

## 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 Offshore 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 Offshore State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sand plains habitat and a portion of Farnsworth Bank, a network of sheer, vertical rock pinnacles and valleys. Rare purple hydrocoral colonies cover many of the rock surfaces, along with other vibrant hydrocorals, gorgonians, and sponges. Schools of squarespot rockfish, mackerel, and many other species congregate around the pinnacles, while fish and invertebrates such as the California scorpionfish and sea cucumber roam the sandy seafloor.

This area has been protected since 1973, when the California Fish and Game Commission established Farnsworth Bank Ecological Reserve. The offshore conservation area shares an eastern border with [Farnsworth Onshore State Marine Conservation Area](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



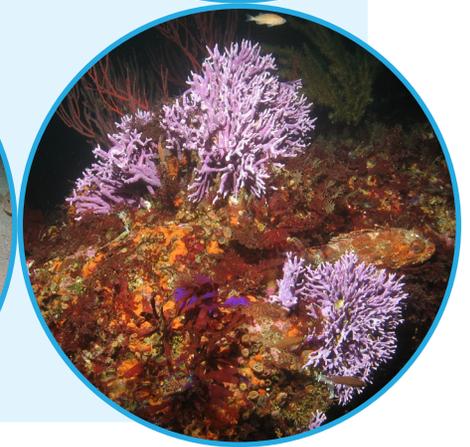
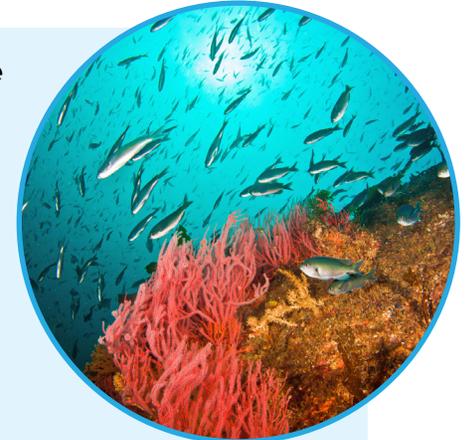
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or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



## Quick Facts: Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 6.67 square miles
- **Depth range:** 135 to 1,909 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  - Sand/mud: 6.11 square miles
  - Rock: 0.56 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing  
See Regulations  
On Back

No Collecting

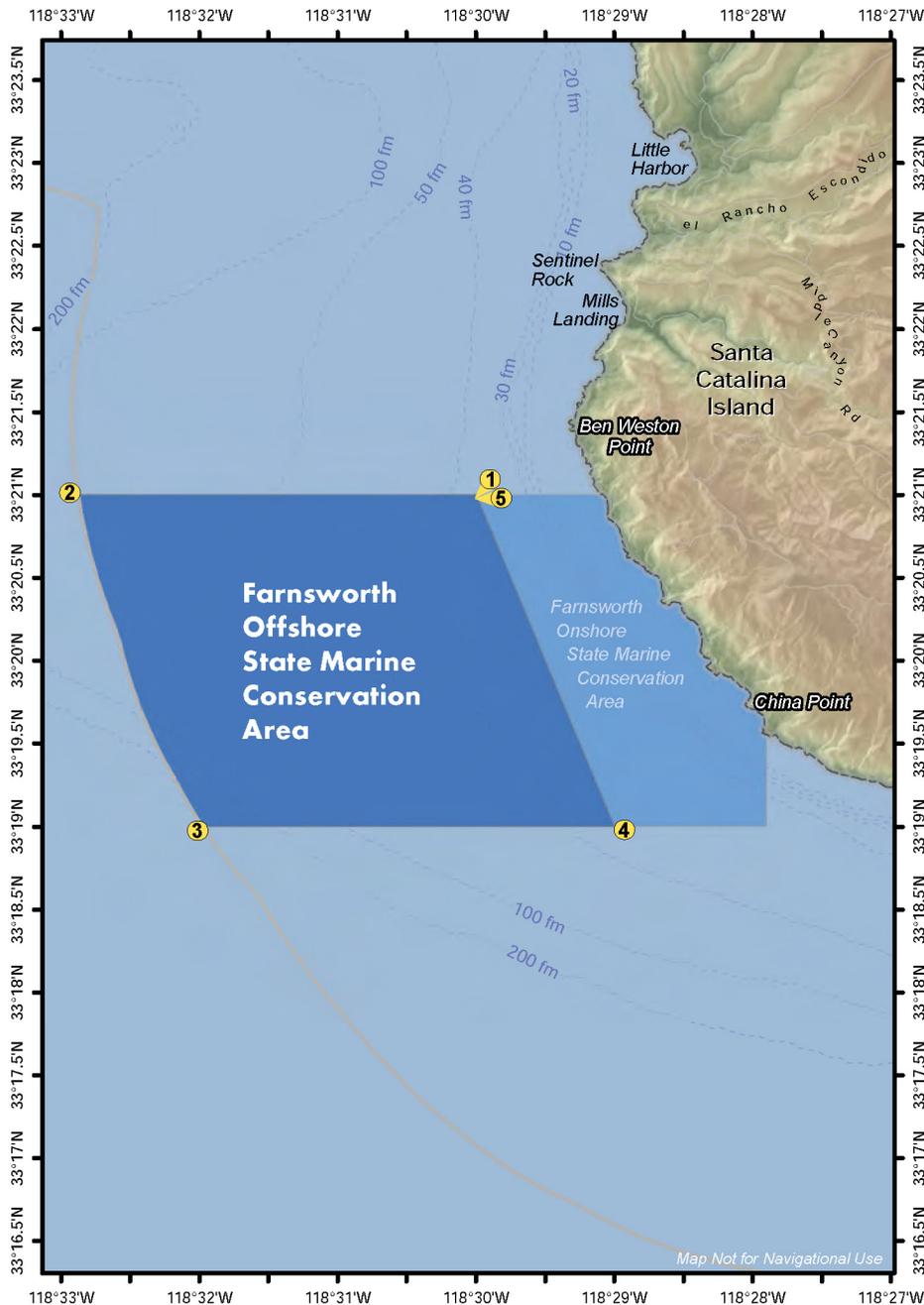
## Further Information:

- 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:** Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area. photo © NOAA Fisheries West Coast CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 **Lower right:** Purple hydrocoral at Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW/MARE photo **Lower left:** California scorpionfish congregating at the conservation area. CDFW/MARE photo

# Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Santa Catalina Island



## Farnsworth Offshore State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

### Boundary:

(A) 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. ①;
- 33° 21.000' N. lat. 118° 32.878' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 19.000' N. lat. 118° 31.978' W. long. ③;
- 33° 19.000' N. lat. 118° 29.000' W. long. ④; and
- 33° 21.000' N. lat. 118° 30.000' 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 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 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.

\* 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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network).