

### What is a California marine protected area (or "MPA")?

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine 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. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Point Dume State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level of protection.

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 reserve?

One of the goals for Point Dume State Marine Reserve is to protect some of the most diverse marine habitats found off Los Angeles County. Cold, nutrient-rich water is funneled toward the surface from the offshore depths through a deep submarine canyon, fueling high species diversity. Nearly two square miles of submarine canyon habitat, 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 sargo, white seabass, California spiny lobster, and octopi. From December through March, migrating gray whales are a common sight in the reserve close to the bluffs.

This reserve shares a boundary with [Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area](#), and borders a portion of [Point Dume State Beach](#) and [Point Dume Nature Preserve](#). 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 reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



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followed by the details.



### Quick Facts: Point Dume State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 7.53 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 1,987 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  - Rock: 0.50 square miles
  - Sand/mud: 7.27 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

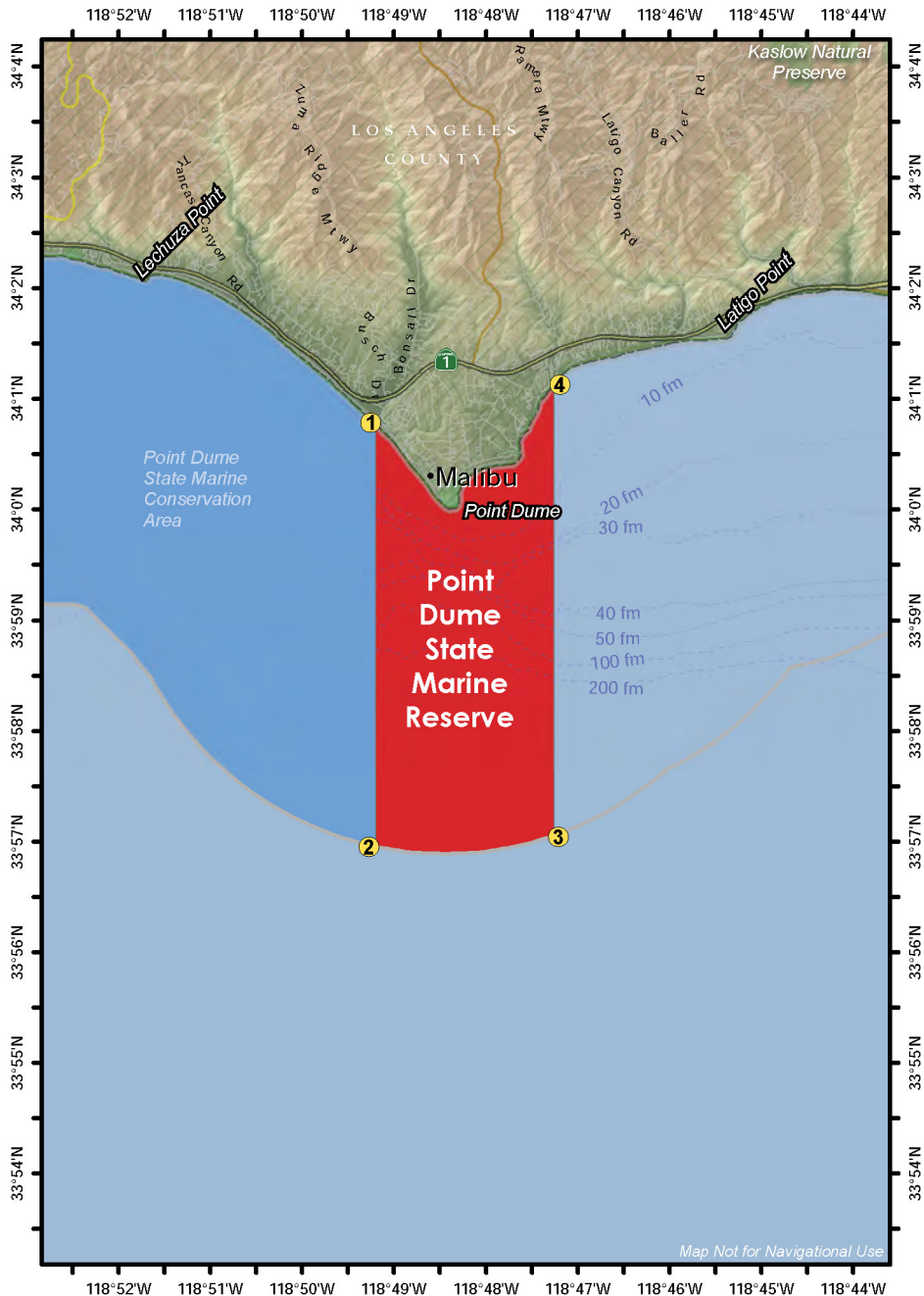
No Fishing

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: Bluffs at Point Dume State Marine Reserve, photo © LZA AXLWD CC BY 2.0  
Lower right: Sargo at Point Dume State Marine Reserve, photo © Jeff S CC BY-NC 2.0  
Lower left: Gray whale at Point Dume State Marine Reserve, photo © Whale Riot CC BY-NC-ND 2.0



## Point Dume State Marine Reserve 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° 00.780' N. lat. 118° 49.200' W. long. ①;
- 33° 56.960' N. lat. 118° 49.200' W. long. ②; thence eastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 57.061' N. lat. 118° 47.260' W. long. ③; and
- 34° 01.178' N. lat. 118° 47.260' W. long. ④

### Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



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).