

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

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine 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. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Scorpion State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level of protection.

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 reserve?

One of the goals for Scorpion State Marine Reserve is to protect the diverse eelgrass, rock, sand, mud, and kelp forest habitat found at this location, where warm water currents from the tropics and cold water currents from Alaska converge. These habitats are used by a rich and varied selection of marine fish, including blacksmith, halfmoon, and kelp bass. Colorful sea stars, abalone, limpets, mussels, and barnacles line the reserve's rocky sea caves and tidepools, while marine mammals such as sea lions and harbor seals are often seen resting along the rocky shoreline.

Scorpion State Marine Reserve was established as one of 13 Channel Islands MPAs in 2003, and re-established as part of the statewide MPA Network in 2012. The reserve shares a northern border with the federal Scorpion Marine Reserve, and overlaps a portion of the [Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#) and [Channel Islands National Park](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



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

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



Quick Facts: Scorpion State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 9.64 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 3.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 769 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 0.62 square miles
Sand/mud: 7.37 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

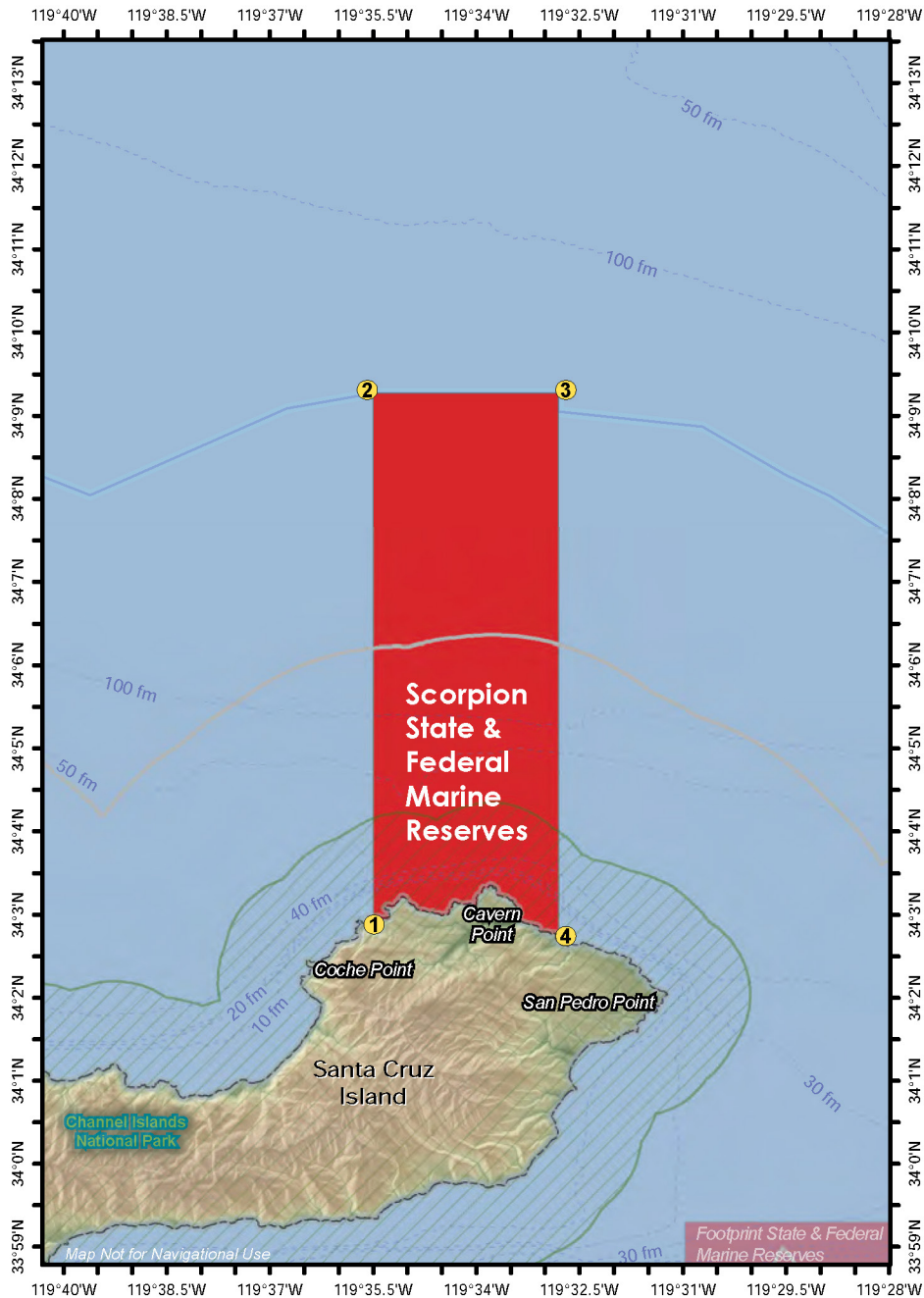
No Fishing

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: Scorpion State Marine Reserve, looking east towards Anacapa Island, photo © David Fulmer CC BY 2.0. Lower right: A school of blacksmith, Scorpion State Marine Reserve, photo © Ed Bierman CC BY 2.0. Lower left: Black abalone and barnacles, Scorpion State Marine Reserve, photo © terrydad2 CC BY-NC 2.0.



Scorpion State and Federal Marine Reserves Boundary and Regulations

This area includes Scorpion State Marine Reserve and the adjoining federal Scorpion Marine Reserve*. Coordinates are provided for outer boundaries of the joined state and federal areas.

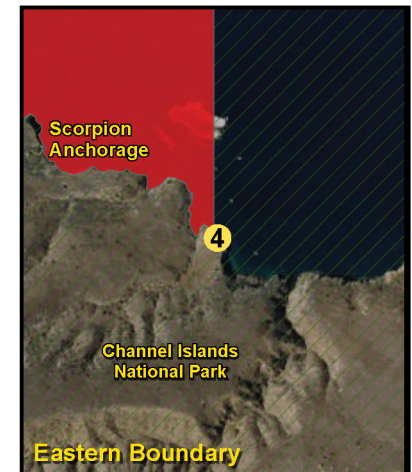
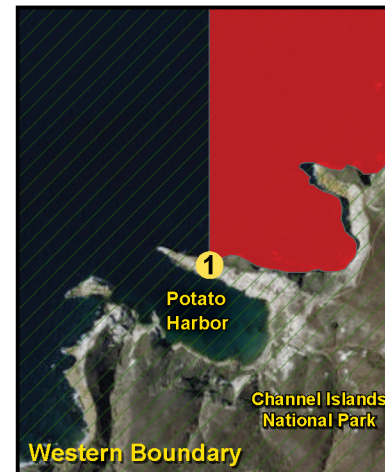
Boundary:

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

- 34° 02.958' N. lat. 119° 35.500' W. long. ①;
- 34° 09.270' N. lat. 119° 35.500' W. long. ②;
- 34° 09.270' N. lat. 119° 32.800' W. long. ③; and
- 34° 02.700' N. lat. 119° 32.800' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



* The state reserve and federal reserve share identical regulations. For state reserve boundaries only, see CCR Title 14, Section 632. For federal reserve boundaries only, see Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Register 15 Part 922 and 50 CFR Part 660.

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.