

## 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 Point Lobos 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 Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reef, and submarine canyon habitat found there. Upwelling of cold, nutrient rich water from deep within Carmel Submarine Canyon supplies the conservation area with nutrients that support a highly productive marine environment. Rock crab and many species of rockfish, including canary rockfish, bank rockfish and rosethorn rockfish, are drawn to the rocky reefs that rise from the mostly sandy seafloor, where English sole, starry flounder, and sea cucumber search for their next meals. In spring and fall, whales pass through the conservation area during migrations to and from Alaska, feeding on the krill and zooplankton found in abundance there.

The conservation area shares an eastern border with [Point Lobos State Marine Reserve](#), and 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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## Quick Facts: Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 8.47 square miles
- **Depth range:** 268 to 1,823 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  - Sand/mud: 7.96 square miles
  - Rock: 0.50 square miles
  - Other: 0.01 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing  
See Regulations On Back

No Collecting

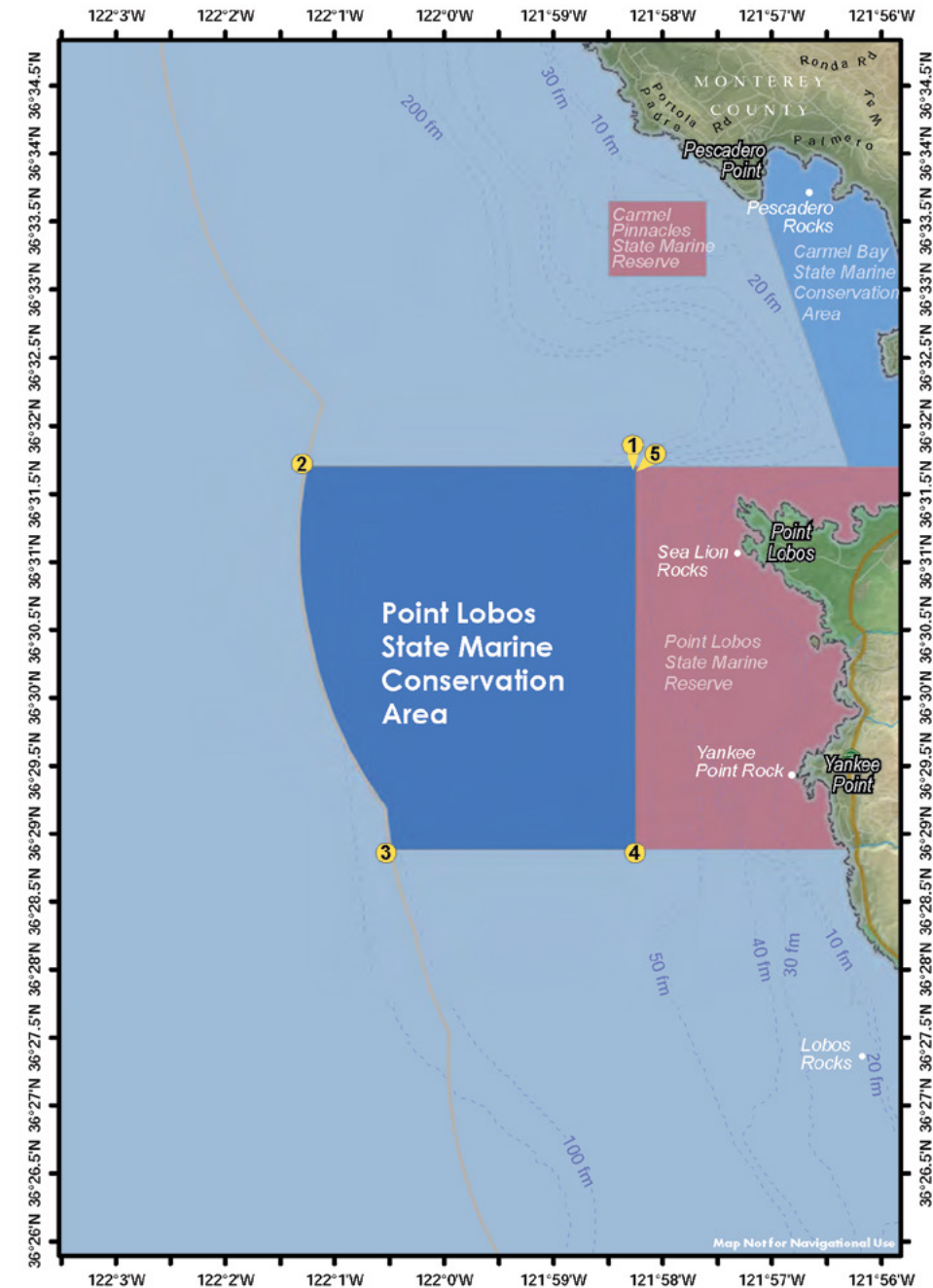
## Further Information:

- 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: Short-beaked common dolphin at Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Claudia Komesu CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower right: Bluntnose sixgill shark near the conservation area. CDFW/MARE photo Lower left: Canary rockfish near the conservation area. CDFW/MARE photo**

# Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area

Central California - Monterey County



Version 1, April 2021

## Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

### Boundary:

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 36° 31.700' N. lat. 121° 58.250' W. long. ①;
- 36° 31.700' N. lat. 122° 01.267' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 36° 28.880' N. lat. 122° 00.490' W. long. ③;
- 36° 28.880' N. lat. 121° 58.250' W. long. ④; and
- 36° 31.700' N. lat. 121° 58.250' W. long. ⑤

### 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 salmon and albacore is allowed.
  - b. The commercial take of salmon, albacore, and spot prawn is allowed.

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).