



## Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)

Land Stewardship Program

### Pecho Coast and Point Buchon Hiking Trails

805-528-8758/805-541-8735(TREK)

Email: [dcppmaptrails@pge.com](mailto:dcppmaptrails@pge.com)

<http://pge.com/recreation>

## 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



# Point Buchon

## Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)

Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area  
Point Buchon State Marine Reserve



Central Coast Marine Protected Areas

Image above: gray whale (Jan-Dirk Hansen)  
below: diver (Jerry Loomis)







# *From the rocky shores to the canyons of the Pacific*



## 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: sea lion (Mike Baird, flickr.bairdphotos.com)  
above right: kelp bass (Steve Lonhart)

**Point Buchon** is a prominent westerly headland with many caves, offshore rocky pinnacles and underwater reefs that provide habitat for an extraordinarily high diversity of marine life. The reefs are home to more than 700 species of invertebrates, as well as 120 fish species, marine plants, seabirds, and marine mammals. It is an area of California's central coast important for its biological diversity, and it is known for cold water corals found in unusually shallow water. Creating marine protected areas supports thriving species, while also helping to restore endangered or threatened marine life.

## A Place to Study

At Point Buchon sensitive intertidal palm kelps reach the southern limit of their ranges. Because the tidepools are protected from trampling and collection by humans, the rocky shores shelter plentiful populations of intertidal fish, algae and invertebrates. Scientists from local universities are studying how marine protected areas help to conserve the web of life along these shores.

## Native People

Point Buchon, which means goiter in Spanish, has over 9,000 years of Native American history and is considered a spiritual area by the Chumash. The Chumash were the center of a regional trading network with a currency based on olivella shell beads. The Chumash harvested the abundant marine resources along this rocky coastline.

## Amazing Sea Life

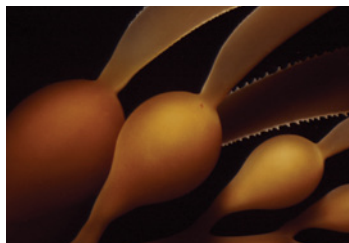
Secluded sandy beaches and offshore reefs provide safety for harbor seals and southern sea otters. These marine mammals pup and haul out on the near-shore rocky reefs. The kelp beds create underwater forests that are home to kelp crabs, colorful nudibranchs, and many species of rockfish. From the Point Buchon headland whale watchers may see gray whales migrating along the coast, or even a breaching humpback.



nudibranch (Ken Bondy)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



giant kelp (Jerry Loomis)



striped shore crab (Jerry Kirkhart)



lemon nudibranch (Ken Bondy)



rainbow sea star (Chad King)



California Marine Protected Areas

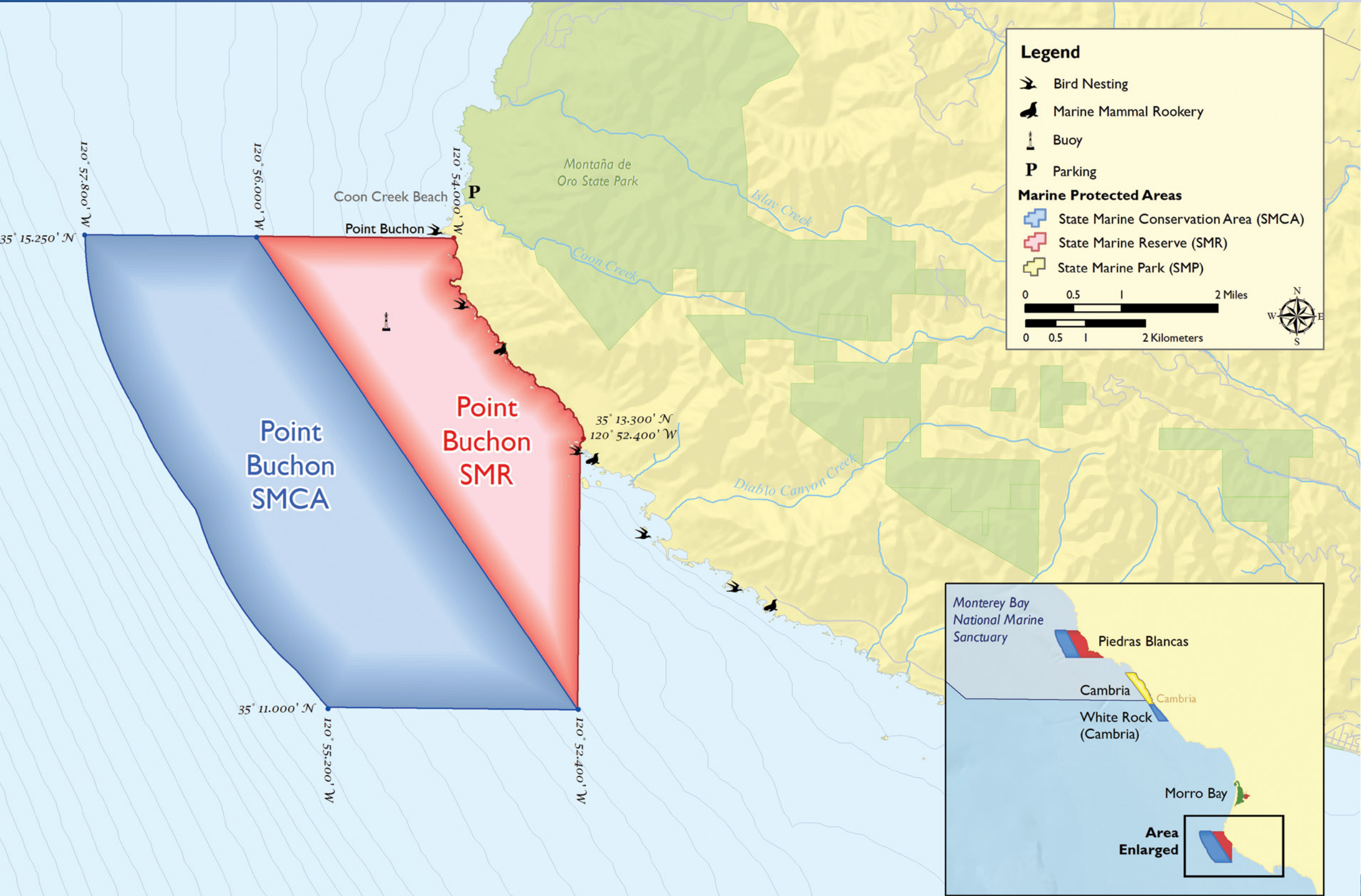
The California statewide MPA network includes four different types that vary in their purpose and level of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA designations are:

- 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).



great egret (Mike Baird, flickr.bairdphotos.com)

Point Buchon Marine Protected Areas



Point Buchon MPAs

MPA	Recreational Uses
Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area	No recreational fishing or take of plants and invertebrates; except, recreational and commercial fishing of salmon and albacore is allowed.
Point Buchon State Marine Reserve	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.