

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 Estuary 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 Estuary State Marine Conservation Area is to protect one of the least developed estuaries on the northern California coast. The estuary includes coastal marsh, freshwater marsh, and eelgrass habitat, and can fluctuate between a lagoon and river environment. Flatfish, smelt, herring, Dungeness crab, and shiner perch use the estuary's eelgrass as nursery and hunting grounds. Seabirds use the conservation area for resting and feeding, and coho salmon rely on the estuary as an important migration corridor. The conservation area is river otter habitat too, and is part of a transportation corridor that assists with their movement and dispersal throughout the region.

[Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Conservation Area](#) shares borders with [Ten Mile Beach State Marine Conservation Area](#) and Inglewood 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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Quick Facts: Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.18 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.1 miles
- **Habitat composition:**
Coastal marsh: 0.78 square mi.
Estuary: 0.08 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Waterfowl Hunting
See Hunting Regulations



No Fishing

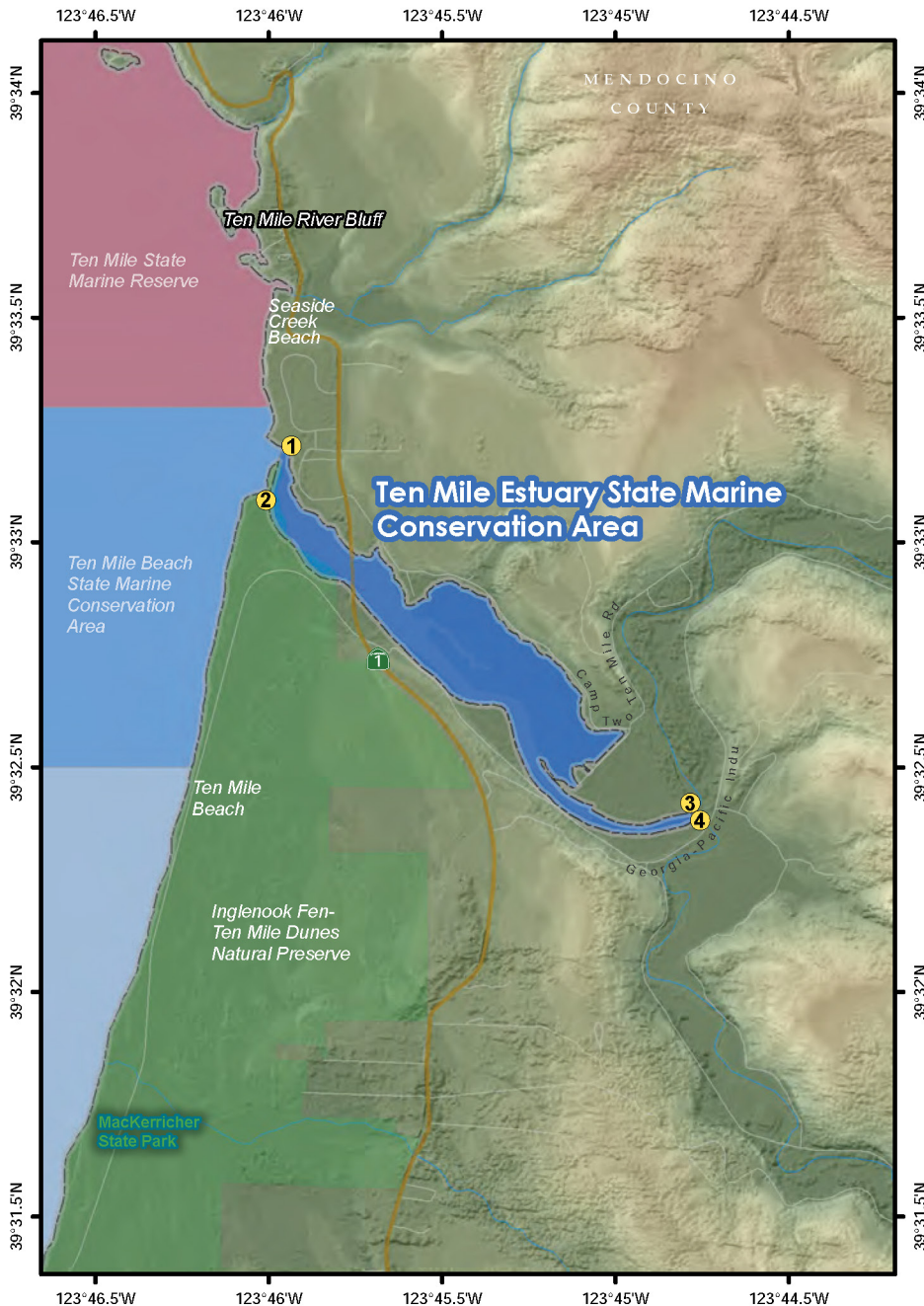


No Collecting

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: A portion of Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Conservation Area east of the Hwy 1 Bridge. photo © Leslie Kashiwada **Lower right:** Double-crested cormorants at the conservation area. photo © tii, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Harbor seal at the conservation area. photo © Frank Shaughnessy



Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area consists of waters below the mean high tide line within the Ten Mile Estuary, eastward of a line connecting the following two points:

- 39° 33.199' N. lat. 123° 45.966' W. long. ①; and
- 39° 33.098' N. lat. 123° 46.003' W. long. ②; and westward of a line connecting the following two points:
- 39° 32.400' N. lat. 123° 44.785' W. long. ③; and
- 39° 32.382' N. lat. 123° 44.769' W. long. ④

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.** Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).
- b.** Take pursuant to operation and maintenance of artificial structures inside the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.
- c.** The following federally recognized tribes (listed alphabetically) are exempt from the area and take regulations for Ten Mile Estuary State Marine Conservation Area and shall comply with all other existing regulations and statutes:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 |
|---|--|

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.