

## 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 Samoa 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 Samoa State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the sandy seafloor habitat found there. Sea whips and sea pens sway in the conservation area's currents, while surfperch and surf smelt look for their next meal close to shore. Coho salmon and Chinook salmon pass through the conservation area during lifecycle journeys to and from Mad River, just a few miles to the north. The shallow Mad River Estuary serves as a nursery area for flatfish such as California halibut and English sole, while surf smelt use the estuary as a summer feeding ground. These species are abundant in the nearby conservation area. Threatened snowy plovers feed along the conservation area's beach and nest in the sandy coastal dunes from March through September.

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: Samoa State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 13.06 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 3.6 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 158 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Sand/mud: 13.01 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 Samoa State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW photo by A. Frimodig **Lower right:** Whimbrel with a sand crab in its beak at the conservation area. photo © John Reissi, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Bladder chain kelp washed ashore at the conservation area. photo © northcoastmpas, CC BY-NC 2.0



**Samoa State Marine Conservation Area**  
**Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632**

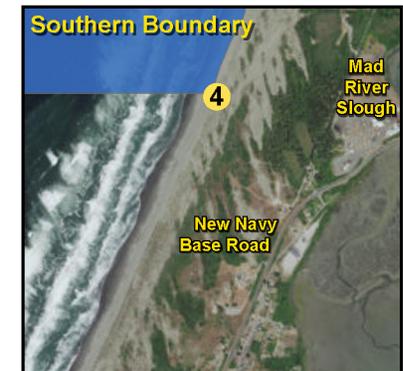
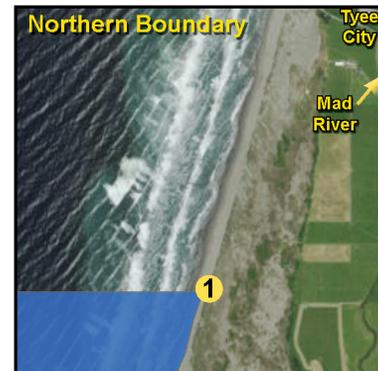
**Boundary:**

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

- 40° 55.000' N. lat. 124° 08.432' W. long. ①;
- 40° 55.000' N. lat. 124° 12.677' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 40° 52.000' N. lat. 124° 14.225' W. long. ③; and
- 40° 52.000' N. lat. 124° 09.803' 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 is allowed.
  - c. The following federally recognized tribe is exempt from the area and take regulations for Samoa State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes: Wiyot Tribe.



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).