

# Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve and Marine Conservation Area

Factsheet

10

## Size of MPA:

19.68 mi<sup>2</sup>

## Depth range of MPA:

Shore to 337 feet

## Key habitats protected:

Diverse shoreline from sandy beach, to pebble beach to rocky intertidal. Offshore reef and two varieties of kelp forest.



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**Piedras Blancas is one of California's most biologically rich as well as scenic coastal areas attracting millions of visitors for marine wildlife viewing each year.**

- The Piedras Blancas MPAs protect a rich nearshore including extensive tidepools, two species of kelp, and both sandy and cobble beaches. Offshore, a high relief deepwater rocky structure attracts large forage fish populations and provides shelter for rockfish.
- Piedras Blancas supports a particularly high diversity of birds and marine mammals including California sea lions, Elephant seals, harbor seals, northern fur seals and sea otters. Historically this area was one of the most productive abalone beds in California.
- The land adjacent to the MPAs has recently been added to the San Simeon State Park and the site has exceptional educational value, high visitation rates, good public access, parking, and interpretive facilities and an active volunteer program.