

THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MPAs: ANALYSIS OF NATIONAL SYSTEM SITES (JUNE 2010)

www.mpa.gov

The information provided here is for the 254 MPAs that are members of the national system of MPAs. Information is current as of June 2010. The national system will expand as federal, state, territorial, tribal, and local agencies nominate additional sites. Additional information on these sites can be found on the List of National System MPAs, available at www.mpa.gov.

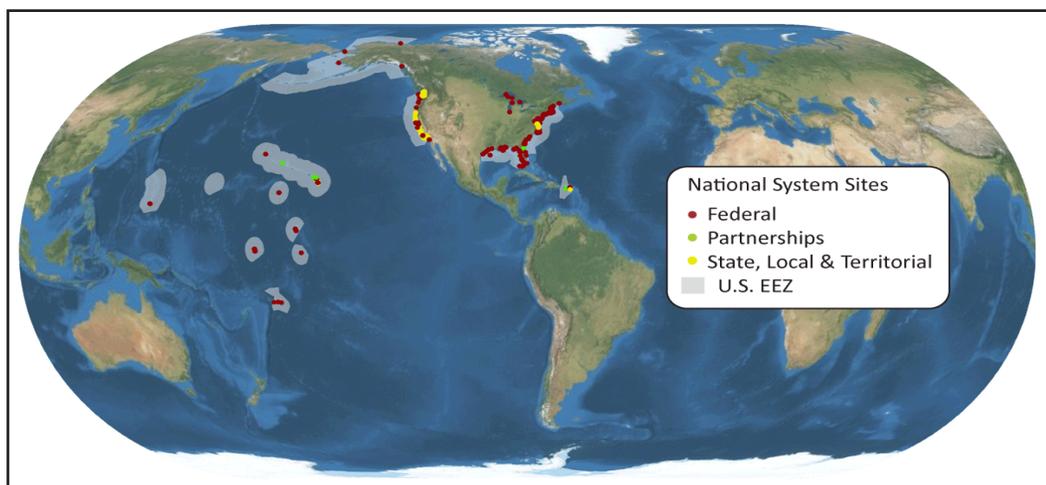
THE NATIONAL SYSTEM OF MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

In 2009, the United States established the National System of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to support the effective stewardship, conservation, restoration, sustainable use, understanding and appreciation of the nation's marine resources. The national system, which currently includes 254 federal, state and territorial MPAs, will continue to expand over time.

The national system coordinates MPAs managed by diverse agencies across all levels of government to work toward national conservation objectives. The system benefits the nation's collective conservation efforts as well as participating MPAs, providing them with a means to address issues that extend beyond their boundaries.

The national system is described in detail in the Framework for the *National System of Marine Protected Areas of the United States of America*. Key benefits of the national system include:

- Enhancing MPA stewardship
- Building partnerships
- Building MPA capacity
- Increasing support for marine conservation
- More effective outreach on MPAs
- Promoting cultural heritage
- Protecting MPA resources



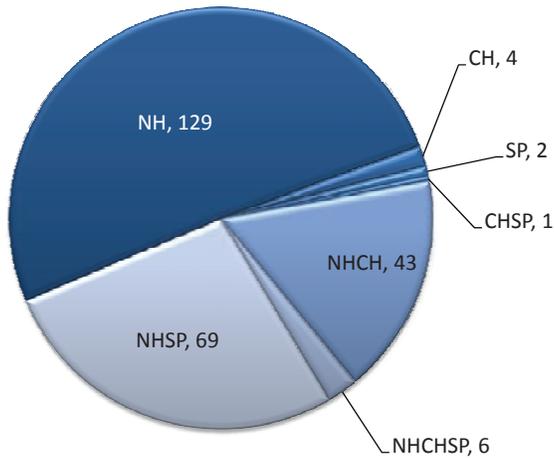
NATIONAL SYSTEM SITES AT A GLANCE:

- The national system contains 254 sites and covers an area of 175,000 square miles
- 4% of U.S. waters (0-200 nautical miles) is covered by the national system sites
- About 27% of the total area of all national system sites is considered “no-take” (where no extractive uses are allowed), due to the large, highly protected Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument
- All 21 of the national system's priority conservation objectives are addressed by national system members
- Every major ecoregion in the U.S. is represented in the national system

NOAA's National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center's mission is to facilitate the effective use of science, technology, training, and information in the planning, management, and evaluation of the nation's system of marine protected areas. The MPA Center works in partnership with federal, state, tribal, and local governments and stakeholders to develop a science-based, comprehensive national system of MPAs. These collaborative efforts will lead to a more efficient, effective use of MPAs now and in the future to conserve and sustain the nation's vital marine resources.



NUMBER OF SITES BY CONSERVATION FOCUS



CONSERVATION FOCUS

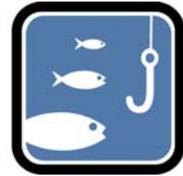
The national system has three goals: conserving and managing natural heritage, cultural heritage, and sustainable production marine resources. Almost all (97%) of the national system sites have a primary conservation focus on conserving natural heritage. Approximately 2% of sites have a primary conservation focus on conserving cultural resources, and less than 1% of sites are primarily focused on sustainable production. Although most sites were established primarily for natural heritage conservation, many also protect cultural resources. Almost half (47%) of all the national system sites have more than one conservation focus.



NH = Natural Heritage



CH = Cultural Heritage



SP = Sustainable Production

PRIORITY CONSERVATION OBJECTIVES

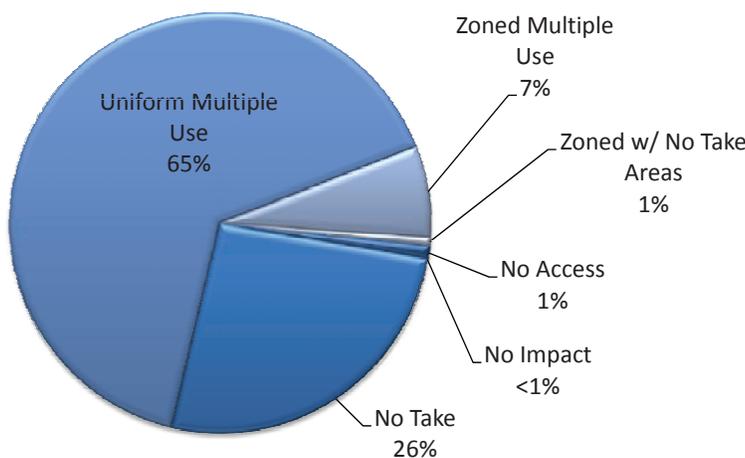
All 21 of the national system's priority conservation objectives (see Framework document on www.mpa.gov for complete list) are addressed by member sites. The majority of sites (248, or 98%) meet at least one natural heritage priority conservation objective. Approximately 143 sites (56%) meet at least one sustainable production priority conservation objective, while 82 sites (32%) meet at least one cultural heritage priority conservation objective.

Top Five Priority Conservation Objectives Addressed by Member Sites:

Natural Heritage

- Key areas that provide compatible opportunities for education and research (218)
- Areas of high species and/or habitat diversity (207)
- Key biogenic habitats (177)
- Key reproduction areas and nursery grounds (175)
- Unique or rare species, habitats and associated communities (171)

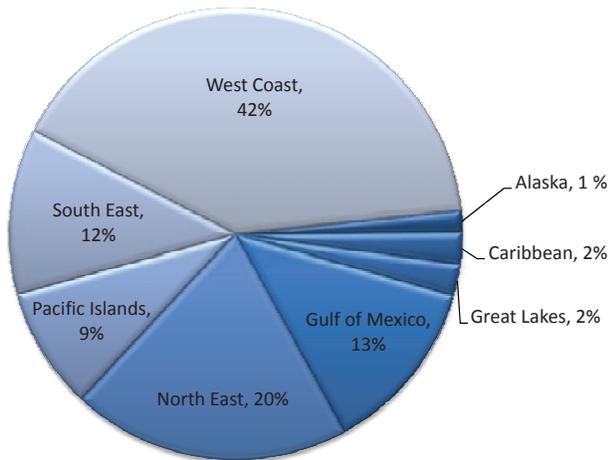
PERCENT OF AREA BY LEVEL OF PROTECTION



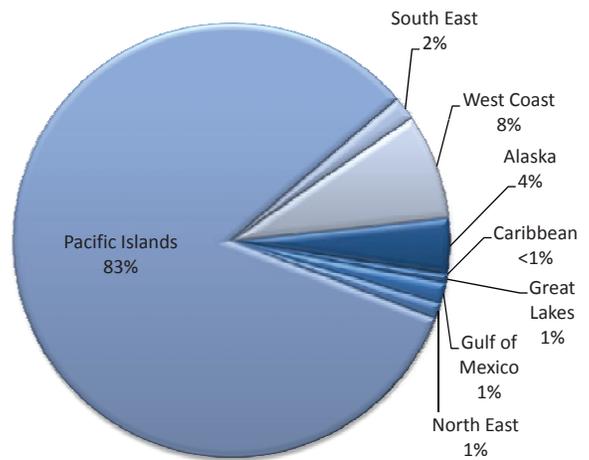
LEVEL OF PROTECTION

The majority (72%) of the total area of the national system is in either uniform or zoned multiple use sites that allow a variety of human activities, including fishing and other extractive uses. In contrast, about 27% of the area of the national system is considered no-take and prohibits the extraction or significant destruction of natural or cultural resources. Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument, a zoned no-take site that has eleven no-take zones covering approximately 44,000 square miles, makes up nearly all of the no-take area in the national system. Less than 1% of U.S. waters overall are no-take.

PERCENT OF SITES BY REGION



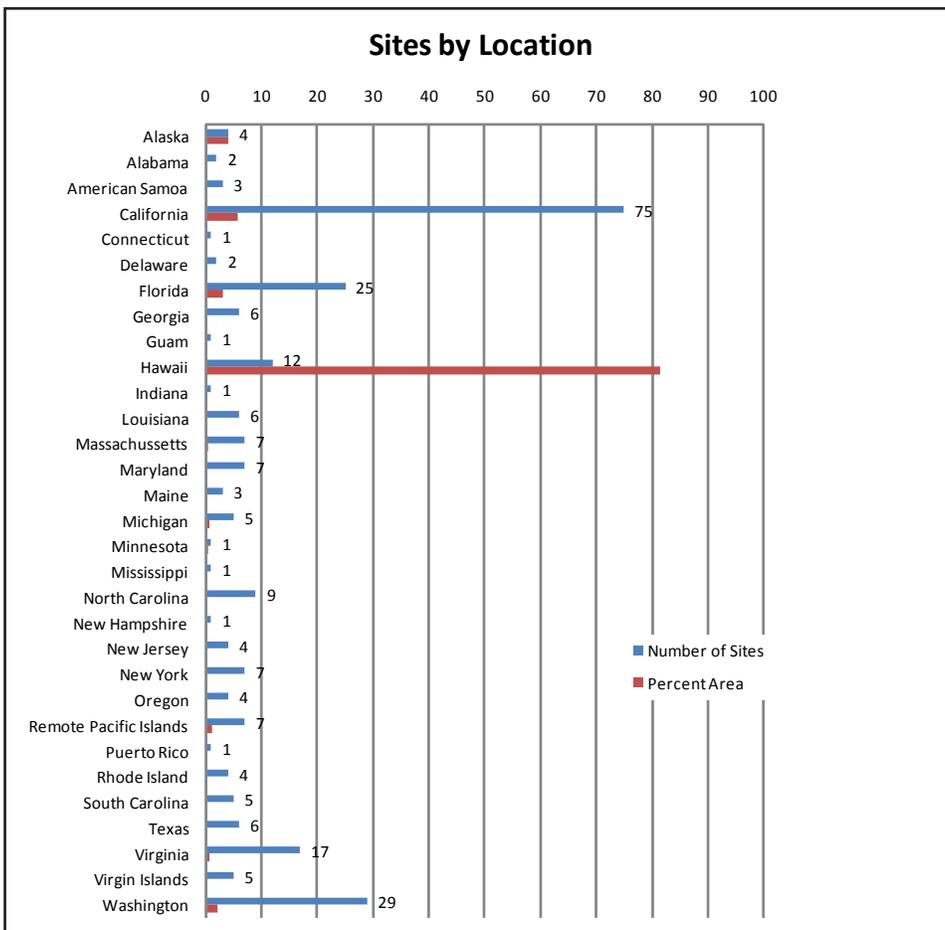
PERCENT OF AREA BY REGION



REGIONS AND LOCATIONS

The west coast (California in particular), has the highest number of sites in the national system. The Pacific Islands region has the largest area of sites in the national system, due to the size of the Papahānaumokuākea National Marine Monument in Hawaii, which extends over 140,420 square miles. Many sites in the national system are quite small, with 98 (39%) national system MPAs covering less than one square mile. In all, sites located in 31 states and territories are represented, plus additional offshore areas under federal jurisdiction.

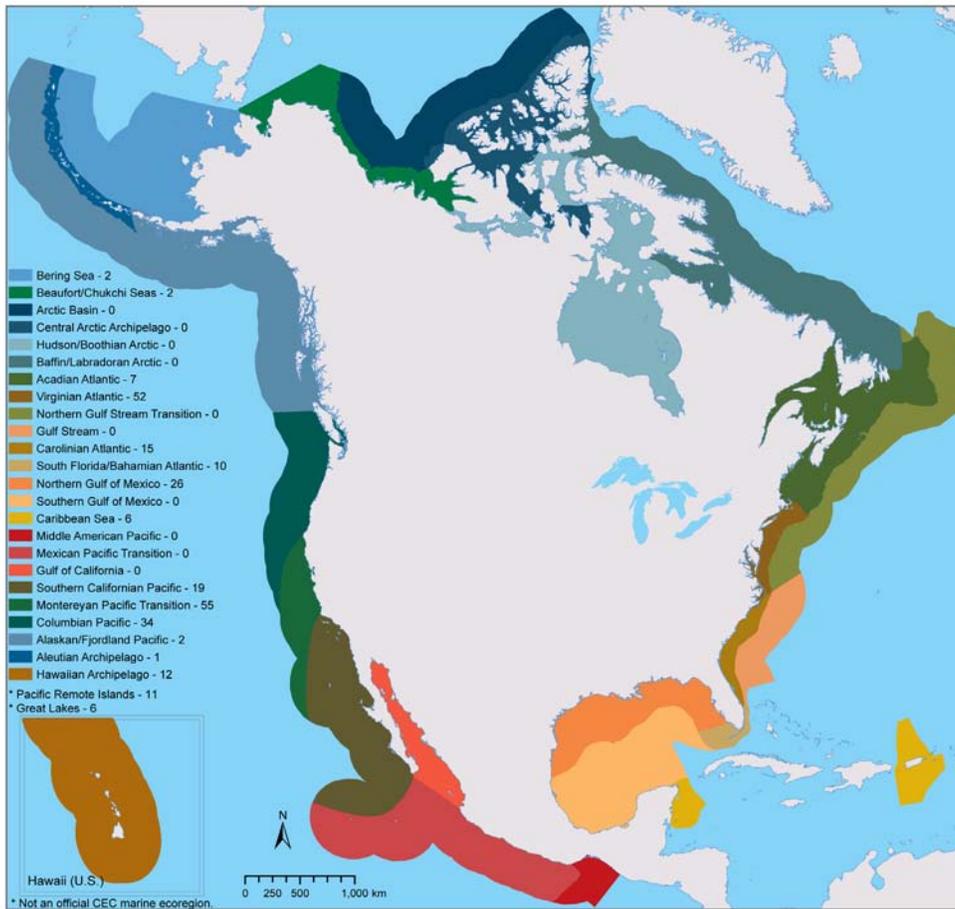
Sites by Location



PROGRAMS

Of the 254 national system sites, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages 106 sites (42%). The National Park Service manages 29 national system sites, or 11%. There are 13 (5%) National Marine Sanctuaries and five (2%) National Estuarine Research Reserve Sites included in the system. Altogether, 58% of the national system sites are managed by Federal agencies, while 37% are managed by state agencies. The remainder are managed by federal/state partnerships or territories.

SITES BY CEC MARINE ECOREGIONS



Created by the Commission for Environmental Cooperation, (CEC), the Marine Ecoregions of North America classifies marine ecoregions according to oceanographic features and geographically distinct assemblages of species from the Beaufort Sea to the Gulf of Mexico, covering the continent's territorial waters in the Pacific, Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. The largest number (55, or 22%) of national system sites are located within the Montereyan Pacific Transition marine ecoregion, which stretches along the central California coast from Point Conception to Cape Mendocino. Only one MPA is found in the Aleutian Archipelago marine ecoregion. However, the second highest number (52, or 18%) of national system sites are found in the Virginian Atlantic marine ecoregion.



The MPA Center's new interactive MPA mapping tool, available at www.mpa.gov, allows users to view boundaries and access data for more than 1,000 MPAs in the U.S., including all national system sites.

WHERE CAN I FIND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NATIONAL SYSTEM SITES?

The National Marine Protected Areas Center launched a new interactive online mapping tool that, for the first time, allows users to view boundaries and access data for more than 1,000 marine protected areas (MPAs) in the United States.

The tool provides an interface to explore MPA information that was previously limited to expert geographic information system users. The site has easy-to-use functions to visualize MPA boundaries, review MPA classification information (e.g., level of protection, managing agency, fishing restrictions), and explore all MPAs in a given location.

THE LIST OF NATIONAL SYSTEM MPAS

MPAs shaded in blue represent the 29 new members of the National System of MPAs (List is current as of June 2010)

FEDERAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Marine National Monument

Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Hawaii)

National Marine Sanctuaries

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (California)
Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (California)
Fagatele Bay National Marine Sanctuary (American Samoa)
Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary (Florida)
Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary (Texas)
Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (Georgia)
Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary (Massachusetts)
Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (California)
Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (Hawaii)
Monitor National Marine Sanctuary (North Carolina)
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (California)
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (Washington)
Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary (Michigan)

National Parks

Assateague Island National Seashore (Virginia, Maryland)
Biscayne National Park (Florida)
Buck Island Reef National Monument (US Virgin Islands)
Cabrillo National Monument (California)
Canaveral National Seashore (Florida)
Cape Cod National Seashore (Massachusetts)
Cape Hatteras National Seashore (North Carolina)
Cape Lookout National Seashore (North Carolina)
Channel Islands National Park (California)
Dry Tortugas National Park (Florida)
Everglades National Park (Florida)
Fire Island National Seashore (New York)
Gateway National Recreation Area (New York)
Glacier Bay National Park (Alaska)
Golden Gate National Recreation Area (California)
Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore (Indiana)
Isle Royale National Park (Minnesota, Michigan)
Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve (Louisiana)
Kalaupapa National Historical Park (Hawaii)
Kaloko-Honokahau National Historical Park (Hawaii)
National Park of American Samoa (American Samoa)
Olympic National Park (Washington)
Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore (Michigan)
Point Reyes National Seashore (California)
Salt River Bay National Historical Park and Ecological Preserve (US Virgin Islands)
San Juan Islands National Historical Park (Washington)
Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore (Michigan)
Virgin Islands Coral Reef National Monument (US Virgin Islands)
Virgin Islands National Park (US Virgin Islands)

National Wildlife Refuges

ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina)
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (Alaska)
Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Alaska)
Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
Baker Island National Wildlife Refuge (Hawaii)
Bandon Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon)
Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
Blackbeard Island National Wildlife Refuge (Georgia)
Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
Block Island National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge (Delaware)
Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge (Alabama)
Brazoria National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
Breton National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
Cape May National Wildlife Refuge (New Jersey)

Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina)
Cedar Island National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
Cedar Keys National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia, Maryland)
Conscience Point National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
Crocodile Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Cross Island National Wildlife Refuge (Maine)
Crystal River National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Currituck National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (California)
Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
Eastern Neck National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
Eastern Shore of Virginia National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (New Jersey)
Featherstone National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
Fisherman Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
Grand Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Mississippi, Alabama)
Grays Harbor National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
Great Bay National Wildlife Refuge (New Hampshire)
Great White Heron National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Guam National Wildlife Refuge (Guam)
Harris Neck National Wildlife Refuge (Georgia)
Howland Island National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
Huron National Wildlife Refuge (Michigan)
Island Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
J.N. Ding Darling National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Jarvis Island National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
John H. Chafee National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
Johnston Island National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands, Hawaii)
Key West National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Kingman Reef National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge (Washington, Oregon)
Lower Suwannee National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Mackay Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia, North Carolina)
Marin Islands National Wildlife Refuge (California)
Martin National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
Mashpee National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
Matlacha Pass National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Midway Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Hawaii)
Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
National Key Deer Refuge (Florida)
Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon)
Ninigret National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
Nomans Land Island National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
Palmyra Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
Parker River National Wildlife Refuge (Massachusetts)
Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Pinckney Island National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina)
Pine Island National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Pinellas National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
Plum Tree Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
Pond Island National Wildlife Refuge (Maine)
Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge (Delaware)
Protection Island National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge (Maine)
Rose Atoll National Wildlife Refuge (Pacific Islands)
Sabine National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
Sachuest Point National Wildlife Refuge (Rhode Island)
San Bernard National Wildlife Refuge (Texas)
San Pablo Bay National Wildlife Refuge (California)
Seatuck National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
Shell Keys National Wildlife Refuge (Louisiana)
Siletz Bay National Wildlife Refuge (Oregon)
St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
St. Vincent National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)

Stewart B. McKinney National Wildlife Refuge (Connecticut)
Supawna Meadows National Wildlife Refuge (New Jersey)
Susquehanna National Wildlife Refuge (Maryland)
Swanquarter National Wildlife Refuge (North Carolina)
Sweetwater Marsh National Wildlife Refuge (California)
Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge (Florida)
[Tybee National Wildlife Refuge \(South Carolina\)](#)
Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge (South Carolina)
Wallops Island National Wildlife Refuge (Virginia)
[Wassaw National Wildlife Refuge \(Georgia\)](#)
Wertheim National Wildlife Refuge (New York)
Willapa National Wildlife Refuge (Washington)
[Wolf National Wildlife Refuge \(Georgia\)](#)
Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge (Alaska)

FEDERAL / STATE PARTNERSHIP MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

National Estuarine Research Reserves

Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve (Florida)
Jacques Cousteau National Estuarine Research Reserve (New Jersey)
[Jobs Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve \(Puerto Rico\)](#)
Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Florida)
Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (Massachusetts)

STATE & TERRITORIAL MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

American Samoa

Aua

California

Ano Nuevo Area of Special Biological Significance
Ano Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area
Asilomar State Marine Reserve
Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area
Big Creek State Marine Reserve
Bird Rock Area of Special Biological Significance
Bodega Area of Special Biological Significance
Cambria State Marine Conservation Area
Carmel Bay Area of Special Biological Significance
Carmel Bay State Marine Conservation Area
Carmel Pinnacles State Marine Reserve
Del Mar Area of Special Biological Significance
Double Point Area of Special Biological Significance
Duxbury Reef Area of Special Biological Significance
Edward F. Ricketts State Marine Conservation Area
Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area
Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve
Farallon Islands Area of Special Biological Significance
Farnsworth Bank Area of Special Biological Significance
Gerstle Cove Area of Special Biological Significance
Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area
Heisler Park Area of Special Biological Significance
Irvine Coast Area of Special Biological Significance
James V. Fitzgerald Area of Special Biological Significance
Jughandle Cove Area of Special Biological Significance
Julia Pfeiffer Burns Area of Special Biological Significance
King Range Area of Special Biological Significance
La Jolla Area of Special Biological Significance
Laguna Point to Latiga Point Area of Special Biological Significance
Lovers Point State Marine Reserve
Moro Cojo Slough State Marine Reserve
Morro Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area
Morro Bay State Marine Reserve
Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve
Northwest Santa Catalina Area of Special Biological Significance
Pacific Grove Area of Special Biological Significance
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens State Marine Conservation Area
Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area
Piedras Blancas State Marine Reserve
Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area
Point Buchon State Marine Reserve
Point Lobos Area of Special Biological Significance

Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area
Point Lobos State Marine Reserve
Point Reyes Headlands Area of Special Biological Significance
Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area
Point Sur State Marine Reserve
Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area
Redwoods National Park Area of Special Biological Significance
Robert E. Badham Area of Special Biological Significance
Salmon Creek Coast Area of Special Biological Significance
San Clemente Area of Special Biological Significance
San Diego Scripps Area of Special Biological Significance
San Nicolas Island & Begg Rock Area of Special Biological Significance
Santa Barbara & Anacapa Island Area of Special Biological Significance
Santa Rosa & Santa Cruz Island Area of Special Biological Significance
Saunders Reef Area of Special Biological Significance
Soquel Canyon State Marine Reserve
Southeast Santa Catalina Area of Special Biological Significance
Trinidad Head Area of Special Biological Significance
Vandenberg State Marine Reserve
Western Santa Catalina Area of Special Biological Significance
White Rock (Cambria) State Marine Conservation Area

Hawaii

Ahihi Kina'u Natural Area Reserve
Hanauma Bay Marine Life Conservation District, Oahu
Kaho'olawe Island Reserve
Kealahou Bay Marine Life Conservation District
Molokini Shoal Marine Life Conservation District
Pupukea Marine Life Conservation District, Oahu
West Hawaii Regional Fisheries Management Area

Maryland

U-1105 Black Panther Historic Shipwreck Preserve

Virgin Islands

[East End Marine Park](#)

Virginia

Bethel Beach Natural Area Preserve
Blue Crab Sanctuary
Dameron Marsh Natural Area Preserve
False Cape State Park
Hughlett Point Natural Area Preserve
Kiptopeke State Park
Savage Neck Dunes Natural Area Preserve

Washington

Admiralty Head Preserve
Argyle Lagoon San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
Blake Island Underwater Park
Brackett's Landing Shoreline Sanctuary Conservation Area
Cherry Point Aquatic Reserve
Cypress Island Aquatic Reserve
Deception Pass Underwater Park
False Bay San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
Fidalgo Bay Aquatic Reserve
Friday Harbor San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
Haro Strait Special Management Fishery Area
Maury Island Aquatic Reserve
San Juan Channel & Upright Channel Special Management Fishery Area
[San Juan County/Cypress Island Marine Biological Preserve](#)
Orchard Rocks Conservation Area
Shaw Island San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
South Puget Sound Wildlife Area
Sund Rock Conservation Area
Yellow and Low Islands San Juan Islands Marine Preserve
Zelia Schultz/Protection Island Marine Preserve