

# HOW TO ENJOY YOUR SANCTUARY AND PARK

## WATCHING WILDLIFE

The waters around the Channel Islands offer year-round wildlife viewing opportunities.

- ★ Twenty-seven different species of whales and dolphins visit or call the sanctuary and park home, including the world's largest congregations of blue whales. Other species include fin, humpback and gray whales. Common dolphins, orcas and Risso's dolphins also frequent the region.
- ★ Five species of pinnacled, including California sea lions, elephant seals, and harbor seals depend on the sanctuary for feeding and breeding.
- ★ Sixty species of seabirds including the rare Scripps' Murrelet and California Brown Pelican nest, feed, and migrate here.

### SOME WATCHABLE WILDLIFE GUIDELINES:

- ★ Keep your distance.
- ★ Do not touch any animal even if it appears to be sick, injured or orphaned.
- ★ Never feed wild animals.
- ★ Do not use food, calls, whistles, decoys or other artificial means to attract wildlife.
- ★ Leave pets at home – they may startle, chase and even kill wildlife, and can introduce disease/parasites to island species.
- ★ Help others to become responsible wildlife watchers/tour operators.
- ★ Never get between wildlife and a seaward escape route.
- ★ Take only memories and photographs, and leave only bubbles or footprints.

Please observe the marine mammal viewing "code of conduct" by remaining at least 100 yards from marine mammals and if approached by a whale, put the engine in neutral and allow the whale to pass. Boat movement should be from the rear of a whale. Federal law prohibits pursuit of marine mammals.



The Channel Islands are a popular destination to observe annual whale and seabird migrations, spectacular wildflowers, and beautiful scenery. The sanctuary and park encourage responsible visitor use when boating, diving, snorkeling, fishing, swimming, kayaking, and wildlife viewing.

## DIVING

Towering kelp forests, sea caves, and coves of the Channel Islands offer some of the best diving in the world. Explore the remains of historic shipwrecks that line the ocean floor, but please do not disturb or remove them as they are protected by law.

Resist the temptation to collect shells and rocks, because they provide homes for sea creatures, and good surfaces for young plants and animals to settle and grow on.

Consider underwater photography as a way to capture the beauty of marine life without depleting these important resources. If you fish or collect marine life, make sure that you obtain proper licensing and are familiar with the local fish and game regulations.

## BOATING AND KAYAKING

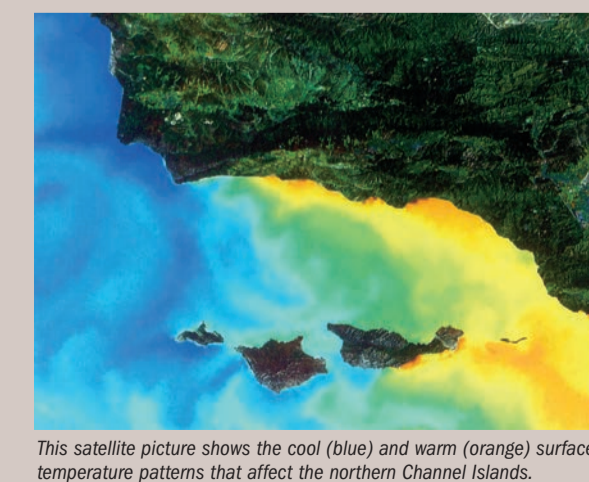
The Channel Islands offer wonderful kayaking and boating opportunities to explore island sea caves and enjoy breathtaking views of scenic coastline. Please refer to the Channel Islands National Park newspaper for information on planning a safe, enjoyable and environmentally friendly kayak trip to the Channel Islands.



## WELCOME TO THE MAGNIFICENT AND DIVERSE CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY & NATIONAL PARK

Close to the California mainland, yet worlds apart, the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and National Park encompass the ocean environment and five of the eight California Channel Islands (Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel and Santa Barbara). The sanctuary and park bridge two biogeographical provinces, and, in a remarkably small area, harbor thousands of species of plants and animals. One hundred and forty-five of these species are found nowhere else in the world. Cultural resources date back 13,000 years.

The islands' remote, isolated position at the confluence of two major ocean currents creates remarkable biodiversity. The mingling of cool, nutrient-rich waters from the north with warm currents from the south form a dynamic transition zone that is home to a myriad of sea life from microscopic plankton to blue whales.



This satellite picture shows the cool (blue) and warm (orange) surface temperature patterns that affect the northern Channel Islands.

Front Cover Photo: SEE UNDER SEA Erik, Lukas Photography Above: 9/11/94 surface temperature patterns courtesy of Center for Coastal Studies, Scripps Institute of Oceanography; Landsat imagery courtesy of EOSAT, Lanham, MD

## CHANNEL ISLANDS MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are sections of the ocean set aside to protect and restore habitats and ecosystems, conserve biodiversity, provide a refuge for sea life, enhance recreational and educational opportunities, provide reference areas for scientists to measure changes elsewhere in the environment, and help rebuild depleted fisheries. There are a variety of types of MPAs, ranging from limited to full protection. Channel Islands MPA classifications include:

**MARINE RESERVES (MR):** Prohibit all take of living, geological, or cultural resources. Scientific take may be permitted.

**MARINE CONSERVATION AREAS (MCA):** Prohibit specific commercial and/or recreational take of living, geological, or cultural resources on a case-by-case basis. Scientific take may be permitted. Unless specifically prohibited, non-consumptive activities, such as diving, surfing, swimming, and boating, are allowed within all of the above MPA designations, as long as take restrictions are followed. Anchoring within and transit through MPAs with catch onboard is allowed, so long as fishing gear is not deployed and must be stowed away.

The California State Fish and Wildlife Commission and NOAA established 13 MPAs in the Channel Islands. The 13 MPAs form a network that covers approximately 240 square nautical miles and 21% of sanctuary waters. Eleven of the MPAs are no-take marine reserves, where no extractive activities, such as fishing, are allowed. Two MPAs are marine conservation areas allowing recreational fishing for pelagic fish and lobster. One of these areas also allows commercial lobster trapping (Please see MPA maps). Nearly 80% of the sanctuary remains open to fishing, in accordance with state and federal fishing regulations.

For more specific information contact the Department of Fish and Wildlife at (562) 342-7100, [wildlifeca.gov](http://wildlifeca.gov) or the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary at (805) 893-6437, <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/>.

Note: Additional fishing restrictions apply; please refer to the Commercial Fish Laws and Licensing Requirements, the Ocean Sport Fishing Regulation Book, and the CA Code of Regulations, Title 14 sec. 632, and Code of Federal Regulations Title 50 sec. 660.



© Rajappa Cholewicz



© Kathy deWit-Olson

## CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL PARK

Channel Islands National Park, a special terrestrial and marine protected area of national and global significance, is administered by the National Park Service within the Department of the Interior. The park consists of 250,000 acres of land and ocean environment, encompassing Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, and Santa Barbara Islands, their submerged lands, and the waters within one nautical mile of each island.

Channel Islands National Park monitors and protects threatened and endangered species, restores ecosystems, and preserves the natural and cultural resources for current and future generations.



Laure Francis

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

**FOR FEDERAL REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES:**  
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary  
113 Harbor Way, Ste. 150  
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Ocean Science Education Building  
University of California, Santa Barbara, Bldg. 514  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1030  
(805) 699-5422 [channelislands.noaa.gov](http://channelislands.noaa.gov)

**Channel Islands National Park**  
1901 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 658-5700 [www.nps.gov/chis](http://www.nps.gov/chis)

**FOR BOATER SAFETY:**  
United States Coast Guard  
111 Harbor Way, Santa Barbara, CA 93109  
[www.uscgboating.org](http://www.uscgboating.org)

**FOR FEDERAL FISHING REGULATIONS AND MARINE MAMMAL REGULATIONS:**  
National Marine Fisheries Service  
501 West Ocean Blvd., Suite 4200  
Long Beach, CA 90802  
(562) 980-4030, [www.swr.nmfs.noaa.gov](http://www.swr.nmfs.noaa.gov)

**FOR STATE FISHING REGULATIONS:**  
Calif. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Marine Region  
4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C  
Los Alamitos, CA 90720  
(562) 342-7100, [wildlifeca.gov](http://wildlifeca.gov)  
**CallTIP to report violations**  
888-334-2258

**FOR SANTA CRUZ ISLAND INFORMATION/ACCESS:**  
The Nature Conservancy  
532 Main Street #206  
Ventura, CA 93001  
(805) 642-0345, [www.nature.org/california](http://www.nature.org/california)

**TO REPORT OIL AND POLLUTION DISCHARGES:**  
National Response System  
800-424-8802

**REPORT INJURED OR DEAD WHALES:**  
NOAA  
877-SOS-WHALE (877-767-9425)  
**24 HOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

U.S. Coast Guard Search & Rescue.....805-985-9822  
Channel Islands Harbor Patrol.....805-382-3000  
Ventura Harbor Patrol .....805-642-8618  
Port Hueneme Wharfinger .....805-488-4615  
Santa Barbara Harbor Patrol.....805-564-5530  
Boaters Use Marine Band Radio VHF CH 16

© Jim Rupp

## WEATHER

All of the islands offer great hiking opportunities. Please contact the park visitor center at (805) 658-5730 or park website [www.nps.gov/chis](http://www.nps.gov/chis) for hiking information.

## HIKING

Channel Islands MPA map for further information.

No fishing is allowed within the marine reserve areas. See the Department of Fish and Wildlife Web site at [www.wildlifeca.gov](http://www.wildlifeca.gov). Fishing regulations are available in the current ocean sport fishing regulations book and/or commercial fishing digest, and also posted on the Department of Fish and Wildlife Web site at [www.wildlifeca.gov](http://www.wildlifeca.gov). Fishing licenses to take any kind of fish, mollusk, invertebrate, or stamp is required for ocean fishing south of Point Arguello, except conspecifics in California. Additionally, an Ocean Enhancement fishing license is required for Point Arguello, except conspecifics in California. An Ocean Enhancement fishing license is required for Point Arguello, except conspecifics in California. An Ocean Enhancement fishing license is required for Point Arguello, except conspecifics in California. An Ocean Enhancement fishing license is required for Point Arguello, except conspecifics in California.

## FISHING

Boaters and kayakers need to be aware of different seabird nesting seasons and nesting sites at the Channel Islands. Species of concern like the Scripps' Murrelet, California Brown Pelican, and Pigeon Guillemot, nest on rocky crevices and in sea caves. Maintain a safe distance of at least 100 yards (91 meters) to avoid disturbing seabirds. For the best time of year to view different species of wildlife, see the Natural Events Calendar at <http://channelislands.noaa.gov/visit/seasons.html>.

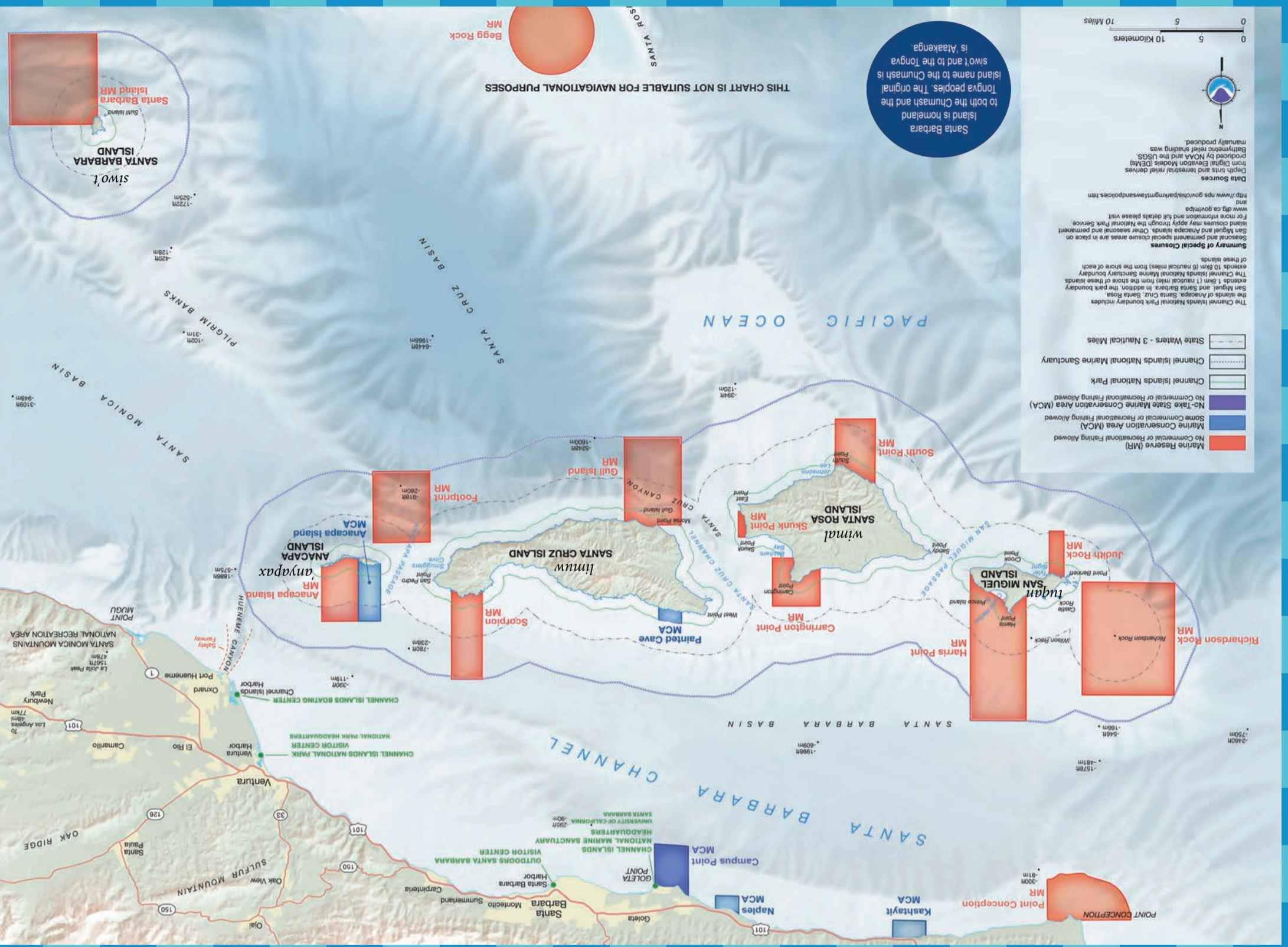
Be aware that the weather in the Channel Islands is in a continuous state of change. Monitor VHF Weather Channel 3 (WX 3) VHF-FM 162.475 MHz for marine forecasts. For current weather conditions, visit [channelislands.noaa.gov](http://channelislands.noaa.gov), [www.mwsia.noaa.gov](http://www.mwsia.noaa.gov) or the sanctuary weather kiosks in Santa Barbara and Channel Islands Harbors.



**Map Legend:**

- Marine Reserve (MR)
- Marine Conservation Area (MCA)
- Some Commercial or Recreational Fishing Allowed
- No Commercial or Recreational Fishing Allowed
- Channel Islands National Park
- Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
- State Waters - 3 Nautical Miles

Santa Barbara Channel is home to both the Chumash and Tongva peoples. The original island names to the Chumash and Tongva peoples are Abalaga and Santa Barbara.



## PROTECTING YOUR CHANNEL ISLANDS



## GET INVOLVED

### How You Can Have a Positive Effect on the Sanctuary and Park Environment

- ★ Attend or host a local beach or creek cleanup.
- ★ Plan or participate in an underwater cleanup.
- ★ Educate yourself and others:
  - Attend lectures and films on the Channel Islands
  - Invite staff/experts to lecture at your club or school
  - Expose children to the wonder and beauty of the Islands
- ★ Join the Channel Islands Naturalist Corps – learn how to educate the public while venturing to the sanctuary and park.
- ★ Attend or join the Sanctuary Advisory Council and help provide advice to the sanctuary on how best to protect the sanctuary and your interests.
- ★ Be observant – if you observe vandalism or damage to resources, injuries to marine life, or notice strange substances in the water, please notify the sanctuary or park.
- ★ Get out there and boat, hike, and get wet!

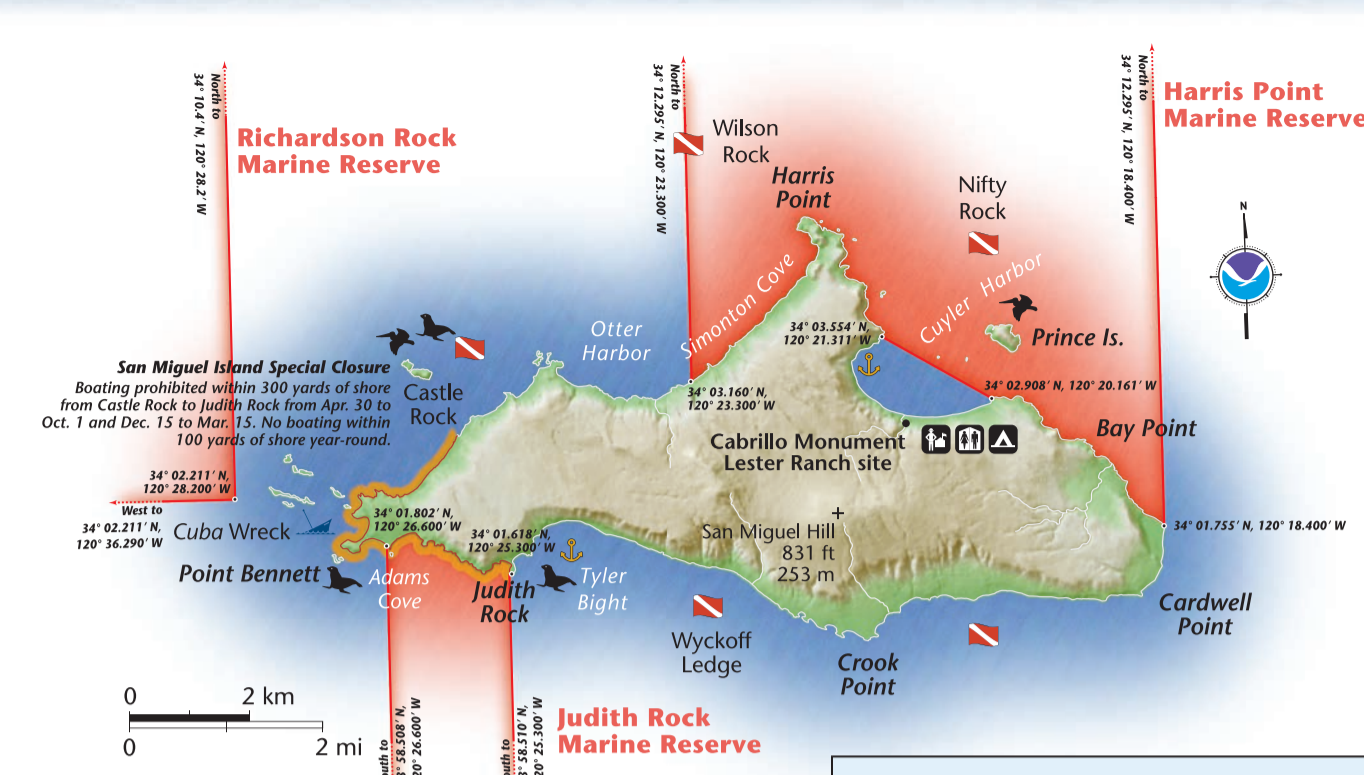
Your efforts will help us all learn more about and protect the vital resources of the Channel Islands and Santa Barbara Channel. For more information on how to get involved, contact the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary or Channel Islands National Park offices listed in this brochure.



Cliff Fisher

**Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary**  
Ocean Science Education Building, University of California, Santa Barbara, Bldg. 514, Santa Barbara, CA 93106-1030, [channelislands.noaa.gov](http://channelislands.noaa.gov)  
(805) 699-5422





## San Miguel Island

San Miguel is the westernmost Channel Island and is located closest to Point Conception. This weather-beaten island supports an underwater treasure chest of pinnacles covered with multicolored invertebrates. The colder waters support a distinct group of fish and invertebrates that are not found on the southern islands, but are found more commonly north of Point Conception. This island is also an important haul-out and breeding site for pinnipeds including northern elephant seals, California sea lions, and harbor seals.



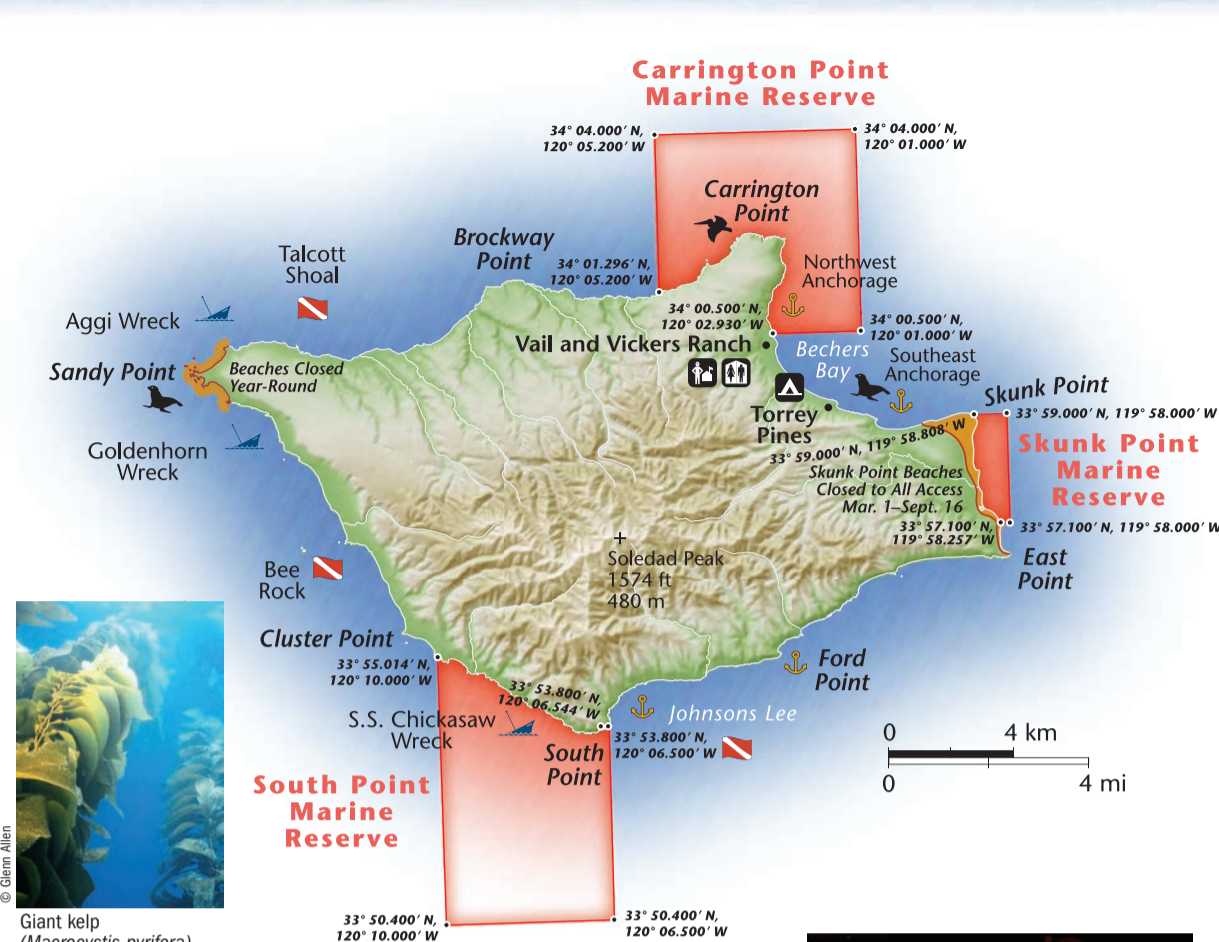
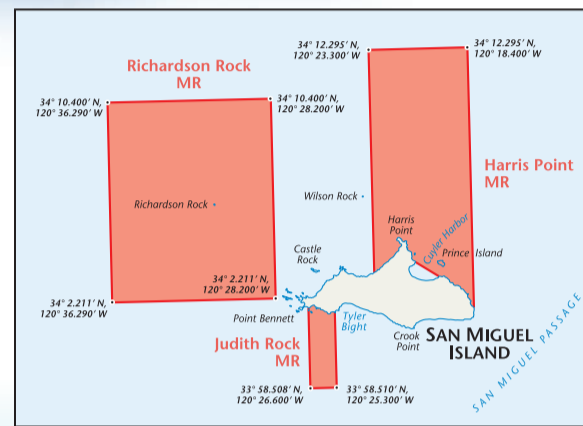
Seals and sea lions Pt. Bennett, San Miguel Island

**RICHARDSON ROCK MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Offshore pinnacle. Deeper waters include high relief rocky habitat.  
**Species of Interest:** Diverse assemblage of fishes and marine mammals. Cold-water rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.) Variety of colder water rockfish such as yellowtail (*S. flavidus*), olive (*Sebastes seranoideus*), and vermillion (*Sebastes serranoideus*); Lingcod (*Ophiodon elongates*)

Roosting habitat for seabirds Red (*Haliotis rufescens*) and black (*Haliotis cracherodii*) abalone

**JUDITH ROCK MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Kelp forest, surfgrass.  
**Species of Interest:** Northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) Breeding and roosting site for seabirds Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.)

**HARRIS POINT MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Kelp forest, surfgrass, deeper waters include rocky features and a steep continental slope.  
**Species of Interest:** Red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*) Cold-water rockfish: copper, gopher, black and yellow, blue, black, vermilion (*Sebastes* sp.) Cassin's Auklet (*Ptychoramphus aleuticus*)



## Santa Rosa Island

Santa Rosa is the second largest of the Channel Islands. The island is known for its rolling hills, coastal terraces, windswept sandy beaches, and the island's largest coastal lagoon. The marine life associated with Santa Rosa Island is influenced by the cold California Current, much like San Miguel Island.

**SOUTH POINT MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Sandy coves, kelp forest, surfgrass and medium relief rocky substrate mixed with sand on the continental shelf and slope.  
**Species of Interest:** Northern elephant seals (*Mirounga angustirostris*) Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.) Red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*)

**CARRINGTON POINT MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Kelp forest Surfgrass Eelgrass  
**Species of Interest:** Several rock crab species (*Cancer* sp.) Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.) Blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*)

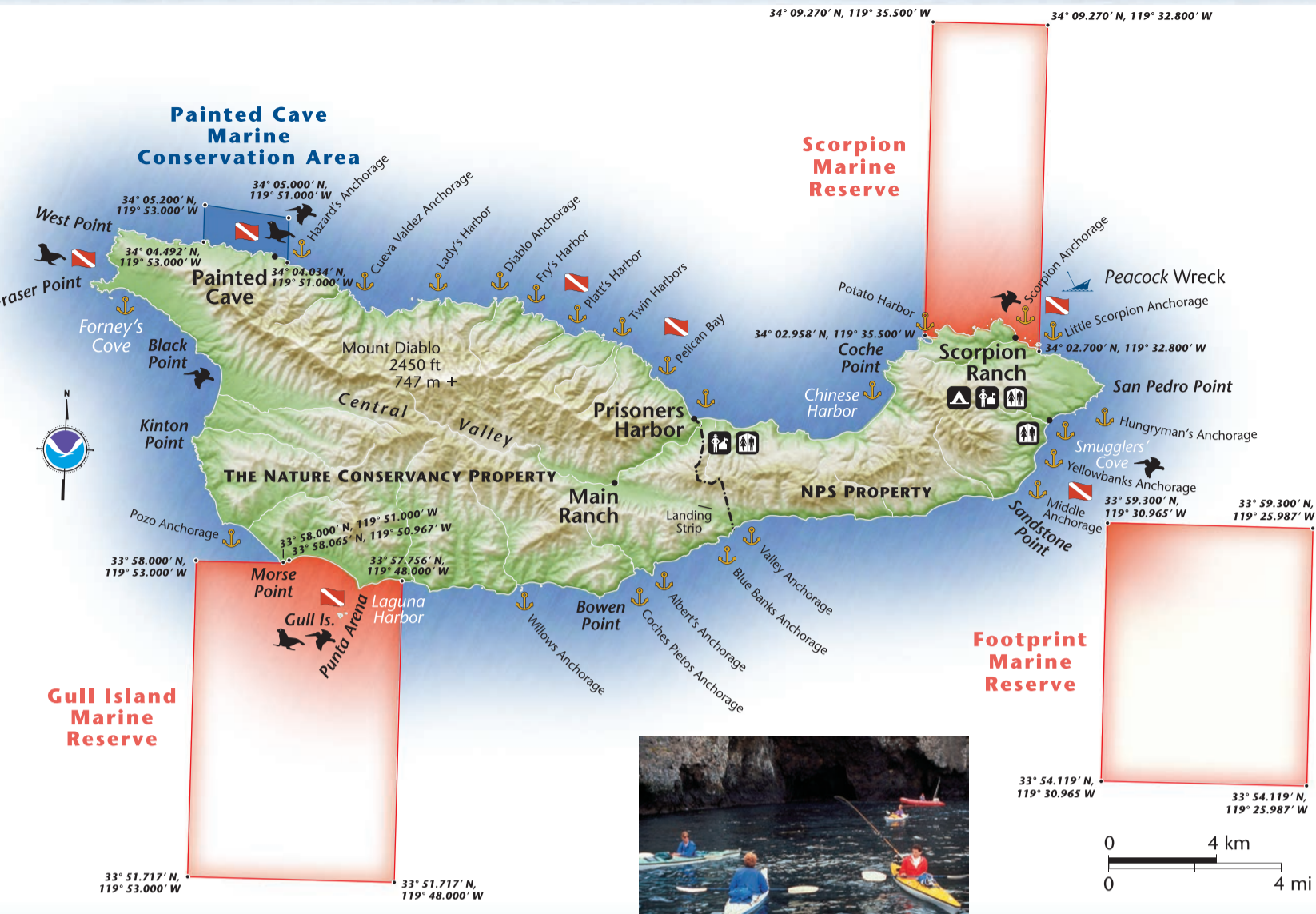
**SKUNK POINT MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Only lagoon in Northern Channel Islands Kelp forest Surfgrass Eelgrass  
**Species of Interest:** Snowy Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) Harbor seal haul out (*Phoca vitulina*)



Giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*)



Red abalone (*Haliotis rufescens*)



## Santa Cruz Island

The largest of the Channel Islands is in the transition zone for warm currents from the south and colder northern currents, offering a diverse assemblage of underwater life. Painted Cave, one of the world's largest sea caves, is found on the west end of Santa Cruz Island. All sea caves are closed to landing.

**GULL ISLAND MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Rocky reefs, emergent rocks, kelp forest and steep wall of Santa Cruz Submarine Canyon.  
**Species of Interest:** Snowy Plovers (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*) California hydrocoral (*Stylaster californicus*) Historically, Red (*Haliotis rufescens*) and black (*H. cracherodii*) abalone Rockfish species including Blue (*Sebastes mysius*), vermilion (*S. miniatus*), bocaccio (*S. paucispinis*)

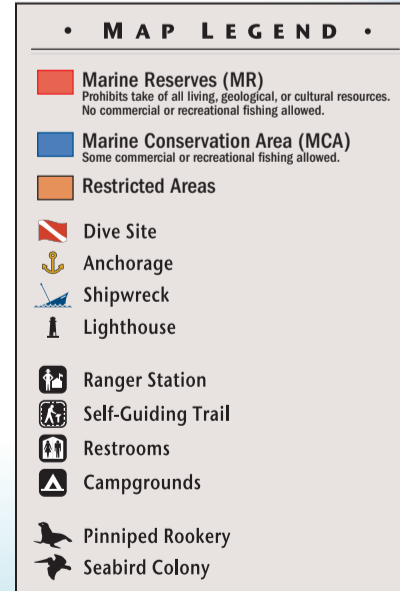
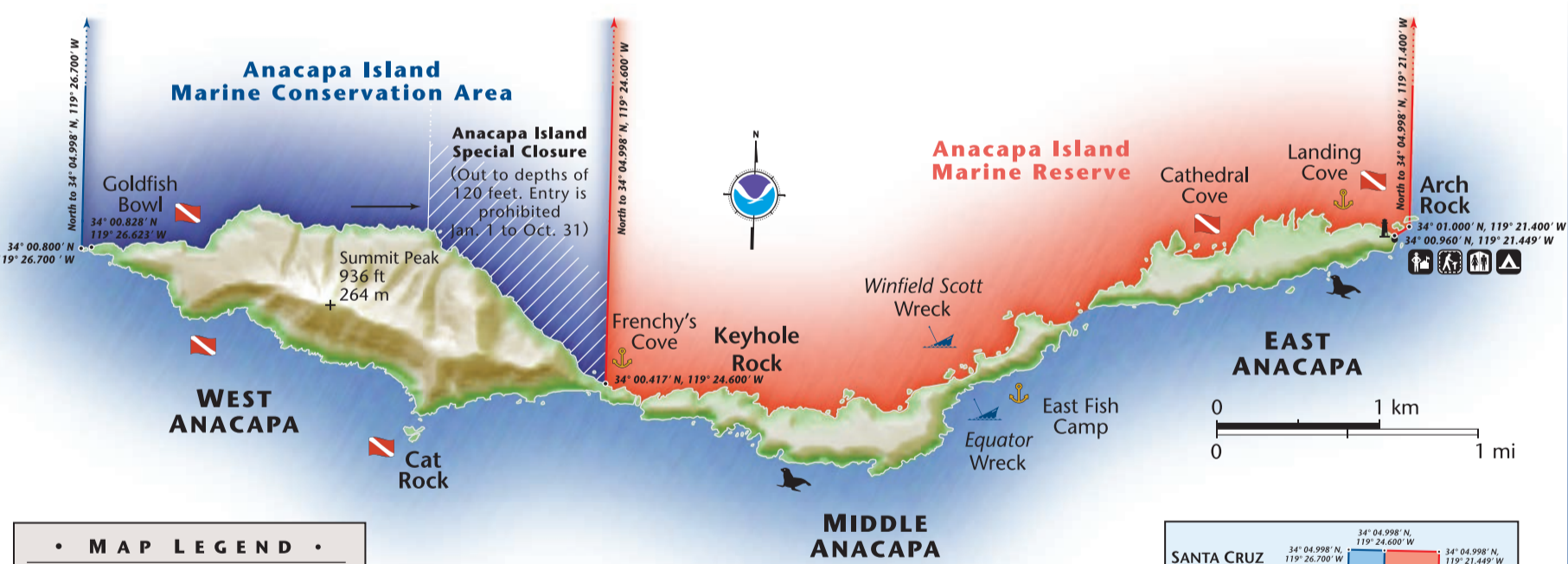
**PAINTED CAVE MCA**  
**Critical Habitat:** Largest sea cave in North America Rocky cliffs  
**Species of Interest:** Pinnipeds Cetaceans: gray (*Eschrichtius robustus*), blue (*Balaenoptera musculus*), humpback (*Megaptera novaeangliae*) whales Seabird breeding habitat

**SCORPION MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Caves High relief rocky features  
**Species of Interest:** Eelgrass Spiny lobster (*Panulirus interruptus*) Ashy Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) Cormorants



Sea kayakers

PLEASE NOTE: These maps are not suitable for navigational purposes. The information in this brochure is current as of August 2014.



## Anacapa Island

Twelve miles from the mainland, a five-mile-long spine of rock emerges from the ocean, breaks into three islets, and is home to a wealth of resources. Seabird rookeries for the California Brown Pelican, Western Gull and Scripps's Murrelet are found on Anacapa Island. Seabird nesting sites are also located in many of the island's 130 sea caves. Visitors must be aware of seasonal closures of seabird nesting areas and caves. California sea lions and harbor seals rest and breed along the rocky shores of Anacapa. Maintain a safe distance of 100 meters to avoid disturbing nesting and pupping sites. No nets or traps allowed in waters less than 20 feet deep.

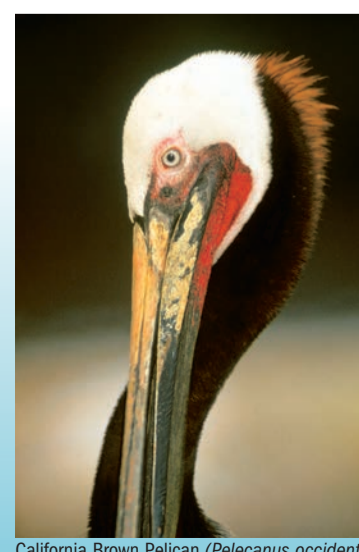
**ANACAPA MCA**  
**Critical Habitat:** Emergent rocks Boulder fields Kelp forest Surfgrass Low relief ridges of mud, sand, and gravel  
**Species of Interest:** Nearshore rockfish (*Sebastes* sp.) Giant sea bass (*Stereolepis gigas*) Largest breeding and fledging area for California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*) on west coast of North America

**ANACAPA MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Deep, high relief rocky reefs Emergent rocks Low relief ridges of mud, sand, and gravel  
**Species of Interest:** Ashy Storm-Petrel (*Oceanodroma homochroa*) Squid spawning (*Loligo opalescens*) Breeding leopard sharks (*Triakis semifasciata*)

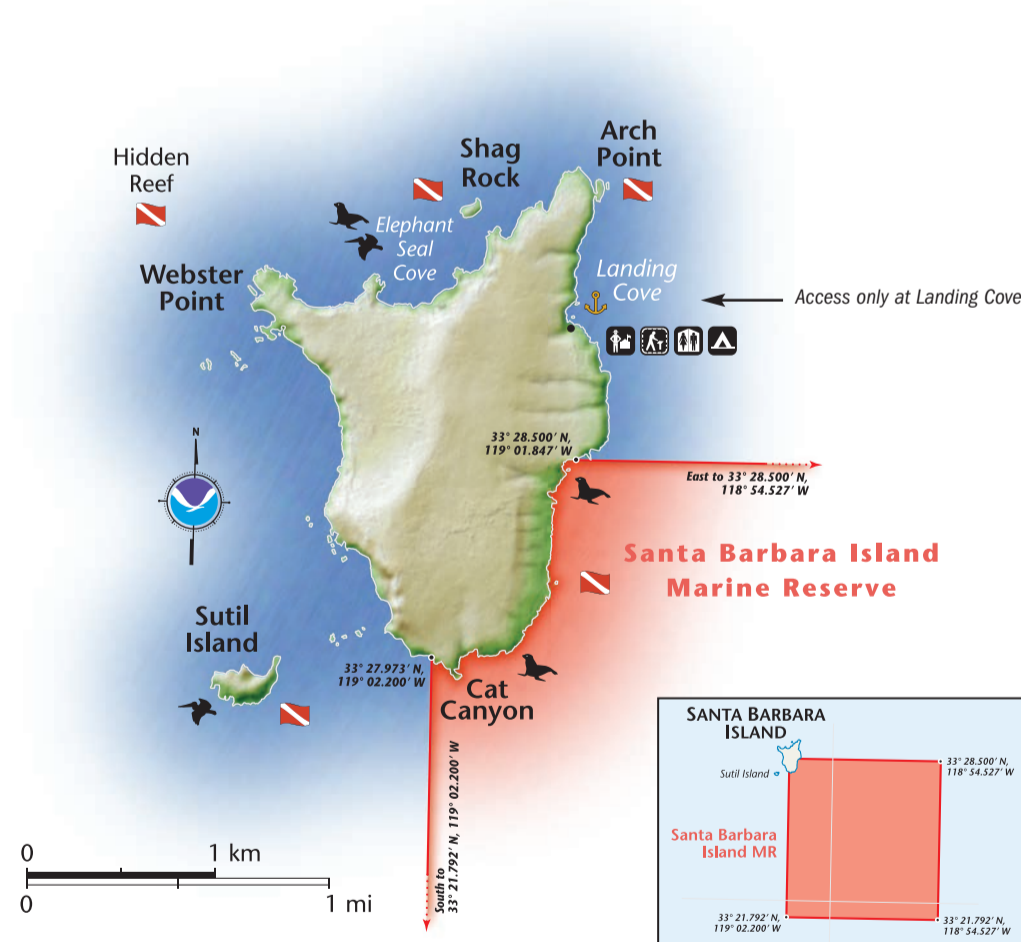
**FOOTPRINT MR**  
**Critical Habitat:** Deep, high relief rocky reefs Cobble and boulder features  
**Species of Interest:** Black 'Christmas Tree' Coral (*Antipathes dendrochristos*) Variety of warm water rock fish (*Sebastes* sp.), including cowcod (*S. levis*), and bocaccio (*S. paucispinis*)



Giant Sea Bass (*Stereolepis gigas*)



California Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus occidentalis*)



## Santa Barbara Island

Steep cliffs of this smallest island—644 acres or about one square mile—rise above the rocky shores to a grassy mesa flanked with twin peaks. Santa Barbara Island hosts a large California sea lion rookery and over 11 species of seabirds nest along the trails and in the seacliffs, including the California Brown Pelican and rare Scripps's Murrelet. Visitors must be aware of seasonal closures of seabird nesting areas and caves. Maintain a safe distance of 100 meters to avoid disturbing nesting and pupping sites.

**SANTA BARBARA MR**  
**Critical Habitats:** Cobble beaches Kelp forest Surfgrass High relief deep continental shelf and slope

**Species of Interest:** Large mussel beds (*Mytilus* sp.) White abalone (*Haliotis sorenseni*) Scripps's Murrelet (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*) Warm water rockfish such as Cowcod (*Sebastes levis*)



Scripps's Murrelet chick (*Synthliboramphus scrippsi*)



Garibaldi (*Hypsypops rubicundus*)

## WORKING TOGETHER TO PROTECT THE CHANNEL ISLANDS

**Sanctuary and Park Regulations You Should Know<sup>1</sup>**  
 Together, the state of California, Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary and Channel Islands National Park protect a wealth of natural and maritime heritage resources and increase awareness through public education, research, and monitoring.

**To protect these important resources, the following activities are prohibited:**

- Discharging or depositing any material into the sanctuary. General exceptions: treated sewage from a Coast Guard-approved Type I or II marine sanitation device (MSD)\*; vessel engine/generator exhaust or cooling water, biodegradable graywater\* (e.g., galley, bath and shower water) or deck wash down; fish or chumming materials during lawful fishing.
- NOTES — Discharge of untreated sewage and food wastes is prohibited, and MSDs must be locked to prevent sewage discharge. \*For large vessels (300+ gross registered tons) additional restrictions apply — see [channelislands.noaa.gov](http://channelislands.noaa.gov).
- Possessing, disturbing or harassing sea turtles, seabirds, seals, sea lions, whales, or dolphins. Harassment includes any action that modifies the animal's behavior.
- Flying a motorized aircraft at less than 1,000 feet within one nautical mile off the island is presumed to disturb marine mammals or seabirds.
- Removing or damaging, or attempting to remove or damage, historical or cultural resources, including shipwrecks and archaeological artifacts.
- Operating motorized personal watercraft within 1 mile around any island. (e.g., Sea-Doo®, JetSki®).
- Taking resources within state or federal marine reserves and conservation areas (see maps for details). Resources include both living marine life and non-living resources, such as rocks, sand, shells, etc.
- Drilling, dredging, constructing on, or otherwise altering the sanctuary's seabed, except for navigational aids, anchoring vessels or for lawful fishing. Also, abandoning any structure, material, or other matter on or in sanctuary's seabed (e.g., intentionally leaving a sunken vessel or equipment).
- Releasing introduced species into the sanctuary, except striped bass released during catch-and-release fishing.
- Operating cargo and offshore installation service vessels, or vessels 300 gross registered tons or more, within one nautical mile from any island.
- Tampering with signs.

### Camping and Landing on the Islands

- Private boaters may land on all five islands within the park year-round.
- A landing permit is required to access The Nature Conservancy property on Santa Cruz Island.

For an application visit [www.conserveca.org](http://www.conserveca.org).

- Camping permits are required for each island, however no landing permits are required for the island lands administered by the National Park Service. Reservations are required for hiking beyond the ranger station at San Miguel Island. Refer to the park website [www.nps.gov/chis](http://www.nps.gov/chis) for detailed information or contact the island Park Ranger on Channel 16 before landing. For camping reservations call (877) 444-6777.
- Please be aware that there are no all-weather anchorages around the islands.
- Visitors are responsible for any damage to the resources.
- Please note there are park areas that are closed and restricted—refer to the regulations and guidelines section of the park website [www.nps.gov/chis](http://www.nps.gov/chis).

### Island Regulations Include:

- Collecting, harassing, feeding or otherwise harming wildlife, plant life or other natural resources is prohibited.
- Archeological resources, including Native American sites, shipwrecks, and historical ranch sites, are protected under federal law. It is illegal to disturb or damage these sites in any way.
- Pets are not allowed on the islands.
- Beach campfires (including charcoal fires), fireworks, explosives, and firearms are prohibited.
- Camping is allowed on island beaches, except seasonally by permit on Santa Rosa Island.
- Private aircraft may not land within the park boundaries and all aircraft must maintain a minimum 1,000-foot altitude above land and sea surfaces within the park.
- To protect wildlife, landing on offshore rocks and islets is prohibited.
- Visitors must pack out their own trash. No trash cans are provided.

<sup>1</sup> This is a partial and abridged summary of regulations, which are subject to change. You are responsible for knowing the rules. For a full listing of sanctuary regulations, refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 15 sec. 922.70.922.74, or call the sanctuary office at (805) 699-5422 or visit [channelislands.noaa.gov](http://channelislands.noaa.gov). For park regulations, refer to the Code of Federal Regulations Title 36 and the superintendent's compendium. Visit [www.nps.gov/chis/](http://www.nps.gov/chis/) for a complete list of regulations, or call the park office at (805) 658-5700. Also be aware that you must comply with all other laws and regulations.



Camping on Anacapa Island