

## 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 Ten Mile Beach 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 Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area is to protect seafloor habitat, which here is composed almost entirely of sand. The sand flows into the conservation area from Ten Mile River, and extends from the river mouth all the way into deeper water. Small fish forage in the surf, while sand crabs and several species of clams burrow in the sediments. The deeper sandy seafloor provides habitat for Dungeness crab, sea whips, sand dollars, and flatfish. The snowy plover is a year-round beach resident here, while migratory shorebirds like marbled godwits and western sandpipers can be seen in the summer and early fall.

[Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area](#) shares boundaries with [Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Conservation Area](#), [Ten Mile State Marine Reserve](#), and Inglenook Fen - Ten Mile Dunes Natural Preserve, a part of [MacKerricher State Park](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



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followed by the details.



## Quick Facts: Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 3.54 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 288 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Sand/mud: 3.51 square miles  
Rock: 0.04 square miles



Non-Consumptive  
Activities

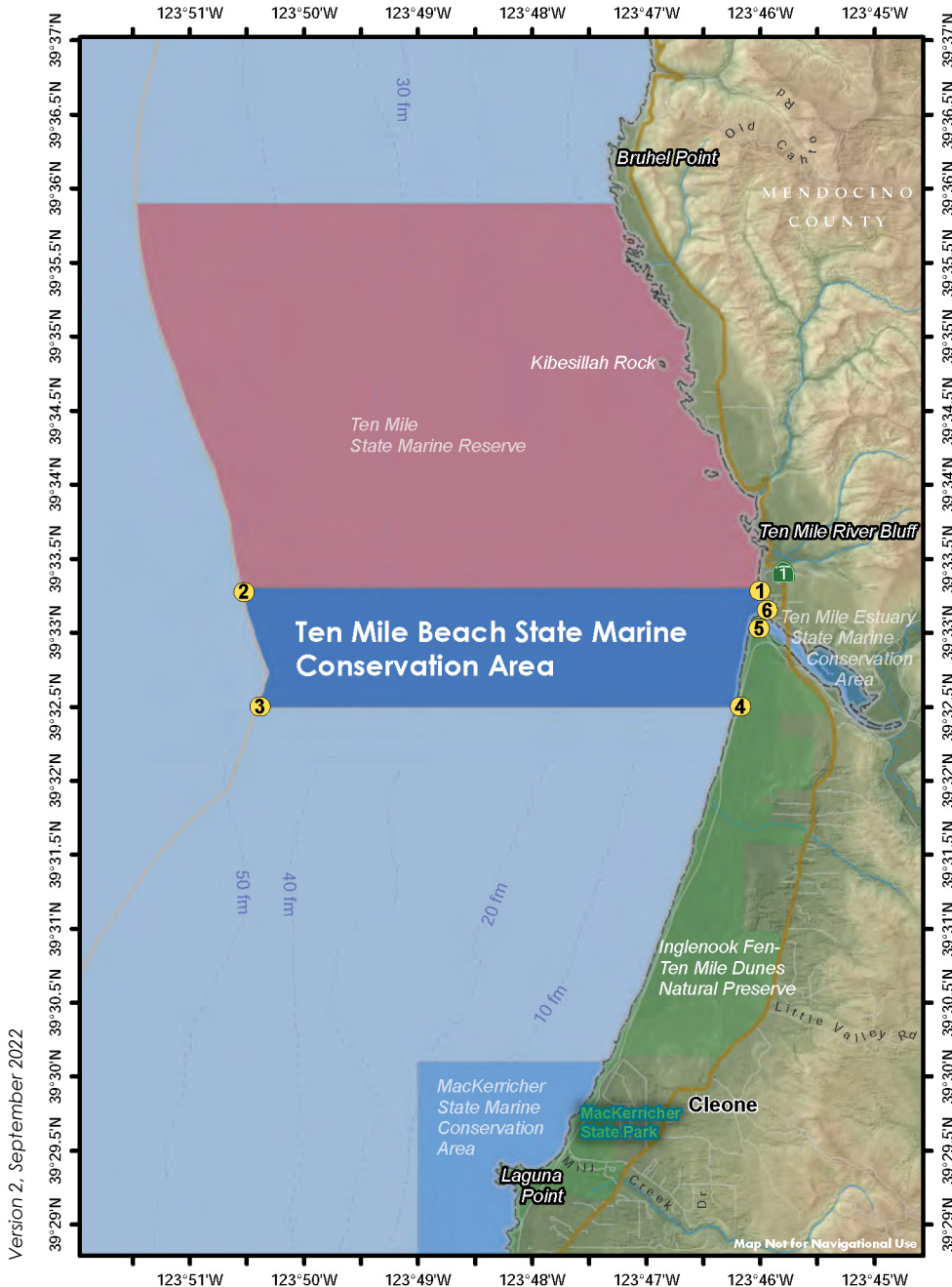
Fishing  
See Regulations  
On Back

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: Sandy beach at Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Karina Nielsen, CC-BY-NC-SA 4.0 Lower right: Small red octopus and sea whip near the conservation area. CDFW/MARE photo Lower left: Feather stars and white-plumed anemones near the conservation area. CDFW/MARE photo**



## Ten Mile Beach 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 and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 39° 33.300' N. lat. 123° 46.015' W. long. ①;
- 39° 33.300' N. lat. 123° 50.559' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 39° 32.500' N. lat. 123° 50.418' W. long. ③;
- 39° 32.500' N. lat. 123° 46.242' W. long. ④; thence northward along the mean high tide line onshore boundary to
- 39° 33.098' N. lat. 123° 46.003' W. long. ⑤;
- 39° 33.199' N. lat. 123° 45.966' W. long. ⑥

### Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
  - a. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand is allowed.
  - b. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.
  - c. The following federally recognized tribes (listed alphabetically) are exempt from the area and take regulations for Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes:
    - Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians of the Big Valley Rancheria
    - Cahto Indian Tribe of the Laytonville Rancheria
    - Coyote Valley Band of Pomo Indians
    - Elem Indian Colony of Pomo Indians of the Sulphur Bank Rancheria
    - Guidiville Rancheria
    - Habematolel Pomo of Upper Lake
    - Hopland Band of Pomo Indians of the Hopland Rancheria
    - Lower Lake Rancheria
    - Manchester Band of Pomo Indians of the Manchester-Point Arena Rancheria
    - Middletown Rancheria of Pomo Indians
    - Pinoleville Pomo Nation
    - Potter Valley Tribe
    - Redwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians
    - Robinson Rancheria of Pomo Indians
    - Round Valley Indian Tribes of the Round Valley Reservation
    - Scotts Valley Band of Pomo Indians
    - Sherwood Valley Rancheria of Pomo Indians

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).