

## San Mateo County Parks

Fitzgerald Marine Reserve  
650-728-3584

## California State Parks

Montara State Beach  
Sector Office: 650-726-8819  
711, TTY RELAY SERVICE  
[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

## California Department of Fish and Game

For more information:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

For boundaries and  
regulations, go to:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/MLPA](http://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: humpback whale fluke

# Montara and Pillar Point

## Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Montara State Marine Reserve  
Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area



North Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

## 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: Montara State Beach (Sieboldianus)  
below: black oystercatcher (Ron Wolf)





# From tidepools to the expansive Pacific Ocean

## 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: striped shore crab (Jerry Kirkhart)  
above right: sea lemon (Ron Wolf)

**One of the most biodiverse regions of the California coast**, the Montara and Pillar Point MPAs are home to more than 300 species including invertebrates, fish, seabirds and marine mammals. MPAs here boast some of the most prized tidepools in northern California while lush offshore kelp beds offer refuge for fish species. In recognition of the biodiversity found here, the state of California has designated them as Marine Protected Areas.

## Amazing Diversity of Life

- Organisms seen at low tide may include chitons, snails, anemones, sea stars, crabs, nudibranchs, abalone, sea urchins, shrimp, sculpin and limpets.
- This stretch of coast provides numerous haul-out sites for harbor seals and sea lions, and both MPAs are breeding areas for harbor seals.
- Forty-six species of colorful nudibranchs have been found here!

- An extraordinary diversity of birds benefit from the abundance of food and protected habitat here including terns, egrets, great blue herons, cormorants, black oystercatchers and gulls.

## Nature's Laboratory

Twenty-five species of marine plants and animals, new to science were discovered at Moss Beach in the Montara SMR. These MPAs are also home to several endemic species that are only found here! Inside these MPAs, crucial questions are being addressed to help understand how to preserve these precious resources.

## Outdoor Classroom

Explorers of all ages marvel at the diversity of life found here and learn about protecting our ocean. Every year trained naturalists from the Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve lead groups of students and the public through this area diverse habitats, creating a new generation of ocean stewards.



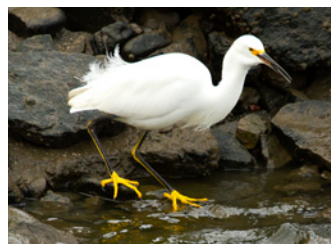
tidepool (Tom Niesen)



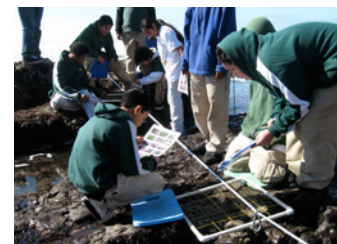
kayaking (Claire Fackler)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



snowy egret (Danielle Brown)



research (Amy Dean)



abalone (Sarah Lenz)

California Marine Protected Areas

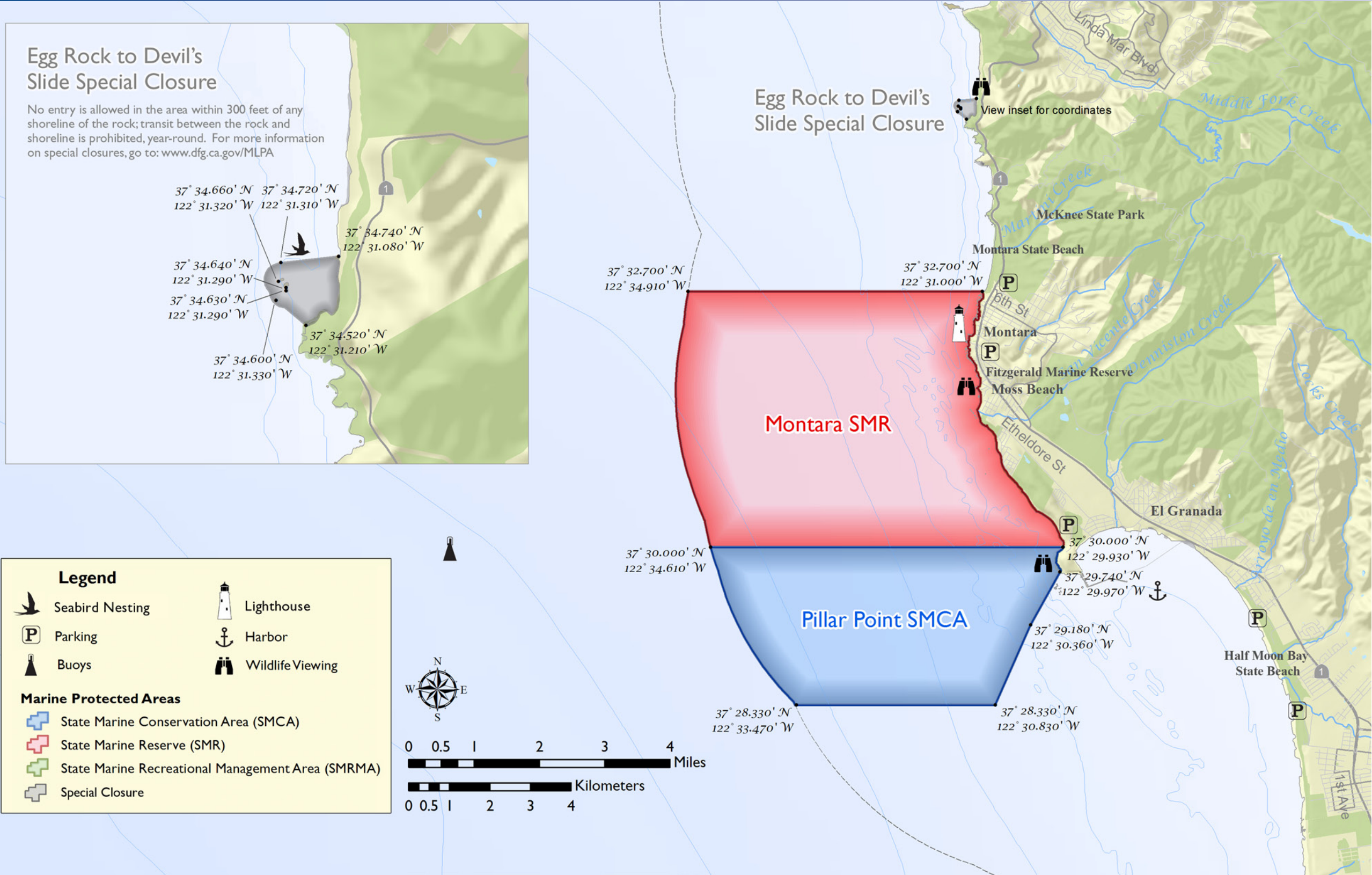
The California statewide MPA network includes four different designation that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations are:

- 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).



blue-banded hermit crab (Jerry Kirkhart)

Montara and Pillar Point Marine Protected Areas



Montara and Pillar Point MPAs

MPA	Allowed Uses
Montara SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Pillar Point SMCA	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Recreational take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by hand-held dip net are allowed.</li><li>2. Commercial take of pelagic finfish with troll fishing gear or seine, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by round haul net are allowed.</li></ol>

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.