

### California State Parks

Regional Office: 650-726-8819 711, TTY RELAY SERVICE www.parks.ca.gov

**Año Nuevo State Reserve** 650-879-0227

# California Department of Fish and Game

For more information: www.dfg.ca.gov

For boundaries and regulations, go to: www.dfg.ca.gov/MLPA

Help stop poaching and polluting: 1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)

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# Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area



Cover: humpback whale (Don Gillies/John Kuizenga)

# from sandy beaches to deep offshore waters



# 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 MPAs protect unique areas in the ocean. 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: red sea star (Chad King) above right: Pacific white-sided dolphin (Chad King)

# The rich biodiversity area around **Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock**

is home to more than 300 species of invertebrates as well as numerous fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. MPAs here support thriving species while also helping to restore endangered or threatened marine life.

## **Amazing Sea Life**

Giant kelp creates underwater forests for crabs, colorful nudibranchs, a variety of fishes, and abalone. Because the harvest of marine life is limited, the waters around Año Nuevo are teeming with life. White sharks, whales and dolphins are also common visitors.

### **Bountiful Bird Life**

An extraordinary diversity of resident and migratory birds feast among the tidepools, beaches, and shallows here including black oystercatchers, turnstones, godwits, willets, plovers, pipits, and at least six

species of gulls. Brown pelicans, marbled murrelets, and other diving birds gorge themselves on schools of bait fishes. On the protected rocky islets, thousands of seabirds breed without disturbance.

### Scientific Research

Pristine areas provide unique opportunities for scientific study. At Año Nuevo, scientists discovered the fossilized remains of a 15-million-year-old baleen whale and are unraveling mysteries of how sharks interact with populations of elephant seals.

### **Native People**

For thousands of years, the Ohlone tribe used Año Nuevo as a source of food. tools, shells, decorations, and tradable goods. Former kitchens, now giant shell middens, lie buried beneath the elephant seal harem. For centuries, this coastline was a thriving commercial and economic center due to the bounty of the ocean.



Hopkins' rose nudibranch (Jerry Loomis)



nudibranch (Ken Bondy)



brown pelican (Jerry Kirkhart)





striped shore crab (Jerry Kirkhart) black oystercatcher (Jerry Kirkhart)



copper rockfish (Chad King)