

## 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 Reading Rock 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 [Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area](#) is to protect the sandy seafloor and rocky reef habitat found there. The mostly sandy seafloor is interspersed with rocky reefs that are home to vibrantly colored sea stars, club-tipped anemones, and giant acorn barnacles. White-plumed anemones inhabit the tallest of the submerged rocky features, while lingcod, quillback rockfish, yelloweye rockfish, and copper rockfish shelter in the rocky rubble. Flatfish, sea whips, and sea pens are a common sight on the sandy seafloor that covers the vast majority of the conservation area.

Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area shares a western boundary with [Reading Rock State Marine Reserve](#), and a land-side boundary with [Redwood State and National Park](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



**Report poachers and polluters**

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or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



## Quick Facts: Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 11.96 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 166 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Sand/mud: 11.47 square miles  
Rock: 1.11 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing  
See Regulations  
On Back

No Collecting

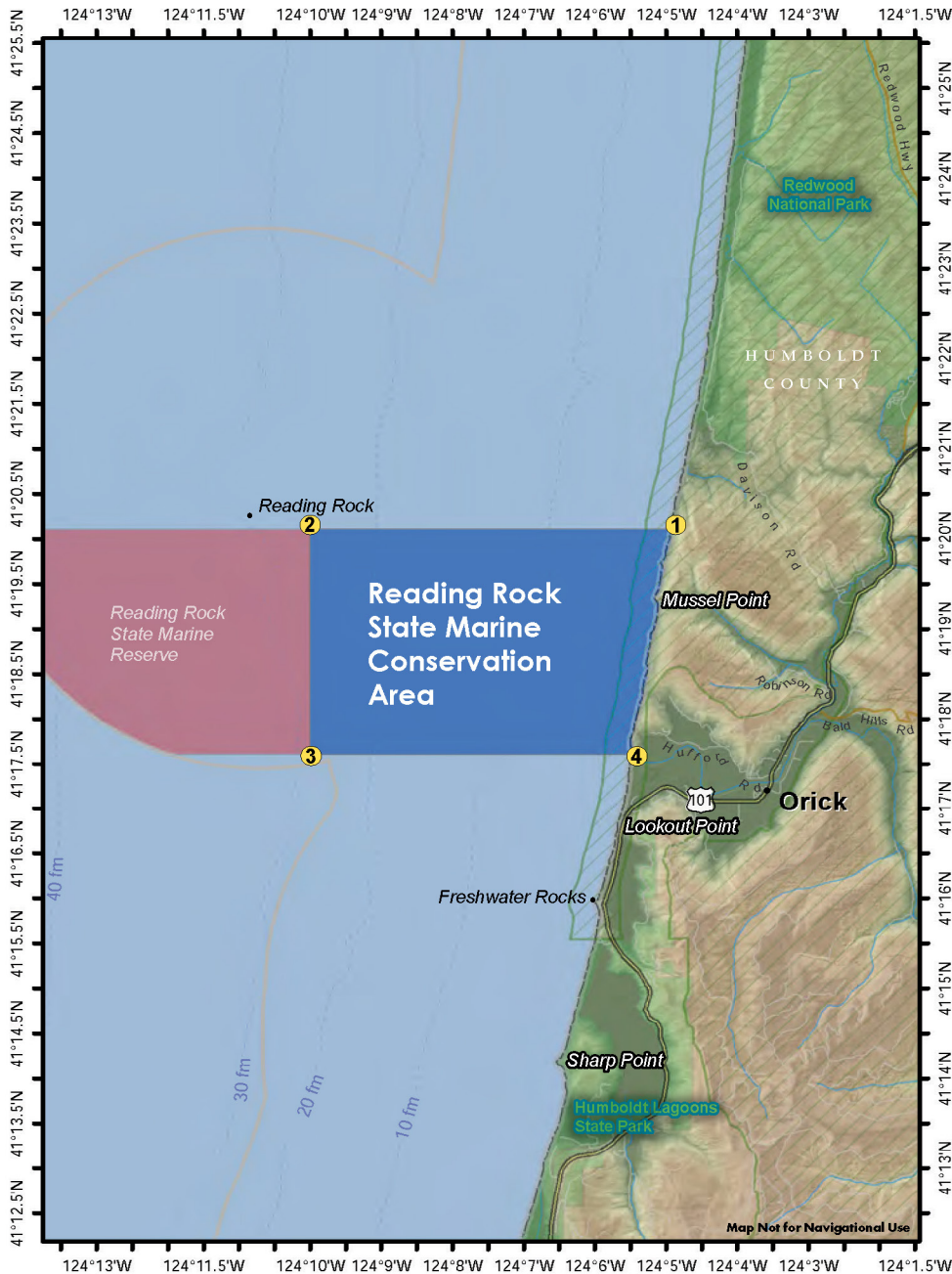
## Further Information:

- 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:** Shoreline at Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Michael James, MPA Collaborative Network **Lower right:** Ochre sea star at the conservation area. photo © mooseamara, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Common murre at the conservation area. photo © angelaw, CC BY-NC 2.0

# Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area

Northern California - Humboldt County



Version 1, September 2022

## Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

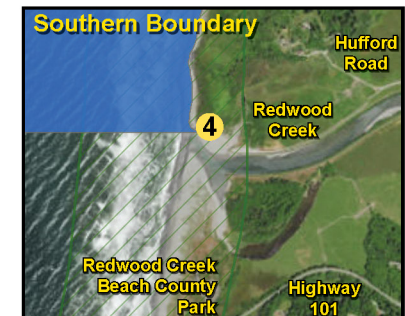
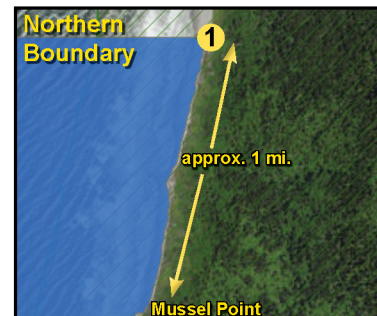
### Boundary:

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

- 41° 20.100' N. lat. 124° 04.911' W. long. ①;
- 41° 20.100' N. lat. 124° 10.000' W. long. ②;
- 41° 17.600' N. lat. 124° 10.000' W. long. ③; and
- 41° 17.600' N. lat. 124° 05.399' W. long. ④

### 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; surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian-type throw net; and Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand is allowed.
  - b. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; and Dungeness crab by trap.
  - c. The following federally recognized tribes (listed alphabetically) are exempt from the area and take regulations for Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, Resighini Rancheria, and Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation.



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).