



# FAQs

**What if I accidentally catch a fish that is prohibited to take?**

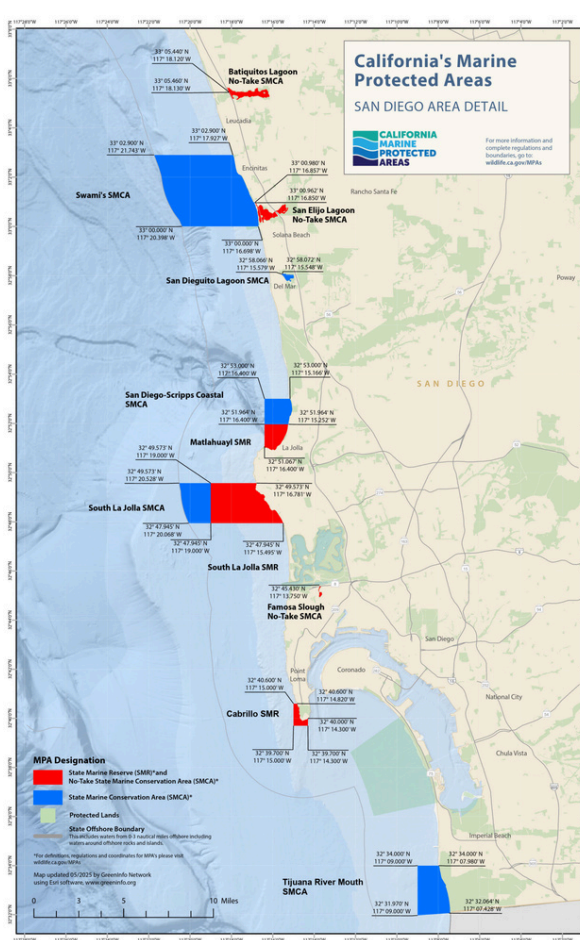
Safely release the fish by carefully removing the hook while the fish is in the water if possible. If you must remove the fish from the water, do so with wet hands and always support the fish's weight from below and keep it horizontal. Return it to the water immediately, in an upright position, and push water through the gills if the fish is not swimming on its own.

**How do I know where an MPA is?**

Most MPA boundaries are designed to use major onshore landmarks and simple north/south or east/west lines for easy recognition. However, it is up to the user to determine if they are in an MPA.

**Please Note:** The information provided here does not replace the official laws and regulations found in the California Fish and Game Code or the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 14.

\*\*\* California Fishing License Required \*\*\*



# San Diego County MARINE PROTECTED AREA Fishing Compliance Guide



Photo by Brian Skerry

To report poachers & polluters in any California MPA:



Call CaTIP:  
1-888-DFG-CALTIP

Text 847411:  
"CALTIP [your message]"



**WILDCOAST  
COSTASALVAJE**



## MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

### SAFEGUARDING AN UNDERWATER WILDERNESS

MPAs are areas dedicated to the protection of marine habitat and wildlife. A network of 124 MPAs has been established in California so that ocean ecosystems may recover and future generations can enjoy marine life for years to come.

### THERE ARE 3 TYPES OF MPAs IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY:



#### STATE MARINE RESERVE (SMR) -

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resources.



#### NO-TAKE STATE MARINE CONSERVATION AREA (SMCA) -

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resources unless authorized for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.



#### STATE MARINE CONSERVATION AREA (SMCA) -

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resources except for select commercial or recreational harvest specifically authorized, and for authorized research, restoration, and monitoring.

### San Diego County MPAs



#### Batiquitos Lagoon SMCA



#### Swami's SMCA



#### San Elijo Lagoon SMCA



#### San Dieguito Lagoon SMCA



#### San Diego-Scripps Coastal SMCA



#### Matlahuayl SMR



#### South La Jolla SMCA



#### South La Jolla SMR



#### Famosa Slough SMCA



#### Cabrillo SMR



#### Tijuana River Mouth SMCA

### Fishing/Harvest Restriction \*

No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed. Swimming, boating, wading, & diving are prohibited.

No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed, EXCEPT: recreational take by hook and line from shore only, and spearfishing of pelagic finfish<sup>2</sup>, Pacific bonito, and white seabass.

No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed. Swimming, boating, wading, & diving are prohibited.

No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed, EXCEPT: with the exception of recreational take of finfish by hook and line from shore. Swimming, boating, wading, & diving are prohibited. +

No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed, EXCEPT: recreational take of coastal pelagic species<sup>3</sup> by hook and line.

No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed.

No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed, EXCEPT: recreational take of pelagic finfish<sup>2</sup> and Pacific bonito by hook and line.

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No Take<sup>1</sup> Allowed, EXCEPT: recreational or commercial take of coastal pelagic species<sup>3</sup> by hand-held dip net or round haul net; No take of market squid by any method.

<sup>1</sup> Take: the hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill, or attempt to hunt, pursue, catch, capture, or kill.

<sup>2</sup> Pelagic finfish: yellowtail, Northern anchovy, barracuda, billfish, dolphinfish, Pacific herring, jack mackerel, Pacific mackerel, salmon, Pacific sardine, blue shark, salmon shark, shorten mako shark, thresher shark, swordfish, & tuna

<sup>3</sup> Coastal pelagic species: Northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, jack mackerel, & market squid

\* Other commercial allowances or restrictions apply. Please visit [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs) for more information.

+ This area overlaps a State Ecological Reserve. Access to the ecological reserve shoreline is currently closed to the public, as authorized under CCR Title 14, Section 630 (a)(10)

This document does not replace the official regulatory language found in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 632.

Graphic Design: Drew Andersen  
General Coordination: Cory Pukini

Illustrations: Sergio de la Rosa  
Cover Photography: Brian Skerry

### SAMPLE CATCH ALLOWED IN SOME MPAs:



White Seabass



Jack Mackerel



Pacific Bonito

### TAKE / POSSESSION OF SPECIES IS NOT ALLOWED:



Abalone



Garibaldi



Black Sea Bass