

Point Sur State Marine Reserve and Marine Conservation Area

Size of MPA:

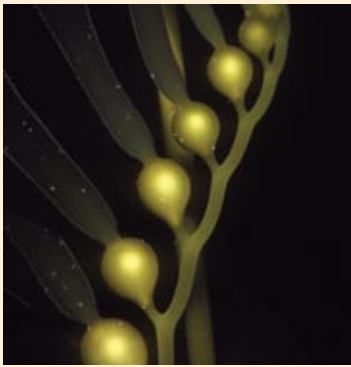
19.68 mi²

Depth range of MPA:

Shore to 624 feet

Key habitats protected:

Largest persistent kelp bed on the central coast, unique offshore rocky reef, Sur submarine canyon head.



Photos © Marc Shargel / LivingSeaimages.com *



© Kip Evans Photography - www.MountainSeaGallery.com

Point Sur may be the most significant natural heritage site on the Central Coast.

- This spectacular site contains a wide diversity of habitats that support a range of fish, seabird and invertebrate species. Point Sur itself contributes to the unique oceanographic conditions at this site where gyres carry water and larvae both north and south.
- The protected lee of Point Sur supports a large kelp bed that provides a shelter and nursery habitat to rockfish and other species. Offshore, the head of the Sur submarine canyon acts as a fish highway, linking the protected shallows to offshore features nourished by upwelling. Remote from port and from urban development, the Point Sur MPAs protect one of the few remaining areas in central California that support large, healthy fish populations and pristine habitat.
- The site is adjacent to Andrew Molera State Park and the Point Sur State Historic Park providing excellent opportunities for interpretive and education facilities and on-site docent and ranger presence.

