

## 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 Point Buchon 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 Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor and rocky reef habitat found there. The conservation area's biological diversity is exceptional, due in part to strong upwelling of nutrient-rich waters in the region. Brown smoothhound sharks cruise the sandy seafloor, while California halibut and Dover sole blend into the soft sediments. Isolated rocky reefs rise from the sand, populated by fish and invertebrates such as vermilion rockfish, strawberry anemones and wolf-eels. The conservation area also protects one of the shallowest coldwater coral reef systems in California.

Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area shares an eastern border with [Point Buchon State Marine Reserve](#). 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 conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



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



## Quick Facts: Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 12.19 square miles
- **Depth range:** 191 to 391 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Sand/mud: 11.38 square miles  
Rock: 0.34 square miles  
Other: 0.47 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing  
See Regulations On Back

No Collecting

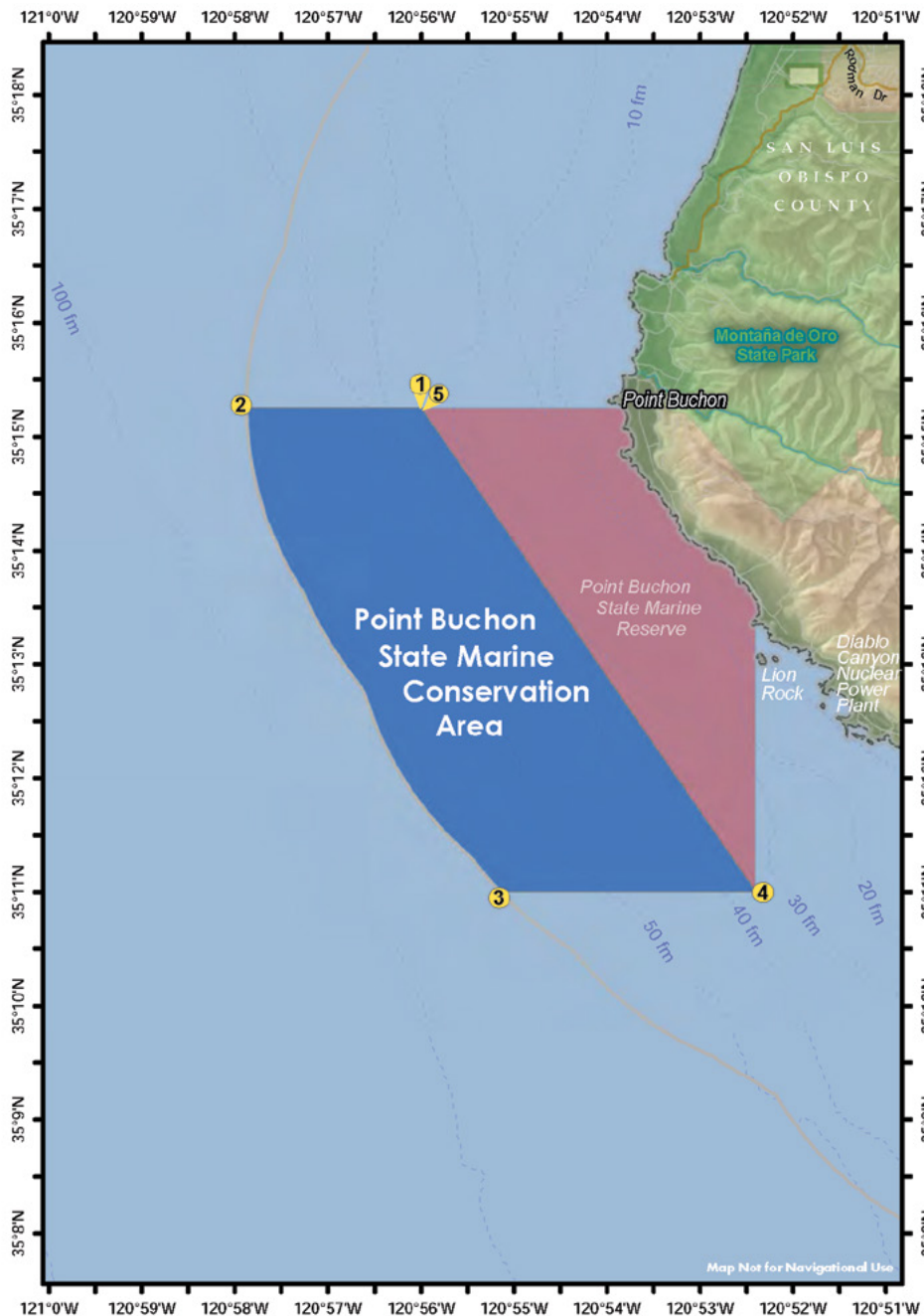
## Further Information:

- MPA Website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap)
- Email: [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Photos - Upper: Black-vented shearwater at Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Noah Gaines CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower right: Strawberry anemones near Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW/MARE photo Lower left: Wolf-eel near Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area CDFW/MARE photo**

# Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area

Central California - San Luis Obispo County



Version 1, April 2021

## Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

### Boundary:

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 35° 15.250' N. lat. 120° 56.000' W. long. ①;
- 35° 15.250' N. lat. 120° 57.878' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 35° 11.000' N. lat. 120° 55.149' W. long. ③;
- 35° 11.000' N. lat. 120° 52.400' W. long. ④; and
- 35° 15.250' N. lat. 120° 56.000' W. long. ⑤

### 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 and recreational take of salmon and albacore 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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network).