

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 Carmel Bay 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 Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the head of Carmel Submarine Canyon, along with the rocky reefs, kelp forests, surfgrass beds, and sandy sea floor habitat found there. The deepwater canyon funnels cold, nutrient-rich water into the conservation area, helping to support an array of life. Striped seaperch and rockfish are often found in the eelgrass beds, kelp forests, and rocky outcroppings. Flatfish like starry flounder blend in with the sandy seafloor, while sand crabs sift the sandy beach surf with their antennae to gather food particles from the water. Tidepools shelter anemones and other invertebrates, while sea otters rest on the surface in the kelp canopy.

This conservation area shares a southern boundary with [Point Lobos State Marine Reserve](#), and overlaps the [Carmel Bay Area of Special Biological Significance](#) and the much larger [Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary](#). 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: Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 2.20 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.7 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 471 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 1.32 square miles
Rock: 1.91 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

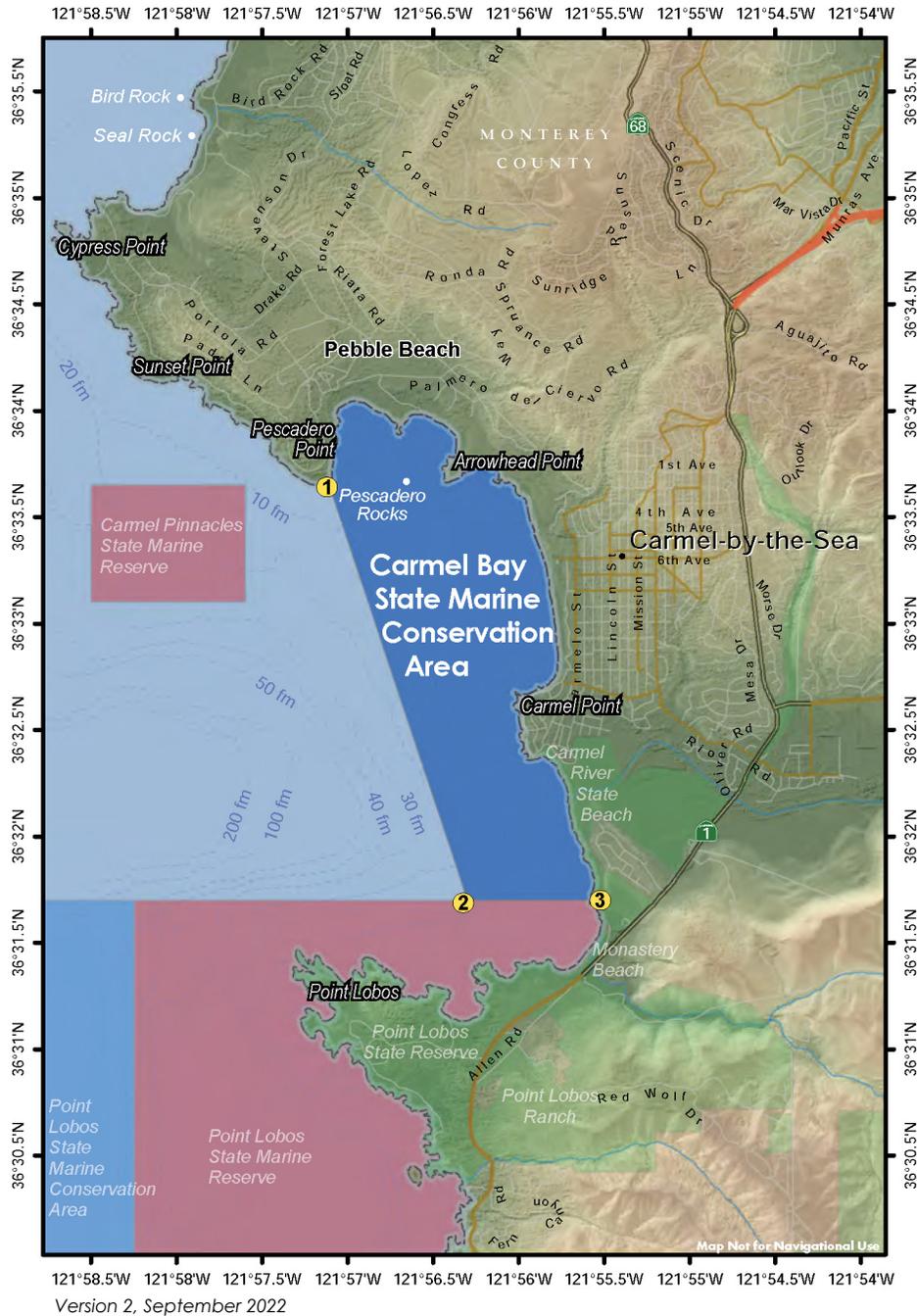


No Collecting

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: Shoreline at Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Robert Taylor CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 **Lower right: Sand crab on the beach at the conservation area.** photo © Curren Frasch CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left: Young vermilion rockfish at the conservation area.** photo © Steve Lonhart, NOAA MBNMS CC0 1.0



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

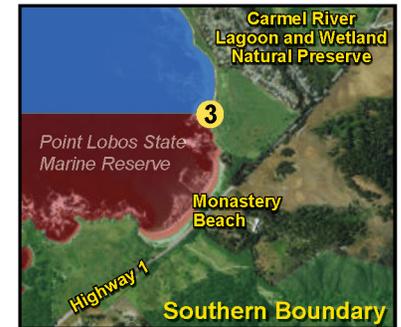
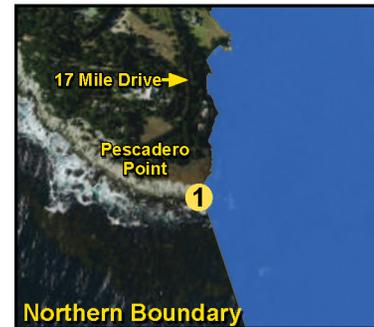
Boundary:

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

- 36° 33.663' N. lat. 121° 57.117' W. long. ①;
- 36° 31.700' N. lat. 121° 56.300' W. long. ②; and
- 36° 31.700' N. lat. 121° 55.550' W. long. ③

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 finfish* is allowed.
 - b. The commercial take of giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) and bull kelp (*Nereocystis* spp.) by hand is allowed under the following conditions:
 - A kelp harvester with a valid license issued pursuant to Section 165 may take no more than 44 tons of kelp from the portion of Administrative Kelp Bed 219 within the Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area in any calendar month.
 - Duplicate landing records must be kept on board the harvest vessel in accordance with the requirements of Section 165.



* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

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.