

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 White Rock 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 White Rock State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the rocky reefs, kelp forests, and large stands of surfgrass found there. The diverse combination of habitats attract a variety of marine life, from gopher rockfish to harbor seals and southern sea otters. The kelp and surfgrass provide refuge and nursery areas for leopard shark, gopher rockfish, kelp greenling, and black perch. Rocky tidepools provide shelter for crabs, barnacles, sculpins, mussels, and sea stars, while California sea lions, pelicans, and cormorants rest on rocks and islets scattered along the coast. Rocky pinnacles rising from the bottom host bocaccio and multitudes of perch, while sole, Pacific sanddabs, and California halibut hunt along the sandy seafloor.

White Rock State Marine Conservation Area shares a northern border with [Cambria State Marine Conservation Area](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters

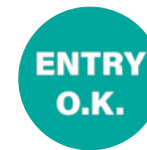
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or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



Quick Facts: White Rock State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 2.91 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 3.5 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 128 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 1.16 square miles
Rock: 1.75 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Fishing
See Regulations
On Back



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: White Rock, covered with California sea lions and cormorants. photo © Gena Bentall CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower right: Sculpin and snail in a tidepool at the conservation area. photo © korem3 CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower left: Hopkin's rose nudibranch on surfgrass at the conservation area. photo © Devon Bradley CC BY-NC 2.0

White Rock State Marine Conservation Area

Central California -San Luis Obispo County



White Rock State Marine Conservation Area 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:

- 35° 32.850' N. lat. 121° 05.855' W. long. ①;
- 35° 32.850' N. lat. 121° 06.700' W. long. ②;
- 35° 30.500' N. lat. 121° 05.000' W. long. ③; and
- 35° 30.500' N. lat. 121° 03.423' 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 exceptions:
 - a. The commercial take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) and bull kelp (*Nereocystis* spp.) is allowed under the following conditions:
 - A kelp harvester with a valid license issued pursuant to Section 165 and holding a valid lease to Administrative Kelp Bed 208 may take no more than 125 tons of kelp from the portion of Administrative Kelp Bed 208 within the White Rock State Marine Conservation Area in any calendar month.
 - Duplicate landing records must be kept on board the harvest vessel in accordance with the requirements of Section 165.



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.