

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 Pacific Grove Marine Gardens 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 Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area is to provide added protection to a heavily used area while permitting some traditional fishing activities to continue. The cold, nutrient rich water that rises from the depths of the Monterey Submarine Canyon helps to support a remarkable array of life here. Hermit crabs, sea stars, and anemones populate the rocky shoreline and seafloor, while large surfgrass beds and kelp forests provide refuge for perch, blue rockfish, and tubesnouts. Patches of sandy seafloor are home and hunting grounds for sanddabs and thornbacks, and sea otters are often seen resting and eating clams in the kelp canopy.

This conservation area shares a western border with [Asilomar State Marine Reserve](#), and an eastern border with [Lovers Point-Julia Platt State Marine Reserve](#). It also overlaps [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.



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



Quick Facts: Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.98 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 151 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 0.32 square miles
 - Rock: 1.49 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

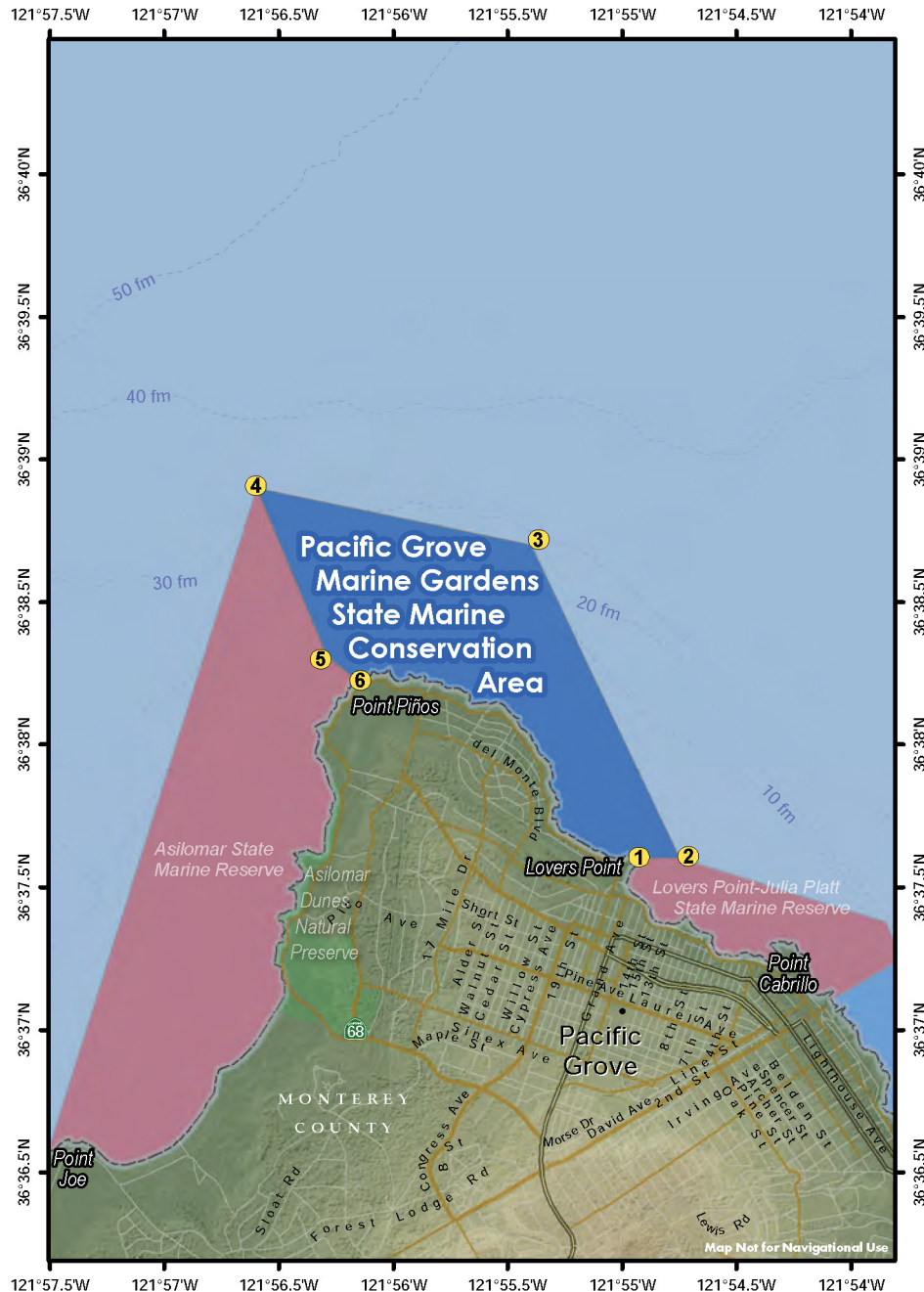
Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: The Kissing Rock and shoreline at Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area. photo © The Steampunk Explorer, CC BY-SA 2.0 **Lower right: Blueband hermit crab in the conservation area.** photo © Robin Gwen Agarwal, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left: Thornback in the conservation area.** photo © Ken-ichi Ueda, CC BY-NC 2.0

Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area

Central California - Monterey County



Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area - Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

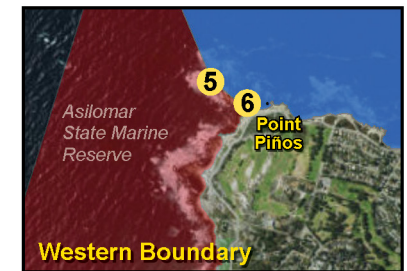
This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

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

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/MSPAs/Network.