

## 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. Special closures such as False Klamath Rock Special Closure are specifically designed to minimize human disturbance at significant marine mammal haulout sites and seabird rookeries by restricting boating and access, seasonally or year-round.

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 special closure?

One of the goals for False Klamath Rock Special Closure is to shield the multiple bird species that breed and rest here from human disturbance. The special closure protects important seabird habitat for at least eight different bird species, including tufted puffin, pigeon guillemot, cormorants, black oystercatcher, and common murre. Nearly 45,000 birds use the secluded sea stack annually for nesting and roosting.

Many species of fish inhabit the cold waters surrounding the rocky sea stack as well, including smoothhead sculpin, fluffy sculpin, and northern clingfish. Placing a special closure here provides very high levels of protection for marine birds and mammals, and the habitats they use.

## Quick Facts: False Klamath Rock Special Closure

- **Size:** 0.03 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 46 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  - Sand/mud: < 0.01 square miles
  - Rock: 0.07 square miles



See Regulations On Back

## Further Information:

- MPA Website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap)
- Email: [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov)

Photos - Upper: False Klamath Rock. photo © Calla Allison, MPA Collaborative Network  
Lower right: Common murre nesting on False Klamath Rock. photo © Amelia Ryan, CC BY-NC 2.0  
Lower left: Common murre nesting on False Klamath Rock. photo © Thomas Koffel, CC BY-NC 2.0



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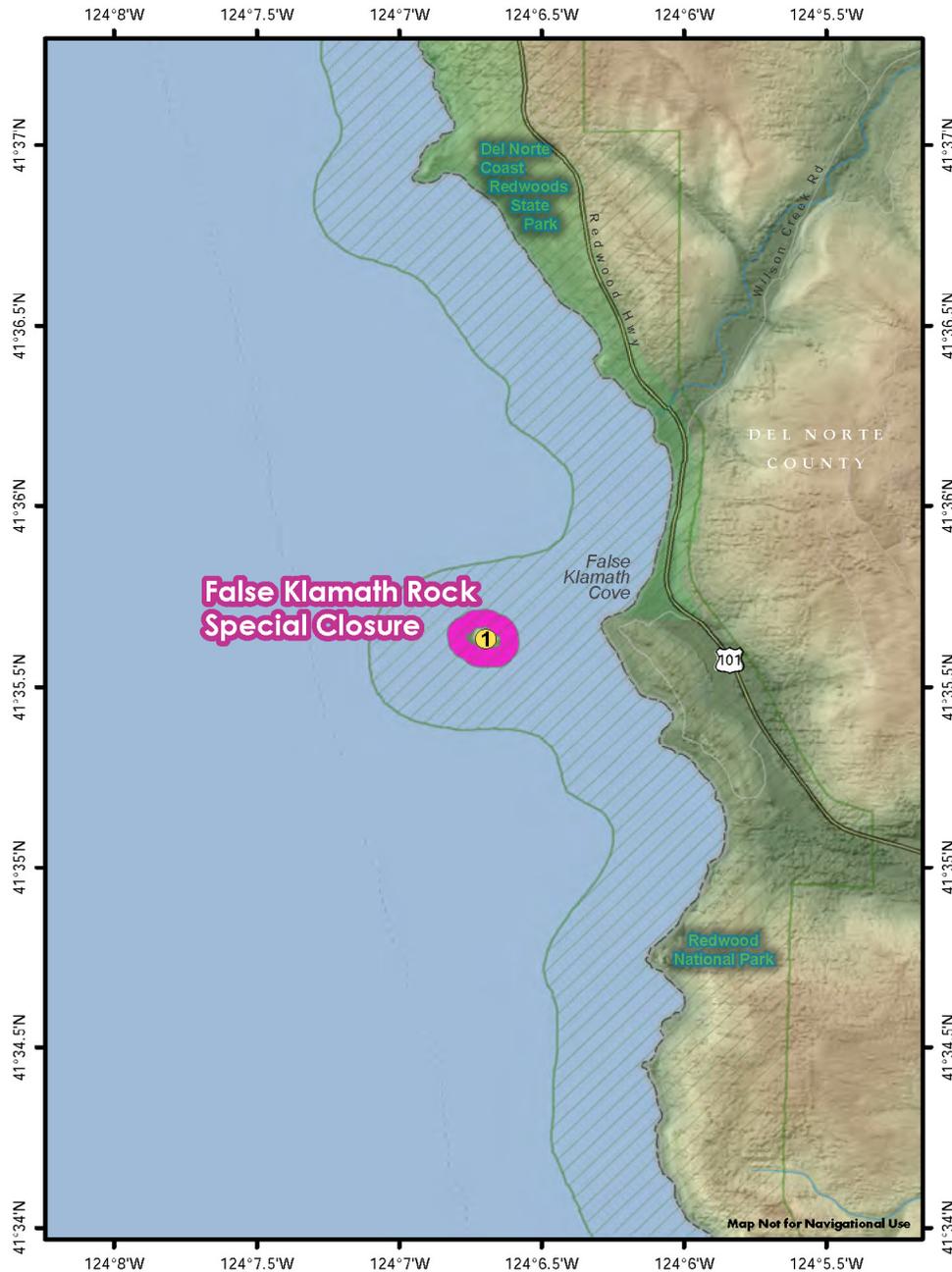
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# False Klamath Rock Special Closure

Northern California - Del Norte County



Version 1, September 2022

## False Klamath Rock Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special restrictions on boating and access apply to False Klamath Rock as follows.

1. 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 False Klamath Rock, located in the vicinity of 41° 35.633' N. lat. 124° 06.699' W. long. ① during the period of March 1 to August 31.
2. Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, or as authorized by [3., below], no vessel shall be operated or anchored from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of False Klamath Rock during the period of March 1 to August 31.
3. 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 [2., above] during the period of March 1 to August 31.

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](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/CCR-T14-MPAs).