

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

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean 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. Most marine conservation areas such as Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

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 conservation area?

One of the goals for Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reefs, kelp forests, surfgrass beds, and intertidal areas found there, while allowing some recreational and commercial fishing to continue. A narrow band of tidepools along the shore of the conservation area shelter crabs, giant green anemones, and limpets. Offshore kelp forests, surfgrass beds, and shale reefs provide shelter and hunting grounds for wolf-eels, nudibranchs, and many rockfish species, including canary rockfish, black rockfish, and China rockfish. White sharks are also attracted to the area by their prey, elephant seals, that visit the Año Nuevo rookery to the north.

This conservation area shares a northern boundary with [Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve](#), and overlaps a portion of [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life 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: Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 12 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 220 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 9.95 square miles
Rock: 4.98 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

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:** Greyhound Rock, at the northern boundary of the conservation area. photo © Dave Parker, CC BY 2.0 **Lower right:** Hopkin's rose nudibranch in a conservation area surfgrass bed. photo © Marisa Agarwal, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Two-spot keyhole limpet at the conservation area. photo © Donna Pomeroy CC BY-NC 2.0



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. ①;
- 37° 04.700' N. lat. 122° 16.062' W. long. ②;
- 37° 04.700' N. lat. 122° 21.000' W. long. ③;
- 37° 03.520' N. lat. 122° 21.000' W. long. ④; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 02.570' N. lat. 122° 18.963' W. long. ⑤; and
- 37° 02.570' N. lat. 122° 13.989' W. long. ⑥

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational 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).

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.