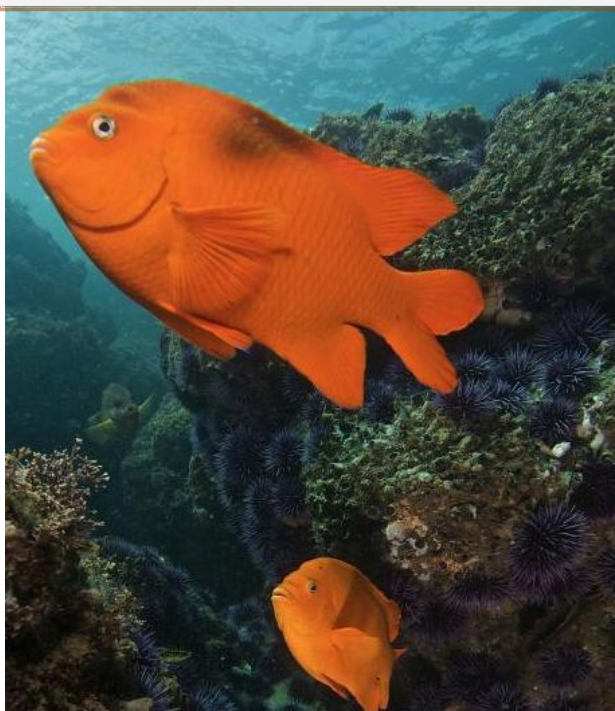




Ocean Communicators Alliance

Marine Protected Area Docent Training Handbook

SOUTH COAST



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California Coastal Commission

Cover Photos (clockwise): Dale Kobetich, Dana Roeber Murray, Chad King, Ed Campbell

V.1: November 2014

¹ The California Ocean Communicators Alliance (OCA) is a group of more than 300 professionals in ocean-related organizations, agencies and businesses who, in the course of their work, reach millions of Californians with ocean messages. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries, the California Natural Resources Agency, and aquarium partners organize and support the OCA. OCA members collaborate on common ocean messages and promote the Thank You Ocean public awareness campaign.

Purpose of the Ocean Communicators Alliance Marine Protected Area (MPA) Docent Training Handbook

Docents and naturalists play a critical role in helping to increase stewardship and educate the public on the importance of California's coast and ocean, and we hope this handbook will be a useful resource.

The South Coast Marine Protected Area Docent Training Handbook is intended to be a resource for docents and naturalists who communicate about marine protected areas (MPAs). Through this handbook, docents and naturalists will learn about MPAs and will be better equipped to communicate about them.

This handbook aims to include the most pertinent information about the network of California MPAs, with an emphasis on south coast MPAs. It includes links to additional information and can act as a stand-alone document or a chapter within an organization's existing docent training handbook. As new information and resources are developed, this handbook may be updated.

**The South Coast Marine Protected Area (MPA) Docent Training Handbook
will introduce you to:**

**Federal State Marine Protected Areas
California's Network of Marine Protected Areas
South Coast Marine Protected Areas
Ocean Etiquette and Guidelines for Viewing Wildlife
How to Get More Involved in Your Local Marine Protected Areas
Links to Additional Resources**

Please contact Miho Umezawa at miho@thankyouocean.org if you would like more information or have any questions. Thank you.

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Patsee Ober

What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are places designated to help protect and restore marine life and habitats in the ocean. MPAs are among the most useful tools for helping protect the ocean, complementing other conservation efforts by providing a place for marine life to recover and thrive. Around the globe, from Hawaii to Australia, in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, and elsewhere, thousands of MPAs representing 1.8 percent of the ocean protect marine life from the pressures of human activities (MPAtlas, 2014).

MPAs can be thought as being similar to national parks and forests on land in that they were created to protect and restore ocean habitats and increase the health, productivity, and resilience of ocean ecosystems. In addition, many coastal areas have been important to native peoples, who have relied upon marine resources and the environment for their livelihoods and cultural values. Some California MPAs protect cultural heritage and site history as well as values and other sites of historical significance. Overall, MPAs provide natural classrooms, cherished recreational spots, and opportunities for exploration.



Diagram of potential benefits to marine life and habitat inside and outside a marine protected area.

Why are MPAs Important?

By protecting ocean ecosystems, MPAs can be powerful tools for conserving and restoring ocean biodiversity. Some of these special ocean areas also protect cultural and geological resources and can help sustain local economies.

In conjunction with other marine resource management, MPAs contribute to healthier, more resilient ocean ecosystems that can better withstand a wide range of impacts.

Documented benefits of marine protected areas across the globe include:

- Higher abundance and larger size of fish, invertebrates, and plants
- Increased biodiversity
- Greater biomass of targeted (fished) species
- Increased body size of animals

Source: Partnership for Interdisciplinary Studies of Coastal Oceans (PISCO)

Federal Marine Protected Areas

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

There is one National Marine Sanctuary in the South Coast region. The Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary is located off the coast of Santa Barbara and Ventura counties in California.

Designated in 1980 by the NOAA, the sanctuary spans 1,470 square miles surrounding five of the Channel Islands: San Miguel, Santa Rosa, Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Barbara. Many valuable commercial and recreational activities, such as fishing, shipping, and tourism occur in the sanctuary.

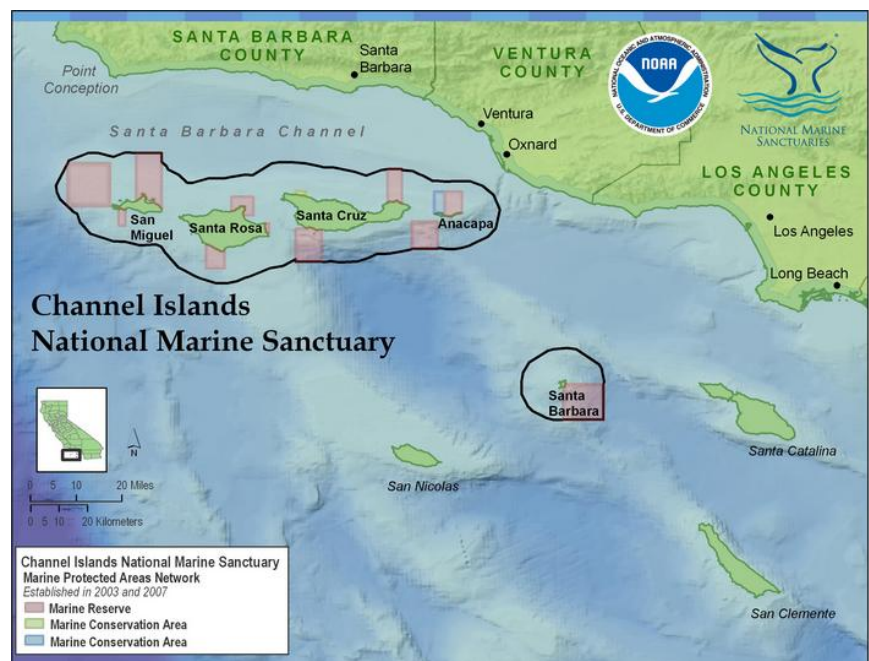
The sanctuary's remote, isolated position at the confluence of two major ocean currents creates remarkable biodiversity. The mingling of cool, nutrient-rich waters from the north with warm currents from the south form a dynamic transition zone that is home to a myriad of sea life from microscopic plankton to blue whales.

A comprehensive ecosystem-based management approach is used to promote long term conservation of sanctuary waters, wildlife, habitats, and cultural resources, while allowing compatible human uses.

Source: NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

In California, there are both federal and state MPAs. Over the past century, more than 1,700 MPAs have been created in U.S. waters, located three to 200 miles offshore, through federal, state, and local legislation, voter initiatives, and regulations, for fishery management, conservation, and cultural heritage purposes. There are numerous federal agencies that manage MPAs; federal designations can include national parks, estuarine research reserves, marine sanctuaries, wildlife refuges, and fishery reserves. Nationwide, **14 National Marine Sanctuaries** encompass more than 170,000 square miles of marine and Great Lakes waters from Washington State to the Florida Keys, and from Lake Huron to American Samoa. The system includes 13 national marine sanctuaries and the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, located near the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Office of National Marine Sanctuaries works cooperatively with the public and federal, state, and local officials, and tribal governments to promote conservation while allowing compatible commercial and recreational activities.

Within California waters, there are four national marine sanctuaries which include the [Channel Islands](#), [Cordell Bank](#), [Gulf of the Farallones](#), and [Monterey Bay](#) National Marine Sanctuaries. They encompass beautiful rocky reefs, lush kelp forests, whale migration corridors, spectacular deep-sea canyons, and underwater archaeological sites. These federal MPAs share boundaries with several state MPAs and have different regulations.



California Marine Protected Areas²

The waters off the coast of California are some of the most biologically rich in the world, but the global ocean is showing significant signs of overuse and declining health due to habitat destruction, climate change, and depleted fisheries. As one approach to combat these threats, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) was signed into California law in 1999, and directed the State to redesign existing California MPAs to increase their coherence and effectiveness, and to the extent possible, function together as a network. Through this process, 124 MPAs were created, covering approximately 16 percent of all coastal state waters.

To account for regional differences, the State created **five** distinct regions along California's 1,100 mile coastline from south to north. The five regions include the **South Coast** (Point Conception to the California/Mexico border), **Central Coast** (Pigeon Point to Point Conception), **San Francisco Bay**³ (Golden Gate Bridge northeast to the Carquinez Bridge), **North Central Coast** (Alder Creek near Point Arena to Pigeon Point), and **North Coast** (California/Oregon border to Alder Creek near Point Arena).

The coastal, open ocean portion of California's new system of MPAs, completed in 2012, was designed through a collaborative public process. In each of the regions, a group of local, knowledgeable stakeholders worked together using science guidelines to map out protected areas for each region. These stakeholders included commercial and recreational anglers, tribal and government representatives, educators/researchers, and conservationists. Once the MPA proposals were completed, they underwent scientific and policy review. Final proposals were forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for consideration and public feedback, and eventually adoption and implementation. The Commission sets the regulations designed by the regional stakeholder group that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) manages, enforces and implements.



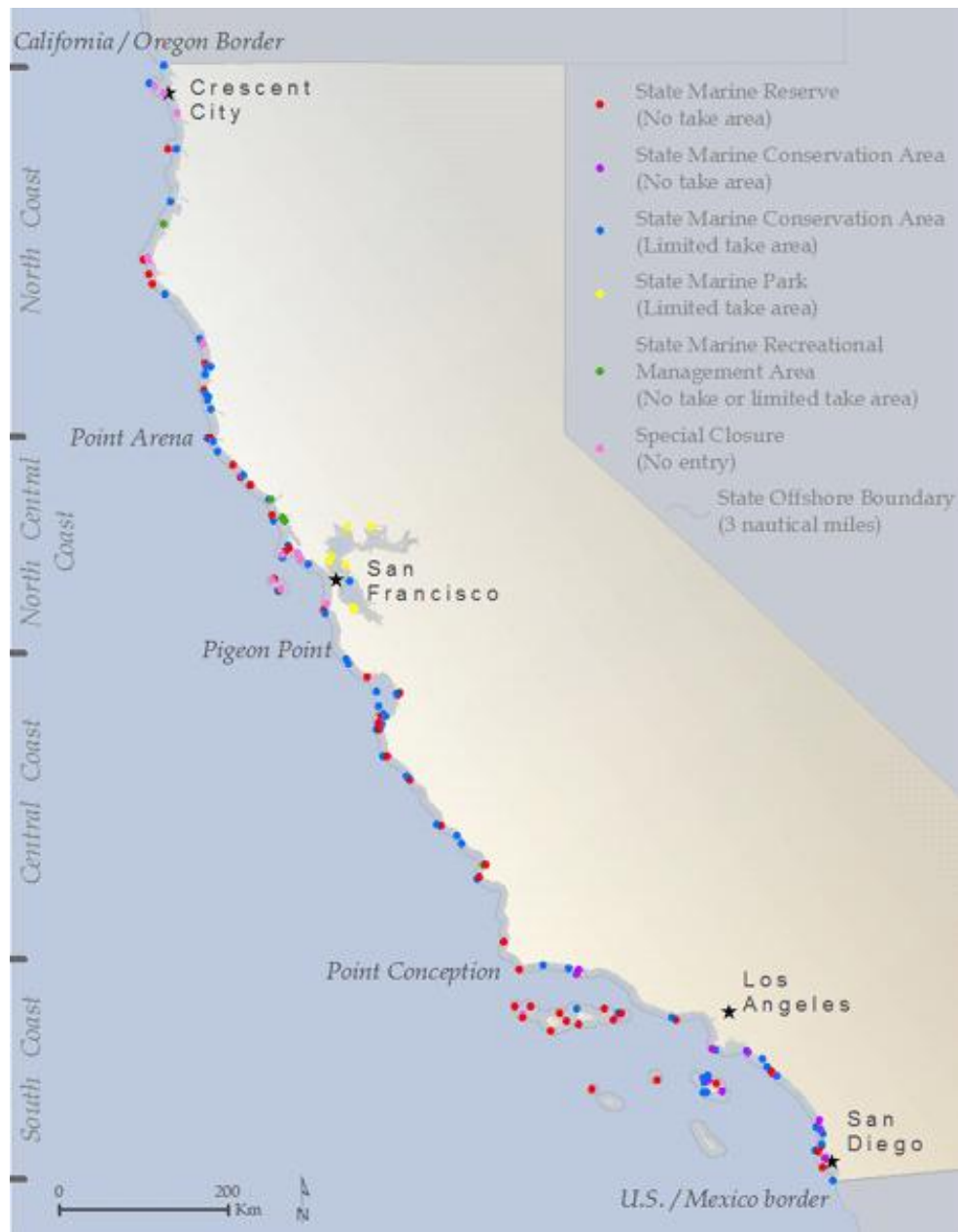
Dale Kobetich

²This information and more detail are found on the California Department of Fish and Wildlife website:

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/faqs.asp>

³ The San Francisco region is not complete and being developed for consideration at a future date

Map of Statewide Network of Marine Protected Areas⁴



California Department of Fish and Wildlife

⁴ Because the San Francisco region is not complete and being developed for consideration at a future date, the MPAs in the San Francisco region (yellow dots) do not represent existing MPAs prior to the site designation process.

There are many ways to enjoy California's MPAs – You can swim, dive, fish, surf, kayak, watch birds and mammals, simply relax in nature, and explore marine life. While enjoying your MPAs, it is important that you understand the established regulations and follow them.

There are three main types of MPAs in California

In general,

1. **State marine reserves** do not allow any type of extractive or damaging activity (take) with the exception of scientific collecting under a permit.
2. **State marine parks** do not allow commercial take, but some types of recreational take may be allowed.
3. **State marine conservation areas** where take, damage, injury, or possession of any marine resource (living, geological, or cultural) is prohibited except for species expressly allowed for recreational and/or commercial take (species and gear exceptions vary by location).

In the South Coast region, there are **no-take State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs)** where take, damage, injury, or possession of any marine resources (living, geological, or cultural) is prohibited except for take incidental to specified activities permitted by other agencies (for example, infrastructure maintenance and sand re-nourishment).

In addition, there are **State Marine Recreational Management Areas (SMRMAs)** which restrict the take of living marine resources, but allow for some recreational waterfowl hunting opportunities; and **Special Closures** where there is localized protection for sea bird nesting and rookery sites, and marine mammal haul-out sites. These may overlap with other MPAs.

Managing Marine Protected Areas

There have been many activities and projects established to ensure that MPAs are successfully implemented and managed. Numerous partnerships help support CDFW's mandate to manage California's network of 124 MPAs. CDFW is utilizing an adaptive management strategy whereby future management actions are informed by scientific monitoring. In managing MPAs, there are three critical components:

Monitoring

Monitoring provides essential information to support MPA management decisions and inform other ocean policy. Monitoring tracks the condition or 'health' of ocean ecosystems and evaluates the effectiveness of management actions. During the initial "baseline" phase of monitoring for each region (2012-2017 in the South Coast region) a broad set of partners, including university and agency researchers, tribal governments, citizen scientists and fishermen, have been working together to establish a benchmark of ecological and socioeconomic conditions when each regional MPA network took effect and document any initial socioeconomic and ecological changes in the region in the first few years following MPA implementation.

Baseline MPA monitoring is supported with funds from the California Ocean Protection Council, and implemented through a collaborative partnership among CDFW, the Ocean Science Trust, California Sea Grant, and the Ocean Protection Council. Long-term MPA monitoring, beginning after the baseline period in each region, is guided by the statewide MPA monitoring framework and regional monitoring plans. ***You can learn more about the progress and status of MPA monitoring in each region through [OceanSpaces.org](http://oceanspaces.org/monitoring) (<http://oceanspaces.org/monitoring>)***

Enforcement and Compliance

Enforcement and compliance of MPA regulations can directly affect the success of MPAs. CDFW is the primary agency responsible for enforcing MPA regulations. Partner agencies including California State Parks, the U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA assist CDFW in enforcing resource-related activities or provide an additional enforcement presence, but they do not always have the necessary authority or training to take independent action.

Education and Outreach

Public education and outreach are vital to managing MPAs. These activities inform the public about MPA regulations, and in general, what MPAs are and why they are important to California's marine environment. CDFW is working with many organizations, including other agencies, tribes, non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses to develop education and outreach resources. In addition, MPA County Collaboratives, made up of local governments, fishing groups, tribes and conservationists, are also helping to install signs, coordinate volunteer programs, and promote awareness. ***Please see page 15 for the list of additional resources.***

South Coast Marine Protected Areas

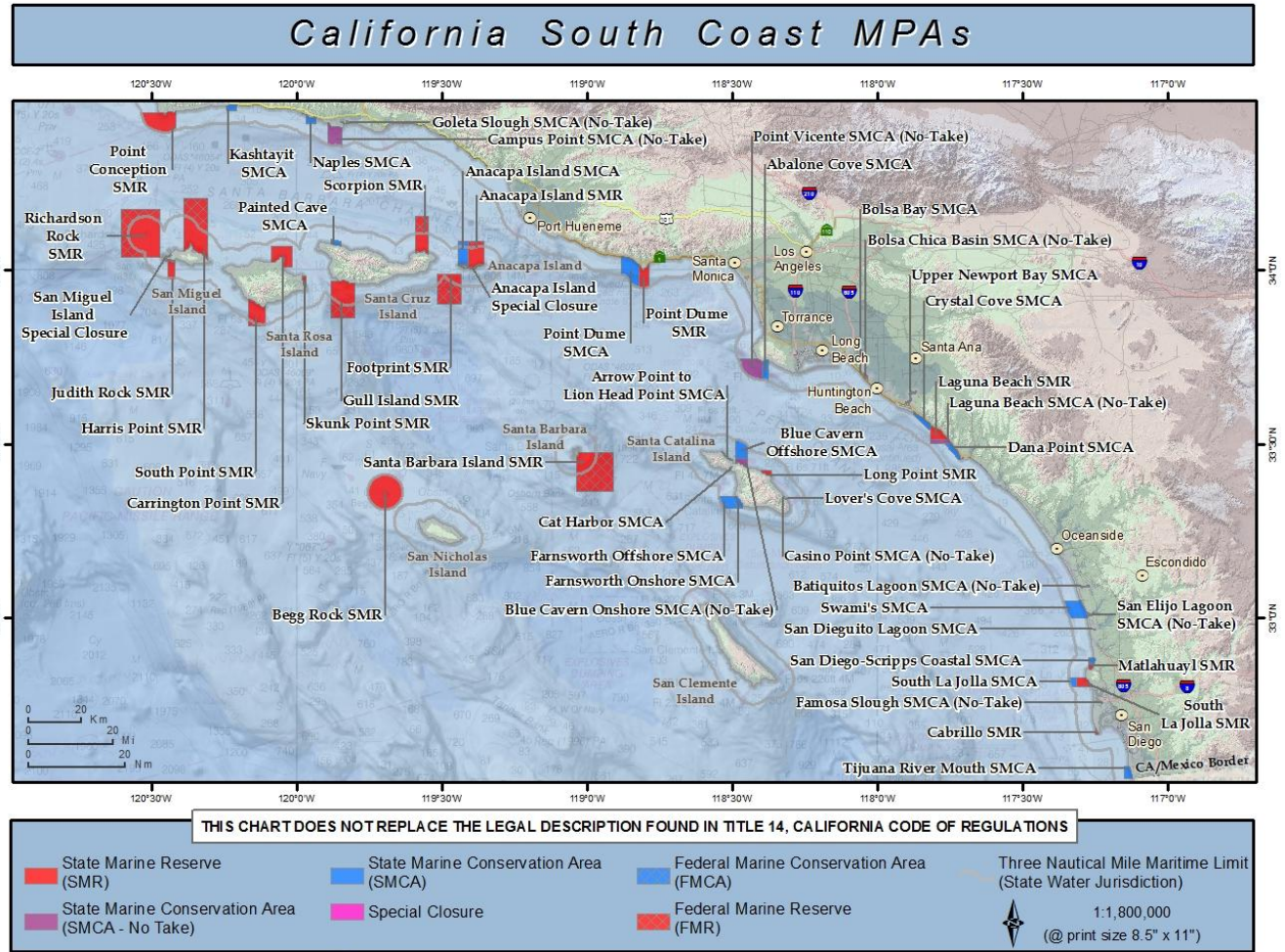
The South Coast region covers between Pt. Conception (Santa Barbara County) south to the California/Mexico border, including state waters around the Channel Islands. These **50 MPAs** within the California MPA network's South Coast region (including the 13 previously established at the northern Channel Islands that were retained without change) covers approximately 355 sq miles of state waters or about 15 percent of the South Coast region. These MPAs, along with two special closures, went into effect on January 1, 2012.



Times-Standard

Southern California MPAs span the California Bight, which includes ocean waters relatively close to shore from Point Conception to the California-Mexico border. In the California Bight, waters from two major biogeographic regions intersect: cold, temperate water from the north, and warmer water from the south, forming a complex system of currents and environmental conditions. The South Coast region protects marine biodiversity hot spots such as Lover's Cove on Catalina Island, the lush kelp beds of South La Jolla, and the unique offshore system of Naples Reef. While these spots are protected, it still leaves over 80 percent of coastal waters open for fishing.

Map of South Coast State Marine Protected Areas



Type of Protected Area	Count	Area (sq mi) in South Coast State Waters	Percent of South Coast State Waters
SMR	19	241.46	10.27%
SMCA (no-take)	10	33.60	1.43%
SMCA	21	80.36	3.42%
Special Closures ¹	2	1.89	0.08%
Total ¹	50	355.42	15.12%

¹ Totals include northern Channel Islands MPAs (effective since 2003), and do not include special closures.

Commonly-found Species that Benefit from South Coast Marine Protected Areas

Species in MPAs are more likely to benefit from protection if they meet one of more of the below conditions:

- they occur within the South Coast MPAs,
- they are taken directly or indirectly in commercial or recreational fisheries, and
- they have life history characteristics that make them more conducive to protection by MPAs, such as: sedentary behavior, long life spans, a relatively small home range, slow growth, or association with habitats that need additional spatial protection.

Below is a list of species likely to benefit from MPAs in the South Coast region that visitors might encounter:



Wikimedia Commons

Barred Surfperch (*Amphistichus argenteus*)

Barred surfperch give birth to living young from March to July. As few as four and as many as 113 young juvenile fish have been counted, but the average is 33 per female. This species is relatively short lived with the oldest males being about 6 years old and 12 inches long. The oldest females are about 10 years old and up to 17 inches long. Tagging studies indicate barred surfperch move very little, usually less than 2 miles, although movements up to 31 miles have been recorded.



Wikimedia Commons

Kelp Bass (*Paralabrax clathratus*)

Usually loners, kelp bass join together to prey on small schooling fishes. They attack the school from all angles and may leap out of the water during the pursuit. The spawning season usually extends from May through September with a peak during July. As with most members of the bass family, growth is slow and a 9 year old fish is only about 16.5 inches long.



Wikimedia Commons

California Mussel (*Mytilus californianus*)

To collect enough food to survive, a mussel filters two to three quarts (about two to three liters) of water an hour! California mussels specialize in living on large boulders and bedrock. They can move slowly from place to place by systematically breaking and remaking byssal threads, which anchor them to the rock. A California mussel grows to full size in about three years.



Richard Dreshsler

Black Oystercatcher (*Haematopus bachmani*)

Despite its name, this brownish-black bird with large feet seldom eats oysters. At low tide, it forages along rocky shorelines, looking for other mollusks—mostly limpets and mussels. The birds also sneak up on open mussels, quickly stab their beaks between the shells, sever the muscle, shake the mussel free and swallow it. The black oystercatcher is restricted in its range, never straying far from shores, in particular favoring rocky shorelines.



Brian E. Small

Brandt's Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax penicillatus*)

Brandt's Cormorants are large black bird with elongated necks. They can be seen fishing in large flocks, often mixed with other seabirds, and sometimes even foraging with sea lions. They can forage from the surface down to depths of up to 150 feet, with most foraging taking place close to the sea bottom. They are sociable and active in all seasons and will fly in long lines, low over the water, between feeding and roosting grounds.



Kathy DeWet-Oleson

Giant Kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*)

Kelp forests grow along rocky coastlines in depths of about 6 feet to more than 90 feet. Instead of tree-like roots that extend into the substrate, kelp has "anchors" called holdfasts that grip onto rocky substrates. A host of invertebrates, fish, marine mammals, and birds exist in kelp forest environments. Giant kelp is an extremely important part of many MPAs in California.



Derek Stein, CDFW

Spiny Lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*)

MPAs protect sea grass beds that are nurseries for juvenile lobsters. Large lobsters, which are currently rare, are protected in MPAs. The larger the lobster, the more young it can produce. Male lobsters can grow up to 3 feet long and weigh up to 25 pounds.

Monitoring Marine Protected Areas in the South Coast

MPA monitoring in the South Coast region is guided by a statewide MPA monitoring framework, which has been adopted to ensure monitoring meets the requirements of the Marine Life Protection Act. The first stage of MPA monitoring, known as the baseline period (2012-2017), is aimed at developing broad understanding of conditions in the region. Monitoring results from the baseline will period provide a benchmark of conditions to assess future ocean changes and MPA performance. The OPC-funded South Coast MPA Baseline Program consists of ten projects focused on ecosystem features and human uses, which are wrapping up in 2015. Their results, combined with relevant monitoring data from other efforts in the region, will collectively inform five-year management review of the South Coast MPA network in 2017. Long-term MPA monitoring, beginning in 2017, will build on the foundation established through the Baseline Program to understand how MPAs are impacting ocean health.”

Find more information: <http://oceanspaces.org/monitoring/regions/south-coast/collecting-data>

Communicating about Marine Protected Areas

When communicating about MPAs, the first rule is to meet people where they are: connect and share values, and bridge from familiar ideas to new ones. Positive language also tends to be more effective such as emphasizing what you can do and see in these special places rather than the activities that are restricted. Certain technical language, such as “adaptive management” or “biological diversity” may make people lose interest. Instead, use language that will relate MPAs to things people already care about and know.



It is also important to keep the message simple. Below are additional message tips:

1. **Avoid abbreviations** like “MPAs” when you first start talking about the issue in your materials or in face-to-face conversations. Instead, say “marine protected areas”.
2. **Lead with local examples** of protected areas, volunteer programs, etc.
3. **Focus on the outcome of California’s Marine Life Protection Act rather than the planning process.** Don’t talk about administrative process; rather, emphasize that California’s MPAs were designed by local citizens and highlight the results. Some MPAs may provide safe havens for many species and wonderful places for ocean enthusiasts to experience nature.
4. **Put people in the picture.** Although MPAs benefit marine wildlife and their surrounding habitat, it’s also important to note that they are not the only ones benefiting: coastal businesses may see a boost in tourism, tidepoolers and naturalists may see more wildlife, and as MPAs begin to work, fishermen may enjoy more bountiful catches in nearby areas.

The below four key messages resonate well across the state:

- **Fertile old female fish:** This message creates a good visual and helps people understand that marine protected areas provide a place where some species of ocean life can feed, breed, and thrive. Certain species of big, old fertile female fish (also invertebrates, plants, algae, etc.) may benefit from MPA protection if they are sedentary in behavior and live within a MPA and/or a relatively small home range.
- **Analogous to underwater parks:** To help people understand the concept of MPAs, a good way to start the conversation is to say MPAs are *like* the parks people visit and enjoy on land. You may want to pair this basic message with the name of the area (e.g., State Marine Reserve, State Marine Park, State Marine Conservation Area) to limit confusion.
- **What about me?:** Your MPAs are open for exploration! You can swim, dive, surf, tide pool, kayak, and watch birds and mammals within the limits spelled out in each MPA's regulations. Connect to an example of a local MPA and include a list of what you can do as well as explicit limitations.
- **Legacy:** Marine protected areas may help to ensure our kids and grandkids can enjoy a healthy, productive ocean.

Additional MPA messages that have been effective include:

California pride: California is leading the nation in ocean protection through the adoption of the nation's biggest network of scientifically-based MPAs.

Prosperity: Our coastal ocean supports a \$39 billion economy, and 75% of ocean-related jobs are in tourism and recreation. Protecting ocean hot spots is a smart investment that will pay major dividends in coming years.



World Wildlife Fund

Examples of Messaging to Various Audience Groups

South Coast members of the Ocean Communicators Alliance came up with short, pithy messages and ideas directed at specific audience groups during a workshop in 2012. Depending on one's audience, the messaging may change as some topics resonate better than others. You can find the workshop proceedings here:

http://www.thankyouocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/120607_FINAL-OCA-MPA-Workshop-REPORT.pdf

Audience Group	General MPA Messages to Consider
Non-Consumptive Users	<p>“By setting aside this [local area], MPAs preserve the legacy of our great California ocean recreation experience for surfers, divers, kayakers, snorkelers and swimmers, for us and future generations.”</p> <p><u>General ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Enhance the ride – Keep the surf wild – Enhance your recreational experience – MPAs protect the legacy of diving, surfing, etc., – Wild for the future
Consumptive Users	<p><u>General ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Correct misinformation – Share stories from those who have seen the resources change (ie shifting baseline problem) – Show empathy – Recognize fishing as a way of life, keep it local – Keep in mind why people fish
Ocean-Related Business	<p>“Healthy oceans= a healthy economy” “Healthy oceans=good quality of life”</p> <p><u>General ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ocean-related business operators have a role in monitoring and enforcement; there are also possible opportunities for eco-tourism. – Communicate what this group can do in MPAs rather than what they can't do – MPAs are a tool for balancing economic and environmental considerations

<p style="text-align: center;">Lawmakers (local, state, federal)</p>	<p><u>General ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Science may be included if it is communicated as a story. When composing short messages, science is often the first thing to be removed. Science can be incorporated through the discussion of a specific issue/problem resolution that illustrates the use/importance of science. – Use numbers and make them count. Lawmakers tend to be number-oriented. Numbers resonate with them, so utilizing them tends to help with accountability and messaging to constituents. (i.e. Economic value of tourism, number of people (local voters!) visiting your marine park) – Make your point stand out. Lawmakers have many issues on their plates, and many to consider, make sure that yours stands out because of its importance to communities in their district/region. – Utilize inter-governmental pressure. A government or department doesn't want to be the last one to catch-on to something. <i>Messaging example:</i> Tell City "A" officials that adjacent City "B" just passed "X" law... good mechanism for applying a little bit of pressure that stems from a sense of competition. – Make sure that aspects of community are incorporated. Keep in mind that law makers care for and have to answer to their constituents. Also, for messages of this sort, emphasize people rather than fish (i.e. with this type of messaging, community-oriented messaging wins out over "ecosystem services" type of messages) – Make sure to mention economies. Local economies are important to law-makers. <i>Messaging example:</i> "Healthy ecosystems promote local economies..." – Give politicians their talking points – this should be your elevator pitch.
<p style="text-align: center;">Animal and Nature Enthusiasts</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"> "The ocean belongs to you – YOU CAN take care of it!" "Get to know you backyard" "Plunge into your MPAs!" "Forever neighborhood underwater park" </p> <p><u>General ideas:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – MPAs protect marine life for future generations. (Just like parks in the ocean that provide safe havens for marine life, pelicans, fish, etc.)

Ocean Etiquette and Guidelines when Viewing Wildlife

These marine wildlife viewing guidelines include stewardship principles intended to help inform the public about safe and responsible wildlife viewing practices. Sharing these guidelines will help make sure wildlife stay safe while enhancing the visitor's experience.



Look in the right place...at the right time

These two components are crucial for successful wildlife watching. Many species live only in specific habitats such as estuaries, tidepools, kelp forests, or the open ocean, and wildlife may be more sensitive during particular times of year. In addition to seasons, the times of day and tidal cycles are important factors in viewing wildlife. To maximize viewing opportunities, learn about the activity cycles of the species of interest before hand. Also know local access restrictions. Some areas may be closed seasonally to protect animals during sensitive times such as breeding and pupping.



Hands off

Never touch, handle, or otherwise disturb marine wildlife (some animals are protected by both federal and state laws). Touching wildlife or attempting to do so can injure the animal, put you at risk, and may also be illegal for certain species. The slimy coating on fish and many marine invertebrates protects the animal from infection and is easily rubbed off with a hand, glove, or foot.



Keep your distance

Use binoculars, spotting scopes, and cameras with zoom lenses to get a closer look. Marine wildlife may be very sensitive to human disturbance, and if cornered they can harm the viewer or leave the area. If wildlife approaches you, stay calm and slowly back away or place boat engines in neutral. When close encounters occur, do not make sudden moves or obstruct the travel path of the animals —let them have the unhindered “right of way.”



Follow good tidepooler rules

Never remove animals, shells, or rocks; never pick up animals; walk gently; and never turn over rocks. Help make sure these organisms will still be here for the next excited tidepoolers, and for future generations.



Help others become responsible wildlife watchers

Speak up if you notice other viewers behaving in a way that disturbs the wildlife or other viewers, or impacts sensitive habitats. Be friendly, respectful, and discrete when approaching others. Violations of the law should be reported to local authorities or call 1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258).



Dive Deeper into Marine Protected Areas!

Can't get enough of MPAs? Here's a short list of additional MPA-related projects and activities around the South Coast region. This isn't a comprehensive list, but you can get more ideas by visiting

<http://californiampas.org/pages/supportmpas.html>

MPA Watch

<http://mpawatch.org/>

California residents are embracing MPAs and joining local efforts to monitor them. They are making a difference in ocean protection – and you can too! This group of volunteers monitors the use of MPAs, providing a valuable look at how people are using these new conservation areas.

Organizations in Southern California that run MPA Watch programs include:

- Heal the Bay
- Los Angeles Waterkeeper
- Orange County Coastkeeper
- San Diego Coastkeeper
- Santa Barbara Channelkeeper
- WildCOAST

Dive into California's South Coast MPAs!

<https://tourbuilder.withgoogle.com/builder#play/ahJzfmd3ZWltdG91cmJ1aWxkZXJyEQsSBFRvdXIYgICA4OiQ7goM>

Explore California's South Coast MPAs without getting your feet wet through new online tours! The California Google MPA Tours feature detailed descriptions of each of the State and Federal MPAs, National Marine Sanctuaries, and National Estuaries. This tour explores the 50 MPAs and two special closures along California's South Coast with breathtaking pictures and videos and links to nearby activities to enjoy these special ocean areas.

Marine Protected Area County Collaboratives

<http://www.mpacollaborative.org/>



MPA Community Collaboratives provide local communities access to state agencies involved in MPA implementation and management.

Community Collaboratives include governmental agencies (city, county, state, federal, and tribal), organizations, associations, and institutions that communicate regularly about the MPAs in a

particular sub-region. There are five County Collaboratives in the South Coast region which include Santa Barbara, Catalina, Los Angeles, Orange County, and San Diego.

Reef Check California

http://reefcheck.org/rcca/rcca_home.php

Reef Check California aims to build a network of informed and involved citizens who support the sustainable use and conservation of our nearshore marine resources. To accomplish this, volunteers are trained to carry out surveys of nearshore reefs providing data on the status of key indicator species.

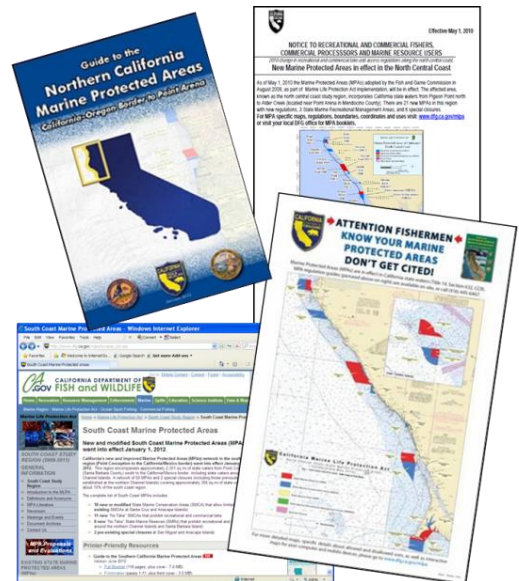
Additional Resources and Information

These resources provide links to additional information about MPAs. The links vary from education and outreach materials to scientific articles. This is not a comprehensive list of resources and we encourage you to explore the following websites for additional information:

- **Statewide MPA information (California Department of Fish and Wildlife):** www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa
- **Compiled MPAs educational resources:** <http://californiampas.org>

What are Marine Protected Areas?

- MPA Fact Sheet: http://www.californiampas.org/pubs/MPA_FAQ_sheet.pdf
- Thank You Ocean: Marine Protected Areas: <http://www.thankyouocean.org/threats/marine-life-decline/mpas/>
- Ocean Conservancy: <http://www.oceanconservancy.org/our-work/marine-protected-areas/>
- MPA Literature: <https://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/science1.asp>
 - [MPA Design](#)
 - [MPA Effectiveness - Inside and Adjacent to MPAs](#)
 - [MPA Effectiveness and Fisheries Management](#)
 - [Social and Economic Analysis](#)
 - [Larval Production and Transport](#)
 - [MPA Modeling](#)
 - [Human Impacts on the Marine Environment](#)



Federal Marine Protected Areas

- NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/about/welcome.html>
- NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary: <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/>
- National Marine Protected Areas Center: <http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/>
- National Marine Protected Areas Center: *Conserving Our Ocean One Place at a Time* http://marineprotectedareas.noaa.gov/pdf/fac/mpas_of_united_states_conserving_oceans_1113.pdf

California Marine Protected Areas

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: <https://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/intro.asp>

Map of Statewide Marine Protected Areas

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: <https://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/images/mpamaps/scmpas.jpg>

South Coast Marine Protected Areas

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Guide to Southern California Marine Protected Area: <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=43293&inline=true>
- Brochure: California Marine Protected Areas - Southern California <https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=72262&inline=true>
- Individual MPA Overviews (currently in development, but some are available): http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/mpa_summary.asp

Maps of South Coast MPAs

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife- Individual MPA maps: https://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/scmpas_list.asp
Mobile MPA website can be viewed on any portable Internet-enabled device at www.dfg.ca.gov/m/mpa
- Catalina Island: <http://californiampas.org/pages/regions/southcoast/pdfs/catalina-island-front.pdf>
- Orange County: <http://californiampas.org/pages/regions/southcoast/pdfs/orange-county-regional-map.pdf>
- San Diego Region: <http://californiampas.org/pages/regions/southcoast/pdfs/san-diego-regional-map.pdf>
- Santa Barbara Region: <http://californiampas.org/pages/regions/southcoast/pdfs/santa-barbara-regional-map.pdf>
- Santa Monica Bay: <http://californiampas.org/pages/regions/southcoast/pdfs/santa-monica-bay-regional-map.pdf>

Individual MPA Information for the following MPAs:

- | | |
|--|---|
| • Point Conception SMR | • San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA |
| • Kashtayit SMCA | • Matlahuayl SMR |
| • Naples SMCA | • South La Jolla SMCA |
| • Campus Point SMCA (no-take) | • South La Jolla SMR |
| • Goleta Slough SMCA (no-take) | • Famosa Slough SMCA (no-take) |
| • Point Dume SMCA | • Cabrillo SMR |
| • Point Dume SMR | • Tijuana River Mouth SMCA |
| • Point Vicente SMCA (no-take) | • Farnsworth Offshore SMCA |
| • Abalone Cove SMCA | • Farnsworth Onshore SMCA |
| • Bolsa Bay SMCA | • Lover's Cove SMCA |
| • Bolsa Chica Basin SMCA (no-take) | • Casino Point SMCA (no-take) |
| • Upper Newport Bay SMCA | • Long Point SMR |
| • Crystal Cove SMCA | • Blue Cavern SMCA (no-take) |
| • Laguna Beach SMR | • Bird Rock SMCA |
| • Laguna Beach SMCA (no-take) | • Arrow Point to Lion Head Point SMCA |
| • Dana Point SMCA | • Cat Harbor SMCA |
| • Batiquitos Lagoon SMCA (no-take) | • Santa Barbara Island SMR |
| • San Elijo Lagoon SMCA (no-take) | • Begg Rock SMR |
| • Swami's SMCA | • Anacapa Island SMR |
| • San Dieguito Lagoon SMCA | • Anacapa Island SMCA |

- [Scorpion SMR](#)
- [Painted Cave SMCA](#)
- [Carrington Point SMR](#)
- [Harris Point SMR](#)
- [Richardson Rock SMR](#)
- [Judith Rock SMR](#)
- [South Point SMR](#)
- [Skunk Point SMR](#)
- [Gull Island SMR](#)
- [Footprint SMR](#)
- [San Miguel Island SC](#)
- [Anacapa Island SC](#)

Commonly-found Species that Benefit from South Coast Marine Protected Areas

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife: Species Likely to Benefit from MPAs and Special-Status Species: http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/binders_sc/b2q.pdf
- Encyclopedia of the National Marine Sanctuary- Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary: <http://www8.nos.noaa.gov/onms/park/>
- Monterey Bay Aquarium: Animal Guide: <http://www.montereybayaquarium.org/animal-guide>
- NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries. Responsibly Watching California's Marine Wildlife Draft Handbook for Ocean Users: http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/national/ww_handbook.pdf

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- MPA Monitoring Plan: http://oceanspaces.org/sites/default/files/regions/files/sc_mpa_monitoring_plan_in_brief.pdf
- Ocean Spaces- South Coast Region: <http://oceanspaces.org/monitoring/regions/south-coast/planning>

Communicating about Marine Protected Areas

- South Coast OCA MPA Workshop Report: http://www.thankyouocean.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/09/130910_CC_OCA_MPA_Workshop_Report.pdf
- MPA Global Success Stories: <http://californiampas.org/pages/about/success.html>
- Resource Media. July 2014. *Communicating the value of ocean protection*. <http://www.resource-media.org/communicating-the-value-of-ocean-protection/#.UTU9mNUhuN>

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- Watchable Wildlife Incorporated. Marine Wildlife Viewing Guidelines: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/national/oeguidelines.pdf>
- Watchable Wildlife Incorporated. Marine Wildlife Viewing Guidelines (SPANISH): http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/national/oeguidelines_spanish.pdf
- NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuary's Pocket Guide: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/library/national/oeguidelines.pdf>
- NOAA National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov/protect/oceanetiquette.html>

Dive Deeper into Marine Protected Areas

- Beach Treasure Hunt: http://www.californiampas.org/pubs/educationalmaterials/CA_beach_treasure_hunt.pdf
- California Marine Sanctuary Foundation's YouTube page: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MBNMSF>

- Orange County MPAs: http://californiampas.org/pubs/brochures/OCMPAC_Brochure.pdf
- MPA County Collaboratives: <http://www.mpacollaborative.org/>
- MPA Watch: <http://mpawatch.org/>
- Volunteer Opportunities: <http://www.californiampas.org/pages/supportmpas.html>
- Fishing Guide San Diego MPAs: http://californiampas.org/pubs/Fishing_Guide_San_Diego_MPAs.pdf
- Marine Recreational Brochure - San Diego MPAs:
http://californiampas.org/pubs/Marine_Recreational_brochure_San_Diego_MPAs.pdf
- Curriculum Resource for Marine Protected Areas in Southern California:
http://californiampas.org/pubs/S_CA_Aquarium_Collaborative_MPA_curriculum.pdf
- Exploring San Diego's Underwater Parks (Brochure):
http://californiampas.org/pubs/Marine_Recreational_brochure_San_Diego_MPAs.pdf
 - Tambien end Espanola :
http://californiampas.org/pubs/brochures/San_Diego_Rec_brochure_spanish.pdf
- Santa Barbara Channel MPA Profiles: <http://www.sbck.org/MPAprofiles>

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