

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 Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park 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 Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park is to enhance local recreational fishing by prohibiting commercial fishing. The area's diverse habitats and complex coastline include rocky seamounts, sandy seafloor, and kelp forests populated by blue rockfish, cabezon, and many other species. Pico, San Simeon, and Santa Rosa creeks provide estuary and marsh areas for starry flounder, sculpin, lamprey, and waterbirds seeking food and refuge. Northern elephant seals may be seen here as well, resting on the sandy shore.

Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park shares a southern border with [White Rock State Marine Conservation Area](#), and part of its eastern border with [Hearst San Simeon State Park](#) along the coast. The MPA also overlaps a portion of [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: Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park

- **MPA size:** 6.26 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 5.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 105 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 3.98 square miles
 - Rock: 5.76 square miles



Non-Consumptive
Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

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: Beach at the mouth of San Simeon Creek in the conservation area/park. photo © mlhradio CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower right:** Ostrich plume hydroid and a blade of kelp at the conservation area/park. photo © Elizabeth Bettenhausen CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Male northern elephant seal at the conservation area/park. photo © kwgeiger CC BY-NC 2.0

Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park

Central California - San Luis Obispo County



Cambria State Marine Conservation Area and State Marine Park* Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

*Cambria State Marine Conservation Area was also designated Cambria State Marine Park by the California State Park and Recreation Commission in August, 2010. The two areas share the same boundaries; no additional take regulations have been adopted at this time. Contact the California Department of Parks and Recreation for more information about this State Marine Park.

Boundary:

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

- 35° 37.100' N. lat. 121° 09.225' W. long. ①;
- 35° 37.100' N. lat. 121° 10.700' W. long. ②;
- 35° 32.850' N. lat. 121° 06.700' W. long. ③; and
- 35° 32.850' N. lat. 121° 05.855' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exception: recreational take 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.