

What is a California marine protected area (or "MPA")?

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine 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. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level 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 reserve?

One of the goals for Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve is to protect the tidepool, surfgrass, sandy seafloor, kelp forest, and rocky reef habitat found there. A wide variety of marine species use these habitats. Leopard sharks, California spiny lobster, and kelp bass are among the many fish and invertebrates that live and hunt in the kelp forests close to shore. Wrasses, nudibranchs (colorful sea slugs), and a variety of crabs and shrimp shelter in more than two square miles of surfgrass meadows, while flatfish such as California halibut and C-O sole blend in with the sandy seafloor and wait for their prey to swim by.

Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve shares a southern border with [Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area](#), and a northern border with [Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area](#). It is one of four consecutive MPAs that together cover approximately 14 square miles of coastal habitat from Corona del Mar State Beach to Dana Point. Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



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

or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip"
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Quick Facts: Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 6.72 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 4.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 1,231 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 6.28 square miles
 - Rock: 0.90 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: Diver's Cove at Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve, © Bennilover CC BY-ND 2.0
Lower right: C-O sole at Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve, © daniel clark 5 CC BY-NC 2.0
Lower left: Spotted triopha nudibranch, Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve © ponkyjoe CC BY-NC 2.0

Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve

Southern California - Orange County



Version 2, September 2022

Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve 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° 33.224' N. lat. 117° 49.184' W. long. ①;
- 33° 33.211' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ②;
- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 45.264' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



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.