

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 Farnsworth Onshore 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 Farnsworth Onshore State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the kelp forest, sand plains, rocky nearshore, and surfgrass habitat found there. Rare purple hydrocoral colonies cover many of the deeper rock surfaces, along with other vibrant hydrocorals, gorgonians, and sponges. Nearshore rocky areas provide safe refuge for endangered white abalone and black abalone. Sanddabs, California halibut, and angel sharks inhabit the sandy sea floor, while the surfgrass beds and kelp forests are home to rockfish, kelp bass, and California sheephead.

This conservation area shares its western border with [Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area](#). The onshore and offshore conservation areas work together to provide moderately high levels of protection for marine life and habitats, from the shore to a depth of over 1,900 ft.



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Quick Facts: Farnsworth Onshore State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 2.59 square miles
- **Shoreline Span:** 2.2 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 291 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 2.48 square miles
 - Rock: 0.19 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations On Back

No Collecting

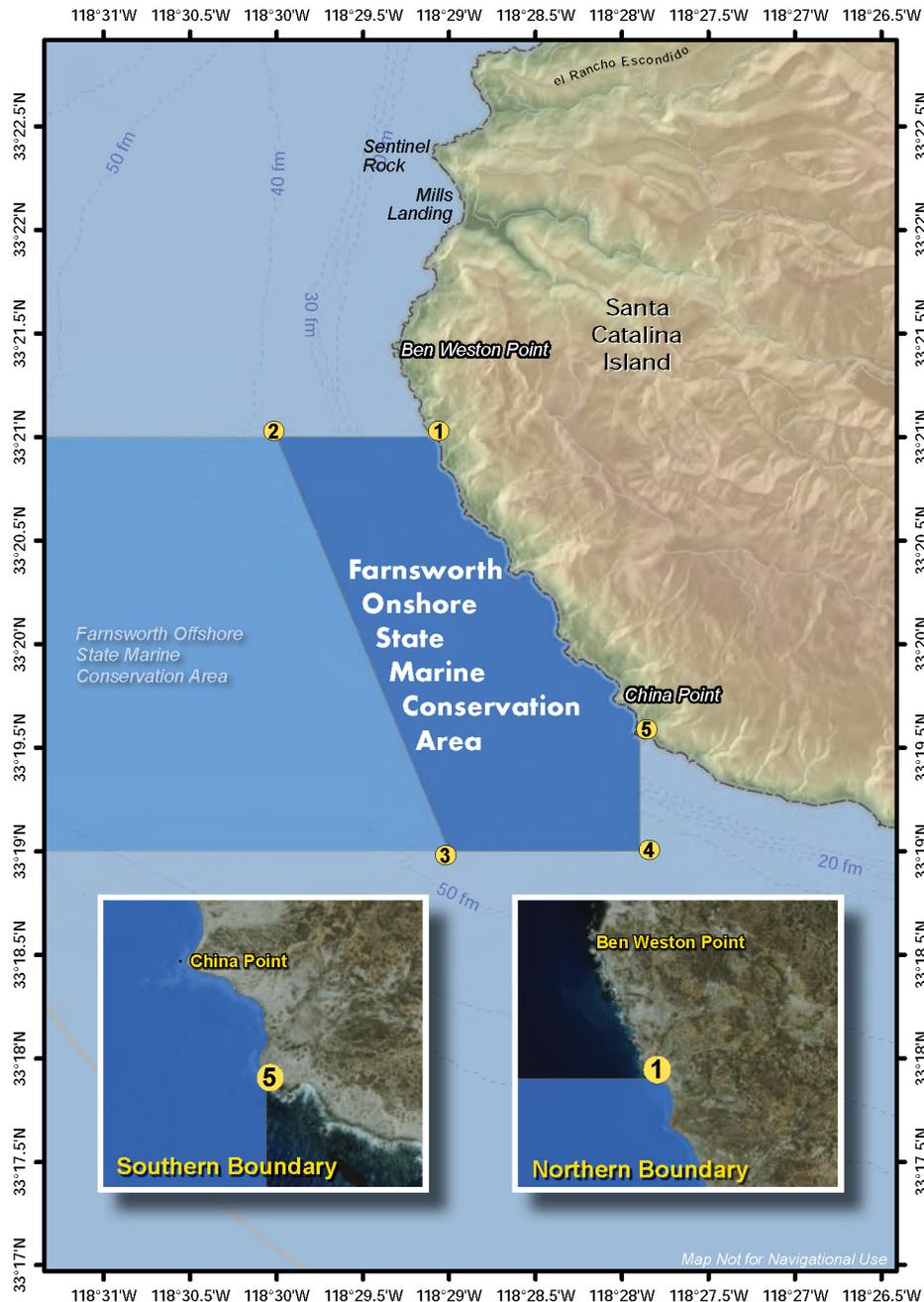
Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Bat star on the sandy sea floor at Farnsworth Onshore State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Dana Roeber Murray Lower right: Purple hydrocoral at Farnsworth Onshore State Marine Conservation Area. photo © M. Winscher Lower left: Two-spot octopus at the conservation area. photo © M. Winscher

Farnsworth Onshore State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Santa Catalina Island



Farnsworth Onshore 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:

- 33° 21.000' N. lat. 118° 29.080' W. long. ①;
- 33° 21.000' N. lat. 118° 30.000' W. long. ②;
- 33° 19.000' N. lat. 118° 29.000' W. long. ③;
- 33° 19.000' N. lat. 118° 27.900' W. long. ④; and
- 33° 19.560' N. lat. 118° 27.900' W. long. ⑤

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*; marlin, tunas, and dorado (dolphinfish) (*Coryphaena hippurus*) by trolling; and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed.
2. 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.

* 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.