



## 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: white shark (Chuck Babbitt)  
below: giant kelp (Claire Fackler)

### California State Parks

Regional Office: 650-726-8819  
711, TTY RELAY SERVICE  
[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

### Año Nuevo State Reserve

650-879-0227

### California Department of Fish and Game

For more information:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

For boundaries and regulations, go to:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/MLPA](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/MLPA)

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

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting  
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation:  
831-647-4209



# 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)

Central Coast Marine Protected Areas





# *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)



California Marine Protected Areas

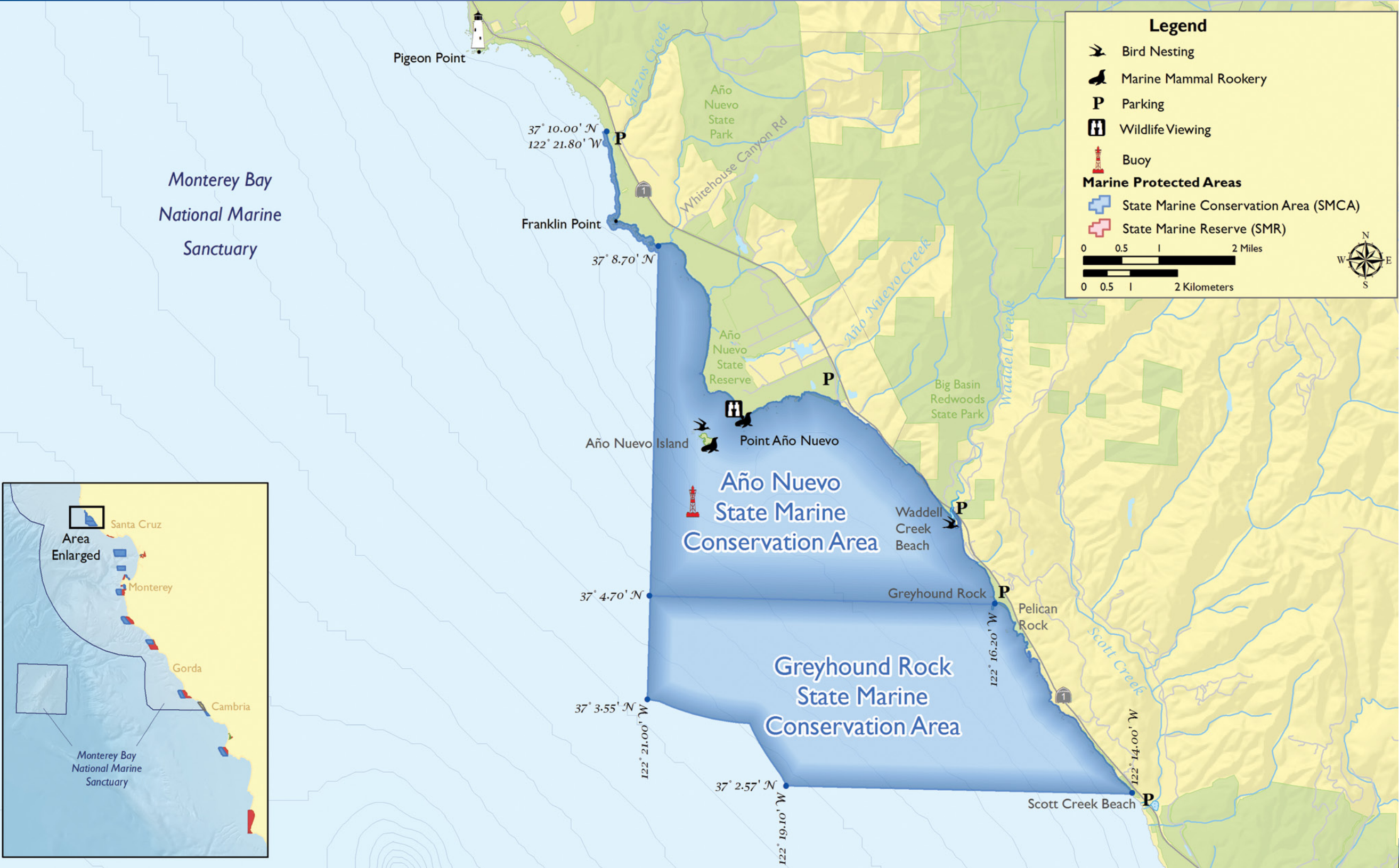
The California statewide MPA network includes four different types that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations are:

- State Marine Reserves:** No damage or take of living marine resources, geologic or cultural resources is allowed.
- State Marine Parks:** No commercial take of resources is allowed, but some recreational take may be allowed (restrictions vary).
- State Marine Conservation Areas:** Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed (restrictions vary).
- State Marine Recreational Management Areas:** Restricts the take of living marine resources while allowing for waterfowl hunting to occur (restrictions vary).



rhinoceros auklets (Verena Gill)

Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock Marine Protected Areas



Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock MPAs

MPA	Recreational Uses
Año Nuevo SMCA	No recreational take allowed; Commerical take of giant kelp by hand harvest is allowed.
Greyhound Rock SMCA	Allows recreational take of giant kelp by hand, squid, salmon, and by hook and line from shore only other finfish. Allows commercial take of salmon, squid, and giant kelp by hand.

Regulations

- This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 632, including commercial allowances and restrictions.
- 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.