

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 Pillar Point 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 [Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area](#) is to protect its sandy seafloor, kelp forest, and surfgrass habitats, as well as a massive rocky reef that extends more than a mile out to sea. This reef is responsible for the exceptional surf break known as Mavericks. The reef's caves, walls, boulders, and canyons provide hunting grounds and shelter for rockfish, lingcod, and cabezon, while abalone, urchins, and octopus hide in crevices. Halibut and other flatfish, and Dungeness crab, can be found on the extensive sandy seafloor. Fueled by powerful upwelling of nutrient-rich water, this area also supports seals, sea lions, and seabirds like the sooty shearwater, western gull, common murre, and brown pelican.

This conservation area shares a northern boundary with [Montara State Marine Reserve](#), and overlaps [Fitzgerald Marine Reserve](#), [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#), and [James V. Fitzgerald Area of Special Biological Significance](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



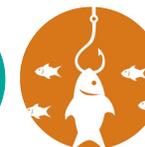
Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

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



Quick Facts: Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 6.70 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 174 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 5.73 square miles
 - Rock: 2.07 square miles



Non-Consumptive
Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

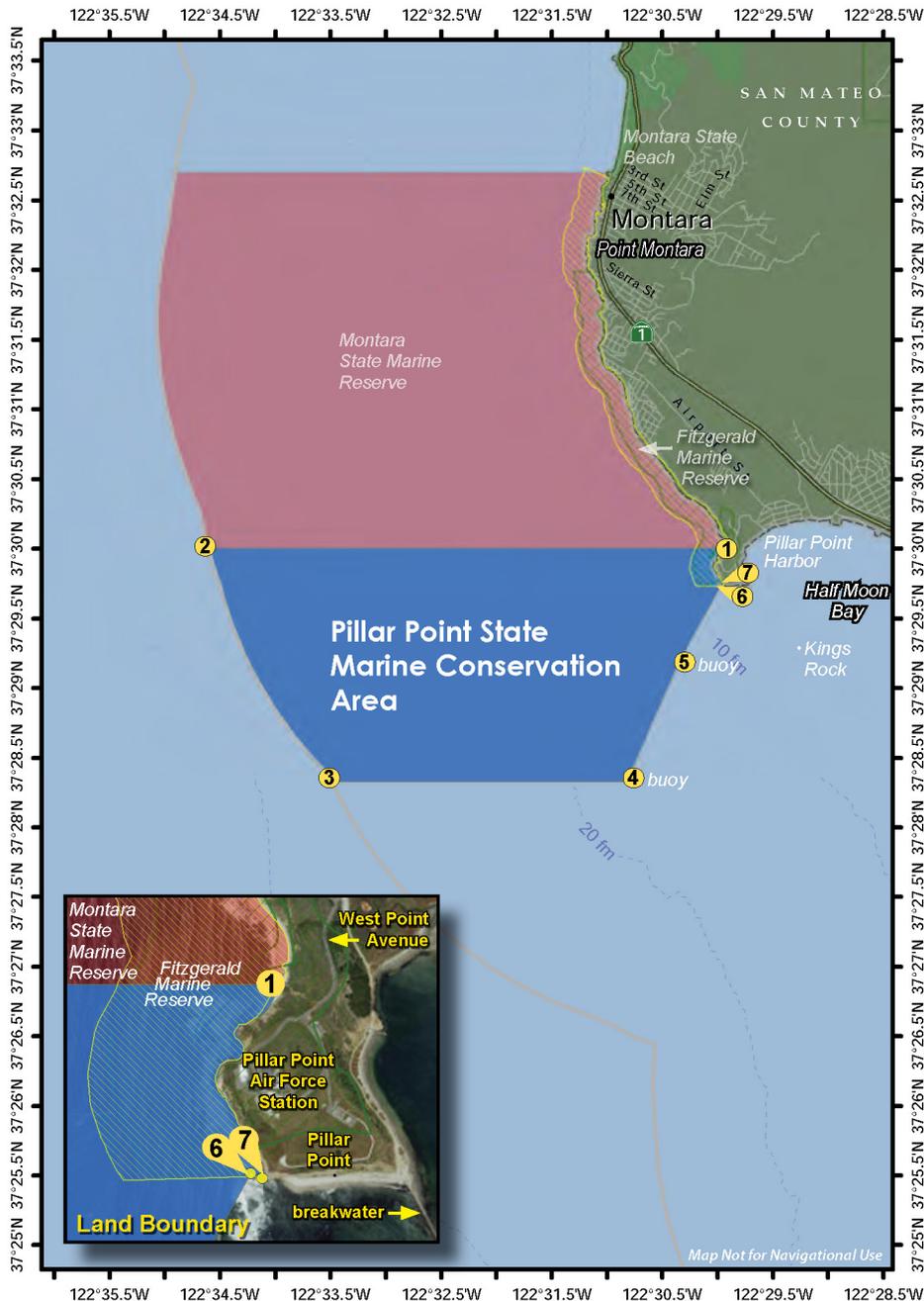
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Pillar Point. photo © Wayne Hsieh, CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower right: Gopher rockfish and a fish-eating anemone at Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW/MARE photo Lower left: Harbor seal and brown pelican at the conservation area. photo © phoca2004, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area

North Central California - San Mateo County



Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

This area partially overlaps Fitzgerald Marine Reserve.

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:

- 37° 30.000' N. lat. 122° 29.920' W. long. ①;
- 37° 30.000' N. lat. 122° 34.608' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 28.330' N. lat. 122° 33.489' W. long. ③;
- 37° 28.330' N. lat. 122° 30.830' W. long. ④;
- 37° 29.180' N. lat. 122° 30.360' W. long. ⑤;
- 37° 29.740' N. lat. 122° 29.970' W. long. ⑥; and
- 37° 29.733' N. lat. 122° 29.950' W. long. ⑦

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - a. The recreational take of pelagic finfish* by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed.
 - b. The commercial take of pelagic finfish* by troll or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net, is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial pelagic finfish or market squid catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.

* "Pelagic finfish" is defined 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*). The commercial take of marlin is not allowed.

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.