SAFEGUARDING AN UNDERWATER WILDERNESS

HABITATS & SPECIES LIKELY TO BENEFIT FROM CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

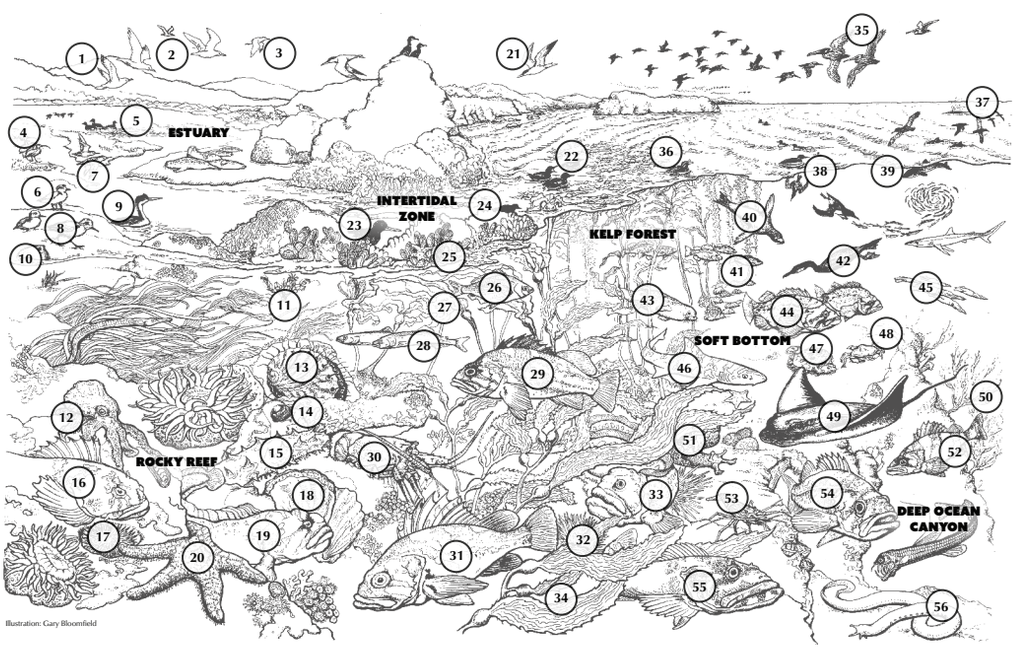

Illustration: Gary Bloomfield

The California Marine Protected Area (MPA) Network was established to help conserve marine life and restore the integrity of marine ecosystems.

The Network includes 124 protected areas covering 16 percent of state waters. There are several key habitat-types found within California's MPAs including estuaries, intertidal zones, rocky reefs, kelp forests, soft ocean bottoms, and submarine canyons. Over 100 species of fish, invertebrates, sea birds, marine mammals, algae and plants are likely to benefit from MPA protections. Those species include ones that spend all or significant portions of their lives within MPAs.

California's ecologically connected MPA Network is the largest of its kind in the world. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife manages the Network and works in collaboration with key partners and local communities to monitor, protect, and sustain California's unique coastal heritage.

How many species can you identify? Use the key below to check your work.

Note: this illustration is intended to convey species likely to benefit from MPAs along the entirety of California's coast. The six habitat-types and 56 species pictured are unlikely to occur within such close proximity to each other.

1. California Gull *Larus californicus*
2. Western Gull *Larus occidentalis*
3. Heermann's Gull *Larus heermanni*
4. Long-billed Curlew *Numenius americanus*
5. Brant *Branta bernicla*
6. Snowy Plover *Charadrius nivosus*
7. Dunlin *Calidris alpina*
8. Sanderling *Calidris alba*
9. Western Grebe *Aechmophorus occidentalis*
10. Pacific Littleneck Clam *Leukoma staminea*
11. Gooseneck Barnacle *Pollicipes polymerus*
12. Red Octopus *Octopus rubescens*
13. Red Abalone *Haliotis rufescens*
14. Turban Snail *Tegula funebralis*
15. California Sea Cucumber *Apostichopus californicus*
16. Cabezon *Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*
17. Purple Urchin *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*
18. Rock Scallop *Crassadoma gigantea*
19. Monkeyface Prickleback *Cebidichthys violaceus*
20. Ochre Star *Pisaster ochraceus*
21. Caspian Tern *Hydroprogne caspia*
22. Pigeon Guillemot *Cepphus columba*
23. Black Oystercatcher *Haematopus bachmani*
24. Black Turnstone *Arenaria melanocephala*
25. California Mussel *Mytilus californianus*
26. Shiner Surfperch *Cymatogaster aggregata*
27. Bull Kelp *Nereocystis luetkeana*
28. Surf Smelt *Hypomesus pretiosus*
29. Copper Rockfish *Sebastes caurinus*
30. California Spiny Lobster *Panulirus interruptus*
31. Black-and-Yellow Rockfish *Sebastes chrysomelas*
32. Red Urchin *Mesocentrotus franciscanus*
33. Wolf-eel *Anarrhichthys ocellatus*
34. Giant Kelp *Macrocystis pyrifera*
35. Brown Pelican *Pelecanus occidentalis*
36. Rhinoceros Auklet *Cerorhinca monocerata*
37. Sooty Shearwater *Ardenna grisea*
38. Common Murre *Uria aalge*
39. Harbor Porpoise *Phocoena phocoena*
40. California Sea Lion *Zalophus californianus*
41. Olive Rockfish *Sebastes serranoides*
42. Brandt's Cormorant *Phalacrocorax penicillatus*
43. Harbor Seal *Phoca vitulina*
44. Blue Rockfish *Sebastes mystinus*
45. Market Squid *Doryteuthis (Amerigo) opalescens*
46. Leopard Shark *Triakis semifasciata*
47. C-O Turbot *Pleuronichthys coenosus*
48. Dungeness Crab *Metacarcinus magister*
49. Bat Ray *Myliobatis californica*
50. Purple Gorgonian *Eugorgia rubens*
51. California Sea Hare *Aplysia californica*
52. Flag Rockfish *Sebastes rubrivinctus*
53. Spot Prawn *Pandalus platyceros*
54. Vermilion Rockfish *Sebastes miniatus*
55. Lingcod *Ophiodon elongatus*
56. Pacific Hagfish *Eptatretus stoutii*