

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 Sea Lion Cove 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 Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area is to protect its geologic features, including unique horizontal sea caves and other rock formations. Years of erosion have created a complex rock habitat used by fish and invertebrates such as rockfish, lingcod, mussels, abalone, and sea stars. The conservation area protects abalone populations and supports different types of algae, such as the intertidal sea palm and offshore forests of bull kelp. Seabirds commonly seen roosting and feeding among the rocks include brown pelicans and black oystercatchers. As its name suggests, large numbers of sea lions often haul out on the conservation area's nearshore rocks to rest after feeding.

[Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area](#) shares a border with [Point Arena State Marine Reserve](#) to the north, and overlaps a portion of the [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#). 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

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



Quick Facts: Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.22 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.7 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 39 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 0.56 square miles
Sand/mud: < 0.01 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

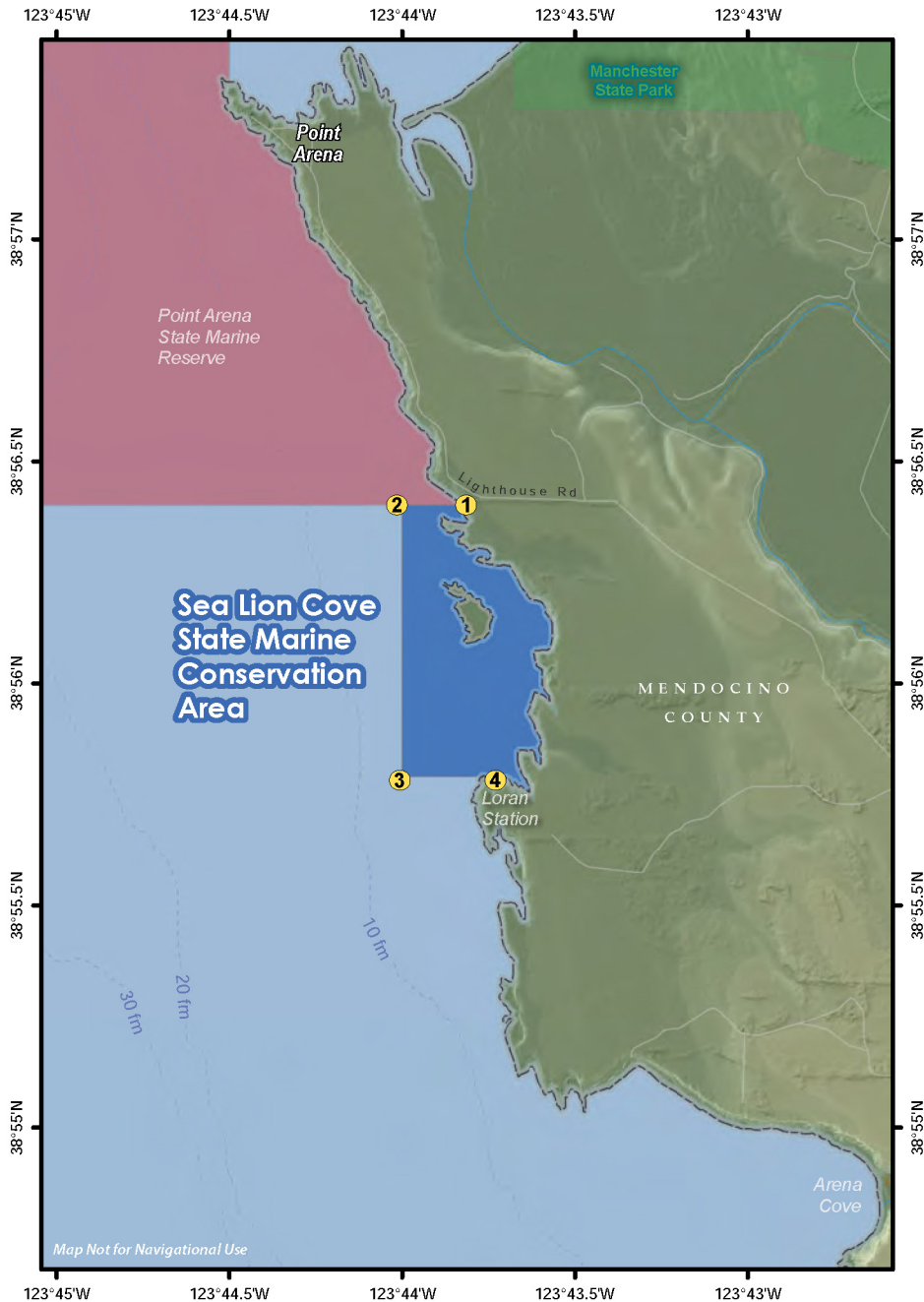
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Nearshore rocks at Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Kristina D.C. Hoepfner, CC BY-SA 2.0 **Lower right:** Rock crab at Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area. photo © avocat, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Lined chiton at the conservation area. photo © Alison Young, CC BY-NC 2.0

Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area

North Central California - Mendocino County



Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

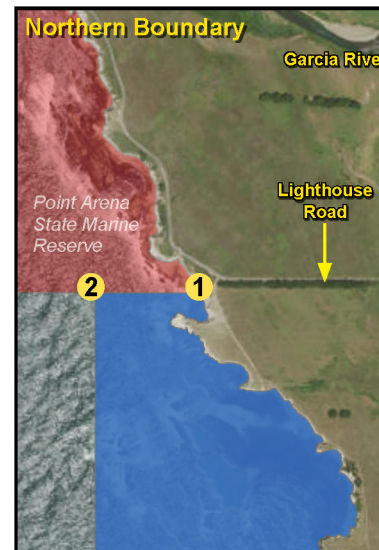
This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 56.400' N. lat. 123° 43.820' W. long. ①
- 38° 56.400' N. lat. 123° 44.000' W. long. ②
- 38° 55.790' N. lat. 123° 44.000' W. long. ③ and
- 38° 55.790' N. lat. 123° 43.740' 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 exception:

- a. The recreational and commercial take of finfish* is allowed.



* Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

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.