



What is a California marine protected area (or "MPA")?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. Most marine conservation areas such as Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the rocky reef, surfgrass, kelp forest, and sandy seafloor habitat found there. These habitats are used by a wide variety of fish and invertebrates, including kelp bass, California sheephead, and abalone. The conservation area is a mix of shallow nearshore and deep water habitats extending to over 2,200 feet deep.

The conservation area shares a western border with [Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area](#). Together the two conservation areas protect almost 20 square miles of ocean habitat. Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



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Quick Facts: Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 4.79 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.5 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 2,237 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 4.53 square miles
Rock: 0.51 square miles



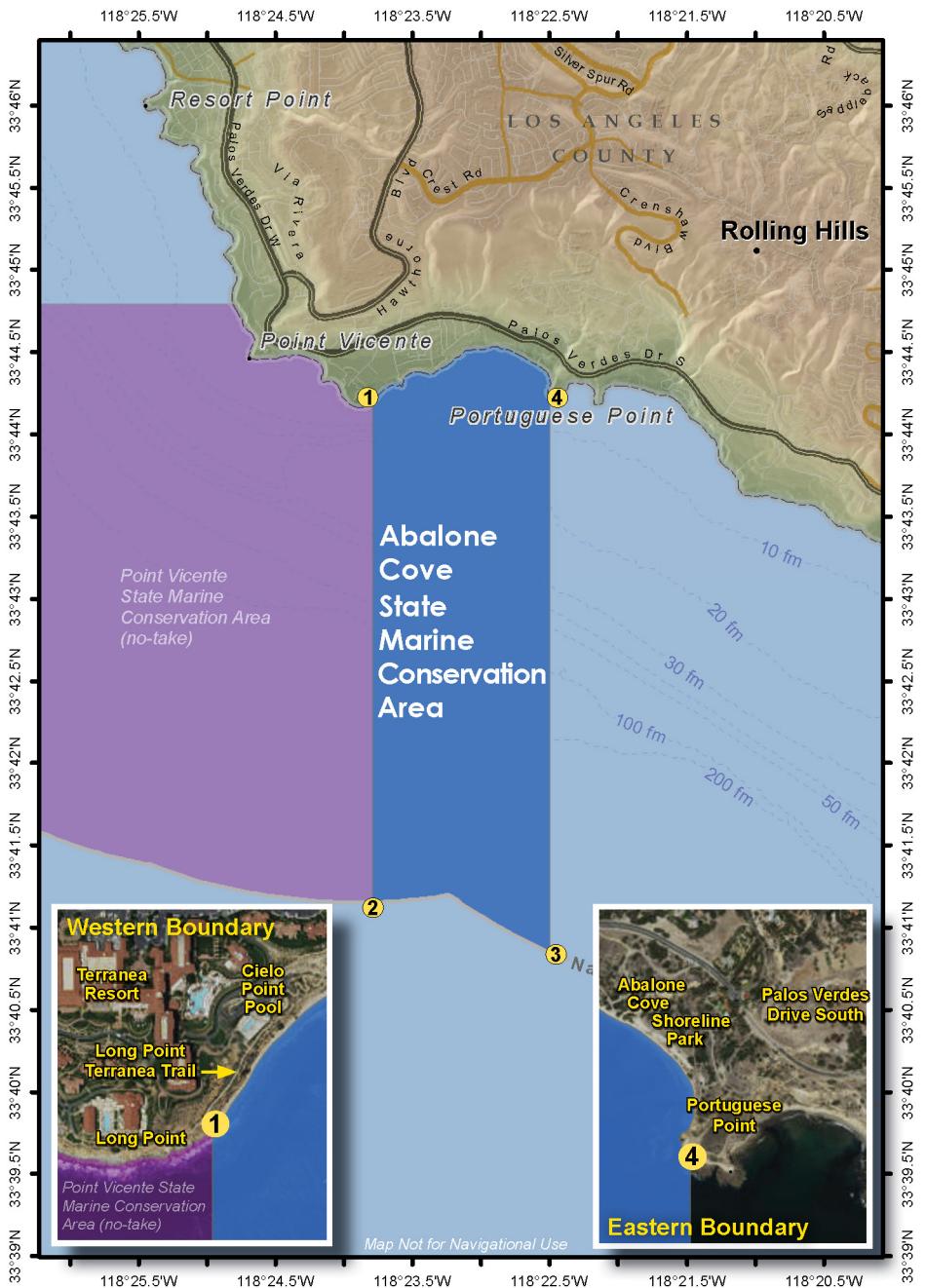
Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo by P. Serpa
Lower right: Kelp bass in the kelp forest at Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Zoe Allen, CC BY-NC 2.0
Lower left: Green abalone in Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Zoe Allen, CC BY-NC 2.0

Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Los Angeles County



Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 33° 44.198' N. lat. 118° 23.800' W. long. ①;
- 33° 41.155' N. lat. 118° 23.800' W. long. ②; thence southeastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 40.851' N. lat. 118° 22.500' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 44.240' N. lat. 118° 22.500' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

- a. The recreational take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish*; and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed.
- b. The commercial take of swordfish by harpoon; and coastal pelagic species and Pacific bonito by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial coastal pelagic species** or Pacific bonito catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.
- c. Take pursuant to remediation activities associated with the Palos Verdes Shelf Operable Unit of the Montrose Chemical Superfund Site is allowed inside the conservation area pursuant to the Interim Record of Decision issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any subsequent Records of Decision.

* Pelagic finfish are defined here as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.), billfishes* (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasi*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family Scombridae) including Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*).
*Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

** Coastal pelagic species are defined here as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*) and market squid (*Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens*).

Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at www.wildlife.ca.gov/CCR-T14-MPAs