

Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area and Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area

Factsheet

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Size of MPA:

22.8 mi²

Depth range of MPA:

Shore to 175 feet

Key habitats protected:

Rocky intertidal, sandy beach, estuary, offshore rocks and islands, shale reef, bull kelp and giant kelp forest



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Año Nuevo is a critical biological area of the Central Coast.

- Año Nuevo is a biodiversity hotspot, supporting more than 300 species of invertebrates, as well as numerous fish, seabirds and marine mammals. This site has long been recognized for its natural heritage values.
- Point Año Nuevo is used by thousands of breeding seabirds and marine mammals and support a world famous major elephant seal haul out and breeding ground. The waters surrounding the point attract a concentration of great white sharks and include documented “hotspots” for depleted canary rockfish. Threatened marbled murrelets rest on shore and forage in the lee of the point.
- The MPAs are adjacent to the Año Nuevo State Reserve and State Park in the north and Big Basin State Park to the south. The adjacent State Parks have extensive docent programs, outreach and interpretive facilities, parking, and an on-site ranger presence to assist with management and enforcement.
- The Año Nuevo MPAs were designed to protect marine life while keeping favored recreational fishing grounds open to fishing. Important fishing grounds to the north of the Point Año Nuevo and from Moss Landing through Davenport would remain open to fishing.