



AQUARIUM OF THE BAY

Conservation Critical Issue:

MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

WHY ARE MPAS IMPORTANT, AND WHERE CAN THEY BE FOUND?

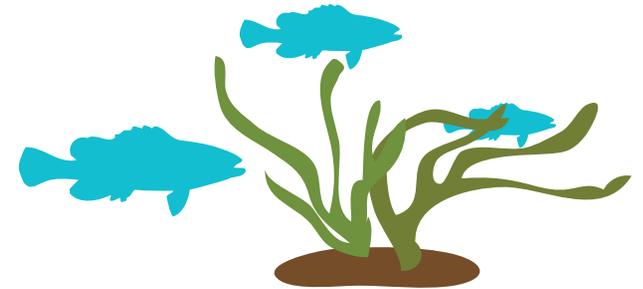
There is no area of the ocean that has not been impacted by humans. Our blue planet offers us countless resources, but is facing damage caused by overfishing, pollution, and unmanaged tourism.

MPAs are critically necessary management tools that rejuvenate depleted populations of marine animals and their habitats. And they work. Scientific studies have demonstrated that MPAs often result in bigger fish, which produce more and healthier offspring than smaller, younger fish. Additionally, MPAs generate economic benefits, including increased jobs, tourism revenue, and fishing revenue.

National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) are managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. National Marine Sanctuaries off California include Greater Farallones NMS, Cordell Bank NMS, and Monterey Bay NMS. California also has a world-class network of MPAs in state waters, established through years of collaborative public process. Specific protections vary, but there are generally three types of MPAs in California waters: State Marine Reserves, State Marine Parks, and State Marine Conservation Areas.

WHAT IS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA(MPA)?

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) are special places in the ocean or an estuary that have been formally designated to have protection relative to anywhere outside of the MPA. There are many types of MPAs around the world that offer varying levels of protection, from zero human activity allowed to a variety of specific restrictions based on the activity. Many MPAs do involve some form of limitations on fishing.

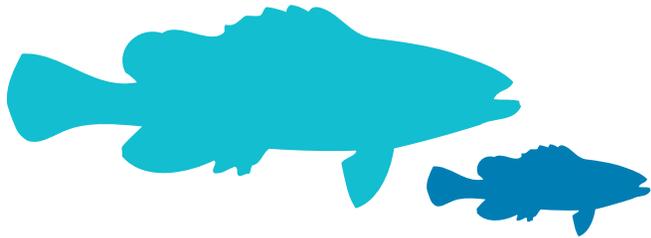


WHY IS THIS ISSUE CRITICAL TO THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY WATERSHED?

Research shows that a variety of invertebrates and economically-important fish have increased in abundance in the five years since the California MPA network was implemented. MPAs support the Bay Area and California's coastal economy, which generates over 80% of California's GDP, along with an estimated 15 million of the state's 17 million jobs in 2013¹. Throughout the San Francisco Bay Area, fishing, recreation, coastal tourism, and the area's property values are all enhanced by a healthy Bay and ocean.

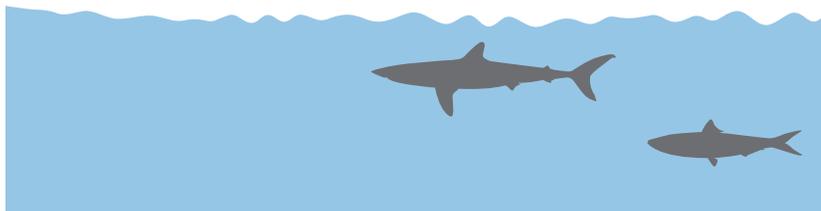
	 State Marine Reserve (SMR)	State Marine Park (SMP)	State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
Allowed Extractions:	Scientific (with permit)	Scientific (with permit) Recreational (under regulation) Commercial (under regulation)	Scientific (with permit) Recreational (under regulation)

“ Scientific studies have demonstrated that MPAs often result in bigger fish – which produce more and healthier offspring than smaller, younger fish. ”



TAKE ACTION: WHAT WE'RE DOING

Aquarium of the Bay and The Bay Institute work with local and state government on issues of estuarine, coastal, and marine ecosystem health. The Bay Institute's Coast and Ocean Program is helping to lead the Golden Gate MPA Collaborative, a community effort to support the MPA network off our coasts. Aquarium of the Bay has been actively working to raise awareness about the importance of MPAs, the significance of the new network of MPAs along the California coast, and how everyone can help support their MPAs through exhibits and programming. MPAs are highlighted in naturalist presentations, such as our sevengill shark feeding, as well as in our free classroom programs for Bay Area students. Aquarium of the Bay was also the lead local organization for the America's Cup Healthy Ocean Project. Among its activities, the Healthy Ocean Project collected pledges of support for MPAs from over 1600 individuals from California, 20 other U.S. states, and 32 other countries around the world.



TAKE ACTION: HOW YOU CAN HELP

Successful MPAs require public support for research, monitoring, education, and enforcement. Here are a few recommendations of how you can help:

- Learn more about MPAs.
- Tell your friends, family, and really whoever will listen about MPAs.
- Call or write your representatives to voice your support and ask for continued funding for MPA implementation, monitoring, and enforcement.
- Support the work of Aquarium of the Bay / The Bay Institute.
- Visit an MPA – by kayak, surfboard, wildlife-watching vessel, or with help from SCUBA gear. Or simply walk along the nearby coastline and look out across the water, perhaps thanking the ocean as you do so.



VOICE YOUR SUPPORT



GO VISIT A **MPA**



Embarcadero at Beach St,
San Francisco, CA 94133
415.623.5300
aquariumofthebay.org

¹ Oceaneconomics.org
Last updated 2015