



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: Dana Point coastline (Neil Kremer)
below: seabirds (Tracie Hall)



Newport Harbor

(949) 723-1002 (Harbor Patrol)

Dana Point Harbor

(949) 723-1004 (Harbor Patrol) or
www.danapointharbor.com

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information:
www.wildlife.ca.gov

For boundaries and regulations, go to:
www.wildlife.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

Learn more about clean boating at:
www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com
415-904-6905

Help protect Seabirds!
For tips and info on special closures, visit:
www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
831-647-4209
or CMSF@CaliforniaMSF.org



Cover: left (Bart Selby); top and bottom right (Brian Gratwicke); middle right (Jeff Johnson)

A Guide to Fishing and Marine Protected Areas Orange County



Laguna Beach and Long Point State Marine Reserves

Point Vicente, Bolsa Chica Basin, Laguna Beach, Casino Point, and Blue Cavern Onshore No-Take State Marine Conservation Areas

Abalone Cove, Bolsa Bay, Upper Newport Bay, Crystal Cove, Dana Point, Lover's Cove, Blue Cavern Offshore, Arrow Point to Lion Head Point, Cat Harbor, Farnsworth Onshore, and Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Areas

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 resources.

Why does California need MPAs?

MPAs are recognized 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 the border of Mexico. The MPA network protects a variety of key habitats by linking MPAs along the coast.

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



kelp bass (Steve Lonhart)



black rockfish (Chad King)



kayaking (Claire Fackler)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



California spiny lobster
(Claire Fackler)



California sheephead
(Ed Bierman)

Is Fishing Allowed in MPAs?

Fishing and the take of marine life such as shellfish or seaweed is not allowed in marine reserves and no-take marine conservation areas, which make up about half of California's marine protected areas. An inset map of local MPAs with their regulations is provided in this brochure.



Is Anchoring and Transit Allowed in MPAs?

Boats are allowed to anchor and transit through an MPA, however, fishing gear may not be deployed when in marine reserves or other MPAs that prohibit fishing for the species you have onboard. For additional information, scan the QR code on the right to visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's website.

MPAs - Good for the Ocean; Good for You! Know the Rules Before You Head Out.

For Ocean Fishing Laws & Regulations, go to:
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/regulations.asp

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to:
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA/MPA_summary.asp

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

MPA Mobile Website



Regulations

This document is provided as a courtesy, and does not replace the official laws and regulations found in the California Fish and Game Code or the California Code of Regulation Title 14.

- A fishing license is required for any fishing.
- All existing take regulations still apply in addition to the ones listed on the next page.
- 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.

MPA	Allowed Uses
Laguna Beach and Long Point SMRs	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Point Vicente, Bolsa Chica Basin and Laguna Beach No-Take SMCAs	Recreational and commercial take of all living marine resources is prohibited. Take incidental to certain permitted activities may be allowed. Other restrictions may apply. See CCR T14 §632(b) for details.

MPA	Allowed Uses
	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:
Abalone Cove ¹ SMCA	Recreational take of market squid by hand-held dip net, and white seabass and pelagic finfish by spearfishing.Commercial take of coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat; and swordfish by harpoon.

MPA	Allowed Uses
	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:
Bolsa Bay ¹ SMCA	Recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line from shore in designated areas. Entry permitted only on established trails, paths or other designated areas. Closed from 8pm to 6am. Boating, swimming, wading and diving prohibited.

MPA	Allowed Uses
	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:
Upper Newport Bay ¹ SMCA	Recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line from shore only. Shoreline access limited to established trails, paths or other designated areas. Restrictions exist for boating and swimming. See CCR T14 §632(b) for details.

MPA	Allowed Uses
	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:
Crystal Cove ¹ SMCA	Recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line or spearfishing; take of spiny lobster and sea urchin. Commercial take of sea urchin; spiny lobster by trap; and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat. Take of living marine resources from tidepools is prohibited.
Dana Point ¹ SMCA	Recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line or spearfishing, and lobster and urchin. Commercial take of lobster by trap, sea urchin, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat. Take of living marine resources from tidepools is prohibited.
Lover's Cove ¹ SMCA	Recreational take by hook-and-line from Cabrillo Mole only. Feeding of fish for marine life viewing is allowed.
Casino Point ¹ No-Take SMCA	Recreational and commercial take of all living marine resources is prohibited. Feeding of fish for marine life viewing is permitted. See CCR T14 §632(b) for details.
Blue Cavern Onshore ^{1,2} No-Take SMCA	Recreational and commercial take of all living marine resources is prohibited. Also, no anchoring or mooring within the former Catalina Marine Science Center Marine Life Refuge. See CCR T14 §632(b) for details.
Blue Cavern Offshore ² SMCA	Recreational take of market squid by hand-held dip net, pelagic finfish by hook-and-line or by spearfishing, and white seabass by spearfishing. Commercial take of pelagic finfish by hook-and-line, and swordfish by harpoon.
Arrow Point to Lion Head Point SMCA	Recreational take of marine plants and finfish. Take of invertebrates is prohibited.
Cat Harbor ¹ SMCA	Recreational take of lobster and sea urchin, squid by hook-and-line, and finfish by hook-and-line or spearfishing. Commercial take of lobster and sea urchin, and sea cucumber by diving only.
Farnsworth Onshore SMCA	Recreational take of market squid by hand-held dip net; white seabass and pelagic finfish by spearfishing; and marlin, tuna and dorado by trolling. Commercial take of coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat; swordfish by harpoon.
Farnsworth Offshore SMCA	Recreational take of market squid by hand-held dip net; white seabass by spearfishing; pelagic finfish by hook-and-line or spearfishing, and marlin, tuna and dorado by trolling. Commercial take of coastal pelagic species by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat; and swordfish by harpoon.
¹ Take incidental to certain permitted activities is allowed. See CCR T14 §632(b) for details.	
² Name change effective October 1, 2014	

Orange County Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

