

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 Point Lobos 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 Point Lobos State Marine Reserve is to protect the extensive rocky reef, submarine canyon, surfgrass, sandy seafloor and kelp forest habitat found here. Gopher rockfish, California sheephead, and leopard sharks are among the many fish species that inhabit the reserve's kelp forests and rocky reefs. Colorful anemones and coldwater corals cover the reserve's rock surfaces, while rock crabs and nudibranchs crawl among the boulders, caverns and pinnacles scavenging for bits of food or searching for prey. Dungeness crab, brittle stars, and moon snails traverse the sandy seafloor, and rainbow seaperch, tubesnouts, and young California halibut find shelter in the extensive eelgrass beds.

Originally established as Point Lobos Ecological Reserve in 1974, the MPA was expanded to its present size in 2007 during establishment of the California MPA Network. It is one of the oldest MPAs in California. This reserve shares a western border with [Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area](#) and a landside border with [Point Lobos State Natural Reserve](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species 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: Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 5.5 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 4.5 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 408 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 4.80 square miles
Sand/mud: 2.71 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



No Fishing

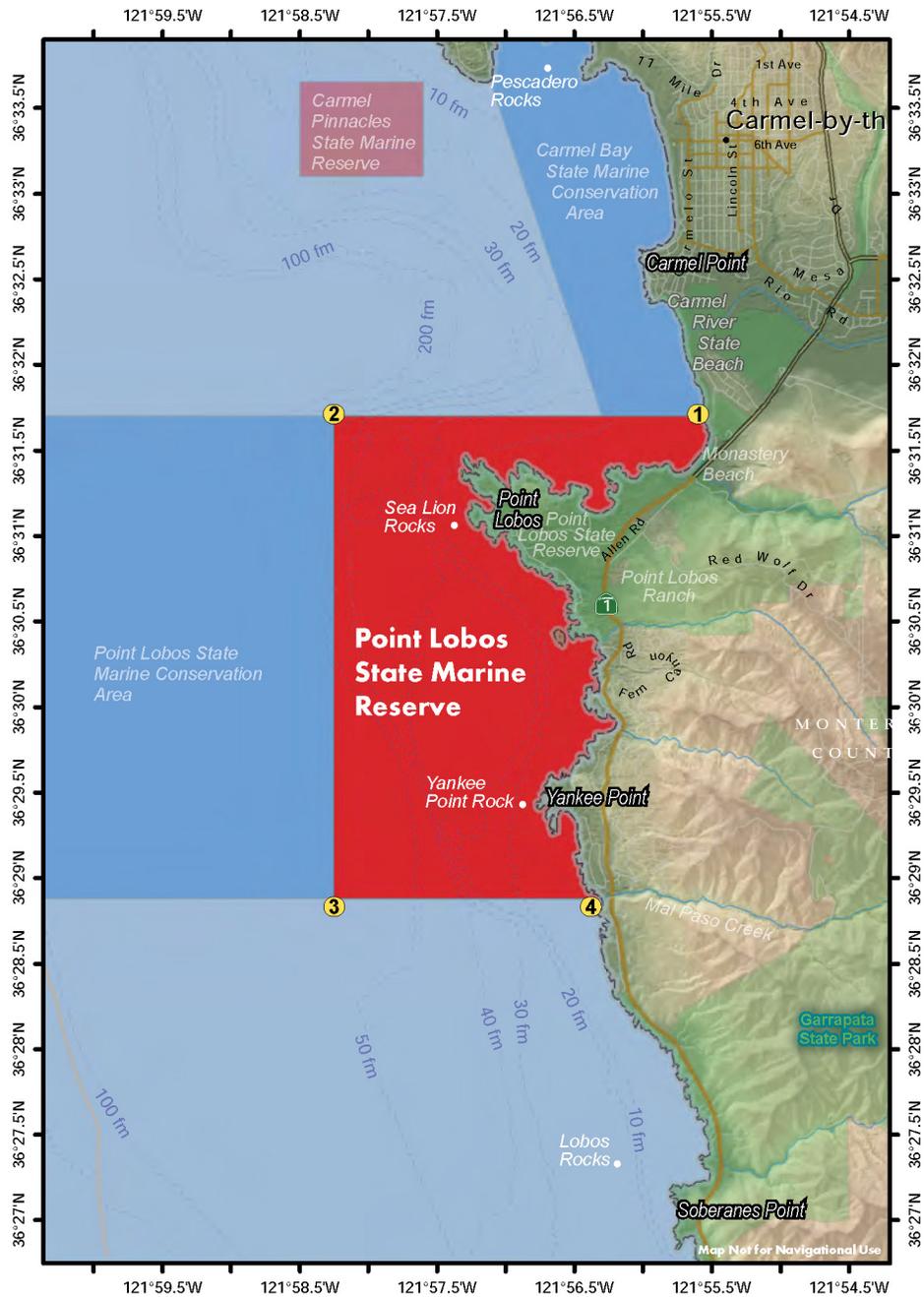


No Collecting

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: Whalers Cove at Point Lobos State Marine Reserve, photo © Rob DeGraff CC BY-NC-ND
Lower right: A young gopher rockfish at the reserve, photo © Steve Lonhart, NOAA MBNMS
Lower left: Orange cup coral at the reserve, photo © Steve Lonhart, NOAA MBNMS



Point Lobos 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° 31.700' N. lat. 121° 55.550' W. long. ①;
- 36° 31.700' N. lat. 121° 58.250' W. long. ②;
- 36° 28.880' N. lat. 121° 58.250' W. long. ③; and
- 36° 28.880' N. lat. 121° 56.285' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.
2. Within the portion of the Point Lobos State Marine Reserve which also falls within the boundary of the Point Lobos State Reserve (State Park Unit), restrictions on boating and diving activities exist. Contact the California Department of Parks and Recreation for current restrictions.



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.