



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: gray whale (Jan-Dirk Hansen)  
below: diver (Jerry Loomis)



**Santa Cruz Harbor**  
(831) 475-6161 or  
scpd@santacruzharbor.org  
www.santacruzharbor.org

**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)

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

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

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



# A Guide to Fishing and Marine Protected Areas Santa Cruz Harbor



- Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve
- Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area
- Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve
- Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area
- Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve
- Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve
- Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area
- Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area

Cover: left & center right (Bart Selby);  
top & bottom right (Chad King)

# Fishing and California's Marine Protected Areas

## What are Marine Protected Areas?

Just as the nation's parks, forests, and wilderness areas protect special places on land, California's state and federal marine protected areas (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 and beauty remain for future generations to enjoy.

## 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.

## 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.

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

## MPAs & Fishing Regulations



Scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone or other internet enabled device to visit the California Department 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

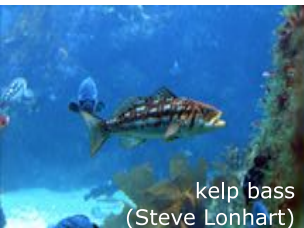
Recreational & Commercial Fishing Information:

phone: 831-649-2870

website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/fishing](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/fishing)

Recreational Groundfish "hotline"  
831-649-2801

Recreational Salmon "hotline"  
707-576-3429



kelp bass  
(Steve Lonhart)



kayaking  
(Claire Fackler)



copper rockfish  
(Chad King)



crab pots  
(Bart Selby)



black rockfish  
(Steve Lonhart)



dungeness crab  
(Bart Selby)



fishing boat  
(Bart Selby)

| MPA   | Allowed Uses  |
|---|---|
| Año Nuevo, Natural Bridges, Elkhorn Slough, and Moro Cojo Slough SMRs | 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, with the following specified exceptions: |
| 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.                    |

| 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, with the following specified exceptions: |
| Elkhorn Slough SMCA | Recreational take of finfish by hook-and-line only, and clams from the slough's north shore near the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area, 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, with the following specified exceptions: |
| Soquel Canyon and Portuguese Ledge SMCAs | Recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish <sup>1</sup> is allowed.<br><br><sup>1</sup> See current fishing regulations for definition of "pelagic finfish."                       |

## Santa Cruz Harbor Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



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

For Ocean Fishing Laws and Regulations, go to:  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Ocean)

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates and allowed uses, go to: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)

MPA-related questions?  
Contact [AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov)

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

### 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 Regulation 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.

