

A GUIDE TO CATALINA ISLAND'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



Oceans in Crisis

*Our marine ecosystems
have undergone
traumatic stress due to*

Overfishing/hunting

Habitat loss

Pollution and disease

Development

La Nina and El Nino

Natural disasters

Invasive species

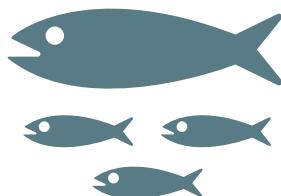
Impaired water quality

Climate change



Fish stocks have declined significantly

- 90% of all **LARGE** fish including Tuna, Marlin, Swordfish, Sharks, Cod and Halibut are gone
- Globally, fishermen's catch has been reduced by half since 1990, and the fish caught are 45% smaller



- 75% of kelp forests along the Southern California coast have vanished in the last 50 years (variable over years)
- White and Black Abalone are two of the species in the region that are listed as State and or Federally endangered



Photo: Lilian Carswell/USFWS

Natural and/or cultural resources are given greater protection than the surrounding waters

What Are MPAs?

Marine protected areas, or MPAs, are areas of coastal ocean set aside to protect ocean life and habitat.



Photo: Port of Los Angeles

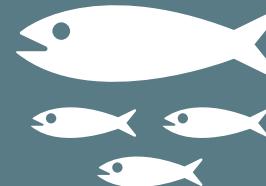
Why are MPA's Effective?

Based on a global review
of 124 marine reserves:



Bigger Fish

Body size increased
by an average of 28%



More fish

Density increased by
an average of 166%

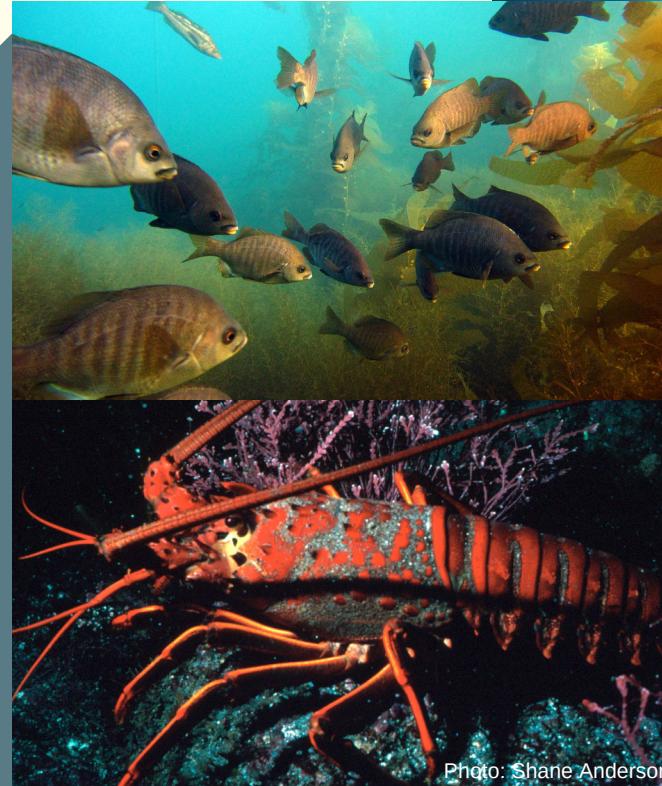


Photo: Shane Anderson



- Species diversity increased by average of 21%
- Fished species often showed the most notable increases
- Established MPAs are more resistant to invasive species

Goals of MLPA

(Marine Life Protection Act)

1. Protect the natural diversity and function of marine ecosystems
2. Help sustain and restore marine life populations
3. Improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities in areas with minimal human disturbance
4. Protect representative and unique marine habitats
5. Define clear objectives, effective management, adequate enforcement
6. Ensure that MPAs are designed and managed as a network



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The Marine Life Protection Act (1999) directs the state to redesign California's system of marine protected areas (MPAs) to function as a network in order to: increase ***coherence and effectiveness*** in protecting the state's marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as to ***improve recreational, educational and study opportunities*** provided by marine ecosystems subject to minimal human disturbance.

-CA Department of Fish & Wildlife



CA has over **124** state
marine protected areas
and special closure
zones—**16%** of the state's
coastal waters!

Types of MPAs in California

SMR - State Marine Reserve, no take

SMCA (no take) - State Marine Conservation Area (No Take) prohibits the take of living, geological and cultural marine resources, but allows potentially affected and ongoing permitted activities such as dredging and maintenance to continue

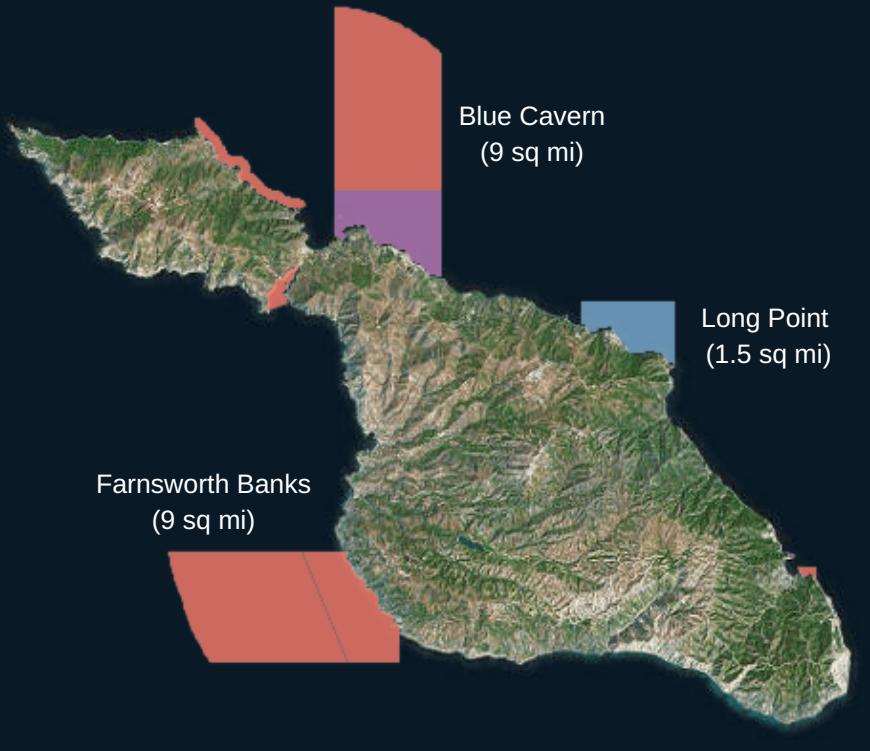
SMCA - State Marine Conservation Area, allows or limits selected recreational and/or commercial take

SP - Special Closure and area designated by the Fish and Game Commission that prohibits access or restricts boating activities in waters adjacent to sea bird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites (restrictions apply)

ASBS – Areas of Special Biological Significance (water quality)

National Marine Sanctuaries federally designated areas in US waters that provide protection of the marine environment





Catalina Island MPAs

Arrow Point to Lion Head Point State Marine Conservation Area

Blue Cavern State Marine Conservation Area
(Onshore & Offshore)

Farnsworth State Marine Conservation Area
(Onshore & Offshore)

Casino Point State Marine Conservation Area

Lover's Cove State Marine Conservation Area

Cat Harbor State Marine Conservation Area

South Coast MLPA Implementation

15% of SoCal waters now in MPAs

52 MPAs (36 new)

12% fully protected marine reserves (including Channel Islands)

~3% partially protected marine conservation areas



Channel Islands Marine Protected Areas

First 5 Years of Monitoring: 2003–2008



Signs of Success

*First 5 Years of MPAs at
the Channel Islands*

Targeted species
responding to MPAs

Fish density 1.5 times
higher inside reserves than
outside

On average, fish are larger

Kelp forests are healthier

No significant economic
losses experienced

Increased sport fishing and
commercial catch



Integration with other
ocean issues

Innovative partnerships for
effective implementation-
Regional MPA Collaboratives



**COLLABORATIVE
NETWORK**

Community Stewardship & MPA Monitoring

Education & outreach
Adaptive management & monitoring
Ecological
Socioeconomic
Human use: MPA Watch

