Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area
Central California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Established September 2007*

**Site Overview**

**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)(C).*)

**Point Buchon SMCA Overview**

- **MPA size:** 12.19 square miles
- **Depth range:** 191 to 391 feet
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 5.9 miles

**Point Buchon SMCA Key Habitats**

- **Sand (all depths):** 10.83 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 0.71 square miles

**Where is Point Buchon SMCA?**

**Boundaries and Regulations**

**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.;
35° 15.250’ N. lat. 120° 57.878’ W. long.; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
35° 11.000’ N. lat. 120° 55.149’ W. long.;
35° 11.000’ N. lat. 120° 52.400’ W. long.; and
35° 15.250’ N. lat. 120° 56.000’ W. long.

**Only the following take is allowed in Point Buchon SMCA:** The commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore.
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How and Why Point Buchon 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. Point Buchon SMCA was adopted by the Commission in 2007.

Summary of Objectives for Point Buchon SMCA:
Provide for increased protection of a diverse area containing shallow hard and soft habitats, kelp beds, pinnacles, and associated fish and invertebrate species, while minimizing impact to the salmon fishery. This area is important to the formation of an ecologically sound MPA network component, by linking these habitats to similar habitats in other parts of the region.

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/rgop092805.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

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