What is a California marine protected area (or "MPA")?

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine 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. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level of protection.

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 reserve?

Some of the goals for Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve are to protect a wide range of habitats including sandy beaches, rocky shorelines, sandy seafloor, and rocky reefs, and to provide for research opportunities in one of the most remote MPAs in the state. The reserve's narrow beaches are favored haul-out sites for harbor seals, Steller sea lions, and elephant seals. Seabirds roost and nest on the offshore rocks, while the reserve's rocky tidepool areas harbor mussels, barnacles, anemones, and algae. Sandy seafloor covers about two-thirds of the reserve, with expanses of rocky reef covering much of the remaining area. Invertebrates such as feather stars, white-plumed anemones, and octopus can be found on the reserve's deeper reefs, along with a wide variety of fish such as rockfish, lingcod, and cabezon.

Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve shares a land-side boundary with the remote King Range Wilderness. Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.

Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258
or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.

CALIFORNIA MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Quick Facts: Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 10.42 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.0 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 375 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  Rock: 5.25 square miles
  Sand/mud: 6.38 square miles

ENTRY O.K.
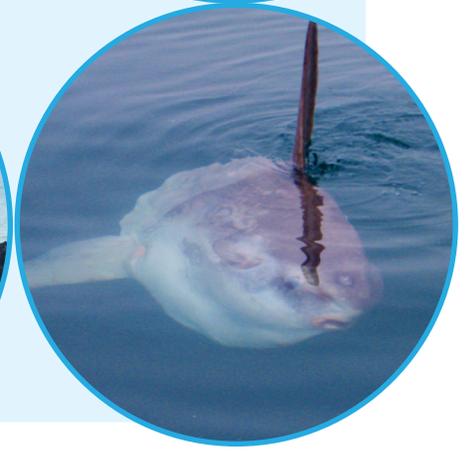
Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

No Collecting

Further Information:

- MPA Website: *www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs*
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: *www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap*
- Email: *AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov*

Photos - *Upper: Shoreline at Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve, photo © M. James, MPA Collaborative Network. Lower right: Ocean sunfish (common mola) at the reserve, photo © M. Morrissette, CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower left: Harbor seals on nearshore rocks at the reserve, photo © V. Norton, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.*

Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve
Northern California - Humboldt County

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF **FISH & WILDLIFE**
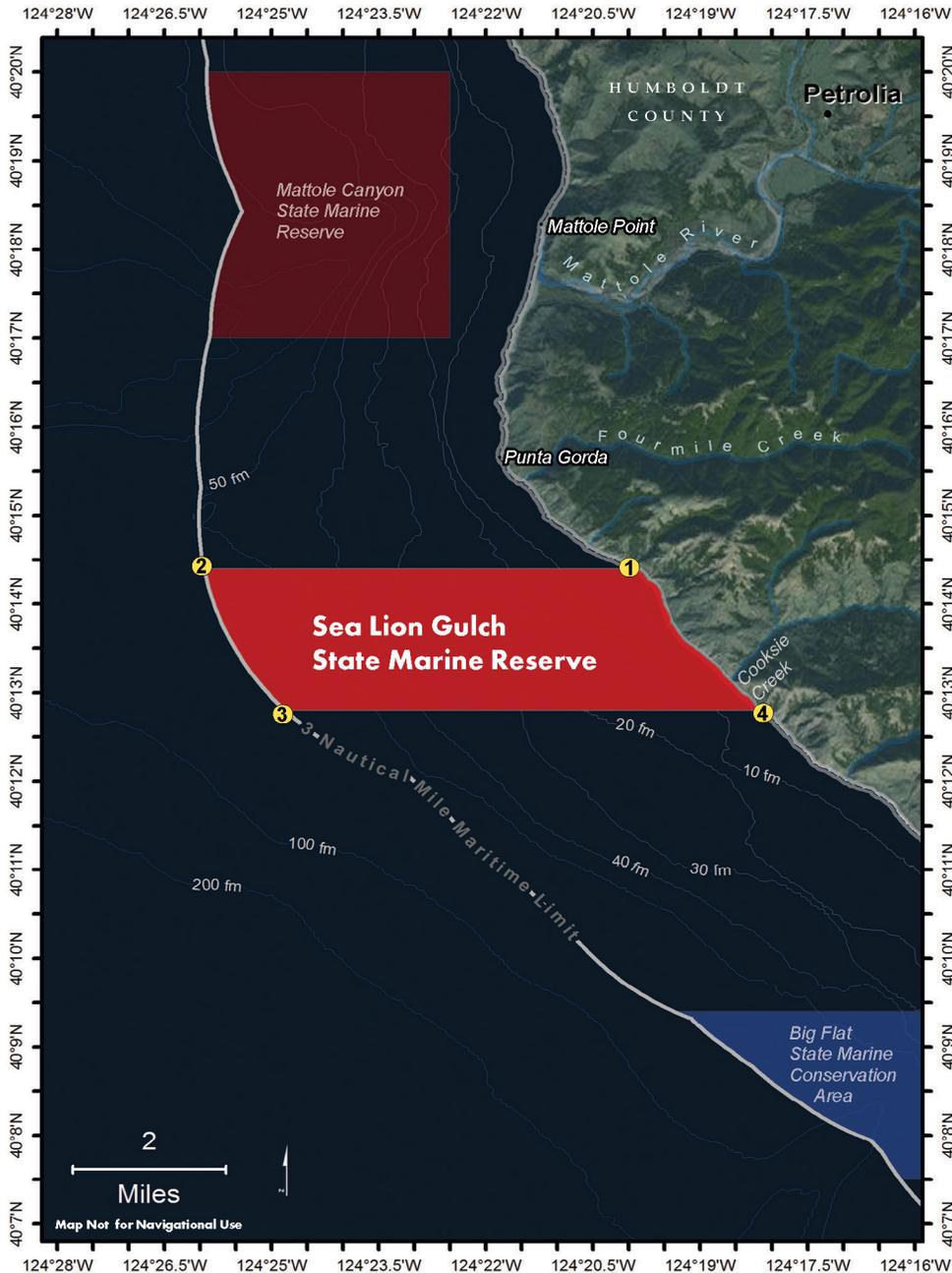
Sea Lion Gulch State Marine Reserve
Boundary and Regulations *from* California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

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° 14.400' N. lat. 124° 19.983' W. long. ①;
40° 14.400' N. lat. 124° 25.943' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
40° 12.800' N. lat. 124° 24.809' W. long. ③; and
40° 12.800' N. lat. 124° 18.155' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:
It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.

Northern Boundary

Southern Boundary
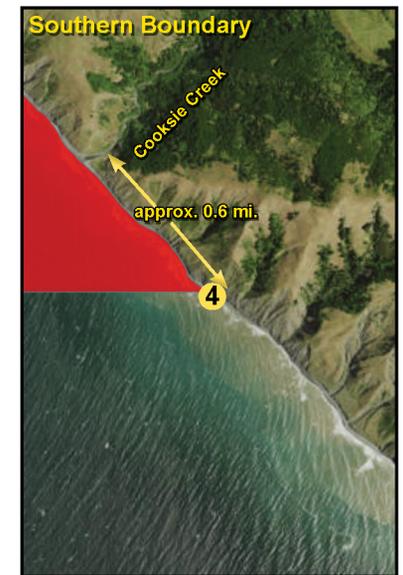
Take may be authorized for research, restoration, and monitoring purposes under a scientific collecting permit. See California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a).

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.