. The only acceptable forms of identification are driver’s licenses or other photo identification cards issued by a U.S. state, a valid photo identification card issued by a federally recognized tribe as specified in subsection 632(a)(11), or an international passport. Valid identification and a copy of the lease or permit shall be exhibited immediately upon demand by any person authorized by the department to enforce this regulation.

Tribal Information



California Native Peoples



Credit: © 2023 Tima Lotah Link, Šmuwič Chumash

CALIFORNIA'S NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES AND THE COAST

Land Acknowledgement

Orange County is within the unceded traditional territory of the Acjachemem Peoples. North Orange County is within the shared territory of the Acjachemem and Tongva Peoples. The Acjachemem share territory with their relatives and neighbors: Tongva to the north and Payómkawichum to the east and south. The Acjachemem and their Native relatives are still here and remain as nations with international relationships. We acknowledge the painful histories of violent colonial invasion and occupation of these lands and waters, beginning with Spain in 1769, followed by Mexico and the United States of America. Their homeland continues to be occupied in violation of their sovereign nationhood. With this writing, we pay respect to and honor the original traditional stewards of what is now known as Orange County, the Acjachemem and Tongva past, present, and future.

Background:

Indigenous Peoples and nations within California maintain an inherent responsibility to steward the lands and waters within their ancestral areas.

California coastal Native nations have spent thousands of years in a direct ceremonial and accountable relationship with the ocean and have respected and cared for the ocean and coastal waters, which provide habitat to a vast array of wildlife, including fish, whales, sea turtles, and birds that depend on a healthy and clean environment, for millennia. These coastal lands and waters are essential to the cultural, spiritual and physical well-being of coastal Native nations.

The sustainable, reciprocal relationship these tribes maintained with the coastal lands and waters in their homelands was forever changed with the onslaught of colonization. The first acts of environmental injustice and environmental racism in California occurred when Spanish soldiers and padres (the priests at the missions) landed on the coasts of Southern California in 1769. Indigenous Peoples were often forcibly removed from their ancestral homelands, and traditional ways of living sustainably in right relationship with the local ecosystems were discouraged or outright prohibited by the settler-colonists.

The introduction of non-native plant and animal species brought from across the ocean to establish and maintain colonial outposts in the “New World” had a devastating impact on the local ecosystems and the Indigenous communities that relied upon these ecosystems for survival. The 150+ Native nations with ancestral territories in California have been fighting since those first acts of violent displacement to protect the lands and waters within their ancestral territories and undo the environmental damage caused by the introduction of

new species and systems of agriculture that did not consider local ecologies or long-term principles of sustainability.

California Tribes maintain unceded aboriginal rights within their ancestral areas, which includes gathering marine resources within coastal and nearshore waters. Lastly, for Indigenous Peoples to truly thrive in the continuance of these practices and responsibilities, it is essential that these rights are acknowledged and that there is sufficient access to these places and resources to support indigeneity.

MLPA Implementation Considerations:

Like nearly all conservation legislation in the State, the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) did not consider the potential implications the law may have on California Tribes and Tribal communities. The State of California also did not utilize formal government-to-government processes for consulting with Tribal governments when the MLPA was passed or eventually implemented. When the redesign of the Marine Protected Area (MPA) network commenced, as required by the MLPA, the lack of these considerations to California Tribes and Tribal communities became Apparent.

Tribal Exemption in MPAs:

Tribal leadership, community members, and representatives strongly advocated to protect Tribal interests. It was critical that the State ensure the protection of these unique Tribal uses, acknowledgment of the continued responsibility to care for ancestral areas, and recognition of the unceded aboriginal rights of Tribes to coastal and nearshore waters. Finally, as a result of significant engagement and pressure from Tribes throughout California, the State demonstrated an acknowledgment of the unique considerations discussed above, distinct to California Tribes, and created a regulatory provision that provided an exemption from MPA-specific area and take regulations for individual federally recognized Tribes within their ancestral areas.

What are Tribal Exemptions to Regulations:

While State Marine Reserves (SMR) restrict take of any kind, State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs) generally allow some types of take or take of certain species. These SMCAs may also include a list of Tribes that are exempt within a specific MPA; they do not have to follow the MPA regulations listed in California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. The State's position is that qualifying Tribal members do, however, need to have a valid California fishing license and follow all other pertinent Fish and Game code regulations relating to size and take limits.

Addressing Tribal Take in the Field:

If you are an officer who patrols the coastline and enforces SMCA regulations, it is important to familiarize yourself with the list of Tribes that are exempt according to the code. If possible, research information about the traditional methods and species targeted by the Tribes collecting in their ancestral lands.

If you witness someone harvesting against the regulations, first ask if they are aware that they are in a MPA. Then ask if they are a Tribal member and of what Tribe. If they are a Tribal member from a California coastal Native American Tribe, regardless of whether or not they are federally recognized and listed in the MPA as exempt, then they are gathering marine resources according to their aboriginal rights and should be left alone. Also be prepared to answer questions from other members of the public who do not share this long-term connection and thus are not exempt from the regulations.

Increase Your Cultural Awareness:
Identifying Tribal Lands in California

Some resources to help you find information about the Indigenous Nations and Peoples of your area include the State of California's Native American Heritage Commission (<https://nahc.ca.gov/>) and in particular the Digital Atlas.

Indigenous Data Sovereignty

Excerpt from Rainie, Stephanie Carroll, Desi Rodriguez-Lonebear, and Andrew Martinez. 2017. Policy Brief: Indigenous Data Sovereignty in the United States (<https://nni.arizona.edu/publications/policy-brief-indigenous-data-sovereignty-united-states>). Tucson: Native Nations Institute, University of Arizona as listed on the Climate Science Alliance Tribal Working Group Indigenous Data Sovereignty Protocols Page (<https://www.climatesciencealliance.org/tribal-working-group>)

“Indigenous peoples have always been data creators, data users, and data stewards. They have used this information to interact with each other and with the natural world since time immemorial. Data were and are embedded in Indigenous instructional practices and cultural principles, and transmitted orally as well as recorded through winter counts, calendar sticks, totem poles, and other physical objects. Today, Indigenous data are information that impact Indigenous lives at the collective and individual levels. Indigenous data include, “any facts, knowledge, or information about a Native nation and its tribal citizens, lands, resources, programs, and communities. Information ranging from demographic profiles to educational attainment rates, maps of sacred lands, songs, and social media activities are all data.”

Rights

“Indigenous Peoples’ rights and interests in Indigenous data must be recognized and their authority to control such data be empowered. Indigenous data governance enables Indigenous Peoples and governing bodies to determine how Indigenous Peoples, as well as Indigenous lands, territories, resources, knowledges and geographical indicators, are represented and identified within data.”

Responsibility

“Those working with Indigenous data have a responsibility to share how those data are used to support Indigenous Peoples’ self determination and collective benefit. Accountability requires meaningful and openly available evidence of these efforts and the benefits.”

Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and the Ocean

Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Ocean Observing: A Review of Successful Partnerships (2021) (<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fmars.2021.703938/full>)

“Traditional Ecological Knowledge is not simply a way of understanding how the world works, nor is it easily bounded or quantified in the same way as western scientific ways of knowing. TEK is embodied by many different principles and values that may vary based on the knowledge holder. Some of the most common principles include responsibility, respect, reciprocity and connectivity to each other and the environment. Indigenous Traditional Ecological Knowledge recognizes that Indigenous people, as the original caretakers, hold unique relationships with the land and waters.”

**Content reviewed by MPA Statewide Leadership Team Tribal Representatives, and further reviewed, edited, and added to by Angela Mooney D’Arcy and Tina Calderon of Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples (<http://www.sacredplacesinstitute.org/>).*

ORANGE COUNTY

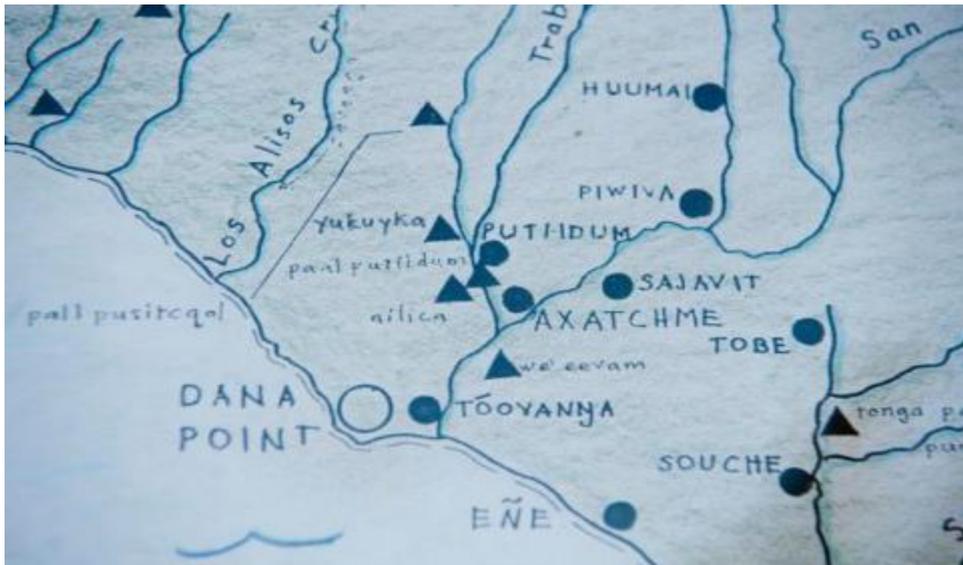
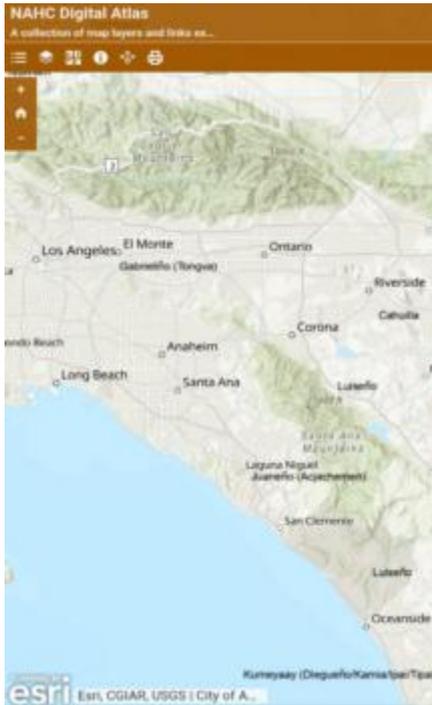


Photo Credit: Blas Aguilar Adobe Museum & Acjachemen Cultural Center (<https://www.facebook.com/blasaguilaradobe/>)



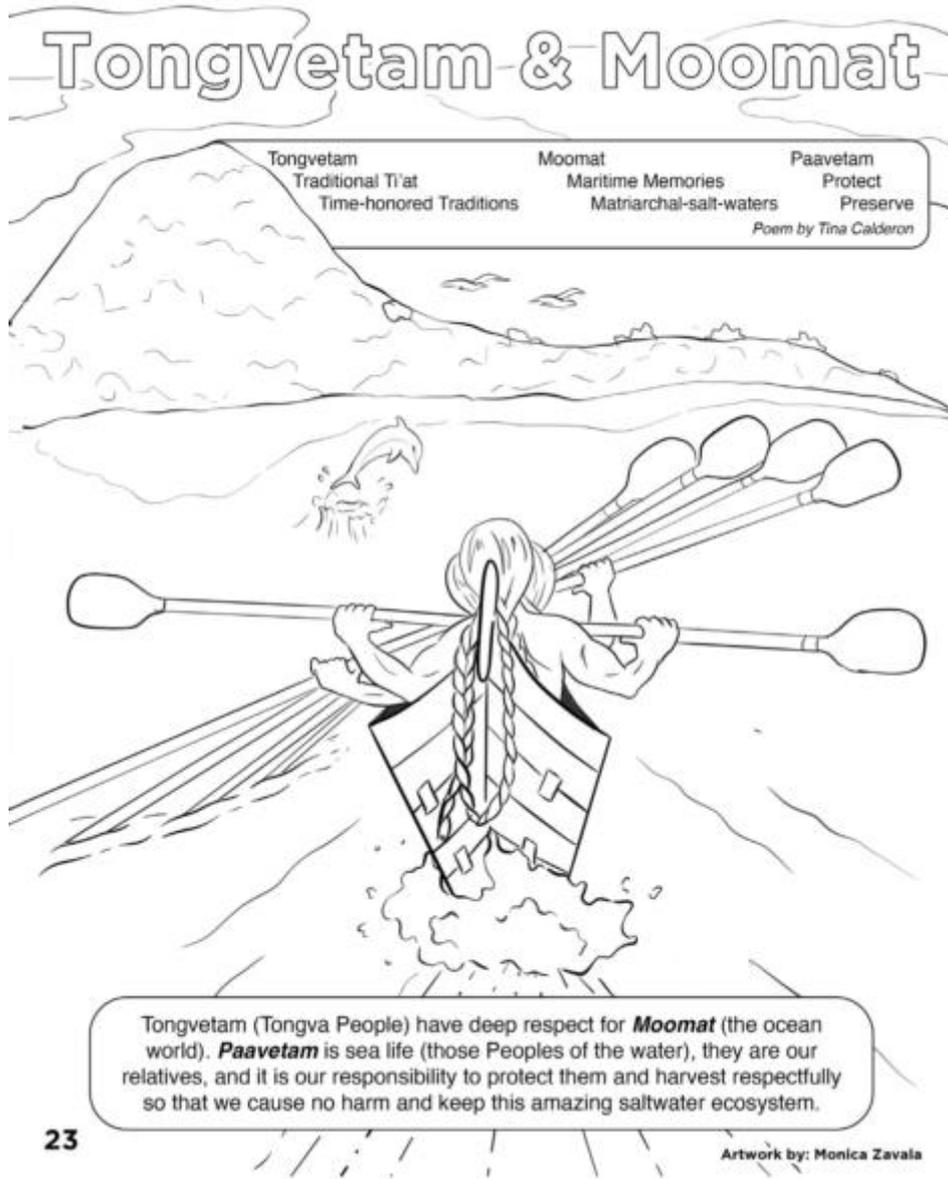
Native American Heritage Commission Digital Atlas (<https://arcg.is/OOzf8PO>)

Acjachemen Nation, Juaneño Band of Mission Indians

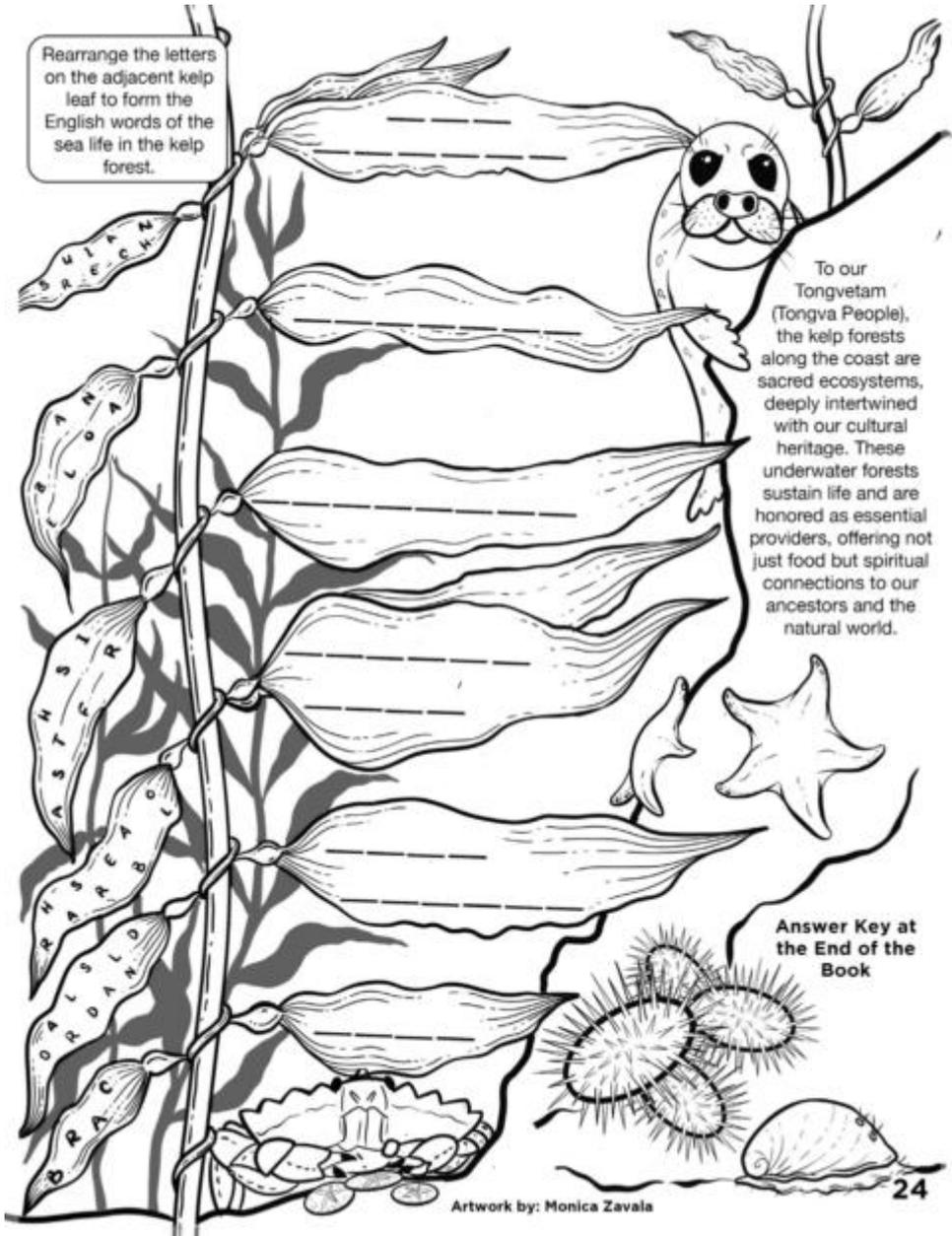
Excerpt from Charles Sepulveda and Angela Mooney D'Arcy, [The Oil Spill in California Lends Urgency to Demand for Indigenous Land Stewards](https://truthout.org/articles/the-oil-spill-in-california-lends-urgency-to-demand-for-indigenous-land-stewards/), Truthout, October 17, 2021 (<https://truthout.org/articles/the-oil-spill-in-california-lends-urgency-to-demand-for-indigenous-land-stewards/>)

The word for ocean used by the Acjachemen and Tongva Peoples is Moomat, and they honor and respect the ocean as sacred. Both the Acjachemen and Tongva hold the ocean in deep respect and continue to honor it through song and ceremony. They live in relationship with their environment and continue to always show respect to their lands and waters. Their traditional territories include the eastern shores of the Pacific Ocean, the West Coast of North America within the state of California, in what is now called Orange County. Historically, they lived in village sites near rivers, streams and springs, including the village of Genga (Banning Ranch) near the Santa Ana River and the coastal cities of Newport and Huntington Beach. While some Acjachemen and Tongva community members still live in these ancestral homelands, many have been priced out of their own homelands for generations and now live far away from their ancestral lands and waters after centuries of displacement. Even so, tribal community members continue to engage in traditional cultural practices and the ocean continues to be a place of cultural significance for tribal members.

The following artwork was provided by Monica Zavala for the project “Ancestral Waters: A Coloring and Activity Book on Indigenous Connections to California’s Marine Protected Areas.” Permission was given to re-use the artwork here.



Rearrange the letters on the adjacent kelp leaf to form the English words of the sea life in the kelp forest.



To our Tongvetam (Tongva People), the kelp forests along the coast are sacred ecosystems, deeply intertwined with our cultural heritage. These underwater forests sustain life and are honored as essential providers, offering not just food but spiritual connections to our ancestors and the natural world.

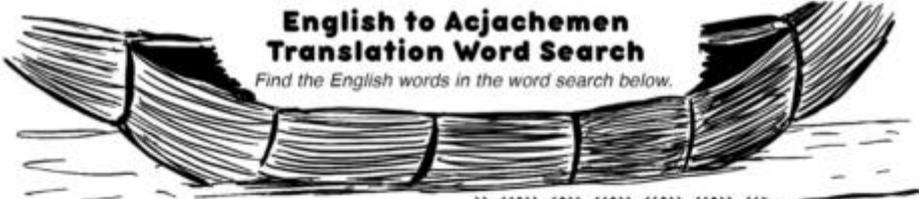
Answer Key at the End of the Book

Artwork by: Monica Zavala

The following artwork was provided by Ciara and James Belardes-Dunkerson with concept by Domingo Belardes for the project "Ancestral Waters: A Coloring and Activity Book on Indigenous Connections to California's Marine Protected Areas." Permission was given to re-use the artwork here.

English to Acjachemen Translation Word Search

Find the English words in the word search below.





**Answer Key
at the End
of the Book**

D	D	H	W	T	C	L	I	M	A	T	E	J	A	T
H	O	D	R	P	Y	L	S	H	E	L	L	S	A	V
G	V	S	M	A	S	R	Y	E	K	X	X	Z	T	D
B	S	C	T	U	L	E	I	Z	E	P	H	K	Y	Y
E	C	K	Z	V	M	O	D	F	J	R	H	T	C	C
B	Z	E	N	L	S	G	C	O	H	O	V	I	U	O
D	X	L	R	K	C	X	L	X	R	T	C	R	R	N
P	O	P	R	E	S	E	R	V	E	E	R	Q	R	S
B	S	L	C	F	V	V	D	G	N	C	A	V	E	E
X	E	B	P	F	I	S	H	C	M	T	B	G	N	R
U	A	S	O	H	W	H	A	L	E	X	Z	V	T	V
L	L	G	K	C	I	A	F	B	Z	N	I	V	L	E
S	I	I	A	W	E	N	J	W	M	J	W	K	I	J
C	O	R	A	L	C	A	Q	V	X	R	Y	J	U	I
Y	N	Y	B	C	L	H	N	M	D	U	K	T	O	J




OCEAN
máomat

WHALE
koýáowuf

CLIMATE
kilima

CORAL
foota

SHELL
óoyimal

CURRENT
milna

PROTECT
kwaáwachu

SEALION
paýkal

PRESERVE
óka

CONSERVE
-kuy

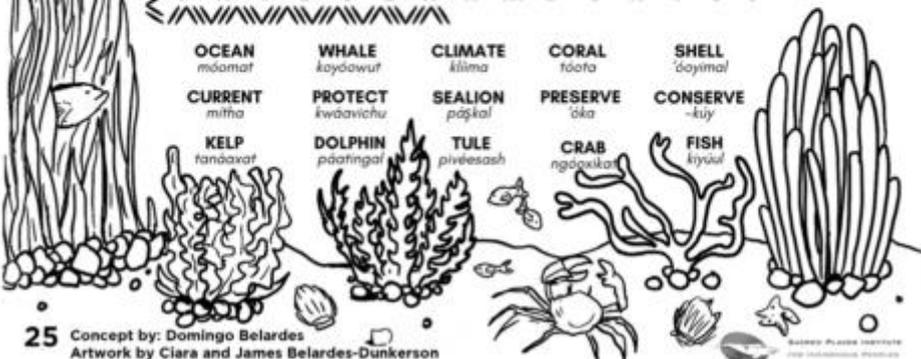
KELP
tanáaxaf

DOLPHIN
paátingal

TULE
pivéesash

CRAB
ngáaxikal

FISH
kryúal



25 Concept by: Domingo Belardes
Artwork by Ciara and James Belardes-Dunkerson

© 2015 PLAZA INTERIORS
100 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, SUITE 1000, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102

Crossword Puzzle



Across:

2. Translate the Acjachemen word for ocean.
5. What do you call the average weather patterns over many years?
8. Marine _____ Area
9. Which underwater towers provide food and shelter for fish, invertebrates, and sea mammals?
10. Translate the Acjachemen word *kivúul*.

Down:

1. An ocean dwelling mollusk that was a food source for the Indigenous Peoples?
3. What is the traditional name of the Juaneño people?
4. What means to protect from loss, waste or damage?
6. What are the Acjachemen boats made of?
7. Translate the Acjachemen word *páatingal*.



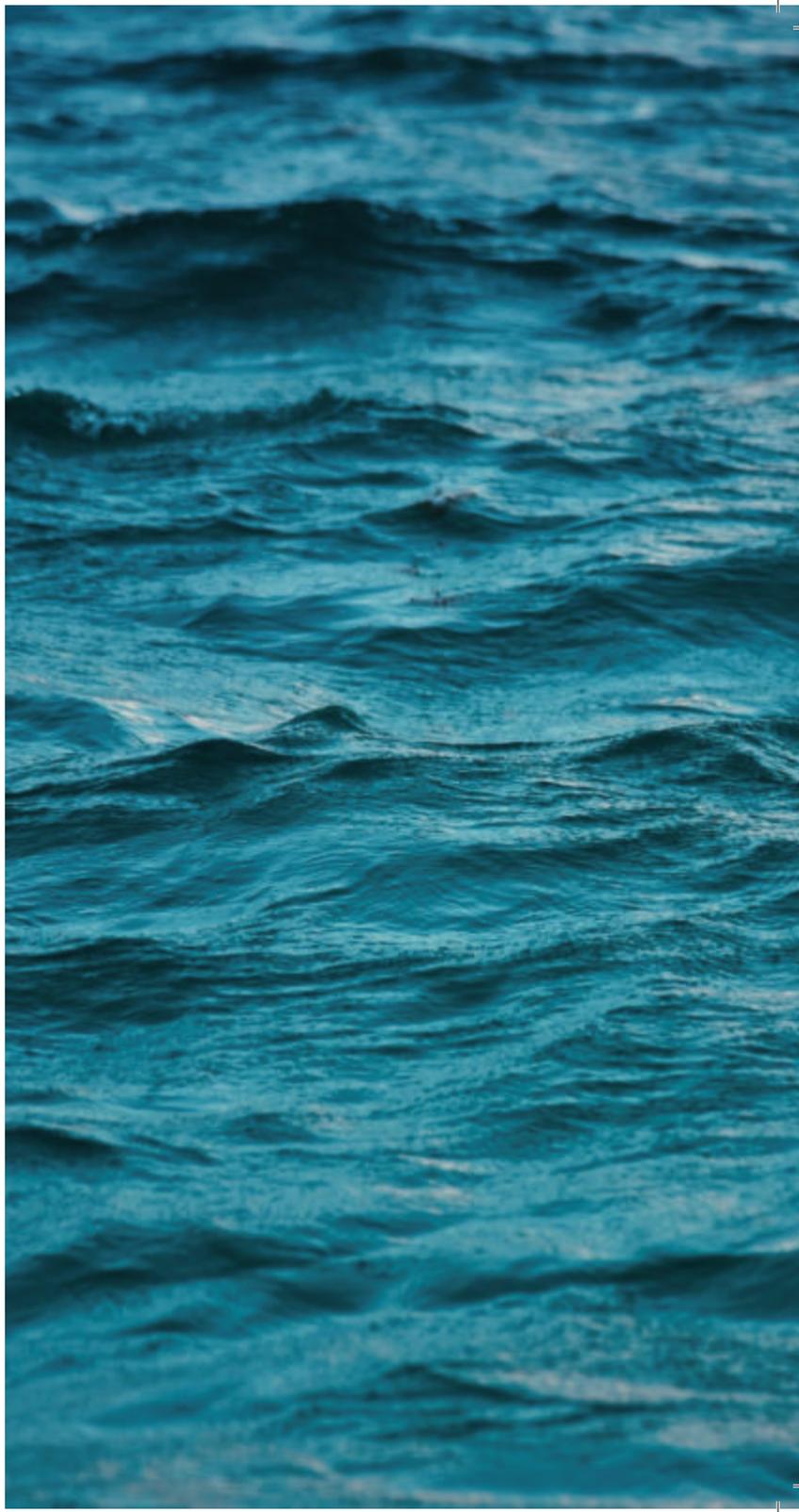
**Answer Key at the
End of the Book**

Concept by: Domingo Belardes
Artwork by Clara and James Belardes-Dunkerson



BADRED PLACES INSTITUTE
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Science of Marine Protected Areas



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS (MPA) SCIENCE

Our oceans and coast provide many goods and services (e.g. oxygen, climate regulation, food, medicine, recreation, business). However, our oceans are in crisis, facing threats such as:



Climate Change &
Ocean Acidification



Invasive Species



Pollution



Habitat Destruction



Coastal
Development



Overfishing/
Overcollecting

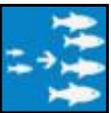
MPAs are one ocean conservation tool being used to address and mitigate these threats. Benefits of MPAs may include:



Conserve Biodiversity
& Ecosystems



Education, Recreation
& Cultural Practice
Opportunities



Increase Fish Size
& Abundance



Increase Marine Tourism
& Local Economic Uses



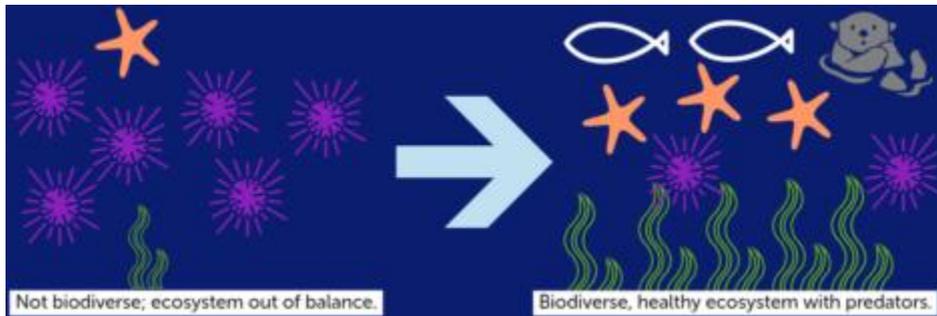
Increase Ecosystem
Resilience



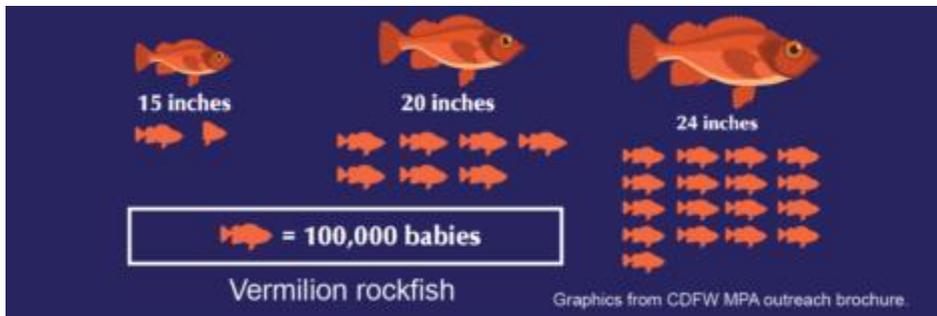
Provide Reference
Sites for Long- Term
Research & Monitoring.

The next page contains some real-world examples of the scientific theories behind the creation of California's MPA Network. It is important to note that noticeable change may take decades due to the temperate waters of the California Current system (versus warmer tropical waters) and the time it takes for long-lived, slow-growing marine species (e.g. rockfishes) to reach maturity.

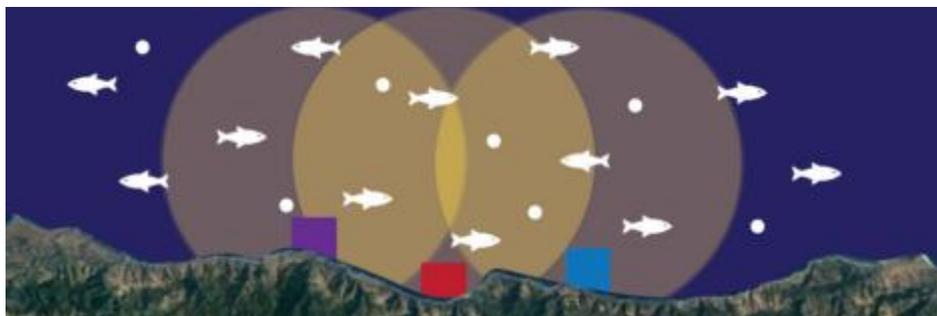
1. MPAs can help restore food webs that shape habitats, like kelp forests, protecting the biodiversity and abundance of ocean ecosystems.



2. MPAs can allow commercially important resident fish to grow larger. These Big Old Fertile Female Fish (BOFFF) produce more young per year than smaller fish.



3. California's connected network of smaller MPAs can protect populations of fish, invertebrates, & algae allowing their larvae & young to spillover into areas around the MPAs, reaching more coastline than just one large MPA.



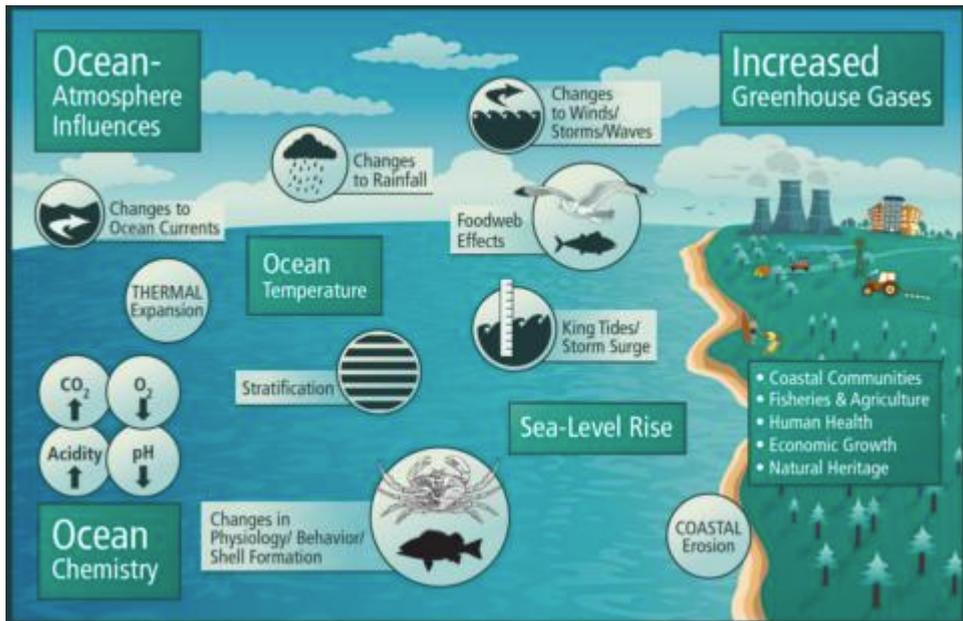
CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND CALIFORNIA'S MPA NETWORK

Due to human-caused greenhouse gas emissions and associated climate change, the California Current is experiencing conditions such as ocean warming, marine heatwaves, alterations in ocean chemistry (ocean acidification and decreased levels of oxygen), sea-level rise, and extreme storms.

But some scientific evidence suggests that MPAs can promote climate resilience in marine ecosystems.

Key terms: Climate Resilience

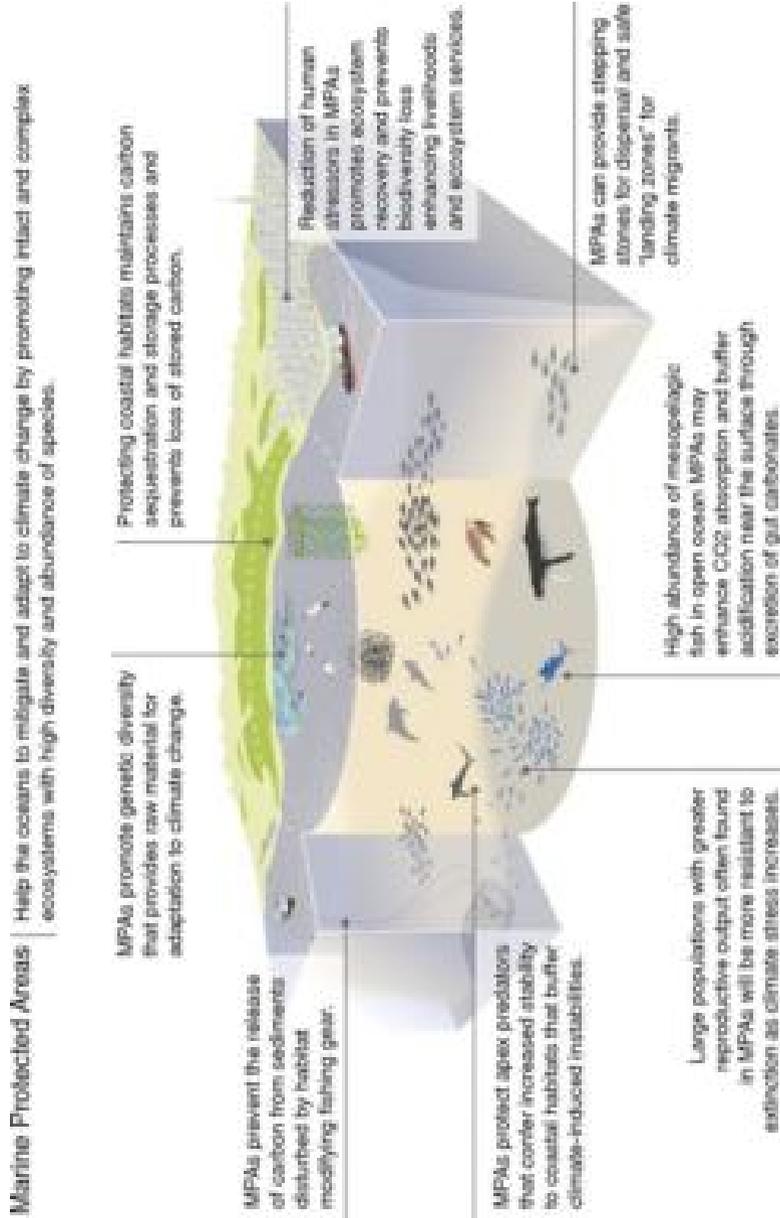
The ability of a coupled socioecological-economic system and its components to absorb stressors and disturbance through resistance and/ or recovery of core function, structure, and provision of services.



Overview of climate change in California

Figure source: Della Gilleran from Sievanen, Phillips, et al. 2018

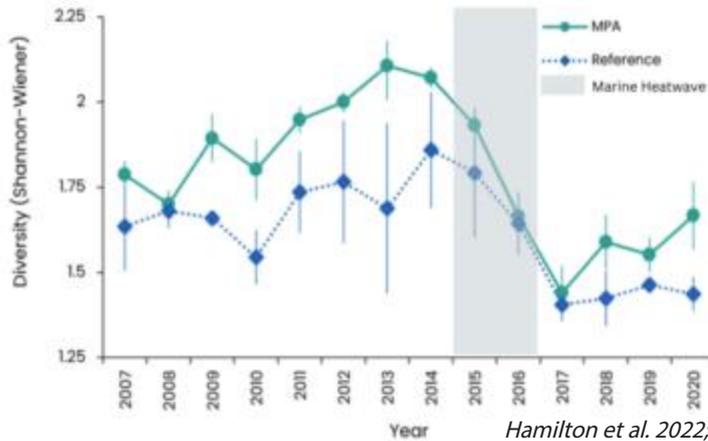
HOW MPAS PROMOTE CLIMATE RESILIENCE



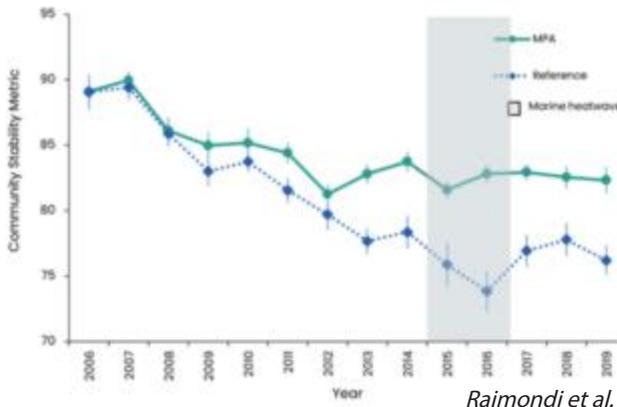
Roberts et al. 2017

Early results from California's MPA Monitoring

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has released some results from their long-term monitoring that indicate California's MPAs may provide climate resilience. These results are from Central California.



Above graph shows that diversity of fish inside of MPAs seemed to bounce back more quickly after the 2014-2016 marine heatwave.



Above graph shows that the stability of MPAs appeared to remain more consistent in the rocky intertidal during and after the heatwave.

MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA) RESEARCH

Scientific studies from around the globe show that with enough time, MPAs can increase the size, abundance, and diversity of marine species within and outside their borders. California's MPA Network, established in 2012, is beginning to show signs of success, supporting the scientific theories behind its creation. Use your phone's camera to scan the QR codes below to be linked to the scientific research.

LONG-TERM MONITORING PROGRAM FINAL REPORTS 2019-2021

- Seven long-term projects to gain a better understanding of California's MPAs
- Technical reports
- Project snapshots



"A RISING TIDE: CALIFORNIA'S ONGOING COMMITMENT TO MONITORING, MANAGING AND ENFORCING ITS MARINE PROTECTED AREAS"

by **Samantha Murray and Tyler T. Hee.**

- California's comprehensive and collaborative MPA management program
- Initial monitoring results show more and larger fish and invertebrates in MPAs, especially in older MPAs



"DISPERSAL OF A NEARSHORE MARINE FISH CONNECTS MARINE RESERVES AND ADJACENT FISHED AREAS ALONG AN OPEN COAST"

by **Diana S. Baetscher et al.**

- Quantified dispersal of kelp rockfish along ~25 km of nearshore habitat in Carmel and Monterey bays
- Juvenile fish born inside MPAs were found dispersed to areas outside MPAs
- Fish born in MPAs were also found dispersed into other nearby MPAs
- Evidence supporting the spillover effect



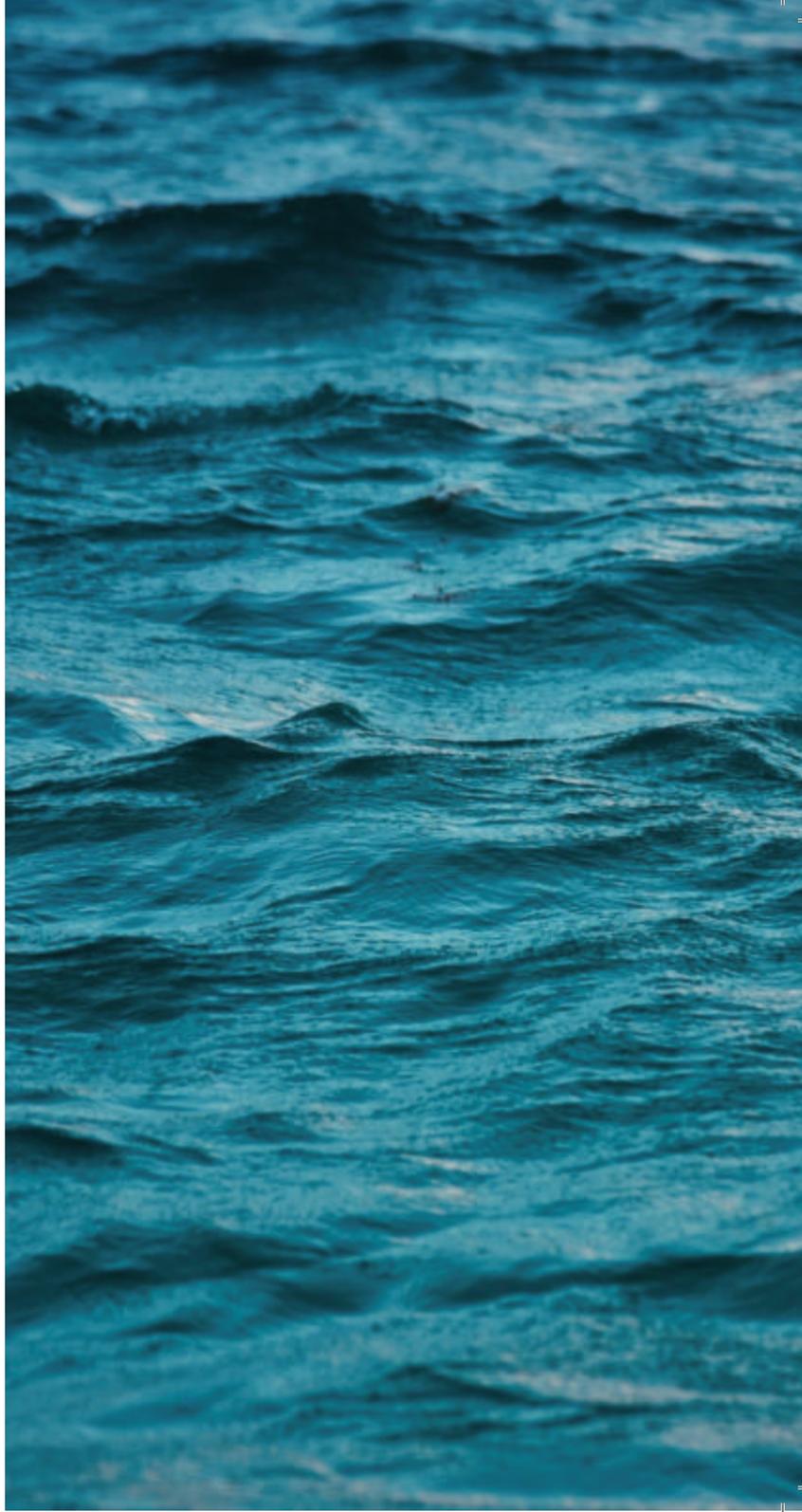
SCIENTIFIC COLLECTING PERMITS (SCPs)

An SCP is a permit that allows for the take of plants or wildlife for “bona fide scientific, educational or propagation purposes”. There are two types of permits: General Use and Specific Use. A General Use permit does not allow for take in an MPA and allows for the take of certain species with specific quantities. A Specific Use permit can allow take of more species, different quantities, and potentially can work within an MPA. These permits are often issued for 3 years, but if it is a student permit than it is issued for 1 year. In regards to MPAs, the regulations say “it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a scientific collecting permit” so any activity that disrupts a part of the MPA without a permit is illegal.

It is also worth noting that permits can be issued that involve the take or interaction with CESA-listed species. If the person can take one of these species, it will be listed in their permit and they should have an MOU.”



Wildlife Stewardship and Responsible Recreation



FEDERAL MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT

*fisheries.noaa.gov

The Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) of 1972 was enacted in response to increasing concerns among scientists and the public that significant declines in some species of marine mammals were caused by human activities. The Act established a national policy to prevent marine mammal species and population stocks from declining beyond the point where they ceased to be significant functioning elements of the ecosystems of which they are a part.

The MMPA established a moratorium on the taking of marine mammals in U.S. waters. It defines “take” to mean “to hunt harass, capture, or kill” any marine mammal or attempt to do so. The inclusion of harassment in the definition was a groundbreaking action by Congress. Exceptions to the moratorium can be made through permitting actions for take incidental to commercial fishing and other nonfishing activities; for scientific research; and for public display at licensed institutions such as aquaria and science centers.

The Department of Commerce through the National Marine Fisheries Service is charged with protecting whales, dolphins, porpoises, seals, and seal lions.

HARASSMENT IS ILLEGAL

Harassment is defined as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to injure or disturb a marine mammal by interrupting/changing behavioral patterns such as migration, breathing, nursing, and feeding.



Man harasses sea lion to get a “better” selfie. Image from Respect Wildlife Campaign.

MARINE WILDLIFE VIEWING GUIDELINES

*sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wildlife-viewing

The infographic is a vertical blue banner with a central column of six hexagonal icons and text blocks. The top of the banner features the NOAA logo and the text 'Wildlife Viewing Respect. Protect. Enjoy. #WildSanctuaries' with the URL 'sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wildlife-viewing/'. The bottom of the banner features the NOAA logo and the text 'NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES'.

Wildlife Viewing
Respect. Protect. Enjoy. #WildSanctuaries
sanctuaries.noaa.gov/wildlife-viewing/

NOAA
NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARIES

HANDS TO YOURSELF
Keep wildlife safe and healthy.

KEEP PETS HOME OR ON A LEASH
Wildlife and pets can harm each other.

REPORT WILDLIFE THAT SEEMS ABANDONED OR SICK
Leave it to the experts.

Give wildlife space.
HANG BACK AND ENJOY THE VIEW
NOAA Enforcement Hotline
+1 (800) 853-1964

LEND A HAND WITH TRASH REMOVAL
Keep their home clean.

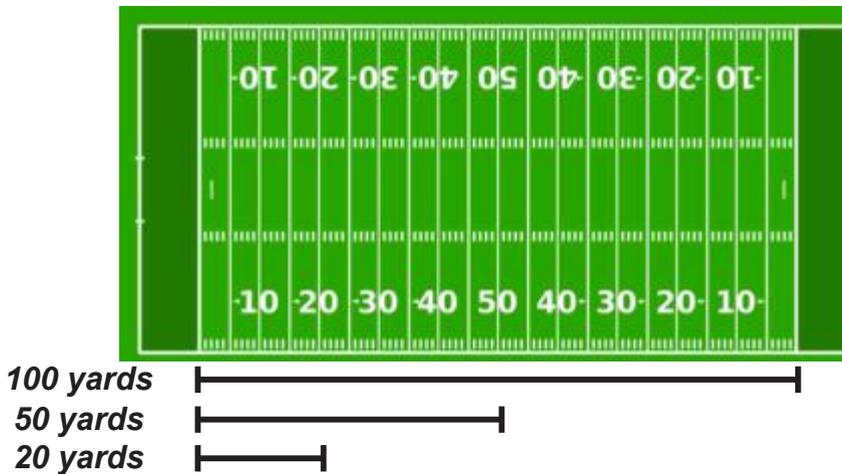
SNACKS TO YOURSELF
Wildlife can find their own food.

LEAD BY EXAMPLE
Help others become responsible wildlife watchers.

GENERAL VIEWING GUIDELINES AND DISTANCES

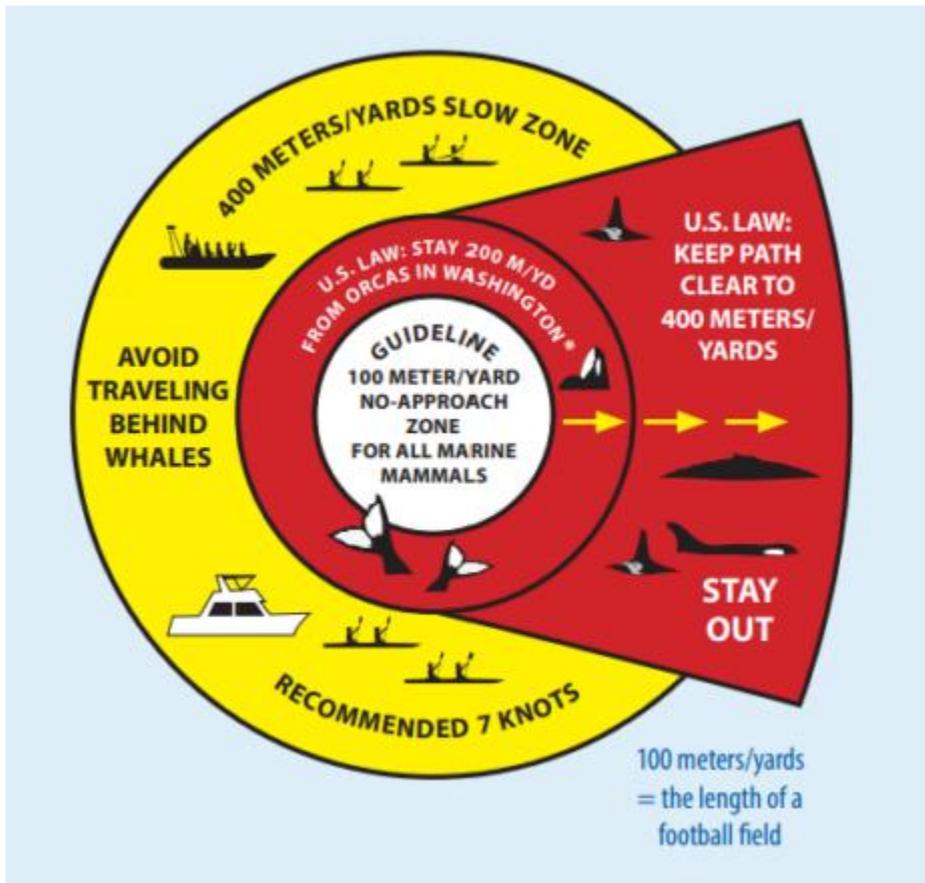
Individual animals and groups of animals respond differently to disturbance stimuli. A change in an animal's behavior is an indicator that a person/boat/etc. is too close. Below are some distance guidelines that can be helpful for minimizing disturbance, however it's critical to pay attention to the animals behavior. A good rule of thumb is: if the animal is looking at you, you're too close.

- **Whales:** Remain at least 100 yards away.
- **Dolphins and Porpoises:** Remain at least 50 yards away.
- **Seals and Sea Lions:** Remain at least 50 yards away in water and on shore.
- **Sea Turtles:** Remain at least 50 yards away in water and on shore.
- **Sea Otters:** Remain at least 20 yards (five kayak lengths) away.



BOATING GUIDELINES

- Limit time spent observing to 30 minutes or less.
- Do not chase, encircle, or leapfrog animals with any watercraft.
- Do not trap animals between watercraft or the shore.
- If a marine mammal approaches your vessel, put engine in neutral or reduce speed to less than 7 knots when within 400 yards/meters of the nearest whale.
- Avoid abrupt changes in speed or direction.



SHOREBIRD DISTURBANCE

Threat: Disturbance to Nesting Birds and Increased Predation

Causes: Human recreation activities on beaches where plovers and terns breed. Activities include beach recreation, off-leash dogs, horse riding, and motorized and non-motorized vehicles. When on dry sand these activities can crush nests. Domestic dogs on and off leash in dry sand can chase birds, causing stress and a waste of their needed energy; chasing can also kill adults and chicks. Kites look like avian predators and can cause birds to flush off their nests, wasting precious energy and leaving nests vulnerable to real predators and weather.

Solutions:

- Dismantle driftwood sculptures, which can serve as avian predator perches.
- Leave driftwood and seaweed on beaches for chicks to take cover under.
- Keep trash contained and covered so as not to attract predators.
- Respect protected habitat areas by reading signs and following rules to share the beach.
- Respect fences and exclosures around nest sites.
- Walk and ride horses on wet sand when in protected breeding areas, so you don't accidentally crush camouflaged nests.
- Keep dogs on leash and only in designated dog-friendly zones.
- Do not fly kites in protected breeding areas - they look like predators!
- Operate motorized and non-motorized vehicles only in designated areas.
- Help birds save their energy for survival by not chasing them at any time of year.
- Report disturbances to local authorities. These birds are protected by law! Disturbance causes separation of chicks and parents, leading to chick abandonment and death.

For information on the western snowy plover and resources for recovery: **www.westernsnowyplover.org/**

All text above pulled from the *Pocket Guide to Beach Birds of California* by PRBO Conservation Science.

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ON SEABIRDS

Most disturbances are caused by individuals who are unaware of seabird's need for undisturbed nesting on the offshore rocks and cliffs from April to August. Educating the public that approaching too close to seabirds causes them to panic and fly, wasting energy and leaving young vulnerable to predators is effective in reducing disturbance. Some simple steps to share with coastal users are to:

- Stay off of rocks when seabirds are present.
- Pick up trash, fishing line, and hooks.
- Never feed wildlife.
- Keep dogs on leash at all times and out of rocky areas.
- In the air, maintain 2,000' above ground level to avoid seabird disturbances.
- On the water stay back far enough from seabirds on rocks, piers, jetties or in floating flocks to avoid any of the signs of disturbance.
- A single disturbance can cause complete breeding failure of an entire colony.



A brown booby fends off an approaching sea lion while a Brandt's cormorant looks on. Image by Daniel Bianchetta at Monterey Bay Whale Watch

*Plovers are protected
by law, and safeguarding
their nesting habitat
requires the cooperation
of beach visitors.*

Our Mission

The mission of the California Department of Parks and Recreation is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state's extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation.

GRAY DAVIS
Governor

MARY D. NICHOLS
Secretary for Resources

RUTH COLEMAN
Acting Director, California State Parks



California State Parks does not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Prior to arrival, visitors with disabilities who need assistance should call the phone numbers below. To receive this publication in an alternate format, write to the Communications Office at the following address.

CALIFORNIA For information call:

STATE PARKS 800-777-0369

P. O. Box 942896 916-653-6995, outside the U.S.

Sacramento, CA 888-877-5378, TTY

94296-0001 888-877-5379, without TTY

www.parks.ca.gov

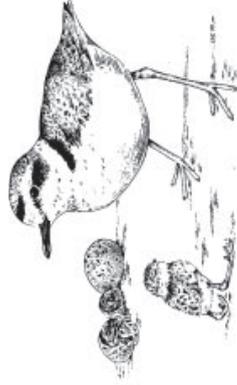
Cover drawing by Carleton Eyster. Photography by Peter Knapp (plover) and Dave Dixon (plover nest).

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Rules & Guidelines for Protecting the Snowy Plover



You have a role
in the survival of the
western snowy plover
on California beaches.



Rules Visitors Must Follow

Since snowy plover nesting coincides with the busy beach season, there are rules that visitors must follow to avoid or minimize impacts on the birds.

1. Dogs are prohibited on all California State Parks coastal beaches unless specifically authorized. Where authorized, dogs must be leashed.
2. Do not light fires or camp on the beach except in designated areas.
3. Stay out of fenced or posted habitat areas.
4. Fireworks are prohibited.
5. Do not feed any wildlife.

Failure to follow these rules may result in citations and fines.

Guidelines Visitors Should Follow

- Do not approach birds, nests or fencing. Avoid picnicking or sunbathing near plover nesting habitat.
- Equestrians must stay out of nesting areas. Observe posted restrictions and keep to wet sand in plover habitat.
- Do not fly kites, hang glide, or toss Frisbees or balls near snowy plover nesting habitat. Other activities causing disturbance may also be restricted.
- Dispose of garbage properly to avoid attracting plover predators.
- Do not collect kelp or driftwood from the beach; it provides nesting and feeding habitat for snowy plovers.

THE CHALLENGE TO SURVIVE

The Pacific coast population of the western snowy plover is listed as a threatened species and is protected by the federal Endangered Species Act. California State Parks has a legal obligation to protect snowy plovers. **Please report to park staff any plover nests, threats or disturbances to plovers.**

Snowy plovers have lived on California beaches for thousands of years, but today human use of their remaining beach habitat seriously threatens their survival. Once numbering in the thousands, less than 1500 breeding plovers remain. Prior to 1970 they nested at 53 locations in California, while today they nest in only half as many sites. California State Parks beaches provide much of the suitable habitat remaining in California for this small shorebird.

The western snowy plover is a sparrow-sized, light-colored shorebird with dark patches on either side of the neck, behind the eye, and on the forehead. Plovers blend in with their surroundings so well that they are extremely hard to see, making it easy for unsuspecting visitors to disturb the birds or even crush the eggs and chicks, never realizing the damage they've caused.

Plovers can be found on flat, open, coastal beaches, in dunes, and near stream mouths. In the spring and summer, loose colonies of plovers lay 1-3 eggs in nests that are simple scrapes in the sand. Eggs hatch in about 27 days, and within hours the tiny chicks are on the beach searching for food. Chicks are on their own in 30 days. The breeding season lasts from early spring to mid-fall, coinciding with the time of greatest human use on California beaches.

THREATS AND PROTECTIONS

Besides the presence of humans, domestic animals on the beach also pose a problem. Dogs chase and may catch birds or destroy nests, cats prey on birds and chicks, and even leashed dogs may frighten plovers off their nests. Native predators such as skunks, crows, ravens and shrikes join exotic predators such as the non-native red fox to prey upon plovers and their chicks, and kites flown above look like predators. Other threats include beach fires and fireworks. During the winter, when the plovers are resting and feeding, continual disturbances use up their stored reserves and may lower their breeding success the following year.

To protect the plover, California State Parks monitors plover numbers and the success of their breeding efforts, fences individual nests or larger nesting areas to keep visitors away,

removes exotic plants that affect plover nesting habitat, and initiates control programs if predators threaten chick survival. Some recreational activities are restricted, and some portions of beaches are closed to dogs to protect important nesting areas. California State Parks is working closely with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and others

to ensure the survival of the plover on California public beaches.



BEACH DRIVING AND WESTERN SNOWY PLOVERS

REMINDER: Snowy plover nesting season is March 1 through September 30

When driving on beaches for spill response or patrol, avoid collateral damage to western snowy plover nests or chicks. Western snowy plovers nest on many beaches throughout California—consult with landowners (e.g. State Parks) regarding local status.

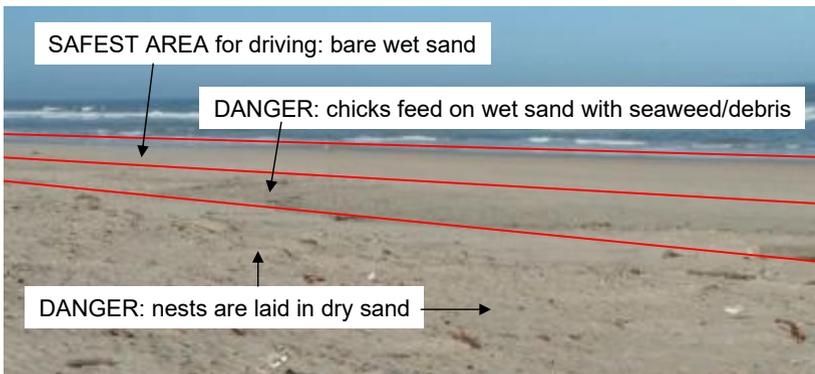


Nests are camouflaged and could easily be run over

Chicks leave the nest after hatching, and are flightless for a month. They are also camouflaged, and will crouch and hide when threatened; they are also easily run over.



Many nesting areas are inside cable fences; do not enter fenced areas unless you have consulted with landowner or a local plover expert. Nests also occur outside fences, and chicks often occur outside fences; use caution in any plover habitat. Try to drive only on wet sand.



BEACHES AND CALIFORNIA GRUNION

Reminder: Grunion season is March 1 - August 31

The months of April, May, and June are closed season for grunion, when no take or contact of any kind is allowed. In March, July, and August grunion fishing is permitted but with restrictions. Anyone over 16 must have a valid Dept. of Fish and Wildlife fishing license. No gear of any kind can be used including nets, hooks, traps, buckets for scooping--only your bare hands may be used.

Grunion are fish that spawn in the high intertidal zone following high tides of new and full moons. Eggs incubate for about 2 weeks, hidden under a few inches of sand. Vehicles crush eggs or turn them to the surface where they will dry out and die.

- During grunion season, keep vehicles seaward of the semilunar high tide line, or in the low intertidal if tides permit.
- Beach grooming should not be done below the semilunar high tide line during grunion season.
- In “no take” MPAs and marine reserves, California Grunion are fully protected from recreational catch, even during Open Season for the fishery.

For more information: www.grunion.org, www.grunion.pepperdine.edu or <https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean/Grunion>

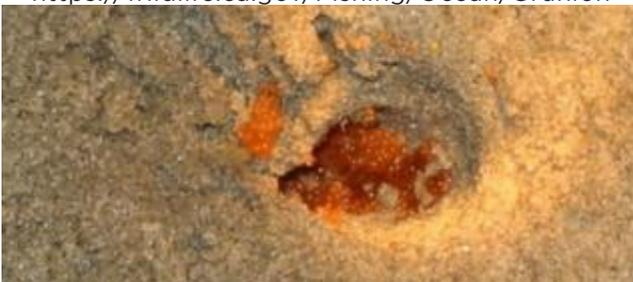


Photo credits: (top and bottom left) H. Williams, K. Martin; (top right) J. Harr.

RELATIVE SEVERITY OF WILDLIFE HARASSMENT

Below are some rough guidelines for determining the severity of different types of marine wildlife harassment. This information may help guide appropriate law enforcement response (e.g., less severe infractions may result in a warning rather than a citation), although these guidelines do not reflect the official policy of any governmental agency.

Most Severe:

- Intentional acts of harassment, such as shooting, throwing rocks at animals, or poking/hitting resting animals.
- Any act resulting in direct physical harm of animals, including attacks by dogs or collection/intentional destruction of bird eggs.
- Intentional harassment that results in dependent young being separated from their parent, such as disturbance at harbor seal pupping areas, pursuit of sea otters with pups, or egregious violations of beach closures for nesting Snowy Plovers.
- Repeat violations of severe acts (below).

Severe:

- Harassment resulting in substantial behavioral change, such as pursuit for photography while the animal is clearly moving away in response to the disturbance, or flushing a large group of resting animals into the water.
- Allowing dogs to chase or actively harass any wildlife.
- Disturbance resulting in flushing (birds leaving nests) of a seabird nesting colony.
- Repeat violations of less severe acts (below)

Less Severe:

- Unintentional harassment resulting in only minor behavioral changes (e.g., changing from resting to becoming vigilant) of any marine wildlife.
- Harassment of non-resting seabirds (e.g., during winter) or nonbreeding seals and sea lions that does not cause direct physical harm.
- Dogs off-leash (where not permitted) that are not actively harassing wildlife.

*Respect Wildlife: www.respect-wildlife.org

LAWS AND REGULATIONS RELATED TO WILDLIFE HARASSMENT

California Code of Regulations

Harassment of Animals

14 CCR 251.1

It is unlawful to harass, herd or drive any game or nongame bird or mammal or furbearing mammal. For the purposes of this section, harass is defined as an intentional act which disrupts an animal's normal behavior patterns, which includes, but is not limited to, breeding, feeding or sheltering.

Wildlife in State Parks

14 CCR 4305

It is unlawful within a State Park to molest, hunt, disturb, harm, feed, touch, tease, or spotlight any kind of animal or fish or so attempt.

Fish and Game Code

FGC 86

"Take" means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

Other Related Laws

There are several additional regulations pertaining to lethal take of wildlife, including the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act and several state regulations.

*https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current/Mammals#251_1

Code of Federal Regulations

Harassment of Endangered Species

50 CFR 17.3 (definition of harassment), 17.21 and 17.31 (prohibited take of endangered species)

It is unlawful to “take” any Threatened or Endangered species. Take includes harassment. Harassment is defined as an intentional or negligent act or omission which creates the likelihood of injury to wildlife by annoying it to such an extent as to significantly disrupt normal behavior patterns which include, but are not limited to, breeding, feeding, or sheltering.

Airborne Hunting Act

50 CFR 19.11

No person shall use an aircraft to harass any wildlife. This law has been applied in cases of aircraft disturbing nesting seabirds.

Harassment of Marine Mammals

50 CFR 216.3 (definition of take and harassment), 216.11 (prohibited take of marine mammals)

It is unlawful to “take” any marine mammal. Take includes harassment. Harassment is defined as any act of pursuit, torment, or annoyance which has the potential to injure (Level A) or disturb by causing disruption of behavioral patterns (Level B) a marine mammal or marine mammal stock in the wild.

Taking of Birds and Mammals in National Marine Sanctuaries

15 CFR 922.132 (Monterey Bay NMS), 922.82 (Gulf of the Farallones NMS), and 922.72 (Channel islands NMS)

It is unlawful to “take” any marine mammal, sea turtle, or bird within or above the Sanctuary. Definition of take (90 CFR 922.3) includes “harass, hunt, capture, kill, collect or injure, or to attempt to engage in any such conduct.” This includes but is not limited to “...to operate a vessel or aircraft or to do any other act that results in the disturbance or molestation of any marine mammal, sea turtle or seabird.” Operation of aircraft under 1,000 feet is presumed to cause take.

*law.cornell.edu



I found a beached marine mammal, what should I do?

- 1. KEEP YOUR DISTANCE**
Federal law prohibits touching, feeding, harassing, removing or returning a beached mammal to the water.
- 2. PEOPLE AND PETS SHOULD MAINTAIN PROPER DISTANCE**
Do not disturb wildlife; People and pets should maintain proper distance to ensure the safety of both the animals and the members of the public.
- 3. MAKE NECESSARY OBSERVATIONS**
From 150+ feet away, take note of physical appearance, body condition, behavior, and your exact location.
- 4. CALL FOR HELP**
PACIFIC MARINE MAMMAL CENTER
(949) 494-3050
- 5. LEARN MORE**
For more information to help local marine mammals, please visit www.pacificmmc.org



Sick Northern Elephant Seal



Healthy Northern Elephant Seal



Sick California Sea Lion



Healthy California Sea Lion

**WE THANK YOU
FOR YOUR HELP!**

REPORTING INJURED MARINE MAMMALS AND SEABIRDS

Entire West Coast:

West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Hotline - (866) 767-6114

Entangled marine mammals - 1-877-SOS-WHAL(e) (877-767-9425);
U.S. Coast Guard VHF Ch. 16

Orange County Area:

Live:

Marine Animal Rescue: (800) 39-WHALE or (800) 399-4253

Pacific Marine Mammal Care Center: (949) 494-3050

Huntington Beach Wetlands and Wildlife Care Center: (714) 374-5587

Dead:

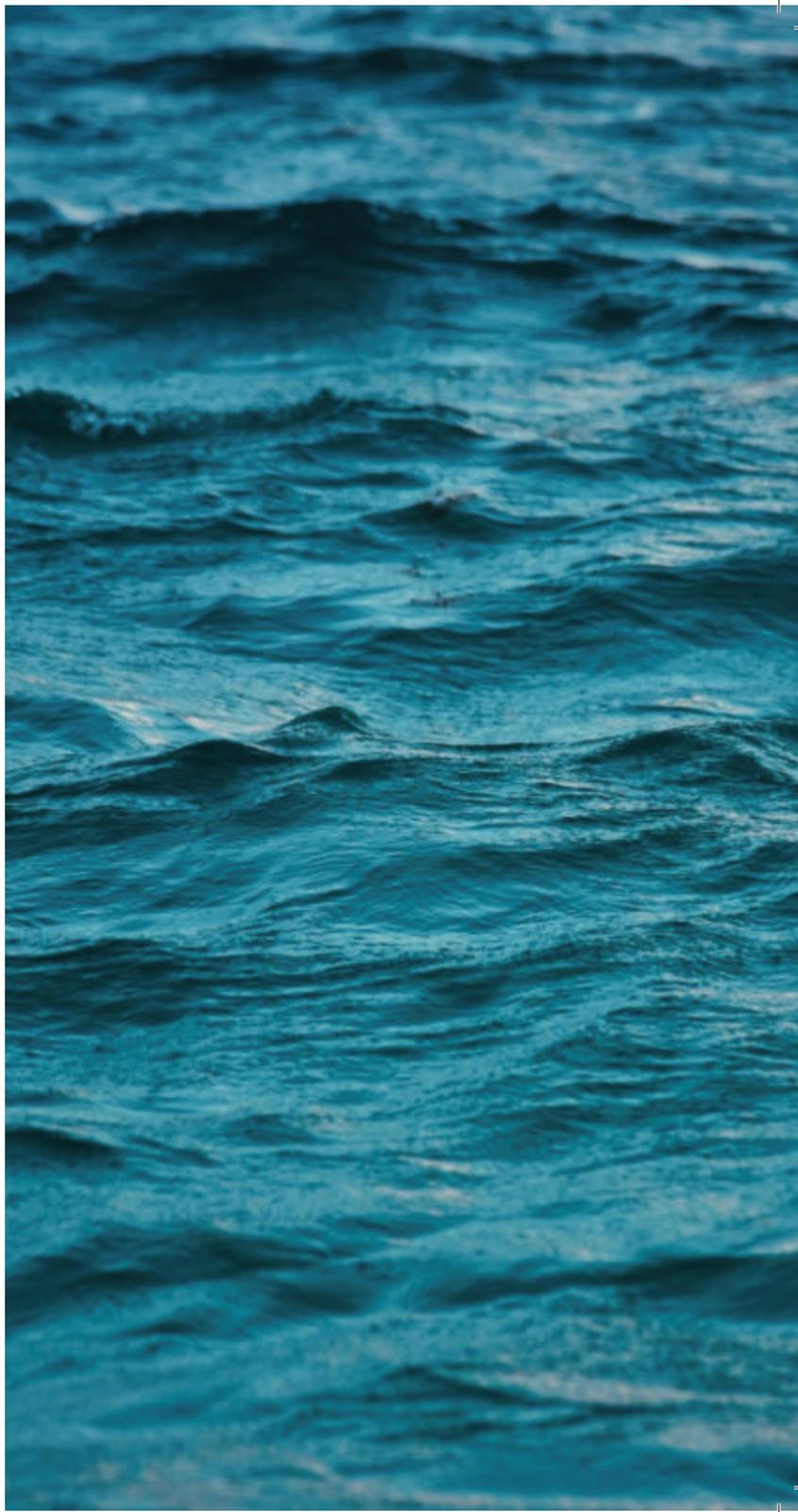
Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History: (323) 585-5105

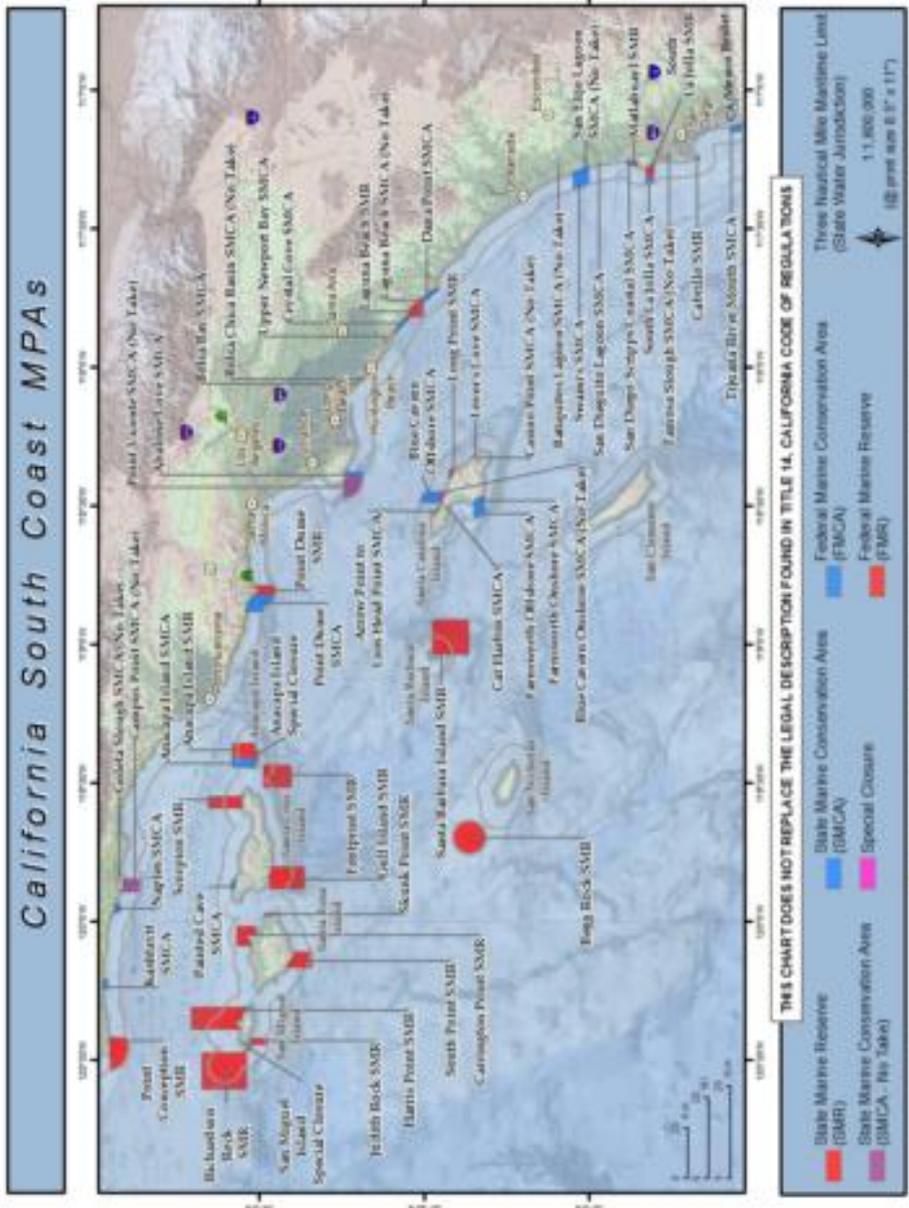
Also, please post sightings on iNaturalist - <https://www.inaturalist.org/>

REPORTING MARINE MAMMAL VIOLATIONS

NOAA Fisheries' Enforcement Hotline: (800) 853-1964

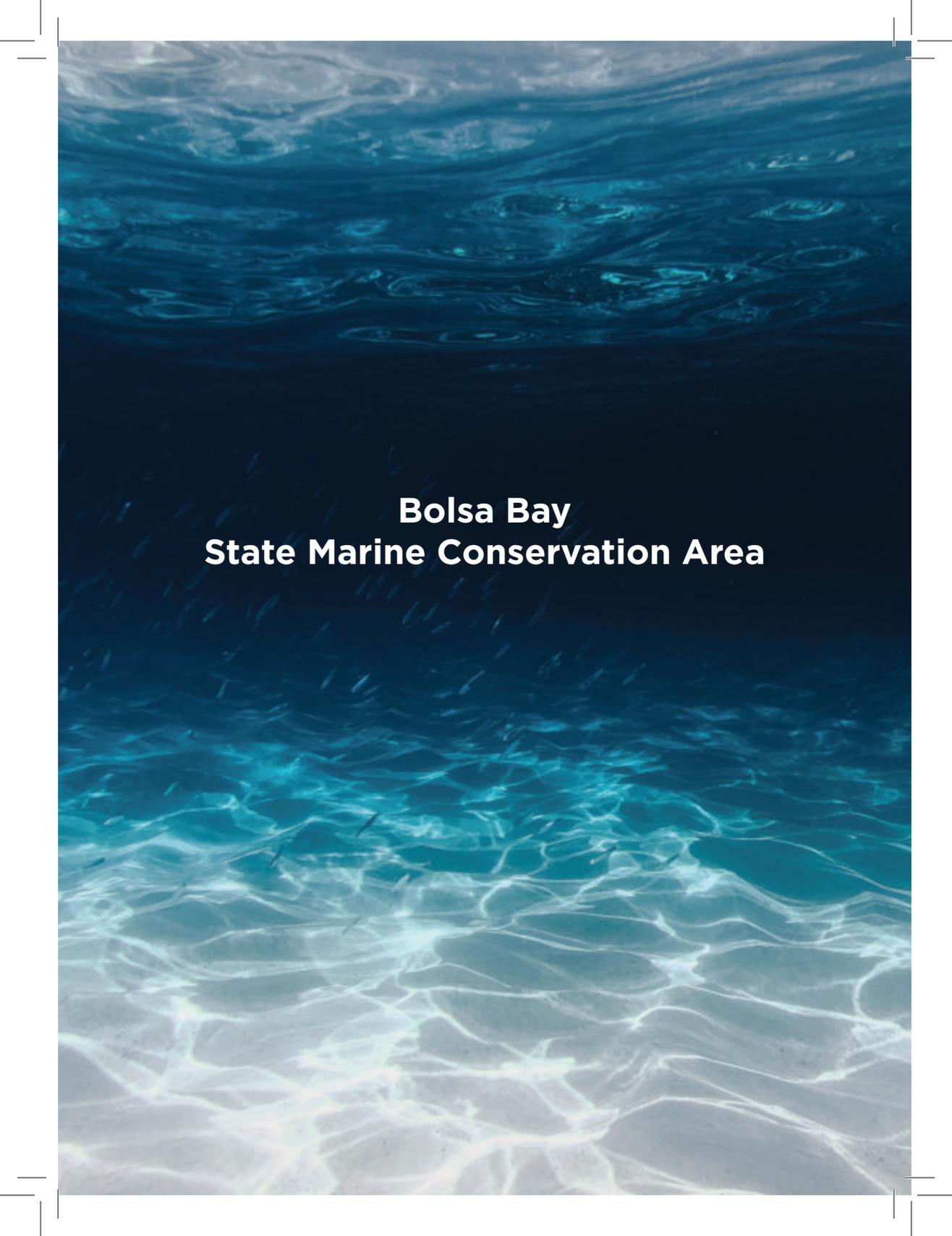
**Orange County
Marine Protected Areas**





The photos and map images shown in this section are provided as a reference only. Marine protected area locations should always be confirmed with GPS.

The photographs with overlaid boundary lines and latitude and longitude coordinates were produced and donated by MDJ Surveys, professional land survey license #9474. They are to be used for informational and approximate geographical purposes only.

An underwater photograph showing a school of small fish swimming in clear, blue water above a sandy seabed. Sunlight filters through the water, creating shimmering patterns on the sand. The text 'Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area' is centered in white.

**Bolsa Bay
State Marine Conservation Area**

Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022



Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

This area overlaps a portion of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Ecological reserve rules are in effect as defined in CCR Title 14, Section 630 or as posted.

Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Bolsa Bay estuary southward of a line that approximates the Warner Avenue bridge located between the following two points:

33° 42.700' N. lat. 118° 03.633' W. long. ①; and

33° 42.700' N. lat. 118° 03.604' W. long. ②;

and northward of a line that approximates the pedestrian bridge located between the following two points:

33° 42.219' N. lat. 118° 03.167' W. long. ③; and

33° 42.177' N. lat. 118° 03.186' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

a. The recreational take of finfish* by hook-and-line from shore in designated areas only is allowed.

b. Take pursuant to the routine operation and maintenance, habitat restoration, maintenance, dredging, research and education, and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or activities pursuant to Section 630, or as otherwise authorized by the department.

2. Boating, swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited within the conservation area.

3. No person, except state and local law enforcement officers, fire suppression agencies and employees of the department in the performance of their official duties or persons possessing written permission from the department or employees of Signal Corporation and its invitees for the purpose of carrying out oil and gas operations, shall enter this conservation area and remain therein except on established trails, paths, or other designated areas.

4. No person shall enter this conservation area between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

*Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.



What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. Most marine conservation areas such as Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area is to protect a portion of the largest remaining saltwater wetlands in Southern California. The tidal flats here provide important nursery habitat for young fish, as well as crabs, shrimp, and other marine invertebrates. Yellowfin croaker, California scorpionfish, and spotted sand bass search the flats for prey, while clams filter the water for bits of food, and California sea hares graze on various algae. The wetland is an important seasonal stop-over for migrating birds, a feeding area for sandpipers and many other shorebirds, and an essential feeding and resting site for year-round visitors like brown pelicans and terns.

This conservation area shares a southern border with [Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area](#), and overlaps a portion of the [Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

Call CaTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with “Caltip” followed by the details.



Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Established January, 2012



Quick Facts: Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.07 square miles
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Estuary: 0.07 square miles
 - Coastal marsh: 0.70 square miles



Fishing, Entry, and Hiking Restrictions
See Regulations On Back



No Boating, Diving,
Swimming or
Wading



No Collecting

Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: View looking north across Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo by P. Serpa **Lower right:** California sea hare at the conservation area. photo © Sara Cristina Medina, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Least sandpipers feeding at Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Diane Etchison, CC BY-NC 2.0

BOUNDARY MAPS AND PHOTOS

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64

Northern Boundary: Warner Street Bridge



Southern Boundary: Pedestrian Bridge/Tidal Gates



BOLSA BAY NORTH ACCESS POINTS:



Fishing allowed behind Interpretive Center ONLY



(Left) Ecological Reserve sign by Bolsa Chica Wetlands Interpretive Center at (pt. 1); (center) fishing area by bridge and (right) MPA You Are Here sign, both at (pt.2)



(Left) View of foot bridge and fishing area off of Warner and start of Mesa Trail at (pt. 3); (right) looking south from trail at (pt. 4)

BOLSA BAY EAST AND SOUTH ACCESS POINTS:



(Left) Looking west from Pocket Loop (unauthorized access from Brightwater Trail) at (pt. 5); (right) view of bridge and southern boundary from (pt. 6)



(Left) Access to pedestrian bridge at southern boundary off PCH, and (right) MPA No Fishing/No Collecting sign, both at (pt. 7).

Other Designations: Ecological Reserve

<p>Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area/ Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area</p>	<p>Bolsa Chica</p>	<p>Ecological Reserve</p>	<p>Orange</p>	<p>630(e) (4)</p>	<p>(e) Fishing Restrictions and Additional Regulations on Ecological Reserves Pursuant to Subsection 550(h) of These Regulations: Except as otherwise provided ...below, fishing for non-commercial purposes is allowed in ecological reserves but is limited to angling from shore. Fishing for commercial purposes is prohibited on ecological reserves. (4) Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve: Fishing prohibited except at a designated area at the north end of outer Bolsa Bay, and as provided in subsection 632(b) of these regulations for the marine waters shared with the Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Areas.</p>
<p>Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area/ Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area</p>	<p>Bolsa Chica</p>	<p>Ecological Reserve</p>	<p>Orange</p>	<p>630(c) (3)</p>	<p>Ecological Reserves That Require a Daily or Annual Lands Pass for Authorized Uses other than Hunting: Pursuant to subsection 550(c) and 550.5(c) of these regulations, it shall be unlawful for a visitor to enter any ecological reserve or portion thereof listed in this section without carrying a valid Lands Pass or a valid hunting, fishing, or trapping license on their person. A Lands Pass must be purchased in advance. Information on how to purchase a Lands Pass and exceptions to this requirement are provided in subsection 550.5(c). (3) Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve: Required.</p>

CCR TITLE 14, SECTION 550. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC USE ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LANDS.

(G) Protection of Resources. Except for the take of fish and/or wildlife in compliance with general and site-specific hunting and fishing regulations, or under written authorization from the department to conduct environmental research or environmental education, no visitor shall:

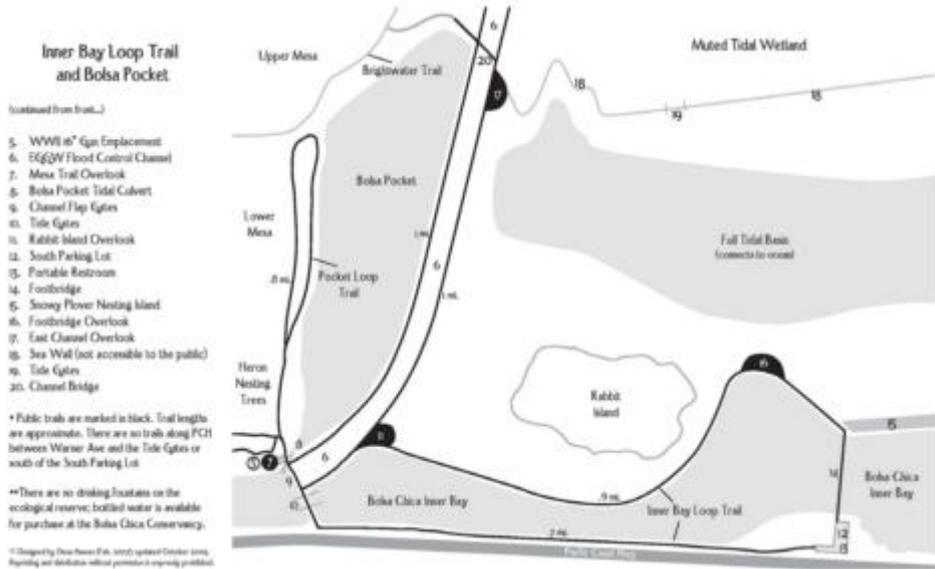
- (1)** mine or disturb geological formations, archeological, cultural or anthropological artifacts, structures, or resources;
- (2)** take or disturb any bird nest, or eggs thereof;
- (3)** cut, saw, trim, remove, or disturb any plant, mammal, fish, mollusk, crustacean, amphibian, reptile, soil, sand, gravel, rock, mineral, or any other form of plant or animal life on department land, except that non-woody vegetation may be cut and used for temporary hunting blinds; or
- (4)** construct or build any type of structure, including those made of vegetation (except as provided in subsection 550(g)(3)) or any other type of material, on department land except as may be specifically authorized by a Special Use Permit.

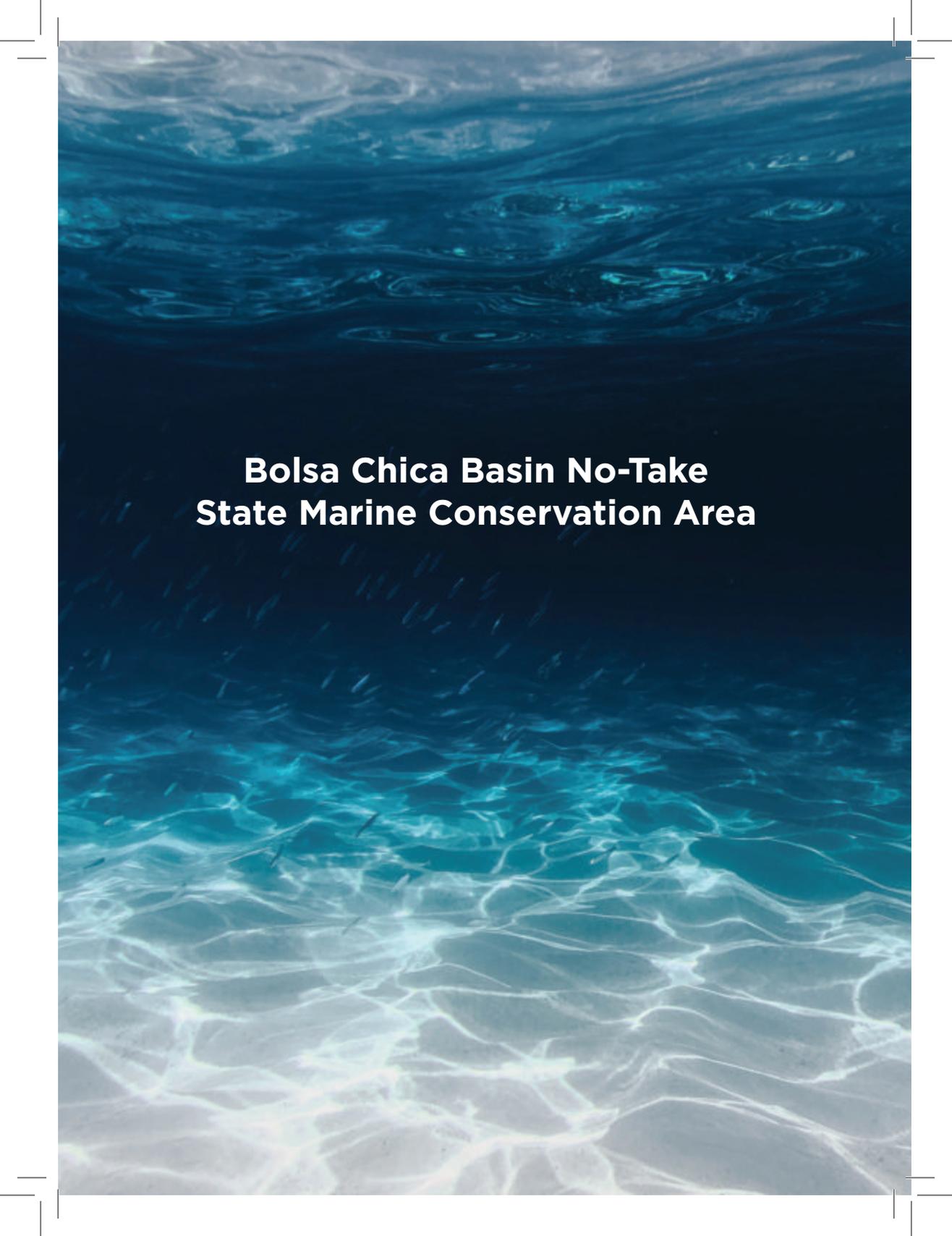
(H) Fishing. Fishing (as defined in subsection 550(b)(11)) on department land shall be allowed except as otherwise stated in subsections 551(o), 551(y) or 630(e) of these regulations, or when the area is closed according to these regulations or posted by the department with signs that prohibit entry or fishing.

- (1)** Fishing shall be conducted in accordance with general fishing regulations, except that it shall be limited to fishing from the shore unless boating facilities and/or areas for boats or other floating devices are designated or as allowed in subsections 551(o), 551(y) or 630(e) of these regulations.
- (2)** No visitor shall take fish (as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 45) from department land for commercial purposes.

Partners: Bolsa Chica Conservancy

Bolsa Chica Conservancy - open daily from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Student groups email info@bolsachica.org.



An underwater photograph showing a large school of small, silvery fish swimming in clear, blue water. The seabed is visible at the bottom, with light filtering through the water, creating a shimmering, textured effect. The overall scene is serene and captures the natural beauty of a marine ecosystem.

**Bolsa Chica Basin No-Take
State Marine Conservation Area**

Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022



Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

This area overlaps a portion of the Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve. Ecological reserve rules are in effect as defined in CCR Title 14, Section 630 or as posted.

Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within the Bolsa Chica Basin estuary northeastward of the Pacific Coast Highway Bridge, approximated by a straight line between the following two points:

- 33° 41.028' N. lat. 118° 02.153' W. long.①; and
- 33° 40.981' N. lat. 118° 02.109' W. long.②;
- and southeastward of a straight line between the following two points:
- 33° 42.219' N. lat. 118° 03.167' W. long.③; and
- 33° 42.177' N. lat. 118° 03.186' W. long.④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

- 1.** It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - a.** Take pursuant to routine operation and maintenance, habitat restoration, maintenance dredging, research and education, and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or activities pursuant to Section 630, or as otherwise authorized by the department.
- 2.** Boating, swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited within the conservation area.
- 3.** No person, except state and local law enforcement officers, fire suppression agencies and employees of the department in the performance of their official duties or persons possessing written permission from the department or employees of Signal Corporation and its invitees for the purpose of carrying out oil and gas operations, shall enter this conservation area and remain therein except on established trails, paths, or other designated areas.
- 4.** No person shall enter this conservation area between the hours of 8:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.

What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. The ban on collecting and fishing in no-take marine conservation areas such as Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area provides very high levels of protection.

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area is to protect part of the largest remaining saltwater marsh in Southern California. The conservation area protects tidal flats in the estuary's low-lying intertidal wetland as well as higher, marshy areas. The intertidal portion, with its eelgrass and pickleweed, is a prime nursery area for young marine fish and invertebrates. California halibut and white seabass hunt smaller fish in the estuary such as topsmelt and California killifish, while clams filter the water for food, and California sea hares graze on various algae. The wetland is an important seasonal stop-over for migrating birds, a nesting area for endangered snowy plovers, and an essential feeding and resting site for year-round visitors like brown pelicans and whimbrels.

This conservation area shares a northern border with [Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area](#), and overlaps a portion of the [Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve](#). Placing a no-take state marine conservation area here provides very high levels of protection for marine species and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with “Caltip” followed by the details.



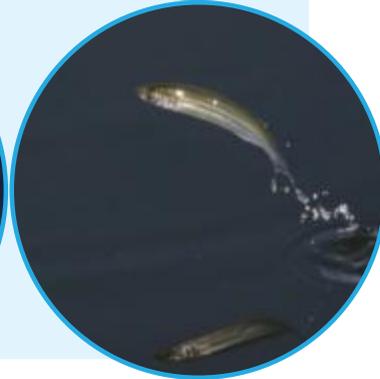
Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Established January, 2012



Quick Facts: Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.70 square miles
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Estuary: 0.65 square miles
 - Eelgrass: 0.05 square miles
 - Coastal marsh: 2.95 square miles



Entry and Hiking Restrictions
See Regulations On Back



No Boating, Diving,
Swimming, or
Wading



No Fishing



No Collecting

Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area, photo © Sergei Gussev CC BY 2.0.
Lower right: Topsmell leaps from the water in the conservation area, photo © James Bailey CC BY-NC 2.0.
Lower left: California sea hare in the conservation area, photo © socialwombat CC BY-NC 2.0

BOUNDARY MAPS AND PHOTOS

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64

Northern Boundary: Pedestrian Bridge/Tidal Gates



Southern Boundary: PCH bridge



BOLSA CHICA ACCESS POINTS

Northern Access - Pedestrian Bridge and Brightwater Trail



(Left) Access to pedestrian bridge at northern boundary off PCH at (pt. 1);
(right) view of tide gates and looking south from Mesa Trail Overlook at (pt. 2)



(Left) Ecological Reserve No Fishing sign on fence at tidegates at (pt. 2) ;
(right) view of tide gates and looking south from Mesa Trail Overlook at (pt. 3)

Eastern Access - Brightwater Trail and East Channel



(Left) Brightwater trail from housing area, and (right) view looking southwest from trail, both at (pt. 4)



(Left) County sign at Channel Bridge at (pt.5); (right) ecological reserve no fishing sign on path to East Channel Overlook at (pt. 6)



(Left) Pointing toward eastern boundary from East Channel Overlook at (pt. 6); (right) Bolsa Chica ecological reserve interpretive sign at (pt. 7)

Southern Access - Western access, South Parking Lot and PCH Bridge



(Left) Signs at South Parking Lot entrance off PCH and (right) Ecological Reserve signage at trailhead bridge, both at (pt. 8)



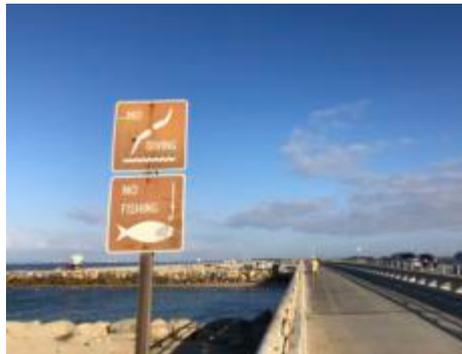
(Far left) Ecological Reserve no fishing sign on bridge from South parking lot; (left) No fishing sign on opposite side of bridge looking west, both at (pt. 9)



(Above) Bolsa Chica Interpretive signs at Scenic Overlook at (pt. 10)



(Left) Estuary outlet and western boundary access from Bolsa Chica State Beach Parking Lot 14; (right) looking from boundary line, beginning of no-take area, toward eastern bridge, both from (pt. 11)



(Left) No Fishing/No Collecting sign on fence at eastern bridge at (pt. 12); (right) No fishing from bridge sign on Huntington Beach bike path at (pt. 13)

Other Designations: Ecological Reserve

<p>Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area/ Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area</p>	<p>Bolsa Chica</p>	<p>Ecological Reserve</p>	<p>Orange</p>	<p>630(e) (4)</p>	<p>(e) Fishing Restrictions and Additional Regulations on Ecological Reserves Pursuant to Subsection 550(h) of These Regulations: Except as otherwise provided ...below, fishing for non-commercial purposes is allowed in ecological reserves but is limited to angling from shore. Fishing for commercial purposes is prohibited on ecological reserves. (4) Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve: Fishing prohibited except at a designated area at the north end of outer Bolsa Bay, and as provided in subsection 632(b) of these regulations for the marine waters shared with the Bolsa Bay and Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Areas.</p>
<p>Bolsa Bay State Marine Conservation Area/ Bolsa Chica Basin State Marine Conservation Area</p>	<p>Bolsa Chica</p>	<p>Ecological Reserve</p>	<p>Orange</p>	<p>630(c) (3)</p>	<p>Ecological Reserves That Require a Daily or Annual Lands Pass for Authorized Uses other than Hunting: Pursuant to subsection 550(c) and 550.5(c) of these regulations, it shall be unlawful for a visitor to enter any ecological reserve or portion thereof listed in this section without carrying a valid Lands Pass or a valid hunting, fishing, or trapping license on their person. A Lands Pass must be purchased in advance. Information on how to purchase a Lands Pass and exceptions to this requirement are provided in subsection 550.5(c). (3) Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve: Required.</p>

CCR TITLE 14, SECTION 550. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC USE ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LANDS.

(G) Protection of Resources. Except for the take of fish and/or wildlife in compliance with general and site-specific hunting and fishing regulations, or under written authorization from the department to conduct environmental research or environmental education, no visitor shall:

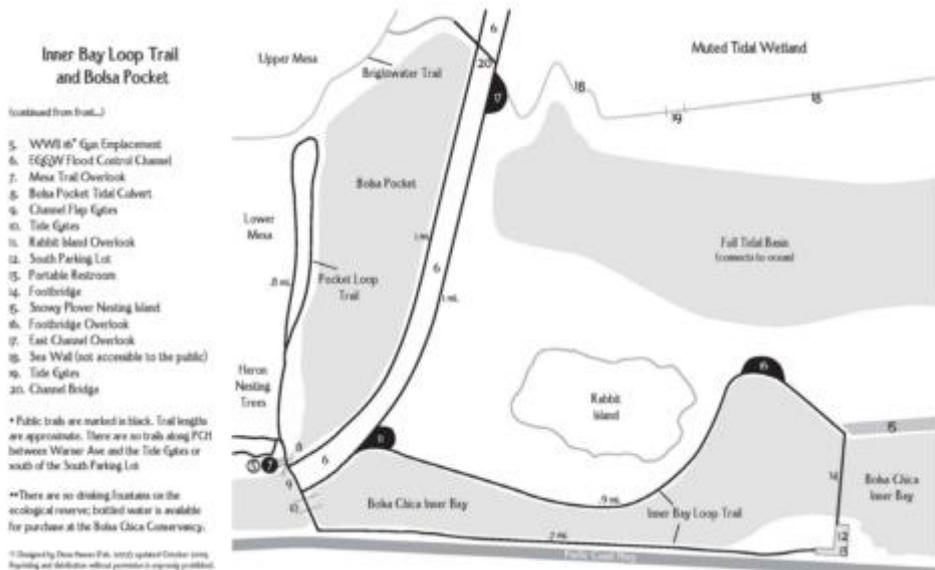
- (1)** mine or disturb geological formations, archeological, cultural or anthropological artifacts, structures, or resources;
- (2)** take or disturb any bird nest, or eggs thereof;
- (3)** cut, saw, trim, remove, or disturb any plant, mammal, fish, mollusk, crustacean, amphibian, reptile, soil, sand, gravel, rock, mineral, or any other form of plant or animal life on department land, except that non-woody vegetation may be cut and used for temporary hunting blinds; or
- (4)** construct or build any type of structure, including those made of vegetation (except as provided in subsection 550(g)(3)) or any other type of material, on department land except as may be specifically authorized by a Special Use Permit.

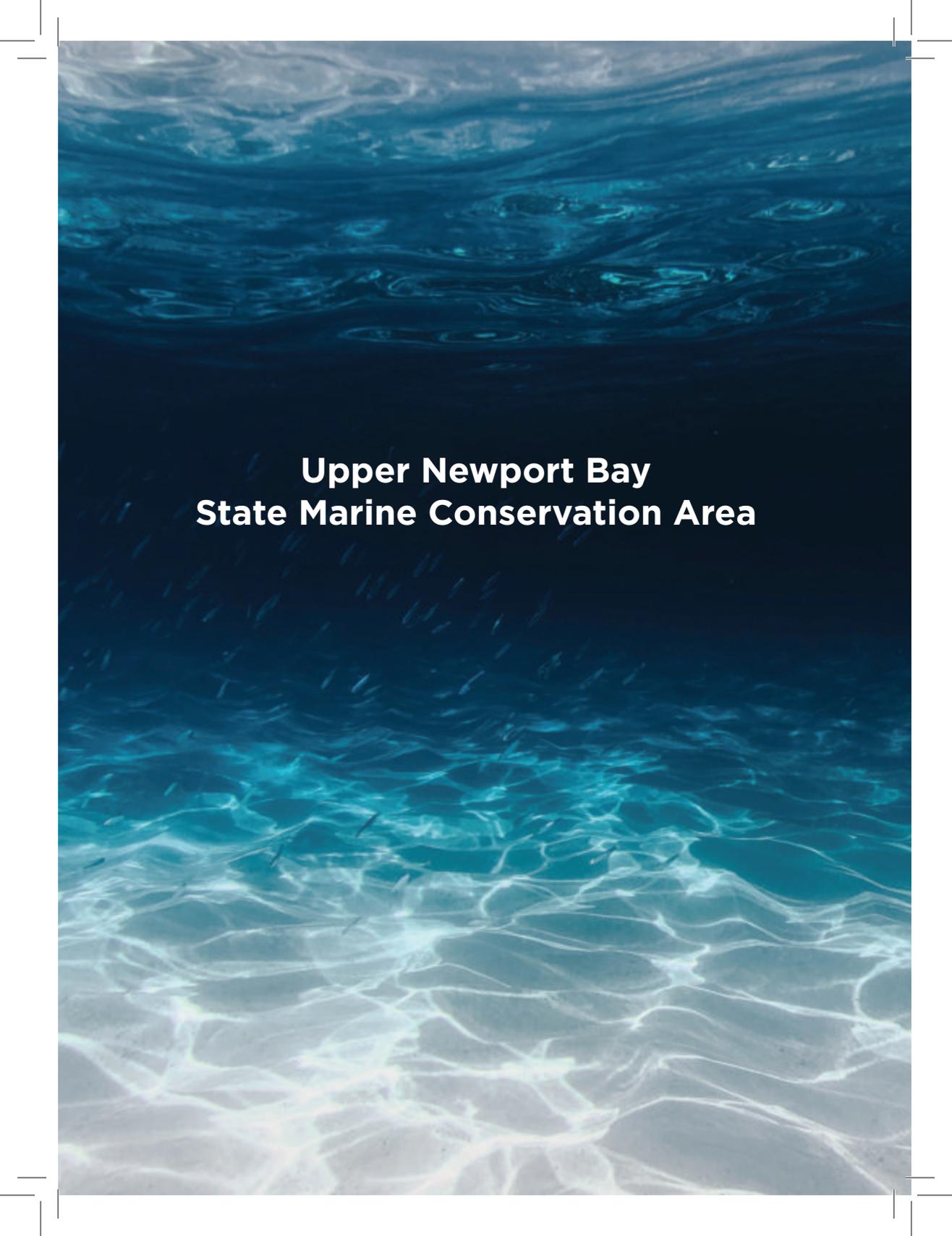
(H) Fishing. Fishing (as defined in subsection 550(b)(11)) on department land shall be allowed except as otherwise stated in subsections 551(o), 551(y) or 630(e) of these regulations, or when the area is closed according to these regulations or posted by the department with signs that prohibit entry or fishing.

- (1)** Fishing shall be conducted in accordance with general fishing regulations, except that it shall be limited to fishing from the shore unless boating facilities and/or areas for boats or other floating devices are designated or as allowed in subsections 551(o), 551(y) or 630(e) of these regulations.
- (2)** No visitor shall take fish (as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 45) from department land for commercial purposes.

BOLSA CHICA BASIN PARTNERS

Bolsa Chica Conservancy - open daily from 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Student groups email info@bolsachica.org.



An underwater photograph showing a large school of small fish swimming in clear, blue water. Sunlight filters through the surface, creating bright, shimmering patterns on the sandy seabed. The overall scene is serene and captures the natural beauty of a marine ecosystem.

**Upper Newport Bay
State Marine Conservation Area**

Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022



Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

This area overlaps a portion of Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve. Ecological reserve rules are in effect as defined in CCR Title 14, Section 630 or as posted.

Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Upper Newport Bay northeastward of Pacific Coast Highway approximated by a line between the following two points:

- 33° 37.014' N. lat. 117° 54.237' W. long.①;
- 33° 37.014' N. lat. 117° 54.336' W. long.②; and southwestward of Jamboree Road approximated by a line between the following two points:
- 33° 39.071' N. lat. 117° 52.021' W. long.③; and
- 33° 39.027' N. lat. 117° 52.014' W. long.④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

- a.** The recreational take of finfish* by hook-and-line from shore only is allowed.
- b.** Take pursuant to maintenance dredging, habitat restoration, research and education programs, maintenance of artificial structures, and operation and maintenance of existing facilities inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or activities pursuant to Section 630, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.

2. In waters below the mean high tide line inside the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, northeastward of a line connecting Shellmaker Island (33° 37.200' N. lat. 117° 53.510' W. long.⑤) and North Star Beach (33° 37.380' N. lat. 117° 53.600' W. long.⑥) the following restrictions apply:

- a.** Swimming is allowed only in the area between North Star Beach and mid-channel.
- b.** Boats are limited to speeds less than five miles per hour.
- c.** Shoreline access is limited to established trails, paths, or other designated areas.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a). Information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.

What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. Most marine conservation areas such as Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the largest remaining estuary in Southern California. The conservation area contains a mix of marshland and tidal flat habitats. A variety of marine fish species may be found in the estuary, including California halibut, spotted bay bass, and croaker, whose young use it as a nursery area. Invertebrates such as medusa worms and jackknife clams bury themselves in the mud, where they filter plankton from the silty water. Because of its large size and location, close to 30,000 birds at a time may use the conservation area during winter migration. The estuary also provides critical habitat and refuge for endangered bird species such as the California least tern.

Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area overlaps the slightly larger [Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

Call Caltip: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip"
followed by the details.



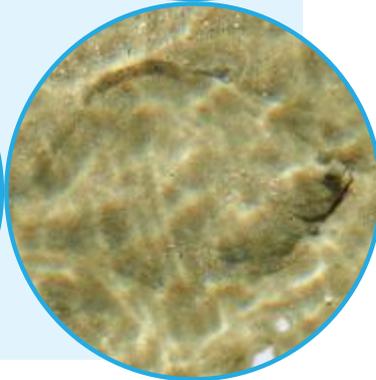
Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area

Established January, 2012



Quick Facts: Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 1.24 square miles
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Estuary: 1.20 square miles
 - Coastal marsh: 3.71 square miles



Entry, Fishing, Boating, and Swimming Restricted
See Regulations On Back

No Collecting

Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Ken Lund, CC BY-SA 2.0

Lower right: Flatfish camouflaged in the sediments at Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area. photo © dwest, CC BY-NC 2.0

Lower left: Double-crested cormorant in the conservation area. photo © dwest, CC BY-NC 2.0

BOUNDARY MAPS AND PHOTOS

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64

Northeast Boundary: Jamboree Bridge



Middle Boundary: Line connecting Shellmaker Island and North Star Beach

In waters below the mean high tide line inside the Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve, northeastward of a line connecting Shellmaker Island (33° 37.200' N. lat. 117° 53.510' W. long.) and North Star Beach (33° 37.380' N. lat. 117° 53.600' W. long.) the following restrictions apply:

1. Swimming is allowed only in the area between North Star Beach and mid-channel.
2. Boats are limited to speeds less than five miles per hour.
3. Shoreline access is limited to established trails, paths, or other designated areas.





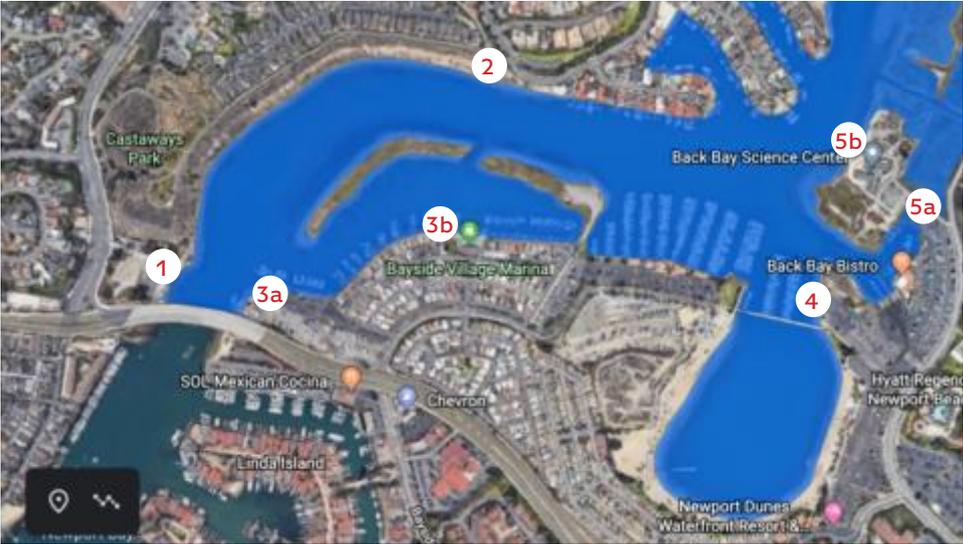
Southwest Boundary: PCH Bridge

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64



NEWPORT BEACH ACCESS POINTS

LOWER BASIN



Castaways - City of Newport Beach



(Left) Good Tidpooler Rules sign at Lower Castaways; (right) looking back from trail to boundary at PCH bridge at (pt.1)



(Far left) MPA Good Tidpooler Rules sign at Upper Castaways off Polaris Dr.; (left) view of beach from access, both at (pt.2)

Bayside Village and Marina – Private, Terra Vista Management, Inc



(Left), dock at bait shack by bridge (pt. 3a) and (right), view from dock by management office (pt.3b).

Newport Dunes – City of Newport Beach and Newport Dunes Waterfront Resort and Marina, Terra Vista Management, Inc.



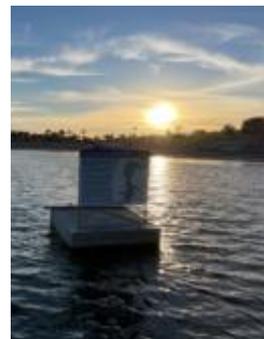
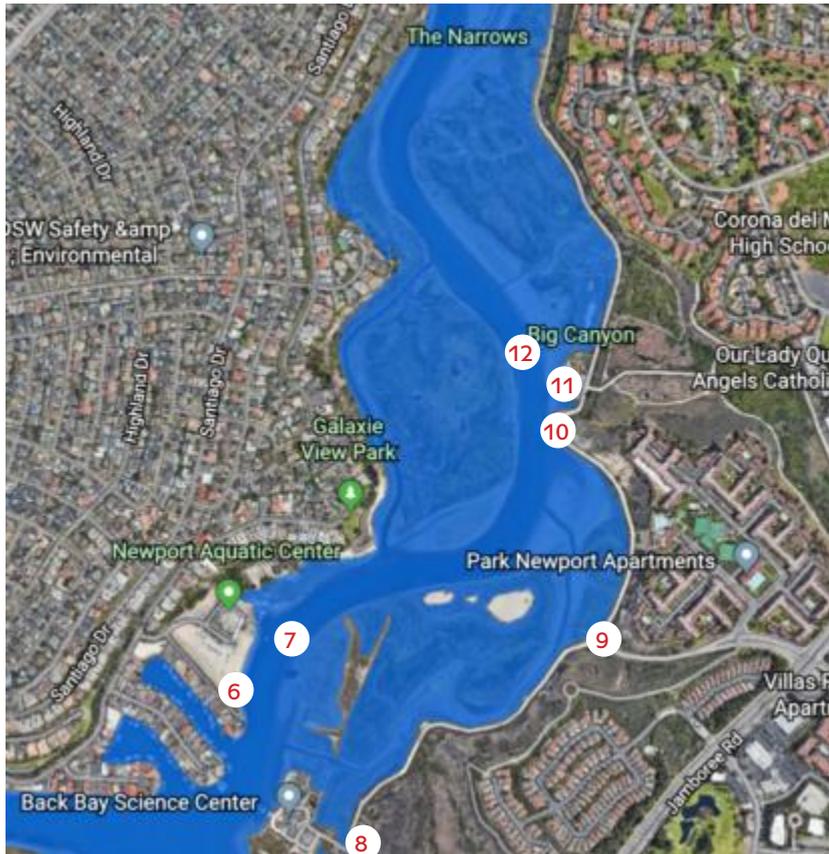
(Left), view of fishing area from pedestrian bridge and (right), locally designated fishing area (pt.4).

Back Bay Science Center – California Department of Fish and Wildlife



(Left), gate at entrance (pt.5a) and (right), dock looking east (pt.5b).

MID CHANNEL/THE NARROWS



(Left) Access to North Star Beach from N Star Ln; (center) signage at Newport Aquatic Center launch area, both at (pt.6); (right) Ecological Reserve interpretive sign on the water off Newport Aquatic Center, at (pt.7)



(Left) Entrance to Back Bay Science Center and Back Bay Drive at (pt.8); (right) Ecological Reserve signage at end of San Joaquin Hills Rd. at (pt.9)



(Left) Designated fishing area at Rocky Point at (pt.10); (right) MPA Good Tidepooler Rules sign at Big Canyon kiosk at (pt.11)



Ecological Reserve interpretive sign on the water off Rocky Point/Big Canyon at (pt.12)

UPPER BASIN

Bordered by Upper Newport Bay Nature Preserve - OC Parks

The park is open every day from 7 a.m. to Sunset



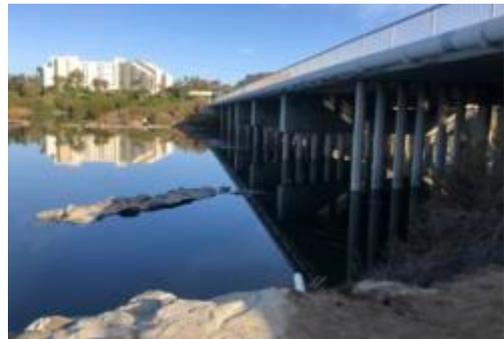
(Above) MPA You Are Here sign and views from Constellation trail access off of Santiago, all at (pt.13)



(Left) MPA interpretive sign at the Peter and Mary Muth Center; (right) access to water off Bayview Trail at pedestrian bridge, both at (pt.14)



(Left) Access at end of Mesa Drive by Bayview Park, and (right) County Park trail sign at fork of Bayview Trail, both at (pt.15)



(Left) End of Bayview trail to north side of Jamboree Bridge at (pt.16); (right) south side of Jamboree bridge on Mountains to the Sea Bikeway at (pt.17)

Other Designations: Ecological Reserve

Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area	Upper Newport Bay	Ecological Reserve	630(c) (9)	Ecological Reserves That Require a Daily or Annual Lands Pass for Authorized Uses other than Hunting: Pursuant to subsection 550(c) and 550.5(c) of these regulations, it shall be unlawful for a visitor to enter any ecological reserve or portion thereof listed in this section without carrying a valid Lands Pass or a valid hunting, fishing, or trapping license on their person. A Lands Pass must be purchased in advance. Information on how to purchase a Lands Pass and exceptions to this requirement are provided in subsection 550.5(c). (9) Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve: Required.
Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area	Upper Newport Bay	Ecological Reserve	630(e) (27)	(e) Fishing Restrictions and Additional Regulations on Ecological Reserves Pursuant to Subsection 550(h) of These Regulations: Except as otherwise provided ...below, fishing for non-commercial purposes is allowed in ecological reserves but is limited to angling from shore. Fishing for commercial purposes is prohibited on ecological reserves. (27) Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve: Fishing allowed from boats and in designated shore areas and as provided in subsection 632(b) of these regulations for marine waters shared with the Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area. Clamming and wading are prohibited.
Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area	Upper Newport Bay	Ecological Reserve	630(f) (15)	Swimming: Allowed only in that area bayward from North Star Beach to mid-channel. Boating: Allowed in designated areas only and limited to non-motorized craft.
Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area	Upper Newport Bay	Ecological Reserve	630(g) (9)	Bicycles: Allowed only on paved Back Bay Drive. Horses and Pack Stock: Allowed only on established trails in designated areas.

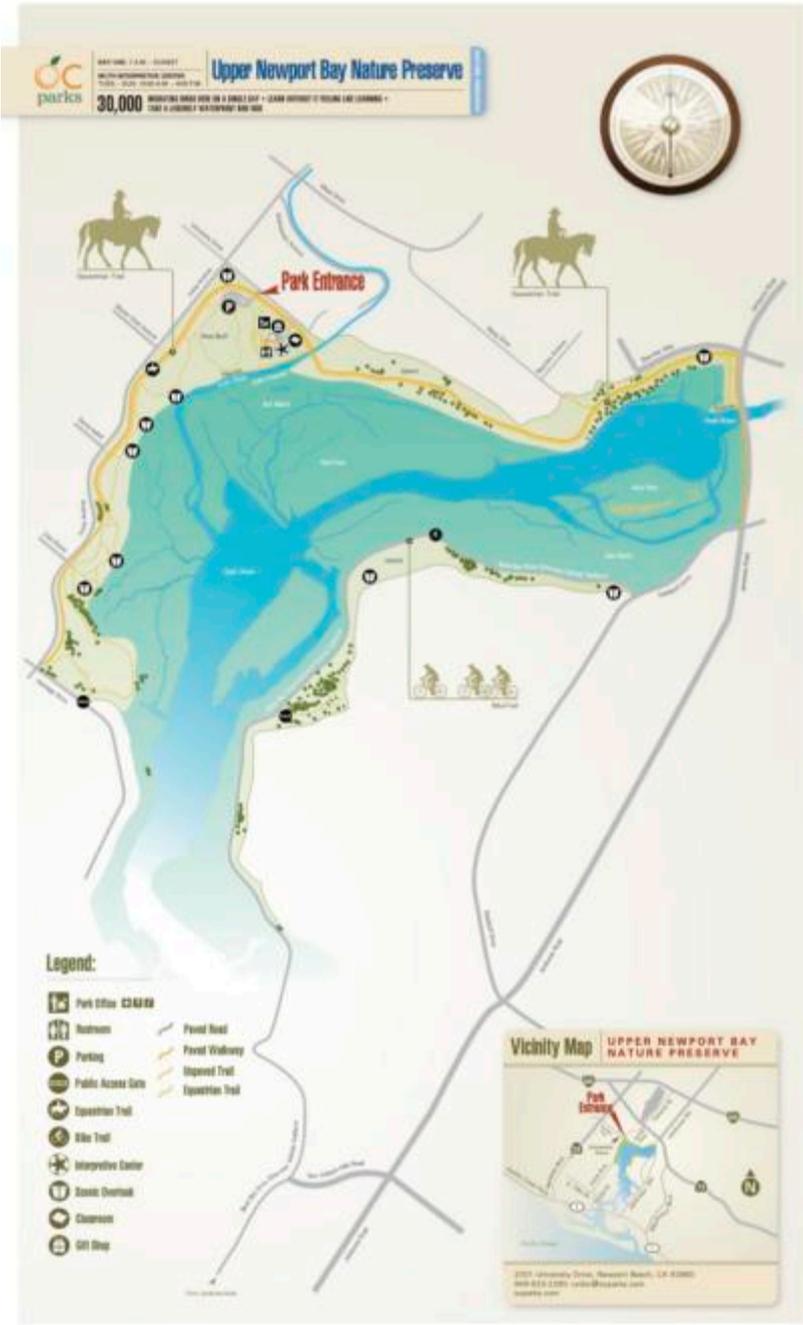
CCR TITLE 14, SECTION 550. GENERAL REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC USE ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE LANDS.

(G) Protection of Resources. Except for the take of fish and/or wildlife in compliance with general and site-specific hunting and fishing regulations, or under written authorization from the department to conduct environmental research or environmental education, no visitor shall:

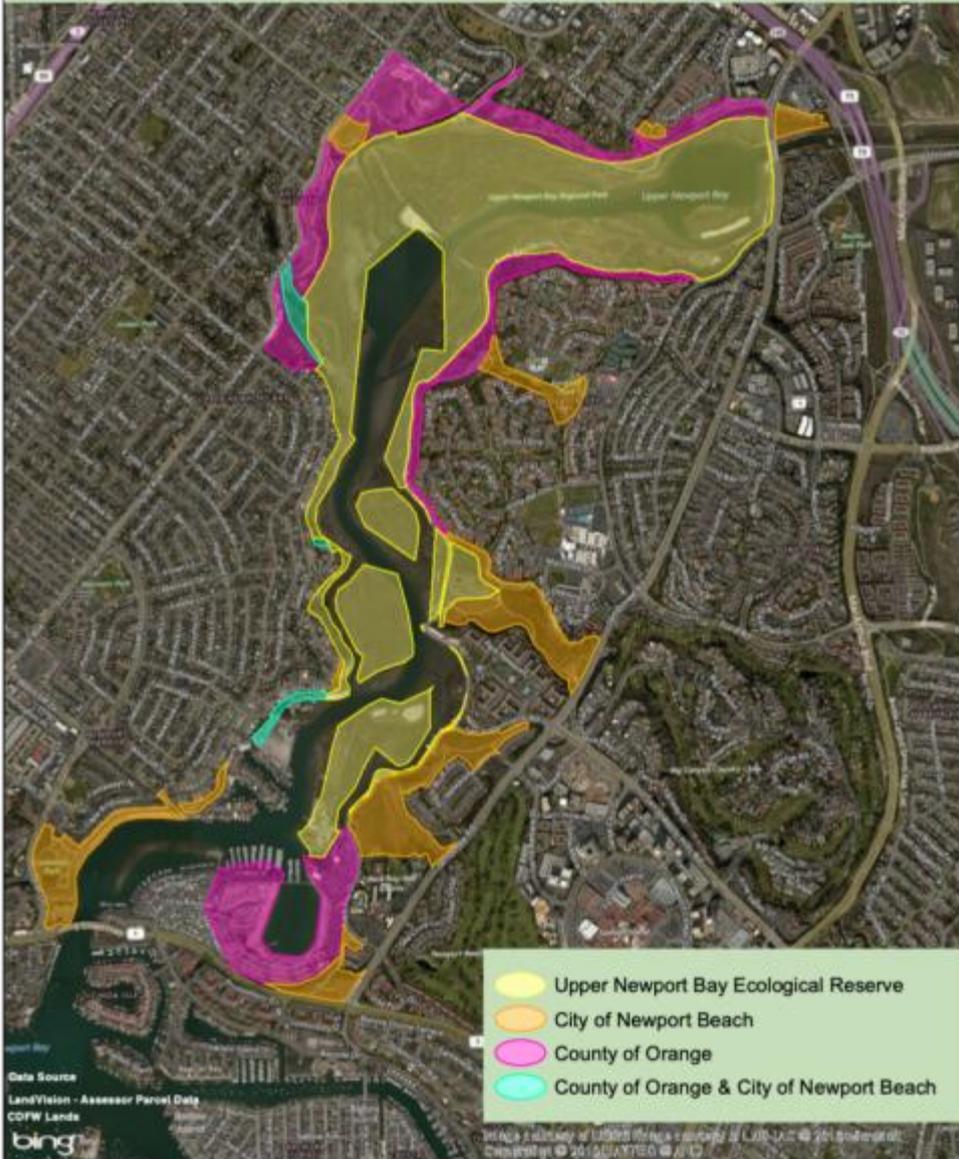
- (1)** mine or disturb geological formations, archeological, cultural or anthropological artifacts, structures, or resources;
- (2)** take or disturb any bird nest, or eggs thereof;
- (3)** cut, saw, trim, remove, or disturb any plant, mammal, fish, mollusk, crustacean, amphibian, reptile, soil, sand, gravel, rock, mineral, or any other form of plant or animal life on department land, except that non-woody vegetation may be cut and used for temporary hunting blinds; or
- (4)** construct or build any type of structure, including those made of vegetation (except as provided in subsection 550(g)(3)) or any other type of material, on department land except as may be specifically authorized by a Special Use Permit.

(H) Fishing. Fishing (as defined in subsection 550(b)(11)) on department land shall be allowed except as otherwise stated in subsections 551(o), 551(y) or 630(e) of these regulations, or when the area is closed according to these regulations or posted by the department with signs that prohibit entry or fishing.

- (1)** Fishing shall be conducted in accordance with general fishing regulations, except that it shall be limited to fishing from the shore unless boating facilities and/or areas for boats or other floating devices are designated or as allowed in subsections 551(o), 551(y) or 630(e) of these regulations.
- (2)** No visitor shall take fish (as defined in Fish and Game Code Section 45) from department land for commercial purposes.



Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve





Welcome to Upper Newport Bay Ecological Reserve

You can help us protect sensitive habitats by observing the boating limits.

Boating limit applies to ALL kayaks, SUP's, canoes, outriggers, & crew boats

❖ **Do not enter side channels. They are marked with white buoys as shown.**

❖ **Stay within main channel.**

❖ **Do not launch or land anywhere in the Reserve.**

❖ **Do not collect any plant, animal, shell or artifact.**



Managed by the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife.

Entry is subject to the regulations contained in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 630. Full text of regulations is available at: www.wildlife.ca.gov

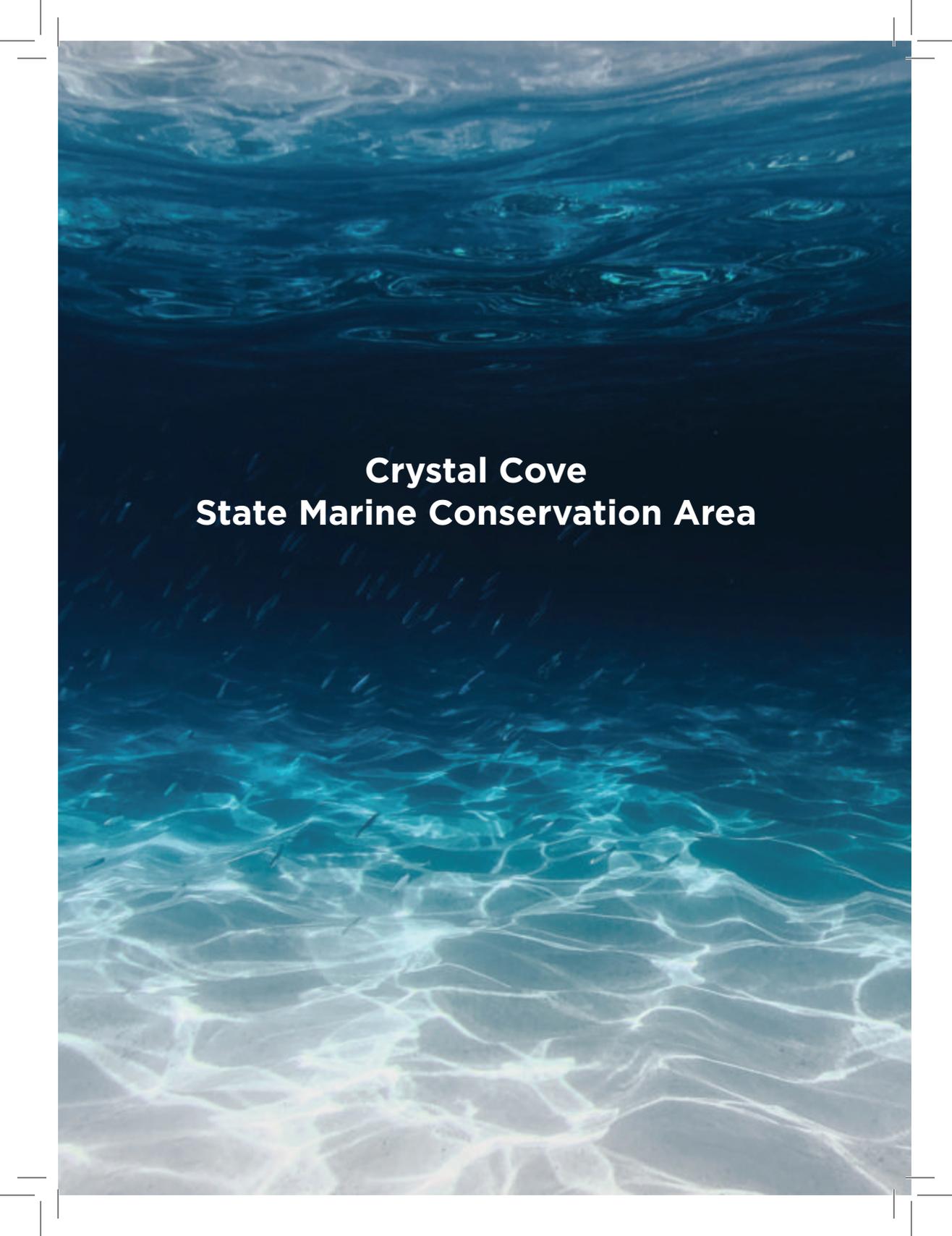
Designated Fishing Areas



RADIO-CONTROLLED AIRCRAFT PROHIBITED



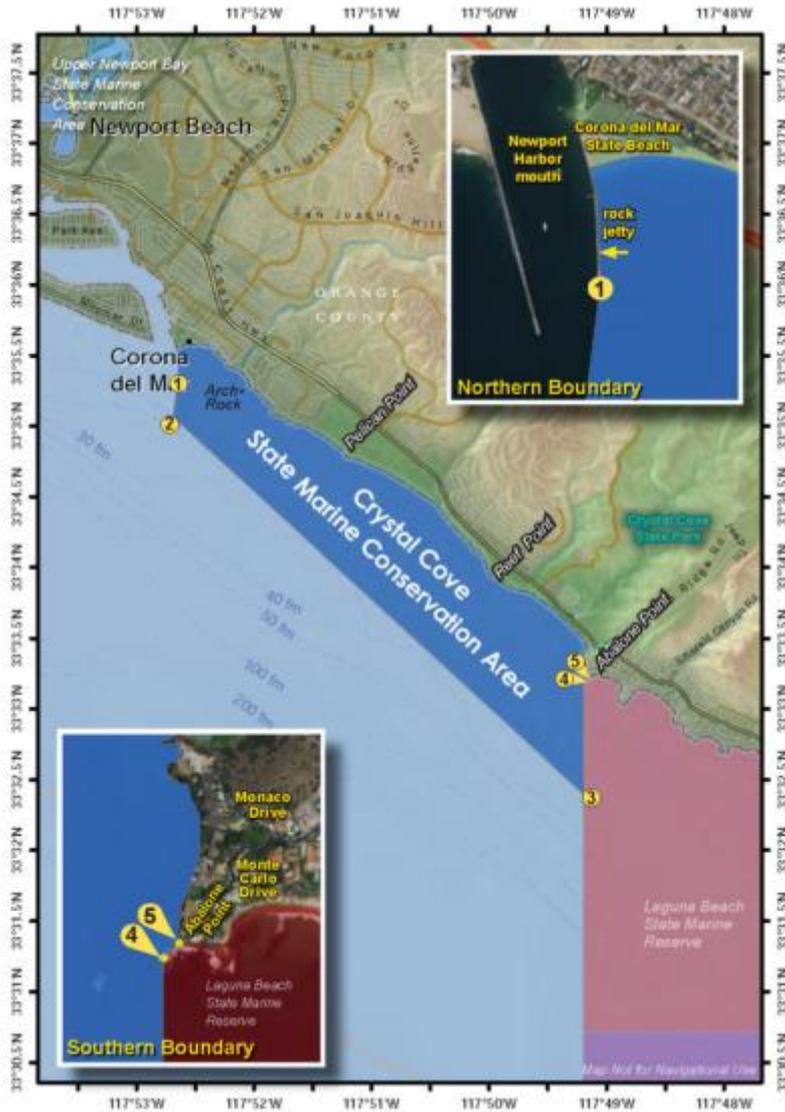
Within Ecological Reserve. Title 14, Sec 550 (c)(2)(D)

An underwater photograph showing a large school of small, silvery fish swimming in clear, blue water. Sunlight filters through the surface, creating a shimmering, dappled pattern on the sandy seabed. The overall scene is serene and captures the natural beauty of a marine ecosystem.

**Crystal Cove
State Marine Conservation Area**

Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022



Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 33° 35.372' N. lat. 117° 52.645' W. long. ①;
- 33° 35.065' N. lat. 117° 52.692' W. long. ②;
- 33° 32.400' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ③;
- 33° 33.211' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ④; and
- 33° 33.224' N. lat. 117° 49.184' W. long. ⑤

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

- a. The recreational take of finfish* by hook-and-line or by spearfishing, and spiny lobster and sea urchin is allowed.
- b. The commercial take of sea urchin; spiny lobster by trap; and coastal pelagic species** by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial coastal pelagic species catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.
- c. Take pursuant to beach nourishment and other sediment management activities, and operation and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.

2. Take of all living marine resources from inside tidepools is prohibited. For purposes of this section, tidepools are defined as the area encompassing the rocky pools that are filled with seawater due to retracting tides between the mean higher high tide line and the mean lower low tide line.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

** Coastal pelagic species are defined here as northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*) and market squid (*Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens*).

Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.



What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California’s MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state’s marine ecosystems. Most marine conservation areas such as Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

One goal for California’s MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reef, surfgrass, and kelp forest habitat found there. The conservation area’s large surfgrass meadows provide shelter for shrimp, crabs, and young fish. Protected tidepools are rich with sea life, including Kellet’s whelks, top snails, anemones, and other intertidal residents. Mole crabs sift and eat plankton from the shallow surf washing over the conservation area’s sandy beaches, while California halibut and a variety of flatfish inhabit the deeper sandy seafloor.

Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area shares a southern border with [Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve](#). It is one of four consecutive MPAs that together cover approximately 14 square miles of coastal habitat from Corona del Mar State Beach to Dana Point. The conservation area also shares a land-side border with [Crystal Cove State Park](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with “CalTip” followed by the details.



Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Established January, 2012



Quick Facts: Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 3.53 square miles
- **Shoreline Span:** 4.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 245 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand: 2.99 square miles
 - Rock: 1.19 square miles



Non-Consumptive
Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

Further Information:

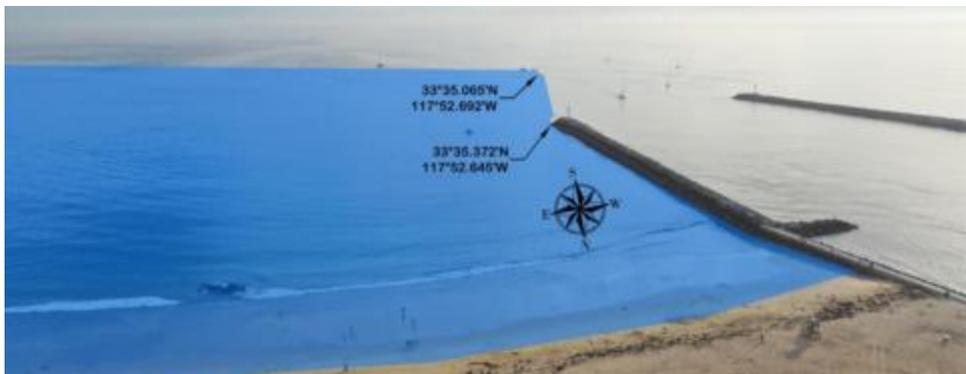
- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Sandy beach at Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area, photo © Jasperdo CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 **Lower right:** Mole crab at the conservation area, photo © James Maughn CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Horn shark in the conservation area, photo © Nicholas Hess CC BY-NC 2.0

BOUNDARY MAPS AND PHOTOS:

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64

Northern Boundary - Newport Beach Harbor South Jetty



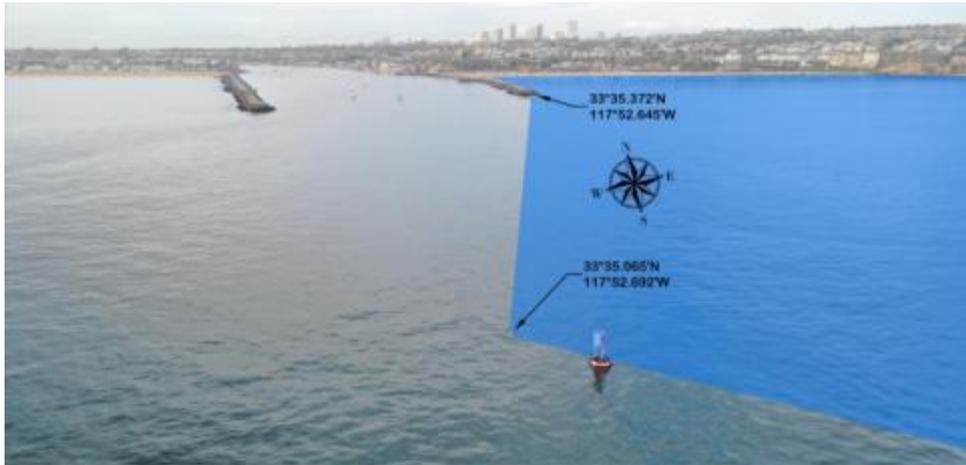
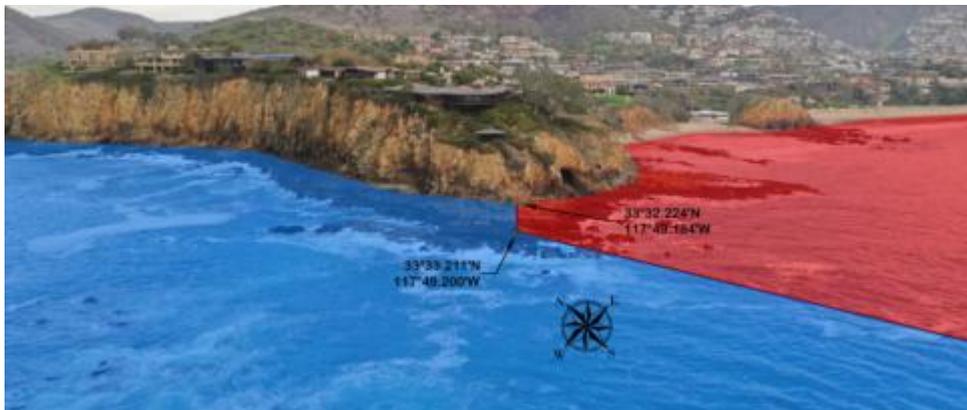
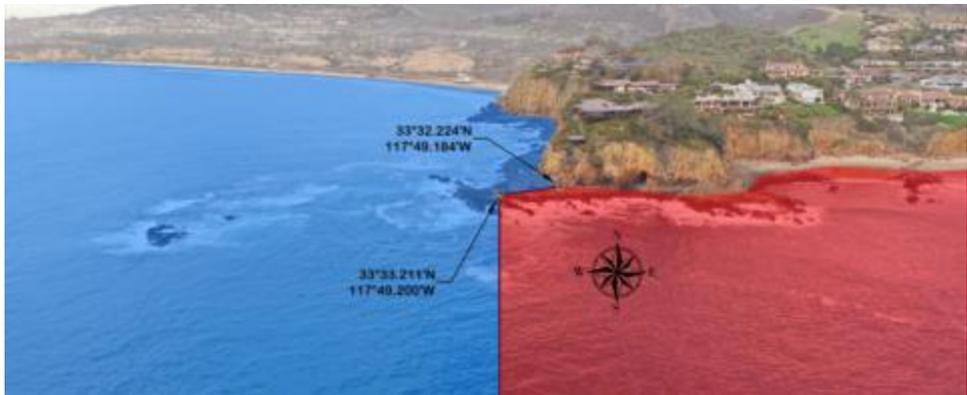
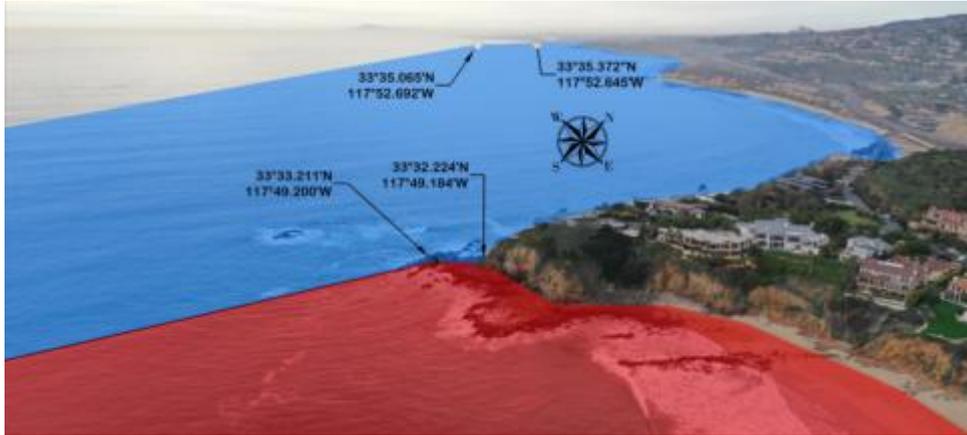
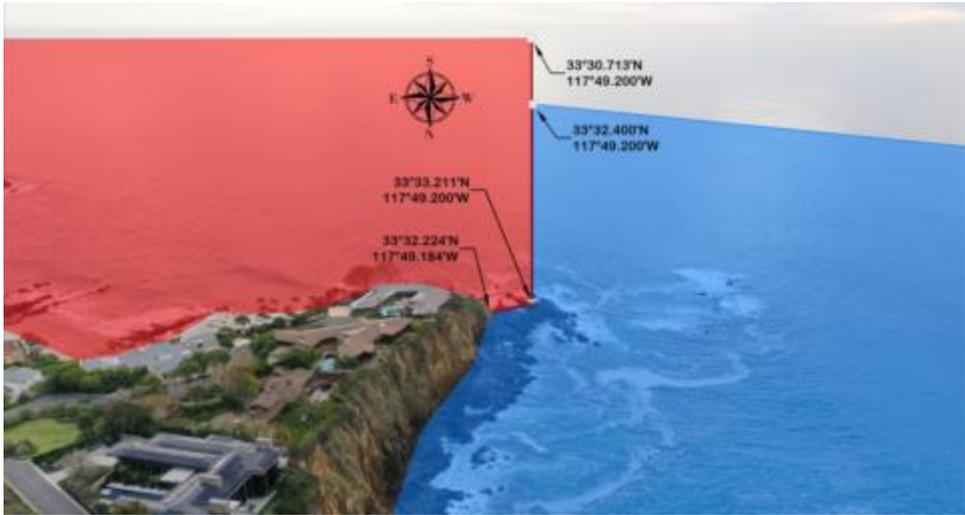


Photo taken from top of hill heading down to Corona Del Mar State Beach.

Southern Boundary - Abalone Point

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64





Picture taken from El Morro Campground

NEWPORT BEACH ACCESS POINTS



(Left), Big Corona Beach entrance. (Right), City of Newport Beach marine education and protection office in the back of lifeguard station/café (pt.1).



(Above) Panorama of Big Corona from Inspiration Point at (pt. 2)



(Left), sign at south ramp to Big Corona beach, by Inspiration Point at (pt. 2); (right), sign at top of ramp to Little Corona, corner of Ocean Blvd and Poppy Ave at (pt.3)



(Left), sign mid-way down ramp to Little Corona and (right), tidepool sign behind lifeguard tower at (pt.4)



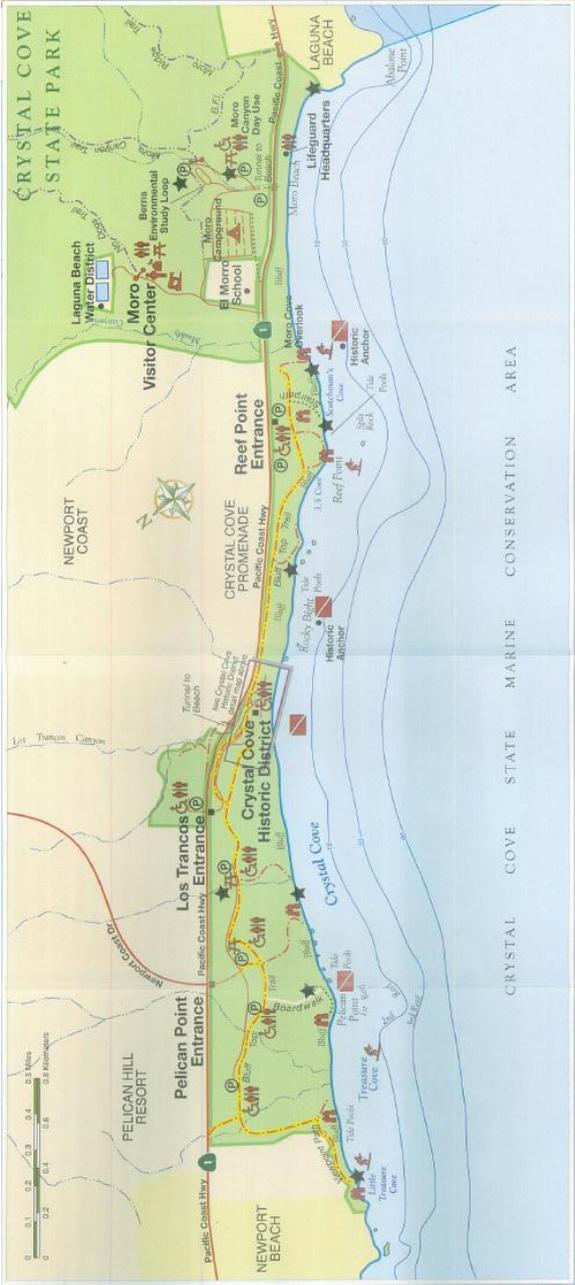
(Above) View of Little Corona beach from bottom of ramp at (pt. 4)

CAMEO SHORES ACCESS POINTS - Private Community with Gated Beach Access



(Top), Cameo Shores access points. (Bottom), Cameo Shores beach. Most of it is covered at high tide, meaning it is a public beach when accessed via Little Corona

STATE PARK ACCESS POINTS



CRYSTAL COVE ACCESS POINTS

Pelican Point Area - (Enter at intersection of PCH & Newport Coast Drive)



Treasure Cove Stairs



(Left), Pictures of sign at stair access, and (right) beach, both at (pt.5)

Treasure Cove Ramp



(Left) MPA Good Tidepooler Sign at Treasure Cove Ramp, (center) sign at Treasure Cove Ramp Overlook, and (right) MPA interpretive sign on top of bluff upcoast, all at (pt.6)

Pelican Point



(Above) MPA Good Tidepooler Rules sign at Pelican Point (P2) stairs looking north at (pt.7)

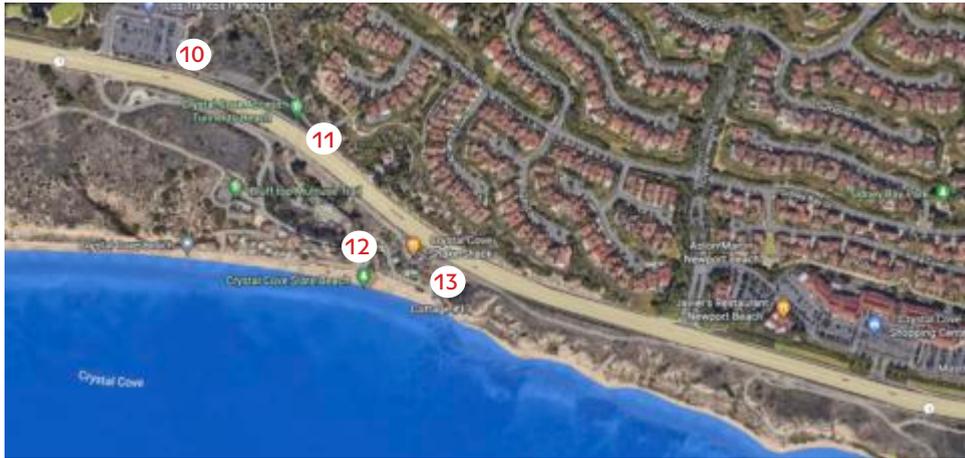


(Left) Pelican (P3) Overlook and (right) MPA Good Tidepooler Sign at bottom of ramp at (pt.8)



(Left) Pelican Picnic (P4) Overlook and (right) MPA Good Tidepooler sign at bottom of ramp at (pt.9)

Los Trancos Entrance



Historic District



(Left), Crystal Cove sign at beginning of trail to beach access tunnel from Los Trancos Parking Lot at (pt. 10); (center) tunnel under PCH and (right), MPA artwork in tunnel, both at (pt. 11).



(Left), Pedestrian access to Historic District, and (right) new OCMPAC mobile "no dogs on beach" sign, both at (pt. 12)



(Left), MPA Good Tidepool Rules sign; (right), mobile MPA Good Tidepool Rules sign on beach, both at Historical District at (pt. 12)



(Above), looking toward Pelican Point from Cottage #22, (pt. 13)



(Left) Looking South to Rocky Bight from Historic Cottages at (pt.13); (right) Looking North at Rocky Bight (from lifeguard tower 7 - not on map).

Reef Point Entrance



3.5



3.5 Ramp at (pt.14)

Reef Point



3.5 overlook with Reef Point in the background at (pt.15)

Scotchman's Cove



(Left), Scotchman's Cove Overlook and (right) Stairs at (pt.16)

Muddy Creek



(Top), Muddy Creek Overlook and (bottom) sign at bottom of ramp at (pt.17)

Moro Campground Entrance



View of Moro Beach and Abalone Point from Muddy Creek Lookout at south end of Reef Parking Lot at (pt.18)



Moro Campground Entrance Kiosk at (pt.19)

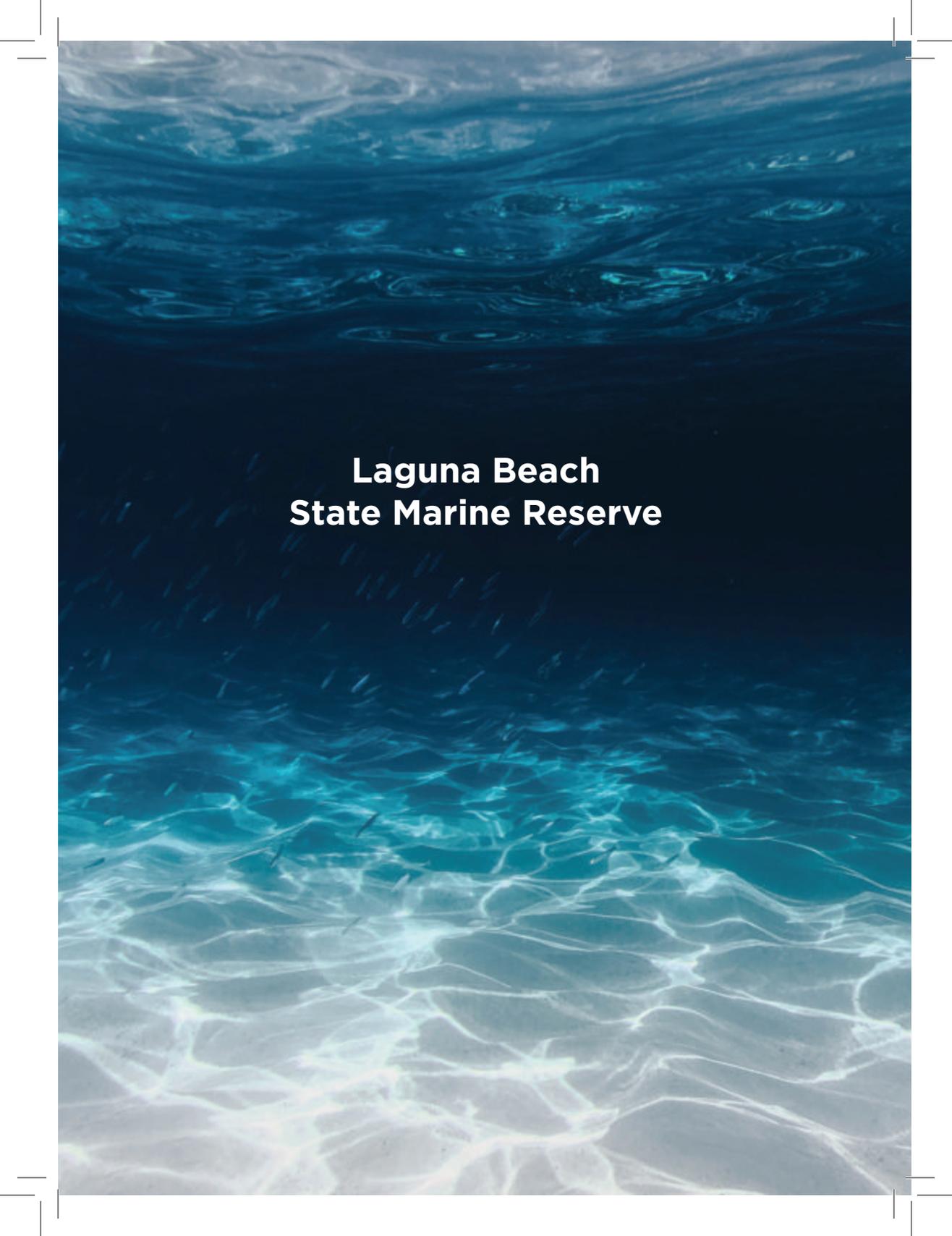
Muddy Creek



(Left) Sign at ramp to (center, right) tunnel shown at (pt.20)



Looking toward Abalone Point from Moro Beach at (pt.21)

An underwater photograph showing a large school of small, silvery fish swimming in clear, blue water. Sunlight filters through the surface, creating bright, shimmering patterns on the sandy ocean floor. The overall scene is serene and captures the natural beauty of a marine reserve.

**Laguna Beach
State Marine Reserve**

Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022



Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 33° 33.224' N. lat. 117° 49.184' W. long. ①;
- 33° 33.211' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ②;
- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 45.264' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.



What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection, and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level of protection.

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine reserve?

One of the goals for Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve is to protect the tidepool, surfgrass, sandy seafloor, kelp forest, and rocky reef habitat found there. A wide variety of marine species use these habitats. Leopard sharks, California spiny lobster, and kelp bass are among the many fish and invertebrates that live and hunt in the kelp forests close to shore. Wrasses, nudibranchs (colorful sea slugs), and a variety of crabs and shrimp shelter in more than two square miles of surfgrass meadows, while flatfish such as California halibut and C-O sole blend in with the sandy seafloor and wait for their prey to swim by.

Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve shares a southern border with [Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area](#), and a northern border with [Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area](#). It is one of four consecutive MPAs that together cover approximately 14 square miles of coastal habitat from Corona del Mar State Beach to Dana Point. Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with "CalTip"
followed by the details.



Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve

Southern California - Established January 2012



Quick Facts: Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 6.72 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 4.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 1,231 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 6.28 square miles
 - Rock: 0.90 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



No Fishing



No Collecting

Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Diver's Cove at Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve, © Bennlover CC BY-ND 2.0

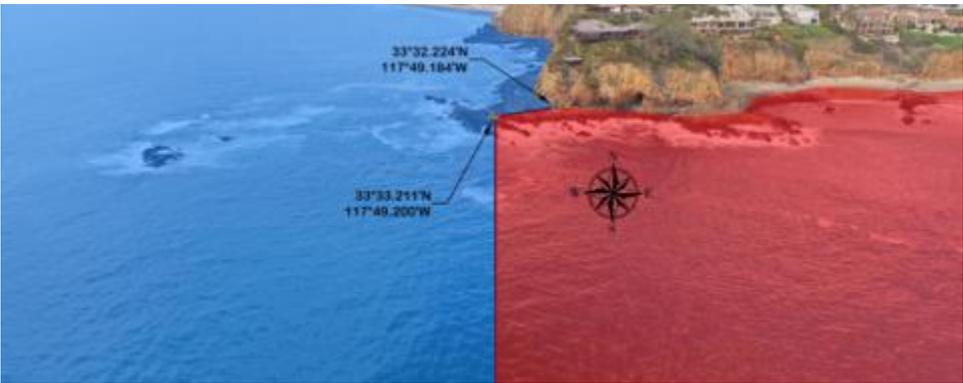
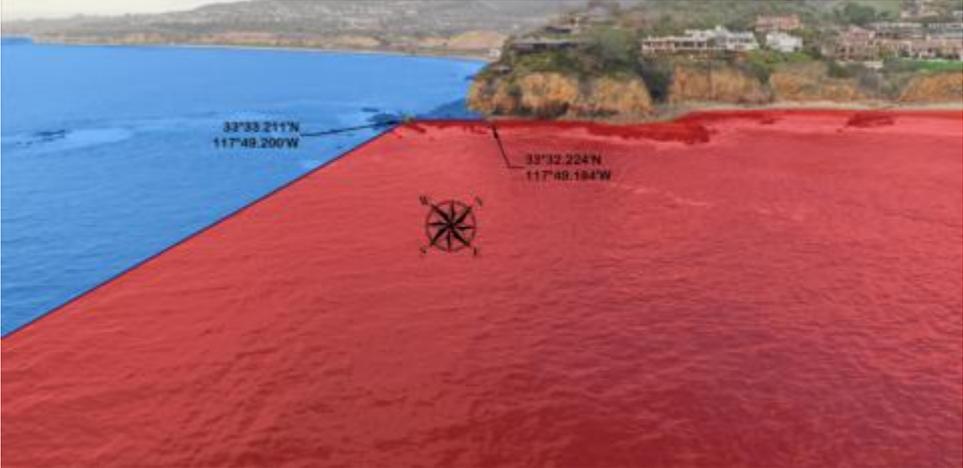
Lower right: C-O sole at Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve, © daniel clark 5 CC BY-NC 2.0

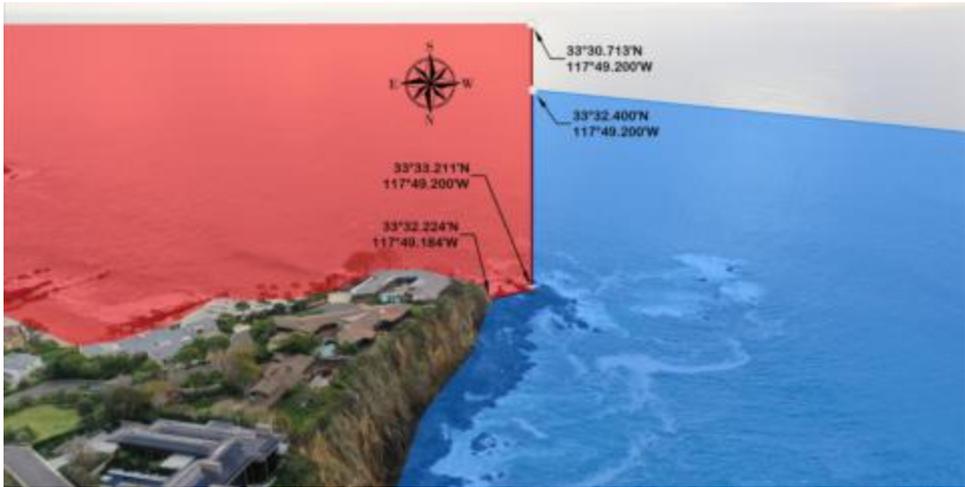
Lower left: Spotted triopha nudibranch, Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve © ponkyjoe CC BY-NC 2.0

BOUNDARY MPAS AND PHOTOS:

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64

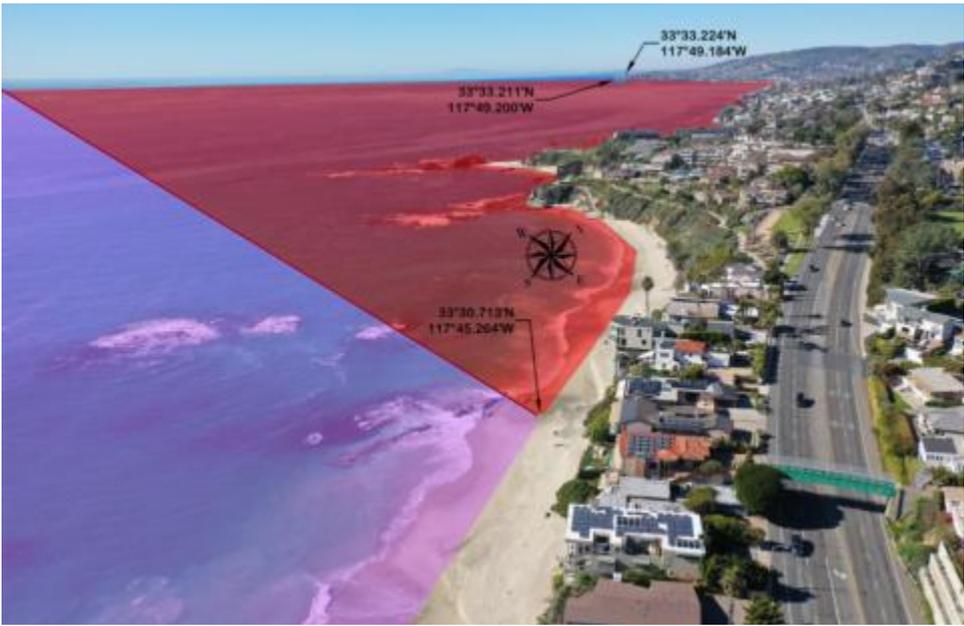
Northern Boundary - Abalone Point

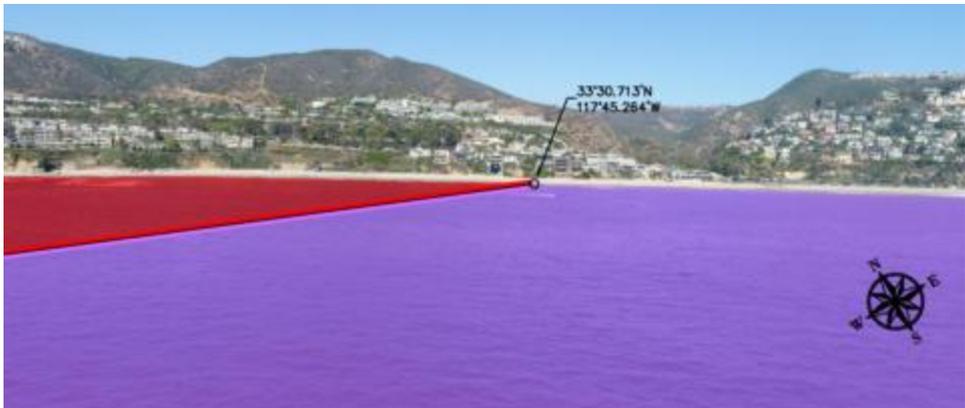
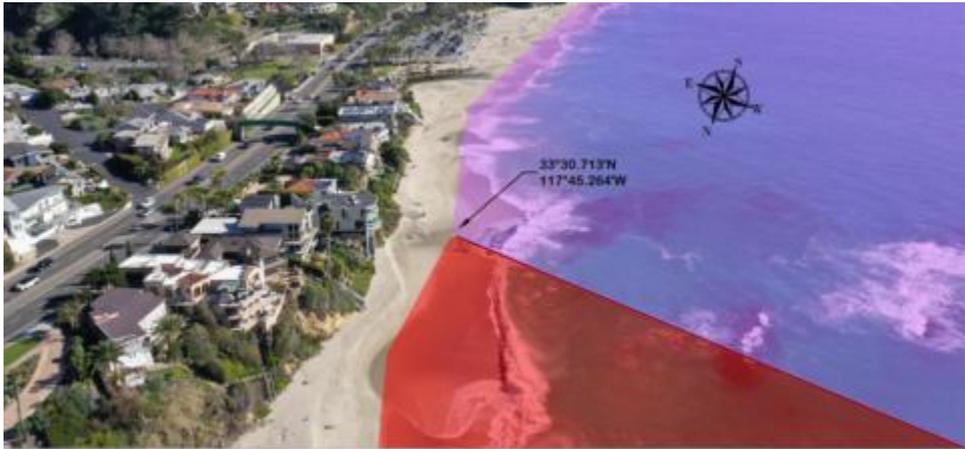




Southern Boundary - Pedestrian bridge at Treasure Island

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64







City of Laguna Beach Marine Safety Division 1 (excluding Emerald Bay)



1. Abalone Point



2. Abalone Point / Little Cove



3. North Emerald Bay Point



4. South Emerald Bay Point



5. Whisky Cove



6. Crescent Bay Park Point



7. Shell Cove / Confino Point



8. Shaws Cove



9. South Shaws Cove / Boat Canyon



10. Divers Cove



11. South Picnic Beach / Rockpile Beach



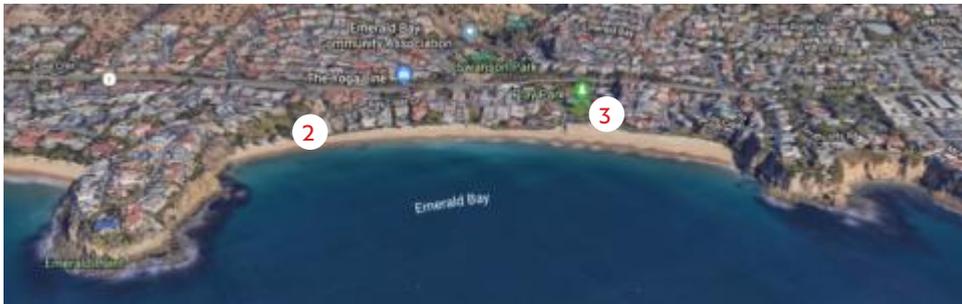
12. South Rockpile Beach / Bird Rock

Irvine Cove (listed as Cameo Cove on google maps) – Private and gated but City of Laguna Beach marine safety operated. No MPA signs are in Irvine Cove. Private Patrol



(Right), LBMS Lifeguard tower at (pt.1)

Emerald Bay – OC lifeguards and OC Sheriffs response agencies. Private Patrol



(Left), sign at north beach trail entrance off Bay Crest Dr. at (pt.2); (center) and (right), signs at main beach accesses at (pt.3)

Crescent Bay



(Left), looking North toward Whiskey Cove and (right), Looking South to Crescent Bay from Crescent Bay Point Park at (pt.4)



(Left), North Crescent Bay access stairs at (pt.5) and South Crescent Bay ramp at (pt. 6)

Shaw's Cove



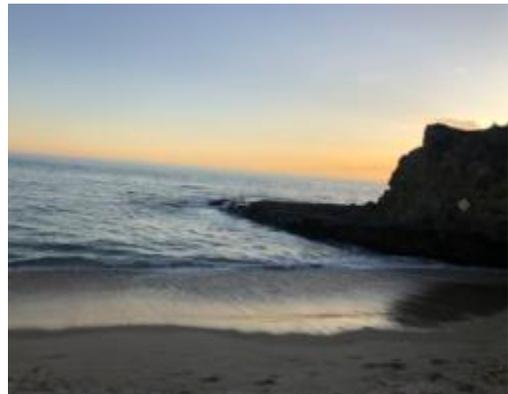
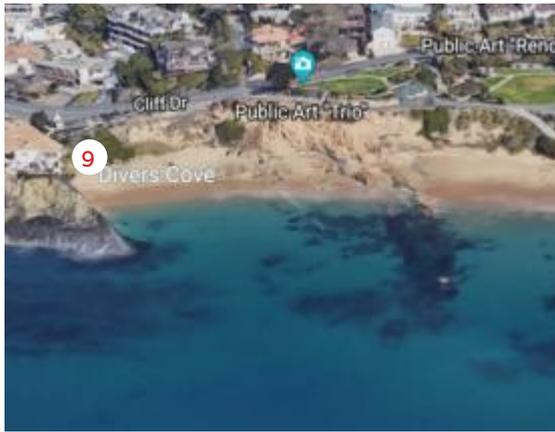
(Left), MPA sign and entrance to Shaw's Cove and (right), view looking downcoast, both from (pt.7)

Boat Canyon



(Right), MPA Good Tidepooler Rules sign at stairs off Cliff Dr. at (pt.8)

Divers Cove (Heisler Park)



(Left), MPA sign at bottom of stairs off Cliff Dr. and (right), looking toward the giggle crack, both from (pt.9)

Picnic Beach (Heisler Park)



(Right), MPA Good Tidepooler Rules sign at Picnic Beach ramp at (pt.10)

Monument Point, Rockpile and Bird Rock (Heisler Park)



(Left), sign at Monument Point Stairs at (pt.11) Looking toward Rockpile and Bird Rock.



(Left), sign at Rockpile Stairs at (pt.12) and (right), view of Bird Rock and Bird Rock BLM interpretive sign at gazebo at (pt.13)

City of Laguna Beach Marine Safety Division 2



13. North Main Beach



14. South Main Beach

DIVISION 2

Bird Rock



(Left), MPA Sign at Bird Rock stairs at (pt.14) and (right), sign at main tidepool area at Bird Rock at (pt.15)

North Main



(Top left) MPA signs at North Main stairs at (pt.16); (top right) at end of Broadway at (pt.17); (above) at end of boardwalk by play structure at (pt.18)

City of Laguna Beach Marine Safety Division 3



15. Sleep Hollow / Cleo Street Beach



16. Brooks St. Reef/ Cress St. Beach



17. Pearl St. Beach Rocks

DIVISION 3



Sleepy Hollow (pt.19)



Cleo Street (pt.20)



Saint Ann's (pt.21)



Thalia Street (pt.22)



Anita Street (pt.23)



Oak Street (pt.24)



Brooks Street (pt.25)



Cress Street (pt.26)



Mountain Road (pt.27)



Bluebird (pt.28)



Agate Street (pt.29)



Pearl Street (pt.30)



(Left), looking north toward the Surf and Sand Hotel from Mountain Road Lifeguard Tower and (right), looking south toward Bluebird Beach and the rest of Division 3 from Agate Street stairs.

City of Laguna Beach Marine Safety Division 4



18. Woods Cove



19. Moss Cove



20. North Rockledge



21. South Rockledge



22. Victoria Beach



23. Lagunita Beach



24. Golf Island



25. Golf Cove / Middlemans



26. Middlemans Beach / North Treasure Island



27. Treasure Island Beach



28. Treasure Island / North Aliso Beach



29. Aliso Creek Beach

DIVISION 4



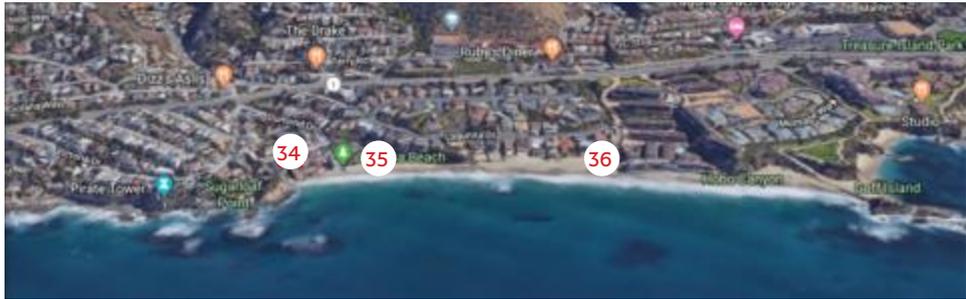
Woods Cove North (pt.31).



Woods Cove South (pt.32)



Moss Cove (pt.33)



North Victoria (pt.34)



Victoria Ramp (pt.35)



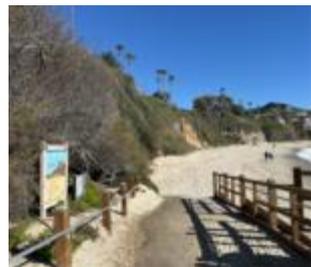
Blue Lagoon/Lagunita (pt.36) (private)



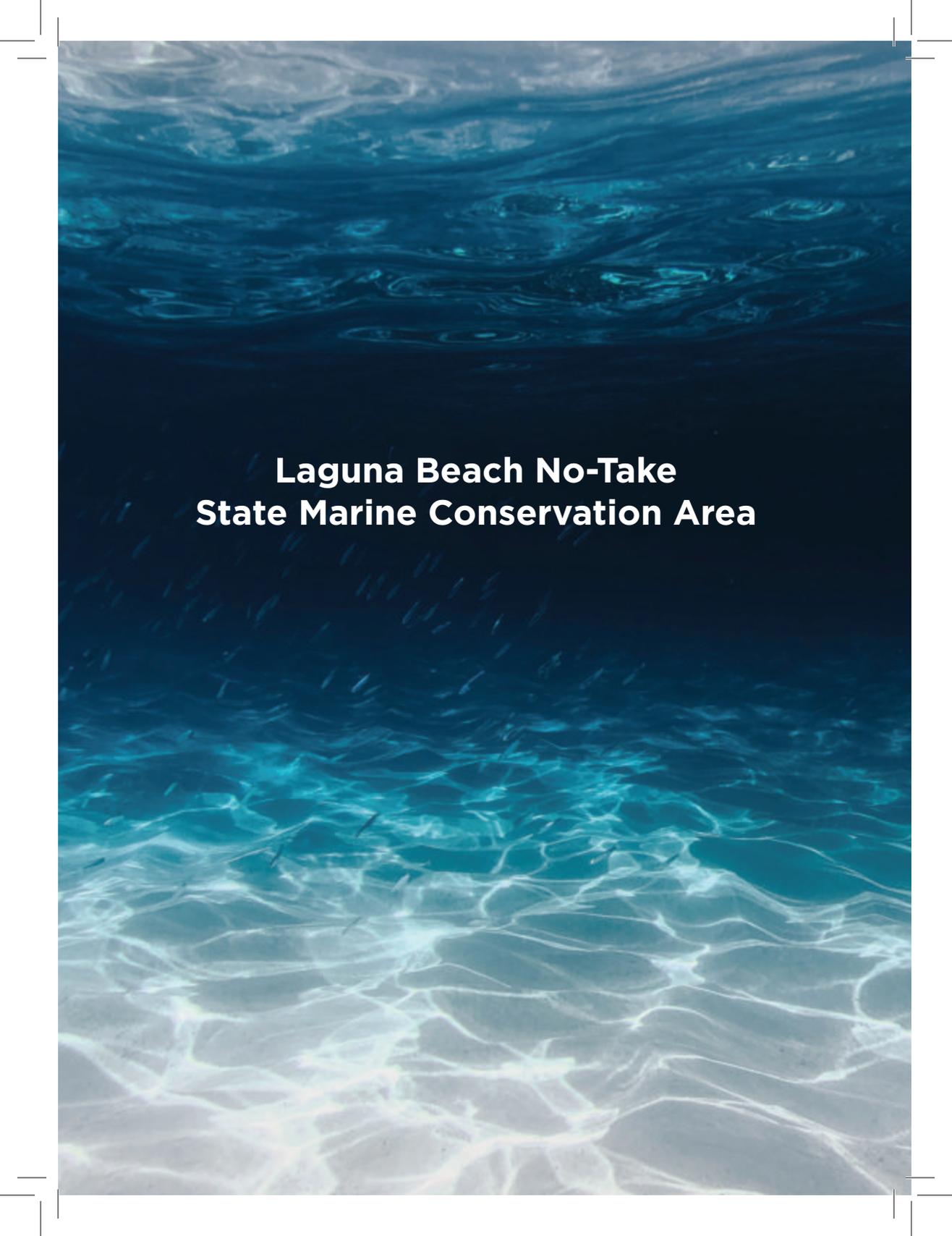
Goff Island Ramp (pt.37)



Goff Cove pt.38



Treasure Island Ramp (pt.39)

An underwater photograph showing a large school of small, silvery fish swimming in clear, blue water. The bottom is sandy and covered in intricate, light-colored patterns of sand and coral. The lighting is bright, creating a shimmering effect on the water's surface and the sand below.

**Laguna Beach No-Take
State Marine Conservation Area**

Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022



Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

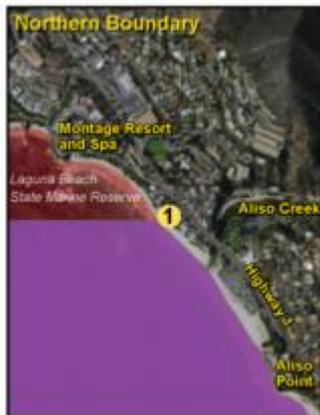
Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 45.264' W. long. ①;
- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ②;
- 33° 30.050' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 30.050' N. lat. 117° 44.762' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - a. Take pursuant to operation and maintenance of artificial structures and facilities, beach grooming, maintenance dredging, and habitat restoration inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.



Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.

What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. The ban on collecting and fishing in no-take marine conservation areas such as Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area provides very high levels of protection.

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the tidepool, surfgrass, sandy seafloor, kelp forest, and rocky reef habitat found there. A wide variety of marine species use these habitats. Crab, shrimp, and a variety of young fish shelter in the surfgrass meadows, while flatfish such as California halibut and petrale sole blend in with the sandy seafloor and wait for their prey to swim by. Cabezon, California sheephead, and turban snails are among the many fish and invertebrates that live and hunt in the kelp forests close to shore.

Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area shares a northern border with [Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve](#), and a southern border with [Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area](#). It is one of four consecutive MPAs that together cover approximately 14 square miles of coastal habitat from Corona del Mar State Beach to Dana Point. Placing a no-take state marine conservation area here provides very high levels of protection for marine species and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with “Caltip” followed by the details.



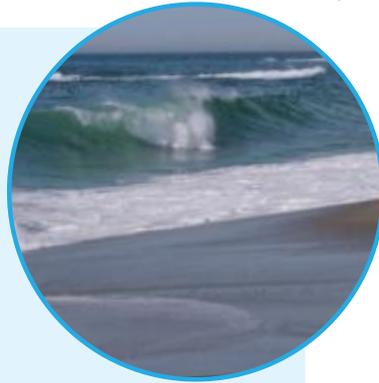
Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Established January, 2012



Quick Facts: Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 3.09 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.2 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 1,408 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 3.09 square miles
 - Rock: 0.09 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

No Collecting

Further Information:

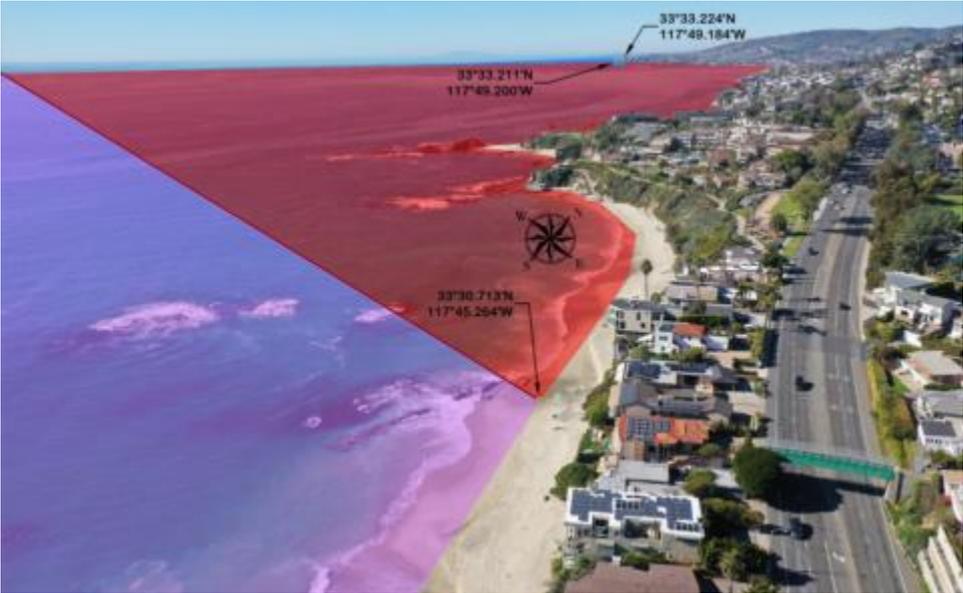
- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Waves at Aliso Beach, Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area, photo © Harmattan Gallery CC BY 2.0. **Lower right:** Zebra perch in the conservation area, photo © Ron Vanderhoff CC BY-NC 2.0. **Lower left:** Western gull in the conservation area, photo © cnm79 CC BY-NC 2.0

BOUNDARY MAPS AND PHOTOS:

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64

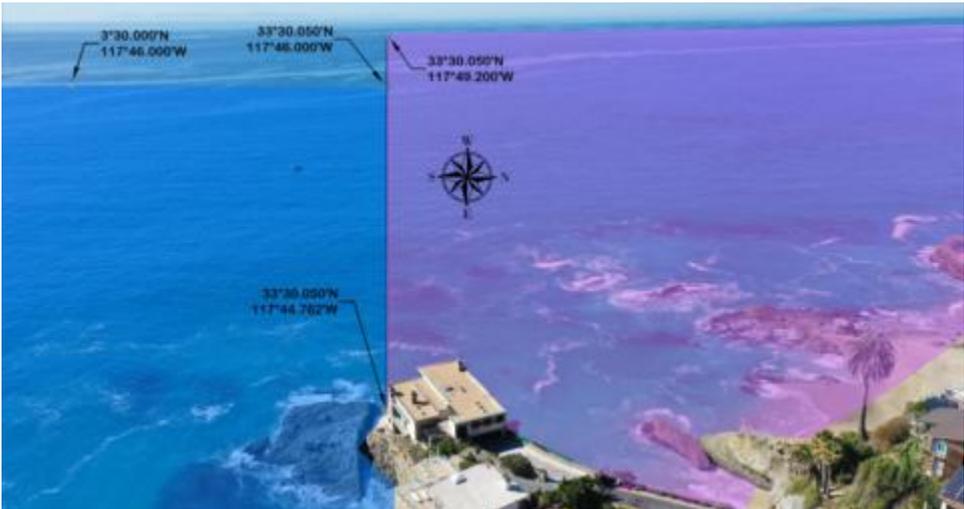
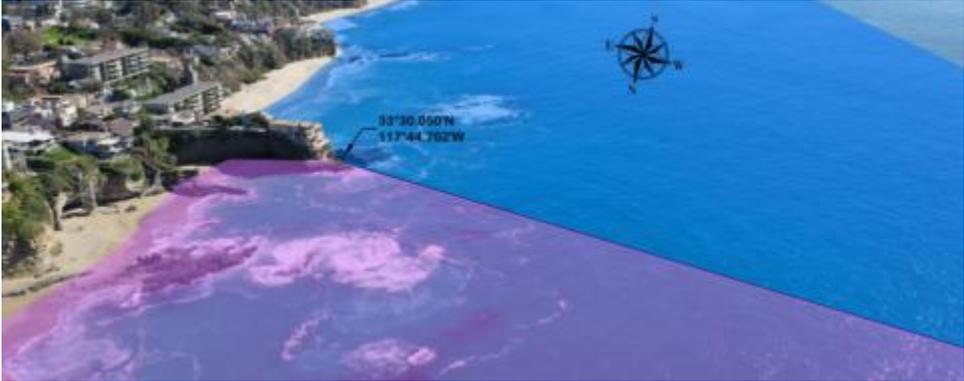
Northern Boundary - Pedestrian bridge south of Treasure Island

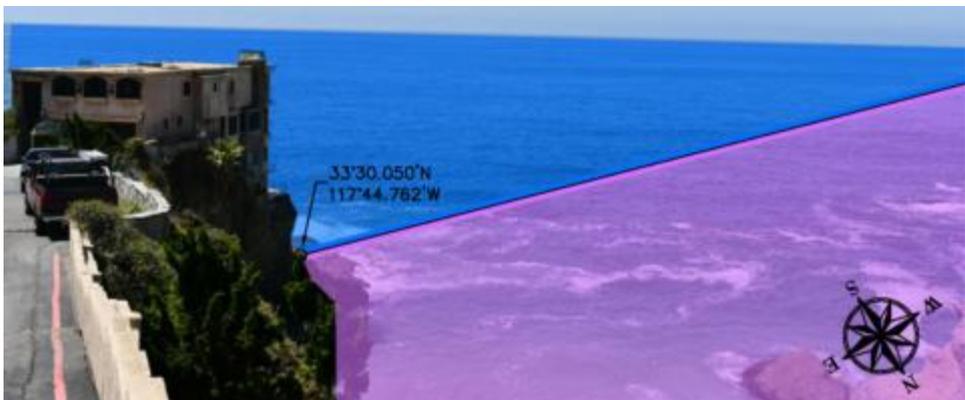
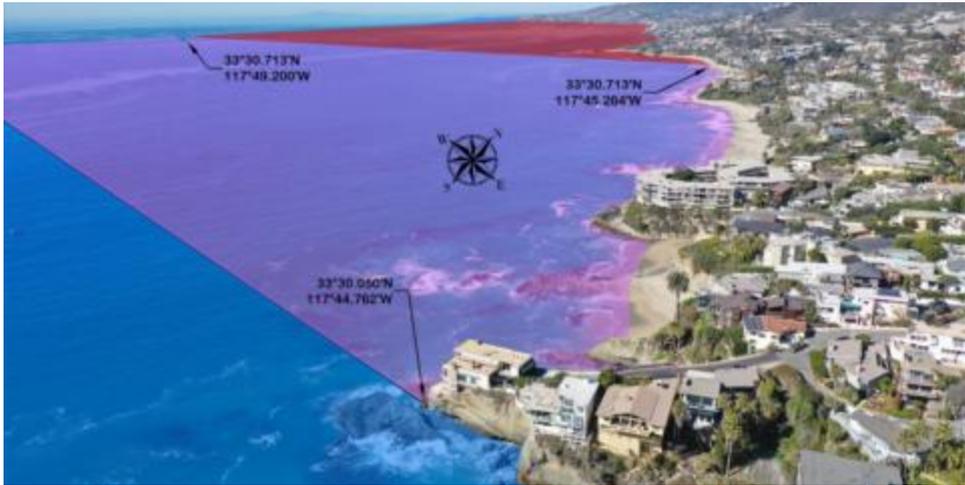




Southern Boundary - Seacliff Drive/Table Rock Beach

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64





SOUTH LAGUNA ACCESS POINTS

ALISO CREEK



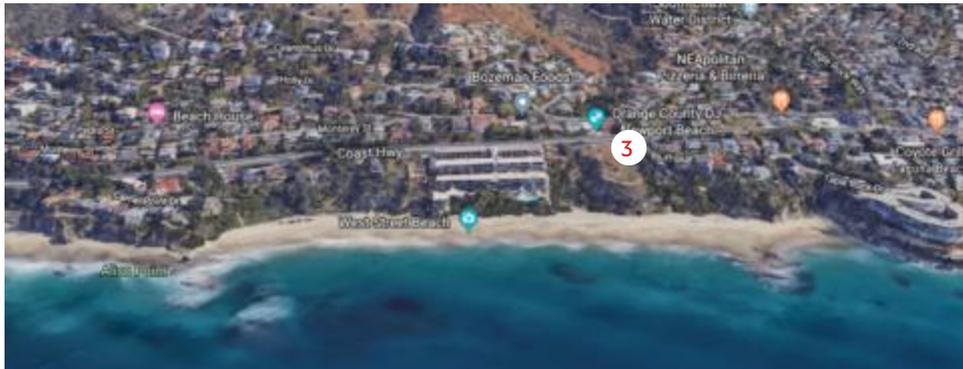
Aliso Creek parking lot north.



(Left and right), Signs at creek entrance (Pt. 1)
Aliso Creek parking lot south.



Café and access at south side of parking lot. No Sign. (Pt. 2)



West Street Beach



(Top), sign off Coast Hwy at top of stairs to West St. Beach and (bottom), view of West St. beach from middle of stairway (Pt.3)

TABLE ROCK



Panorama of Table Rock beach from lifeguard tower.



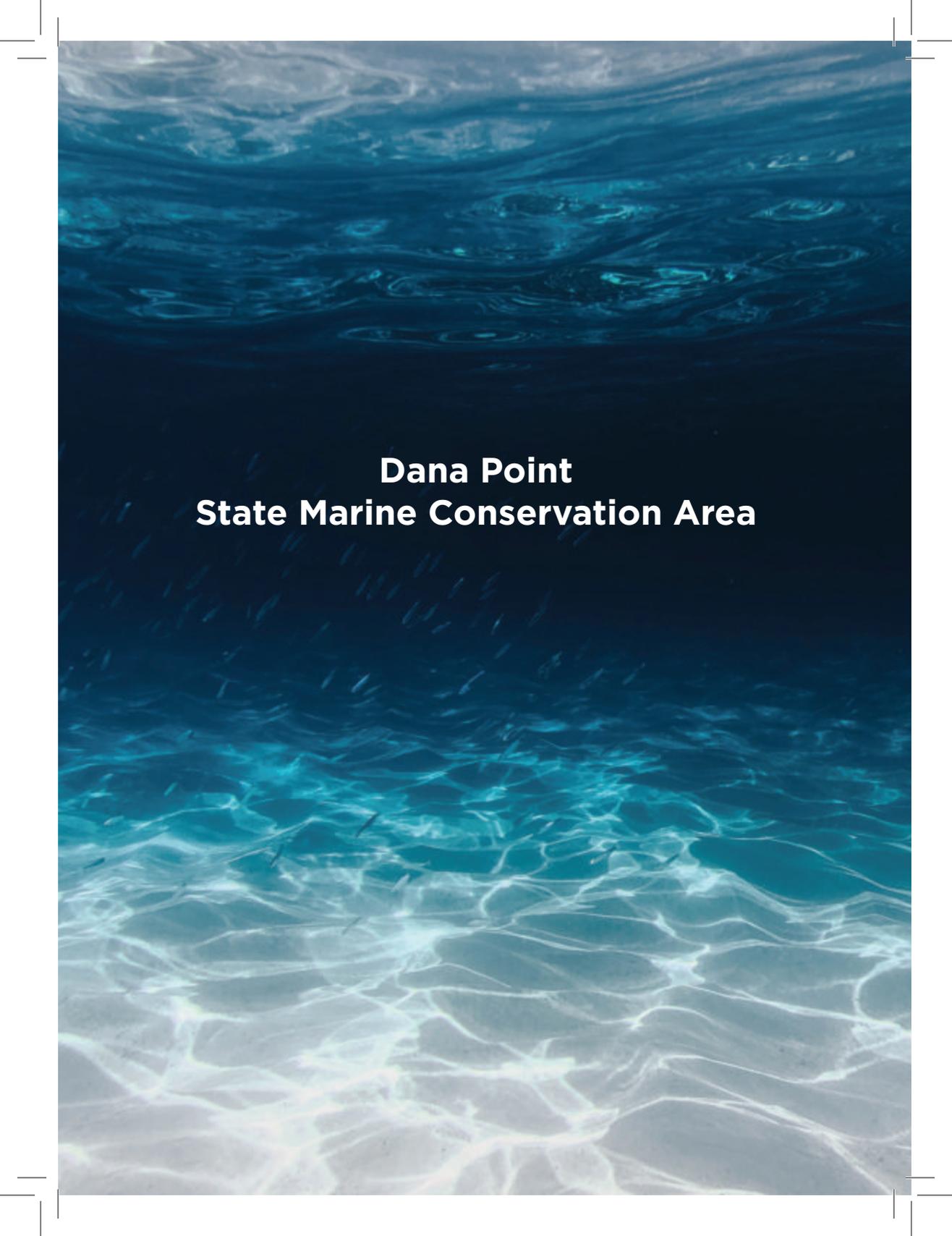
(Left), looking north to West Street beach and (right), sign on table rock at (Pt. 4)



(Left), sign at top of staircase off Table Rock Dr.; (center), view of Table Rock beach from stair landing; (right), sign on beach at bottom of stairs at (Pt. 5)



(Top), looking toward southern boundary at house off Seacliff and (bottom), looking from Seacliff Dr. at (Pt. 6)

An underwater photograph showing a large school of small, silvery fish swimming in clear, blue water. Sunlight filters through the surface, creating a shimmering, dappled pattern on the sandy seabed. The overall scene is serene and captures the natural beauty of a marine ecosystem.

**Dana Point
State Marine Conservation Area**

Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022



Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 33° 30.050' N. lat. 117° 44.762' W. long. ①;
- 33° 30.050' N. lat. 117° 46.000' W. long. ②;
- 33° 30.000' N. lat. 117° 46.000' W. long. ③;
- 33° 27.300' N. lat. 117° 43.300' W. long. ④;
- 33° 27.478' N. lat. 117° 42.276' W. long. ⑤; and
- 33° 27.622' N. lat. 117° 42.425' W. long. ⑥

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

- a. The recreational take of finfish* by hook-and-line or by spearfishing, and spiny lobster and sea urchin is allowed.
- b. The commercial take of sea urchin, spiny lobster by trap, and coastal pelagic species** by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial coastal pelagic species catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.
- c. Take pursuant to operation and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed, pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.

2. Take of all living marine resources from inside tidepools is prohibited. For purposes of this section, tidepools are defined as the area encompassing the rocky pools that are filled with seawater due to retracting tides between the mean higher high tide line and the mean lower low tide line.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

** Coastal pelagic species are defined here as northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*) and market squid (*Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens*).

Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.

What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. Most marine conservation areas such as Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reef, surfgrass, and kelp forest habitat found there. The conservation area's protected tidepools are rich with sea life, including Kellet's whelks, hermit crabs, sea cucumbers, sea stars, and other intertidal residents. Orange County's largest kelp forest is located off Salt Creek Beach, and provides prime habitat for giant sea bass, copper rockfish, and California spiny lobster. [Mole crabs](#) sift and eat plankton from the shallow surf washing over the conservation area's sandy beaches, while California halibut and a variety of flatfish inhabit the deeper sandy seafloor.

Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area shares a northern border with [Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area](#). It is one of four consecutive MPAs that together cover approximately 14 square miles of coastal habitat from Corona del Mar State Beach to Dana Point. Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

Call Calltip: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with "Calltip"
followed by the details.



Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Established January, 2012



Quick Facts: Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 3.47 square miles
- **Shoreline Span:** 4.0 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 152 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 2.82 square miles
 - Rock: 1.60 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

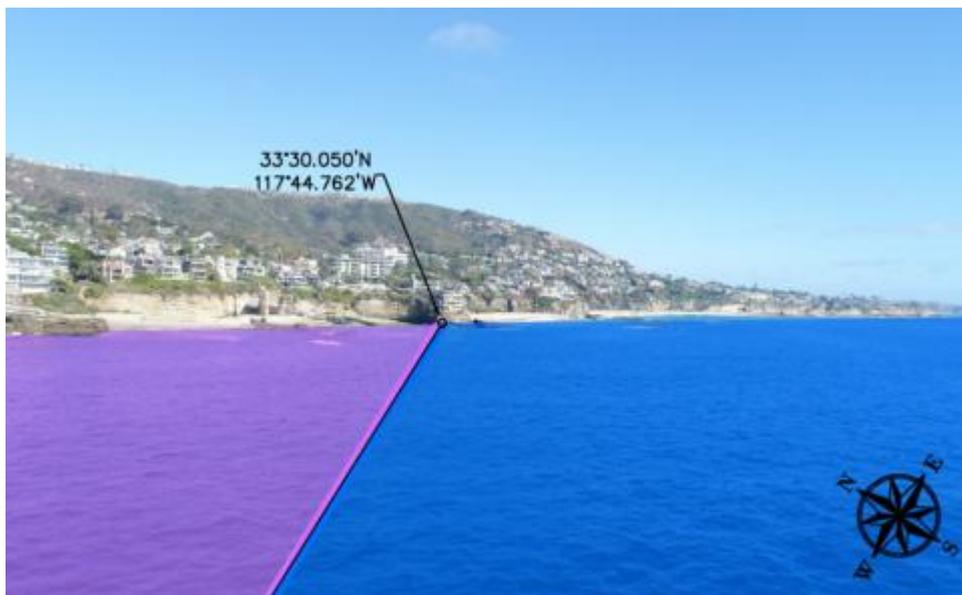
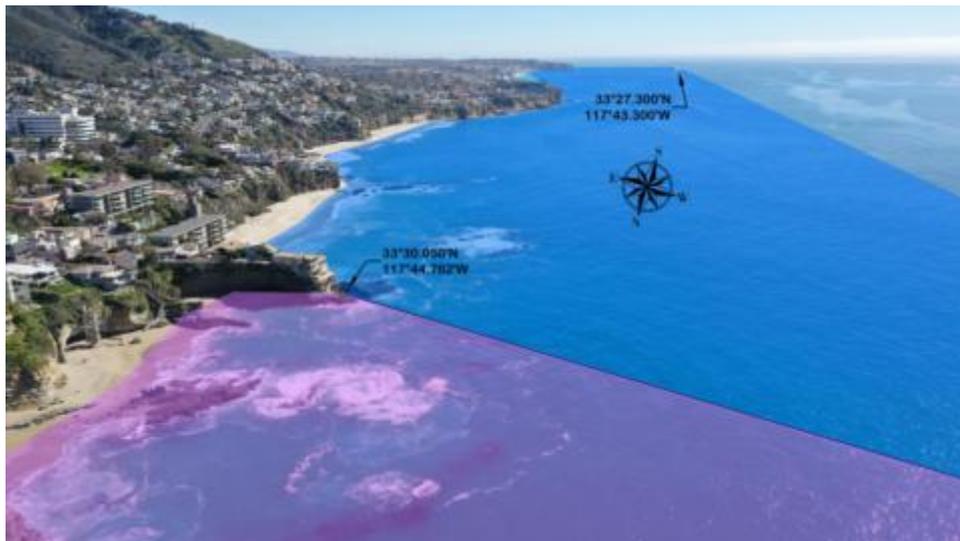
Photos - Upper: Dana Strand Beach, Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area, photo © Sergei Gushev CC BY-NC 2.0; **Lower right:** Norris's topsnail at Dana Point State Marine Conservation Area, photo © wilderness4u, CC BY-NC 2.0; **Lower left:** Feather boa kelp, coralline algae, and mussels in the conservation area, photo © Ron Vanderhoff, CC BY-NC 2.0

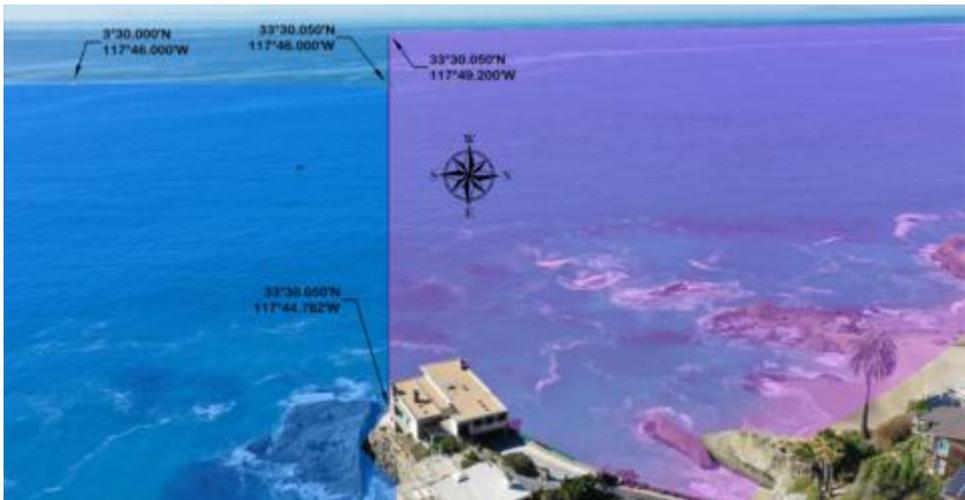
BOUNDARY MAPS AND PHOTOS:

*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64

Northern Boundary (shared with Laguna Beach No-Take SMCA) -

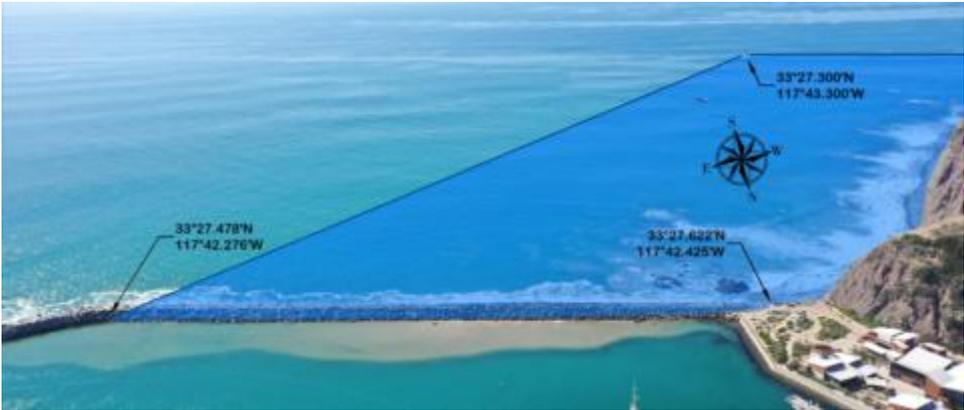
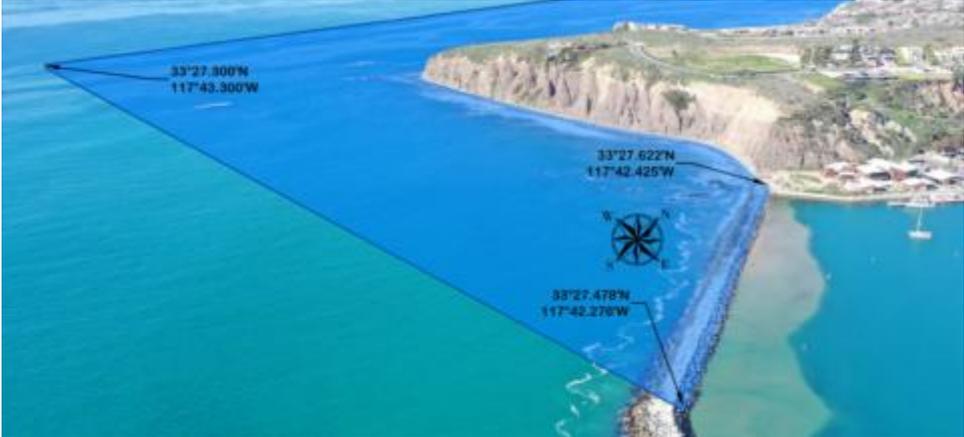
South end of Table Rock beach, end of Seacliff Drive

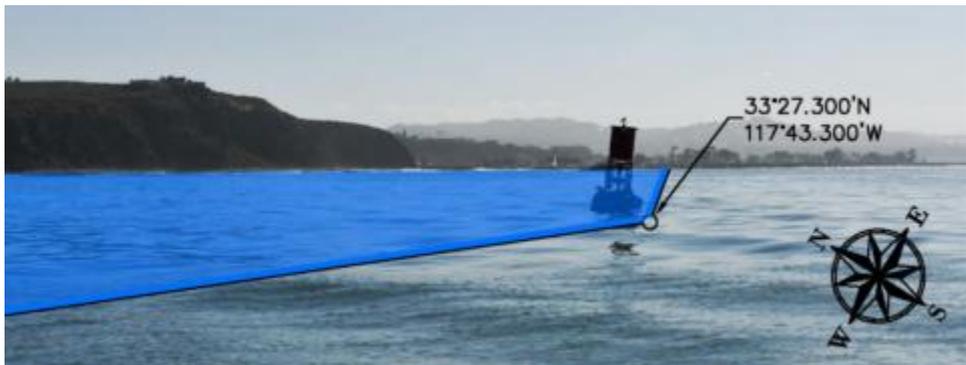
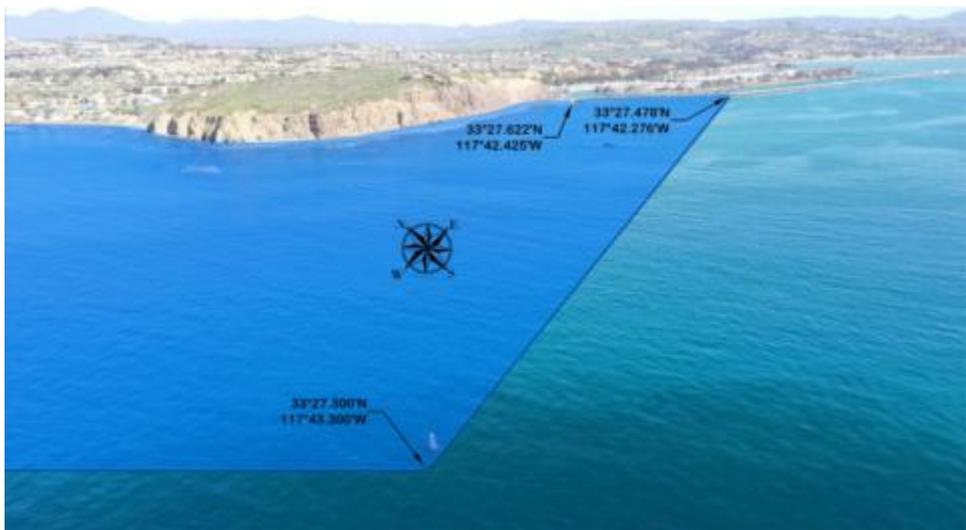
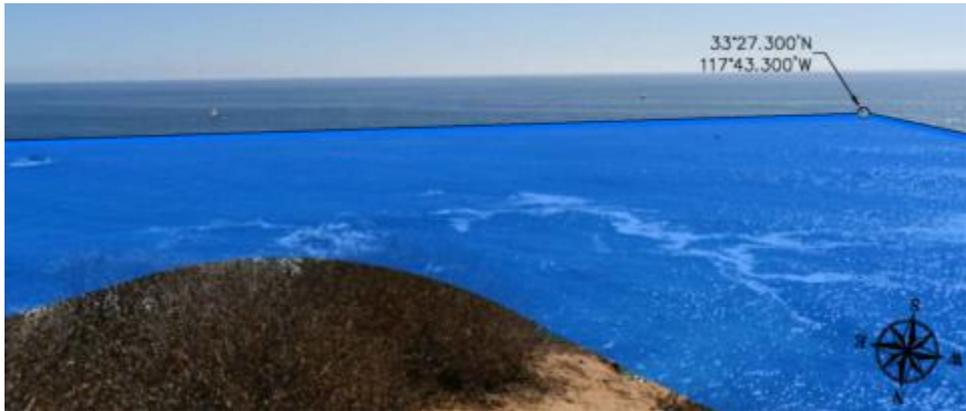




Southern Boundary - Dana Point Harbor West Jetty elbow and buoy

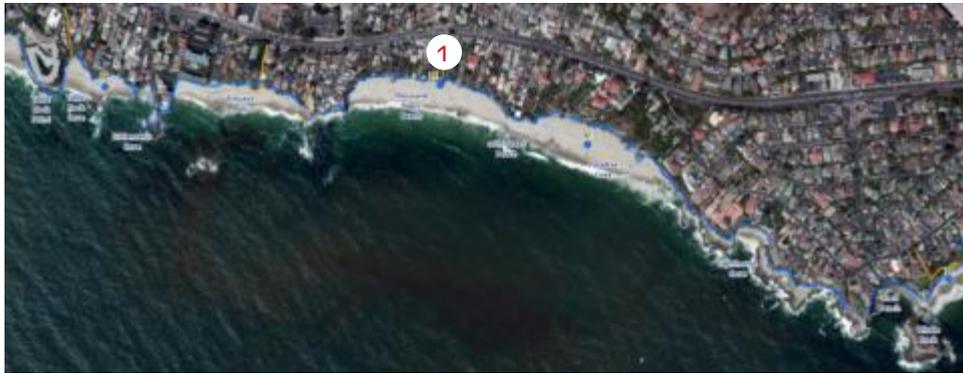
*Photos for reference only, see pg. 64





SOUTH LAGUNA AND DANA POINT ACCESS POINTS

1000 Steps



1000 Steps beach access

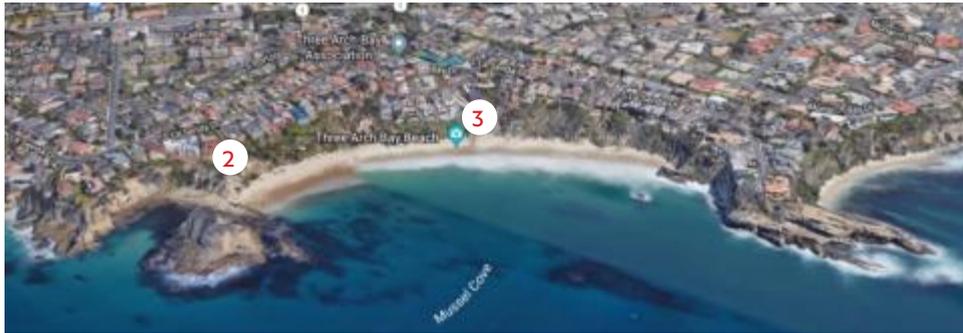


(Left), MPA signs at top of the stairs off of Coast Hwy; (center), bottom of stairs at 1000 steps; (right), looking north toward Totuava (pt 1)



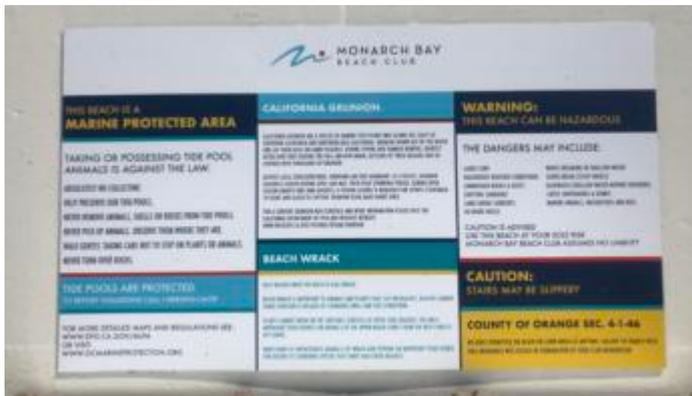
(Above) Looking south toward 10th Street Beach from 9th Street beach, bottom of stairs at (pt 1)

Three Arch Bay



(Top left), MPA sign at north access at top of stairs by gazebo (pt. 2); (bottom left) south access off Bay Dr. at (pt. 3); (right), posted sign at (pt. 3)

Monarch Bay and Salt Creek



(Top left), north Monarch Beach access looking north at (pt. 4); (top right), south Monarch Beach access looking south towards Salt Creek Beach at (pt. 5); (above), sign posted at both access ways

Salt Creek



(Top), Salt Creek ramp from lot off of Ritz Carlton Drive at (pt.6) and (above left), signs at bottom of ramp at (pt.7); (above right), looking upcoast from lifeguard tower at (pt.8)

Strands and Dana Point Headlands



Strands North



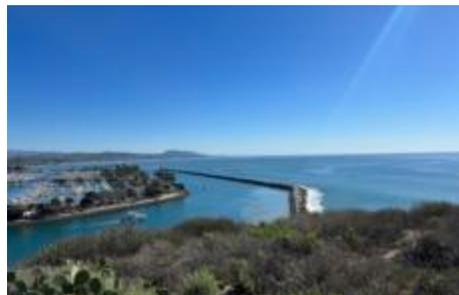
(Above left), Strands north access with funicular off of Selva Road at (pt. 9); (above right), looking toward Salt Creek Point from bathrooms at base of funicular, and (left), sign at bottom of ramp, both at (pt. 10)

Strands South



(Left), MPA Good Tidepooler Rules sign at stairs from south side of parking lot off of Selva Road at (pt. 11); (right) MPA sign at beach access at south end of Strands revetment trail, beginning of Dana Point Headlands trail at (pt. 12)

Dana Point Headlands



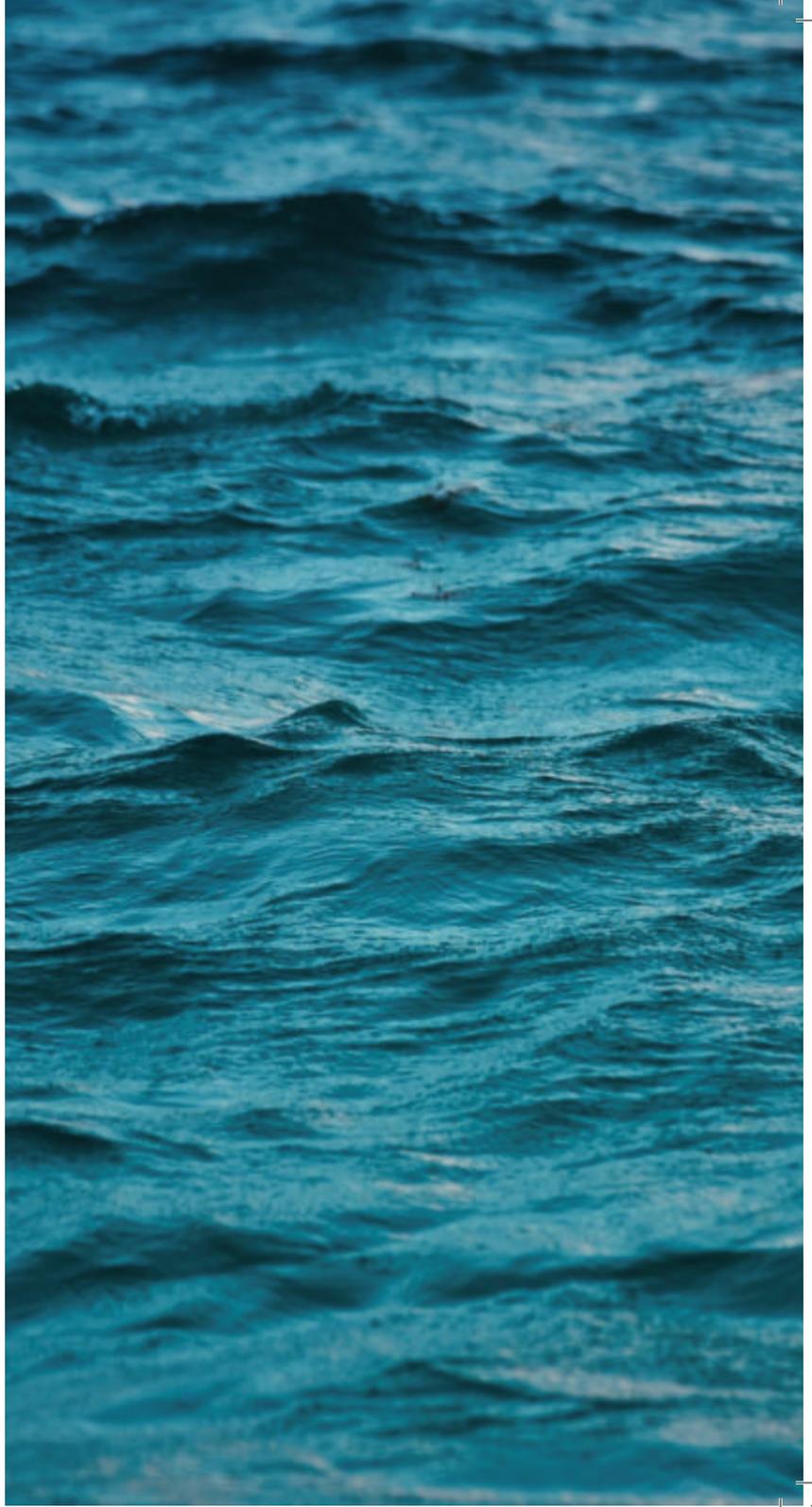
(Left) Gate to Dana Point Headlands trail by Nature Interpretive Center at (pt. 13); (right) view from Dana Point Harbor Point trail at (pt. 14)

Harbor Point Beach



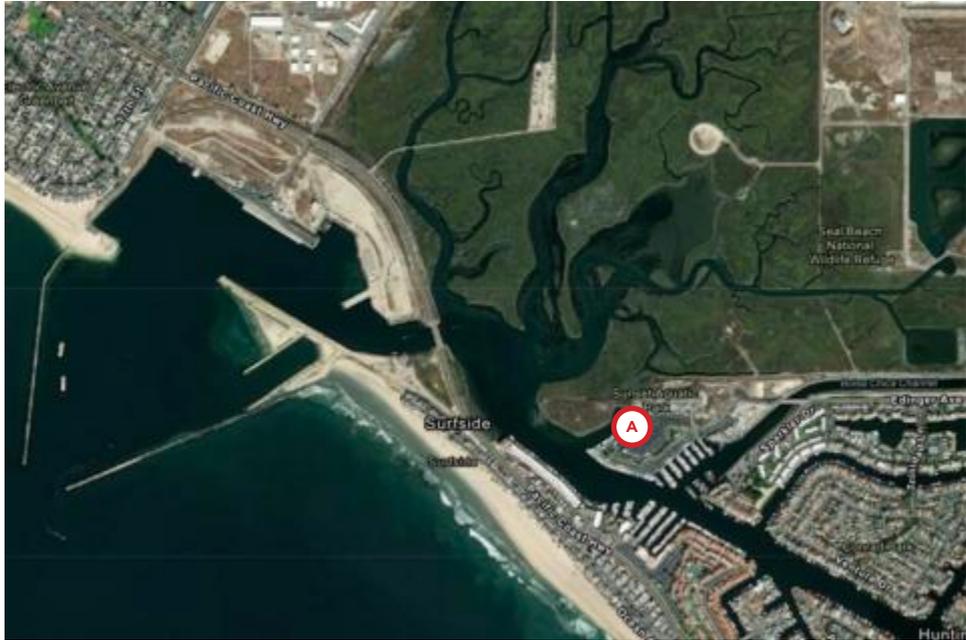
Signs at Harbor Point beach past Ocean Institute at (pt. 15)

Orange County Harbors



HUNTINGTON HARBOR WITH MPA INFORMATION

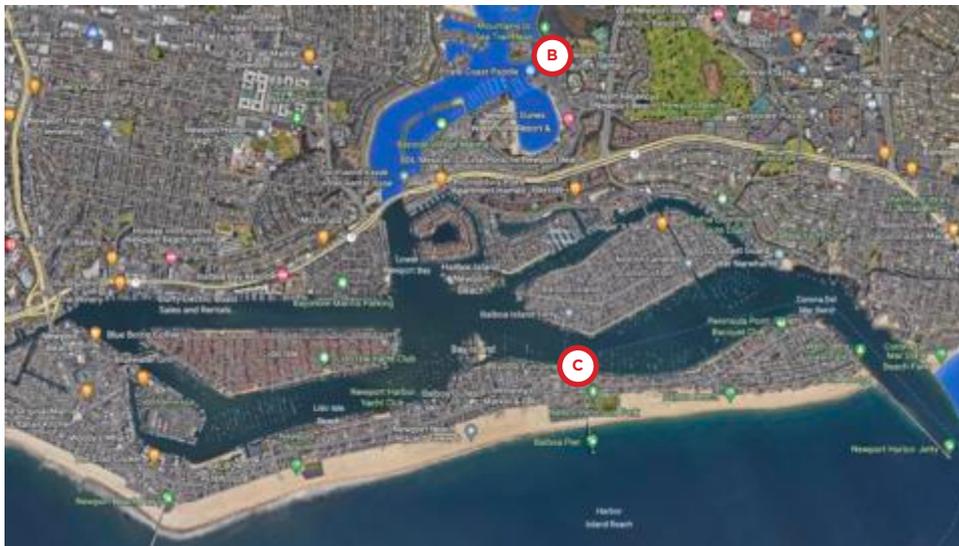
SUNSET AQUATIC MARINA: (562) 592-2833



(Left) MPA Harbor sign on bathroom wall at Sunset Aquatic Marina Launch Ramp and (right) launch ramp, both at point **A**

NEWPORT BEACH HARBOR WITH MPA INFORMATION

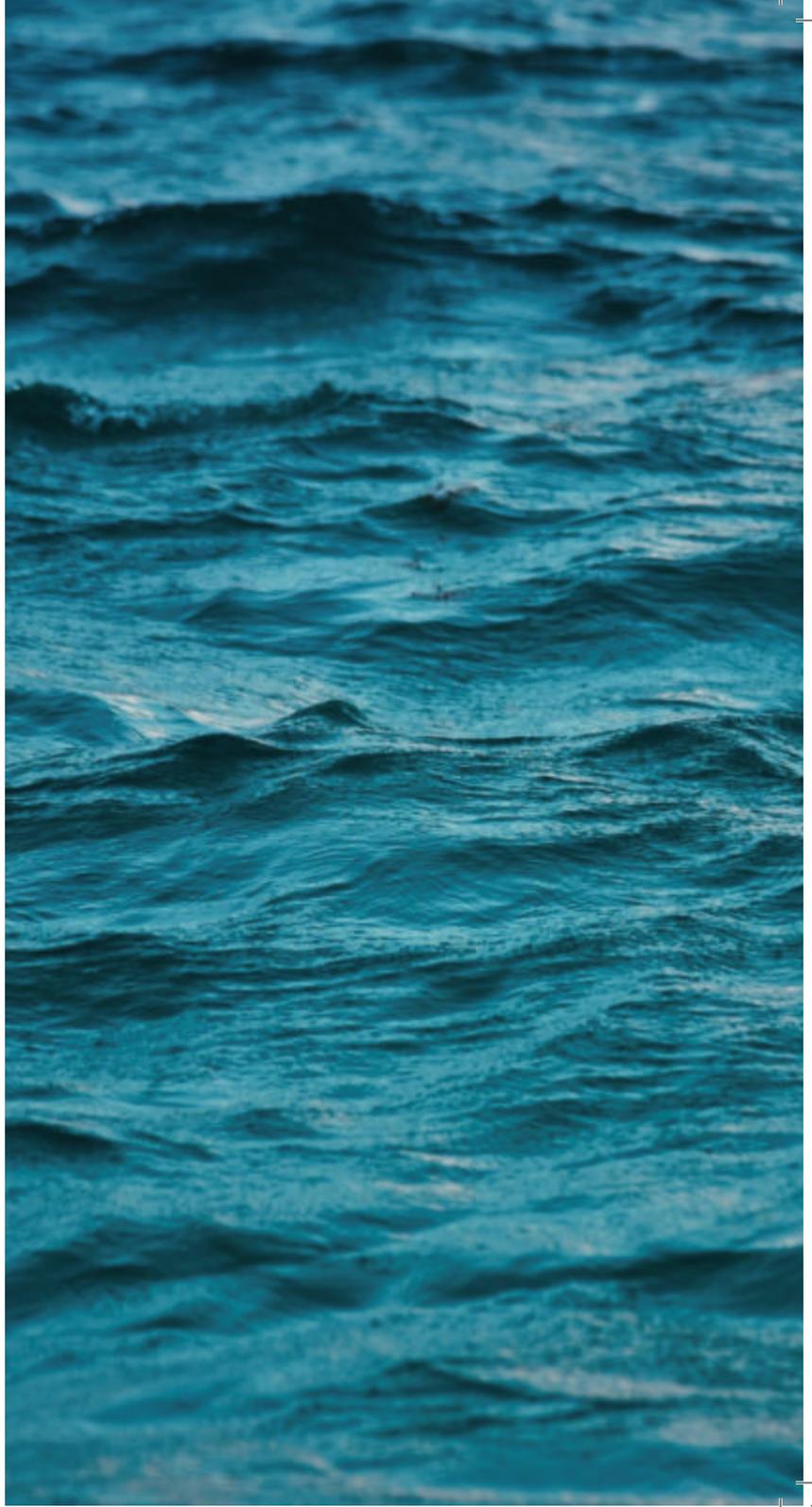
Newport Beach harbor:



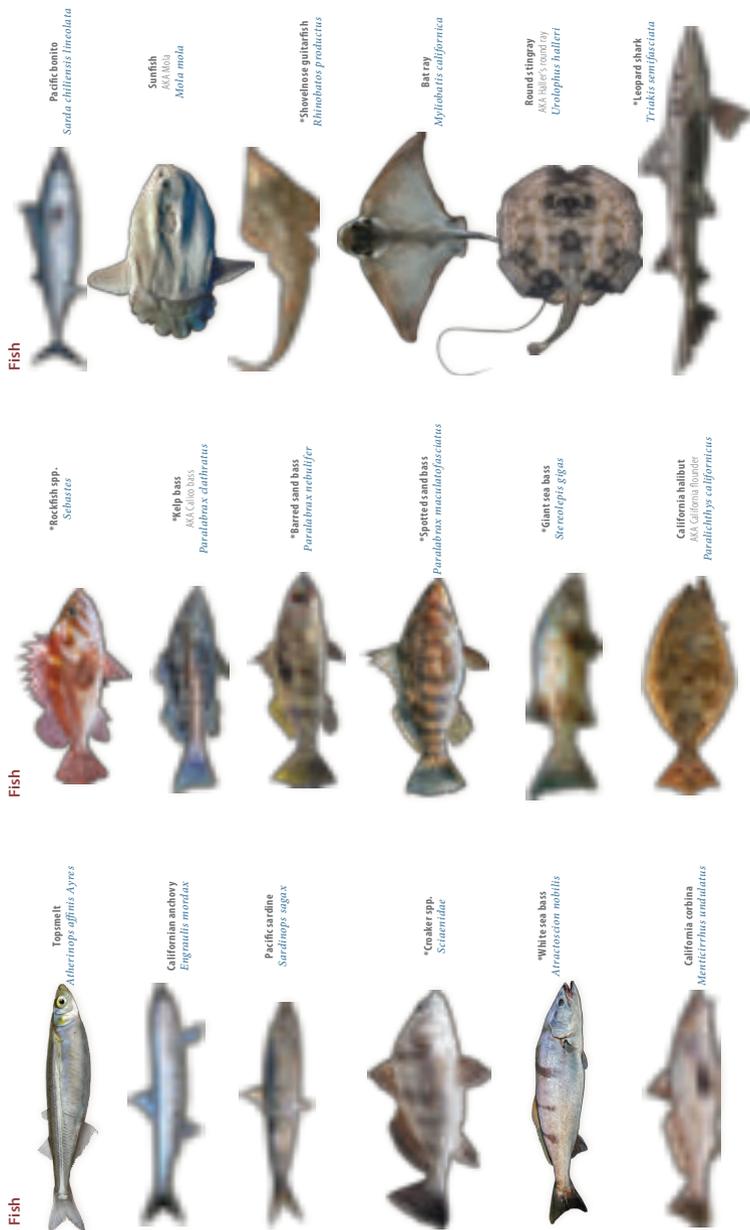
(Above left) Watershed sign at Newport Dunes launch ramp off Back Bay Dr.; (above right) view of launch ramp, by Back Bay Bistro, both at point **B**

(Left) MPA Interpretive sign outside Ocean Quest at Newport Landing at point **C**

Common Species and Take Types



SPECIES COMMONLY FOUND IN SOUTH COAST MPAs



Birds



*Tern spp.
Sternaeidae

*Gull spp.
Laridae

*California least tern
Sterna antillarum browni

Osprey
AKA Sea hawk,
River hawk, Fish hawk
Pandion haliaetus

*Double-crested cormorant
Phalacrocorax auritus

*Brown pelican
Pelecanus occidentalis

Fish



Garibaldi
AKA Garibaldi damselfish
Paripops rubicundus

*Blacksmith
AKA Blacksmith chiron, Blacksmith damselfish
Chromis pacificus

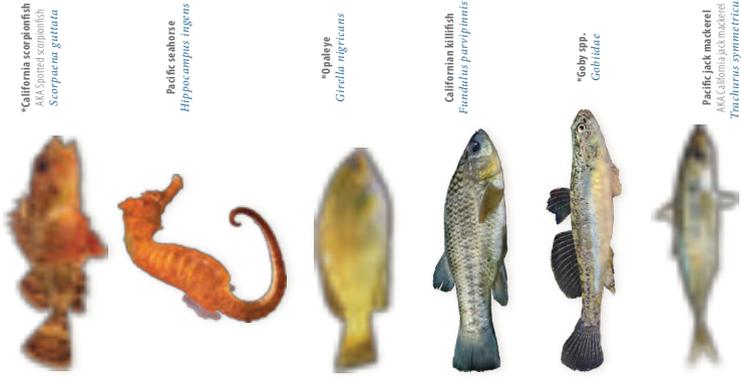
Giant kelpfish
Heterostichus rostratus

*Male California sheephead
Scorpaenopsis pulcher

*Female California sheephead
Scorpaenopsis pulcher

Sebastes
Oxyjzus californica

Fish



*California scorpionfish
AKA Scorpionfish
Scorpaena guttata

Pacific seabase
Hippocampus nigres

*Opaleye
Girella nigricans

Californian killifish
Fundulus parvipinnis

*Goby spp.
Gobiidae

Pacific jack mackerel
AKA California jack mackerel
Trachurus symmetricus

Fish



*Horn shark
Heterodontus francisci



Spiny dogfish
MS Species
Squalus acanthias



Sawgill shark
Notorynchus cepedianus



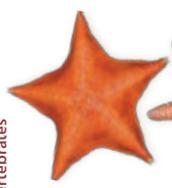
Great whiteshark
Carcharodon carcharias

Invertebrates



*California two-spot octopus
Octopus bimaculoides

Invertebrates



Batstar
Patiria imbricata



*Purple sea star
MS Species
Ochre starfish
Pisaster ochraceus



Bandic brittle star
Ophiolepis superba



*California sea cucumber
Panostichopus californicus



Sea anemone sp.
Aequorea



*California sea hare
Aplysia californica

Invertebrates



*Wavy top turban
Megastrota undosa



*Balanus spp.
Balanidae



*Sea snails
Gastropoda



*California spiny lobster
Panulirus interruptus



*Sea urchin
Echinoidae



Western sand dollar
MS Species
Dendraster eccentricus

Although all of the animals found on this page can be seen in Southern California MPAs, those labeled with a star (*) are more likely to gain a direct benefit from MPAs. Animals marked with a star have a higher chance of recovering from over-exploitation and helping repopulate adjacent waters.

A THE IMAGES OF ORGANISMS ARE NOT SCALE TO SCALE

Mammals



Bottlenose dolphin
Tursiops

Pacific white-sided dolphin
Lagenorhynchus obliquidens

Mammals



*Harbor seal
Phoca

Mammals



*Sea lion
Otariinae



Short beaked common dolphin
Delphinus delphis



Blue whale
Balaenoptera musculus



Gray whale
AAA Pacific gray whale, California gray whale
Eschrichtius robustus

Reptiles



*Green sea turtle
AAA Green turtle, Pacific green turtle
Chelonia mydas

Birds

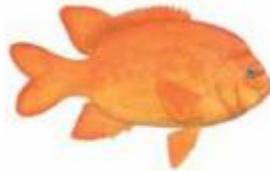


*Great blue heron
Ardea herodias

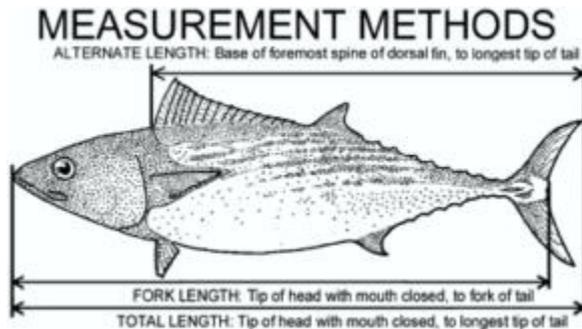
NO TAKE ALLOWED OF FOLLOWING FINFISH

Giant (black) Sea Bass

Garibaldi (State Fish)



Evaluation Techniques



Lobster gauges must be in diver's possession and are used to measure the carapace. Minimum size: 3 and 1/4 inches measured in a straight line on the mid-line of the back from the rear edge of the eye socket to the rear edge of the body shell. - CCR Title 14, section 29.90(c)

TAKE EXAMPLES - SPECIES AND METHODS

What is “Take”?

“Take” means hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill. - Fish and Game Code section 86.

Commercial Take

Giant kelp by hand or by mechanical harvest



Images: CDFW

Recreational Take

White Seabass and Pelagic Finfish by Spearfishing



Speargun (Image: leisurepro.com)



Polespear (Image: leisurepro.com)



Sling (Image: leisurepro.com)



White seabass
image: D.R.
Robertson,
STRI [14] via
CA Sea Grant
website

Giant kelp by hand



Image: CDFW



Image: Melissa Renwick for TIME

Invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels



Image: Dave Cowles



Image: CDFW

Spiny lobster



Images: CDFW



Finfish and Pelagic Finfish

See next pages.

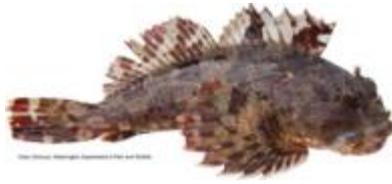
SOME EXAMPLES OF FINFISH

Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

California Halibut (Image: CDFW)



Cabezón (Image: CDFW)



Spiny Dogfish (Image: CDFW)



Round Stingray (Image: CDFW)



**For full ocean sport fishing regulations go to:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean>**

COASTAL PELAGIC SPECIES

Coastal pelagic species are defined here as northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens*).

Northern Anchovy (Image: NOAA Fisheries)



Pacific Sardine (Image: NOAA Fisheries)



Pacific Mackerel (Image: CDFW)



Jack Mackerel (Image: CDFW)



Market Squid (Image: CDFW)



PELAGIC FINFISH

Pelagic finfish are defined here as a subset of finfish defined as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyræna* spp.), billfishes* (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family Scombridae) including Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

Northern Anchovy (Image: NOAA Fisheries)



California Barracuda (Image: CDFW)



Striped Marlin (Image: CDFW)



Dolphinfish (Image: NOAA Fisheries)



Pacific Herring (Image: NOAA Fisheries)



Jack Mackerel (Image: CDFW)



Pacific Mackerel (Image: CDFW)



Chinook (King) Salmon (Image: CDFW)



Pacific Sardine (Image: NOAA Fisheries)



Blue Shark (Image: CDFW)



Salmon Shark (Image: Pelagic Shark Research Foundation)



Shortfin Mako Shark (Image: CDFW)



Common Thresher Shark (Image: CDFW)



Swordfish (Image: CDFW)



Bigeye Tuna (Image: CDFW)



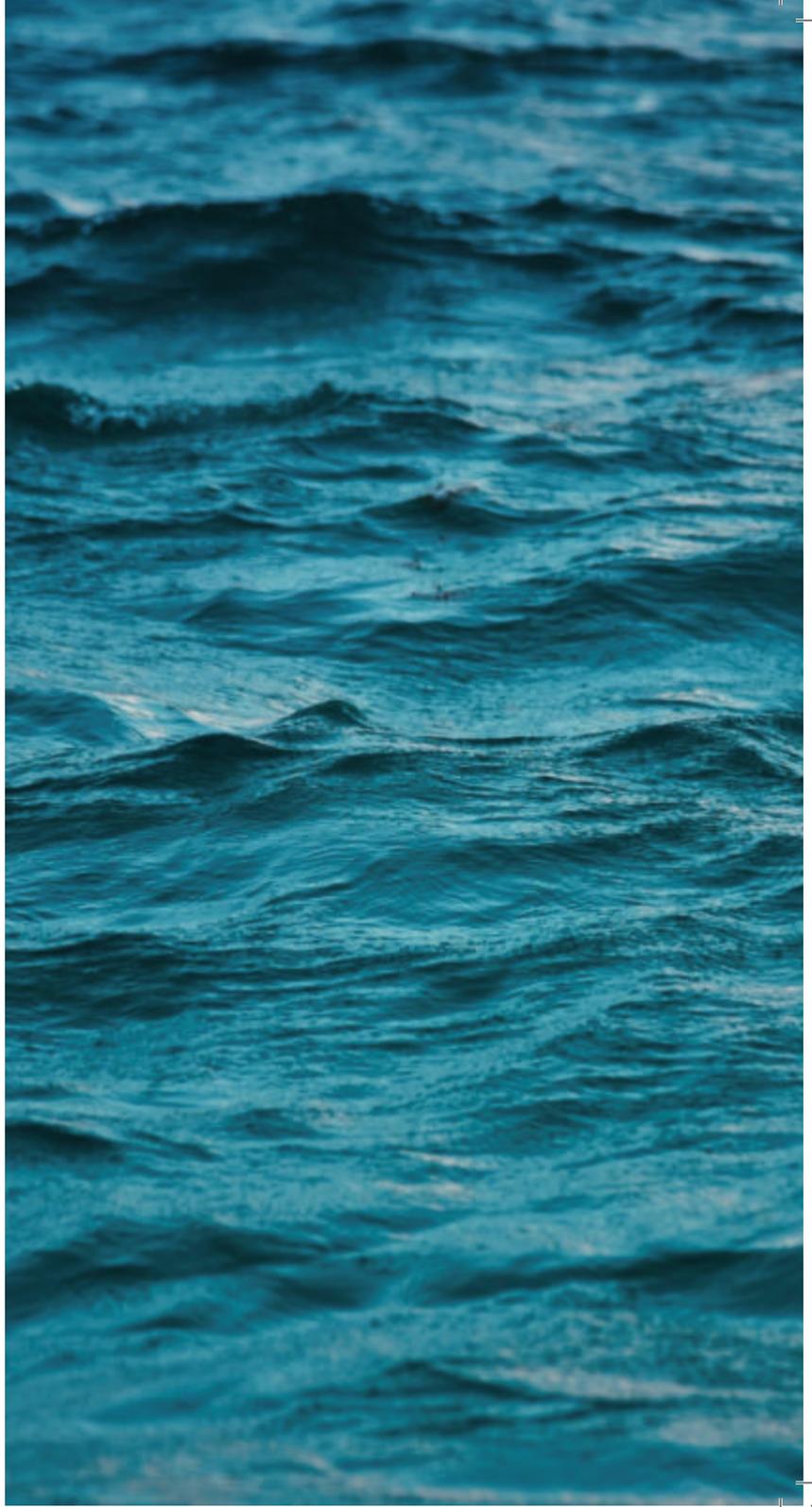
Pacific Bonito (Image: CDFW)



Yellowtail (Image: CDFW)



Outreach Tools



Orange County MPA Outreach Examples

Most resources can be found at www.californiampas.org or in the resource library at www.mpacollaborative.org

(1) Regulatory Signs: No Fishing/No Collecting



(2) Regulatory Signs: You Are Here



(3) Interpretive/Regulatory Signs - Good Tidepooler Rules/Estuary

CRESCENT BAY

LAGUNA BEACH
STATE MARINE RESERVE
This is a Marine Protected Area.



Absolutely No Collecting

Help preserve our Marine Protected Areas

-  Never remove animals, shells or rocks.
-  Never pick up animals... observe them where they are.
-  Walk gently, taking care not to step on plants or animals.
-  Never turn over rocks.

NO FISHING Scan the QR barcode for more information.

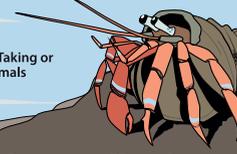
TO REPORT VIOLATIONS CALL 1-888-334-CALTIP or TEXT 847411
For detailed maps and regulations see: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs





Crystal Cove
State Marine Conservation Area

This beach is part of a Marine Protected Area. Taking or possessing tidepool animals is against the law.



Absolutely No Collecting

Help preserve our tidepools

-  Never remove animals, shells or rocks from the tidepools.
-  Never pick up animals... observe them where they are.
-  Walk gently, taking care not to step on plants or animals.
-  Never turn over rocks.

Tidepools Are Protected

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS CALL 1-888-334-CALTIP
For detailed maps and regulations see: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs or visit: www.ocmarineprotection.org
MPA questions or comments? Contact AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov





BOLSA BAY STATE MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

THIS IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE.



Absolutely No Collecting

Help protect sensitive habitats

-  Never remove animals, shells, rocks or artifacts.
-  No trespassing off trails or into closed areas.
-  No fishing in non-designated areas.
-  No boating, swimming, wading, or diving.

HABITAT IS PROTECTED

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS CALL 1-888-DFG-CALIP
For detailed maps and regulations see: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs




UPPER NEWPORT BAY STATE MARINE CONSERVATION AREA

THIS IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA AND ECOLOGICAL RESERVE.



Absolutely No Collecting

Help protect sensitive habitats

-  Never remove animals, shells, rocks or artifacts.
-  No trespassing off trails or into closed areas.
-  No swimming or boating in restricted areas.

HABITAT IS PROTECTED

TO REPORT VIOLATIONS CALL 1-888-DFW-CALIP (1-888-334-2316)
For detailed maps and regulations see: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs





(4) Interpretive Signs: Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

Marine Protected Areas Safeguard Our Ocean's Bounty

A statewide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) safeguards California's rich coastal resources. Situated in the largest remaining estuary in Southern California, Upper Newport Bay State Marine Conservation Area is a sanctuary to several endangered species, and a place for both people and wildlife to relax and refresh. Nearby, in the Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area, you can dive in forests of towering giant kelp, fish along the coastline, and explore rocky intertidal habitats rich with hundreds of marine species that are provided protection in the MPA.

California leads the nation and the world with its network of MPAs.

These MPAs—

- Have varying levels of protection
- Conserve marine habitats and diversity
- Allow marine life to thrive
- Make great places for education, research, and fun

California es líder en la nación y en el mundo con su red de Áreas Marinas Protegidas.

Estas Áreas Marinas Protegidas—

- Tienen diferentes niveles de protección
- Conservan la diversidad y hábitat marinos
- Permiten que la vida marina prospere
- Son excelentes lugares para la educación, la investigación y la diversión

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPA

MPA-related questions? Contact: MPA@wildlife.ca.gov

Report violations: (800) 334-CALIF (2000) 334-2238

MPAs – Good for the Ocean, Good for You!

(5) Harbor Signs: Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

California's marine protected areas (MPAs) conserve, restore, and improve the health of our ocean, similar to national parks and forests on land. The California MPA network includes MPAs and other protected areas. Each area is unique in its purpose and allowed uses.

Protected areas around Dana Point Harbor are:

- **Long Point and Upper Beach State Marine Reserves (SMR)**
No take, storage, entry, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resources is allowed.
No possession, purchase, sale, or take; no motor vessels, no prohibited alcohol.
- **Catalina Point, Blue Canyon Islands, Point Vicente, Bolsa Chica Banks, and Long Beach No-Take State Marine Conservation Areas (No-Take SMCA)**
Prohibit the take of living, geologic, and cultural marine resources.
In addition to those prohibitions, no collection, motor vessels, no prohibited alcohol.
- **Lower Point, Blue Canyon Offshore, Lower Point to Lower Head Point, Cal Harbor, Sanmarco Islands, Lower Point Offshore, Redondo Cove, Bolsa Chica, Upper Newport Bay, Crystal Cove, and Dana Point State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA)**
Allow recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources; may be allowed. In some MPA adjacent marine reserves, recreational gear collection is permitted.

MPAs – Good for the Ocean, Good for You! Know the Rules Before You Head Out.

For Ocean Fishing Laws and Regulations go to: www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Clubs

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPA

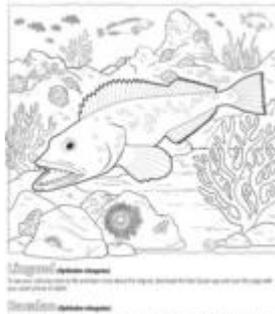
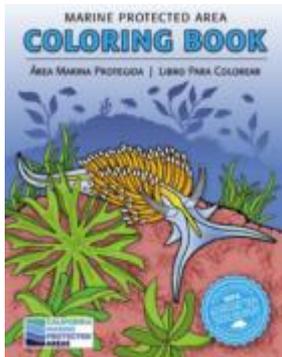
MPA-related questions? Contact: MPA@wildlife.ca.gov

MPAs – Good for the Ocean, Good for You!

(6) OCMPC Dog Signs



(7) Coloring Books: MPA Bilingual (Spanish and Traditional Chinese)



(8) Coloring Books: Ancestral Waters



(9) OCM PAC Tidepool Brochure

TIDEPOOLS ARE SENSITIVE HABITATS

The rocky intertidal zone is a portion of coastline that is periodically covered or exposed by daily tidal changes. This interface is a complex environment where species are well adapted to changing habitat conditions. Despite their ability to adapt, life here in the tidepools is susceptible to human impacts. Collecting, trampling, and harassment of these species has a dramatic impact on the survival of these special sea creatures and the preservation of this unique habitat.

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Most rocky intertidal habitats in Orange County are part of a network of Marine Protected Areas. These areas were designated by the State of California to protect the diversity and abundance of marine life, the habitats on which they depend, and the integrity of marine ecosystems.

TIDES

Caused by the gravitational pull of the moon and the sun, tides are very long-period waves that move through the ocean and progress toward the coastlines where they appear as the regular rise and fall of the sea surface. California experiences semi-diurnal tides, two high tides and two low tides a day. Check a local tide chart to see the predictions of tides. The best time to go tidepooling is in the daytime during minus tides.



SPECIES PHOTO CREDITS: Kant Treptow, Grant Grzecka ©Joel Sartore/National Geographic Photo Ark, Kim Tice



REPORT POACHERS AND POLLUTERS TO CALTIP

Contact California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Turn In Poachers hotline
24/7 and confidential

1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)
www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs



WWW.OCMARINEPROTECTION.ORG

Guide to TIDEPOOL EXPLORATION IN ORANGE COUNTY MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



shore crab, *Pachygrapsus crassipes*

Taking a low impact approach to observing, conserving, and protecting our intertidal environment.



Level 1 BEGINNER TIDEPOOLER



Level 2 INTERMEDIATE NATURALIST



Level 3 EXPERT EXPLORER



(11) CMSF Fishing and MPAs Brochure



To protect, maintain, enhance and restore California's marine ecosystems for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public through good science and effective communication.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Marine Region

Image above: Dana Point coastline (Neil Kremer)
below: seabirds (Tracie Hall)



(949) 723-1002 (Harbor Patrol)
Dana Point Harbor
(949) 723-1004 (Harbor Patrol) or
www.danapointharbor.com

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information:
www.wildlife.ca.gov

For boundaries and regulations, go to:
www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/MPA

Help stop poaching & polluting, call:
1-888-334-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)

Report lost fishing gear:
1-888-491-GEAR (4237)
or
www.lostfishinggear.org

Learn more about clean boating at:
www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com
415-904-6905

Help protect Seabirds!
For tips and info on special closures, visit:
www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting California Marine Sanctuary Foundation 831-647-4209 or CMSF@CaliforniaMSF.org



Cover: left (Bart Selby); top and bottom right (Brian Gratwicke); middle: Steve Lohhart

A Guide to Fishing and Marine Protected Areas Orange County



Laguna Beach and Long Point State Marine Reserves

Point Vicente, Bolsa Chica Basin, Laguna Beach, Casino Point, and Blue Cavern Onshore No-Take State Marine Conservation Areas

Abalone Cove, Bolsa Bay, Upper Newport Bay, Crystal Cove, Dana Point, Lover's Cove, Blue Cavern Offshore, Arrow Point to Lion Head Point, Cat Harbor, Farnsworth Onshore, and Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Areas

Fishing and California's Marine Protected Areas

What are Marine Protected Areas?
Marine protected areas (MPAs) are special designated underwater areas, similar to the nation's parks, forests and wilderness areas on land, that prohibit or limit the take of marine resources.

Why does California need MPAs?
MPAs are recognized tools for protecting, enhancing and restoring marine life. MPAs foster healthy habitats and natural diversity, safeguarding the ocean's bounty for the economic and recreational opportunities of future generations.

How many MPAs are in California?
California was the first state in the nation to establish a statewide network of MPAs. There are now 124 MPAs from the border of Oregon down to the border of Mexico. The MPA network protects a variety of key habitats by linking MPAs along the coast.

Photo credit: top left (Tessa Bronner), top right (NOAA/NOS); middle: center (Bart Selby)

Is Fishing Allowed in MPAs?
Fishing and the take of marine life such as shellfish or seaweed is not allowed in marine reserves and no-take marine conservation areas, which make up about half of California's marine protected areas. An inset map of local MPAs with their regulations is provided in this brochure.



Is Anchoring and Transit Allowed in MPAs?
Boats are allowed to anchor and transit through an MPA, however, fishing gear may not be deployed when in marine reserves or other MPAs that prohibit fishing for the species you have onboard. For additional information, scan the QR code on the right to visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's website.

MPAs - Good for the Ocean; Good for You! Know the Rules Before You Head Out.
For Ocean Fishing Laws & Regulations, go to: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/regulations.asp

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA/MPA_summary.asp

Recreational & Commercial Fishing Information: Phone: 831-649-2870 website: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishing

MPA Mobile Website



Regulations
This document is provided as a courtesy, and does not replace the official laws and regulations found in the California Fish and Game Code or the California Code of Regulation Title 14.

- A fishing license is required for any fishing.
- All existing take regulations still apply in addition to the ones listed on the next page.
- Unless otherwise stated, all non-consumptive recreational activities are allowed.
- "Take" means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill fish, mollusks, or crustaceans or attempting to do so.



kelp bass (Steve Lohhart)



black rockfish (Chad King)



kayaking (Claire Fackler)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



California spiny lobster (Claire Fackler)



California sheephead (Ed Bierman)

(12) CDFW Southern California MPAs Brochure

What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are marine or estuarine waters set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and its associated habitat. MPAs have varying levels of protections and allowed activities, with special regulations in addition to general fishing regulations.

Types of MPAs

California uses three main MPA classifications: State Marine Reserve (SMR), State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), and State Marine Park (SMP). No SMPs exist in Southern California, however this region does include two special closures.

Southern California MPAs

Major revisions and additions to Southern California MPAs went into effect on January 1, 2012. The 50 MPAs encompass close to 355 square miles (just over 15 percent) of state waters in the Southern California region. Of those, about 275 square miles are designated as "no-take" SMCA's and SMR's. Southern California MPAs are part of a statewide network of MPAs that extends all along the California coastline.

Fishing may be restricted, but what other activities are permitted in an MPA?

Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities such as diving, surfing, swimming and boating are allowed within MPAs, as long as take restrictions are followed. General fishing regulations may be found online at wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportRegs. It's a good idea to review the regulations before visiting an MPA.

For more information, visit wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs, email AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov, or visit one of the following Southern California CDFW offices:

Santa Barbara
1933 Cliff Drive, Suite 9

San Diego
3883 Ruffin Road

In 1999, California's Marine Life Protection Act was passed into law with a clear mandate: to re-evaluate all existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and potentially design new MPAs with input from a broad array of stakeholders. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife was integral to this effort. The MPAs in this brochure were designed, in part, to:

- Protect and sustain marine life, habitats and ecosystems
- Provide opportunities to learn from and enjoy marine areas subject to reduced human disturbance

For more information, visit the California Marine Protected Area website at wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

For general fishing regulations that are in effect in addition to MPA regulations, visit wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportRegs

Help stop poaching and polluting.
Call CallTIP!
1-888-334-CallTIP
(1-888-334-2258)

Sustainable Fish and Wildlife Resources

MPA Mobile Website

California Marine Protected Areas

Southern California: Point Conception to California-Mexico Border

CDFW photo

MPA Mobile Website

Coastline near Santa Barbara
Photo by D. Smith

Alternate communication formats of this document are available upon request. If reasonable accommodation is needed, call CDFW at (916) 221-4071 / California Relay Service for the deaf or hearing-impaired from TDD phones: (800) 735-2699

CDFW Marine Region 12 MPA Brochure | M. Pappas, Director | 6 May 2012

Southern California Marine Protected Areas

California's coast and ocean are among our most treasured resources. The productivity, wildness, and beauty found here is central to California's identity, heritage, and economy. Southern California marine protected areas (MPAs) were designed by local stakeholders with guidance and feedback from scientists, managing agencies, experts, policymakers, and the general public, to achieve the goals set forth in California's Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). MPAs conserve biological diversity and protect a variety of marine habitats, communities, and ecosystems for their intrinsic value, while allowing for some human use of marine resources under recreational and/or commercial fishing regulations. By protecting sensitive ocean and coastal habitat, marine life flourishes and, in turn, creates a healthier system overall.

Southern California's Marine Protected Areas

California uses a combination of protected areas with varying levels of protection and allowed activities to meet MLPA conservation and natural heritage goals:

State Marine Reserve (SMR): An MPA where injury, damage, take, or possession of any living, geological, or cultural marine resource is prohibited.

No-Take State Marine Conservation Area (No-Take SMCA): An MPA where injury, damage, take, or possession of any living, geological, or cultural marine resource is prohibited, EXCEPT for take incidental to permitted activities such as infrastructure maintenance, sand renourishment, etc.

State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA): An MPA where injury, damage, take, or possession of any living, geological, or cultural marine resource is prohibited EXCEPT for species expressly allowed for recreational and/or commercial take (species and gear exceptions vary by location).

Special Closure: An area that prohibits or restricts access and/or boating activities in waters adjacent to sea bird nesting or marine mammal haulout sites. May overlap other marine protected areas.

MPA Marine Life and Habitats

The Southern California MPA network spans the ocean waters relatively close to shore within the California Bight, from Point Conception to the California-Mexico border. In this area, cold, temperate waters from the north mix with warmer waters from the south, forming a complex system of currents and environmental conditions. Habitats and marine life are amazingly diverse here. Southern California MPAs include a variety of habitat types, from sandy beaches to rocky reefs to deep submarine canyons. Some MPAs include kelp forests that provide shelter and hunting grounds for fish such as basses, sheephead and seaperch; others encompass tidal estuaries or lagoons that serve as nursery areas for young fish, crab, and shrimp. Some MPAs are located miles offshore, in the state and federal waters surrounding islands. MPAs allow for more natural interactions between popular, heavily-fished species and species that fishermen normally don't target. In total, this area is home to 481 species of fish, four species of sea turtles, 195 species of birds, seven species of seals and sea lions, and more than 5,000 species of invertebrates.

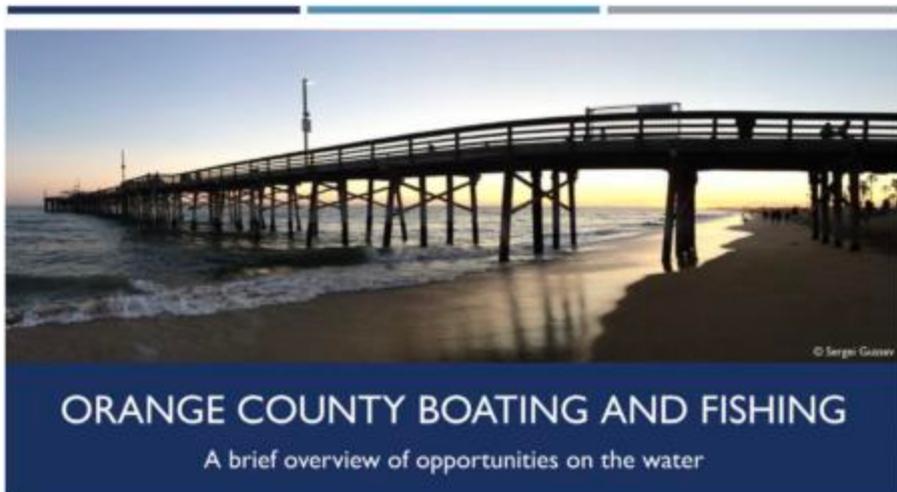
More Information

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife maintains several websites with extensive information about Southern California MPAs:

- California MPA website: wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- Mobile-device friendly sport fishing and MPA website: wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportFishMag

Questions? Email AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

(13) Presentations: OC Fishing Presentation



(12) Presentations: OC Interpreters Presentation



(14) Trainings: Online MPA Educator Training

MARINE PROTECTED AREA ONLINE TRAINING

Take a deep dive into California's network of marine protected areas (MPAs) with this FREE online course.



www.MPACOLLABORATIVE.ORG



ONLINE TRAINING SERIES INCLUDES

- Overview of California's MPAs
- Three Regional Deep Dives
 - North Coast
 - Central Coast
 - South Coast
- Compliance Guide for Educators

FEATURES

- Voiceovers
- Videos
- Key Themes
- Quizzes
- Additional Resources

GREAT FOR

- Field Educators
- Docents
- Interpreters
- Volunteers
- Students
- Ocean Enthusiasts

TAKE THE COURSE

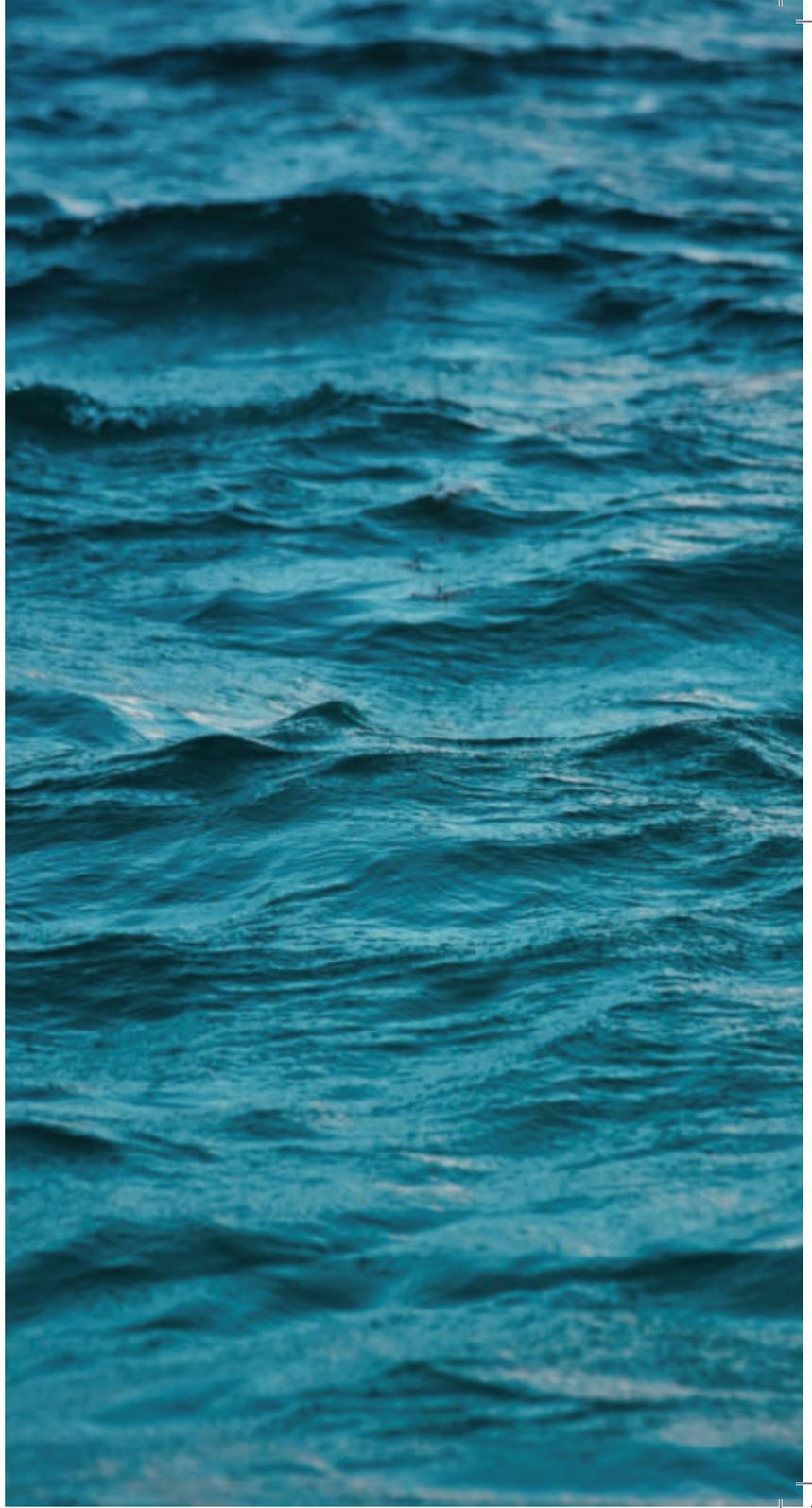
<https://mpacollaborativenetwork.thinkific.com/>



Special thanks to:



Get Involved



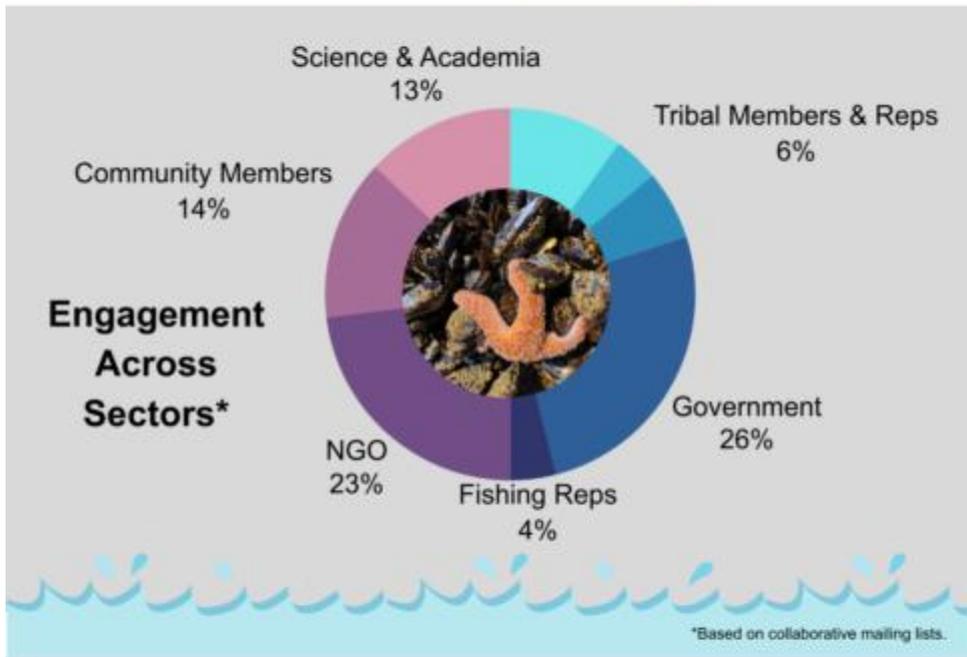
MPA COLLABORATIVE NETWORK OVERVIEW

14 collaboratives

450+ distinct affiliations

1,700+ volunteer members

100% staff time dedicated to MPA management



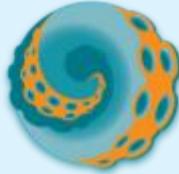
\$20 million

estimated annual in-kind support to MPA management



\$1.5 million

in grant funding for local MPA projects procured and facilitated



OCMPAC
ORANGE COUNTY MARINE
PROTECTED AREA COUNCIL

The Orange County Marine Protected Area Council (OCMPAC) is one of 14 Collaboratives in the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Collaborative Network, an organization with the mission to empower coastal communities to advance MPA management and encourage ocean stewardship.

Learn more at:
mpacollaborative.org/oc/



SCAN ME



MPA
COLLABORATIVE
NETWORK

ORANGE COUNTY MARINE PROTECTED AREA COUNCIL (OCMPAC)

The Orange County Marine Protected Area Council (OCMPAC) is the original of what has grown to fourteen Marine Protected Area Collaboratives statewide. OCMPAC aims to achieve its vision of thriving Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and marine and coastal ecosystems throughout Orange County through collaborative efforts in local management, research, and community stewardship for MPAs. One of OCMPAC's core functions is to provide a platform for participating organizations to incubate ideas, share information, seek resources and increase their capacity for implementing projects related to MPA outreach, research, and compliance.



OCMPAC
ORANGE COUNTY MARINE
PROTECTED AREA COUNCIL

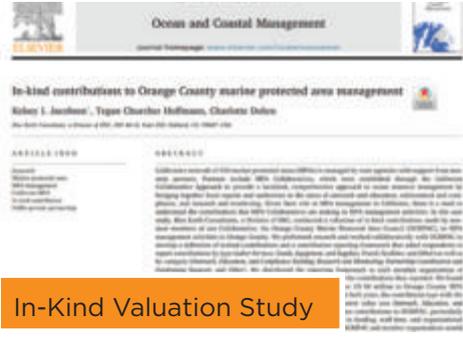
OCMPAC Participants and Members

- Amigos de Bolsa Chica
- Beach Ecology Coalition
- Bolsa Chica Land Trust
- California Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California Fisheries Coalition
- California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
- California Polytechnic State University, Pomona
- California Sea Urchin Commission
- California State Parks
- California State University, Fullerton
- City of Dana Point
- City of Laguna Beach
- City of Newport Beach
- Coastal Conservation Association California
- County of Orange
- Crystal Cove Conservancy
- Dana Wharf Sportfishing and Whale Watching
- Davey's Locker Sportfishing
- Derek Tarr Photography
- Laguna Ocean Foundation
- MBC Aquatic Sciences
- MPA Collaborative Network
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Newport Beach Police Department
- OC Habitats
- Ocean Institute
- Oceanside Anglers Club
- OneOC
- Orange Coast College
- Orange County Coastkeeper
- Orange County Parks
- Orange County Sheriff's Department
- Other Individual/Community Member
- Pacific Marine Mammal Center
- Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples
- San Diego Council of Divers
- Santa Ana College
- University of California, Irvine
- Venture Pacific Insurance Services
- Watermen's Alliance

ORANGE COUNTY MARINE PROTECTED AREA COUNCIL (OCMPAC) ACCOMPLISHMENTS



Docent Trainings



In-Kind Valuation Study



Outreach Events



Research Symposium

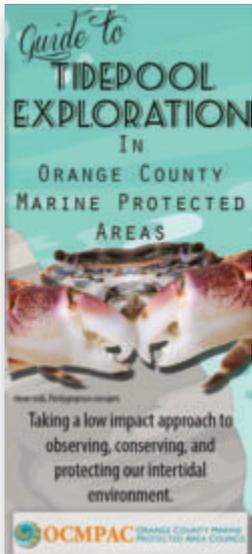


Countywide Signage

Creation and Distribution of Regulatory and Interpretive Brochures



Community-vetted Translations and Lessons Learned





Our mission is to preserve and protect Orange County's coastal resources through ongoing improvements in research, monitoring, education, outreach, and enforcement.

The Orange County Marine Protected Area Council (OCMPAC)

is a collaboration of city, county, and state officials, academic faculty, nonprofit organizations, and community members who share an interest in protecting and increasing awareness of Orange County's Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and other coastal marine resources.

Our History & Past Achievements

OCMPAC was founded in 1999 in response to concerns that Orange County coastal ecosystems, located on the traditional lands and waters of the Acjachemen and Tongva Tribal Nations, were in need of improved and coordinated management. Since then, OCMPAC has become a statewide model for MPA-related collaboration between stakeholders.

Together, we have helped to standardize and facilitate communication about MPAs across Orange County. This has included installing interpretive signs, developing a county-wide tidepool docent training program, assembling and communicating results of coastal marine research, developing community-wide science projects to monitor vulnerable species, and participating at the statewide level to uphold the aims of the Marine Life Protection Act.



Our Committees

Research

Provides a platform for scientists across Orange County to collaborate on research, monitoring, and outreach efforts.

Education

Coordinates county-wide outreach and education about MPAs, including an annual tidepool docent training and interpretive materials.

Enforcement

Provides MPA-related training for resource officers and creates a platform for cross-agency exchange of information across Orange County.

Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Focuses on decreasing barriers to coastal access and incorporating social and environmental justice into OCMPAC's work.



Why Get Involved?

OCMPAC provides a platform for community members to have a voice in protecting and managing Orange County's marine resources. Participation and membership are free.

By getting involved, you have the opportunity to...

Meet and network with Orange County professionals working in marine research, ocean education, and natural resource management.

Give input on collaborative activities that affect Orange County's Marine Protected Areas.

Participate in countywide programs to increase awareness of Orange County's Marine Protected Areas and other coastal marine resources, such as research symposia, annual docent workshops, and community science initiatives.

Get access to the statewide network of MPA collaboratives, which share knowledge and resources between stakeholders across California.

How to Get Involved

Sign up for the mailing list
Information about general meetings, workshops, and other opportunities are sent out through OCMPAC's email list. Visit our website to sign up.

Attend a general meeting
Anyone is welcome to attend OCMPAC's general meetings to network and find out more about the organization and our current efforts.

Join a committee
If you are interested in a particular part of OCMPAC's work, the committees may be the place for you! Anyone (even non-OCMPAC members) can volunteer to join a committee or attend meetings to get involved in its work.

Become a member
If you are interested in getting more involved in our work, consider becoming a voting member of OCMPAC.



Memberships

Both organizations and individuals are eligible to become voting members of OCMPAC. To become a member, you must attend at least two OCMPAC general meetings in a year and then submit a membership commitment form to the leadership team.

Everyone (not just members) is welcome to attend OCMPAC meetings and events.

For more information or to get involved, please visit
<https://www.mpacollaborative.org/oc/>

MPA Watch

Community Science for Stewardship
of Ocean Resources

Program Description

Marine Protected Area (MPA) Watch is a network of programs that support healthy oceans through community science by collecting human use data in and around our protected areas.

What data are collected and how?

Volunteers are trained to walk predetermined routes on the beach and record observations on an MPA Watch datasheet.

Types of activities recorded include:

Onshore Activities

- Beach Recreation
- Tidepooling
- Shore-Based Fishing

Boating

- Boat Fishing
- Kayaks
- Party Boats



Offshore Activities

- Surfing
- Stand Up Paddle Boards
- SCUBA/Snorkeling

Other Activities

- Potential Violations
- Education
- Enforcement

Who uses the data and results?

Potential users of MPA Watch data include:

- Resource Managers
- Local Communities
- Academia

MPA Watch currently engages with:

- CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
- California State Parks
- California MPA Collaborative Network

Data Reports

Annual reports are available by county on the MPA Watch website. Customized reports may be available by contacting any of the local managers listed on the MPA Watch website.



MPA Watch Core Tally Sheet

Name(s):		Date: ___/___/___	Transect ID:
Start Time:	End Time:	Clouds: clear (0%)/ partly cloudy (1-50%)/ cloudy (>50%cover)	Precipitation: yes / no
Air Temperature: cold / cool / mild / warm / hot		Wind: calm / breezy / windy	Tide Level: low / med / high
Visibility: perfect / limited / shore only		Beach Status: open / posted / closed / unknown	

On-Shore Activities	Rocky	Sandy
Recreation (walking, resting, playing, etc. NOT tidepooling)		
Wildlife Watching		
Domestic animals on-leash		
Domestic animals off-leash		
Driving on the Beach		
Tide-pooling (not collecting)		
Collecting (things that are alive or were alive, e.g. shells)		
Shore-based hook and line fishing		
Shore-based trap fishing		
Shore-based net fishing		
Shore-based spear fishing		

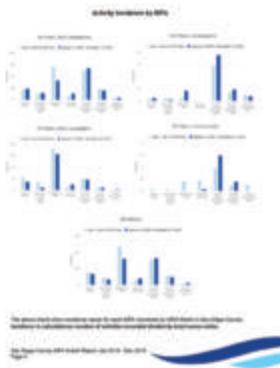
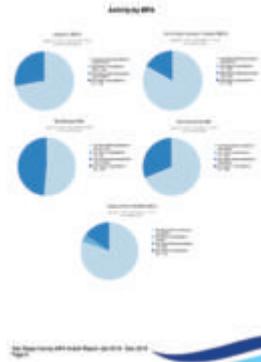
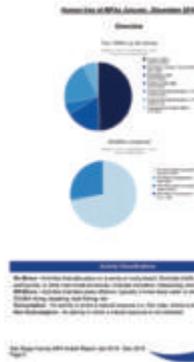
Off-Shore Activities (Non-Boating)	
Offshore Recreation (e.g., swimming, bodysurfing)	
Board Sports (e.g., boogie boarding, surfing)	
Stand-Up Paddle Boarding (alternatively can tally in paddle operated boat below)	
Non-Consumptive SCUBA and snorkeling	
Spear Fishing (free diving or SCUBA)	
Other Consumptive Diving (e.g., nets, poles, traps)	

Boating	Recreational		Commercial		Unknown	
	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Active	Inactive	Active
Boat Fishing - Traps						
Boat Fishing - Line						
Boat Fishing - nets						
Boat Fishing - Dive						
Boat Fishing - Spear						
Boat Kelp Harvesting						
Unknown Fishing Boat						
Kayak/Canoe/Dinghy (can separately tally stand-up paddle boarding above under board sports)						
Dive Boat (stationary - flag up)						
Whale Watching Boat						
Work Boat (e.g., life-guard, DFW, research, coast guard)						
Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessel (5+ people)						
Other Boating (e.g., powerboat, sail boat, jet ski)						

Comments
Did you observe: <input type="checkbox"/> scientific research; <input type="checkbox"/> education; <input type="checkbox"/> beach closure; <input type="checkbox"/> large gatherings (e.g., beach cleanup); <input type="checkbox"/> enforcement activity
Describe below and provide counts of individuals involved where possible, and whether it took place on rocky or sandy substrate.
Did you report a violation: <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no If yes, how many violations did you report _____
Who did you report the violation to (mark all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> DFW <input type="checkbox"/> State Parks <input type="checkbox"/> other entity (e.g., lifeguard, harbor patrol)
Which method did you use to report your violation (mark all that apply): <input type="checkbox"/> phone call <input type="checkbox"/> text <input type="checkbox"/> mobile app <input type="checkbox"/> website <input type="checkbox"/> email <input type="checkbox"/> in person

MPA Watch Reports

Human Use of Marine Protected Areas



Reports Include:

- Information on all on-shore, off-shore, non-consumptive, and consumptive activities observed in MPAs
- Breakdown of trends in use by MPA
- Hotspots and trends for potential violations

REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE
by visiting mpawatch.org

or by contacting any manager listed on mpawatch.org/get-involved

CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS AND SOURCES OF INFORMATION

California Department of Fish and Wildlife:
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs>
<https://wildlife.ca.gov/regulations>

California Marine Sanctuary Foundation:
<https://californiampas.org/>

Westlaw:<https://govt.westlaw.com/calregs/>

Green Info Network: <https://www.greeninfo.org/>

MDJ Surveys, professional land survey license #9474:
michaeldjames37@gmail.com

Google Earth: earth.google.com

Calla Allison, MPA Collaborative Network:
calla@mpacollaborative.org

NOAA Fisheries: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/>

WILDCOAST: <https://wildcoast.org/>

Bolsa Chica Conservancy: <https://bolsachica.org/>

Tribal information:

MPA Statewide Leadership Team Tribal Representatives:
<https://www.opc.ca.gov/programs-summary/marine-protected-areas/partnerships/>

Angela Mooney D'Arcy and Tina Calderon, Sacred Places Institute for Indigenous Peoples: <http://www.sacredplacesinstitute.org/>

Credit: © 2023 Tima Lotah Link, Šmuwi Chumash

Science Direct:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964569119301206#fn34>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0964569119301206#fn34>

Sea Grant California:

<https://caseagrants.ucsd.edu/extension-outreach/facts-and-resources/marine-protected-areas/research-monitoring>

MPA Watch: <https://mpawatch.org/>

Pocket Guide to Beach Birds of California:

<https://pdf4pro.com/amp/view/pocket-guide-to-beach-birds-of-california-5bf3fb.html>

California grunion information: <http://www.grunion.org/>

Respect Wildlife: <https://www.respect-wildlife.org/>

California Fish and Game Commission:

https://fgc.ca.gov/Regulations/Current/Mammals#251_1

Cornell Law School: <https://www.law.cornell.edu/>

West Coast Marine Mammal Stranding Network:

<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/west-coast/marine-mammal-protection/west-coast-marine-mammal-stranding-network>

MPA Collaborative Network: <https://www.mpacollaborative.org/>

OC County Sheriffs: <https://www.ocsheriff.gov/>

Newport Beach Police Department: <https://www.nbpd.org/>

California Division of Boating and Waterways:

<http://www.dbw.ca.gov/BoatingFacilities/Details/108>

California State Parks: parks.ca.gov

City of Laguna Beach: <https://www.lagunabeachcity.net/>

City of Dana Point: <https://www.danapoint.org/>

Orange County Parks: <https://ocparks.com/>

OC Lifeguards: <http://www.oclifeguards.org/>



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND®
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS. LASTING RESULTS.



OCEAN
PROTECTION
COUNCIL

These materials and training made possible through funding provided by the Once-Through Cooling program of Resources Legacy Fund, on behalf of the Once-Through Cooling Interim Mitigation Program of the Ocean Protection Council