

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 Kashtayit 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 Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, surfgrass, and rocky reef habitat found there. A wide variety of marine species including young California spiny lobster, kelp bass, and opaleye shelter in the stretches of surfgrass, while cabezon, thresher shark, and rubberlip seaperch hunt along the sandy seafloor and among the rocks and surfgrass. Flatfish such as California halibut blend in with the sandy seafloor and wait for their prey to swim by, and hermit crabs, anemones, and sponges find shelter among the isolated rocky shelves and crevices.

Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area takes its name from the traditional Chumash village of Kashtayit, or “place of the willow”, once located at the mouth of Gaviota Creek. This culturally significant conservation area shares a land-side boundary with [Gaviota State Park](#). 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: Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 2.02 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 160 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 1.66 square miles
 - Rock: 0.16 square miles
 - Other: 0.20 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

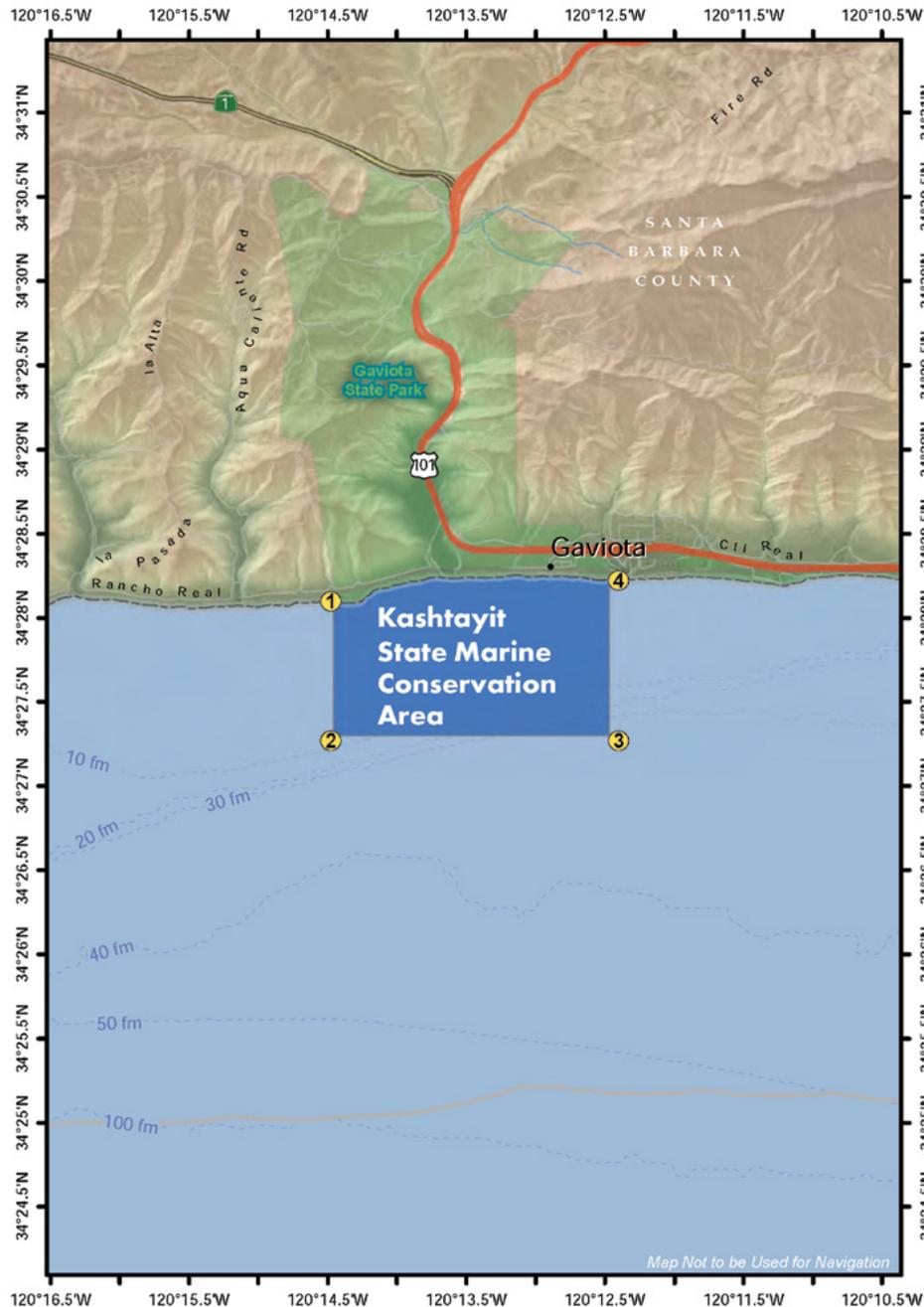
Fishing See Regulations On Back

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: Gaviota Pier at Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo by P. Serpa Lower right: Rubberlip seaperch at Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW/MARE photo Lower left: Red rock crab, sponges and anemones at Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Jeff Goddard CC BY-NC 2.0



Kashtayit (*kosh-TIE-it*) State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

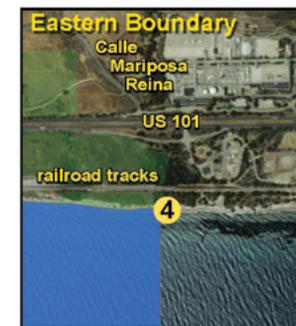
Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 34° 28.130' N. lat. 120° 14.460' W. long. ①;
- 34° 27.300' N. lat. 120° 14.460' W. long. ②;
- 34° 27.300' N. lat. 120° 12.470' W. long. ③; and
- 34° 28.230' N. lat. 120° 12.470' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - a. The recreational take of finfish*, invertebrates except rock scallops and mussels, and giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest is allowed.
 - b. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations for Kashtayit State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
 - c. Take pursuant to maintenance of artificial structures and operation and maintenance of existing facilities is allowed inside the conservation area pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.



* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).
 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.