



## 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: Schooner Gulch State Beach (Oscar Vasquez)  
below: sea star (Oscar Vasquez)



### Bureau of Land Management

Ukiah Field Office  
2550 North State Street  
Ukiah, CA 95482  
707-468-4000

### California State Parks

Russian River District  
District Office: 707-865-2391  
711, TTY RELAY SERVICE  
[www.parks.ca.gov](http://www.parks.ca.gov)

### California Department of Fish and Game

For more information:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov](http://www.dfg.ca.gov)

For boundaries and regulations, go to:  
[www.dfg.ca.gov/MLPA](http://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

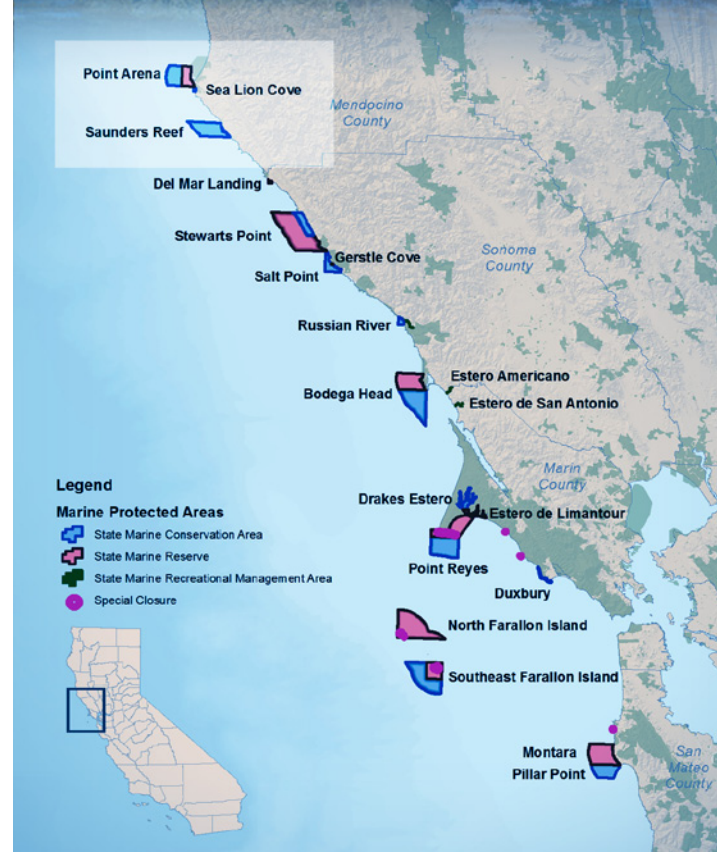


Cover: California sea lions (Nehring)

# Point Arena to Saunders Reef

## Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Point Arena State Marine Reserve  
Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area  
Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area  
Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area



North Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

# From rocky shores to the depths of the 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 and estuaries. The California MPA network includes the many different types of habitats found along our coast, from sheltered estuaries to rocky intertidal areas and lush kelp forests to steep underwater canyons.

Image above left: nudibranch (Ken Bondy)  
above right: kelp (Ken Bondy)

**The Point Arena Area MPAs** are rich in marine resources. Over 250 species of invertebrates as well as numerous fish, seabirds and marine mammals call this area their home. MPAs here support thriving species, while also helping to restore endangered or threatened marine life.

## Incredible Diversity of Life

- Extensive stands of bull kelp and rocky reefs shelter red abalone, and underwater caves host highly diverse fish and invertebrate populations.
- The Point Arena area is a major upwelling zone along the west coast and serves as an important source of nutrients for the fish and wildlife here!
- Marine mammals such as harbor seals and sea lions can frequently be seen hauled-out on the rocky reefs along the coast. Gray whales, humpback and even blue whales migrate past the Point Arena area MPAs each year.

## Species Profile: Red Abalone

Red abalone are the most common and only legally-harvestable abalone species in California. Abalone once supported a commercial and recreational fishery, but since 1997 the statewide commercial fishery, and recreational fishery south of San Francisco Bay, have been closed to address population depletions. MPAs such as Sea Lion Cove and Saunders Reef, where take of abalone is prohibited, allows this species to reproduce and replenish depleted populations, and help support the recreational fishery in other areas where abalone take is allowed.

## Ecotourism

This rugged stretch of Sonoma coastline provides many excellent recreational opportunities including fishing, SCUBA diving, whale watching, hiking, surfing, kayaking, miles of sandy beaches and historic lighthouse tours! You can help protect MPAs by knowing and obeying the regulations for the area that you are visiting.



abalone (Sarah Lenz)



harbor seals (Steven Dalleske)



black rockfish (Steve Lonhart)



brown pelican (Steve Lonhart)



strawberry anemone (Chad King)



bat stars (Josh Pederson)

California Marine Protected Areas

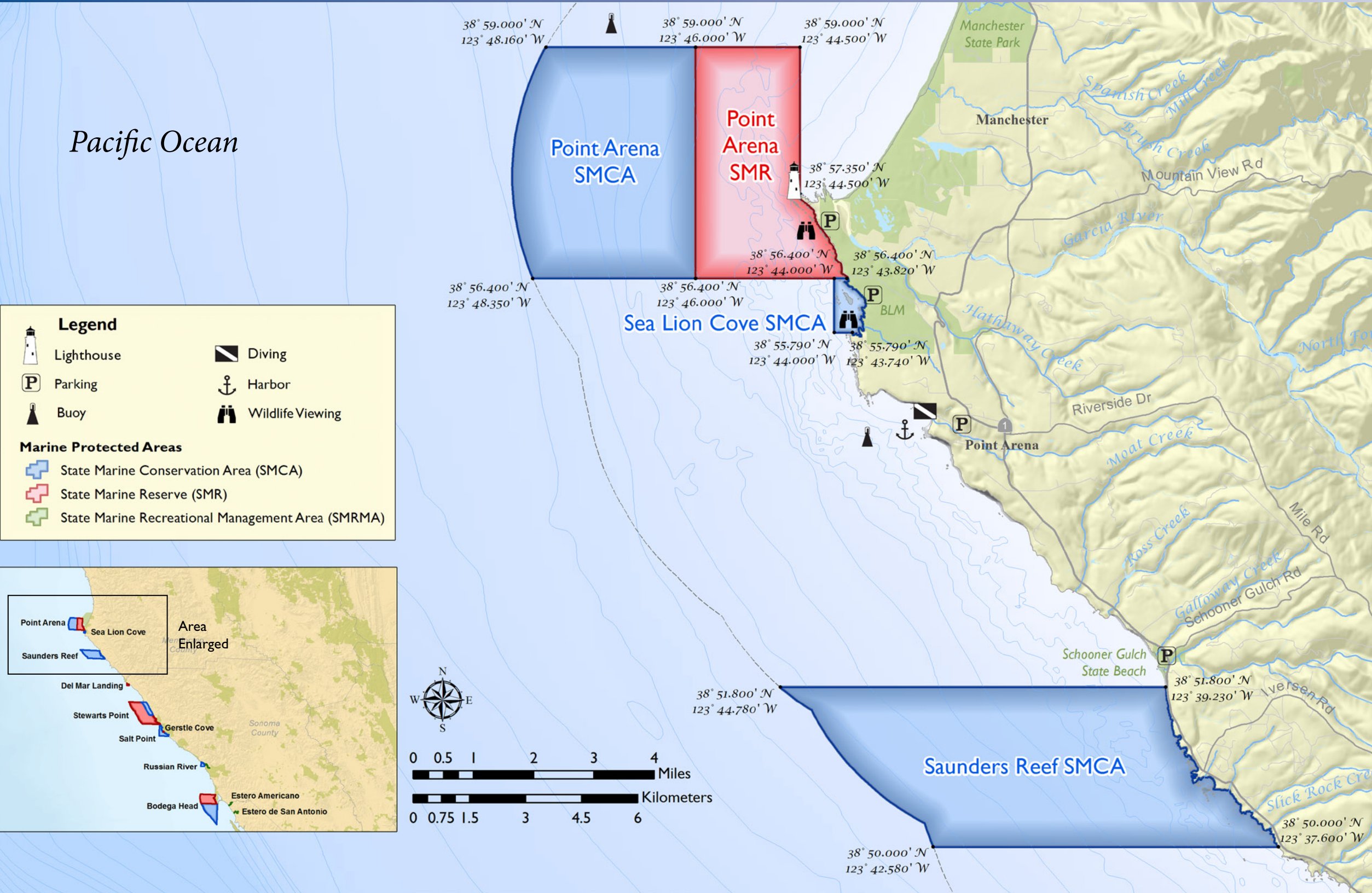
The California statewide MPA network includes four different designation that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations are:

- State Marine Reserves:** No damage or take of living, geologic, or cultural marine 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).



humpback whale (Chad King)

Point Arena to Saunders Reef Marine Protected Areas



Point Arena to Saunders Reef MPAs

MPA	Allowed Uses
Pt. Arena SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Pt. Arena SMCA	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. Recreational take of salmon by trolling is allowed. 2. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear is allowed.
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	Recreational and commercial take of marine invertebrates and aquatic plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed.
Saunders Reef SMCA	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. Recreational take of salmon by trolling is allowed. 2. Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and urchin is allowed.

Regulations

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

- 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.