

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 Asilomar 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 Asilomar State Marine Reserve is to protect the diverse surfgrass, rock, sand, mud, and kelp forest habitat found here. These habitats are used by a variety of marine species, including rock scallops, blue rockfish, and kelp greenling. Colorful sea stars, sea anemones, limpets, mussels, and barnacles thrive in the reserve's rocky tidepools, while marine mammals like sea lions and harbor seals are often seen along the rocky shoreline.

This reserve shares a boundary with [Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area](#), and overlaps a small portion of [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#). The reserve also borders a portion of [Asilomar State Beach](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.

Quick Facts: Asilomar State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 1.51 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 172 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Rock: 2.32 square miles
 - Sand/mud: 0.55 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

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

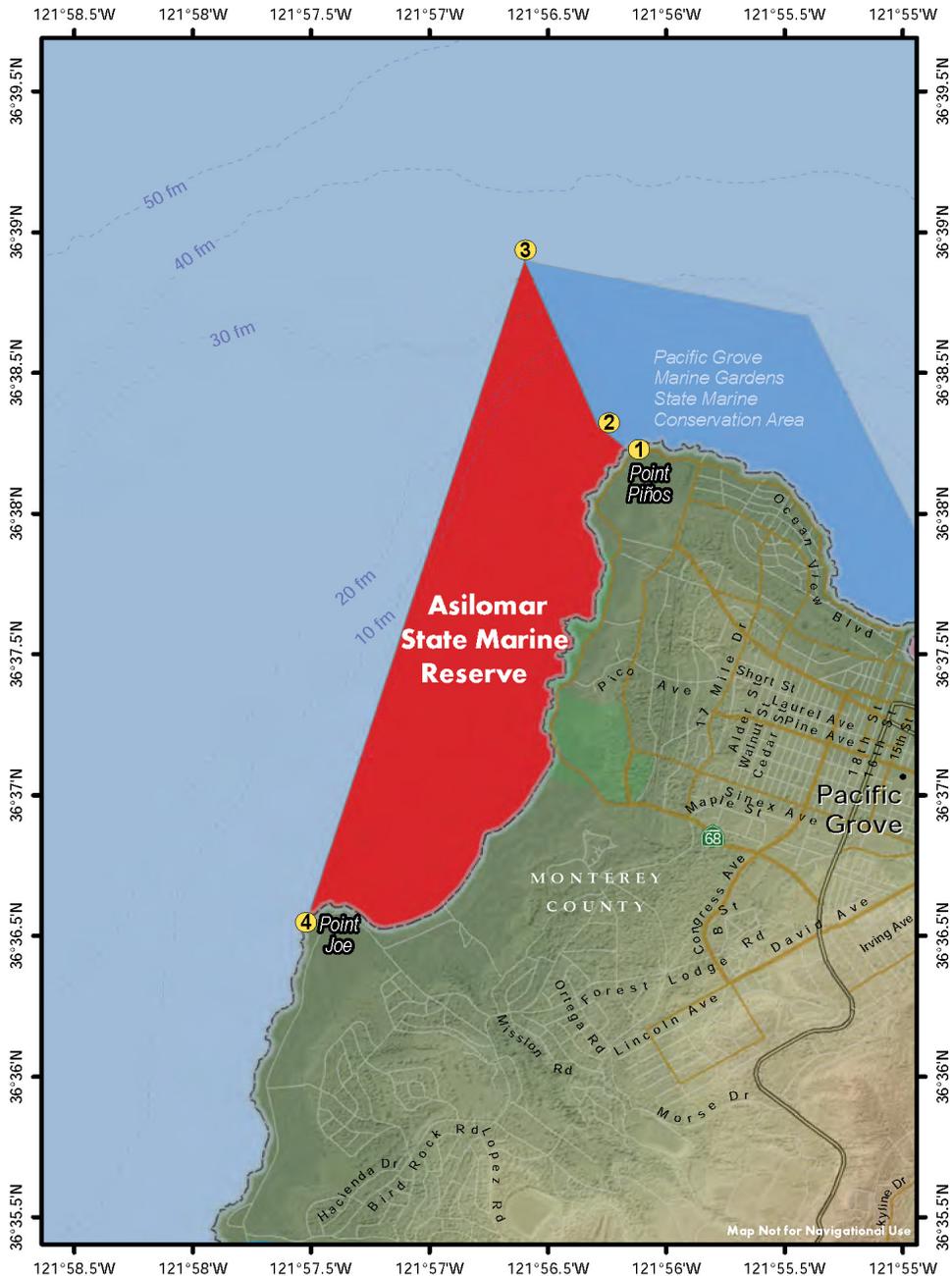
Photos - Upper: Point Pinos, at the northern end of the marine reserve, CDFW photo by P. Serpa.
Lower right: Blue rockfish in Asilomar State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo.
Lower left: A purse of sand dollars, Asilomar State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo.



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





Asilomar State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

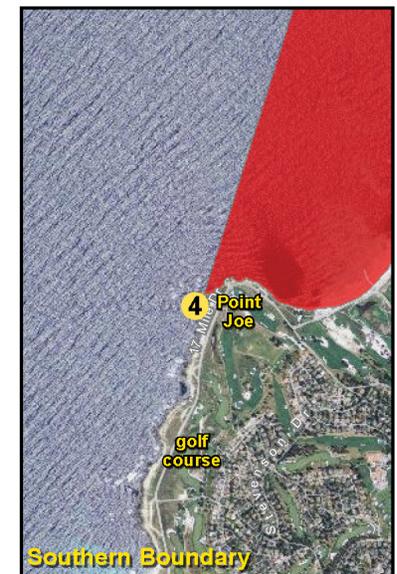
Boundary:

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).

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.