

# Castle Rock Special Closure

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 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.

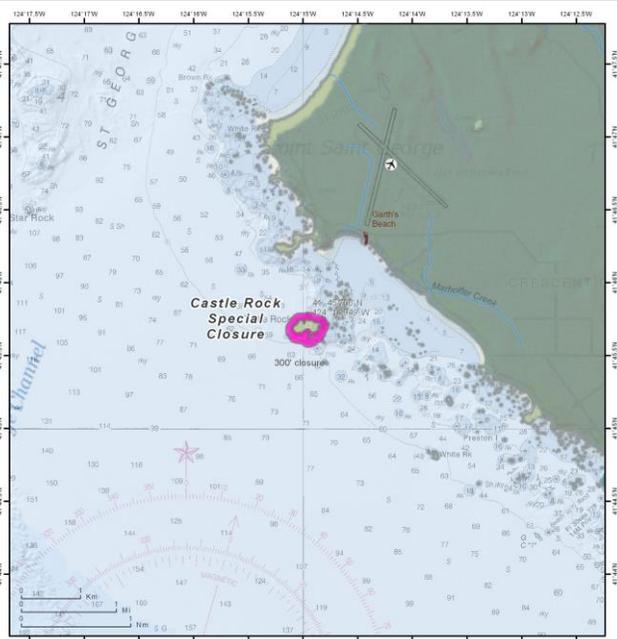
## What is a Special Closure?

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.

## Castle Rock Special Closure Overview

- **Special closure size:** 0.05 square miles
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 0.96 miles
- **Primary habitat:** Rocky shores
- **Closure season:** Year Round
- **Closure distance:** 300 feet

## Where is Castle Rock Special Closure?



## Boundaries and Regulations

**Boundary; Permitted/Prohibited Uses:** Special restrictions on boating and access apply to Castle Rock as follows.

(A) A special closure is designated from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of Castle Rock, located in the vicinity of 41° 45.706' N. lat. 124° 14.949' W. long.

(B) Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, or as authorized by subsection 632(b)(4)(C), no vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of Castle Rock.

(C) No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter the area defined in subsection 632(b)(4)(B).

# Castle Rock Special Closure

## How Castle Rock was Chosen for a Special Closure

This special closure was developed by a work group made up of members from the larger cross-interest regional stakeholder group (RSG) as part of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Work group members used local knowledge and input, and scientific data to identify areas where the special closure designation could be applied. Suggested special closure locations were then brought to entire RSG, who after open discussion decided what special closures would be included in their regional marine protected area (MPA) proposal. Final proposals were sent to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for adoption. Castle Rock special closure was adopted by the Commission in 2012.

## Why Castle Rock was Chosen for a Special Closure

Special closures are designed to minimize the human disturbance of seabirds and marine mammals by restricting boating and access (seasonal or year round) to the area. Smaller than MPAs, special closures work within the overall MPA network to provide localized protection to seabird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites in areas of significant importance to the marine ecosystem. In some instances special closures may offer protection from geographically-specific threats that are not necessarily addressed by MPAs including disturbance.

### **North Coast RSG Identified Rationale Castle Rock Special Closure:**

This special closure protects bird colonies and pinnipeds inhabiting the largest and most structurally diverse nearshore island in California (Jacques, 2007). Eleven species of birds breed on the 14-acre Castle Rock National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), including three “special status” species, and the island is a primary staging area for the fully recovered Aleutian Canada Goose. Two of the four pinniped species known to regularly inhabit Castle Rock NWR also breed on the island. This area was identified by the Science Advisory Team as a hot spot bird breeding location.

## 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)