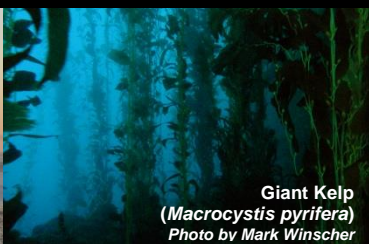


San Miguel Island Special Closure

Southern California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



San Miguel Island
Photo by Derek Stein



Giant Kelp
(*Macrocystis pyrifera*)
Photo by Mark Winscher



Elephant Seals
(*Mirounga angustirostris*)
Photo by CDFW Wildlife Officer Santos Cabral

Site Overview

Photos are representative of the South Coast Region and may not be within this Special Closure

What is an MPA?

MPAs are a type of [marine managed area](#) (MMA) where marine or estuarine waters are set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and associated habitats. California has a coastal network of 124 protected areas designed to help increase the coherence and effectiveness of protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. The network includes three types of MPA: [state marine reserve](#) (SMR), [state marine conservation area](#) (SMCA), and [state marine park](#) (SMP); one MMA: [state marine recreational management area](#) (SMRMA); and [special closures](#). There are 119 MPAs, 5 MMAs and 15 special closures, each with unique boundaries and regulations in the network. Non-consumptive activities, restoration, and permitted scientific research are allowed.

What is a Special Closure?

A **special closure** is an area designated by the Fish and Game Commission that prohibits access and/or restricts boating activities in waters adjacent to sea bird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites.

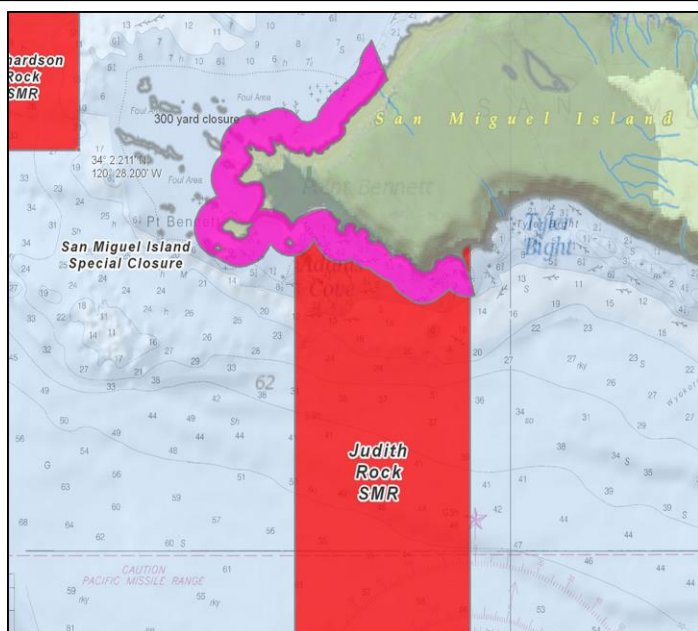
San Miguel Island Special Closure Overview

- **Special closure size:** 0.86 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 55 feet
- **Closure season:** Year round EXCEPT March 15 through April 30, October 1 through December 15.
- **Closure distance:** 100 to 300 yards

San Miguel Island Special Closure Key Habitats

- **Rocky shores:** 4.84 miles
- **Sand (all depths):** 0.01 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 0.71 square miles
- **Average Kelp (1989 to 2008):** 0.19 square miles
- **Unidentified (all depths):** 0.09 square miles

Where is San Miguel Island Special Closure?



Boundaries and Regulations

Boundary; Permitted/Prohibited Uses: Special restrictions on boating and access apply to San Miguel Island as follows.

(A) Boating is allowed at San Miguel Island except west of a line drawn between Judith Rock (34° 01.50' N. lat. 120° 25.30' W. long.) and Castle Rock (34° 03.30' N. lat. 120° 26.30' W. long.) where boats are prohibited closer than 300 yards from shore.

Additional restrictions and special regulations on boating and access, seasonal closure including speed limits, anchoring, commercial diving operation exhaust procedures and transit apply to San Miguel Island Special Closure and can be found in [Title 14, Section 632\(b\)\(52\)](#).

San Miguel Island Special Closure

How San Miguel Island was Chosen for a Special Closure

In 1998, the Channel Islands Marine Resources Restoration Committee, a group of concerned citizens, requested the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) to establish a network of MPAs around the northern Channel Islands. As a result of the request, the Commission directed the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (Sanctuary) to jointly support a process to discuss MPAs in the Channel Islands area. After more than two years of meetings involving a broad based constituent group, CDFW and the Sanctuary drafted a recommendation for Channel Islands MPAs. Regulations took effect for these 13 sites on April 9, 2003. www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process#26189705-channel-islands. In 2005, the San Miguel Island Special Closure was established to provide seasonal protections.

In 2008, while implementing the [Marine Life Protection Act](#) of 1999, San Miguel Island Special Closure was retained by the Commission as part of the south coast region of MPAs with no regulatory changes from those already established and in effect since 2005.

Species Likely to Benefit from the Establishment of MPAs in California

Species likely to benefit from establishing an MPA are those, whose home range, behavior, reproduction, exploitation rate or population status indicates that they may benefit from spatial management. This includes species that are directly targeted by fisheries, those which are caught incidental to fishing for the target species (bycatch) and which cannot be returned to the water with a high rate of survival, and those which may be indirectly impacted through ecological changes within MPAs.

For a list of species likely to benefit from MPAs statewide: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/species.asp

For a list of species likely to benefit from south coast MPAs: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2q.pdf

South Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview

South Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b1n.pdf

California MLPA South Coast Study Region Description of MPAs:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b1pv.pdf

Methods Used to Evaluate MPAs in the South Coast:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_sc/b2b.pdf

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring

Regional MPA Statistics:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics

Regional Planning History:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process

California MPA Network Resources

Detailed MPA guidebooks maps and brochures:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network

California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals



For more information, visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

Email:

AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov

MPA Mobile:



Report poaching and polluting,

Call CalTIP

1-888-334-2258

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632 www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Title-14-Section-632