

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. The ban on collecting and fishing in no-take marine conservation areas such as Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area provides very high levels 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 conservation area?

One of the goals for Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the area's rocky reef, surfgrass beds, sandy seafloor, and offshore deepwater basin habitat that reaches down to 2,640 feet. A wide variety of marine species may be found across a broad range of depths in this conservation area's many habitats. Crabs and lobster find shelter along the rocky shoreline and nearshore areas, while rockfish, California sheephead, and kelp bass hunt and live within the kelp forests. Offshore, the sandy seafloor provides habitat for flatfishes including sole, California halibut, and flounder.

The conservation area shares an eastern border with [Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area](#). Together the two conservation areas protect almost 20 square miles of ocean habitat. Placing a no-take state marine conservation area here provides very high levels of protection for marine species and the habitats they use.



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Quick Facts: Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 15.04 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.40 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 2,640 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 14.76 square miles
Rock: 0.68 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

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: Cliffs and surf at Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area, photo © Angel La Canfora CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. Lower right: Striped shore crab in the conservation area, photo © green team assemble CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower left: Rosy rockfish in the conservation area, photo © Jonathan Williams CC BY-NC 2.0

Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Los Angeles County



Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

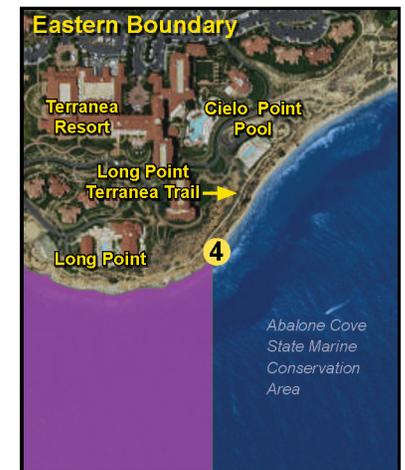
Boundary:

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

- 33° 44.800' N. lat. 118° 24.807' W. long. ①;
- 33° 44.800' N. lat. 118° 28.931' W. long. ②; thence southeastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 41.155' N. lat. 118° 23.800' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 44.198' N. lat. 118° 23.800' 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. Take pursuant to remediation activities associated with the Palos Verdes Shelf Operable Unit of the Montrose Chemical Superfund Site is allowed inside the conservation area pursuant to the Interim Record of Decision issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and any subsequent Records of Decision.



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.