

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 South La Jolla 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 South La Jolla State Marine Reserve is to protect some of the most diverse and well-studied marine ecosystems in Southern California. Habitat types here include dense kelp forest, rocky and sandy intertidal areas, and unique deepwater rocky reefs. These are home for a variety of marine species, including California scorpionfish, California spiny lobster, bean clams, and a bountiful variety of small, colorful nudibranchs, or sea slugs.

The reserve contains some of the oldest long-term marine ecosystem study areas in Southern California, with half a dozen or more research institutions monitoring its shoreline and depths. The reserve shares a boundary with [South La Jolla State Marine Conservation Area](#) to the west, and together the two MPAs protect habitats and their residents at varying depths. South La Jolla State Marine Reserve provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



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



Quick Facts: South La Jolla State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 5.04 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 180 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Rock: 5.55 square miles
 - Sand/mud: 2.67 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: Rocky beach at South La Jolla State Marine Reserve, © Photos By Clark CC BY-NC 2.0.
Lower right: A well camouflaged California scorpionfish at the reserve, CDFW/MARE photo.
Lower left: Gould's bean clam at South La Jolla State Marine Reserve, © white walker CC BY-NC 2.0

South La Jolla State Marine Reserve

Southern California - San Diego County



South La Jolla 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° 49.573' N. lat. 117° 16.781' W. long. ①;
- 32° 49.573' N. lat. 117° 19.000' W. long. ②;
- 32° 47.945' N. lat. 117° 19.000' W. long. ③; and
- 32° 47.945' N. lat. 117° 15.495' 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.