Guide to the Central California Marine Protected Areas
Pigeon Point to Point Conception

March 2016 - Amended
California’s coast and ocean are among our most treasured resources. The productivity, wildness, and beauty found here is central to California’s identity, heritage, and economy. The need to safeguard the long-term health of our marine environment was recognized by the California Legislature in 1999 with the passage of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). This act aims to protect California’s marine natural heritage through establishing a statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs) designed, created, and managed using sound science and stakeholder input. MPAs protect the diversity and abundance of marine life, the habitats they depend on, and the integrity of marine ecosystems. The MLPA recognizes that a combination of MPAs with varied amounts of allowed activities and protections (marine reserves, marine conservation areas, and marine parks) can help conserve biological diversity, provide a sanctuary for marine life, and enhance recreational and educational opportunities. MPAs can also provide scientific reference points to assist in resource management decisions, and protect a variety of marine habitats, communities, and ecosystems for their economic and intrinsic value for generations to come.

Implementation of the MLPA along the California coast was achieved through regional planning that created new and revised MPAs for consideration and adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. The central California MPAs in this guide went into effect on September 27, 2007 from Pigeon Point (Santa Mateo County) to Point Conception (Santa Barbara County). They were the first MPAs developed along the open ocean coast under the MLPA, and constitute one component of a statewide network designed to meet the goals of the MLPA.
Table of Contents

Goals of the Marine Life Protection Act .......................................................... 2
Commonly Used Terms and Definitions .......................................................... 3
General Rules That Apply to All MPAs .......................................................... 4
Frequently Asked Questions ............................................................................ 5
Map: Año Nuevo to Big Creek ........................................................................ 8
Map: Piedras Blancas to Vandenberg .............................................................. 9

**Individual MPAs, listed from north to south**

Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve (SMR) .................................................... 10
Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) ....................... 12
Natural Bridges SMR ................................................................................ 14
Elkhorn Slough SMR ................................................................................... 16
Elkhorn Slough SMCA ................................................................................. 18
Moro Cojo Slough SMR .............................................................................. 20
Soquel Canyon SMCA ............................................................................... 22
Portuguese Ledge SMCA ............................................................................. 24
Edward F. Ricketts SMCA .......................................................................... 26
Lovers Point-Julia Platt SMR ................................................................. 28
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA ......................................................... 30
Asilomar SMR ......................................................................................... 32
Carmel Pinnacles SMR ............................................................................. 34
Carmel Bay SMCA ..................................................................................... 36
Point Lobos SMR ....................................................................................... 38
Point Lobos SMCA .................................................................................... 40
Point Sur SMR ........................................................................................... 42
Point Sur SMCA ........................................................................................ 44
Big Creek SMR .......................................................................................... 46
Big Creek SMCA ........................................................................................ 48
Piedras Blancas SMR ................................................................................ 50
Piedras Blancas SMCA ............................................................................. 52
Cambria SMCA/State Marine Park (SMP) .................................................... 54
White Rock (Cambria) SMCA .................................................................. 56
Morro Bay SMR ......................................................................................... 58
Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA) ........ 60
Point Buchon SMR ...................................................................................... 62
Point Buchon SMCA .................................................................................. 64
Vandenberg SMR ....................................................................................... 66
In 1999, the California Legislature identified the need to reexamine and redesign California’s MPA system to increase its coherence and its effectiveness at protecting the state’s marine life, habitats, and ecosystems.

To improve the design and management of that system, the California Fish and Game Commission adopted a Marine Life Protection program that has all of the following goals:

1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.

2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.

3. To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.

4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value.

5. To ensure that California’s MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.

6. To ensure that the state’s MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

From the Marine Life Protection Act, California Fish and Game Code Section 2853: Program Goals
Marine Protected Area (MPA)

MPAs are named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas seaward of the mean high tide line or the mouth of a coastal river, including any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora and fauna, that have been designated by law or administrative action to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. There are three types of state MPAs: state marine reserve (SMR), state marine park (SMP), and state marine conservation area (SMCA). While not technically MPAs, state marine recreational management areas (SMRMAs) are managed within the MPA network and are included here for ease of identification by the public. “Take” (see definition, pg. 5) may be authorized for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes in any MPA under a scientific collecting permit. The following types of MPA are found in central California:

State Marine Reserve (SMR, shown in red on maps)
An MPA where it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

State Marine Park (SMP, shown in yellow on maps)
An MPA where it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living or non-living marine resource for commercial purposes. Human use that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community or habitat, or geological, cultural, or recreational features, may be restricted.

State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA, shown in blue on maps)
An MPA where it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes EXCEPT for species expressly allowed for recreational and/or commercial take (species and gear exceptions vary by location).

State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA, shown in green on maps)
An area where it is unlawful to perform any activity that would compromise the recreational values for which the area may be designated. Recreational opportunities may be protected, enhanced, or restricted, while preserving basic resource values of the area.

MPA protections are fully defined in California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a)(1)
There are several general rules that apply to all MPAs, including rules regarding access, anchoring, transit and drifting, introducing species, feeding fish, and public safety. The complete language is found in California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14, Section 632(a).

**Anchoring Inside MPAs:** Anchoring is allowed inside MPAs under the following restrictions: Vessels shall be allowed to anchor in any marine protected area with catch onboard unless otherwise specified in sub-section 632(b), Areas and Special Regulations for Use. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while anchored in a state marine reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified as allowed for take in sub-section 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while anchored in a state marine recreational management area, state marine park or state marine conservation area. Anchoring regulations shall be consistent with federal law and allowances made for anchoring required by emergency or severe weather.

**Transit or Drifting:** Vessels shall be allowed to transit through MPAs with catch onboard. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified as allowed for take in subsection 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine recreational management area, state marine park or state marine conservation area.

Spearfishermen with or without catch shall be allowed to transit through marine protected areas. While transiting areas that prohibit spearfishing, or while in possession of species not identified as allowed for take in the area being transited, spearfishing gear shall be in an unloaded condition, not carried in hand, and the diver shall remain at the surface.

**Access** (including entering an MPA for non-fishing activities such as swimming, diving, or surfing): Access into marine protected areas for non-consumptive uses, including but not limited to swimming, surfing, diving, boating, hiking and walking, is allowed unless otherwise specified in subsection 632(b), Areas and Special Regulations for Use.
Public Safety (activities that protect the public): Public safety activities, including installation, maintenance and/or seasonal placement and removal of safety-related artificial structures, including but not limited to lifeguard towers, are allowed within any MPA classification pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Introduction of Species (including catching or otherwise bringing fish, plants or invertebrates to an MPA and releasing them): Unless authorized by the California Fish and Game Commission, or as a result of authorized fishing activities, the release of any fish or wildlife species, including domestic or domesticated species, or the introduction of any plant species, is prohibited. CDFW may reintroduce native species to marine protected areas or marine managed areas for management purposes.

Feeding of Fish and Wildlife: The feeding of fish and wildlife is prohibited, except for permitted scientific collection pursuant to Section 650 or as a result of authorized fishing within SMCAs, SMPs, and SMRMAs, or unless feeding of fish is specifically authorized for purposes of marine life viewing.

Shore Fishing: Shore fishing means take of living marine resources from shore, including beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made structures connected to the shore. Unless specifically authorized in subsection 632(b), no vessel, watercraft (motorized or non-motorized), or floating device may be used to assist in the take, transport, or possession of species taken while shore fishing.

Take (Section 1.88): Take means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill fish, amphibians, reptiles, mollusks, crustaceans or invertebrates, or attempting to do so.

Do You Have The Most Current Information?

For current MPA regulations, check the California MPA website:

wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

You can also read the official regulatory language in CCR Title 14, Section 632 at ccr.oal.ca.gov.

For general sport and commercial fishing regulations that are in effect in addition to MPA regulations, visit wildlife.ca.gov/regulations.
How were the central California MPAs created?

The central California MPAs were designed through a collaborative public process, facilitated by the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative, that included a regional stakeholder group with extensive knowledge of central California and its resources. The group included commercial and recreational fishermen, educators, and conservationists among others. The regional stakeholder group designed the central California MPAs, which then underwent science and policy reviews by a science advisory committee and a “blue ribbon” task force. The CDFW, as the lead agency, California State Parks, and others also reviewed the proposed MPAs, which were ultimately approved by the California Fish and Game Commission, the final decision-making body under the Marine Life Protection Act.

How much area was set aside off the central California coast as MPAs and will that area always be closed to fishing?

This region encompasses approximately 1,144 square miles of state waters from Pigeon Point (San Mateo County) south to Point Conception (Santa Barbara County). A network of 29 marine managed areas (including 28 MPAs and state marine recreational management area) covers approximately 207 square miles, or about 18 percent, of state waters off central California. While state marine reserves and some other protected areas do not permit any type of take, some MPAs do allow fishing.

How do central California MPAs affect existing fisheries management and closures?

The central California MPAs are intended to complement existing fishing regulations, not replace them. MPAs address a broad array of ecosystem concerns and, especially in reserves, allow for more natural interactions between popular, heavily-fished species and species that fishermen normally don’t target. Any changes to fishing regulations that are required in response to MPAs would occur through existing systems established in fishery management plans and other regulatory frameworks.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Central California State Protected Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMCA/SMP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SMRMA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 Totals do not include special closures
2 The California Fish and Game Commission designated Cambria SMCA, which was subsequently also adopted as Cambria SMP by the State Park and Recreation Commission (August 2010) with the same boundaries and no change to regulations. Therefore, this MPA has dual designations, as reflected in the table.
**Q** **Fishing may be restricted, but what other activities are permitted in an MPA?**

Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities such as diving, surfing, swimming, and boating are allowed within MPAs, as long as take restrictions are followed. It’s a good idea to review the regulations before visiting an MPA.

**Q** **What plants and animals live in central California MPAs?**

Central California waters are host to diverse habitats, from rocky tidepools to the continental shelf and slope, to large submarine canyons that reach close to shore. Intertidal zones include sandy beaches, rocky shores, coastal marsh, and tidal flats. Large and small estuaries, where coastal streams meet the sea, are home and nursery for fish, invertebrates, plants, birds, and mammals. Upwelling of nutrient-rich water supports exceptionally diverse sea life on the central California coast. Two types of kelp forest, dominated by giant kelp to the south and bull kelp to the north, support different communities of fish and invertebrates. In total, central California waters are home to 26 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fish, 4 species of sea turtles, thousands of species of invertebrates and more than 450 species of marine algae.

**Q** **Where can I find more information about MPAs?**

The CDFW maintains several websites with extensive MPA information, including current, past, and future activities related to California’s MPAs. As the lead agency in MPA development, implementation, and now monitoring, the CDFW strives for transparency and encourages public engagement and feedback. Please visit the following websites for more information:

- California MPA website: [wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)
- Mobile-device friendly MPA website: [wildlife.ca.gov/m/MPA](http://wildlife.ca.gov/m/MPA)
- **Boaters:** To view MPAs on nautical charts or other background “basemaps,” visit [MarineBIOS](http://MarineBIOS), CDFW’s interactive online marine and coastal map viewer, at [wildlife.ca.gov/MarineBIOS](http://wildlife.ca.gov/MarineBIOS)

Questions? Email [AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov)
Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve
Boundaries and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and a distance of 200 feet seaward of mean lower low water between the following two points:

- 37° 10.000’ N. lat. 122° 21.800’ W. long. ①; and
- 37° 08.725’ N. lat. 122° 21.000’ W. long. ②

The area then continues southward bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 37° 08.725’ N. lat. 122° 21.000’ W. long. ③;
- 37° 04.700’ N. lat. 122° 21.000’ W. long. ④;
- 37° 04.700’ N. lat. 122° 16.062’ W. long. ⑤; and
- 37° 04.742’ N. lat. 122° 16.026’ W. long. ⑥

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Greyhound Rock 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, the three nautical mile offshore boundary and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 37° 04.742’ N. lat. 122° 16.026’ W. long.
- 37° 04.700’ N. lat. 122° 16.062’ W. long.
- 37° 04.700’ N. lat. 122° 21.000’ W. long.
- 37° 03.520’ N. lat. 122° 21.000’ W. long.
- Thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 02.570’ N. lat. 122° 18.963’ W. long.
- 37° 02.570’ N. lat. 122° 13.989’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The recreational take of giant kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera) by hand harvest only, market squid, salmon, and, by hook-and-line from shore only, other finfish* is allowed.
   b. The commercial take of giant kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera) by hand harvest only, salmon, and market squid is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial market squid catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).
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).
Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve

Map Not for Navigational Use
Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and a distance of 200 feet seaward of mean lower low water between the following two points:

- 36° 57.912’ N. lat. 122° 07.650’ W. long.①; and
- 36° 57.015’ N. lat. 122° 03.504’ W. long.②

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve

Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area

Santa Cruz Long-Toed Salamander Ecological Reserve

Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve

Map Not for Navigational Use
Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area includes the waters below mean high tide within Elkhorn Slough lying east of longitude 121° 46.400’ W. and south of latitude 36° 50.500’ N.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of
Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area includes the waters below mean high tide within Elkhorn Slough east of the Highway 1 Bridge and west of longitude 121° 46.400’ W.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The recreational take of finfish* by hook-and-line only and clams is allowed. Clams may only be taken on the north shore of the slough in the area adjacent to the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

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).
Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve

Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve

Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve

Elkhorn Slough State Conservation Area

Moss Landing

Castroville

MONTEREY COUNTY

Map Not for Navigational Use
Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area includes the waters within Moro Cojo Slough below mean high tide and east of the Highway 1 Bridge ① and west of the crossing of the Southern Pacific railroad tracks ②.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

36° 51.000’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.①;
36° 51.000’ N. lat. 122° 03.652’ W. long.②;
36° 48.000’ N. lat. 122° 02.767’ W. long.③;
36° 48.000’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.④; and
36° 51.000’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.⑤

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The commercial and recreational take of pelagic finfish* is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial pelagic finfish catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.

* 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 (Alopias spp.), swordfish (Xiphias gladius), tunas (family Scombridae) including Pacific bonito (Sarda chilensis), and yellowtail (Seriola lalandi). The commercial take of marlin is not allowed.

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).
Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 36° 43.000’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.;
- 36° 43.000’ N. lat. 122° 01.294’ W. long.;
- 36° 41.000’ N. lat. 122° 00.706’ W. long.;
- 36° 41.000’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.; and
- 36° 43.000’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The commercial and recreational take of pelagic finfish* is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial pelagic finfish catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.

* 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 (Alopias spp.), swordfish (Xiphias gladius), tunas (family Scombridae) including Pacific bonito (Sarda chiliensis), and yellowtail (Seriola lalandi). The commercial take of marlin is not allowed.

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).
Edward F. Ricketts 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:

- 36° 36.508’ N. lat. 121° 53.379’ W. long.;
- 36° 37.250’ N. lat. 121° 53.780’ W. long.; and
- 36° 37.100’ N. lat. 121° 54.093’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

   a. The recreational take of finfish* by hook-and-line is allowed.
   b. The commercial take of giant kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera) and bull kelp (Nereocystis spp.) is allowed by hand in the area defined by sub-section 165(c)(4)(D) under the following conditions:
      • A kelp harvester with a valid license issued pursuant to Section 165 may take no more than 12 tons of kelp from the portion of Administrative Kelp Bed 220 within the Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area in any calendar month.
      • Duplicate landing records must be kept on board the harvest vessel in accordance with the requirements of Section 165.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). 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).
Lovers Point - Julia Platt State Marine Reserve 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:

36° 37.100’ N. lat. 121° 54.093’ W. long.①;
36° 37.250’ N. lat. 121° 53.780’ W. long.②;
36° 37.380’ N. lat. 121° 53.850’ W. long.③;
36° 37.600’ N. lat. 121° 54.750’ W. long.④; and
36° 37.600’ N. lat. 121° 54.919’ W. long.⑤

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens 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:

1. 36° 37.600' N. lat. 121° 54.919' W. long.
2. 36° 37.600' N. lat. 121° 54.750' W. long.
3. 36° 38.700’ N. lat. 121° 55.400’ W. long.
4. 36° 38.900’ N. lat. 121° 56.600’ W. long.
5. 36° 38.314’ N. lat. 121° 56.292’ W. long.
6. 36° 38.226’ N. lat. 121° 56.159’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The recreational take of finfish* is allowed.
   b. The commercial take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) and bull kelp (*Nereocystis* spp.) by hand is allowed under the following conditions:
      • A kelp harvester with a valid license issued pursuant to Section 165 may take no more than 44 tons of kelp from the portion of Administrative Kelp Bed 220 within the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area in any calendar month.
      • Duplicate landing records must be kept on board the harvest vessel in accordance with the requirements of Section 165.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). 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).
Asilomar State Marine Reserve
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:

36° 38.226′ N. lat. 121° 56.159′ W. long. ①;
36° 38.314′ N. lat. 121° 56.292′ W. long. ②;
36° 38.900′ N. lat. 121° 56.600′ W. long. ③; and
36° 36.554′ N. lat. 121° 57.518′ W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve

Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area

Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

Sunset Point

Cypress Point

Pescadero Point

Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area

MONTEREY COUNTY
Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

36° 33.650’ N. lat. 121° 57.600’ W. long.;
36° 33.650’ N. lat. 121° 58.500’ W. long.;
36° 33.100’ N. lat. 121° 58.500’ W. long.;
36° 33.100’ N. lat. 121° 57.600’ W. long.; and
36° 33.650’ N. lat. 121° 57.600’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Carmel Bay 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:

- 36° 33.663’ N. lat. 121° 57.117’ W. long.;
- 36° 31.700’ N. lat. 121° 56.300’ W. long.; and
- 36° 31.700’ N. lat. 121° 55.550’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The recreational take of finfish* is allowed.
   b. The commercial take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) and bull kelp (*Nereocystis* spp.) by hand is allowed under the following conditions:
      • A kelp harvester with a valid license issued pursuant to Section 165 may take no more than 44 tons of kelp from the portion of Administrative Kelp Bed 219 within the Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area in any calendar month.
      • Duplicate landing records must be kept on board the harvest vessel in accordance with the requirements of Section 165.

* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). 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).
Point Lobos State Marine Reserve
Point Lobos State Marine Reserve
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:

- 36° 31.700’ N. lat. 121° 55.550’ W. long. 1;
- 36° 31.700’ N. lat. 121° 58.250’ W. long. 2;
- 36° 28.880’ N. lat. 121° 58.250’ W. long. 3; and
- 36° 28.880’ N. lat. 121° 56.285’ W. long. 4

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.
2. Within the portion of the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve which also falls within the boundary of the Point Lobos State Reserve (State Park Unit), restrictions on boating and diving activities exist. Contact the California Department of Parks and Recreation for current restrictions.

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).
Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area

Map Not for Navigational Use
Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 36° 31.700′ N. lat. 121° 58.250′ W. long.;
- 36° 31.700′ N. lat. 122° 01.267′ W. long.; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 36° 28.880′ N. lat. 122° 00.490′ W. long.;
- 36° 28.880′ N. lat. 121° 58.250′ W. long.; and
- 36° 31.700′ N. lat. 121° 58.250′ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The recreational take of salmon and albacore is allowed.
   b. The commercial take of salmon, albacore, and spot prawn is allowed.

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).
Point Sur State Marine Reserve
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:

- 36° 18.400’ N. lat. 121° 54.150’ W. long.①;
- 36° 18.400’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.②;
- 36° 15.000’ N. lat. 121° 52.500’ W. long.③; and
- 36° 15.000’ N. lat. 121° 50.250’ W. long.④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses: It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

36° 18.400’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.¹;  
36° 18.400’ N. lat. 121° 57.932’ W. long.²; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to  
36° 15.000’ N. lat. 121° 55.955’ W. long.³;  
36° 15.000’ N. lat. 121° 52.500’ W. long.⁴; and  
36° 18.400’ N. lat. 121° 56.000’ W. long.⁵

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore is allowed.

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).
Big Creek State Marine Reserve
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:

- 36° 07.200’ N. lat. 121° 37.968’ W. long.;
- 36° 07.200’ N. lat. 121° 39.000’ W. long.;
- 36° 05.200’ N. lat. 121° 38.000’ W. long.;
- 36° 05.200’ N. lat. 121° 41.222’ W. long.; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 36° 02.650’ N. lat. 121° 39.654’ W. long.; and
- 36° 02.650’ N. lat. 121° 35.130’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.
2. Anchoring. Except as pursuant to Federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, it is unlawful to anchor or moor a vessel in waters shallower than 10 fathoms in the Big Creek State Marine Reserve.

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).
Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area

Map Not for Navigational Use
Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by the three nautical mile offshore boundary and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 36° 07.200’ N. lat. 121° 39.000’ W. long.¹;
- 36° 07.200’ N. lat. 121° 42.869’ W. long.²; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 36° 05.200’ N. lat. 121° 41.222’ W. long.³;
- 36° 05.200’ N. lat. 121° 38.000’ W. long.⁴; and
- 36° 07.200’ N. lat. 121° 39.000’ W. long.⁵

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The recreational take of salmon and albacore is allowed.
   b. The commercial take of salmon, albacore, and spot prawn is allowed.

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).
Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve
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:

35° 42.850’ N. lat. 121° 18.950’ W. long. 1;
35° 42.850’ N. lat. 121° 21.000’ W. long. 2;
35° 39.150’ N. lat. 121° 18.500’ W. long. 3; and
35° 39.150’ N. lat. 121° 14.519’ W. long. 4

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
**Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632**

**Boundary:**
This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

1. 35° 42.850’ N. lat. 121° 21.000’ W. long. ①;
2. 35° 42.850’ N. lat. 121° 22.763’ W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
3. 35° 39.150’ N. lat. 121° 20.913’ W. long. ③;
4. 35° 39.150’ N. lat. 121° 18.500’ W. long. ④; and
5. 35° 42.850’ N. lat. 121° 21.000’ W. long. ⑤

**Permitted/Prohibited Uses:**
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore is allowed.

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).
Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park*
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

*Cambria State Marine Conservation Area was also designated Cambria State Marine Park by the California State Park and Recreation Commission in August, 2010. The two areas share the same boundaries; no additional take regulations have been adopted at this time. Contact the California Department of Parks and Recreation for more information about this State Marine Park.

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

- 35° 37.100’ N. lat. 121° 09.225’ W. long. 1;
- 35° 37.100’ N. lat. 121° 10.700’ W. long. 2;
- 35° 32.850’ N. lat. 121° 06.700’ W. long. 3; and
- 35° 32.850’ N. lat. 121° 05.855’ W. long. 4

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. Recreational take is allowed.

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).
White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area

- Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park
- Von Helm Rock
- White Rock
- Harmony Headlands State Park

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Map Not for Navigational Use
White Rock (Cambria) 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:

- 35° 32.850’ N. lat. 121° 05.855’ W. long.
- 35° 32.850’ N. lat. 121° 06.700’ W. long.
- 35° 30.500’ N. lat. 121° 05.000’ W. long.
- 35° 30.500’ N. lat. 121° 03.423’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The commercial take of giant kelp (Macrocystis pyrifera) and bull kelp (Nereocystis spp.) is allowed under the following conditions:
      • A kelp harvester with a valid license issued pursuant to Section 165 and holding a valid lease to Administrative Kelp Bed 208 may take no more than 125 tons of kelp from the portion of Administrative Kelp Bed 208 within the White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area in any calendar month.
      • Duplicate landing records must be kept on board the harvest vessel in accordance with the requirements of Section 165.

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).
Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area

1. Morro Strand State Beach
2. Morro Bay State Park
3. Los Osos Oaks State Natural Reserve

Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve
Montaña de Oro State Park

Map Not for Navigational Use
Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area includes the area below mean high tide within Morro Bay east of the Morro Bay entrance breakwater and west of longitude 120° 50.340’ W.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to perform any activity that would compromise the recreational values for which the area may be designated. Recreational opportunities may be protected, enhanced, or restricted, while preserving basic resource values of the area, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. Recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).
   b. Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the following activities are allowed north of latitude 35° 19.700’ N.:
      - The recreational take of finfish*.
      - Aquaculture pursuant to a valid State water bottom lease and permit.
      - Storing finfish taken outside the Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area in a receiver for bait purposes.
      - Dredging for the purpose of harbor and channel operations and pursuant to required and valid permits and approvals.
      - Harbor operations and maintenance and cleaning of vessel hulls and other man-made structures, including removal of living marine resources for these purposes.

*Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). 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).
Morro Bay State Marine Reserve
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area includes the area below mean high tide line within Morro Bay east of longitude 120° 50.340’ W. ①

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Point Buchon State Marine Reserve
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:

35° 15.250’ N. lat. 120° 53.817’ W. long.;
35° 15.250’ N. lat. 120° 56.000’ W. long.;
35° 11.000’ N. lat. 120° 52.400’ W. long.; and
35° 13.348’ N. lat. 120° 52.400’ W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

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).
Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area

Point Buchon State Marine Reserve

Point Buchon

Montaña de Oro State Park

Montaña de Oro

Lion Rock

Diablo Canyon Nuclear Power Plant

Morro Dunes Ecological Reserve

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Map Not for Navigational Use
Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area
Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:
This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

35° 15.250’ N. lat. 120° 56.000’ W. long.①;
35° 15.250’ N. lat. 120° 57.878’ W. long.②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
35° 11.000’ N. lat. 120° 55.149’ W. long.③;
35° 11.000’ N. lat. 120° 52.400’ W. long.④; and
35° 15.250’ N. lat. 120° 56.000’ W. long.⑤

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. The commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore is allowed.

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).
Vandenberg State Marine Reserve
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:

- 34° 44.650’ N. lat. 120° 37.750’ W. long. ①;
- 34° 44.650’ N. lat. 120° 40.000’ W. long. ②;
- 34° 33.250’ N. lat. 120° 40.000’ W. long. ③; and
- 34° 33.250’ N. lat. 120° 37.407’ W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, with the following specified exceptions:
   a. Take incidental to base operations and commercial space launch operations identified by the Vandenberg Air Force Base Commander as mission critical is allowed.
   b. Public Entry. Public entry into the Vandenberg State Marine Reserve may be restricted at the discretion of the Department to protect wildlife, aquatic life, or habitat, or by the Commander of Vandenberg Air Force Base to protect and provide safety for base operations.
   c. The Department shall enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Commander of Vandenberg Air Force Base for the mutually beneficial management and administration of the Vandenberg State Marine Reserve. The MOU shall include, but not be limited to, the identification of Vandenberg Air Force Base’s national defense mission activities that are unrestricted by the subject regulations and details on management and administrative roles and responsibilities.

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).
Amendments to Central California MPA Regulations Through 2016


2. Renumbering of MPA subsections in CCT T14, Section 632(b) Areas and Special Regulations for Use for all central California MPAs (Section 632(b)(45) through 632(b)(73)), operative 1/1/2013.

3. Amendment of subsections 632 (a)(3) and (8); (b): (68)(B)1.-2., (73)(B), (74)(B), (76), operative 10/1/2014.

4. Amendments to clarify the allowed and prohibited uses for all designations; amend aquaculture activities; amend commercial troll gear references; and refine boundary coordinates for 106 marine managed areas statewide, operative 3/1/2016.
Get marine protected area information from your cell phone or other mobile device at wildlife.ca.gov/m/MPA

Visit the California MPA website at wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs