

### 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. The ban on collecting and fishing in no-take marine conservation areas such as Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area provides very high levels 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 conservation area?

One of the goals for Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area 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. Crab, shrimp, and a variety of young fish shelter in the surfgrass meadows, while flatfish such as California halibut and petrale sole blend in with the sandy seafloor and wait for their prey to swim by. Cabezon, California sheephead, and turban snails are among the many fish and invertebrates that live and hunt in the kelp forests close to shore.

Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area shares a northern border with [Laguna Beach State Marine Reserve](#), and a southern border with [Dana Point 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 no-take state marine conservation area here provides very high levels of protection for marine species and the habitats they use.



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### Quick Facts: Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 3.09 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.2 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 1,408 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Sand/mud: 3.09 square miles  
Rock: 0.09 square miles



Non-Consumptive  
Activities

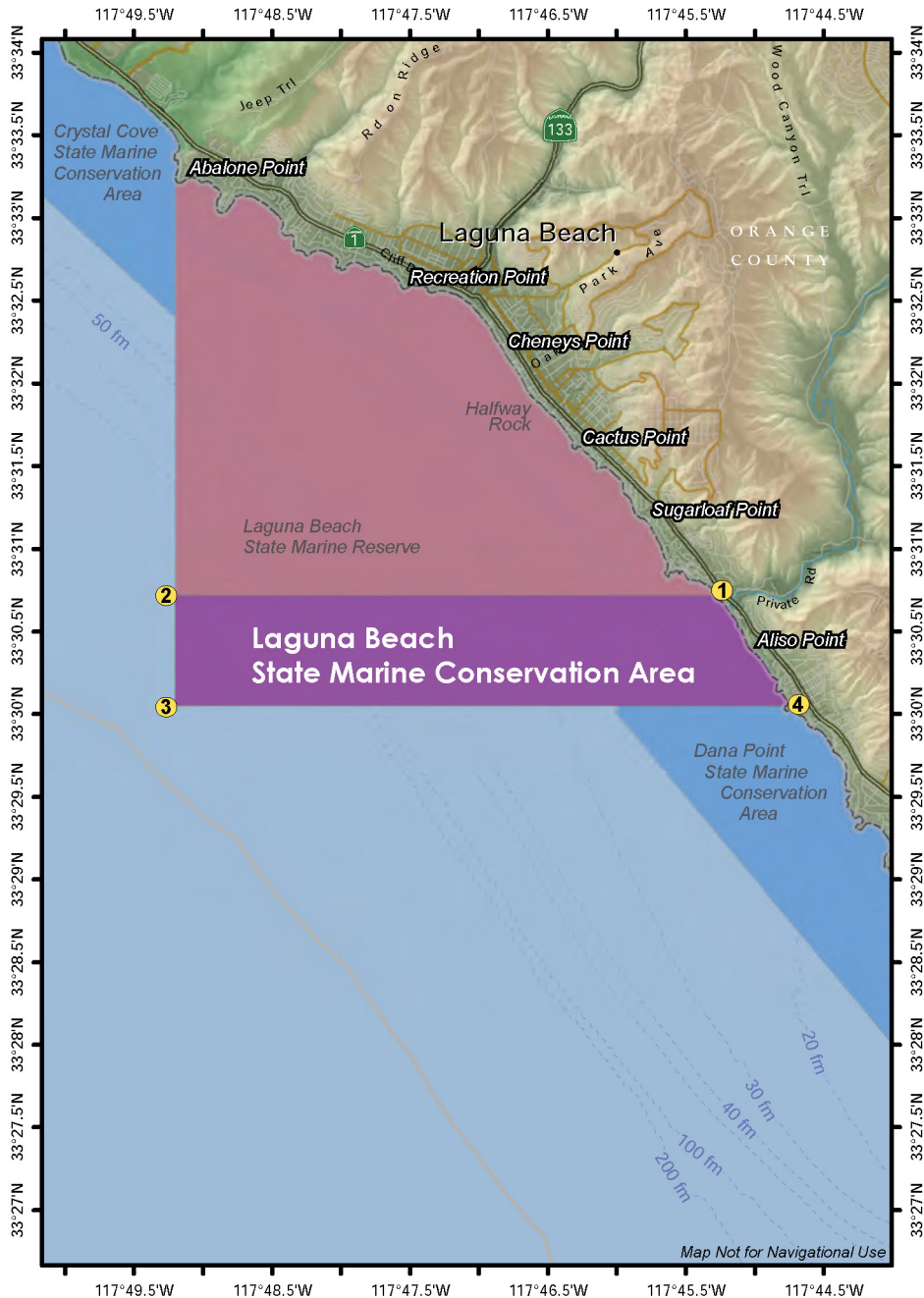
No Fishing

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: Waves at Aliso Beach, Laguna Beach State Marine Conservation Area, photo © Harmattan Gallery CC BY 2.0. Lower right: Zebra perch in the conservation area, photo © Ron Vanderhoff CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower left: Western gull in the conservation area, photo © cnm79 CC BY-NC 2.0



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

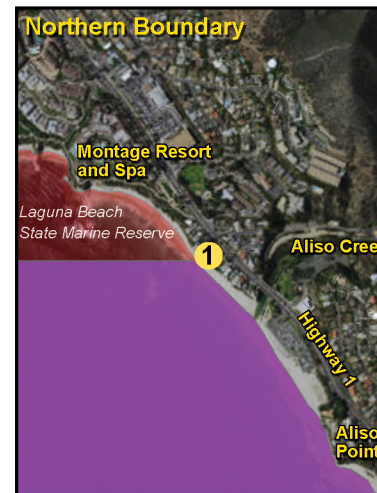
### Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 45.264' W. long. ①;
- 33° 30.713' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ②;
- 33° 30.050' N. lat. 117° 49.200' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 30.050' N. lat. 117° 44.762' W. long. ④

### Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
  - a. Take pursuant to operation and maintenance of artificial structures and facilities, beach grooming, maintenance dredging, and habitat restoration inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.



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).