



# LOS ANGELES WATERKEEPER®

<http://www.lawaterkeeper.org>

## **Our Guide to Los Angeles Marine Protected Areas (MPA)**

South Coast MPAs went into effect 1/1/12

### **What is a Marine Protected Area?**

A Marine Protected Area (MPA) is an area of the ocean where consumptive human activities such as fishing are limited or restricted in order to protect or conserve marine life or habitats. On land, we have National Parks, National Forests, Reserves, etc. Marine Protected Areas provide similar protection to small areas in the ocean. For more information, please visit <http://www.lawaterkeeper.org/marine-protected-areas> or contact Michael Quill at [mquill@lawaterkeeper.org](mailto:mquill@lawaterkeeper.org) (310) 394-6162, ext. 113.

### **Los Angeles Mainland MPAs**

#### **Point Dume State Marine Reserve (SMR)**

This area is a no-take reserve. No fishing or collecting is allowed. Boating, anchoring, diving, surfing, paddle boarding, swimming, wading and other 'no-take' activities ARE ALL ALLOWED.

#### **Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**

The only recreational take allowed is spearfishing of 'Pelagic Finfish' (see definitions below), Pacific bonito, and white sea bass. Commercial take of 'Coastal Pelagic Species' by round haul net (purse seine) is allowed. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon is also allowed. All other species and methods are not allowed. Boating, anchoring, diving, surfing, paddle boarding, swimming, wading and other 'no-take' activities ARE ALL ALLOWED.

#### **Point Vicente State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**

This area is a no-take reserve. No fishing or collecting is allowed. Boating, anchoring, diving, surfing, paddle boarding, swimming, wading and other 'no-take' activities ARE ALL ALLOWED.

#### **Abalone Cove State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**

The recreational take allowed is spearfishing of 'Pelagic Finfish', Pacific bonito, and white sea bass. Recreational take of market squid by hand held dip net is also allowed. Commercial take of 'Coastal Pelagic Species' and Pacific bonito by round haul net (purse seine) is allowed. Commercial take of swordfish by harpoon is also allowed. All other species and methods are not allowed. Boating, anchoring, diving, surfing, paddle boarding, swimming, wading and other 'no-take' activities ARE ALL ALLOWED.



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[www.laterkeeper.org/mpawatch](http://www.laterkeeper.org/mpawatch)

## Department of Fish and Game Definitions

**Coastal pelagic species** means any of the following: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Loligo opalescens*).

**Pelagic finfish**, for the purpose of this section, are defined as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena spp.*), billfishes\* (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus spp.*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher sharks (*Alopias spp.*), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family Scombridae), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*).

### Maps

California Department of Fish and Game maps  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/maps.asp>

### MPA Mobile Website

Identify MPAs and your proximity to them with a smart phone  
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/m/MPA/>

### Marine Map

An interactive site with optional data layers  
<http://southcoast.marinemap.org/marinemap/>

### Regulations

California Department of Fish and Game regulations  
[http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpa\\_regs.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/mpa_regs.asp)

### **\*\*\*NOTICE FOR BOATERS, DIVERS, SURFERS, SWIMMERS, ETC.**

In LA County, the only MPA prohibiting boat anchoring is the Blue Cavern SMCA off Catalina Island - it is 'no-take & no anchor.' Outside of LA County, Bolsa Bay SMCA, Bolsa Chica Basin SMCA, Batiquitos Lagoon SMCA, San Dieguito Lagoon SMCA, San Elijo Lagoon SMCA, & Matlahuayl SMR have other activity restrictions. San Clemente Island military closures  
<http://www.scisland.org>, [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/scmpas\\_list.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/scmpas_list.asp)