

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 Navarro River 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 Navarro River Estuary State Marine Conservation Area is to protect fish, invertebrate, and bird communities within the diverse tidal flat, coastal marsh, and other estuary habitat. The estuary is a spawning and nursery area for many different invertebrate and fish species, both those that stay within the estuary and those that move offshore as they mature. Much of the area is lined with eelgrass beds that shelter Dungeness crab, ghost shrimp, and other invertebrates. Young flatfish, smelt, herring, and shiner perch find shelter in the protected estuary, which also serves as a migration corridor for steelhead trout and coho salmon. Seabirds and shorebirds roost and forage within the conservation area, and seals and sea lions hunt for prey there. The estuary is river otter habitat as well, and part of a transportation corridor that assists with the movement and dispersal of river otters throughout the area.

Placing a state marine conservation area here provides moderately high levels of protection for marine life and the habitats they use.



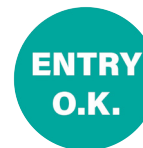
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or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



Quick Facts: Navarro River Estuary State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.09 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1 mile
- **Habitat composition:**
 Estuary: 0.06 square miles
 Coastal marsh: 0.25 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Waterfowl Hunting
 See Hunting Regulations



Fishing
 See Regulations On Back



No Collecting

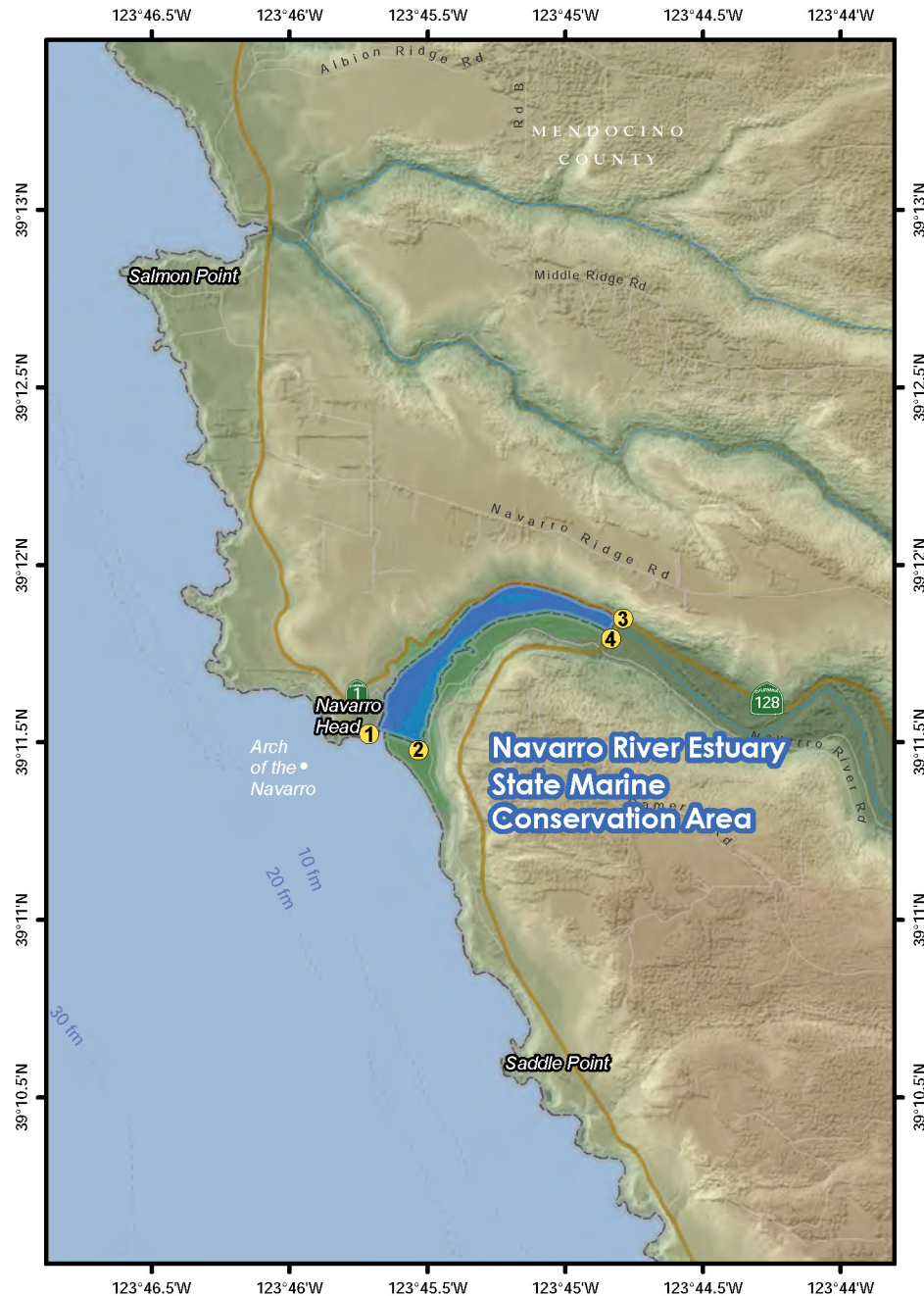
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Navarro River Estuary State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Leslie Kashiwada **Lower right:** Glaucous-winged gull in the conservation area. photo © Kyan Russell, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Red-necked phalarope at the conservation area. photo © Lori Brandt Dudzik, CC BY-SA 2.0

Navarro River Estuary State Marine Conservation Area

Northern California - Mendocino County



Navarro River 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 Navarro River Estuary, eastward of a line connecting the following two points:

- 39° 11.536' N. lat. 123° 45.685' W. long. ① and
- 39° 11.489' N. lat. 123° 45.516' W. long. ②
- and westward of a line connecting the following two points
- 39° 11.846' N. lat. 123° 44.809' W. long. ③ and
- 39° 11.803' N. lat. 123° 44.843' 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. The recreational take of salmonids by hook-and-line is allowed consistent with salmon regulations in Section 7.50.
- b. Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).
- c. The following federally recognized tribes (listed alphabetically) are exempt from the area and take regulations for Navarro River Estuary 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
- Guidville 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.