

Cambria State Marine Conservation Area*

Central California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Established September 2007*



Cambria SMCA and SMP
Photo by Paulo Serpa



Blue rockfish
(*Sebastes mystinus*)
Photo by Matt Elyash



Female Cabezon with eggs
(*Scorpaenichthys marmoratus*)
Photo by Matt Elyash

Site Overview

Photos are representative of the Central Coast Region and may not be within this MPA.

What is an MPA?

MPAs are a type of [marine managed area](#) (MMA) where marine or estuarine waters are set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and associated habitats. California has a coastal network of 124 protected areas designed to help increase the coherence and effectiveness of protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. The network includes three types of MPA: [state marine reserve](#) (SMR), [state marine conservation area](#) (SMCA), and [state marine park](#) (SMP); one MMA: [state marine recreational management area](#) (SMRMA); and [special closures](#). There are 119 MPAs, 5 MMAs and 15 special closures, each with unique boundaries and regulations in the network. Non-consumptive activities, restoration, and permitted scientific research are allowed.

What is an SMCA?

An **SMCA** is a type of MPA that protects resources by allowing for only specific types of recreational and/or commercial take to occur. (Area restrictions are defined in [Title 14, Section 632\(a\)\(1\)\(B\)\(C\)](#)).

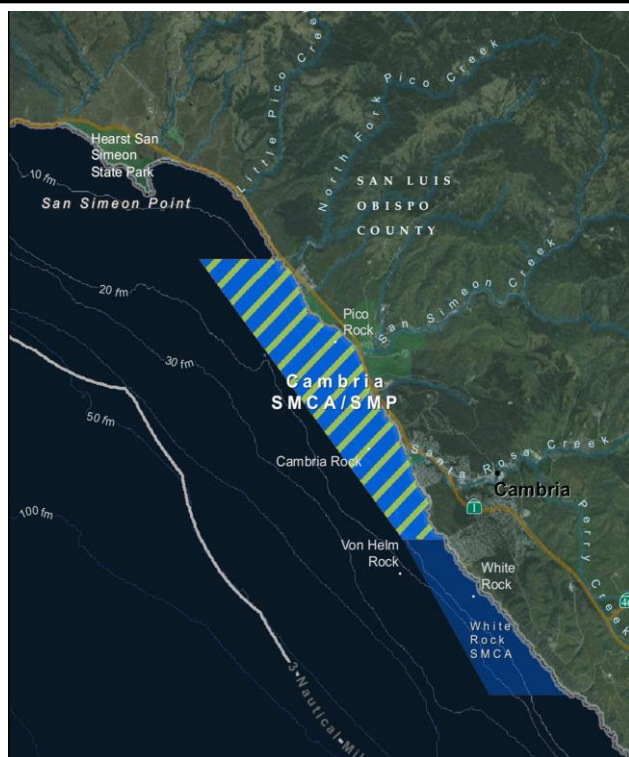
Cambria SMCA Overview

- **MPA size:** 6.26 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 105 feet
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 5.8 miles

Cambria SMCA Key Habitats

- **Beaches:** 5.31 miles
- **Rocky shores:** 4.11 miles
- **Tidal flats:** 0.57 miles
- **Coastal marsh:** 0.61 miles
- **Marsh:** 0.02 square miles
- **Surfgrass:** 3.93 square miles
- **Estuary:** 0.01 square miles
- **Sand (all depths):** 4.86 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 1.34 square miles
- **Average kelp (1989 to 2008):** 0.54 square miles

Where is Cambria SMCA



Boundaries and Regulations

* 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 the State Marine Park (SMP).

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.;
- 35° 37.100' N. lat. 121° 10.700' W. long.;
- 35° 32.850' N. lat. 121° 06.700' W. long.; and
- 35° 32.850' N. lat. 121° 05.850' W. long.

Only recreational take is allowed in Cambria SMCA/SMP.

Cambria State Marine Conservation Area

How and Why Cambria was Chosen for an SMCA

MPAs were designed through a collaborative, regional public process by a cross-interest regional stakeholder group (RSG). Using scientific criteria, public input and local resource knowledge the RSG developed MPA proposals. RSG proposals included specific objectives (why the site should be an MPA-*included below*), the classification (type of MPA), boundaries, and regulations. Final MPA proposals were sent to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for their adoption process. Cambria SMCA and SMP was adopted by the Commission in 2007.

Summary of Objectives for Cambria SMCA:

Provide some protection to nearshore shelf rockfish species, cabezon, and kelp greenling through the prohibition of commercial fishing. Enhance recreational fishing near a population center (Cambria) by prohibiting commercial take in an area traditionally accessed primarily by recreational users. Replicate habitats found in adjacent Cambria State Marine Reserve to allow comparison of an area which allows recreational fishing only with an area in which all take is prohibited. Provide research benefits from existing subtidal and intertidal monitoring sites in this area and in the adjacent Cambria State Marine Reserve. Enhance recreational fishing experience prohibiting commercial fishing. Increase positive socioeconomic impacts for recreational fishing by establishing a state marine park in an area of traditional recreational use.

Species Likely to Benefit from the Establishment of MPAs in California

Species likely to benefit from establishing an MPA are those, whose home range, behavior, reproduction, exploitation rate or population status indicates that they may benefit from spatial management. This includes species that are directly targeted by fisheries, those which are caught incidental to fishing for the target species (bycatch) and which cannot be returned to the water with a high rate of survival, and those which may be indirectly impacted through ecological changes within MPAs.

For a list of species likely to benefit from MPAs statewide: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/species.asp

For a list of species likely to benefit from central coast MPAs: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binder3b.pdf

Central Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview

Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/rqop092805.pdf

2008 Master Plan Appendix O: Regional Management Plan:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/revisedmp0108o.pdf

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring

Regional MPA Statistics:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics

Regional Planning History:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process

California MPA Network Resources

Detailed MPA guidebooks maps and brochures:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network

California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals



For more Information, visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

Email:

AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

MPA Mobile:



Report poaching and polluting,

Call CalTIP

1-888-334-2258

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632 www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Title-14-Section-632