

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 Buchon 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 Buchon State Marine Reserve is to protect the sandy seafloor, kelp forest, and rocky reef habitat which forms one of the most complex underwater landscapes on the central California coast. The reserve's biological diversity is exceptional, due in part to strong upwelling of nutrient-rich waters in the region. Leopard sharks cruise the sandy seafloor where sanddabs and starry flounder blend in with the soft sediments. Treefish, rubberlip seaperch, and blue rockfish populate the reserve's rocky reefs, pinnacles, and kelp forests, along with rock crabs, moon snails, and an assortment of colorful sponges. The reserve also protects one of the shallowest coldwater coral reef systems in California.

Point Buchon State Marine Reserve shares an eastern border with [Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area](#). Together, the two MPAs protect marine life and habitats from the coastline to the state waters boundary three nautical miles offshore. Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



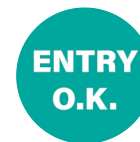
Report poachers and polluters
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or text 847411 - begin message with “Caltip” followed by the details.



Quick Facts: Point Buchon State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 6.68 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.5 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 208 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Rock: 3.83 square miles
 - Sand/mud: 4.90 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: Rocky arch at Point Buchon State Marine Reserve, photo © Mike Baird CC BY 2.0
Lower right: Treefish and colorful reef life at Point Buchon State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo
Lower left: Corals covering a rocky shelf at Point Buchon State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo

Point Buchon State Marine Reserve

Central California - San Luis Obispo County



Point Buchon 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:

- 35° 15.250' N. lat. 120° 53.817' W. long. ①;
- 35° 15.250' N. lat. 120° 56.000' W. long. ②;
- 35° 11.000' N. lat. 120° 52.400' W. long. ③; and
- 35° 13.348' N. lat. 120° 52.400' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

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



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.