

Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area

Central California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Established September 2007*



Greyhound Rock SMCA
Photo by Paulo Serpa



Plovers in Greyhound
Rock SMCA
Photo by Paulo Serpa



Rocky shores
Photo by Paulo Serpa

Site Overview

Photos are representative of the Central 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 SMCA?

An **SMCA** is a type of MPA that protects resources by allowing for only specific types of recreational and/or commercial take to occur. (Area restrictions are defined in [Title 14, Section 632\(a\)\(1\)\(C\)](#)).

Greyhound Rock SMCA Key Habitats

- **Beaches:** 2.72 miles
- **Rocky shores:** 3.31 miles
- **Surfgrass:** 3.34 miles
- **Sand (all depths):** 9.77 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 1.96 square miles
- **Average kelp (1989 to 2008):** 0.01 square miles

Greyhound Rock SMCA Overview

- **MPA size:** 12.0 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 220 feet
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 3.1 miles

Boundaries and Regulations

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.; and
37° 02.570' N. lat. 122° 13.989' W. long.

Only the following take is allowed:

1. Recreational take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest only, market squid, salmon, and, by hook-and-line from shore only, other [finfish](#).
2. Commercial take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest only, salmon, and market squid. Not more than 5% by weight of any commercial market squid catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.

Where is Greyhound Rock SMCA?



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How and Why Greyhound Rock was Chosen for an SMCA

MPAs were designed through a collaborative, regional public process by a cross-interest regional stakeholder group (RSG). Using scientific criteria, public input and local resource knowledge the RSG developed MPA proposals. RSG proposals included specific objectives (why the site should be an MPA-*included below*), the classification (type of MPA), boundaries, and regulations. Final MPA proposals were sent to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for their adoption process. Greyhound Rock SMCA was adopted by the Commission in 2007.

Summary of Objectives for Greyhound Rock SMCA:

Provide increased protection to shallow soft and hard substrates and associated species in the northern portion of the study region characterized by low-relief shale and a mixture of giant kelp and bull kelp. This area is intended to protect the subtidal fish and invertebrate and intertidal invertebrate communities while allowing for uses that have little on those communities to continue. This area is important to the formation of an ecologically sound MPA network component, by linking these habitats to similar habitats in other parts of the region.

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

For a list of species likely to benefit from central coast MPAs: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binder3b.pdf

Central Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview

Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/rqop092805.pdf

2008 Master Plan Appendix O: Regional Management Plan:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/revisedmp01080.pdf

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring

Regional MPA Statistics:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics

Regional Planning History:

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

California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals



For more information, visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

Email:

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-632