Point Lobos State Marine Reserve and Marine Conservation Area

Size of MPA(s): 14.21 mi²

Depth range of MPA(s): Shore to 1858 feet

Key habitats protected:

Submarine canyon, kelp forest, offshore rocks, rocky intertidal, pinnacles, soft and hard bottom habitats.



Photo Courtesy of NOAA





Beatrice F. Howitt © California Academy of Sciences

The Point Lobos area is spectacular, geologically unique, and contains a rich and diverse plant and animal life both on shore and in the water.

- Called the "greatest meeting of land and water in the world" Point Lobos is considered a crown jewel in the state park system. The Point Lobos State Marine Reserve and Conservation Area expand protection of an existing small marine reserve and lie offshore of the Point Lobos State Reserve on land.
- The Point Lobos MPAs provide shelter to a wide range of fish, invertebrates, birds and marine mammals from those that rely on the nearshore kelp forest to those that inhabit the deep waters of the Carmel Submarine Canyon.
- The adjacent terrestrial reserve, managed by California State Parks, has a longstanding docent programs, outreach and interpretive facilities, parking and onsite ranger presence to assist with management and enforcement.

Factsheet