

# South Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area

Northern California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Implemented December 2012*



## Site Overview

Photos are representative of the North Coast Region and may not be within this MPA.

## 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 SMRMA?

A **SMRMA** is a type of MMA that provides protection equivalent to an MPA. A SMRMA generally prohibits the take of marine resources. (Area restrictions are defined in [Title 14, Section 632\(a\)\(1\)\(D\)](#)).

## South Humboldt Bay SMRMA Key Habitats

- **Tidal flats:** 1.46 miles
- **Coastal marsh:** 1.46 miles
- **Marsh:** 0.09 square miles
- **Estuary:** 0.79 square miles
- **Eelgrass:** 0.23 square miles
- **Unidentified (all depths):** 0.79 square miles

## Where is South Humboldt Bay SMRMA?



## South Humboldt Bay SMRMA Overview

- **SMRMA size:** 0.81 square miles

## Boundaries and Regulations

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

40° 43.000' N. lat. 124° 15.527' W. long.;  
40° 43.000' N. lat. 124° 15.000' W. long.;  
40° 42.000' N. lat. 124° 15.000' W. long.; and  
40° 42.000' N. lat. 124° 16.141' W. long.

**Only the following take is allowed in South Humboldt Bay SMRMA:**

1. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations for South Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area (subsection 632(b)(9)) and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Wiyot Tribe.

Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).

# South Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational Management Area

## How and Why South Humboldt Bay was Chosen for a SMRMA

This SMRMA was designed through a collaborative, regional public process by a cross-interest regional stakeholder group (RSG). Using scientific criteria, public input and local resource knowledge the RSG developed MPA proposals. RSG proposals included site specific rationale (why the site should be an MPA-*included below*), the classification (type of MPA), boundaries, and regulations. Final MPA proposals were sent to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for their adoption process. South Humboldt Bay SMRMA was adopted by the Commission in 2012.

### **North Coast RSG Identified Rationale for South Humboldt Bay SMRMA:**

MPA is close to population centers, with numerous coastal access points making research, long-term monitoring, recreation and enforcement possible. This MPA protects sensitive eelgrass habitat as well as coastal marsh, mudflats and channels within that bay that provide habitat for rays and leopard sharks. The boundaries of this MPA are on graticules and were created with much input from the California Dept. of Fish & Game for best feasibility.

## 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](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/mpa/species.asp)

For a list of species likely to benefit from north coast MPAs: [www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders\\_nc/b2\\_3.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders_nc/b2_3.pdf)

## North Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview)

North Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/binders\\_nc/b1\\_29.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/pdfs/binders_nc/b1_29.pdf)

California MLPA North Coast Study Region Description of MPAs:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/northcoastproposals/rec\\_description\\_eca.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/northcoastproposals/rec_description_eca.pdf)

Methods Used to Evaluate MPAs in the North Coast:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/northcoastproposals/evaluationmethods.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/northcoastproposals/evaluationmethods.pdf)

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring)

Regional MPA Statistics:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics)

Regional Planning History:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process](http://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](http://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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan)

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals)



For more Information, visit:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)

Email:

[AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto: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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Title-14-Section-632)