

To protect, maintain, enhance
and restore California's
marine ecosystems for
their ecological values and
their use and enjoyment by
the public through good
science and effective
communication.

California Department of
Fish and Wildlife,
Marine Region

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

Santa Cruz Harbor
(831) 475-6161 or
scpd@santacruzharbor.org
www.santacruzharbor.org

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information:
www.wildlife.ca.gov

For boundaries and regulations, go to:
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA

Help stop poaching & polluting, call:
1-888-334-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)

Report lost fishing gear:
1-888-491-GEAR (4237)
or
www.lostfishinggear.org

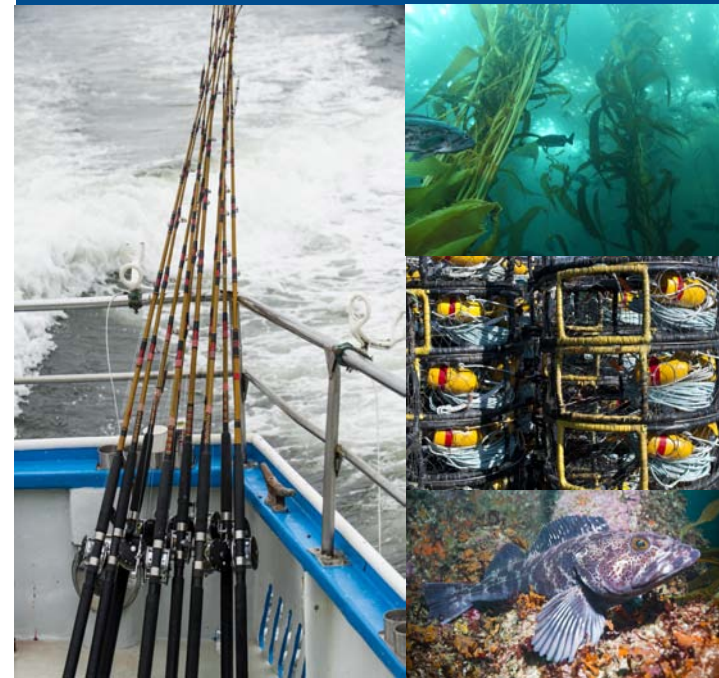
This publication is available in
alternate formats by contacting
Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation:
831-647-4209
or info@mbnmsf.org



Cover: left & center right (Bart Selby);
top & bottom right (Chad King)

A Guide to Fishing and Marine Protected Areas

Santa Cruz Harbor



Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area
Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area
Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve
Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area
Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve
Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve
Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area
Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area



Fishing and California's Marine Protected Areas



What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are special designated underwater areas, similar to the nation's parks, forests and wilderness areas on land, that prohibit or limit the take of marine life.

Why does California need MPAs?

MPAs are proven tools for protecting, enhancing and restoring marine life. MPAs foster healthy habitats and natural diversity, safeguarding the ocean's bounty for the economic and recreational opportunities of future generations.

How many MPAs are in California?

California was the first state in the nation to establish a statewide network of MPAs. There are now 124 MPAs from the border of Oregon down to Mexico. These MPAs protect a variety of key habitats and link protected areas along the coast.

Photo credit: top left (Tressa Bronner); top right (NOAA/NOS); middle center (Bart Selby)



kelp bass (Steve Lonhart)



black rockfish (Chad King)



kayaking (Claire Fackler)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



crab pots (Bart Selby)



dungeness crab (Bart Selby)

Is Fishing Allowed in MPAs?

Fishing and the take of marine life such as shellfish or seaweed is not allowed in about half of California's marine protected areas. An inset map of local MPAs with their regulations is provided in this brochure.



Is Anchoring Allowed in MPAs?

Boats are allowed to anchor in an MPA with catch onboard unless otherwise specified in the MPA regulations. However, fishing gear may not be deployed when anchored in a no-take state marine reserve. For additional information, scan the barcode on the right to visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's website.

MPAs & Fishing Regulations



Scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone or other internet enabled device to visit the California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife's MPA mobile website.

The website allows you to search for information about MPA boundaries and regulations. You can also use your GPS location to locate the closest MPA(s) and determine whether or not you are currently in an MPA.

Go Fishing

Recreational & Commercial Fishing Information:

phone: 831-649-2870

website: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishing

Recreational Groundfish "hotline"
831-649-2801

Recreational Salmon "hotline"
707-576-3429

California Marine Protected Areas

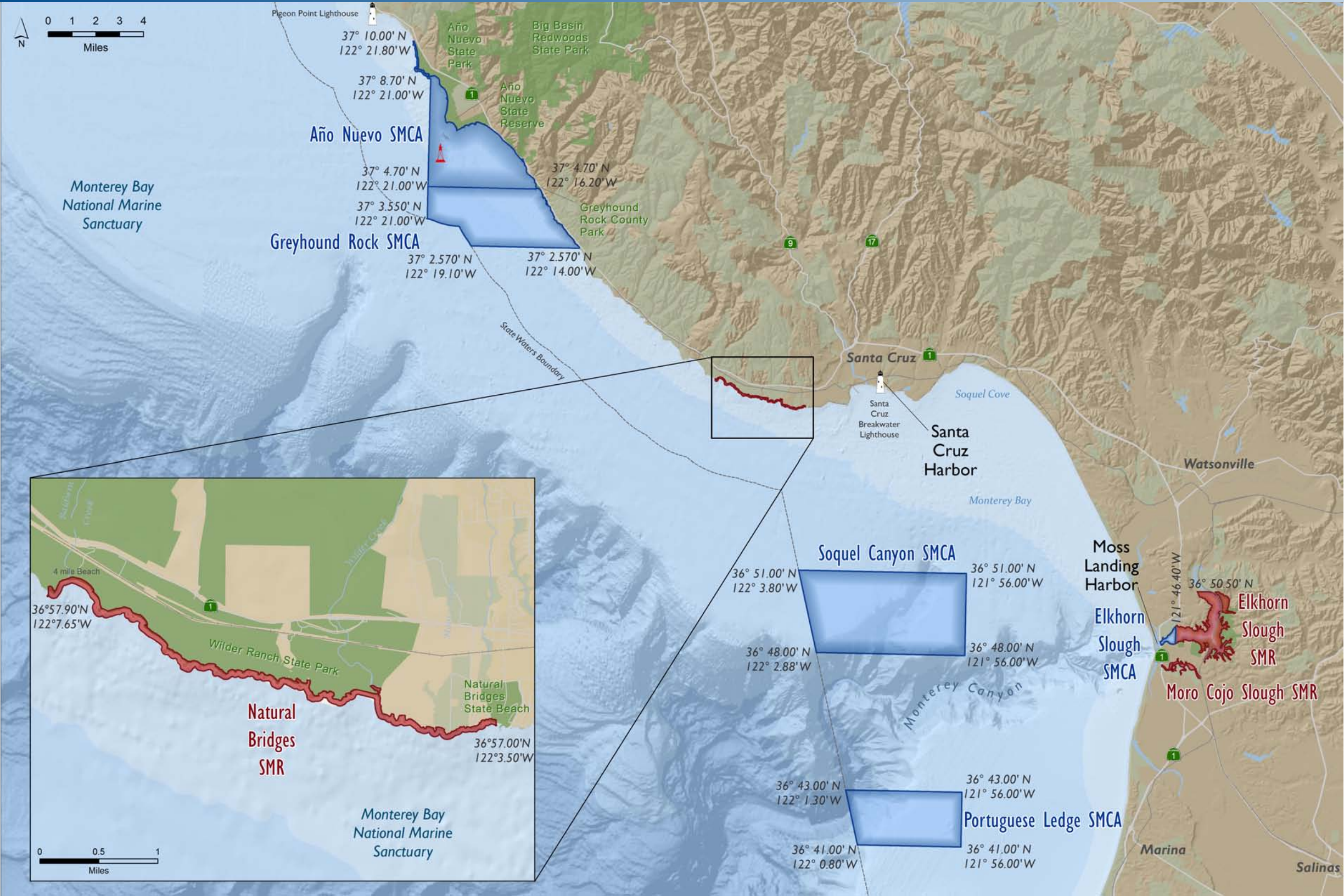
The California statewide MPA network includes four different types of MPAs that vary in their purposes and level of protection, ranging from limited to no-take. The MPA designations are:

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



black rockfish (Steve Lonhart)

Santa Cruz Harbor Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



Santa Cruz Harbor MPAs	
MPA	Allowed Uses
Natural Bridges, Moro Cojo and Elkhorn Slough SMRs	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:	
Año Nuevo SMCA	Commercial take of giant kelp by hand.
Greyhound Rock SMCA	Recreational and commercial take of salmon, squid and giant kelp by hand. Recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore only.
Elkhorn Slough SMCA	Recreational take of clams on north shore of slough near the Moss Landing Wildlife Area only and fishing by hook and line.
Soquel Canyon & Portuguese Ledge SMCAs	Recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish.

Regulations

This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the 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.
- "Take" means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill fish, mollusks, or crustaceans, or attempting to do so.