

# ASBS vs. MPA



Malibu boasts an impressive stretch of gorgeous coast teeming with life in the kelp forests, rocky reefs and sandy ocean floor. In order to sustain the vibrant marine communities statewide under the pressure of human activities, California maintains a network of protected areas along the California coast. Three protected areas fall within Malibu's boundaries, including an Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS) and two Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The ASBS and MPAs were designed to protect fragile biological and marine communities, protect marine natural heritage, and improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems. While both of these types of protected areas are meant to sustain healthy marine ecosystems, their policies for achieving these goals differ in some ways.

## ASBS

ASBS #24 was designated by the State in 1974 and stretches approximately 22 miles from Latigo Point in Malibu to Laguna Point in Ventura County. ASBS protections are intended to maintain natural water quality standards by preventing pollution from entering the ASBS. ASBS regulations prohibit waste, namely the pollutants that can be transported through runoff, from entering the protected area through direct drains, storm drains, and natural streams and creeks.

## MPA

The two MPAs in Malibu cover a continuous area from Paradise Cove to El Matador State Beach, but the area is split into the Point Dume State Marine Reserve and the Point Dume State Marine Conservation Area at the westernmost tip of Point Dume near Zuma Creek. These MPAs went into effect January 1, 2012. MPA regulations focus on extractive activities including fishing and kelp harvesting. All fishing and harvesting is prohibited in the Marine Reserve, which is the most protective of MPA designations. The Conservation Area allows limited recreational and commercial fishing, which is detailed at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/scmpas\\_list.asp](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/scmpas_list.asp).

As members of the Malibu community, we have a responsibility to facilitate and participate in the stewardship of our marine resources. Simply start by being aware of these special areas and educating your neighbors.