

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 Lover's 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 Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area is to protect kelp forest habitat that extends to over 180 ft. deep, as well as rocky reef and sandy seafloor habitat. California sheephead, opaleye, and the bright orange state marine fish, the garibaldi, are often seen swimming through the kelp forest, while giant sea bass can be found along its deeper edges. California spiny lobster and abalone scavenge for food across the rocky reef and shelter in crevices, while sanddabs hunt for invertebrates and camouflage themselves on the sandy seafloor.

Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area is one of two California MPAs that permits visitors to feed the local fish to attract them for viewing purposes. Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.

Quick Facts: Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.06 square miles
- **Shoreline Span:** 0.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 188 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 0.06 square miles
Rock: 0.01 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Feeding Fish

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

Further Information:

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



Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

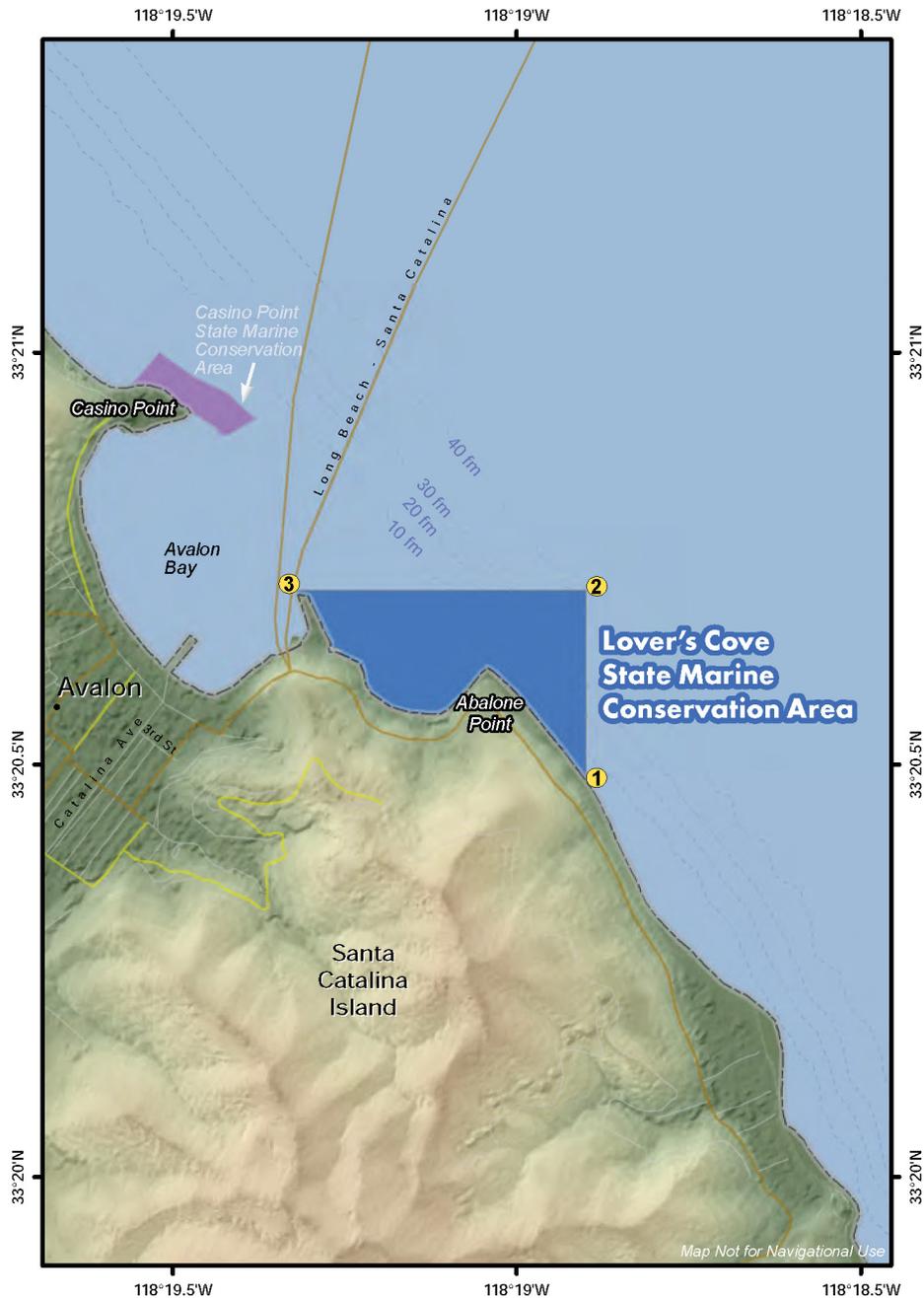
or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip"
followed by the details.



Photos - Upper: Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo by T. Mason
Lower right: Garibaldi, California's State Marine Fish, at Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Douglas, CC BY-NC 2.0
Lower left: Wandering tattler at Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area photo © Rebecca Marschall, CC BY-NC 2.0

Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Santa Catalina Island



Version 2, September 2022

Lover's 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:

- 33° 20.460' N. lat. 118° 18.900' W. long. ①;
- 33° 20.711' N. lat. 118° 18.900' W. long. ②; and
- 33° 20.711' N. lat. 118° 19.321' W. long. ③

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. 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:
 - a. The recreational take by hook-and-line from the Cabrillo Mole is allowed.
 - b. Take pursuant to maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.
 - c. Feeding of fish for marine life viewing is allowed.



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/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.