



## 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: Point Lobos (Jay Spooner)  
below: hermit crab (Jerry Kirkhart)



### California State Parks

Monterey District: 831-649-2836

711, TTY Relay Service

[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

### Point Lobos State Natural Reserve

831-624-4909

### California Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

For boundaries and regulations, go to:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)

### Help stop poaching and polluting, call:

1-888-334-CalTIP (1-888-334-2258)

### Help protect Seabirds:

For tips and info on special closures, visit:

[www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org](http://www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org)

### Marine Mammal Center:

415-289-7325; [rescue@tmcc.org](mailto:rescue@tmcc.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](mailto:CMSF@CaliforniaMSF.org)



Cover: southern sea otters (Jerry Kirkhart)

# Point Lobos Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area  
and State Marine Reserve

Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve  
Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area



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 our 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.

## Point Lobos: The Greatest Meeting of Land and Water

Point Lobos, a crown jewel for California, teems with life. Its hiking trails offer vistas of sea-splashed cliffs, windswept Monterey cypress trees, and lush kelp beds where endangered sea otters frolic. Sleek harbor seals rest and give birth on the cove's small beach. Sea lions congregate on rocks offshore. The place is so spectacular both above and below the water line that the state of California prohibits removal of any natural resources on land or in the water.

## Amazing Diversity of Life

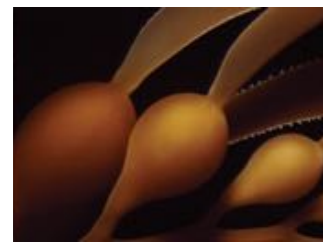
- Many species of fish live in the rocky tidepools, kelp forests, sandy bottoms and deep canyons off Point Lobos. Cabezon, vermilion rockfish and blue rockfish hide among the kelp, while mola mola may be found basking on the surface offshore. Goby and sculpin can be found darting amongst the tidepools.

- Marine mammals such as sea otters, sea lions and harbor seals find shelter along the shore.
- Invertebrates such as abalone are slowly rebounding with protection.
- Over 300 species of birds can be found benefitting from the abundance of food and habitat afforded by protected land and seas.

## Recognized Throughout History

Point Lobos has long been cherished. Native Rumsien harvested fish and shellfish long before European explorers arrived. From the 1850s to the 1930s, Point Lobos played host to a number of industries: fishing, whaling, a granite quarry, a coal port and a large abalone fishing operation. Today the area is recognized by nature enthusiasts who hike, photograph, kayak, SCUBA dive, snorkel and enjoy a "look but do NOT disturb" approach to wildlife.

Image above left: giant green anemone (Jerry Kirkhart)  
above right: diver silhouette (Jerry Loomis)



Hopkins' rose nudibranch  
(Jerry Loomis)

harbor seal (Steve Lonhart)

strawberry anemone (Jerry Loomis)

giant kelp (Jerry Loomis)

cooper rockfish (Chad King)

brown pelican (Jerry Kirkhart)

## California Marine Protected Areas

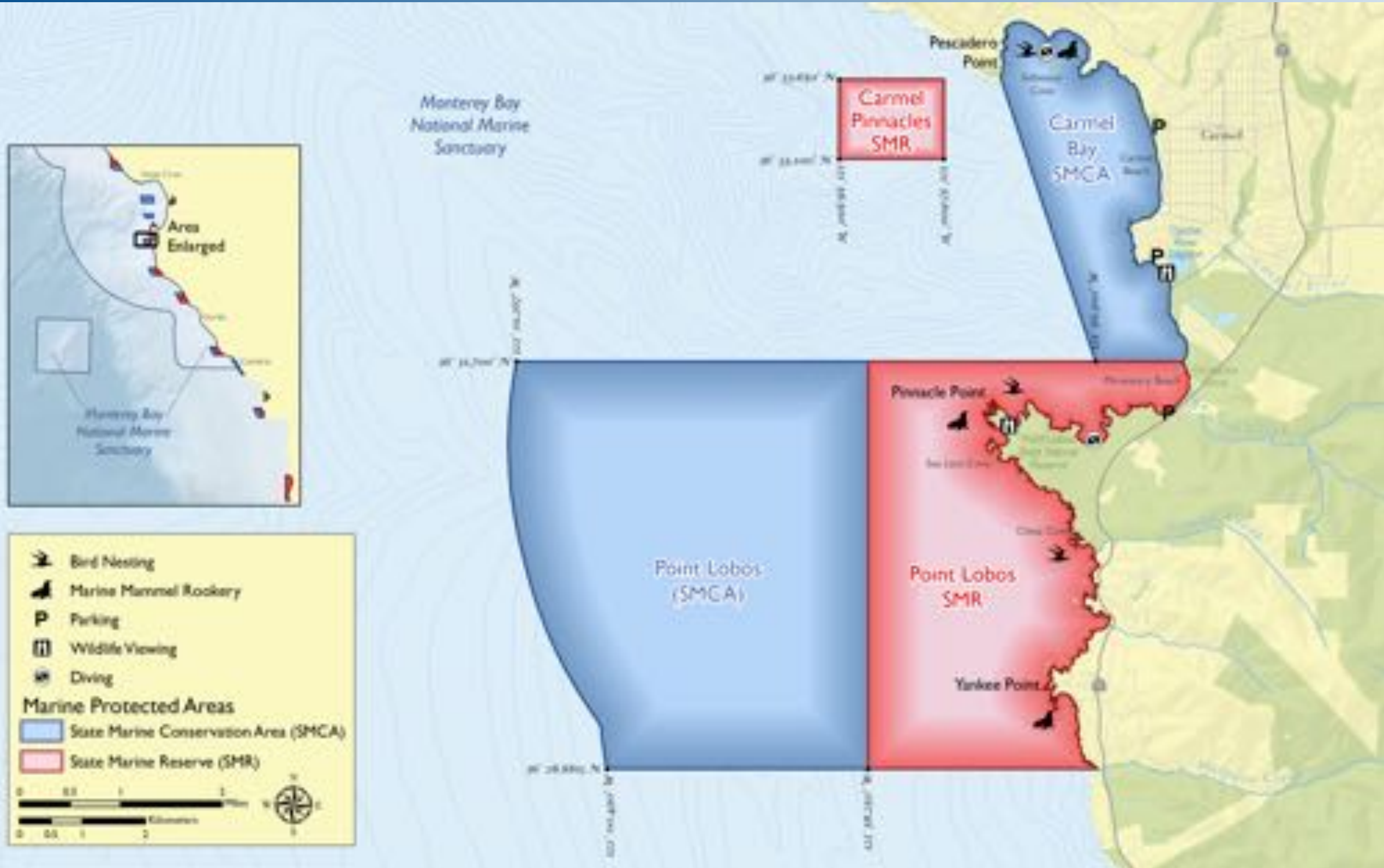
The California statewide MPA network includes different designations that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations and regulations in this area are:

MPA	Allowed Uses
Carmel Pinnacles and Point Lobos SMRs	No take, damage, injury, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.

MPA	Allowed Uses
Point Lobos 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 and commercial take of salmon and albacore is allowed. Commercial take of spot prawn is allowed.
Carmel Bay SMCA	Recreational take of finfish is allowed. Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand is allowed.



## Point Lobos 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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)

MPA-related questions?  
Contact [AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto: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.