

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 Sur 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.

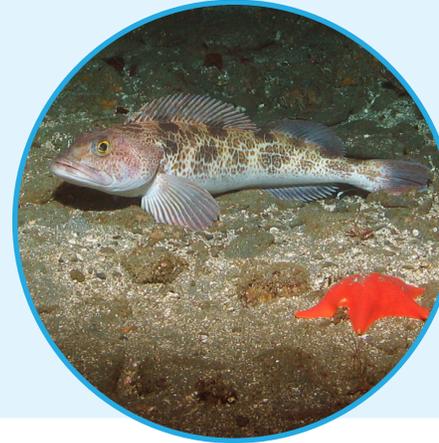
Why was this location chosen for a state marine reserve?

One of the goals for Point Sur State Marine Reserve is to protect diverse habitats including extensive surfgrass beds; complex rocky reefs, caverns, and pinnacles; sandy seafloor; coastal marsh and tidal flats, and kelp forests. The nearby deepwater Sur Canyon funnels cold, nutrient-rich water into the reserve through a process known as upwelling, helping to support an array of life. Surfgrass beds shelter young fish and invertebrates, such as perch, flatfish, and crabs. Nearshore rocks provide nesting sites for a variety of resident and migrating waterbirds, including western gulls, pigeon guillemots, and ashy storm-petrels. Rockfish, sculpin, bat rays, cabezon and lingcod thrive in the kelp forest and rocky outcroppings.

This reserve shares a western boundary with [Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area](#), and a shoreline boundary with [Andrew Molera State Park](#). The reserve also overlaps a small portion of [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for marine species and the habitats they use.

Quick Facts: Point Sur State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 9.79 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 5.5 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 183 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 7.89 square miles
Sand/mud: 6.13 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



Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

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



Photos - Upper: Molera Point, at the northern end of the marine reserve, photo © jdegenhardt CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 Lower right: Fish-eating anemone at Point Sur State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo. Lower left: Lingcod and orange bat star, Point Sur State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo.



Version 2, September 2022

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

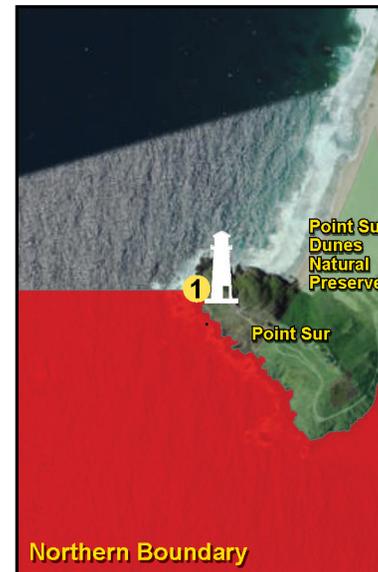
Boundary:

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

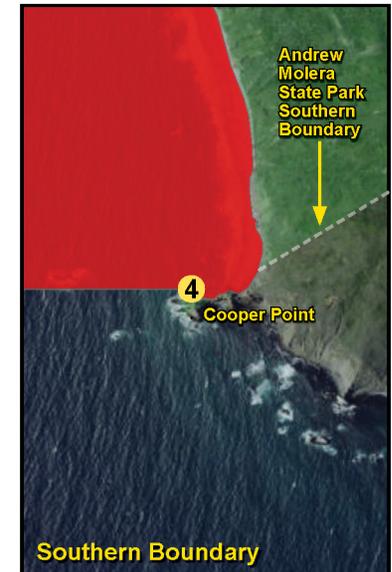
- 36° 18.400' N. lat. 121° 54.150' W. long. ①;
- 36° 18.400' N. lat. 121° 56.000' W. long. ②;
- 36° 15.000' N. lat. 121° 52.500' W. long. ③; and
- 36° 15.000' N. lat. 121° 50.250' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



Northern Boundary



Southern Boundary

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.