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## More protection established for black abalone

### **From staff reports**

Critical habitat for black abalone has been established around the Channel Islands and at other locations along the California coast to help protect the endangered species.

The designation mandates that development in those areas that involves a federal agency be accompanied by a study of the impact on the abalone.

The islands affected include Anacapa, Santa Cruz, Santa Rosa, San Miguel, Santa Barbara and Santa Catalina. Stretches along the mainland also are listed on maps released by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which created the habitat areas.

Abalone were once plentiful along the coast, but their numbers steeply declined in the 1980s due to a disease called withering foot. Overfishing and poaching of the mollusks also contributed to the demise.

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