

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 Van Damme 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 Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor, rocky reefs and kelp forests within this cove. Sheltered from open ocean waves, the conservation area's numerous channels, rocky reefs, and caves are home to sea urchins, abalone, giant green anemone, nudibranchs, sea cucumbers, and coralline algae. Rockfish, cabezon, greenling, lingcod, and perch swim through forests of bull kelp and giant kelp in search of a meal. At low tide, harbor seals are often seen resting on offshore rocks.

[Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area](#) replaced a previous marine protected area in this location, and provides protections similar to the earlier marine protected area. The conservation area shares a land-side boundary with [Van Damme State Park](#). 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

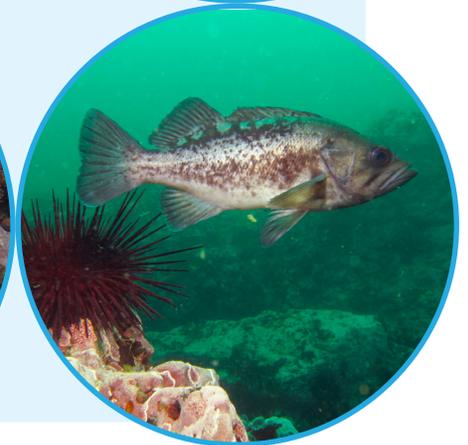
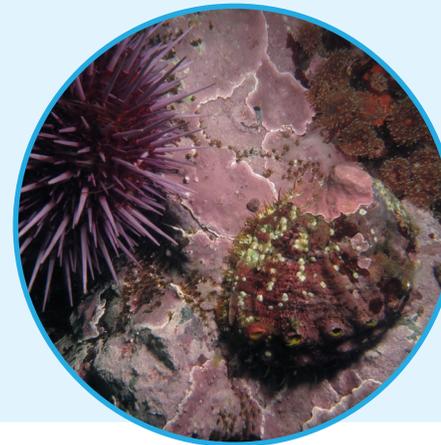
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



Quick Facts: Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.06 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.7 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 17 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 0.03 square miles
Rock: 0.06 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing

Collecting
See Regulations On Back

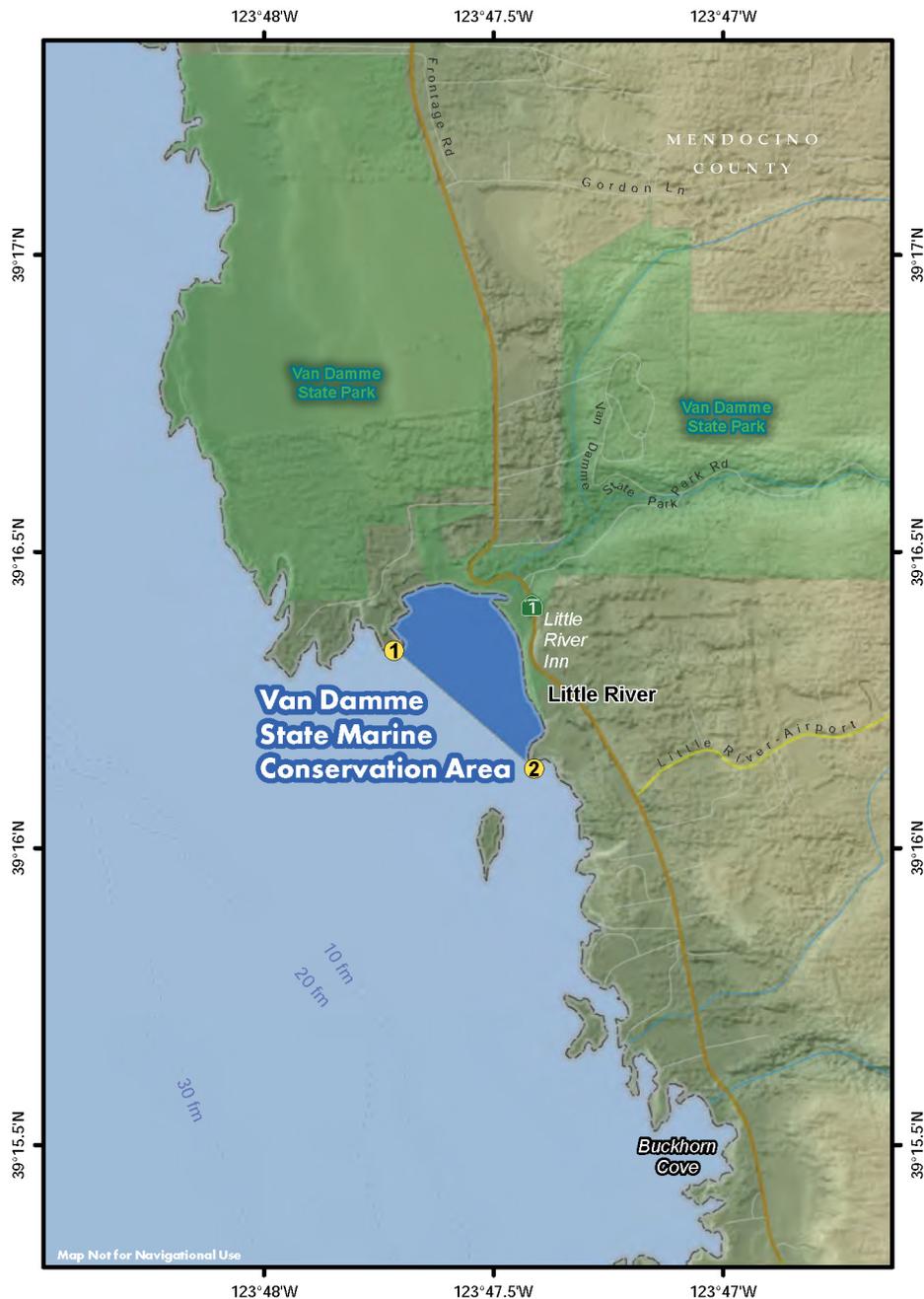
Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: The beach at Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area. *photo* © Leslie Kashiwada **Lower right:** Red sea urchin and black rockfish near the conservation area. *photo* © Kevin Joe **Lower left:** Purple sea urchin, pinto abalone, and crustose coralline algae near the conservation area. *photo* © Kevin Joe

Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area

Northern California - Mendocino County



Van Damme State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and a straight line connecting the following points:

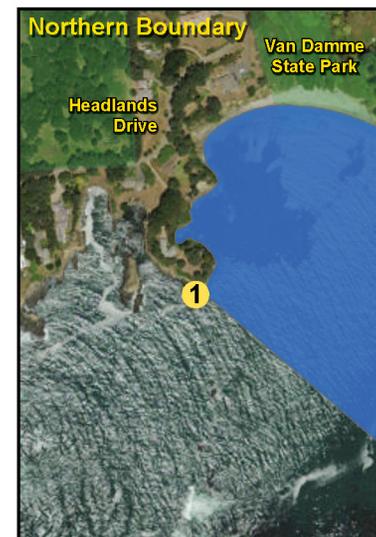
39° 16.335' N. lat. 123° 47.712' W. long. ①; and

39° 16.147' N. lat. 123° 47.429' W. long. ②

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. All recreational take is allowed in accordance with current regulations.
- b. All commercial take is allowed in accordance with current regulations, except the commercial take of bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*) and giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) is prohibited.



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.