

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 Swami's 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 Swami's State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reef, kelp forest, coastal marsh, and surfgrass habitat found there. These habitats are used by a variety of marine species, including sunburst anemone, California halibut, and lingcod. This conservation area also helps to preserve the interaction between the ocean and San Elijo lagoon, which serves as a nursery area and hunting ground for many species of marine fish.

Swami's State Marine Conservation Area is named after the world-famous surf spot, Swami's. It is located next to San Elijo, Cardiff, and Moonlight state beaches, and shares an eastern border with [San Elijo Lagoon 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.



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

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



Quick Facts: Swami's State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 12.71 square miles
- **Shoreline Span:** 3.5 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 982 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 12.26 square miles
Rock: 0.90 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: Sandy beach and reef at Swami's State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Tim Buss, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower right:** Western spiny brittle stars at Swami's State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Susan J. Hewitt, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Lingcod at Swami's State Marine Conservation Area CDFW/MARE photo

Swami's State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - San Diego County



Swami's 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 except where noted:

- 33° 02.900' N. lat. 117° 17.927' W. long. ①;
- 33° 02.900' N. lat. 117° 21.743' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 00.000' N. lat. 117° 20.398' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 00.000' N. lat. 117° 16.698' W. long. ④; thence northward along the mean high tide line onshore boundary to
- 33° 00.962' N. lat. 117° 16.850' W. long. ⑤; and
- 33° 00.980' N. lat. 117° 16.857' W. long. ⑥

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. Recreational take by hook-and-line from shore is allowed.
 - b. The recreational take by spearfishing of white seabass and pelagic finfish* is allowed.
 - c. Take pursuant to beach nourishment and other sediment management activities and operation and 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.

* 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.

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.