Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area

Established December, 2012

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

An MPA is a type of managed area whose main purpose is to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in ocean 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. Most marine conservation areas such as Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area provide some opportunity for commercial and/or recreational take (species and gear exceptions vary by location - see reverse).

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 conservation area?

One of the goals for Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the soft and hard seafloor habitat found there, including rare deepwater (greater than 300 feet) soft seafloor habitat. This state marine conservation area also protects the only offshore banks in state waters north of Point Reyes. These habitats are used by a variety of marine species, such as wolf-eel, Dungeness crab, and rockfish.

Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderate levels of protection for marine species and the habitats they use.

Quick Facts: Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 9.52 square miles
- **Depth range:** 176 to 399 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  Sand: 9.11 square miles
  Rock: 0.40 square miles

ENTRY O.K.

Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations On Back

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

Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258
or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.

CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Photos - ***Upper:*** **Dungeness crab.** *CDFW photo by C. Juhasz*
Lower right: **Canary rockfish at Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area.** *CDFW/MARE photo*
Lower left: **Giant Pacific octopus at Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area.** *CDFW/MARE photo*

Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area

Northern California - Del Norte County

Version 2, September 2022

Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations *from* California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

41° 52.000' N. lat. 124° 23.189' W. long.①;
41° 52.000' N. lat. 124° 25.805' W. long.②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
41° 49.000' N. lat. 124° 26.252' W. long.③;
41° 49.000' N. lat. 124° 23.189' W. long.④; and
41° 52.000' N. lat. 124° 23.189' W. long.⑤

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for recreational and/or commercial purposes, with the following specified exceptions:

a. The recreational take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.

b. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.

c. The following federally recognized tribes (listed alphabetically) are exempt from the area and take regulations for Point St. George Reef Offshore State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Elk Valley Rancheria, and Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation [*formerly the Smith River Rancheria*].

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/CCR-T14-MPAs.