

Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve and Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area

Factsheet

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Size of MPA(s):

2.65 mi²

Depth range of MPA(s):

Shore to 471 feet

Key habitats protected:

Rocky pinnacles, kelp forest, sandy beach, submarine canyon head, surfgrass



Photo Courtesy of NOAA



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Carmel Bay is an unsurpassed ocean recreational playground serving as a destination for divers and kayakers attracted to its unique pinnacle formations, granite reefs and kelp forests.

- The Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve protects a unique underwater pinnacle formation that supports colonies of hydrocorals and a diversity of marine invertebrates and fish. This area is a prime destination for scuba divers.
- The Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area enhances recreational fishing opportunities in an area convenient to port by precluding commercial extraction or take of invertebrates throughout the Bay but allowing sport fishing for finfish from shore, kayak, or boat.

