

NATURAL BRIDGES

State Marine Reserve (SMR)



DANIELLE CROOK

Inside a Santa Cruz icon

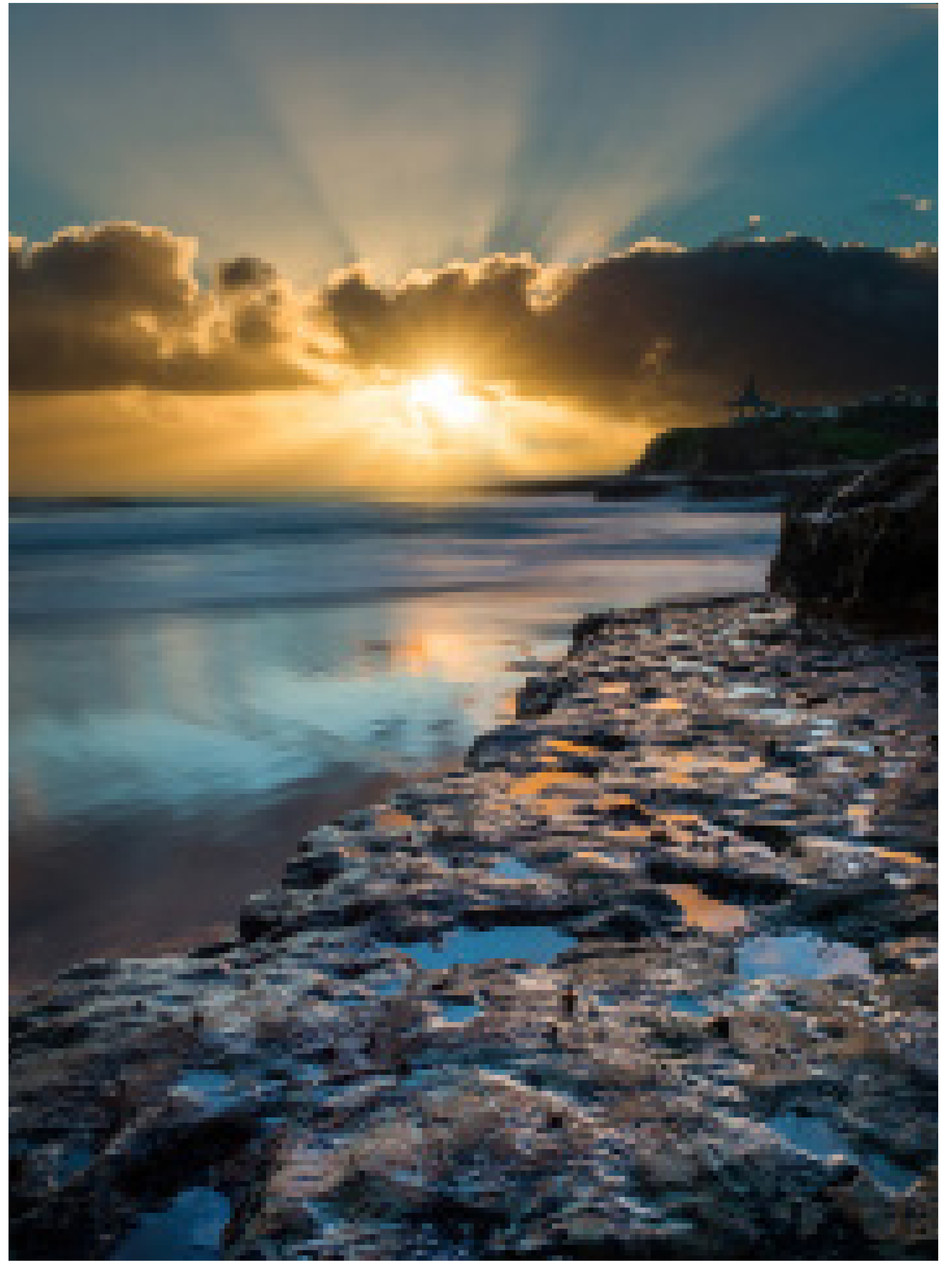
NATURAL BRIDGES is home to intertidal zones and rocky reefs which are important habitats for a variety of marine species.



ROBIN WELTER

Sea star and anemones in the intertidal

INTERTIDAL ZONES are where the ocean meets the rocky shore. Organisms here have adapted to survive in and out of water.



NEIL SIMMONS

Sunset tide pools



COLE WILSON

Resting rock



HAILEY LOZANO

Pruning seagull



ELKHORN SLOUGH

State Marine Reserve (SMR)



KIM STEINHARDT

Young sea otter challenges for territory

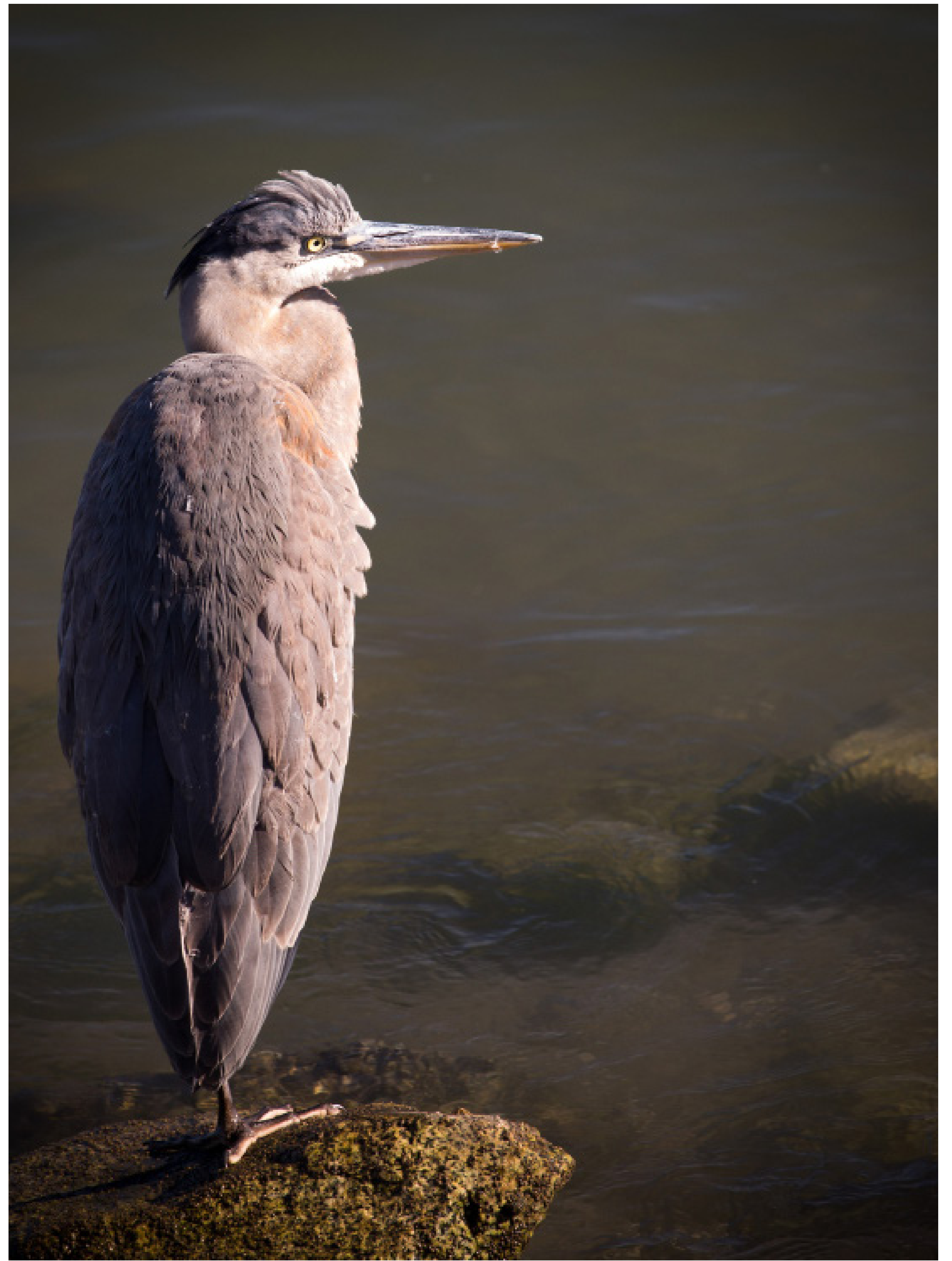
ELKHORN SLOUGH
is one of the largest
estuaries in California.
The rare brackish
habitat is home to
well over 700 species!



LESLIE ABBOTT

Egret with stick

RICH NUTRIENTS
provide lifesaving
buffets for long-range
migrating seabirds as
they make pit stops to
the slough.



IRENE RETI

On the lookout



ALLISON FORMICA

Hum along



JIM KIRKLIN

Through the foam

WHAT ARE MPAs?

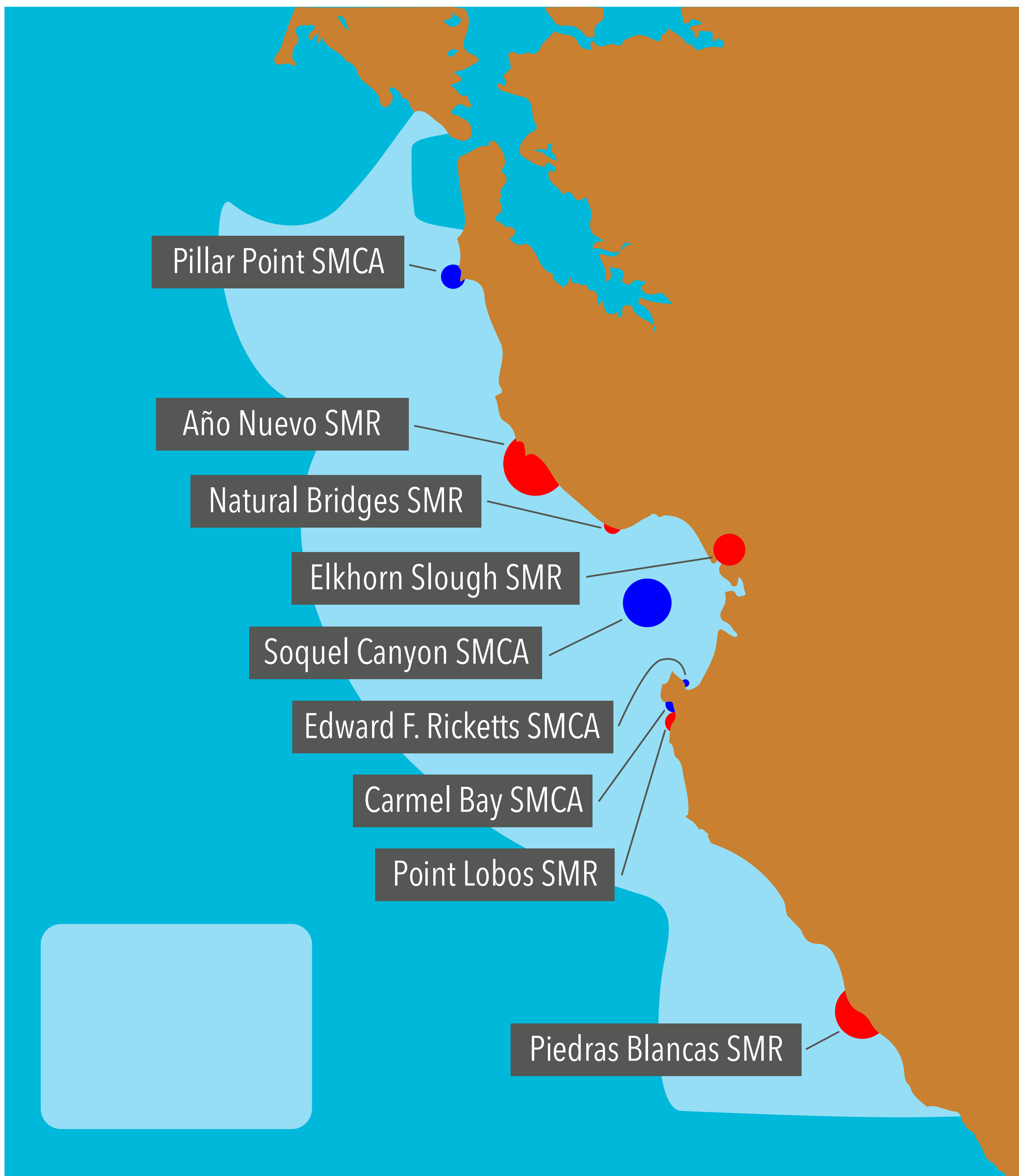
Marine Protected Areas (MPA)



IRENE RETI

Sea otter rests at Elkhorn Slough

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS are large underwater conservation zones that manage the resources of fragile and ecologically significant habitats in our ocean and coast.



Save Our Shores' goal is to ensure all habitats within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, including MPAs, are thriving!



JUSTIN HOFMAN

Sea stars high-five at Edward F. Ricketts



JOE PLATKO

Brandt's cormorant at Elkhorn Slough

2 TYPES OF MPAs

- 1 State Marine Reserves (SMR)** enjoy the highest level of protection. No fishing or take are allowed in these areas, but recreational activities like swimming, surfing, kayaking, and diving are encouraged.
- 2 State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCA)** restrict certain human activities such as commercial and recreational fishing, but still allow for many types of recreational activities!