

Painted Cave State Marine Conservation Area (Santa Cruz Island)

Southern California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Established January 2012*



Sandy bottom
Leopard shark
(*Triakis semifasciatus*)
Photo by Allison Lui



Male California sheephead
(*Semicossyphus pulcher*)
Photo by Mark Winscher



Rocky reef
Gopher rockfish
(*Sebastes carnatus*)
NOV Photo by MARE/CDFW

Site Overview

Photos are representative of the South Coast Region and may not be within this MPA.

What is an MPA?

MPAs are a type of [marine managed area](#) (MMA) where marine or estuarine waters are set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and associated habitats. California has a coastal network of 124 protected areas designed to help increase the coherence and effectiveness of protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. The network includes three types of MPA: [state marine reserve](#) (SMR), [state marine conservation area](#) (SMCA), and [state marine park](#) (SMP); one MMA: [state marine recreational management area](#) (SMRMA); and [special closures](#). There are 119 MPAs, 5 MMAs and 15 special closures, each with unique boundaries and regulations in the network. Non-consumptive activities, restoration, and permitted scientific research are allowed.

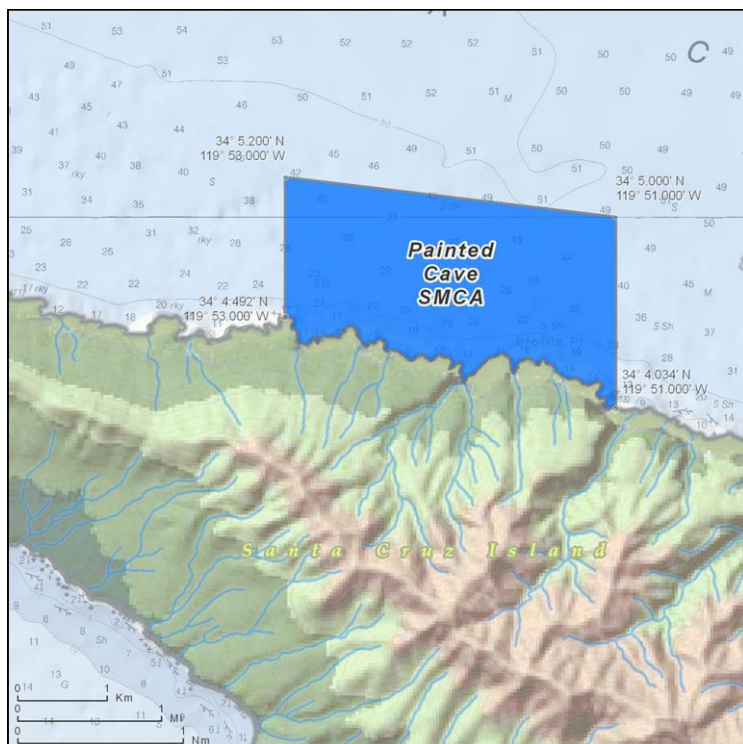
What is an SMCA?

An **SMCA** is a type of MPA that protects resources by allowing for only specific types of recreational and/or commercial take to occur.

Painted Cave SMCA Overview

- **MPA size:** 1.78 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 291 feet
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 1.9 miles

Where is Painted Cave SMCA?



Painted Cave SMCA Key Habitats

- **Rocky shores:** 3.05 miles
- **Sand (all depths):** 0.17 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 0.04 square miles
- **Unidentified (all depths):** 1.57 square miles

Boundaries and Regulations

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:

34° 04.492'N. lat. 119° 53.000'W. long.;
34° 05.200'N. lat. 119° 53.000'W. long.; thence
eastward along a line one nautical mile offshore to
34° 05.000'N. lat. 119° 51.000'W. long.; and
34° 04.034'N. lat. 119° 51.000'W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT for the recreational take of spiny lobster and [pelagic finfish](#).

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How and Why Painted Cave was Chosen for an SMCA

In 1998, the Channel Islands Marine Resources Restoration Committee, a group of concerned citizens, requested the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to establish a network of MPAs around the northern Channel Islands. As a result of the request, the Commission directed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) to jointly support a process to discuss MPAs in the Channel Islands area. After more than two years of meetings involving a broad based constituent group, CDFW and the Sanctuary drafted a recommendation for Channel Islands MPAs. Regulations took effect for these 13 sites on April 9, 2003. www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process#26189705-channel-islands Painted Cave SMCA was one of them.

In 2008, while implementing the [Marine Life Protection Act](#) of 1999, Painted Cave SMCA was retained by the Commission as part of the south coast region of MPAs with no regulatory changes from those already established and in effect since 2003.

Species Likely to Benefit from the Establishment of MPAs in California

Species likely to benefit from establishing an MPA are those, whose home range, behavior, reproduction, exploitation rate or population status indicates that they may benefit from spatial management. This includes species that are directly targeted by fisheries, those which are caught incidental to fishing for the target species (bycatch) and which cannot be returned to the water with a high rate of survival, and those which may be indirectly impacted through ecological changes within MPAs.

For a list of species likely to benefit from MPAs statewide: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/species.asp

For a list of species likely to benefit from south coast MPAs: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2q.pdf

South Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview

South Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b1n.pdf

California MLPA South Coast Study Region Description of MPAs:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b1pv.pdf

Methods Used to Evaluate MPAs in the South Coast:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2b.pdf

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring

Regional MPA Statistics:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics

Regional Planning History:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process

California MPA Network Resources

Detailed MPA guidebooks maps and brochures:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network

California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals



For more information, visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

Email:

AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

MPA Mobile:



Report poaching and polluting,
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