



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

California State Parks
Regional Office: 650-726-8819
711, TTY Relay Service
www.parks.ca.gov
Año Nuevo State Reserve
650-879-0027

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
For more information:
www.wildlife.ca.gov
For boundaries and regulations, go to:
www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

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

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

Marine Mammal Center:
415-289-7325; rescue@tmmc.org

- Tidepool Etiquette:**
- Never remove animals, shells, seaweed, plants, or rocks from tidepools.
 - Look, but don't touch.
 - Walk carefully, take care not to step on plants or animals.
 - Stay at least 300 feet away from all marine mammals - for your safety and theirs.

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
CMSF@CaliforniaMSF.org



Cover: humpback whale (Michael L. Baird flickr.bairdphotos.com)

Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve
Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area



Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

Image above: white shark (Chuck Babbitt)
below: giant kelp (Claire Fackler)

From sandy beaches to deep offshore waters



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 state and federal MPAs safeguard our underwater wildlife, restore marine ecosystems, and preserve critical coastal habitats that allow sensitive marine communities to recover and thrive. California's State MPAs and National Marine Sanctuaries help ensure the ocean's bounty remain for future generations to enjoy. 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: red sea star (Chad King)
above right: Pacific white-sided dolphin (Chad King)

The rich biodiversity area around Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock is home to more than 300 species of invertebrates as well as numerous fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. MPAs here support thriving species while also helping to restore endangered or threatened marine life.

Amazing Sea Life

Giant kelp creates underwater forests for crabs, colorful nudibranchs, a variety of fishes, and abalone. Because the harvest of marine life is prohibited, the waters around Año Nuevo are teeming with life. White sharks, whales, and dolphins are also common visitors.

Bountiful Bird Life

An extraordinary diversity of resident and migratory birds feast among the tidepools, beaches, and shallows here including black oystercatchers, godwits, turnstones, willets, plovers, pipits, and at least six species of gulls.

Brown pelicans, marbled murrelets, and other diving birds gorge themselves on schools of bait fishes. On the protected rocky islets, thousands of seabirds breed without disturbance.

Scientific Research

Pristine areas provide unique opportunities for scientific study. At Año Nuevo, scientists discovered the fossilized remains of a 15-million-year old baleen whale and are unraveling mysteries of how sharks interact with populations of elephant seals.

Native People

For thousands of years, the Ohlone tribe used Año Nuevo as a source of food, tools, shells, decorations, and tradable goods. Former kitchens, now giant shell middens, lie buried beneath the elephant seal harem. For centuries, this coastline was a thriving commercial and economic center due to the bounty of the ocean.



Hopkins' rose nudibranch
(Jerry Loomis)

nudibranch (Ken Bondy)

brown pelican (Jerry Kirkhart)

striped shore crab (Jerry Kirkhart)

black oystercatcher (Jerry Kirkhart)

cooper rockfish (Chad King)

California Marine Protected Areas

The California statewide MPA network includes different designations that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations and regulations in this area are:

MPA	Allowed Uses
Año Nuevo SMR	No take, damage, injury, or possession of any living, geologic, or cultural marine resource is allowed.

MPA	Allowed Uses
	It is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, EXCEPT:
Greyhound Rock SMCA	Recreational and commercial take of salmon and squid, and giant kelp by hand is allowed. Recreational take of other finfish by hook-and-line from shore only is allowed.



Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock Marine Protected Areas



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

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates and allowed uses, go to: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

MPA-related questions?
Contact AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

Report Violations:
(888) 334-CalTIP (2258)

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 Regulations Title 14.

- 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.