# Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area
## Northern California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Implemented December 2012*



**Reading Rock SMCA**
*Photo by CDFW*

**Flat abalone**
(*Haliotis walallensis*)
*Photo by R. Alvarez*

**Strawberry anemones**
(*Corynactis californica*)
*Photo by M. Winscher*

## 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 an SMCA?

An **SMCA** is a type of MPA that protects resources by allowing for only specific types of recreational and/or commercial take to occur. *(Area restrictions are defined in Title 14, Section 632(a)(1)(C)).*
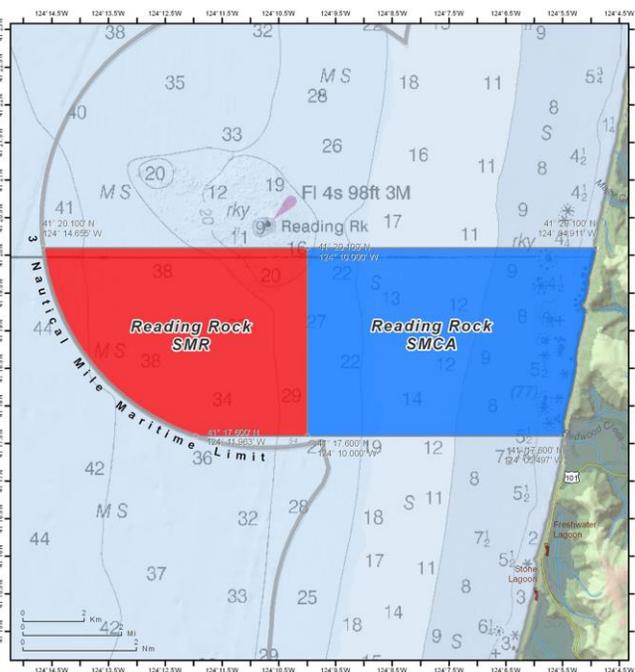
### Reading Rock SMCA Key Habitats

- **Beaches:** 2.96 miles
- **Rocky shores:** 0.22 miles
- **Sand (all depths):** 10.08 square miles
- **Rock (all depths):** 0.07 square miles
- **Unidentified (all depths):** 1.75 square miles

### Reading Rock SMCA Overview

- **MPA size:** 11.96 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 166 feet
- **Along-shore span (shoreline):** 2.9 miles

### Where is Reading Rock SMCA?



### 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:

> 41° 20.100' N. lat. 124° 04.911' W. long.;
> 41° 20.100' N. lat. 124° 10.000' W. long.;
> 41° 17.600' N. lat. 124° 10.000' W. long.; and
> 41° 17.600' N. lat. 124° 05.399' W. long.

**Only the following take is allowed in Reading Rock SMCA:**

1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling; [surf smelt](#) by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net; & Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand is allowed.
2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear; surf smelt by dip net; and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.
3. The following federally recognized tribes are exempt from the area and take regulations for Reading Rock SMCA (subsection 632(b)(6)) & shall comply with all other existing regulations & statutes: Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation, Cher-Ae Heights Indian Community of the Trinidad Rancheria, & Resighini Rancheria.

# Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area

## Why and How Reading Rock was Chosen for an SMCA

MPAs were 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. Reading Rock SMCA was adopted by the Commission in 2012.

### North Coast RSG Identified Rationale for Reading Rock SMCA:

This MPA captures beaches, rocky shores and soft 0-30 m habitats and is clustered with the Reading Rock SMR, which captures soft 30-100 m habitat and hard 30-100. This MPA is adjacent to Redwood National and State Park lands. Habitat captured here protects both fish species as well as marine mammals. Designed to maintain a moderate to high preliminary level of protection (LOP).

## 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
For a list of species likely to benefit from north coast MPAs: 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
North Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:
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
Methods Used to Evaluate MPAs in the North Coast:
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/northcoastproposals/evaluationmethods.pdf
MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:
www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring
Regional MPA Statistics:
www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics
Regional Planning History:
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
California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:
www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan
Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:
www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals

**For more Information, visit:**
www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

**Email:**
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

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