

# Marine Protected Area (MPA) Tidepool Compliance Initiative

WILDCOAST  
COSTASALVAJE

PROTECTING IMPORTANT COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS THAT SUPPORT A HEALTHY OCEAN



Photo by Andrea Robles

## TIDEPOOLS ARE DIVERSE AND IMPORTANT COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS.

The intertidal zone - the area between the low and high tide lines at the coast - can be a very challenging place to live. During high tide waves crash down repeatedly, while during low tide the creatures that cling to life in the small pools of water left behind are exposed to direct sunlight, predators, and curious humans.

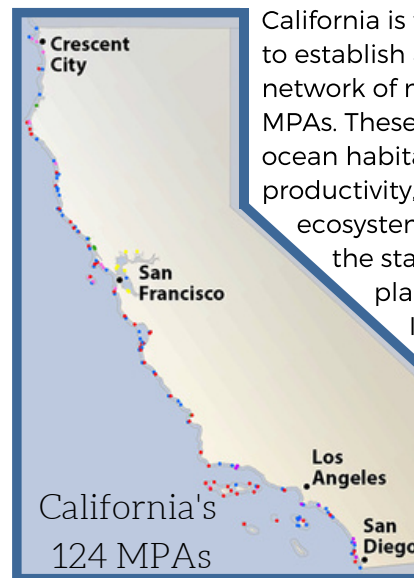


Tidepools are dynamic ecosystems of interconnected sand, rocks, algae, plants, and animals. They provide shelter and food for some of the most amazing creatures with diverse adaptations such as sea anemones, sea stars, barnacles, crabs, shorebirds, and even octopus and lobster. Tidepools also serve as important nurseries for many ocean fish.

## HUMAN ACTIVITY IS DAMAGING TIDEPOOLS.

It is critical to respect intertidal ecosystems - beaches and tidepools - and all of the organisms that live there. This is especially true for our marine protected areas (MPAs) - where removing tidepool organisms is illegal. Visitors to tidepools can, intentionally or inadvertently, cause harm to these important ecosystems by trampling, turning over rocks, displacing both living and nonliving resources, and collecting intertidal species or shells. Pollution, development, and climate change also threaten tidepools and the creatures that live there.

## CALIFORNIA'S MARINE PROTECTED AREAS



California is the first state in the nation to establish a scientifically based network of marine protected areas, or MPAs. These MPAs protect and restore ocean habitats and increase the health, productivity, and resilience of ocean ecosystems. They include some of the state's most beloved coastal places, like the Farallon Islands, Point Lobos, Crystal Cove, and La Jolla. Many MPAs are located alongside public beaches and parks, creating enhanced opportunities for learning and enjoyment.

## WILDCOAST IS WORKING TO SAVE TIDEPOOLS AND YOU CAN HELP!

WILDCOAST conserves coastal and marine ecosystems and addresses climate change through natural solutions. In California, WILDCOAST helps to conserve 545,293 acres of marine protected areas, which include many diverse and popular tidepools. Tidepooling is a great way to explore the outdoors and learn about nature. To make sure these amazing ecosystems thrive for years to come, use your good sense and follow the "Good Tidepooler Rules" whenever you visit.





Photo by Andrea Reyes

## IMPACT OF RECENT EVENTS ON TIDEPOL ECOSYSTEMS

- COVID-19 shutdowns have led many to the coast for recreation and access to the outdoors.
- Tidepools are highly impacted by this influx of visitors.
- Many visitors are unaware of tidepooling best practices.
- Some who visit tidepools are intentionally removing organisms for consumption. These consumptive practices are detrimental to the health of a fragile ecosystem.
- The collective actions of a few can have far reaching ecological consequences.

## WILDCOAST'S TIDEPOL INITIATIVE



**Help conserve our tidepools  
by following the  
"Good Tidepooler Rules".**



**Never remove animals, shells, or rocks.**

**Never pick up animals...observe them  
where they are.**

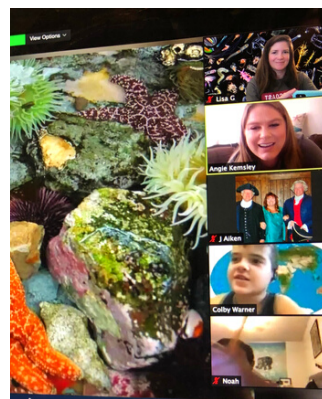
**Walk gently, taking care not to  
step on plants or animals.**

**Never turn over rocks.**



Photo by Carlos Callado

Tidepool Ambassadors  
provide materials and  
educate the public on  
Good Tidepooler Rules.



Virtual tidepool field trips  
are provided to local  
elementary school  
classrooms.



Photo by Octavio Aburto

Human use of intertidal  
resources monitored by the  
MPA Watch community  
science research program.



Key messaging and Good  
Tidepooler Rules are  
communicated through  
media campaigns.