

## 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 Sugarloaf Island 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.

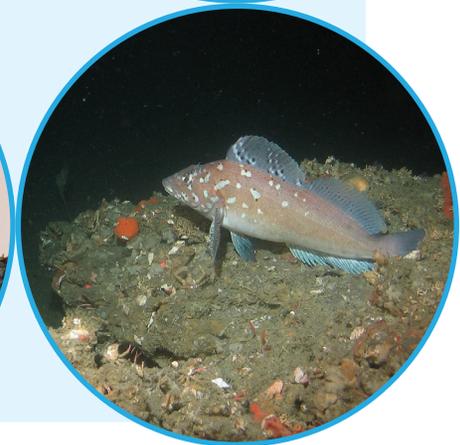
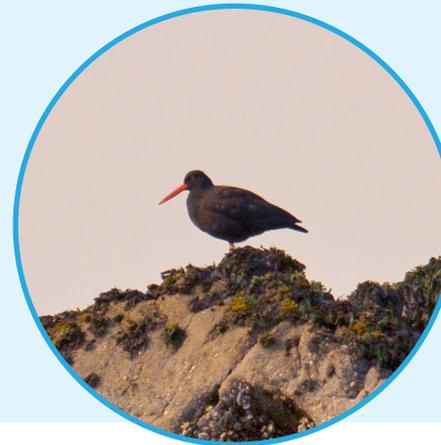
## Why was this location chosen for a special closure?

One of the goals for [Sugarloaf Island Special Closure](#) is to shield Steller sea lions and eight different species of breeding seabirds from human disturbance, including the tufted puffin, common murre, black oystercatcher, and double-crested cormorant. This prominent sea stack is an important rookery for both marine mammals and seabirds. Other marine mammals, including harbor seals and porpoises, can be found in the surrounding waters. Gray whales, blue whales, and humpback whales pass through this region during their annual migrations. Fish commonly found in the waters surrounding Sugarloaf Island include California halibut, cabezon, surfperch, leopard shark, and lingcod.

Placing a special closure here provides very high levels of protection for marine birds and mammals, and the habitats they use.

## Quick Facts: Sugarloaf Island Special Closure

- **Size:** 0.03 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 10 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Rock: 0.08 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: Sugarloaf Island photo © Aleksandr Zykov, CC BY-SA 2.0

Lower right: Male kelp greenling near Sugarloaf Island Special Closure. CDFW/MARE photo

Lower left: Black oystercatcher near Sugarloaf Island Special Closure. photo © J. Shank, CC BY-NC 2.0



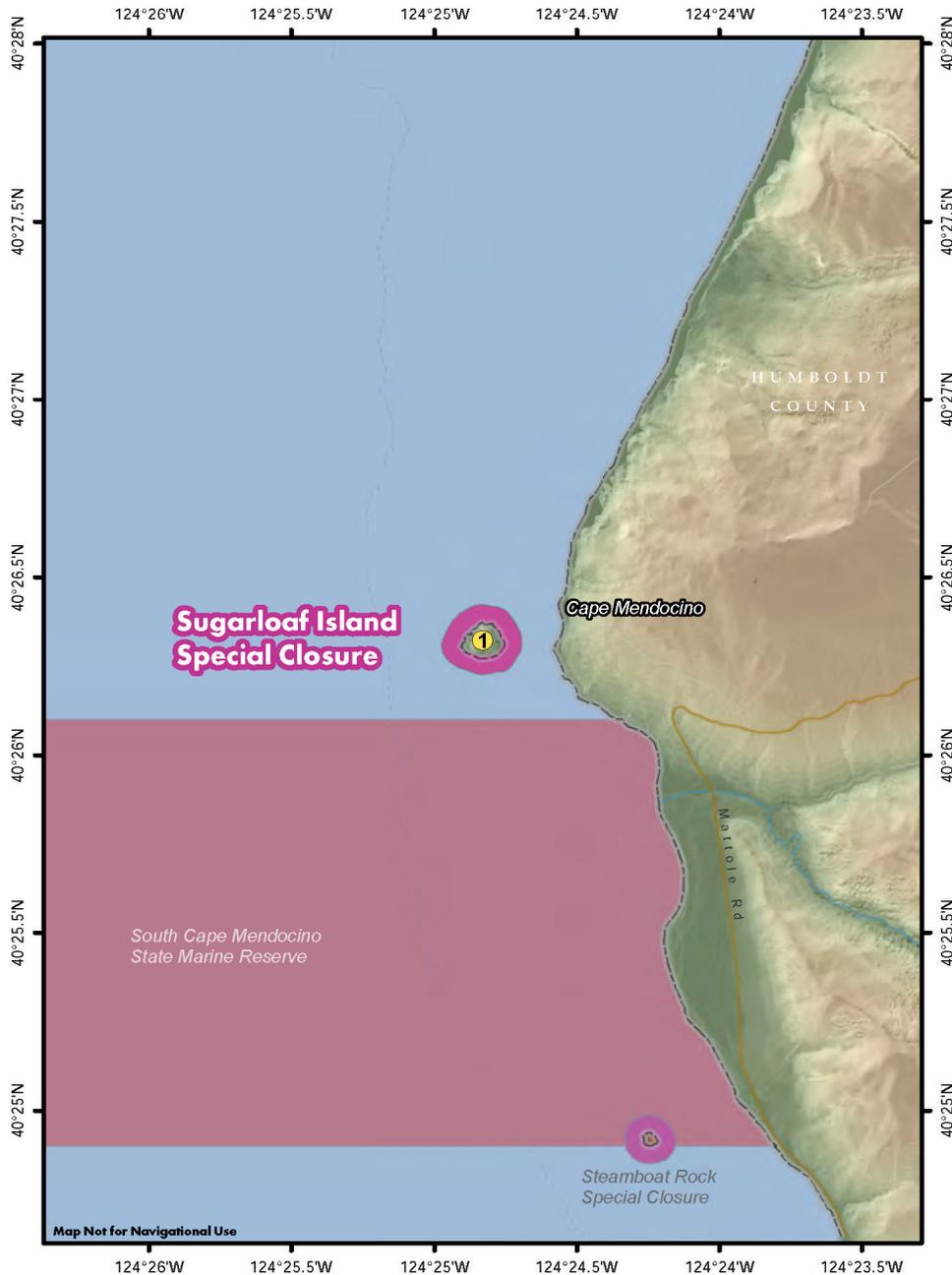
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followed by the details.



# Sugarloaf Island Special Closure

Northern California - Humboldt County



## Sugarloaf Island Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special restrictions on boating and access apply to Sugarloaf Island 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 Sugarloaf Island, located in the vicinity of 40° 26.326' N. lat. 124° 24.827' W. long. ①
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 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 Sugarloaf Island.
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].

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).