



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: gray whale (Jan-Dirk Hansen)
below: nudibranch (Ken Brody)



California State Parks
800-777-0369
711, TTY RELAY SERVICE
www.parks.ca.gov

Hearst San Simeon State Park
805-927-2035

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: northern elephant seal male (Jerry Kirkhart)

Piedras Blancas, Cambria, and White Rock MPAs

Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Reserve
Cambria State Marine Park
White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area



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

Image above left: nudibranch (Ken Bondy)

Spectacular Display of Marine Life

This wild stretch of California's central coast is a rare jewel, teeming with marine life. Places such as Piedras Blancas, Cambria and White Rock MPAs help conserve the rich diversity found here. Sweeping ocean currents nourish and replenish kelp forests, isolated beaches offer safety for elephant seals to breed and give birth, and countless delicate intertidal creatures thrive in thousands of tidepools that dot the rocky coast.

Playground for Outdoor Enthusiasts

This recreational wonderland offers excellent fishing, kayaking, boating and surfing opportunities. Miles of boardwalk bring the rich marine environment to your feet. Visitors are thrilled by seeing otters, watching and viewing whales, or a chance to see harbor seals and a vast variety of birds. This area is known as a mecca for nature enthusiasts who hike, photograph, kayak, SCUBA dive, snorkel and enjoy a "look but do NOT disturb" approach to wildlife.

Nature's Laboratory

South of Cambria and next to the University of California Natural Reserve site at Rancho Marino lies the rugged White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area. Several ongoing research projects in this area provide valuable insights for how to better protect our ocean planet, and show the value of efforts to preserve the lush kelp beds and biologically rich intertidal zones.

Stewards of Land and Sea

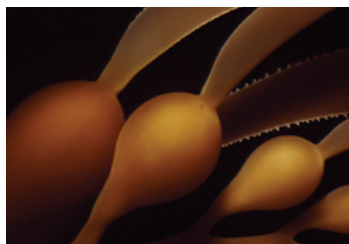
For centuries indigenous people occupied the Central California coast, thriving on the rich marine resources. Today this special stretch of coast includes Hearst Castle® and popular elephant seal viewing sites. It is managed by the state to protect its rich resources and to provide enjoyment and inspiration for today's visitors and for future generations. Protecting this legacy is our greatest responsibility.



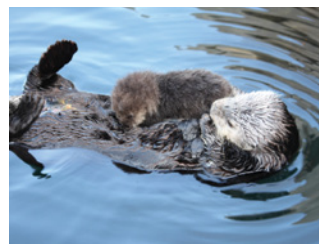
students learn (Ken Bondy)



diver (Jerry Loomis)



giant kelp (Jerry Loomis)



sea otter with pup (Steve Choy)



lemon nudibranch (Ken Bondy)



great egret (Jerry Kirkhart)

