



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 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)

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



Cover: southern sea otter (Jerry Kirkhart)

Monterey Peninsula Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area
Lovers Point 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 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: 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)

