CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREA UPDATE

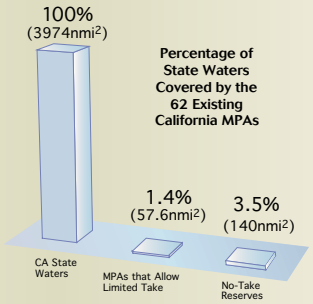
Marine protected areas (MPAs) are one of the strategies state and federal administrative agencies, the Legislature, and the public through the initiative process, use to manage and conserve marine resources. They are sections of the ocean set aside to protect and restore habitats and ecosystems, conserve biological diversity, provide a refuge for sea life, enhance recreational and educational opportunities, provide a reference point against which scientists can measure changes elsewhere in the environment, and help rebuild depleted fisheries.

There are a variety of types of MPAs, ranging from limited to full protection. California state MPA classifications include:

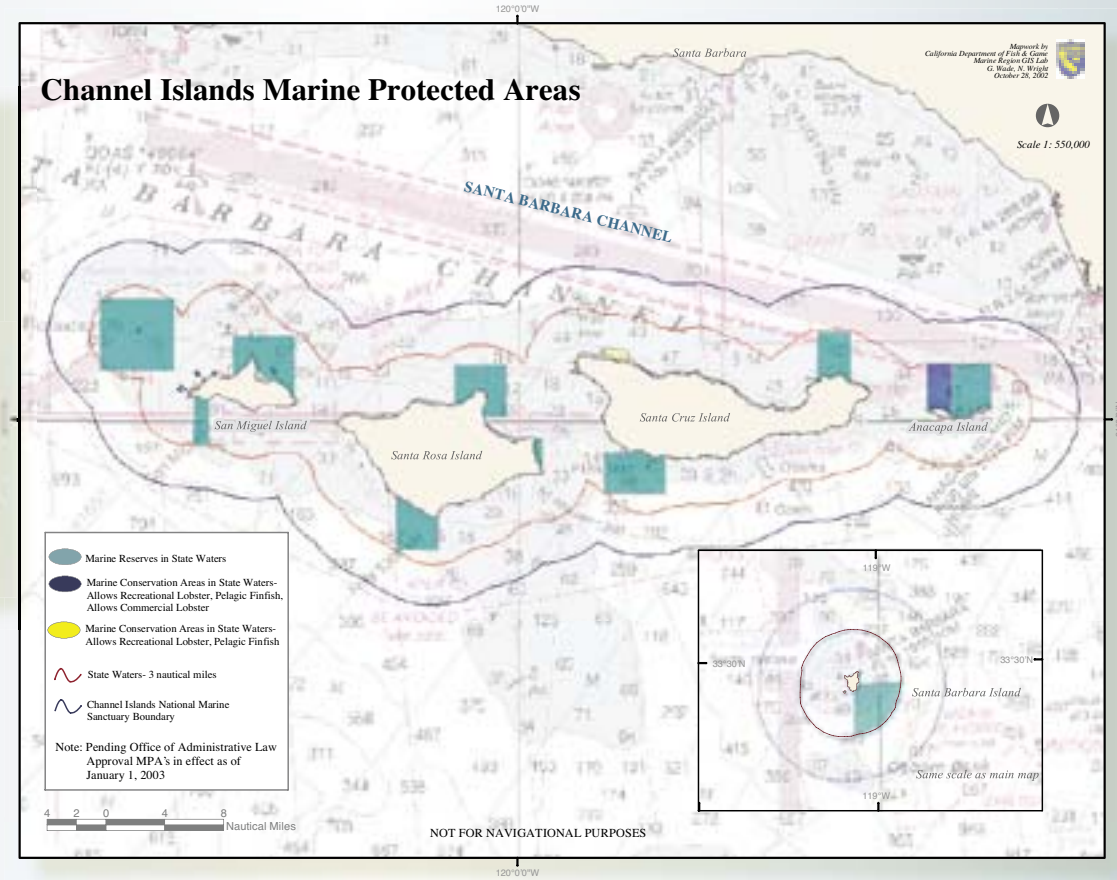
- **State Marine Reserves:** Prohibit all take of living, geological, or cultural resources.
- **Marine Conservation Areas:** Prohibit specific commercial and/or recreational take of living, geological, or cultural resources on a case-by-case basis.
- **State Marine Parks:** Prohibit commercial take of living, geological, or cultural resources and allow recreational fishing although some restrictions may apply.

Non-consumptive activities, such as diving, surfing, swimming, and boating are allowed within all of the above MPA designations, so long as take restrictions are followed. Anchoring within and transit through the MPAs with catch onboard is allowed, so long as fishing gear is stowed and not in use.

Since 1950, 62 MPAs have been established in California state waters. The 62 MPAs cover 4.9% (198 nmi²) of state waters; 19 are fully protected (no-take) marine reserves that cover 3.5% (140 nmi²) of state waters (3974 nmi²). This information updates the information in the 2002 CA Sea Grant publication by D. McArdle, pp. 3,8,9.



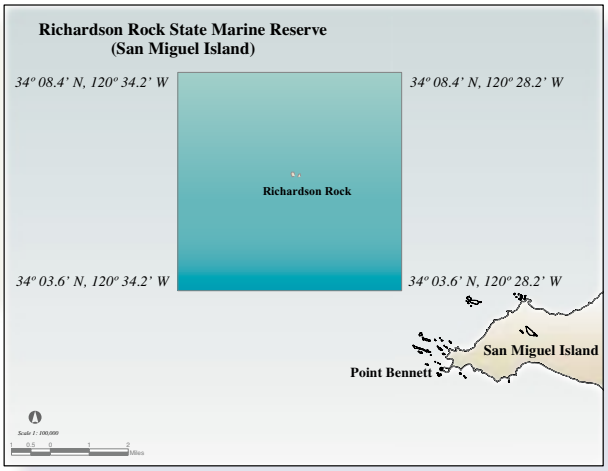
Map taken from McArdle 2002.



In October 2002, the California Fish and Game Commission designated the 12 newest MPAs. Three of these replace existing ecological reserves at Anacapa, Santa Barbara and San Miguel Islands. The 12 MPAs form a network that covers 142 nmi² within the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. Ten (132nmi²) of the 12 MPAs are no-take "marine reserves," where no fishing or kelp harvesting is allowed. Two (10nmi²) of the 12 areas are "conservation areas" and allow for limited recreational fishing and commercial lobster trapping. This publication is meant only to inform and educate the general public about the creation of new MPAs at the Channel Islands. For more specific information contact the Department of Fish and Game at (916) 653-7664.

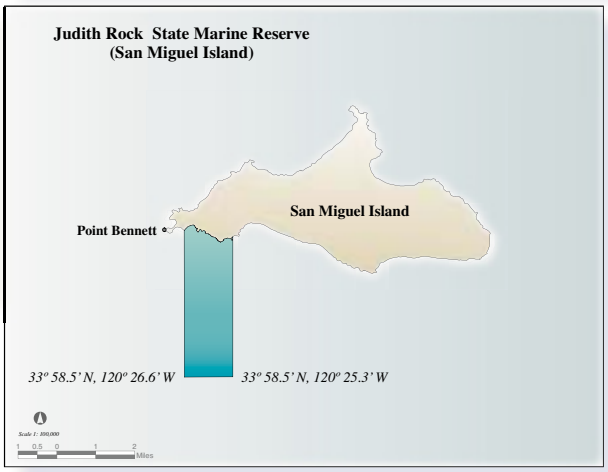
Site name:
Richardson Rock (San Miguel Island) State Marine Reserve*

- No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- Shoreline length: N/A (offshore area)
- Area: 32.2 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 360



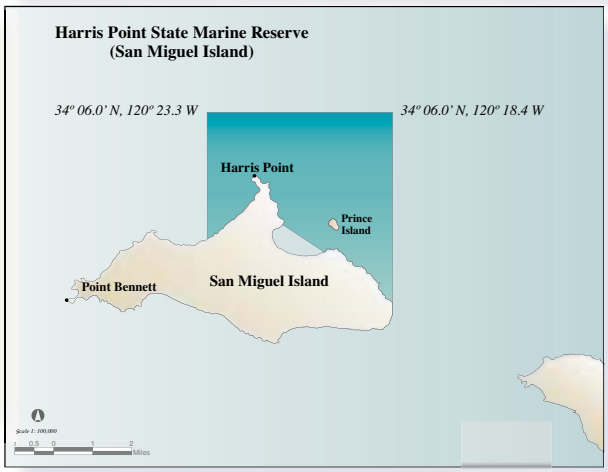
Site name:
Judith Rock (San Miguel Island) State Marine Reserve*

- No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- Shoreline length: 1.4 nm
- Area: 5.1 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 420



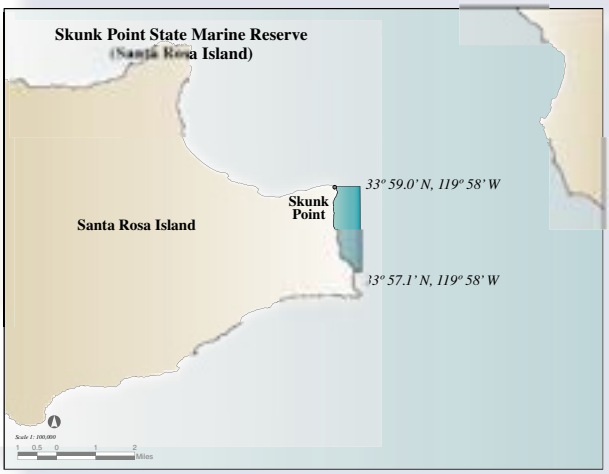
Site name:
Harris Point (San Miguel Island) State Marine Reserve*

- No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
  An exemption to the reserve, where commercial and recreational take of living marine resources is allowed, exists within Cuyler harbor (see California Code of Regulations, Title 14, §632)
- Shoreline length: 6.3 nm
- Area: 18.2 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 300



Site name:
Skunk Point (Santa Rosa Island) State Marine Reserve*

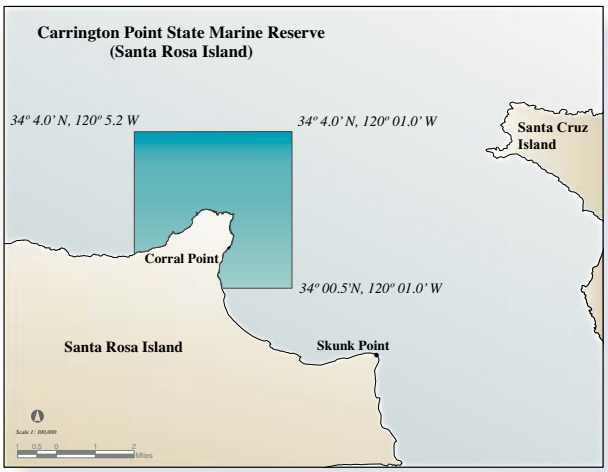
- No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- Shoreline length: 2.7 nm
- Area: 1.4 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 60



*This map should not be used for navigational purposes. Furthermore, the restrictions described are only those imposed by this MPA designation. Additional restrictions may apply to fishing activities and other activities such as collecting, discharging and disposing of substances. Refer to the CA Code of Regulations, Title 14, §632 and the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 15, §922.70 or contact the CA Department of Fish & Game or the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary.

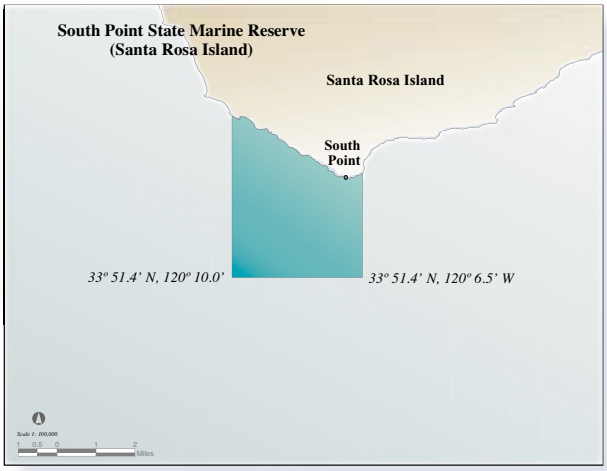
Site name:
Carrington Point (Santa Rosa Island) State Marine Reserve*

No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- Shoreline length: 5.3 nm
- Area: 13.3 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 180



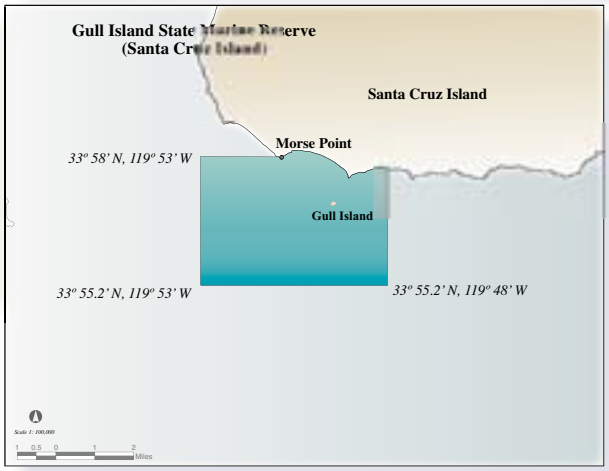
Site name:
South Point (Santa Rosa Island) State Marine Reserve*

No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- Shoreline length: 3.8 nm
- Area: 10.8 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 1,200



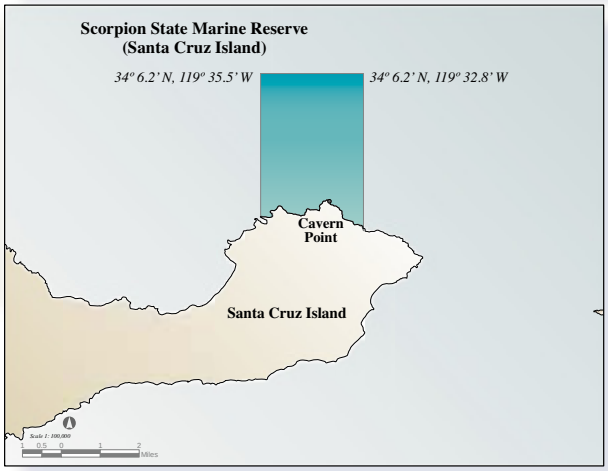
Site name:
Gull Island (Santa Cruz Island) State Marine Reserve*

No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- Shoreline length: 2.9 nm
- Area: 16.1 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 1,800



Site name:
Scorpion (Santa Cruz Island) State Marine Reserve*

No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- Shoreline length: 3.3 nm
- Area: 10.3 nm²
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 750



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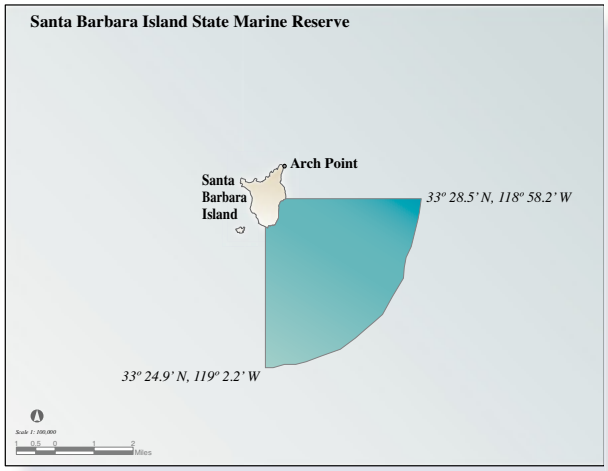
Site name:
Santa Barbara Island State Marine Reserve*

No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.

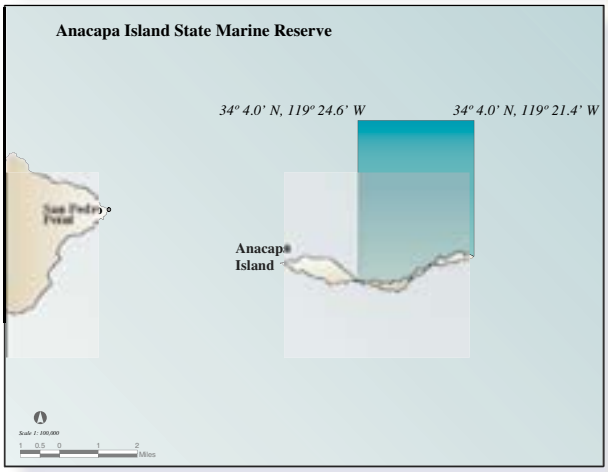
- Shoreline length: 1 nm
- Area: 13.2 nm^2
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 1,800



Site name:
Anacapa Island State Marine Reserve*

No commercial or recreational fishing allowed.

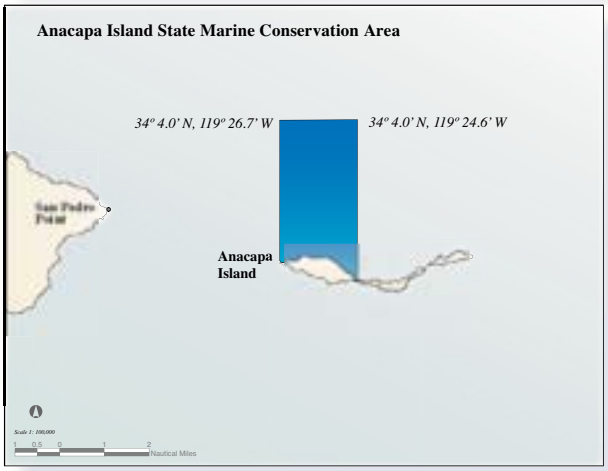
- Shoreline length: 3.3 nm
- Area: 11.7 nm^2
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 600



Site name:
Anacapa Island State Marine Conservation Area*

No take of living or non-living marine resources is allowed except: recreational take of spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) and pelagic finfish[τ] and commercial take of spiny lobster.

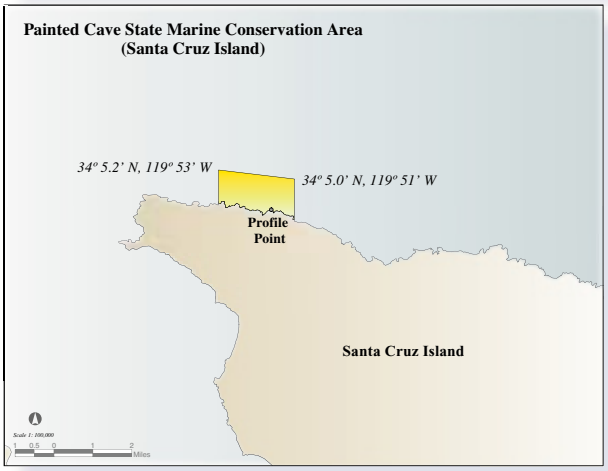
- Shoreline length: 2.2 nm
- Area: 8.1 nm^2
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 600



Site name:
Painted Cave (Santa Cruz Island) State Marine Conservation Area*

No take of living or non-living marine resources is allowed except: recreational take of spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) and pelagic finfish[τ]

- Shoreline length: 2 nm
- Area: 2.1 nm^2
- Depth range (feet): 0 to 300



FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Channel Island MPA regulations, visit the California Department of Fish & Game website at: www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/channel_islands/index.html, or call (916) 653-7664.

To learn more about the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary visit www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov.

To learn more about the current status and history of MPAs, see: McArdle 2002 California Marine Protected Areas, Past and Present, at the California Sea Grant publications link at: www.csgc.ucsd.edu or contact Sea Grant at (858) 534-4446 or gfrederick@ucsd.edu.

McArdle, D., S. Hastings and J. Ugoretz. 2003. California Marine Protected Area Update.

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τPelagic finfish are defined as: northern anchovy, barracudas, billfishes, dolphinfish, Pacific herring, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, salmon, Pacific sardine, blue shark, salmon shark, shortfin mako shark, thresher sharks, swordfish, tunas, and yellowtail. Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

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