



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: Salt Point State Park, Stump Beach
below: black oystercatcher (Ron Wolf)



Sonoma County Regional Parks

707-565-2041

parks@sonoma-county.org

California State Parks

Salt Point State Park

Russian River District

District Office: 707-865-2391

711, TTY RELAY SERVICE

www.parks.ca.gov

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



Cover: gray whale breaching (Jan-Dirk Hansen)

Del Mar Landing to Gerstle Cove Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve
Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve
Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area
Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve



North Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

From sheltered coves to deep offshore waters

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 and estuaries. The California MPA network includes the many different types of habitats found along our coast, from sheltered estuaries to rocky intertidal areas and lush kelp forests to steep underwater canyons.

Image above left: anenomes (Chad King)
above right: kelp (Chad King)

Crown Jewels of the California Coast

The Del Mar Landing, Stewarts Point, Salt Point and Gerstle Cove MPAs protect diverse habitats and marine life in a highly scenic and relatively remote stretch of coast. Creating marine protected areas supports thriving species, while also helping to restore endangered or threatened marine life.

Sea Life Abounds

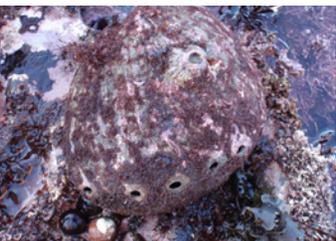
- The sheltered sea at Gerstle Cove SMR, a long standing MPA since 1971, supports a productive tidepool habitat teeming with life!
- Numerous fish species find shelter among the rocky reefs along this stretch of coast including lingcod, cabezon, rockfish and greenlings.
- Invertebrates such as red abalone, sea urchins and shore crabs thrive here and are protected in the three SMRs in the area.
- These MPAs are home to more than 270 species of invertebrates, fish, seabirds and marine mammals.

Species Profile: Red Abalone

Red abalone are the most common and only legally-harvestable abalone species in California. Abalone once supported a commercial and recreational fishery, but since 1997 the statewide commercial fishery, and recreational fishery south of San Francisco Bay, have been closed to address population depletions. MPAs such as Gerstle Cove and Del Mar Landing SMRs, where take of abalone is prohibited, allows this species to reproduce and replenish depleted populations, and help support the recreational fishery in other MPAs where abalone take is allowed, such as the Stewarts Point and Salt Point SMCAs.

Playground for Outdoor Enthusiasts

This stretch of coast provides excellent recreational opportunities including SCUBA diving, hiking, camping, picnicking, fishing and tidepooling. You can help protect MPAs by knowing and obeying the regulations for the area you are visiting.



abalone (Sarah Lenz)



copper rockfish (Steve Lonhart)



Brandt's cormorant (Danielle Brown)



scuba diving (Dennis Sabo)



common murre (Ron LeValley)



sea urchin (Steve Lonhart)

California Marine Protected Areas

The California statewide MPA network includes four different designations 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, geologic, or cultural marine 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).



osprey (Mike Baird, flickr.bairdphotos.com)

Del Mar Landing to Gerstle Cove Marine Protected Areas



Del Mar Landing to Gerstle Cove MPAs

MPA	Allowed Uses
Del Mar Landing SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Stewarts Point SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Stewarts Point SMCA	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the following may be taken recreationally from shore only: marine aquatic plants other than sea palm, marine invertebrates, finfish by hook and line, surf smelt by beach net and species authorized in Section 28.80 of CCR Title 14 by hand-held dip net.
Salt Point SMCA	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational take of abalone and finfish.
Gerstle Cove SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.

Regulations

This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 632.

- 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.