

# Scorpion State Marine Reserve (Santa Cruz Island)

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



Scorpion SMR Brown rockfish  
(*Sebastes auriculatus*)  
ROV Photo by MARE/CDFW



Scorpion SMR Spider (Sheep) Crab  
(*Loxorhynchus grandis*)  
ROV Photo by MARE/CDFW



Scorpion SMR Male California sheephead  
(*Semicossyphus pulcher*)  
ROV 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.

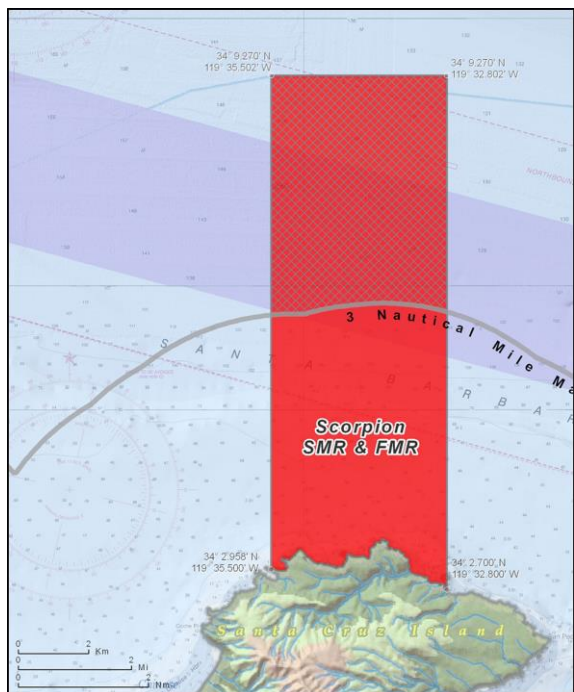
### What is an SMR?

An **SMR** is a type of MPA that protects resources by prohibiting the recreational and/or commercial take of all marine resources.

### Scorpion SMR Overview

- **MPA size:** 9.64 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 769 feet
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 2.6 miles

### Where is Scorpion SMR?



### Scorpion SMR Key Habitats

- **Beaches:** 0.67 miles
- **Rocky shores:** 3.98 miles
- **Sand (all depths):** 5.43 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 0.51 square miles
- **Average kelp (1989 to 2008):** 0.01 square miles
- **Unidentified (all depths):** 3.7 square miles

### Boundaries 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.;
- 34° 09.270' N. lat. 119° 35.500' W. long.;
- 34° 09.270' N. lat. 119° 32.800' W. long.; and
- 34° 02.700' N. lat. 119° 32.800' W. long.

**Permitted/Prohibited Uses:** Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.

\* *The state reserve and federal reserve have identical regulations. For complete state boundaries and rules, see California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(b). For federal MPAs see Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Register 15 Part 922 and 50 CFR Part 660.*

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## How and Why Scorpion was Chosen for an SMR

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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process#26189705-channel-islands) Scorpion SMR was one of them.

In 2008, while implementing the [Marine Life Protection Act](#) of 1999, Scorpion SMR 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](http://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](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2q.pdf)

## South Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview)

South Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders\\_sc/b1n.pdf](http://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](http://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](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2b.pdf)

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring)

Regional MPA Statistics:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics)

Regional Planning History:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process](http://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](http://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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan)

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals)



For more information, visit:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)

Email:

[AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov)

MPA Mobile:



Report poaching and polluting,

Call CalTIP

1-888-334-2258

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632 [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Title-14-Section-632p](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Title-14-Section-632p)