

Patiria miniata

Dermasterias imbricata



TIDEPOOL COALITION

Within these areas, no risk of change is considered acceptable unless it is part of a natural process

Ten Questions and Answers about the Tidepool Coalition Position and Policies

1. What is the Tidepool Coalition? The Tidepool Coalition is a Pacific Grove based ad hoc grassroots marine conservation organization. It was formed three years ago as a result of the community's concern over the continued human degradation and commercial exploitation of the city's preeminent tidelands.

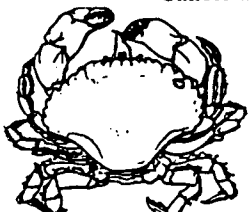
2. Why is there a need for tideland conservation of our city's shoreline? These fragile marine resources will not withstand too many more years of chipping away by indiscriminate legal and illegal collecting. These pristine and once productive tidelands, especially the Pt. Pinos tidepools, have no equal in the temperate zones of North America. Conservation measures must be undertaken immediately to preserve what is left in the way of biological diversity and abundance of marine life. In 1963 by legislative action, the State designated our city's tidelands as the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge under Department of Fish and Game Code 10660. But even this legislation did not give the city's tidelands full and total protection.

3. Why is the Coalition and its supporters concerned about preserving our local coastal resources? The general public and members of the State Legislature should be made aware that California tidepools are being depleted at an alarming rate by sheer human impact. Some in southern California, such as Orange County, have been so thoroughly devastated or "loved to death," they are almost beyond restoration. One recent study done by researchers at Orange Coast College showed a 90% reduction in organisms with more than 100 species gone. These findings were presented to the USC Academy of Sciences in the Spring, 2000. We also recognize that there may be secondary non human effects resulting in changes of diversity and abundance of marine organisms due to oceanographic factors, warming trends and sea otter predation. These factors are beyond human influence. However, the point being made here is that the Monterey Peninsula tidepools are presently at the same ecological crossroads as those in southern California were some fifteen years ago. They need responsible conservation efforts now.

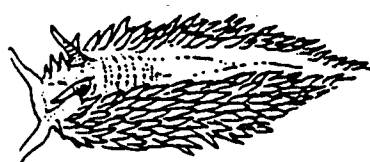
4. What is our position in general on Marine Life Reserves along the California coast? We agree with the comments and scientific research data provided by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) that totally protected Marine Life Reserves are of great value to coastal ecosystems. We also endorse the philosophy and proposals stated in the Marine Life Protection Act, Section 2850, especially the section on Marine Life Reserves. We believe that the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge should be a Marine Protected Area in which all extractive activities are prohibited with the exception of minimal scientific take to determine the health and status of the resource. It is our position that hook and line shore fishing does not present a problem and should be permitted. Any other activity that could upset the ecological functions of the area should be prohibited. While to the extent feasible, the area would remain open to the public for managed enjoyment and study, but should exist to the extent practical in an undisturbed and unpolluted state.

5. Question: What has the Tidepool Coalition done to accomplish conservation goals? In order to further the protection and preservation of the City's marine refuge, the Coalition and its supporters circulated a successful Peoples' Tidepool Conservation Initiative in the Spring, 2000. In essence, it was implementing Section 1002 (h) of the Fish and Game Code which states, "A permit under this section does not authorize the taking of fish or mammals from the ocean waters of this State which are within the boundaries of any city if the city has filed with the Department an Objection to the taking." Twenty percent of the voters of Pacific Grove (1700+) signed the Initiative petition and the Pacific Grove City Council adopted the Initiative as City Ordinance 00-12 rather than placing it on the November, 2000 Ballot. On June 7, 2000 the City of Pacific Grove filed with the Department of Fish and Game and Fish and Game Commission a legal Objection to the taking of marine life from the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge.

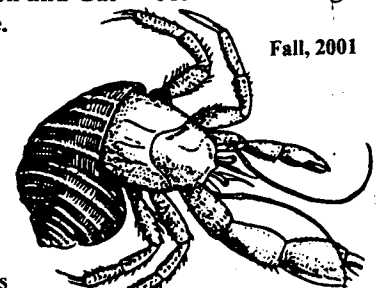
Cancer antennarius



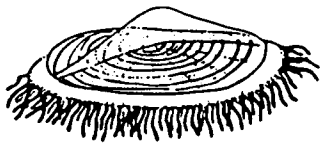
Aeolidia papillosa



Fall, 2001



Pagurus



Velella velella



Hopkinsia rosacea

Nassarius mendicus



6. What is the status of permit collecting and harvesting of marine organisms in the Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge? The State Legislature enacted this legal provision, DFG 1002 (h) to protect a city's marine resources from being exploited. Historically, past Pacific Grove administrations and concerned citizens through the years have achieved legislation with the help of their elected representatives to protect the city's marine resources. At the present time, commercial, educational and scientific collecting are not permitted, except for the previous stated exceptions.

7. Who supports immediate conservation efforts and protection of our local tidepools? The Coalition is made up of a handful of local environmentalists, marine divers, conservationists, activists and supported by thousands of citizens and users of the resource. The goals of the Coalition are simple and direct in its efforts to establish a fully protected Marine Reserve. The protection and restoration of Pacific Grove's tidepools is also endorsed or supported by organizations including the Sierra Club, Peninsula Democratic Club, Rocky Intertidal Preservation Project of Orange Coast College, Ocean Futures, Sea Shepherd Conservation Society and Friends of Ed Ricketts Underwater Park. Individuals supporting tidepool conservation include Assemblyman Fred Keeley, Jean-Michel Cousteau, Paul Watson, Coastal Commissioner David Potter, Chuck Davis and Bob Talbot, nationally recognized marine divers and underwater photographers, Ed Cooper, local diver and marine activist, Dr. Dennis Kelly, marine biologist and professor at Orange Coast College and Dr. Steven Murray, Professor of Marine Sciences, California State University Fullerton.

8. Who opposes the efforts of the Coalition? The area's largest marine educational institution has opposed our efforts because the Initiative has restricted harvesting activities within the city's easily accessed Refuge. The local Administration of the National Marine Sanctuary has promulgated to the public a position of not supporting the people's Tidepool Conservation Initiative. Rather, their position favors a 'non regulatory' approach to tidepool management.

9. What is the Coalition's position on the implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (AB 993)? We support the Legislature and Department of Fish and Game's efforts to reclassify and categorize the number of Refuges along the Coast of California. We believe there is a great need for implementation of Marine Life Reserves which have a proven value, especially "no take" reserves. At the present time, according to information from the Department of Fish and Game, there are only 14 of the 220,000 square miles of State and Federal waters off California, or 1/6000th of 1%, set aside as genuine 'no take' areas. It is obvious that there is a serious lack of coordinated marine conservation of California's marine resources. An efficient and effective MPA system should be designed to protect habitat ecosystems, conserve biological diversity, provide a true sanctuary for fish and other sea life, and most importantly, provide a reference point against which scientists can measure changes elsewhere in the marine environment and may help to rebuild depleted fisheries and intertidal resources. The citizens of this community, by way of the Initiative process, have sent a clear message that under the Marine Life Protection Act, the Pacific Grove Marine Garden Fish Refuge must also be given State Marine Reserve Status which states "that injuring, damaging, taking or possessing any living geological or cultural marine resource (take) is prohibited. Some scientific collecting by permit may be allowed."

10. What can the average citizen do to support Tideland Conservation? Citizens and the public can make the difference. Even though Pacific Grove's Marine Garden Fish Refuge lies within the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, it is a refuge and a sanctuary in name only for these tidepool invertebrates. You can help to make these preeminent tidelands a real refuge and a true sanctuary by writing to your State Senators and Assemblymen. Let them know that California's nearshore marine creatures (invertebrates) need greater protection. We must all act as responsible stewards of our natural marine legacy so it will be here for the enjoyment of future generations.

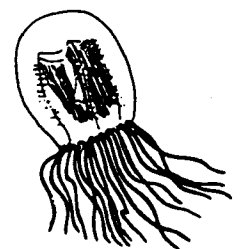
Most importantly, write to the California Department of Fish and Game and let them know what you want in the way of local Marine Protected Areas. Persons to contact are:

Paul Reilly
20 Lower Radsdale Drive, Suite 100
Monterey, California 93940

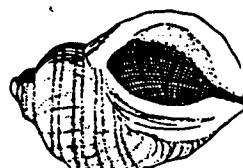
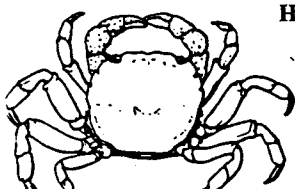
Patricia Wolf, Marine Region Manager
4665 Lampson Avenue, Suite C
Los Alamitos, California 90720

The Tidepool Coalition can be reached at P.O. Box 433, Pacific Grove, California 93950

Hemigrapsus nudus



Polyorchis penicillata

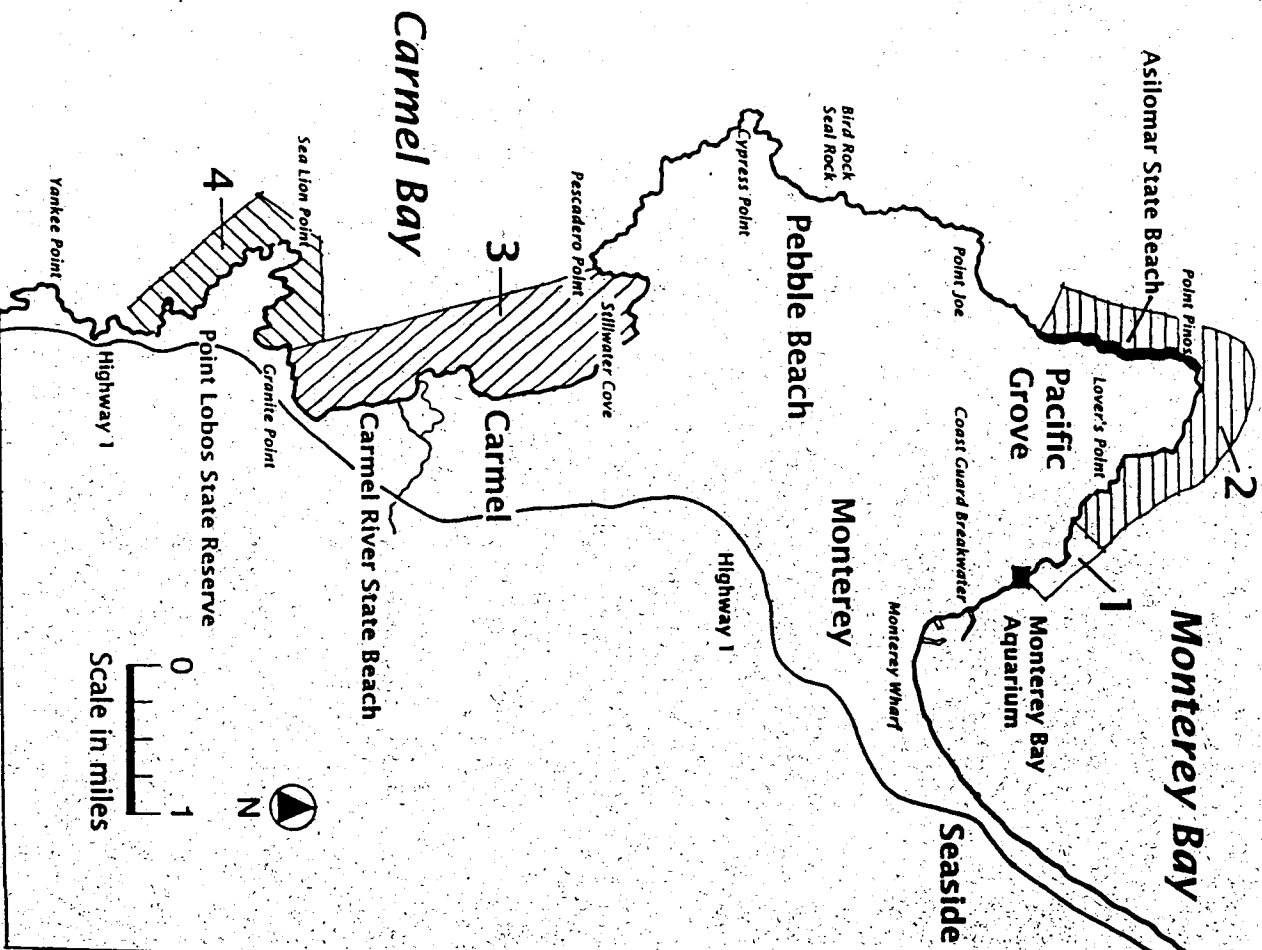


Thais emarginata

Taking fish, including invertebrates, is permitted as specified in Department of Fish and Game regulations.

Special regulations apply in:

- 1 HOPKINS MARINE REFUGE**
Boating and diving is allowed, but no taking of marine plants, fish or invertebrates. Please do not disturb experiments in progress. Refuge includes waters to 60 feet deep.
- 2 PACIFIC GROVE MARINE GARDENS FISH REFUGE**
Boating and diving allowed. Fishing and spearfishing is permitted for fin fish and eels. A valid sport fishing license is required. No taking of any other marine life or shellfish is permitted. Refuge includes water to 60 feet deep. The refuge includes Asilomar State Beach.
- 3 CARMEL BAY ECOLOGICAL RESERVE**
Boating and diving allowed. Fishing and spearfishing is permitted for fin fish and eels. A valid sport fishing license is required. No taking of any other marine life, shellfish, or marine plants is permitted. The Reserve includes water to 90 feet deep in area of the Pinnacles. See the map for the remainder of the Reserve boundaries.
- 4 POINT LOBOS STATE RESERVE**
Entry permitted only through main gate at Pt. Lobos State Reserve. Boating and diving allowed. Diving in Pt. Lobos allowed only in Whalers Cove and Bluefin Cove by permit only, (see Pt. Lobos dive brochure). No fishing or taking of any kind is permitted. Reserve boundaries are approximately 500 yards from shoreline.



WILL YOU HELP US PRESERVE AN IRREPLACEABLE RESOURCE?

The fascinating community of marine organisms that inhabit the intertidal zone of California's coastline is in serious danger. Indiscriminate, mass collecting of specimens and the disturbance of the habitat have caused an alarming decline in the population of many species.

The tide pools, rocky pockets which retain water when the tide goes out, and the intertidal zone, that area between high and low tides, host an extremely rich and diverse marine community. Making their home here are species of plants and animals including seaweeds, barnacles, anemones, sponges, worms, snails, sea slugs, clams, oysters, scallops, seastars, chitons, octopuses, abalones, periwinkles, limpets, mussels, cockles, shrimps, crabs, sea urchins, and fish.

The ecology of the intertidal zone, as complex as it is fragile, adds a great deal to the natural values of state coastal parks and refuges. Because of the fragile nature of this marine community, it is easily disturbed. Such a simple act as turning over a rock can expose certain immobile marine animals to the fatal rays of the sun. Therefore, regulations have been adopted to protect most of the invertebrates in the intertidal zone of the state. Your cooperation in observing these regulations is essential if the unique marine community of the intertidal zone is to be preserved for this and future generations.

TIDEPOOLS

*The sea spat out along its shore
logs and needs and shells galore.
It offered from its warm, green, deep
treasures to view, to ponder,
but the shore to keep.*



NOTICE:

This is only a guide to this area's special regulations. Always consult the Department of Fish and Game's regulations.



Lingcod
(*Ophiodon elongatus*)

Call any State Park office or the Monterey Department of Fish and Game office at (408) 649-2870 for current information.

No commercial fishing is allowed in reserves or refuges.

A current California sport fishing license is required for any person 16 years and older to take fish and invertebrates. Taking of fish and invertebrates is restricted by seasons, as well as, bag and size limits.



Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Fish and Game
State of California - The Resources Agency

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Sport Fishing Guide Reserves, Refuges, and State Parks of the Monterey Bay Area

