

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 Cat Harbor 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 Cat Harbor State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the coastal marsh, tidal flat, rocky shoreline, and sandy seafloor habitat found there. These habitats are used by a variety of marine species, including bat ray, leopard shark, and garibaldi. Invertebrates such as limpets, turban snails, and a variety of crabs are found along the rocky shoreline. Harbor seals and sea lions are frequently seen swimming in the shallows and sometimes haul out on the rocky shore near the harbor entrance.

Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.

Quick Facts: Cat Harbor State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.26 square miles
- **Shoreline Span:** 0.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 186 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 0.22 square miles
 - Rock: 0.06 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: Cat Harbor State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo

Lower right: Scaled worm snail shells, Cat Harbor State Marine Conservation Area. photo © yetikat CC BY-NC 2.0

Lower left: Rainbow scorpionfish in the conservation area. photo © Jonathan Williams CC BY-NC 2.0



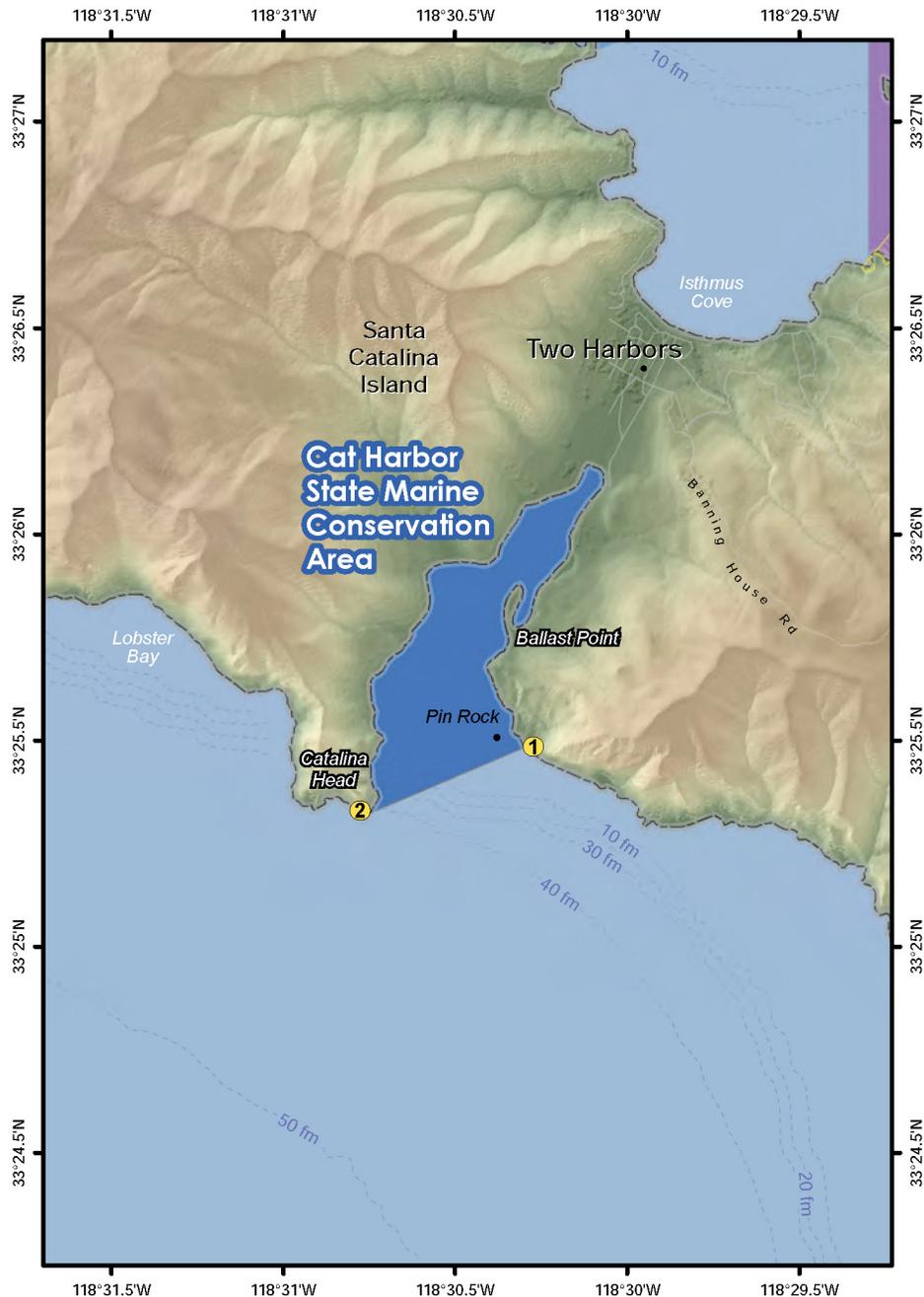
Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

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



Cat Harbor State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Santa Catalina Island



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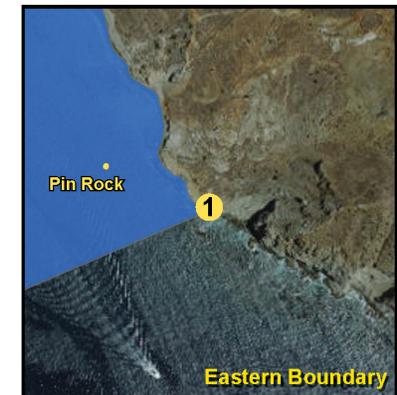
Cat Harbor State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line on the west side of Catalina Island northward of a straight line connecting Pin Rock (33° 25.486' N. lat. 118° 30.294' W. long. ①) and Cat Head Point (33° 25.320' N. lat. 118° 30.760' W. long. ②).

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 finfish* by hook-and-line or by spearfishing, market squid by hook-and-line, and spiny lobster and sea urchin is allowed.
 - b. The commercial take of sea cucumbers by diving only, and spiny lobster and sea urchin is allowed.
 - c. Aquaculture of finfish pursuant to any required state permits is allowed.
 - d. Take pursuant to maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.



* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). 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/MPPAs/Network.