

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 Point Cabrillo 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 Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve is to protect unique features such as a steep drop-off close to shore, along with the rocky reef, sandy seafloor, and kelp forest habitat found there. In deeper waters, the rocky reef anchors bull kelp and giant kelp, which together create a dense underwater forest. Fish such as cabezon, greenling, lingcod, and surfperch along with invertebrates such as sea urchin, abalone, sea stars, and crabs hunt and take shelter in the tall kelp. Feather boa kelp and stalked kelp form a smaller forest near shore, with an understory of coralline algae. Small barnacles, limpets, and mussels attach to rocks along the waveswept coastline, while tidepools are populated with anemones, periwinkles, sea stars, and sea palms.

Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve expanded on a smaller marine protected area that has been monitored by California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists for over 20 years. The reserve shares a land-side boundary with [Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



Report poachers and polluters
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or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip"
followed by the details.



Quick Facts: Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 0.44 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 40 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 0.67 square miles
Sand/mud: 0.13 square miles



Non-Consumptive
Activities

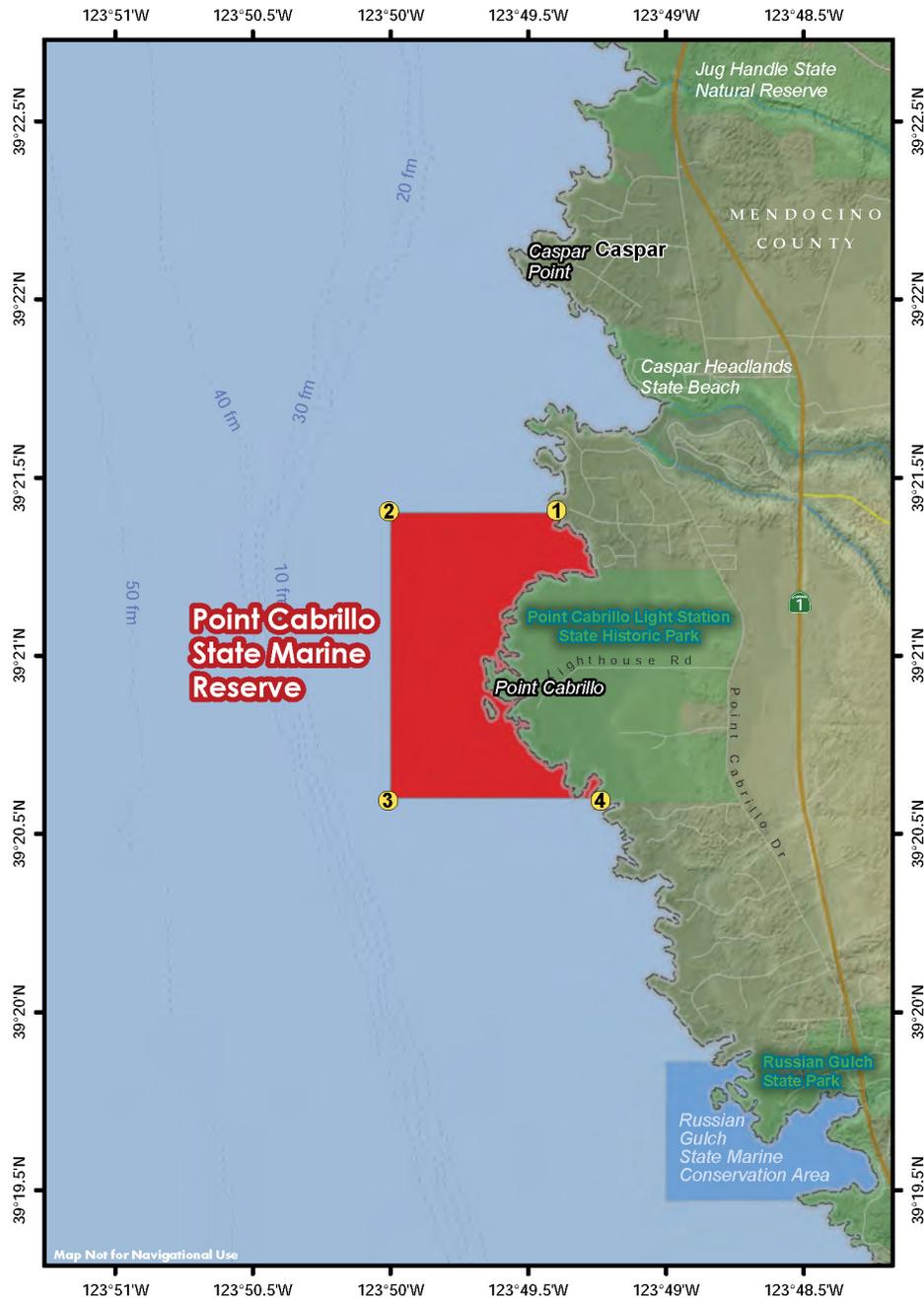
No Fishing

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 shoreline at Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve, photo © Sheila Sund, CC BY 2.0 Lower right: Lingcod at Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve, photo © Chris Teague, CC BY 2.0 Lower left: White-spotted rose anemone at the reserve, photo © Chris Teague, CC BY 2.0.



Point Cabrillo State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

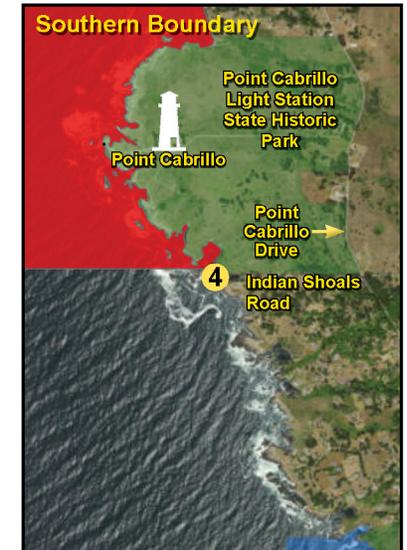
Boundary:

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

- 39° 21.400' N. lat. 123° 49.418' W. long. ①;
- 39° 21.400' N. lat. 123° 50.000' W. long. ②;
- 39° 20.600' N. lat. 123° 50.000' W. long. ③; and
- 39° 20.600' N. lat. 123° 49.266' 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/CCR-T14-MPAs.