

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 Dume 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 Dume State Marine Conservation Area is to protect some of the most diverse marine habitats found off Los Angeles County. Cold, nutrient-rich water is funneled toward the surface through a deep submarine canyon, fueling high species diversity. Unique spur-and-groove reef structures, surfgrass beds, sandy seafloor, and extensive kelp and other algal habitat provide shelter, food, and hunting grounds for many marine species, including thresher shark, white seabass, California spiny lobster, and mussels.

This conservation area shares a boundary with [Point Dume State Marine Reserve](#) and borders a portion of [Point Dume State Beach](#). It also overlaps a portion of the [Laguna Point to Latigo Point Area of Special Biological Significance](#), which protects water quality. 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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Quick Facts: Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 15.92 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 4.0 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 2,023 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 15.71 square miles
 - Rock: 0.33 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: Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Pacheco CC BY-ND 2.0 **Lower right:** Sanderling with a mole crab, Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Rebecca Marschall CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Surfgrass at the conservation area. photo © Tim Quinn CC BY-NC 2.0



Point Dume 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 except where noted:

- 34° 02.306' N. lat. 118° 53.000' W. long. ①;
- 33° 59.140' N. lat. 118° 53.000' W. long. ②; thence southeastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 56.960' N. lat. 118° 49.200' W. long. ③; and
- 34° 00.780' N. lat. 118° 49.200' 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 by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish* is allowed.
 - b. The commercial take of swordfish by harpoon; and coastal pelagic species** by round haul net, brail gear, and light boat is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial coastal pelagic species catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.
 - c. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations for Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians
 - d. Take pursuant to beach nourishment and other sediment management activities is allowed inside the conservation area pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the department.

* Pelagic finfish are defined here as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.), billfishes* (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), 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.

** Coastal pelagic species are defined here as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*) and market squid (*Doryteuthis (Loligo) opalescens*).

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.