

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 Painted Cave 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 Painted Cave State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the diverse rocky reef, kelp forest, and sandy seafloor habitat found at this location, where warm water currents from the tropics and cold water currents from Alaska converge. Colorful rocks, lichens, and algae line the walls of Painted Cave, the largest sea cave in North America. A variety of marine species may be found in the rocky reefs and kelp forests of the conservation area as well, including California spiny lobster, lingcod, and kelp rockfish.

Painted Cave State Marine Conservation Area was established as one of 13 Channel Islands MPAs in 2003, and re-established as part of the statewide [MPA Network](#) in 2012. The conservation area overlaps a portion of the [Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#) and [Channel Islands National Park](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

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



Quick Facts: Painted Cave State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 1.78 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.2 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 291 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 0.17 square miles
Rock: 0.04 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

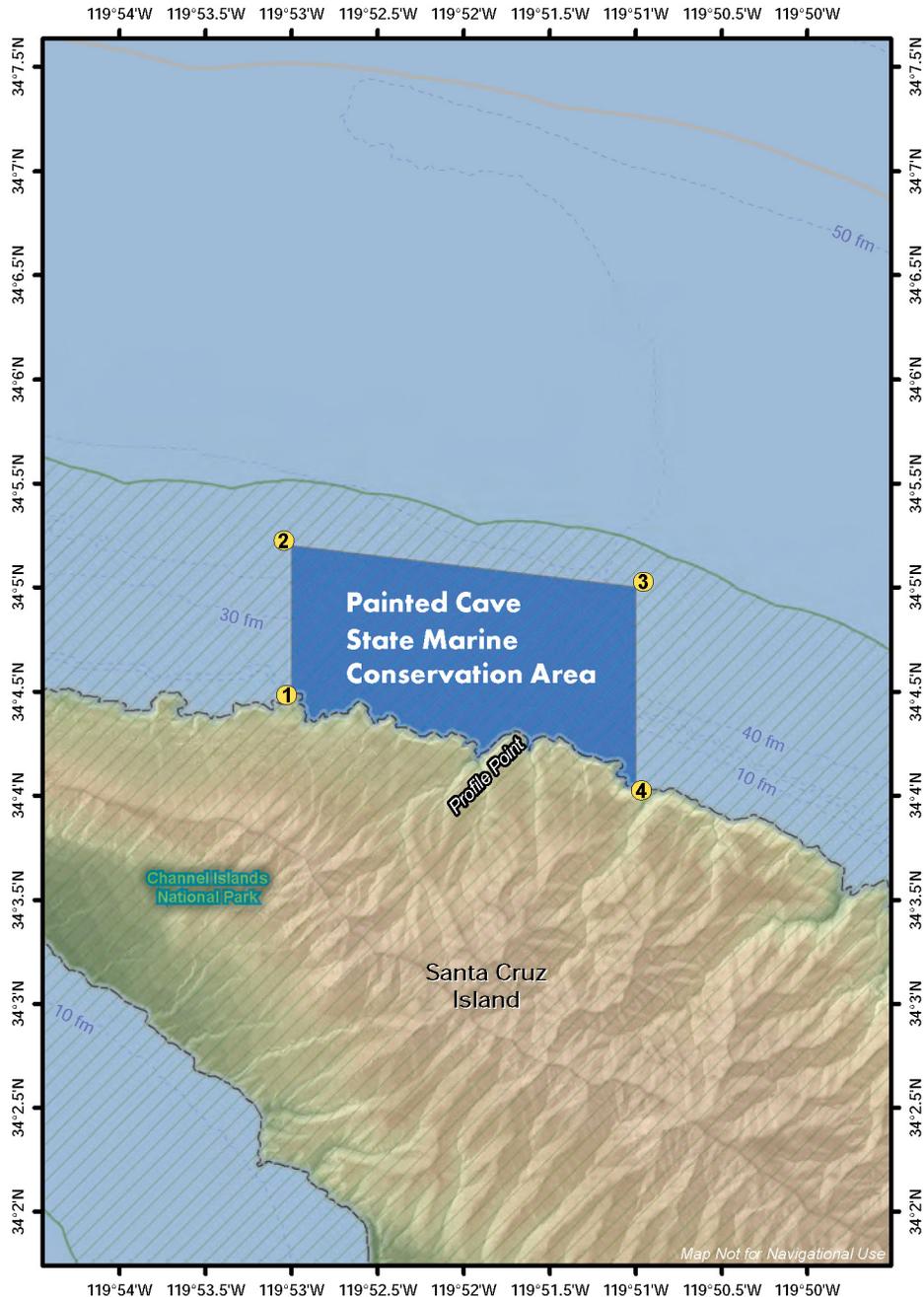
Fishing
See Regulations On Back

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

Photos - Upper: Painted Cave, photo by R. Schwemmer CINMS/NOAA
Lower right: Kelp rockfish at the conservation area, photo © sea kangaroo BY-NC-ND 2.0
Lower left: California spiny lobster at Santa Cruz Island, photo © Tom Turner CC BY-NC 2.0



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

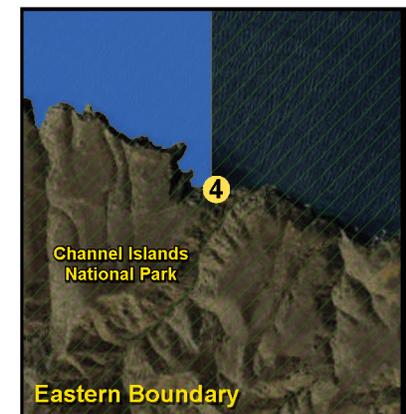
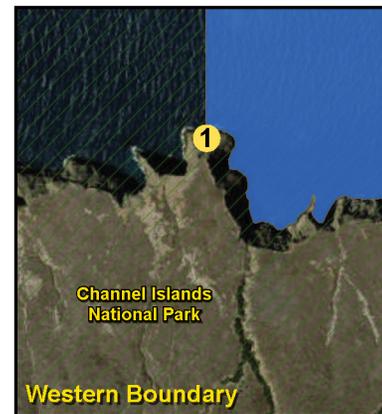
Boundary:

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

- 34° 04.492' N. lat. 119° 53.000' W. long. ①;
- 34° 05.200' N. lat. 119° 53.000' W. long. ②; thence eastward along a line one nautical mile offshore to
- 34° 05.000' N. lat. 119° 51.000' W. long. ③; and
- 34° 04.034' N. lat. 119° 51.000' 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 of spiny lobster and pelagic finfish* is allowed.



* Pelagic finfish are defined here as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.), billfishes* (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), 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 (*Alopius* spp.), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family Scombridae) including Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

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.