

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 Point Sur 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 Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the shallowest portions of Sur Canyon, an offshoot of the larger Monterey Submarine Canyon, along with sandy seafloor, rocky reef, and pinnacle habitats. The deepwater canyon funnels cold, nutrient-rich waters into the conservation area, helping to support an array of life. Rockfish, including blue rockfish, bocaccio, and canary rockfish, are drawn to the rocky reefs that rise from the mostly sandy seafloor, where starry skates, California halibut, and brittle stars search for prey. Gray, humpback, and blue whales migrate along this stretch of coastline from November to May.

Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area shares an eastern boundary with [Point Sur State Marine Reserve](#), and overlaps a small portion of [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

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



Quick Facts: Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 10.62 square miles
- **Depth range:** 139 to 624 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 9.81 square miles
 - Rock: 0.81 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

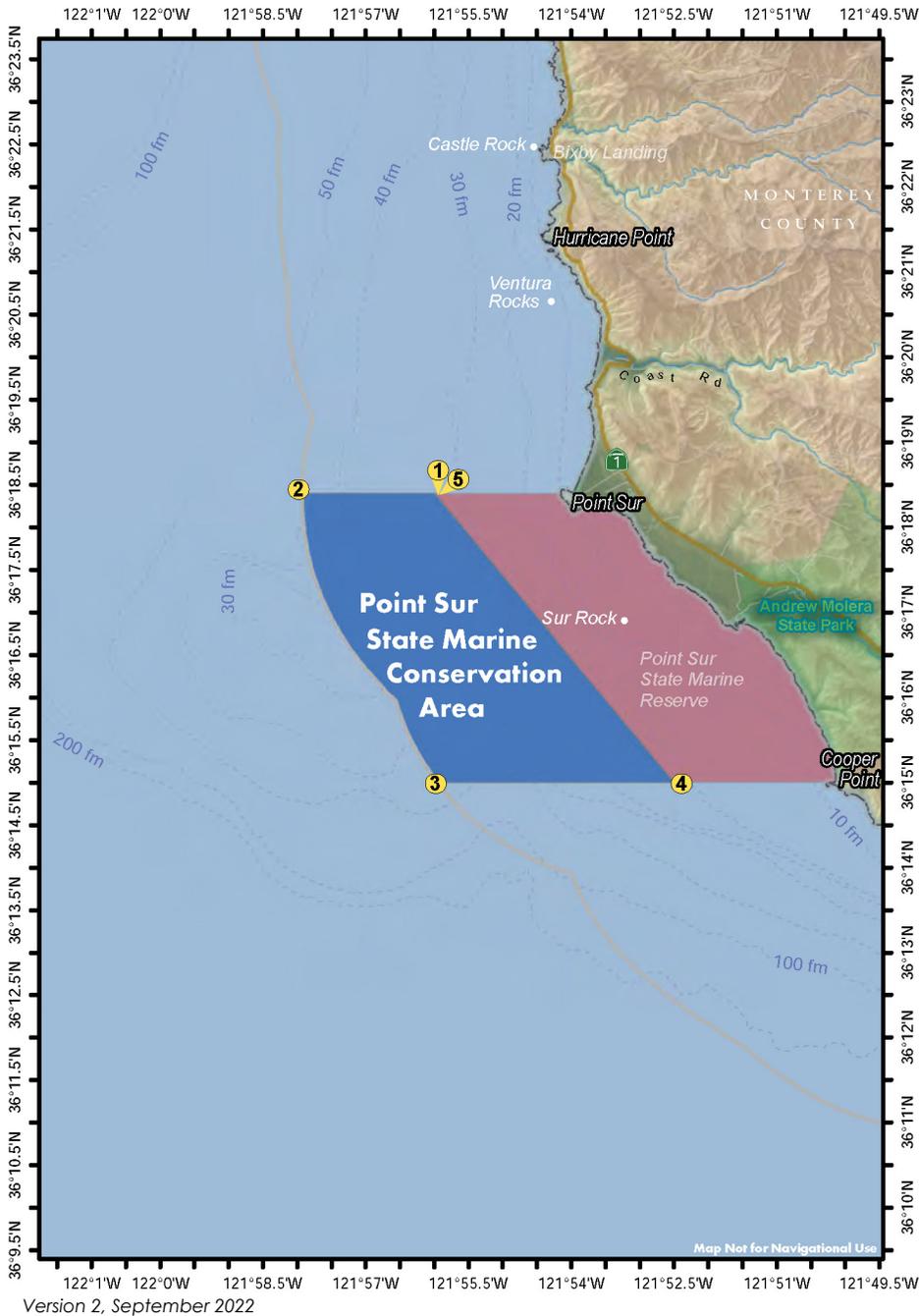
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Rocky pinnacles covered with colorful marine life at Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area. Lower right: School of blue rockfish at the conservation area. Lower left: Wolf-eel at the conservation area. CDFW/MARE photos

Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area

Central California - Monterey County



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

Boundary:

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 36° 18.400' N. lat. 121° 56.000' W. long. ①;
- 36° 18.400' N. lat. 121° 57.932' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 36° 15.000' N. lat. 121° 55.955' W. long. ③;
- 36° 15.000' N. lat. 121° 52.500' W. long. ④; and
- 36° 18.400' N. lat. 121° 56.000' W. long. ⑤

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 commercial and recreational take of salmon and albacore is 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.