

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 Russian Gulch 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 Russian Gulch State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the rocky seafloor and kelp forest habitat found there. Rocky caves, narrow chutes, valleys, and canyons are home for abalone, crabs, oysters, and nearshore fish, especially cabezon, greenling, lingcod, and perch. Wolf-eels and a variety of rockfish, including black rockfish, quillback rockfish, and kelp rockfish, frequent the kelp forests and deeper waters. Sea urchins, coralline algae, sea cucumbers, and white-spotted rose anemones are found throughout the rocky seafloor of the conservation area.

[Russian Gulch State Marine Conservation Area](#) expanded on a smaller, previously established MPA at this location, and provides essentially the same protections as the earlier MPA. The conservation area shares a land-side boundary with [Russian Gulch State Park](#). Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



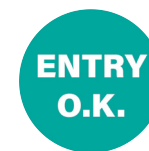
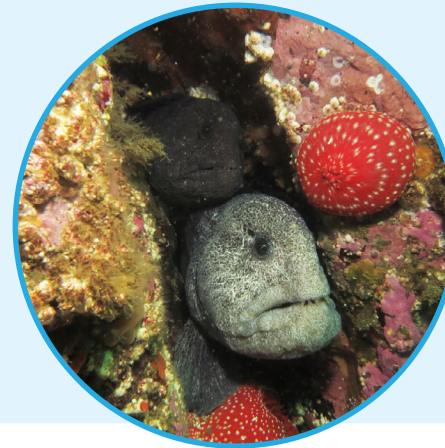
Report poachers and polluters
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

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

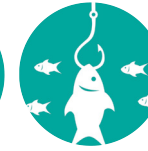


Quick Facts: Russian Gulch State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.22 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 15 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 Sand/mud: 0.03 square miles
 Rock: 0.47 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Fishing



Collecting
 See Regulations On Back

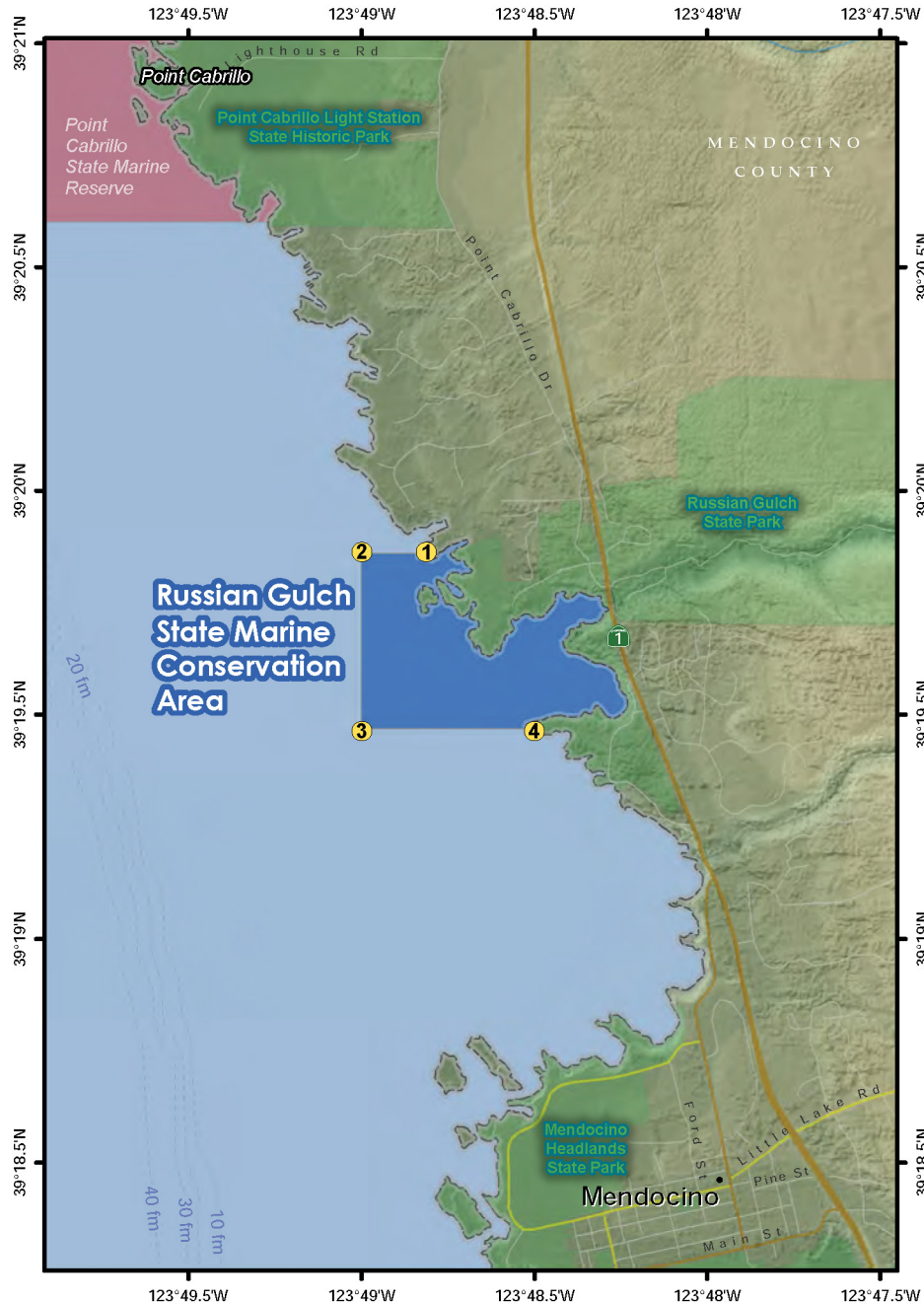
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Russian Gulch State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Chenchen Shen
 Lower right: Decorator crab on a rock scallop at the conservation area. photo © Kevin Joe
 Lower left: Wolf-eels in a rocky crevice at the conservation area. photo © Kevin Joe

Russian Gulch State Marine Conservation Area

Northern California - Mendocino County



Version 2, September 2022

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

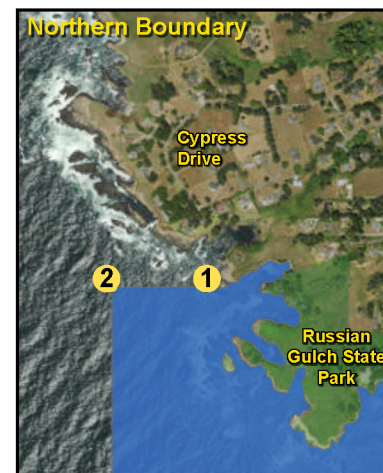
Boundary:

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

- 39° 19.860' N. lat. 123° 48.840' W. long. ①;
- 39° 19.860' N. lat. 123° 49.000' W. long. ②;
- 39° 19.470' N. lat. 123° 49.000' W. long. ③; and
- 39° 19.470' N. lat. 123° 48.500' 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.