

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

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine 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. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Richardson Rock State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level of protection.

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 reserve?

One of the goals for Richardson Rock State Marine Reserve is to protect the sandy seafloor, and rocky pinnacle and reef habitat found there. Large rocky outcroppings with sheer, vertical walls, holes, and crevices provide habitat for white-spotted rose anemones, rock scallops, tubeworms, and nudibranchs, as well as octopus and wolf-eels. Lingcod, California sheephead, and large schools of rockfish flourish among the reserve's reefs and pinnacles, while California halibut, brittle stars, and sea cucumber traverse the deep sandy seafloor. Seals and sea lions from nearby San Miguel Island find plentiful hunting grounds around Richardson Rock and the many smaller rocks within the reserve, while Laysan albatross scan the water's surface for squid, small fish, or fish eggs to eat.

Richardson Rock State Marine Reserve shares a border with the federal Richardson Rock Marine Reserve, and overlaps a portion of [Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



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followed by the details.



### Quick Facts: Richardson Rock State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 40.75 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 558 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Rock: 0.13 square miles  
Sand/mud: 0.68 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

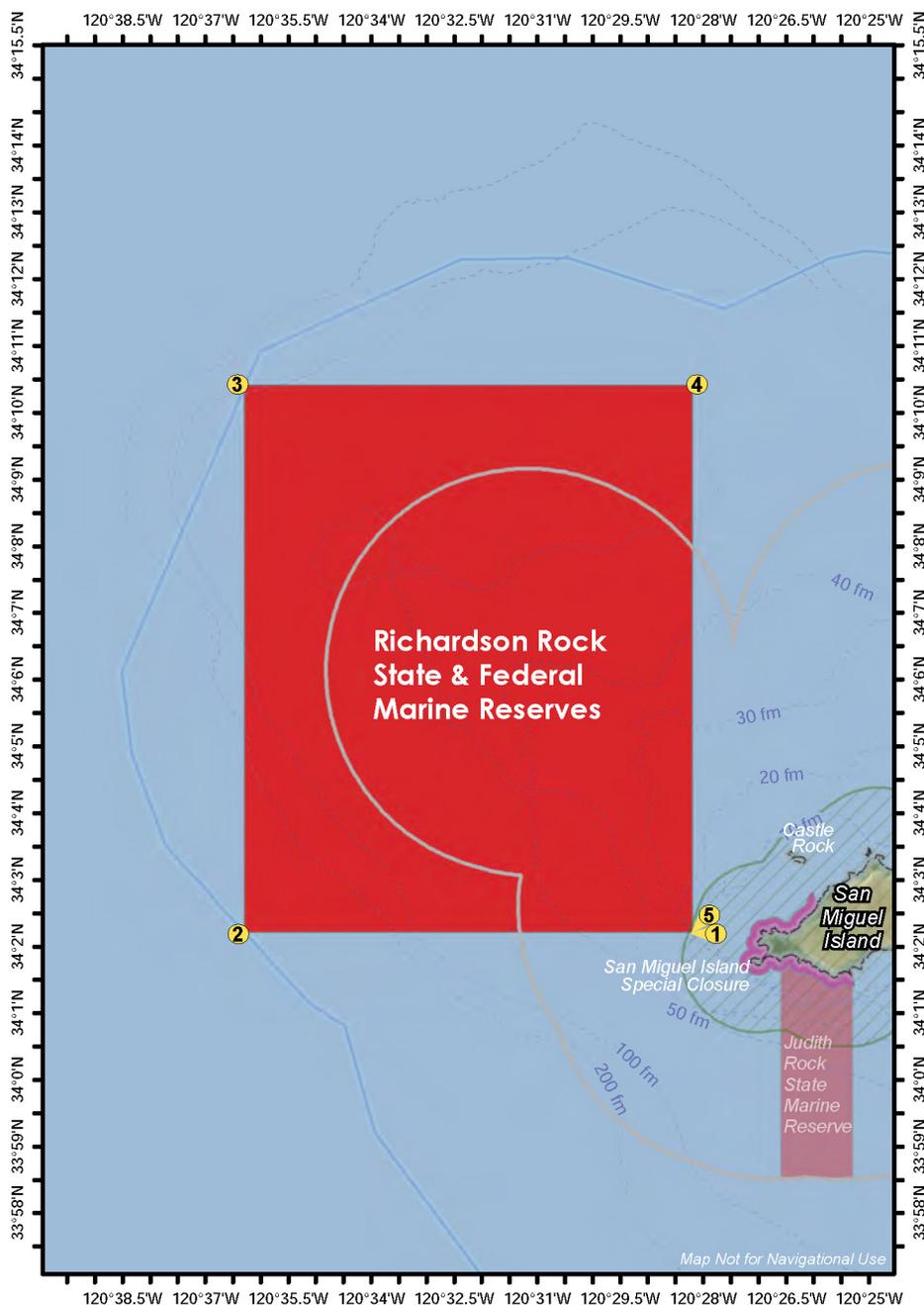
No Fishing

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: Waves crash on Richardson Rock, photo © R. Schwemmer CINMS/NOAA.  
Lower right: Male California sheephead at the reserve, photo © Tom Turner CC BY-NC 2.0  
Lower left: Three-lined aeolid at the reserve, photo © Craig Hoover CC BY-NC 2.0.



## Richardson Rock State and Federal Marine Reserves Boundary and Regulations

This area includes Richardson Rock State Marine Reserve and the adjoining federal Richardson Rock Marine Reserve\*. Coordinates are provided for outer boundaries of the joined state and federal areas.

### Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line of Richardson Rock and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 34° 02.211' N. lat. 120° 28.200' W. long. ①;
- 34° 02.211' N. lat. 120° 36.290' W. long. ②;
- 34° 10.400' N. lat. 120° 36.290' W. long. ③;
- 34° 10.400' N. lat. 120° 28.200' W. long. ④; and
- 34° 02.211' N. lat. 120° 28.200' W. long. ⑤

### Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

\* The state reserve and federal reserve share identical regulations. For state reserve boundaries only, see CCR Title 14, Section 632. For federal reserve boundaries only, see Code of Federal Regulations, Federal Register 15 Part 922 and 50 CFR Part 660.

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/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network).