

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 Begg 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 [Begg Rock State Marine Reserve](#) is to protect the unique offshore rock and pinnacle ecosystem, located at a convergence of warm water currents from the tropics and cold water currents from Alaska. The resulting rich and varied marine life here includes many different species. Grey moon sponges, rock scallops, anemones, and hydrocorals cover the rock crevices and ridges. In the reserve's dense kelp forests, cabezon, vermillion rockfish, and lingcod forage for invertebrates and small fish. Soles and sanddabs share the sandy seafloor with sea pens and a wide variety of brittle stars.

Begg Rock 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 the [San Nicholas Island and Begg Rock Area of Special Biological Significance](#), which protects water quality. 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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Quick Facts: Begg Rock State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 37.96 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 374 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 13.86 square miles
Sand/mud: 24.10 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



No Fishing

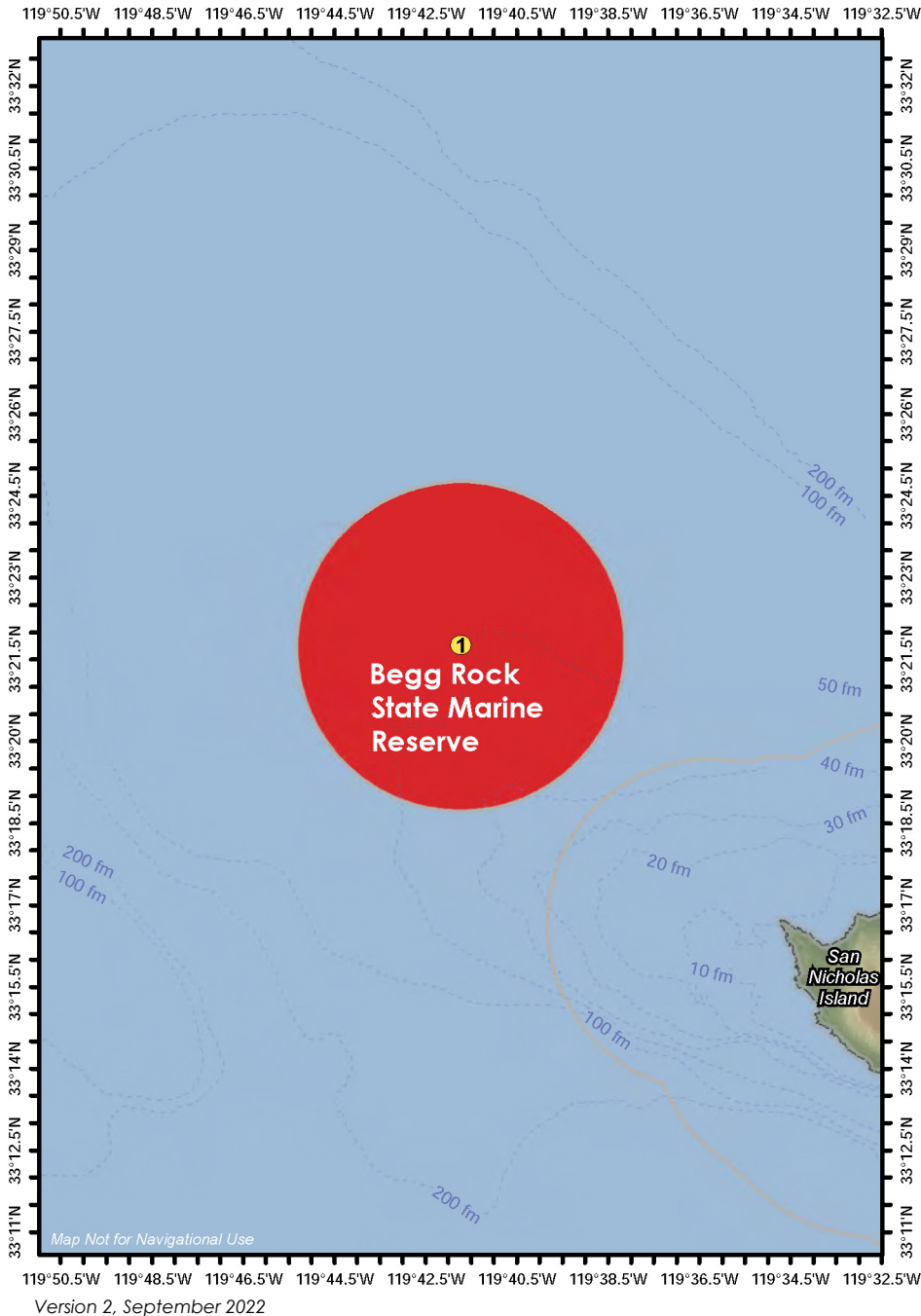


No Collecting

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: Begg Rock, photo © Roger Carlson. Lower right: Young cabezon at Begg Rock State Marine Reserve, photo © Chris Grossman, diver.net Lower left: A rock scallop surrounded by aggregating anemones, Begg Rock State Marine Reserve, photo © Roger Carlson.



Begg Rock State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area includes all state waters below the mean high tide line surrounding Begg Rock, located in the vicinity of 33° 21.743' N. lat. 119° 41.718' W. long. ①

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.