

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 Matlahuayl 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 Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve is to protect the reefs, kelp forests, surfgrass beds, and sandy sea floor at the head of La Jolla Submarine Canyon's southern branch. The reserve shelters around a quarter square mile of submarine canyon habitat. The deepwater canyon funnels deep, cold, nutrient-rich waters into the reserve and surrounding area, helping to support an array of life. Kelp bass, leopard shark, and rock scallop are a few of the species that thrive in this MPA.

Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve encompasses an area protected since 1970, previously known as the San Diego-La Jolla Underwater Park Ecological Reserve, and shares a boundary with [San Diego-Scripps Coastal State Marine Conservation Area](#) to the north. Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.

Quick Facts: Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 1.04 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.7 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 331 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 0.20 square miles
Sand/mud: 0.96 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Anchoring and Boating Restricted
See Regulations On Back



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



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

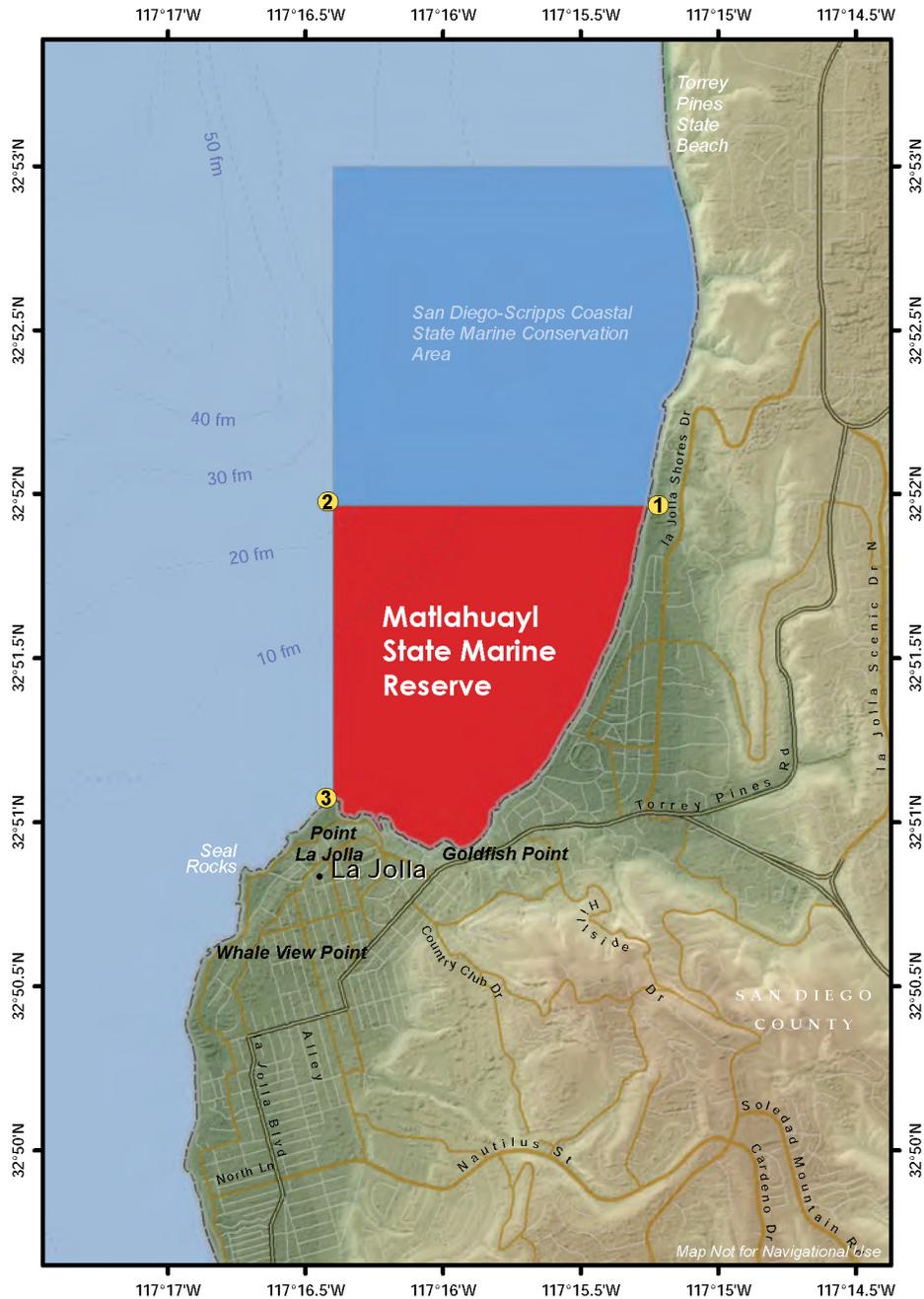
or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip"
followed by the details.



Photos - Upper: La Jolla Cove, Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, © Tim Buss CC BY-NC 2.0.
Lower right: Kelp bass in Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, © Klaus Stiefel CC BY-NC 2.0.
Lower left: A fringed cerianthid anemone among parchment tube worms in La Jolla Submarine Canyon, Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve, © Siena McKim CC BY-NC 2.0.

Matlahuayl State Marine Reserve

Southern California - San Diego County



Matlahuayl (moh-LA-who-ALL) 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:

- 32° 51.964' N. lat. 117° 15.252' W. long. ①;
- 32° 51.964' N. lat. 117° 16.400' W. long. ②; and
- 32° 51.067' N. lat. 117° 16.400' W. long. ③

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.
2. Boats may be launched and retrieved only in designated areas and may be anchored within the reserve only during daylight hours.



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.