



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: Big Sur coastline (Denise Bentley)
below: strawberry anemone (Steve Lonhart)



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

Point Sur State Historic Park
831-625-4419

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 otter (Nancy Nehring)

Point Sur Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area
Point Sur State Marine Reserve



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: leather star (Steve Lonhart)
above right: harbor seal (Nancy Nehring)

Point Sur: Magnificent Coastline

Jutting out into the Pacific Ocean, Point Sur is a unique geological feature that creates a spectacular opportunity for marine and terrestrial wildlife to thrive. Off this remote stretch of coastal highway, underwater canyons and submerged mountain ridges shape the ocean floor. These topographical wonders create conditions for marine life to thrive. Here ocean currents bring nutrient-rich waters closer to shore, and fish, sea birds and invertebrates flourish.

Amazing Diversity of Life

- Many species of fish live in the rocky tidepools, kelp forests, sandy bottoms and deep canyons off Point Sur. Cabezon, vermillion rockfish and blue rockfish hide among the kelp, while mola mola may be found basking on the surface offshore.
- Marine mammals such as sea otters, sea lions and harbor seals find shelter along the shore. It is here along Point Sur that

the sea otter was "rediscovered" in the 1930s. Gray whales, humpback whales and even blue whales migrate past Point Sur each year.

- Invertebrates such as abalone are slowly rebounding with protection.

Recognized Throughout History

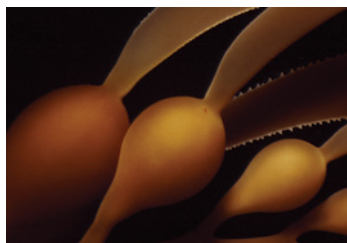
The Ohlone, Esselen and Salinan, lived along this stretch of coastline leading a nomadic, hunter-gatherer existence for thousands of years. Here, they took advantage of the abundance of marine life harvesting rich stocks of mussels, abalone and fishes. To the Europeans, Point Sur was recognized as a navigation hazard, as many shipwrecked captains and even airship pilots can attest. Off the coast of Point Sur SMR, is the U.S.S. Macon, a 785-foot dirigible, which was lost offshore in 1935. The Macon was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2010. Today the area is cherished as a last remnant of wild California, where visitors can view wildlife along this amazing coast.



cabezon (Steve Lonhart)



gray whale (Jan-Dirk Hansen)



giant kelp (Jerry Loomis)



kelp bass (Steve Lonhart)



hermit crab (Jerry Kirkhart)



brown pelican (Jerry Kirkhart)

