



# WILDCOAST COSTASALVAJE

*Conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and wildlife*

# An Introduction to the Tijuana River Mouth Marine Protected Area



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WILDCOAST

# Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



# Why establish Marine Protected Areas in California and what is the GOAL?



# Marine Life Protection Act



Enacted in 1999 - California state law that requires establishment of a network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) along the California Coast.



## GOALS:

1. Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life.
2. Help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value and rebuild those that are depleted.
3. Improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems.

4. Protect marine natural heritage.

5. Ensure California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective mgmt. measures and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines.

6. Ensure the State's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

- 2008: MLPA process started in Southern CA
- 2012: MPAs implemented in Southern CA
- Public/private partnership

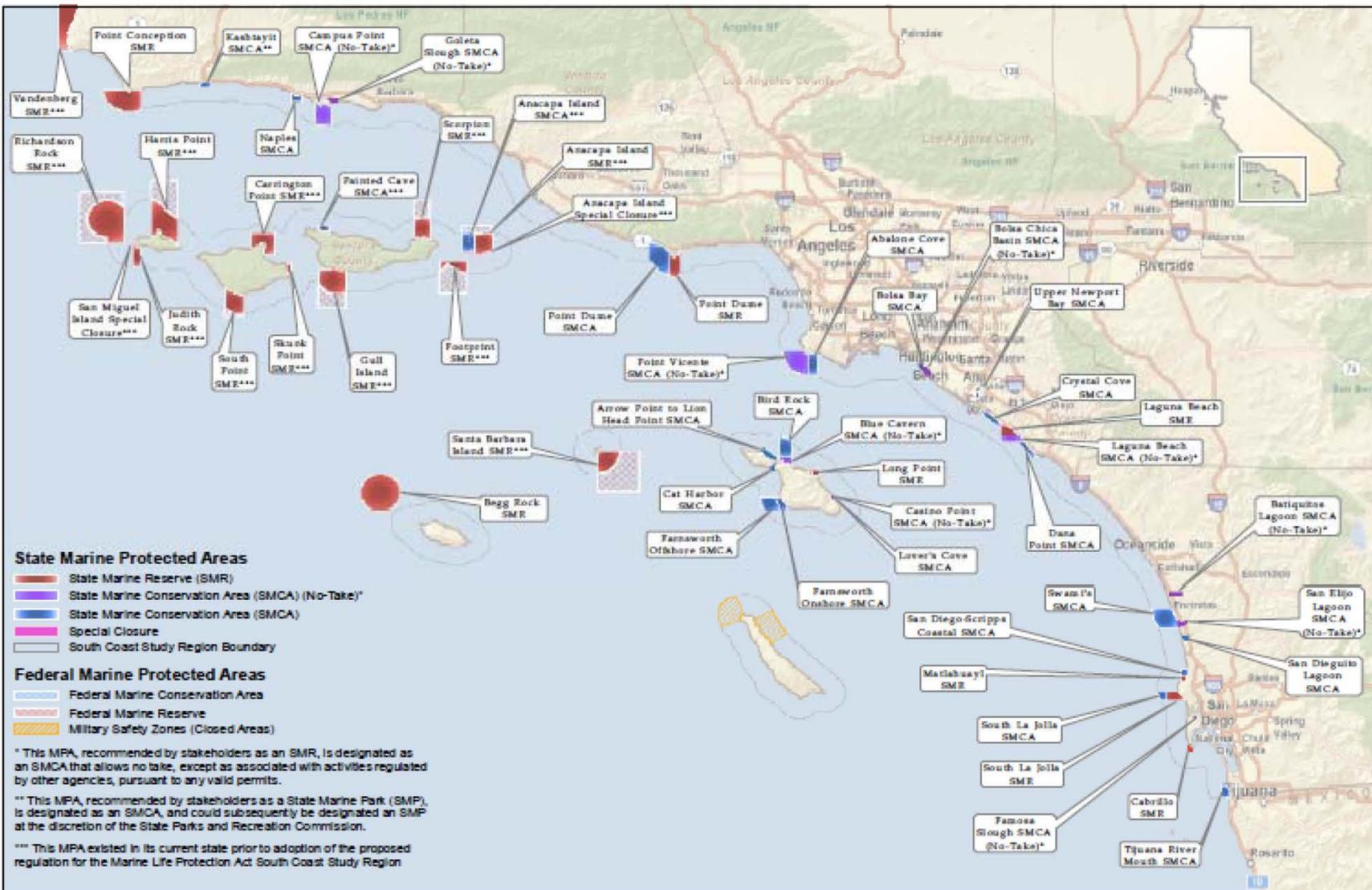


# Community Support

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## Southern California State and Federal Marine Protected Areas

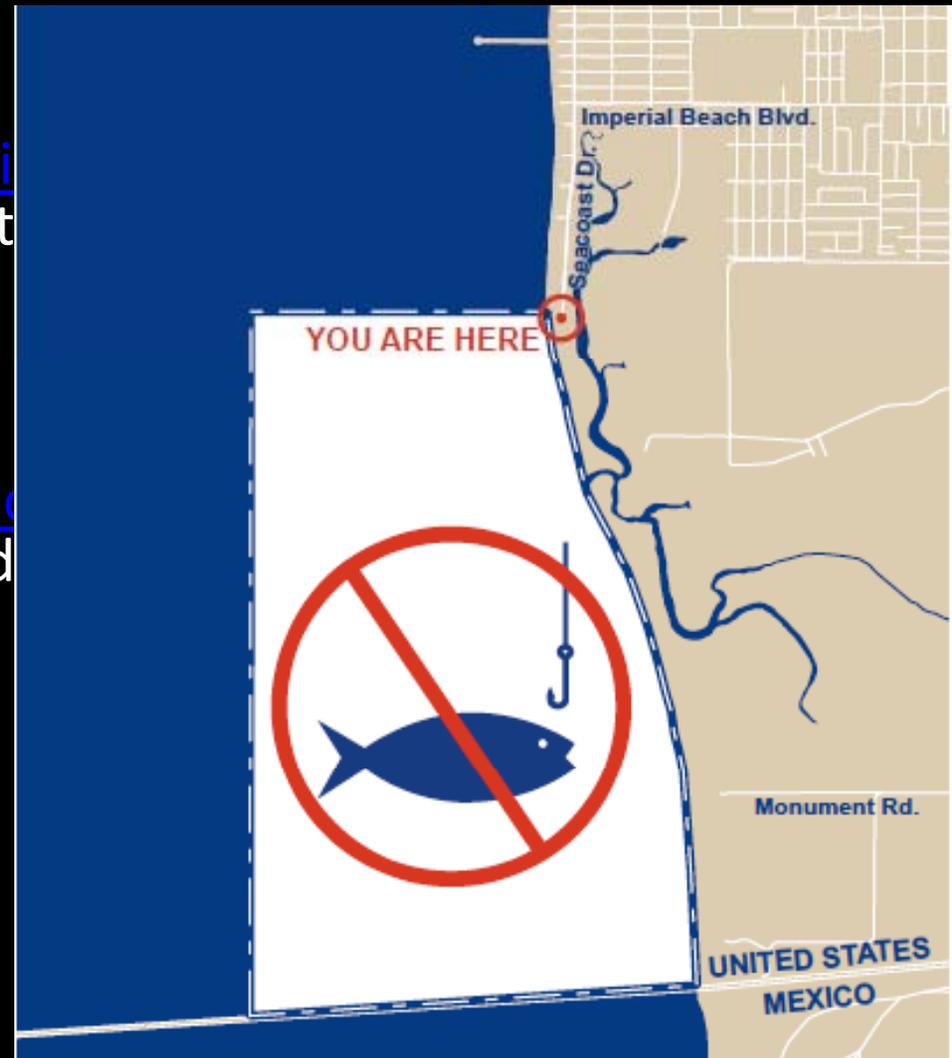


# Tijuana River Mouth State Marine Conservation Area

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- Allowed Species (recreational): Coastal pelagic species by hand-held dip net except market squid.
- Allowed Species (commercial): Coastal pelagic species, except market squid by round haul net.

<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/m/MPA/Regulations#Section-1.39>



# Biological Significance of the Area

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Vital ecological connectivity between watersheds and the ocean.

National Wildlife Refuge in 1980

NOAA National Estuarine Research Reserve in  
1981.

The Tijuana Estuary was also designated as a  
Wetland of International Importance under the  
Ramsar Convention in 2005.



California Least Tern



Western Snowy Plover

This area provides a number of consumptive and non-consumptive activities.

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# Threats: Pollution and Water Quality

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Cleanup efforts at the Tijuana River Valley and at the Tijuana River Mouth MPA

# MLPA Special Water Quality Regulations

and what do they mean for the Tijuana River Mouth



- ASBS
- State Water Quality Protection Area
- MLPA Should provide higher level of protection during urban runoff

# MPA Monitoring



# WILDCOAST Efforts



## Signage

### TIJUANA RIVER MOUTH MARINE PROTECTED AREA

**FISHING RESTRICTIONS APPLY**

Take is prohibited, EXCEPT: recreational fishing allowed by hand-held dip net, and commercial fishing allowed by round haul net of northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel and jack mackerel.

**PESCA RESTRINGIDA** Solo se permite la pesca recreativa por red de mano y la pesca comercial por red de cerco para anchoa, sardina, y caballa.

C.C.R. Title 14, Section 632 [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa)  
Report violations to 1-888-DFG-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)

### Conserving California's Coastal Treasures

#### Marine Protected Areas Safeguard Our Ocean's Bounty

A statewide network of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) safeguards California's rich coastal resources. Beneath the surface of Año Nuevo and Greyhound Rock MPAs, towering kelp forests shelter vibrant sea stars, creeping abalone, and colorful rockfishes. Pelicans and gulls soar above the waves. Listen for the deep roar of bull elephant seals from the large breeding colony that visits here each year.

**MPA Regulations**

- Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**  
No recreational fishing or take allowed. Allows commercial take of kelp by hand.
- Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**  
Allows recreational and commercial take of giant kelp by hand, squid, and salmon. Recreational fishing by hook and line from shore only.

**White shark**

**California leads the nation and the world with its network of MPAs.**

These MPAs—

- Have varying levels of protection
- Conserve marine habitats and diversity
- Allow marine life to thrive
- Make great places for education, research, and fun

**MPAs— Good for the Ocean; Good for You!**

To report violations call 1-888-DFG-CALTIP  
For detailed maps and regulations go to [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa)

# WILDCOAST Efforts



