

An underwater photograph showing a dense kelp forest. Sunlight filters through the water from the upper right, creating a bright, hazy area. The kelp stalks are dark and silhouetted against the lighter water. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues and greens.

Marine Protected Areas In California

California Marine Protected Areas

- For more than a century, overfishing, pollution and coastal development has seriously degraded California's coastal waters and marine ecosystems



History: California Marine Protected Areas

- During the last 50 years more than 50 MPA's were created in California. Most were small, narrowly focused, and poorly managed.



The Solution

- California's collection of MPA's protected less than one percent of the state's coastal waters.
- In 1999 the state of California enacted the Marine Life Protection Act.



The Law

- The California Department of Fish and Game was directed to establish and manage the MPA network.
- The Marine Life Protection Act divided the 1,100-mile California coast into five regions.
 - Central Coast (2007)
 - North-Central Coast (2008)
 - South Coast (2010)
 - North Coast (TBA)
 - San Francisco Bay (TBA)



The Challenge

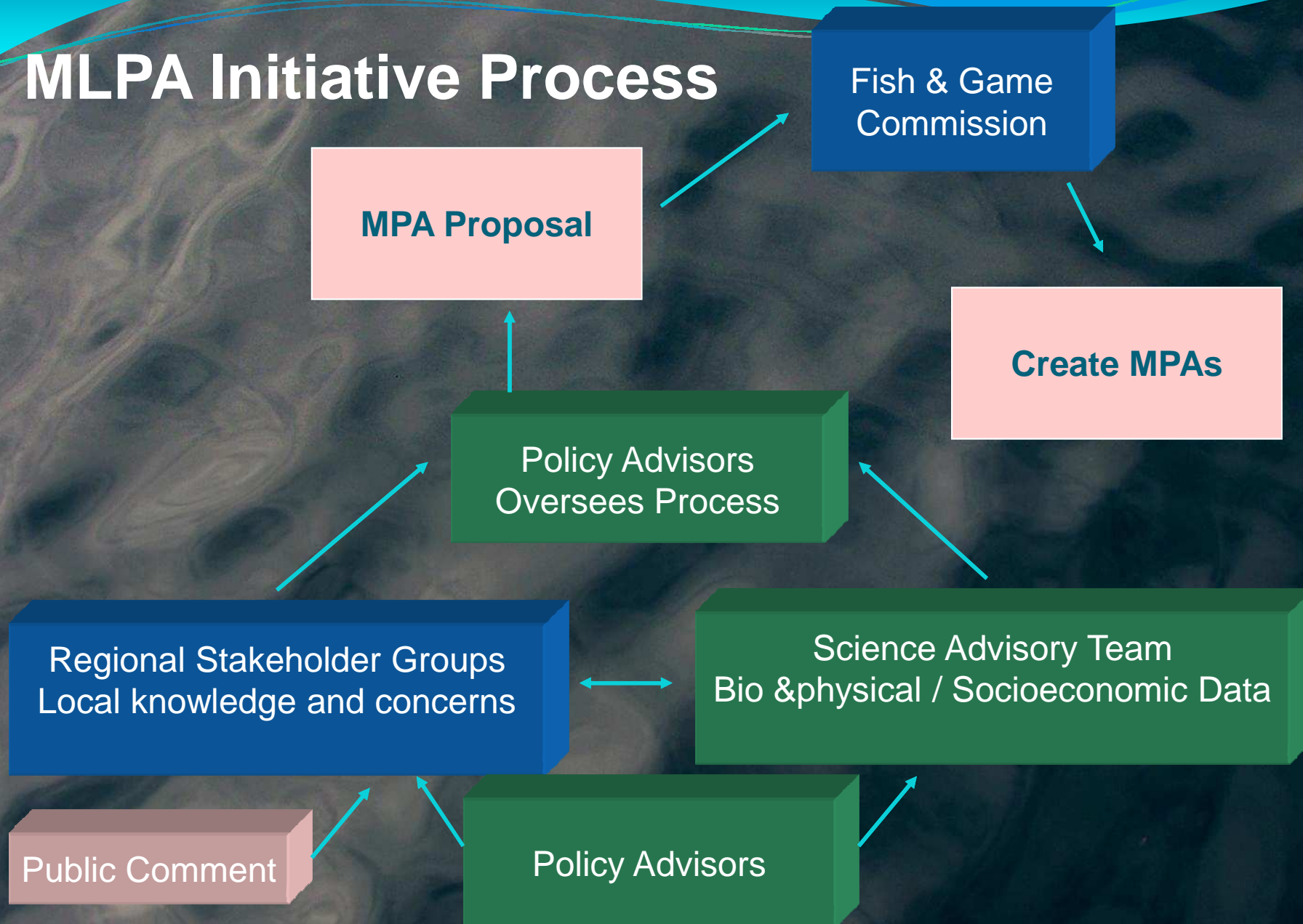
Develop a network of MPAs using:

- Using the best, readily available science
- Advice and assistance of resource managers, policy experts and the public.

(a Public-Private partnership)



MLPA Initiative Process



Not all MPAs are Equal

- **State Marine Parks**

- Sport fishing is allowed and commercial activity is prohibited

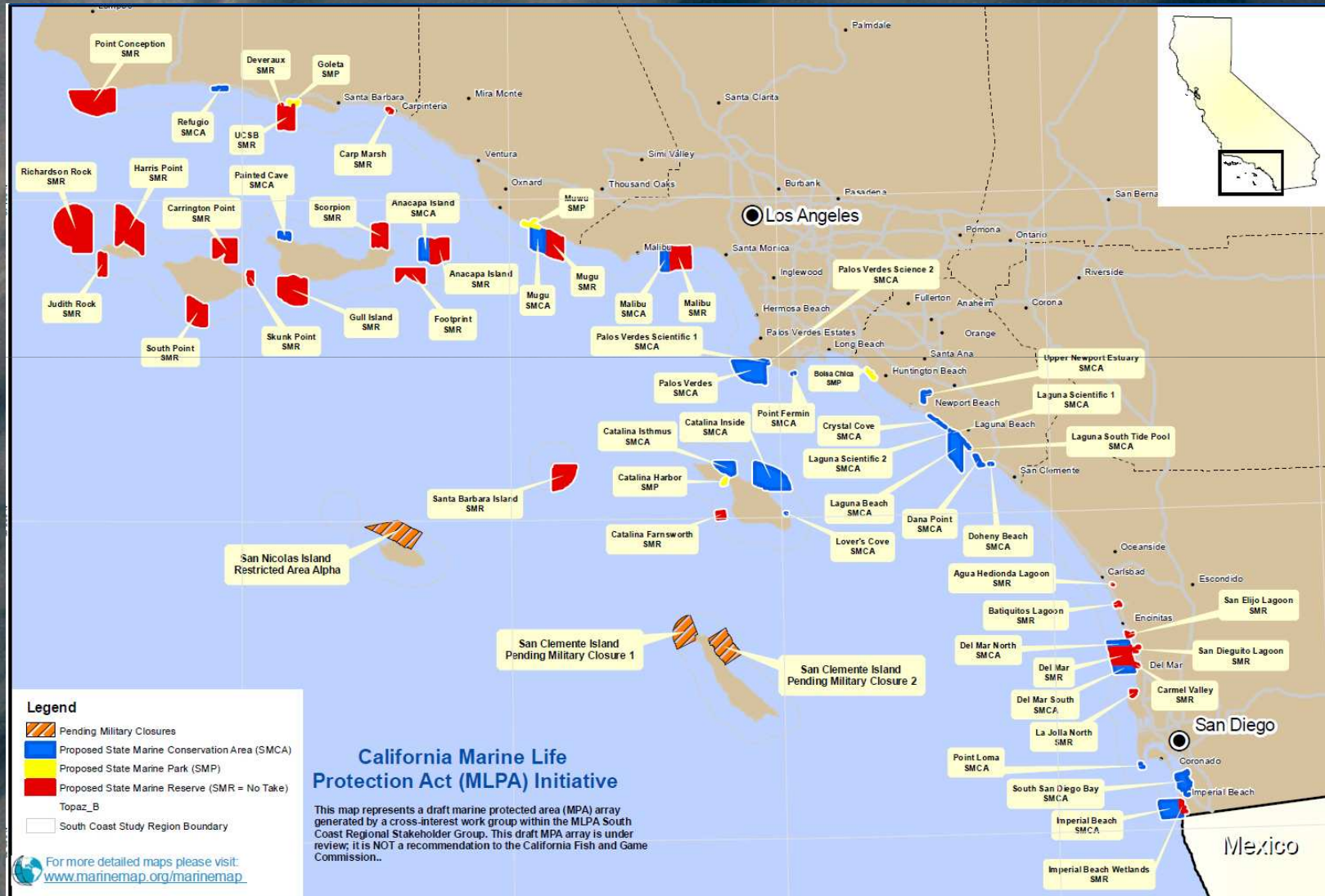
- **State Marine Conservation Areas**

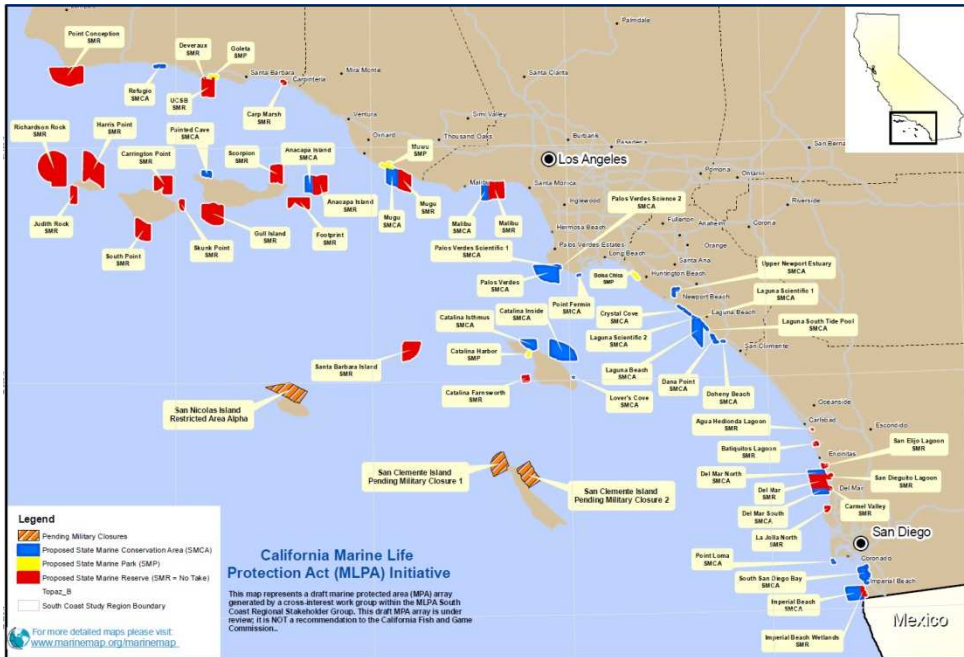
- Allows some commercial and/or recreational fishing.

- **State Marine Reserves**

- Most protective, prohibiting the removal or destruction of any wildlife or habitat.

Drawing the lines





How Many MPAs Now?

Number	mi ²	%
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Central

29

204

18%

North Central

21

153

20%

South coast (now)

15

161

8%

S. Coast (proposal)

50

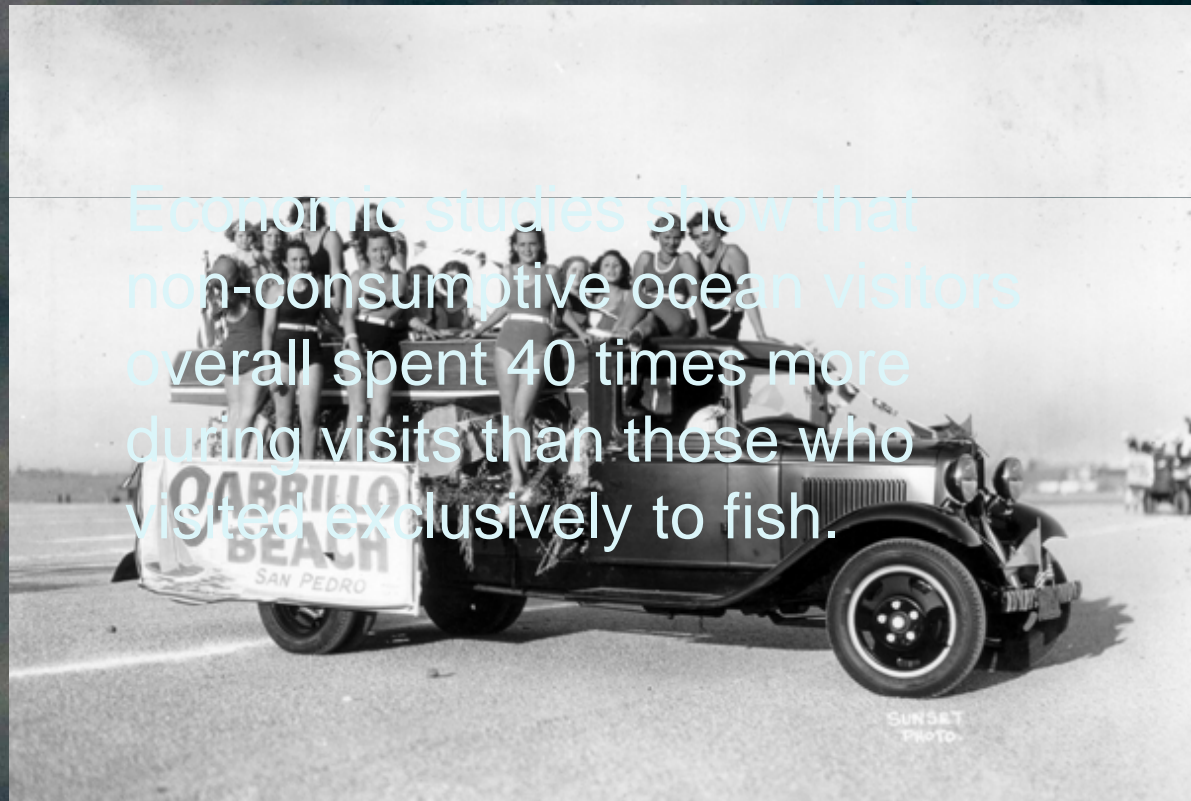
387

16 %

Who uses the Resources?

Vast majority of coastal recreation in southern California is non-consumptive

Economic studies show that non-consumptive ocean visitors overall spent 40 times more during visits than those who visited exclusively to fish.



Embracing MPAs (?)



Marine Protected Area Network: A Network of Organizations

Central Coast

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation

South Coast

Southern California Aquarium Collaborative



Baseline data – Studies say

Families, retirees and tourists are the least knowledgeable about MPAs.

Local residents, students and teachers and outdoor enthusiasts know a little

The only group that knows "a lot" about MPAs were outdoor enthusiasts

Visitor Knowledge- Our Aquariums

Change behavior	91%
Change recreational use	63%
Understand ocean ecology	66%
ID local fish	53%
Which fish are scarce	37%
Heard about MPAs	64%
Know how to get involved in MPAs	29%

Messages

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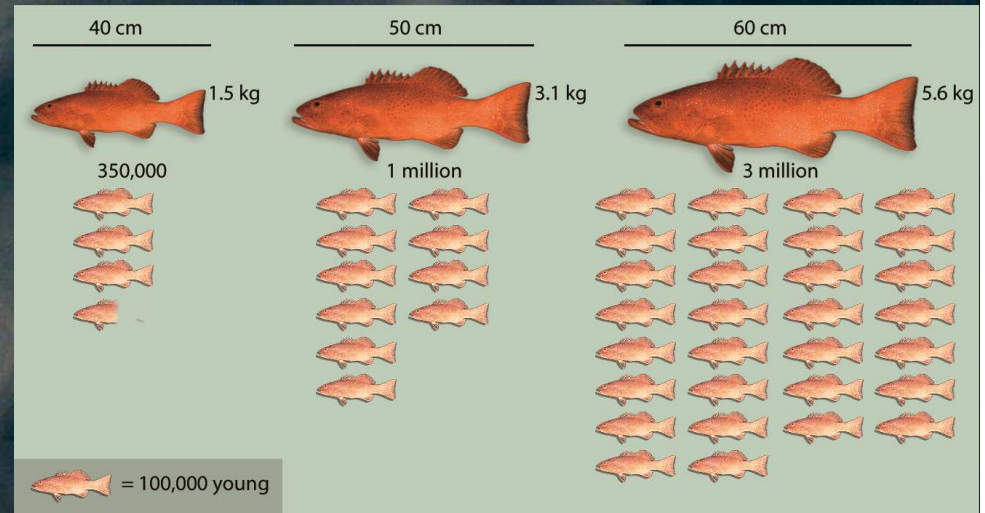
CA Collaborative Fisheries Research Program
2007-2009

The California Collaborative Fisheries Research Program (CCFRP) is a partnership of people interested in fisheries sustainability. We work with fishermen and scientists to establish protocols that can be used throughout California to monitor MPAs and gather information for fishery management. Our methods have been reviewed and accepted by fishermen and agency and academic scientists. The protocols are simple, reproducible, standardized, and statistically sound. These methods can detect changes in fish populations through time.

From 2007-2009, 15 boats and more than 400 volunteer anglers completed 175 survey days. Combining hook-and-line and trapping surveys, 26,958 fishes of more than 42 species were caught and released.

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UNDERWATER PARKS



Educate, Engage and Empower

Exhibits, DVDs and Printed Media

Conserving California's Coastal Riches

You Are Here

San Francisco
Monterey
Año Nuevo State Park
Greyhound Rock County Park

Año Nuevo MPA
State Marine Conservation Area
No fishing

Greyhound Rock MPA
State Marine Conservation Area
Limited recreational and commercial fishing

Marine Protected Areas Safeguard Our Ocean Treasures

Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock MPAs are biodiversity hotspots. Like parks on land, these underwater oases protect countless species of fish, seabirds, and marine mammals. You can hear elephant seals roar while watching pelicans and marbled murrelets soar. Beneath the waves, a canopy of kelp shelters marine invertebrates ~ vibrant sea stars, creeping abalone, and prickly sea urchins. Here and in other MPAs along the coast, species such as rockfish live long enough to reproduce and thrive.

Northern Elephant Seal

Great White Shark

Marine Protected Areas

- Preserve marine habitats
- Allow marine life to thrive
- Conserve natural diversity
- Make great places for education, research, and fun
- Learn more at: www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/

MPAs ~ Good for the Ocean, Good for You!

Año Nuevo Island Giant Kelp Canary Rockfish Bat Stars

UNDERWATER PARKS

California Marine Protected Areas

The California statewide MPA network includes four different types that vary in their levels of protection, ranging from limited to no take. The MPA types are:

- State Marine Reserves:** No take allowed
- State Marine Parks:** No commercial take
- State Marine Conservation Areas:** Allow for limited commercial and/or recreational take (restrictions vary)
- State Marine Recreational Management Areas:** Restrict some activities to protect recreational uses

Rhinoceros Auklets (Rensu Gil)

Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Areas

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Legend

- ▲ Bird Nesting
- ▲ Marine Mammal Roostery
- P Parking
- Buoy

Marine Protected Areas

- State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
- State Marine Reserve (SMR)

Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area

Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area

MPA	Recreational Uses
Año Nuevo SMCA	No recreational take allowed.
Greyhound Rock SMCA	Allows recreational take of kelp, squid, salmon, herring and line fishing from shore is allowed.

Regulations

Marine Life Protection Act Code was adopted pursuant to California Fish & Game Code Section 29033. This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in CCR, Title 14, Section 632. A fishing license is required for any fishing.

Stellar sea lion (Pat Morris)

www.CalOceans.org

and flow of life between habitats vital to the health of marine ecosystems.

MPAs can protect endangered species like the black abalone.

Sloughs and wetlands provide rich habitat for a diverse range of plant and animal species.

MPAs of all kinds preserve and restore habitats vital to the health of our ocean wildlife.

Educate, Engage and Empower

Activities and Programs



contest winners and [prizes](#) will be announced at 2pm.

Future of California MPAs?

Ensure healthy sustainable
ocean resources for all

