San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area

Established January, 2012

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 San Diego-Scripps Coastal 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 San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reefs, and submarine canyon habitat found there. The conservation area protects most of the unique Scripps Canyon branch of La Jolla's submarine canyon system, as well as the marine life that thrives in the nutrient-rich water funneled to the surface from the canyons. Opaleye, California halibut, and shovelnose guitarfish are among the many fish species that thrive here. The conservation area also protects the southernmost natural mussel bed in California.

San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area encompasses an area that has been protected since 1929, known previously as the San Diego Marine Life Refuge, and shares a boundary with Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve to the south. 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.

CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Quick Facts: San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 1.46 square miles
- **Shoreline Span:** 1.1 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 366 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  Sand/mud: 1.45 square miles
  Other: 0.01 square miles

ENTRY O.K.

Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations On Back

No Collecting

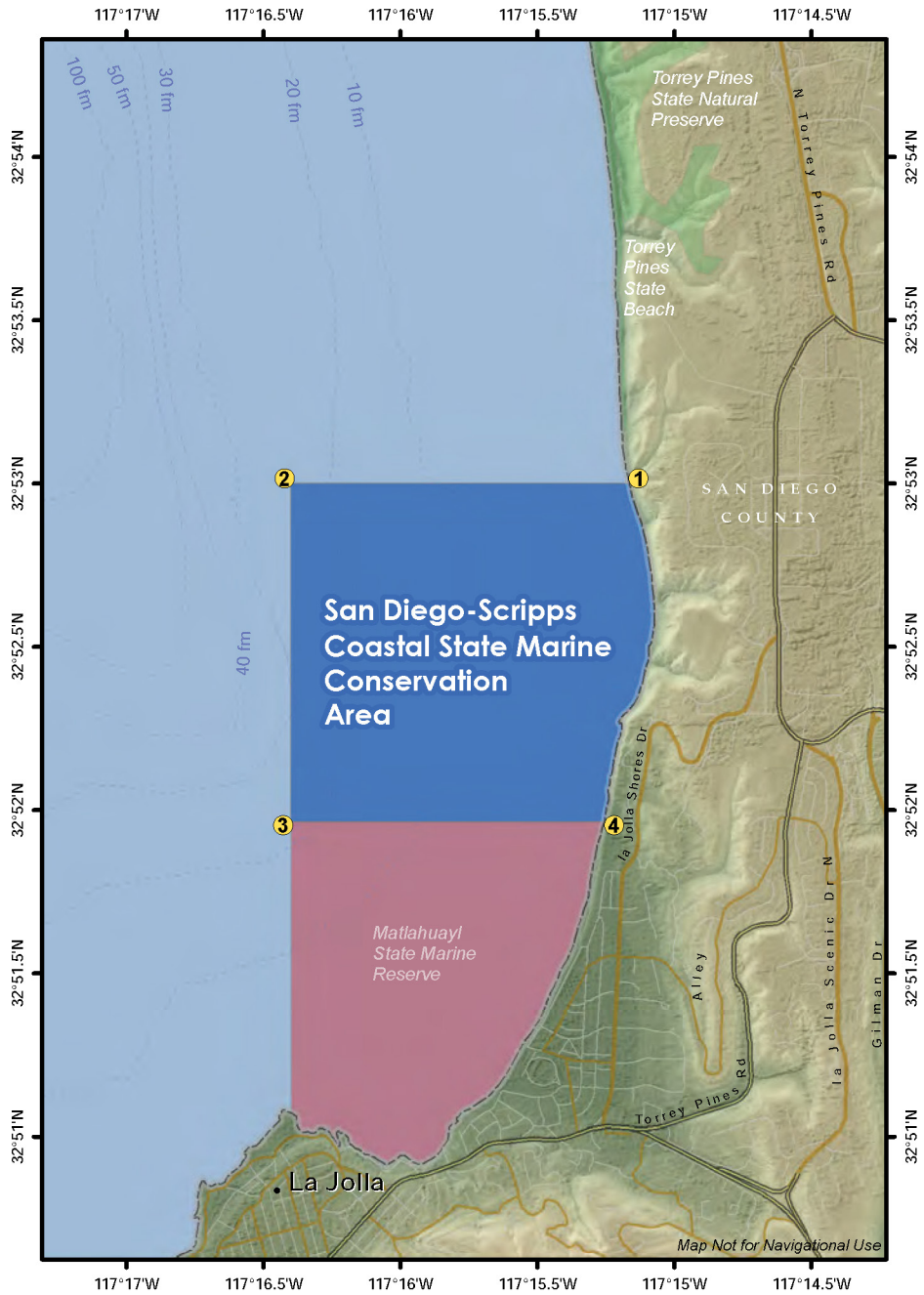
Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - ***Upper:*** **Shoreline at San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area**. *photo © Levi Clancy, CC BY-NC 2.0* ***Lower right:*** **Striped flatworm at San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area**. *photo © Ashlyn B., CC BY-NC 2.0* ***Lower left:*** **Young opaleye in a tidepool at San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area**. *photo © hikingsandiego, CC BY-NC 2.0*

San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - San Diego County



Version 1, April 2021

San Diego-Scripps Coastal 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:

32° 53.000' N. lat. 117° 15.166' W. long.①;
32° 53.000' N. lat. 117° 16.400' W. long.②;
32° 51.964' N. lat. 117° 16.400' W. long.③; and
32° 51.964' N. lat. 117° 15.252' W. long.④

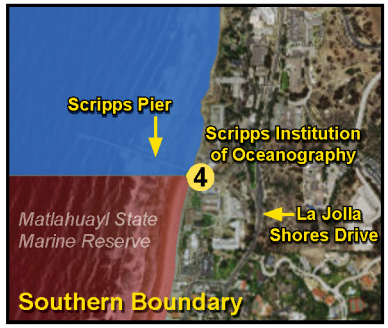
Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

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. The recreational take of coastal pelagic species*, except market squid, by hook-and-line only is allowed.

b. Take pursuant to the 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.

c. Licensees of the Regents of the University of California and all officers, employees, and students of such university may take, for scientific purposes, invertebrates, fish, or specimens of marine plant or algae under the conditions prescribed in a scientific collecting permit issued by the Department.



* 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.