



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: Point Lobos (Jay Spooner)
below: hermit crab (Jerry Kirkhart)



California State Parks
Monterey District: 831-649-2836
711, TTY RELAY SERVICE
www.parks.ca.gov

Point Lobos State Natural Reserve
831-624-4909

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: southern sea otters (Jerry Kirkhart)

Point Lobos Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

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



Legend

- State Marine Conservation Area
- State Marine Reserve
- State Marine Recreational Management Area
- State Marine Park

Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

From rocky shores to the depths of Monterey Canyon

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: giant green anemone (Jerry Kirkhart)
above right: diver silhouette (Jerry Loomis)

Point Lobos: The Greatest Meeting of Land and Water

Point Lobos, a crown jewel for California, teems with life. Its hiking trails offer vistas of sea-splashed cliffs, windswept Monterey cypress trees, and lush kelp beds where endangered sea otters frolic. Sleek harbor seals rest and give birth on the cove's small beach. Sea lions congregate on rocks offshore. The place is so spectacular both above and below the water line that the state of California prohibits removal of any natural resources on land or in the water.

Amazing Diversity of Life

- Many species of fish live in the rocky tidepools, kelp forests, sandy bottoms and deep canyons off Point Lobos. Cabezon, vermillion rockfish and blue rockfish hide among the kelp, while mola mola may be found basking on the surface offshore. Goby and sculpin can be found darting amongst the tidepools.

- Marine mammals such as sea otters, sea lions and harbor seals find shelter along the shore.
- Invertebrates such as abalone are slowly rebounding with protection.
- Over 300 species of birds can be found benefiting from the abundance of food and habitat afforded by protected land and seas.

Recognized Throughout History

Point Lobos has long been cherished. Native Rumsien harvested fish and shellfish long before European explorers arrived. From the 1850s to the 1930s, Point Lobos played host to a number of industries: fishing, whaling, a granite quarry, a coal port and a large abalone fishing operation. Today the area is recognized by nature enthusiasts who hike, photograph, kayak, SCUBA dive, snorkel and enjoy a "look but do NOT disturb" approach to wildlife.



Hopkins' rose nudibranch
(Jerry Loomis)



harbor seal (Steve Lonhart)



strawberry anemone (Jerry Loomis)



giant kelp (Jerry Loomis)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



brown pelican (Jerry Kirkhart)

California Marine Protected Areas

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



kelp crab (Jerry Kirkhart)

Point Lobos Marine Protected Areas

Point Lobos MPAs

MPA	Recreational Uses
Point Lobos SMCA	No fishing except recreational and commercial take of salmon, albacore, and commercial take of spot prawn.
Point Lobos SMR	No fishing; All take is prohibited.
Carmel Pinnacles SMR	No fishing; All take is prohibited.
Carmel Bay SMCA	Recreational fishing allowed.

Regulations

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

- 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.

