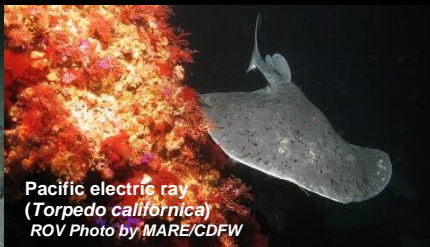


Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Established January 2012*



Farnsworth Offshore SMCA,
California Scorpionfish
(*Scorpaena guttata*)
ROV Photo by MARE/CDFW



Pacific electric ray
(*Torpedo californica*)
ROV Photo by MARE/CDFW



California hydrocoral
(*Stylaster californicus*)
ROV Photo by MARE/CDFW

Site Overview

Photos are representative of the South Coast Region and may not be within this MPA.

What is an MPA?

MPAs are a type of [marine managed area](#) (MMA) where marine or estuarine waters are set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and associated habitats. California has a coastal network of 124 protected areas designed to help increase the coherence and effectiveness of protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. The network includes three types of MPA: [state marine reserve](#) (SMR), [state marine conservation area](#) (SMCA), and [state marine park](#) (SMP); one MMA: [state marine recreational management area](#) (SMRMA); and [special closures](#). There are 119 MPAs, 5 MMAs and 15 special closures, each with unique boundaries and regulations in the network. Non-consumptive activities, restoration, and permitted scientific research are allowed.

What is an SMCA?

An **SMCA** is a type of MPA that protects resources by allowing for only specific types of recreational and/or commercial take to occur. (Area restrictions are defined in [Title 14, Section 632\(a\)\(1\)\(C\)](#)).

Farnsworth Offshore SMCA Overview

- **MPA size:** 6.67 square miles
- **Depth range:** 135 to 1909 feet
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 2.6 miles

Farnsworth Offshore SMCA Key Habitats

- **Sand (all depths):** 6.14 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 0.53 square miles

Where is Farnsworth Offshore SMCA?



Boundaries and Regulations

Boundary: This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 33° 21.000' N. lat. 118° 30.000' W. long.;
- 33° 21.000' N. lat. 118° 32.878' W. long.; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 19.000' N. lat. 118° 31.978' W. long.;
- 33° 19.000' N. lat. 118° 29.000' W. long.; and
- 33° 21.000' N. lat. 118° 30.000' W. long.

Only the following take is allowed in Farnsworth Offshore SMCA::

1. The recreational take of [pelagic finfish](#), by hook and line or by spearfishing; white seabass by spearfishing; marlin, tunas and dorado (dolphinfish) (*Coryphaena hippurus*) by trolling; and market squid by hand-held dip net.
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.

Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area

How and Why Farnsworth Offshore was Chosen for an SMCA

MPAs were designed through a collaborative, regional public process by a cross-interest regional stakeholder group (RSG). Using scientific criteria, public input and local resource knowledge the RSG developed MPA proposals. RSG proposals included site specific rationale (why the site should be an MPA-*included below*), the classification (type of MPA), boundaries, and regulations. Final MPA proposals were sent to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for their adoption process. Farnsworth Offshore SMCA was adopted by the Commission in 2012.

South Coast RSG Identified Rationale for Farnsworth Offshore SMCA:

Backbone MPA cluster for southwest region of Santa Catalina Island hosting high diversity of habitats and communities representing productive, wave-exposed portion of east islands bioregion. Differing exposures to swells, headlands, spectacularly unique offshore Farnsworth Bank (existing MPA and ASBS) and other deepwater pinnacles, diverse rocky intertidal, shallow/deepwater reefs and sand plains add to biodiversity within the MPA cluster. Cluster contains persistent key habitat giant kelp forests, surfgrass, and purple hydrocoral. Will enhance likely to benefit species including rockfishes, kelp bass, scorpionfish, giant sea bass, sheephead, angel shark, abalone, lobster, cucumbers, and rock scallops. Protects highly significant endangered intertidal black abalone and subtidal white abalone habitat.

Species Likely to Benefit from the Establishment of MPAs in California

Species likely to benefit from establishing an MPA are those, whose home range, behavior, reproduction, exploitation rate or population status indicates that they may benefit from spatial management. This includes species that are directly targeted by fisheries, those which are caught incidental to fishing for the target species (bycatch) and which cannot be returned to the water with a high rate of survival, and those which may be indirectly impacted through ecological changes within MPAs.

For a list of species likely to benefit from MPAs statewide: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/species.asp

For a list of species likely to benefit from south coast MPAs: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2q.pdf

South Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview

South Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b1n.pdf

California MLPA South Coast Study Region Description of MPAs:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b1pv.pdf

Methods Used to Evaluate MPAs in the South Coast:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2b.pdf

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring

Regional MPA Statistics:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics

Regional Planning History:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process

California MPA Network Resources

Detailed MPA guidebooks maps and brochures:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network

California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals



For more information, visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

Email:

AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

MPA Mobile:



Report poaching and polluting,

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1-888-334-2258