



Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

Land Stewardship Program

Pecho Coast and Point Buchon Hiking Trails

805-528-8758/805-541-8735(TREK)

Email: dcppmaptrails@pge.com

<http://pge.com/recreation>

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



Point Buchon Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area
Point Buchon State Marine Reserve



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: gray whale (Jan-Dirk Hansen)
below: diver (Jerry Loomis)





From the rocky shores to the canyons of the Pacific



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: sea lion (Mike Baird, flickr.bairdphotos.com)
above right: kelp bass (Steve Lonhart)

Point Buchon is a prominent westerly headland with many caves, offshore rocky pinnacles and underwater reefs that provide habitat for an extraordinarily high diversity of marine life. The reefs are home to more than 700 species of invertebrates, as well as 120 fish species, marine plants, seabirds, and marine mammals. It is an area of California's central coast important for its biological diversity, and it is known for cold water corals found in unusually shallow water. Creating marine protected areas supports thriving species, while also helping to restore endangered or threatened marine life.

A Place to Study

At Point Buchon sensitive intertidal palm kelps reach the southern limit of their ranges. Because the tidepools are protected from trampling and collection by humans, the rocky shores shelter plentiful populations of intertidal fish, algae and invertebrates. Scientists from local universities are studying how marine protected areas help to conserve the web of life along these shores.

Native People

Point Buchon, which means goiter in Spanish, has over 9,000 years of Native American history and is considered a spiritual area by the Chumash. The Chumash were the center of a regional trading network with a currency based on olivella shell beads. The Chumash harvested the abundant marine resources along this rocky coastline.

Amazing Sea Life

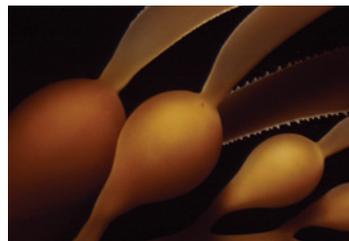
Secluded sandy beaches and offshore reefs provide safety for harbor seals and southern sea otters. These marine mammals pup and haul out on the near-shore rocky reefs. The kelp beds create underwater forests that are home to kelp crabs, colorful nudibranchs, and many species of rockfish. From the Point Buchon headland whale watchers may see gray whales migrating along the coast, or even a breaching humpback.



nudibranch (Ken Bondy)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



giant kelp (Jerry Loomis)



striped shore crab (Jerry Kirkhart)



lemon nudibranch (Ken Bondy)



rainbow sea star (Chad King)

