

## 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 Naples 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 Naples State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the kelp forest, surfgrass, and unique rocky reef habitat in this location where warm water currents from the tropics and cold water currents from Alaska converge. The resulting rich and varied marine life here includes many different species. Kellet's whelk, black-and-yellow rockfish, opaleye, and cowries thrive around the offshore pinnacles, caves, and other formations of Naples Reef. California mussels, striped shore crabs, barnacles and sea lettuce cover the rocky intertidal areas, and marine mammals such as harbor seals haul out on the beaches and rocks to rest and sun themselves.

The conservation area is located adjacent to [El Capitán State Beach](#). 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**  
**Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258**

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



## Quick Facts: Naples State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 2.60 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 162 ft.
- **Habitat composition:**  
Sand/mud: 2.00 square miles  
Rock: 1.48 square miles



## 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:** Shoreline at Naples State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo by P. Serpa **Lower right:** Black-and-yellow rockfish at the conservation area. photo © Santa Barbara Channel Marine Biodiversity Observation Network CC BY-NC 2.0  
**Lower left:** Mussels at the conservation area. photo © Jeff Goddard CC BY-NC 2.0

# Naples State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Santa Barbara County



## Naples 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° 26.517' N. lat. 119° 58.000' W. long. ①;
- 34° 25.000' N. lat. 119° 58.000' W. long. ②;
- 34° 25.000' N. lat. 119° 56.000' W. long. ③; and
- 34° 26.140' N. lat. 119° 56.000' 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 recreational take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish\* is allowed.
  - b. The commercial take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest or by mechanical harvest is allowed.
  - c. Take pursuant to operation and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.
2. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations for Naples State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians

\*Pelagic finfish are defined here as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyræna* spp.), billfishes\* (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family Scombridae) including Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). \*Marlin is not allowed for commercial take. Salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), a pelagic finfish, may not be taken by spear.

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).