



Marine Protected Areas

Conserve key marine life and habitats

Preserve natural diversity

Help rebuild depleted populations

Protect geologic features and cultural areas

Support research and education

Offer recreational and economic opportunities

Image above: harbor seal (Steve Lonhart)
below: striped shore crab (Jerry Kirkhart)



California State Parks
Monterey District: 831-649-2836
711, TTY Relay Service
www.parks.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information:
www.wildlife.ca.gov

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

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

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

Marine Mammal Center:
415-289-7325; rescue@tmmc.org

- Tidepool Etiquette:**
- Never remove animals, shells, seaweed, plants, or rocks from tidepools.
 - Look, but don't touch.
 - Walk carefully, take care not to step on plants or animals.
 - Stay at least 300 feet away from all marine mammals - for your safety and theirs.

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
CMSF@CaliforniaMSF.org



Cover: southern sea otter (Jerry Kirkhart)

Monterey Peninsula Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area
Lovers Point-Julia Platt State Marine Reserve
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area
Asilomar State Marine Reserve



Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

From rocky shores to the depths of Monterey Canyon



California Is Making a Difference

by creating a statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs). Marine protected areas are underwater places designed to protect key habitats and species by prohibiting or restricting the take of marine life. Just as the nation's parks, forests, and wilderness areas protect special places on land, California's state and federal MPAs safeguard our underwater wildlife, restore marine ecosystems, and preserve critical coastal habitats that allow sensitive marine communities to recover and thrive. California's State MPAs and National Marine Sanctuaries help ensure the ocean's bounty remain for future generations to enjoy. The California MPA network includes the many different types of habitats found along our coast, from sheltered estuaries and lush kelp forests to steep underwater canyons.

Image above left: giant green anemone (Jerry Loomis)
above right: leopard shark (Chad King)

Monterey Peninsula MPAs

A series of small marine protected areas lining the rocky intertidal and sandy beaches of Monterey Peninsula teem with marine life. Located next to the cities of Monterey and Pacific Grove, these MPAs are some of the most heavily used and most accessible nearshore areas along the central coast. Widespread tidepools abound with hardy organisms such as mussels, sea stars, and sea urchins, species which can tolerate the harsh conditions of life on the edge of the sea.

Amazing Marine Life

- Organisms seen at low tide include abalone, anemones, brown seaweed, chitons, crabs, green algae, limpets, mussels, nudibranchs, sculpin, sea lettuce, sea stars, sea urchins, shrimp and snails.
- Marine mammals such as sea otters, sea lions and harbor seals, rest on rocky shores.

- Kelp fronds sway in the swell and offer refuge for rockfish and other fishes. Here, these long-lived species can grow old enough to reproduce and replenish depleted populations.

Ecotourism

The amazing marine life of the Monterey Peninsula draws thousands of visitors each year to fish, dive, hike, whale watch and kayak. You can help protect MPAs by knowing and obeying the regulations for the area you are visiting.

Scientific Research

With pre-eminent research institutions such as Hopkins Marine Station (one of the first in the U.S.) close by, the rocky intertidal and kelp forest communities of the Monterey Peninsula provide natural laboratories for research. Inside these MPAs, crucial questions are being addressed to help us understand how to preserve these precious areas.



bat star (Chad King)



brown pelican (Jerry Kirkhart)



diver silhouette (Jerry Loomis)



kayaking (Claire Fackler)



research (Steve Lonhart)



mussel (Josh Pederson)

California Marine Protected Areas

The California statewide MPA network includes different designations that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations and regulations in this area are:

MPA	Allowed Uses
Lovers Point-Julia Platt and Asilomar SMRs	No take, damage, injury, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.

MPA	Allowed Uses
Edward F. Ricketts SMCA	It is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any living, geological or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, EXCEPT: Recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line only is allowed. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand is allowed.
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA	Recreational take of finfish is allowed. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand is allowed.



Monterey Peninsula Marine Protected Areas

**MPAs - Good for the Ocean;
Good for You!
Know the Rules Before
You Head Out.**

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

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

Report Violations:
(888) 334-CalTIP (2258)

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 Regulations Title 14.

- A fishing license is required for any fishing.
- All existing take regulations still apply in addition to the ones listed above.
- 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.

