



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

### 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



# 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

Cover: southern sea otter (Jerry Kirkhart)

# *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)

## 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).

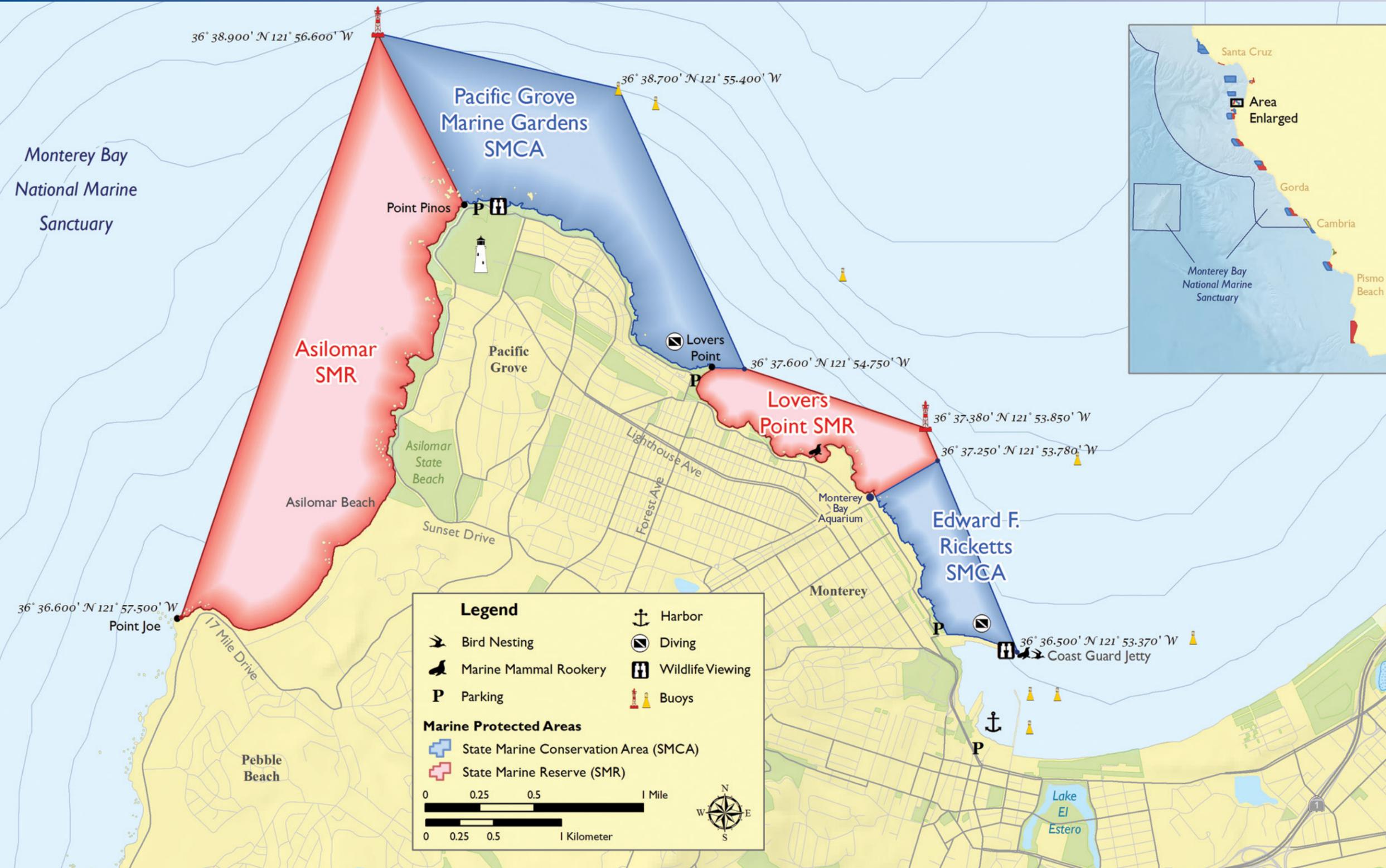
**State Marine Conservation Areas:** Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed (restrictions vary).

**State Marine Recreational Management Areas:** Restricts the take of living marine resources while allowing for waterfowl hunting to occur (restrictions vary).



blue-banded hermit crab (Jerry Kirkhart)

## Monterey Peninsula Marine Protected Areas



### Monterey Peninsula MPAs

MPA	Recreational Uses
Asilomar SMR	No fishing; All take is prohibited.
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA	Allows recreational take of finfish; Allows commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp by hand.
Lovers Point SMR	No fishing; All take is prohibited.
Edward F. Ricketts SMCA	Recreational hook and line fishing allowed.

### 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.