

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 Skunk Point 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 Skunk Point State Marine Reserve is to protect the surfgrass, sandy seafloor, rocky reef, and kelp forest habitat found at this location, where warm water currents from the tropics and cold water currents from Alaska converge. The resulting rich and varied marine life here includes many different species. Hulking elephant seals and tiny snowy plovers use different parts of the sandy beach to rest and raise their young. The reserve's Abalone Rocks Marsh is another important resting, feeding, and nesting site for migratory birds and resident waterfowl. Perch, rock scallops, and kelp bass shelter and forage in the surfgrass beds, rocky reefs, and kelp forest offshore.

Skunk Point State Marine Reserve was established as one of 13 Channel Islands MPAs in 2003, and re-established as part of the statewide [MPA Network](#) in 2012. The reserve overlaps a portion of the [Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#) and [Channel Islands National Park](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species 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: Skunk Point State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 1.47 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.5 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 83 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 0.22 square miles
Sand/mud: 0.71 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

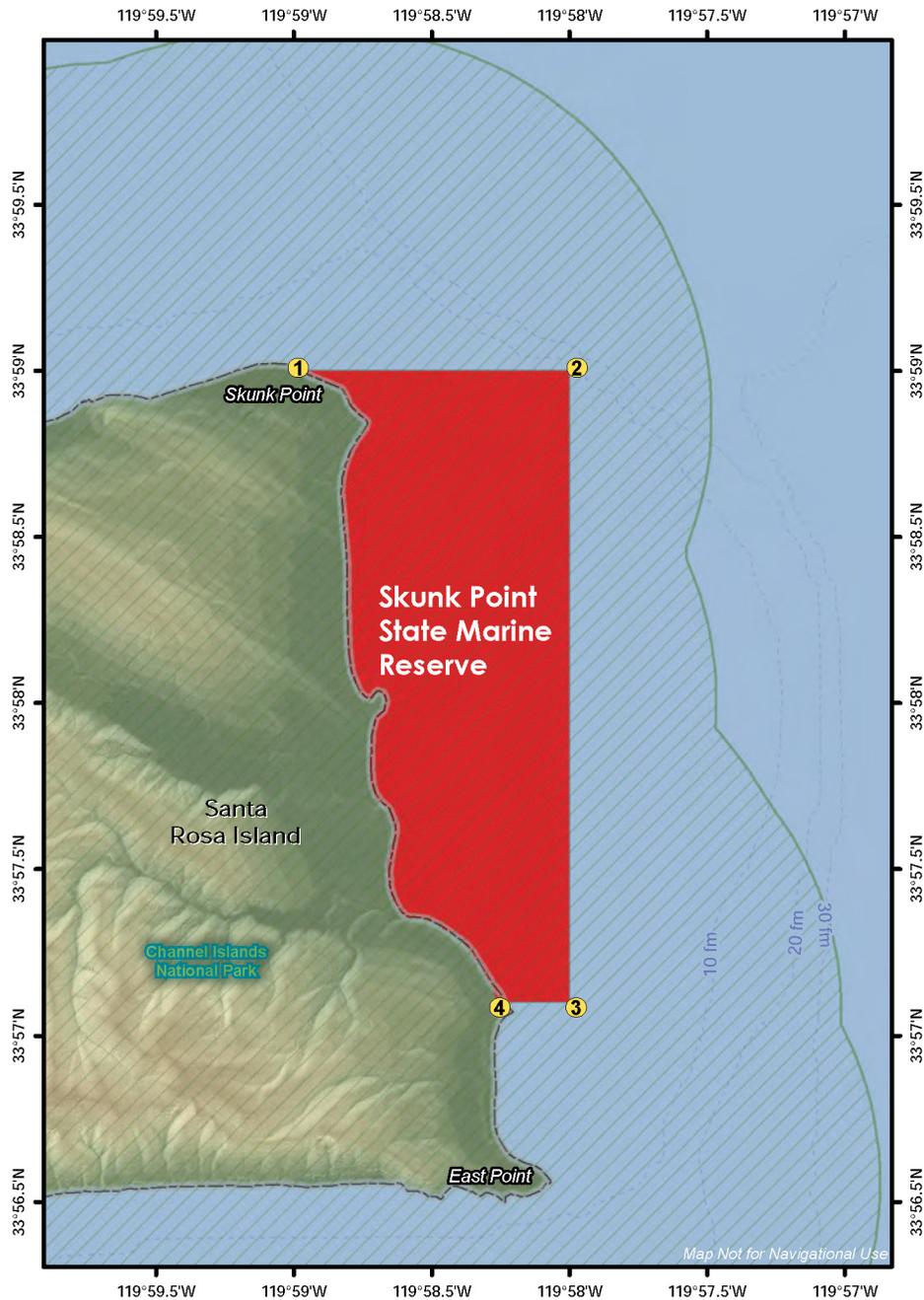
No Fishing

No Collecting

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: Skunk Point, Santa Rosa Island photo © Tim Hauf, www.timhaufphotography.com
Lower right: Cormorants and gulls on the beach, Skunk Point State Marine Reserve, photo © T. Abe Lloyd
CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower left: Elephant seals in the reserve's surfgrass, photo © James Bailey CC BY-NC 2.0



Skunk Point State Marine Reserve Boundary 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:

- 33° 59.000' N. lat. 119° 58.985' W. long. ①;
- 33° 59.000' N. lat. 119° 58.000' W. long. ②;
- 33° 57.100' N. lat. 119° 58.000' W. long. ③; and
- 33° 57.100' N. lat. 119° 58.257' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

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



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.