

California is leading the nation in ocean protection with the recent completion of the first statewide network of marine protected areas.

© Patrick Webster

Marine protected areas, often called underwater parks, protect our “Yosemites of the Sea”.

© Kevin O'Connor

California’s MPAs add to the lasting legacy of healthy coasts for future generations to enjoy.

California’s coastal ocean supports a multi-billion dollar economy.

Safeguarding this natural capital through marine protection is a wise investment in the state’s future.

© Kevin L. Cole

There are many ways to enjoy California’s marine protected areas. You can swim, dive, surf, kayak, watch birds and marine mammals, and much more. Or, simply relax in nature.

California's Marine Protected Areas



There are over 124 state marine protected areas preserving 16% of California's coastal waters.

For more information on California's marine protected areas, including maps, regulations, virtual tours and much more please visit CaliforniaMPAs.org.