

### 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 Año Nuevo 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 Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reef, eelgrass beds, surfgrass, and kelp forests found there. Wolf-eels, sea cucumbers, bat stars, gorgonians, and rockfish are common within the reserve's kelp forests, eelgrass beds, and the crags and crevices of the shale reefs. White sharks are also attracted to the area by their prey, elephant seals, which come ashore by the thousands in winter to breed and again in spring to molt. Marine mammals such as Steller sea lions, California sea lions, and harbor seals also use the offshore rocks for rookeries, as do migratory and resident seabirds such as pelicans, pigeon guillemots, and cormorants.

[Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve](#) shares a southern border with [Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area](#), and overlaps a portion of [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#) and [Año Nuevo Area of Special Biological Significance](#). The reserve also shares a coastline border with [Año Nuevo State Park](#) and [Big Basin Redwoods State Park](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



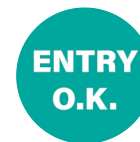
**Report poachers and polluters**  
**Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258**

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



### Quick Facts: Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 11.15 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 7.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 175 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Rock: 10.79 square miles  
Sand/mud: 6.41 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

No Collecting

### Further Information:

- MPA Website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap)
- Email: [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Photos - Upper:** Northern elephant seals on the beach at Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve. photo © Allie Caulfield, CC BY 2.0 **Lower right:** Brown pelicans on an island at the reserve. photo © Steve Lonhart, NOAA MBNMS **Lower left:** A wolf-eel and sponge at the reserve. CDFW/MARE photo



## 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:

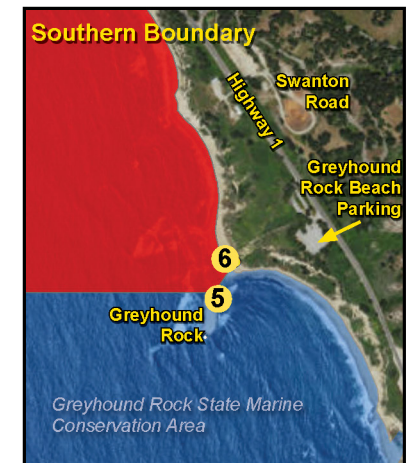
- 37° 10.000' N. lat. 122° 21.800' W. long. ①; and
- 37° 08.725' N. lat. 122° 21.000' W. long. ②

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).

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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network).