



## 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 MacKerricher 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 MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the rocky reef, sandy seafloor, coastal marsh, and kelp forest habitat found here. Mussels, barnacles, and anemones cling to the rocky tidepools, while clams and sand crabs burrow into the sand. Shorebirds, like sandpipers and whimbrels, probe the sediments for their meals. The sandy seafloor habitat supports Dungeness crab, sand dollars, and flatfish. Rocky reef areas provide a foothold for bull kelp to create underwater forests. Rockfish, lingcod, and cabezon are common here, while abalone, sea cucumber, and sea urchin navigate amongst the rocky outcroppings.

MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area replaced a smaller marine protected area at this location, and provides essentially the same protections as the earlier marine protected area. [MacKerricher State Park](#) shares a land-side boundary with this conservation area. 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**

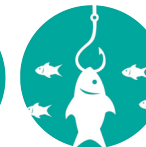
**Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258**

or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



## Quick Facts: MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 2.48 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 4.1 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 119 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Sand/mud: 1.07 square miles  
Rock: 3.46 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing

Collecting  
See Regulations  
On Back

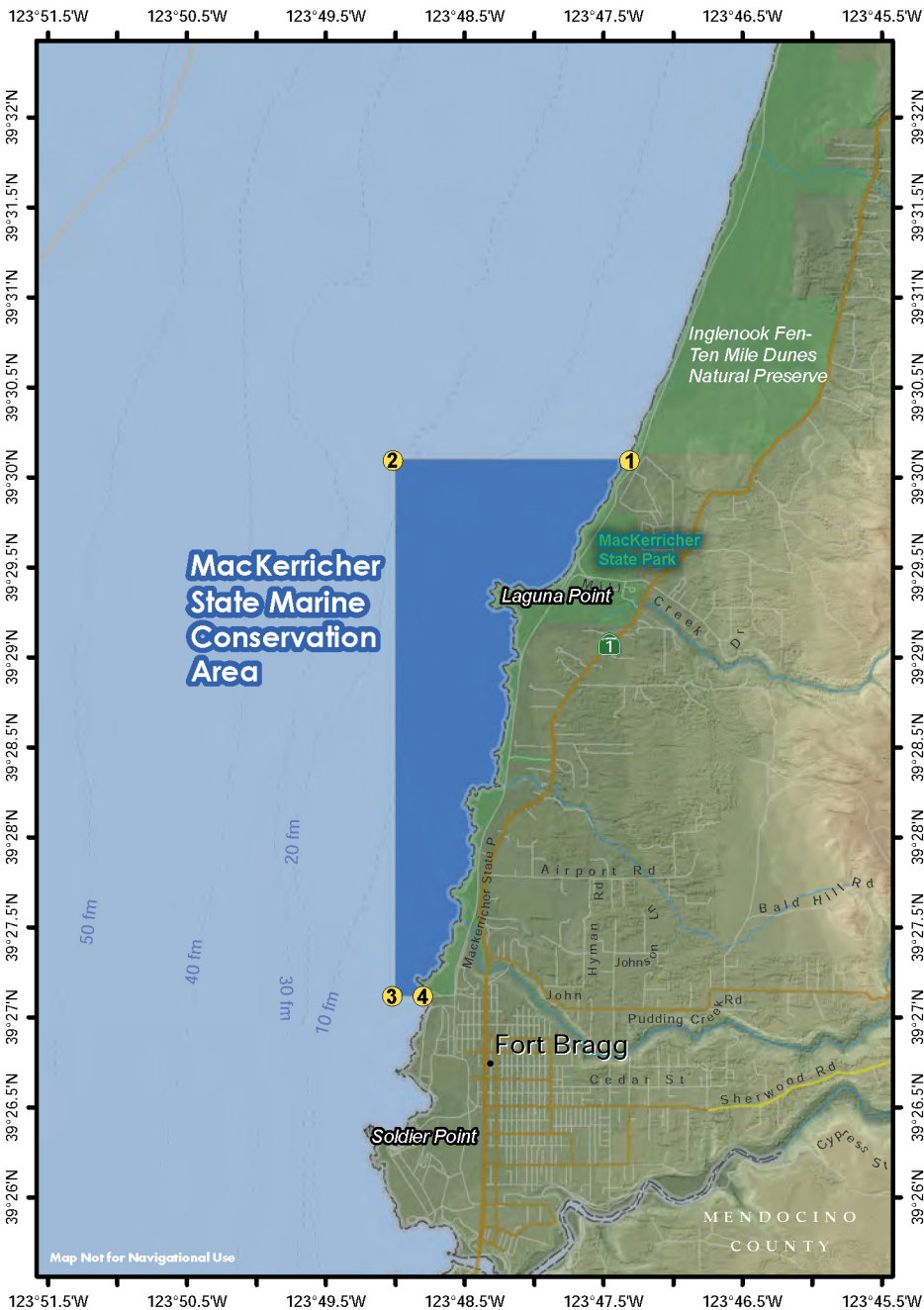
## Further Information:

- 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:** Shoreline at MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Gord Webster, CC BY-SA 2.0 **Lower right:** China rockfish and anemones at the conservation area. photo © Kevin Joe **Lower left:** Young red abalone at the conservation area. photo © Alison Young, CC BY-NC 2.0

# MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area

Northern California - Mendocino County



Version 2, September 2022

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

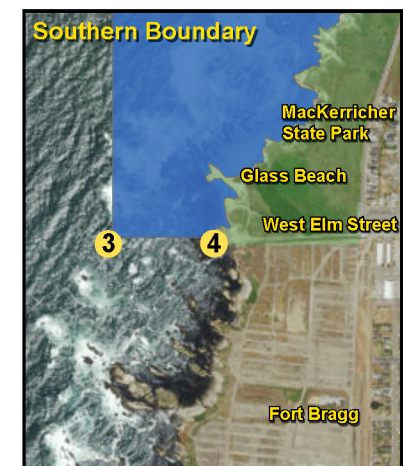
### Boundary:

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

- 39° 30.100' N. lat. 123° 47.327' W. long. ①;
- 39° 30.100' N. lat. 123° 49.000' W. long. ②;
- 39° 27.120' N. lat. 123° 49.000' W. long. ③; and
- 39° 27.120' N. lat. 123° 48.830' 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. All recreational take is allowed in accordance with current regulations.
  - b. All commercial take is allowed in accordance with current regulations, except the commercial take of bull kelp (*Nereocystis luetkeana*) and giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) is prohibited.



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).