



Marine Protected Areas

Conserve key marine life and habitats

Preserve natural diversity

Help rebuild depleted populations

Protect geologic features and cultural areas

Support research and education

Offer recreational and economic opportunities

Image above: gray whale (Jan-Dirk Hansen)
below: nudibranch (Ken Brody)



California State Parks

800-777-0369

711, TTY RELAY SERVICE

www.parks.ca.gov

Hearst San Simeon State Park

805-927-2035

California Department of Fish and Game

For more information:

www.dfg.ca.gov

For boundaries and regulations, go to:

www.dfg.ca.gov/MLPA

Help stop poaching and polluting:
1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)

This publication is available in alternate formats by contacting Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation:
831-647-4209



Piedras Blancas, Cambria, and White Rock MPAs

Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area
and State Marine Reserve

Cambria State Marine Park

White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area



Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

Cover: northern elephant seal male (Jerry Kirkhart)



From tidal pools to the expansive Pacific Ocean



California Is Making a Difference

by creating a statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs). Marine protected areas are underwater places designed to protect key habitats and species by prohibiting or restricting the take of marine life. Just as the nation's parks, forests and wilderness areas protect special places on land, California's MPAs protect unique areas in the ocean. The California MPA network includes the many different types of habitats found along our coast, from sheltered estuaries and lush kelp forests to steep underwater canyons.

Image above left: nudibranch (Ken Bondy)

Spectacular Display of Marine Life

This wild stretch of California's central coast is a rare jewel, teeming with marine life. Places such as Piedras Blancas, Cambria and White Rock MPAs help conserve the rich diversity found here. Sweeping ocean currents nourish and replenish kelp forests, isolated beaches offer safety for elephant seals to breed and give birth, and countless delicate intertidal creatures thrive in thousands of tidepools that dot the rocky coast.

Playground for Outdoor Enthusiasts

This recreational wonderland offers excellent fishing, kayaking, boating and surfing opportunities. Miles of boardwalk bring the rich marine environment to your feet. Visitors are thrilled by seeing otters, watching and viewing whales, or a chance to see harbor seals and a vast variety of birds. This area is known as a mecca for nature enthusiasts who hike, photograph, kayak, SCUBA dive, snorkel and enjoy a "look but do NOT disturb" approach to wildlife.

Nature's Laboratory

South of Cambria and next to the University of California Natural Reserve site at Rancho Marino lies the rugged White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area. Several ongoing research projects in this area provide valuable insights for how to better protect our ocean planet, and show the value of efforts to preserve the lush kelp beds and biologically rich intertidal zones.

Stewards of Land and Sea

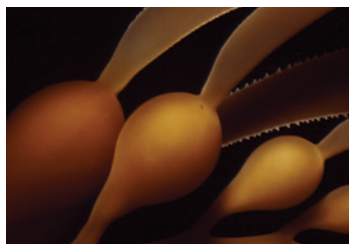
For centuries indigenous people occupied the Central California coast, thriving on the rich marine resources. Today this special stretch of coast includes Hearst Castle® and popular elephant seal viewing sites. It is managed by the state to protect its rich resources and to provide enjoyment and inspiration for today's visitors and for future generations. Protecting this legacy is our greatest responsibility.



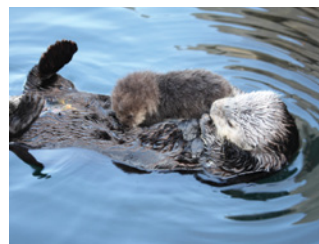
students learn (Ken Bondy)



diver (Jerry Loomis)



giant kelp (Jerry Loomis)



sea otter with pup (Steve Choy)



lemon nudibranch (Ken Bondy)



great egret (Jerry Kirkhart)

California Marine Protected Areas

The California statewide MPA network includes four different types that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations are:

- State Marine Reserves:** No damage or take of living marine resources, geologic or cultural resources is allowed.
- State Marine Parks:** No commercial take of resources is allowed, but some recreational take may be allowed (restrictions vary).
- State Marine Conservation Areas:** Some recreational and/or commercial take of marine resources may be allowed (restrictions vary).
- State Marine Recreational Management Areas:** Restricts the take of living marine resources while allowing for waterfowl hunting to occur (restrictions vary).



sarcastic fringehead fish (Ken Bondy)

Piedras Blancas, Cambria, and White Rock (Cambria) Marine Protected Areas



Piedras Blancas, Cambria, and White Rock (Cambria) MPAs

MPA	Recreational Uses
Piedras Blancas SMCA	No fishing except recreational and commercial take of salmon and albacore.
Piedras Blancas SMR	No fishing; All take is prohibited.
Cambria SMP	Recreational fishing allowed; No commercial fishing allowed.
White Rock (Cambria) SMCA	No fishing; All take is prohibited.

Regulations

This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 632, including commercial allowances and restrictions.

- A fishing license is required for any fishing.
- All existing take regulations still apply in addition to the ones listed above.
- Unless otherwise stated, all non-consumptive recreational activities are allowed.