



## What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean or estuarine waters. California's MPA Network consists of 124 areas with varying levels of protection and 14 special closures, all designed to help safeguard the state's marine ecosystems. Most marine conservation areas such as Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

One goal for California's MPAs was to strategically place them near each other to form an interconnected network that would help to preserve the flow of life between marine ecosystems. Within that network each MPA has unique goals and regulations, and non-consumptive activities, permitted scientific research, monitoring, and educational pursuits may be allowed.

## Why was this location chosen for a state marine conservation area?

One of the goals for Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy beach, rocky shore, offshore rocks, and soft seafloor habitat found there. Large offshore rocks support Aleutian Canada geese and breeding seabirds, including some of California's only breeding fork-tailed storm petrels and tufted puffins, and large rookeries of great blue herons, black-crowned night herons, and snowy egrets (farthest north in the western U.S.). Shallow rocky reef habitat is used by a variety of fish, including nearshore rockfish species. This MPA also provides nearly 14 square miles of protected forage habitat for marine mammals such as Steller's sea lions.

Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



**Report poachers and polluters**  
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or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



## Quick Facts: Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 13.99 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 124 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
 Sand/mud: 12.48 square miles  
 Rock: 3.20 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing  
See Regulations On Back

No Collecting

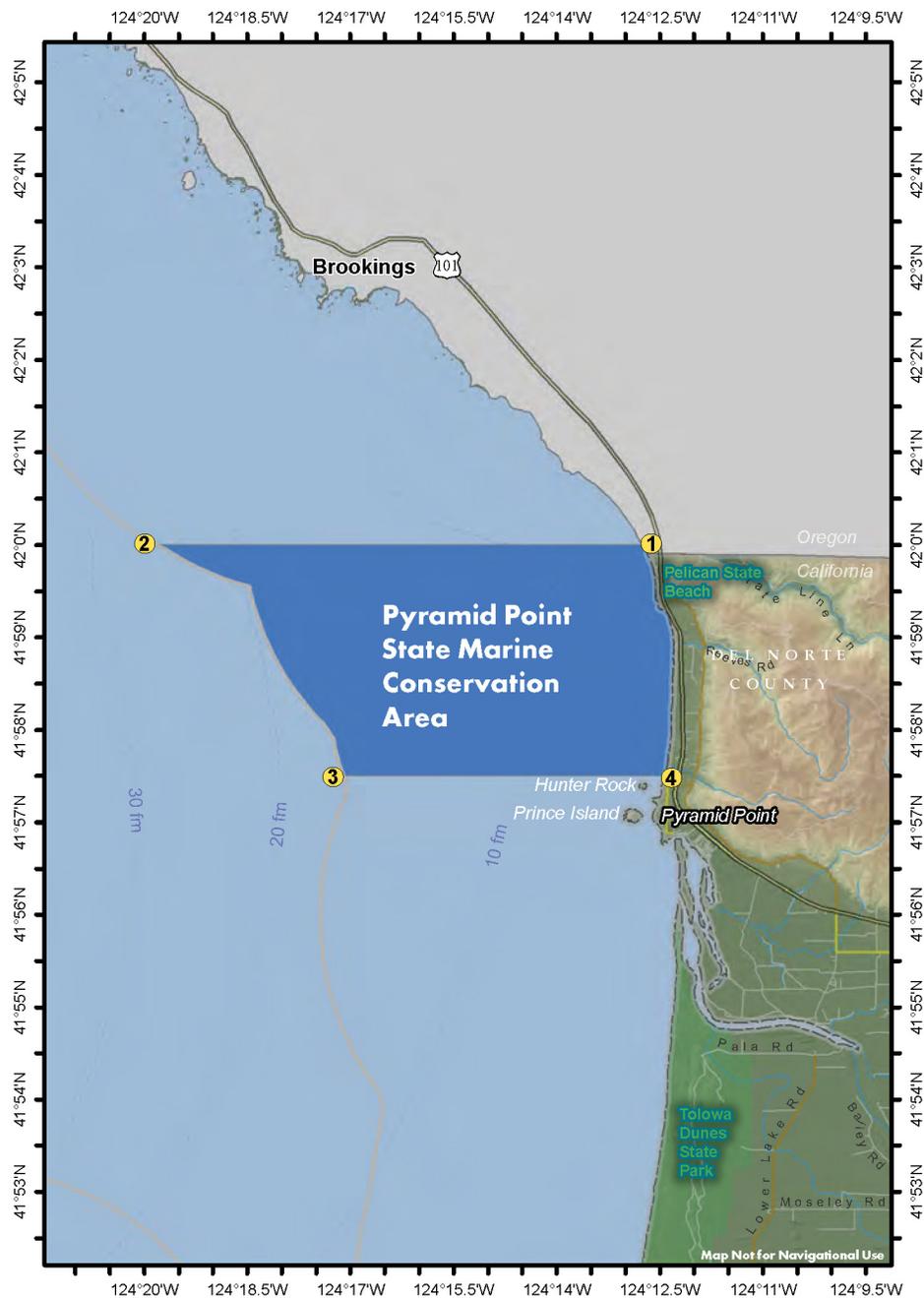
## Further Information:

- MPA Website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap)
- Email: [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov)

**Photos - Upper:** Shoreline at Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo by A.Lui **Lower right:** Striped shore crab, barnacles, mussels and snails at Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Rosa Laucci, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Surf smelt. photo © Rosa Laucci, CC BY-NC 2.0

# Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area

Northern California - Del Norte County



Version 2, September 2022

## Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area Boundaries and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

### Boundary:

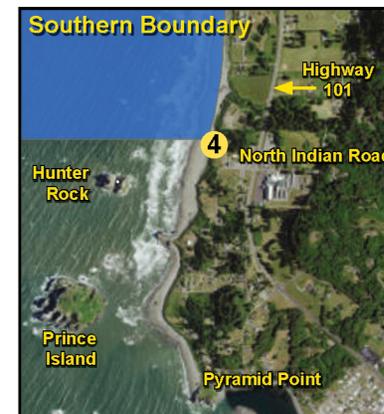
This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 42° 00.000' N. lat. 124° 12.735' W. long. ①
- 42° 00.000' N. lat. 124° 19.814' W. long. ② thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 41° 57.500' N. lat. 124° 17.101' W. long. ③, and
- 41° 57.500' N. lat. 124° 12.423' W. long. ④

### Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

- a. The recreational take of surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian-type throw net is allowed.
- b. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations for Pyramid Point State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation [previously the Smith River Rancheria].



Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632. View these regulations online at [www.wildlife.ca.gov/CCR-T14-MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/CCR-T14-MPAs).