



To protect, maintain, enhance and restore California's marine ecosystems for their ecological values and their use and enjoyment by the public through good science and effective communication.

California Department of Fish and Wildlife,
Marine Region

Image above: Morro Rock (Mike Baird, flickr.bairdphotos.com)
below: white pelicans (Mike Baird, flickr.bairdphotos.com)



Morro Bay Harbor

(805) 772-6254
www.morro-bay.ca.us

Port San Luis Harbor

(805) 595-5400
www.portsanluis.com

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information:
www.wildlife.ca.gov

For boundaries and regulations, go to:
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA

Help stop poaching & polluting, call:
1-888-334-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)

Report lost fishing gear:
1-888-491-GEAR (4237)
or
www.lostfishinggear.org

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation:
831-647-4209
or info@mbnmsf.org



Cover: left and center right (Bart Selby);
top right (Steve Lonhart); bottom right (Chad King)

A Guide to Fishing and Marine Protected Areas

Morro Bay & Port San Luis Harbors



- Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve
- Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area
- Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park
- White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area
- Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area
- Morro Bay State Marine Reserve
- Point Buchon State Marine Reserve
- Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area
- Vandenberg State Marine Reserve



Fishing and California's Marine Protected Areas



What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are special designated underwater areas, similar to the nation's parks, forests and wilderness areas on land, that prohibit or limit the take of marine life.

Why does California need MPAs?

MPAs are proven tools for protecting, enhancing and restoring marine life. MPAs foster healthy habitats and natural diversity, safeguarding the ocean's bounty for the economic and recreational opportunities of future generations.

How many MPAs are in California?

California was the first state in the nation to establish a statewide network of MPAs. There are now 124 MPAs from the border of Oregon down to Mexico. These MPAs protect a variety of key habitats and link protected areas along the coast.

Photo credit: top left (Tressa Bronner); top right (NOAA/NOS); middle center (Bart Selby)

Is Fishing Allowed in MPAs?

Fishing and the take of marine life such as shellfish or seaweed is not allowed in about half of California's marine protected areas. An inset map of local MPAs with their regulations is provided in this brochure.



Is Anchoring Allowed in MPAs?

Boats are allowed to anchor in an MPA with catch onboard unless otherwise specified in the MPA regulations. However, fishing gear may not be deployed when anchored in a no-take state marine reserve. For additional information, scan the barcode on the right to visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's website.

MPAs & Fishing Regulations



Scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone or other internet enabled device to visit the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's MPA mobile website.

The website allows you to search for information about MPA boundaries and regulations. You can also use your GPS location to locate the closest MPA(s) and determine whether or not you are currently in an MPA.

Go Fishing

Recreational & Commercial Fishing Information:
phone: 831-649-2870
website: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishing

Recreational Groundfish "hotline"
831-649-2801
Recreational Salmon "hotline"
707-576-3429



kelp bass (Steve Lonhart)



black rockfish (Chad King)



kayaking (Claire Fackler)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



crab pots (Bart Selby)



dungeness crab (Bart Selby)

Morro Bay and Port San Luis Harbor MPAs

MPA	Allowed Uses
Piedras Blancas, Morro Bay, Point Buchon & Vandenberg SMRS	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:	
Piedras Blancas SMCA	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore.
Cambria SMCA/SMP*	Recreational take allowed.
White Rock (Cambria) SMCA	Commercial take of giant kelp and bull kelp.
Morro Bay SMRMA	No recreational or commercial take of living marine resources except north of 35° 19.70'N. Recreational take of finfish and oyster aquaculture is allowed. Waterfowl hunting is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations.
Point Buchon SMCA	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore.

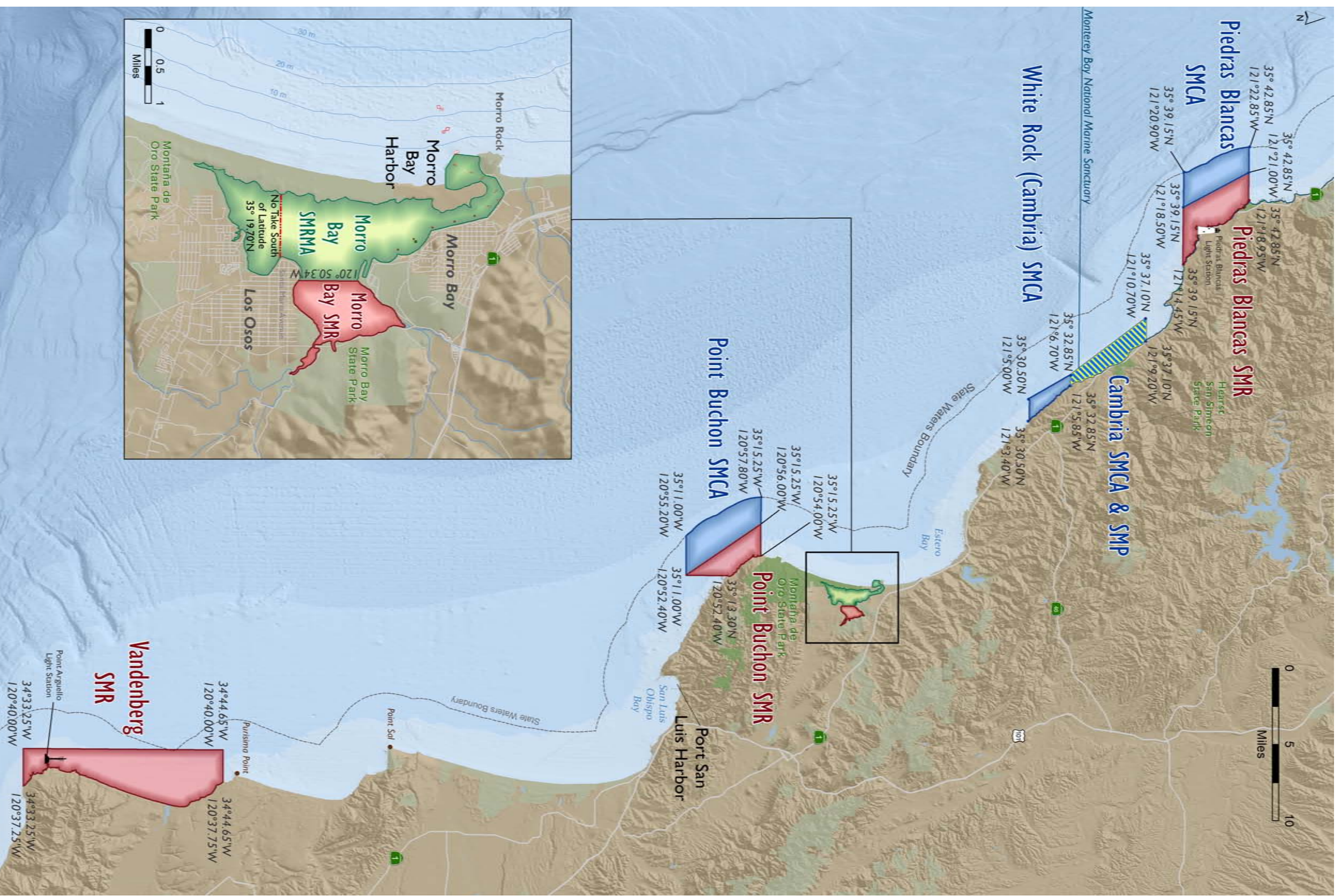
Regulations
This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632.

- 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.
- "Take" means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill fish, mollusks, or crustaceans, or attempting to do so.

Morro Bay & Port San Luis Harbor Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

California Marine Protected Areas

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



State Marine Reserves (SMR):

No damage or take of living, geologic, or cultural marine resources is allowed.

State Marine Parks (SMP):

No commercial take of resources is allowed, but some recreational take may be allowed (restrictions vary)

State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA):

Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed (restrictions vary)

State Marine Recreational Management Areas (SMRMA):

Restricts the take of living marine resources while allowing for waterfowl hunting to occur (restrictions vary)