



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 River 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 River State Marine Conservation Area is to help protect anadromous fish, such as steelhead and salmon, on their journey to the Russian River to spawn. Historically, the Russian River supported abundant steelhead, coho salmon, and Chinook salmon. Destruction of spawning habitat nearly extinguished the runs, however efforts to save them continue. These fish collect at the river's mouth to await the opening of the sandbar with heavy winter rains. The conservation area includes expanses of sandy seafloor that attract bat rays, surfperch, and Dungeness crab. The sandy seafloor is flanked on either side by rocky reefs where limpets, anemones, and lingcod can be found.

Russian River State Marine Conservation Area shares an eastern border with [Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area](#), 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: Russian River State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.84 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 57 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 0.57 square miles
Rock: 0.69 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

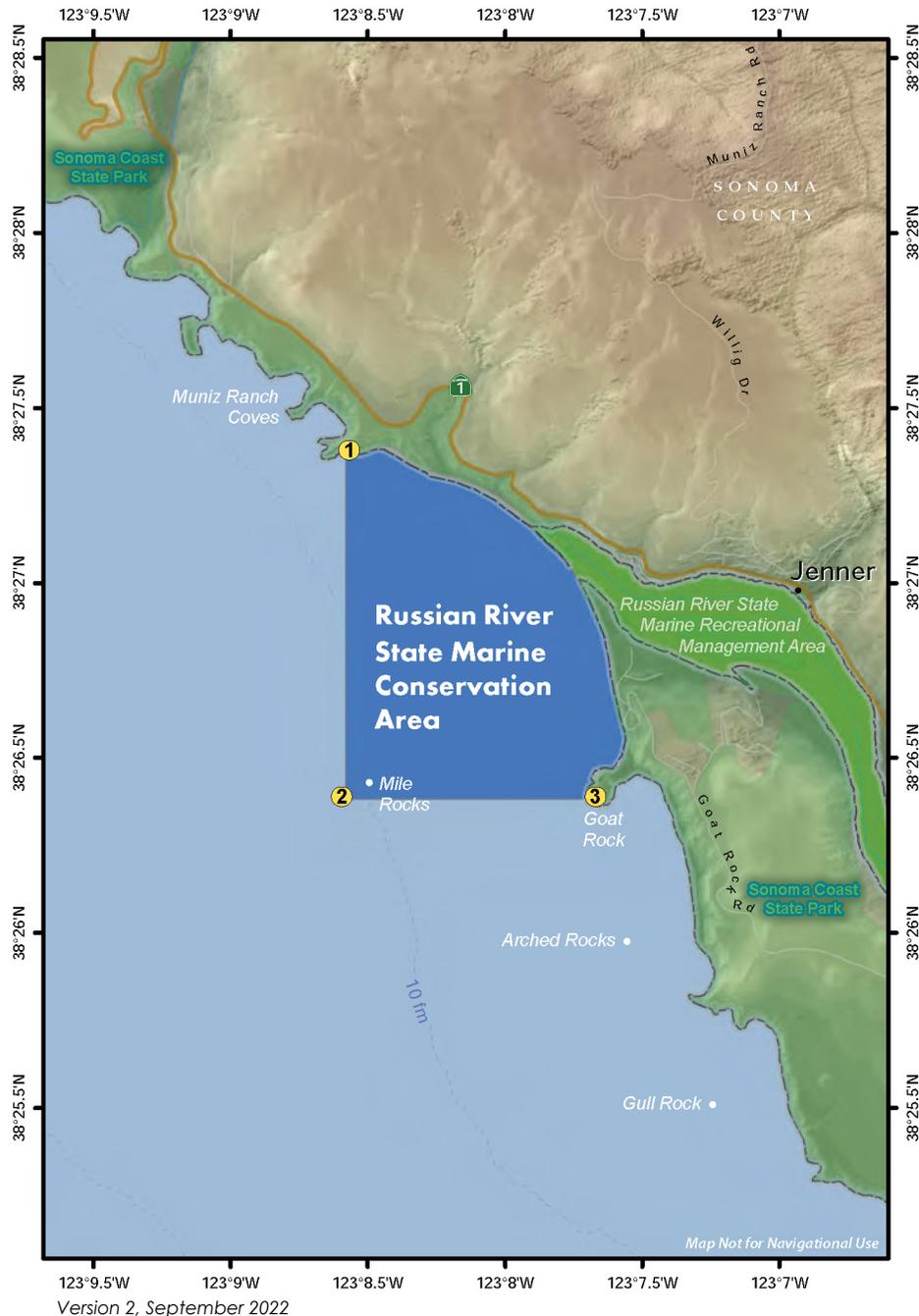


No Collecting

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: Shoreline at Russian River State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Tony Fischer, CC BY 2.0 **Lower right:** Young western gull at Russian River State Marine Conservation Area. photo © emjca CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 **Lower left:** Limpet and barnacles on the rocks at the conservation area. photo © brock CC BY-NC 2.0



Russian River 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, the mouth of the Russian River estuary [as defined by a line connecting the following two points: 38° 27.160 ' N. lat. 123° 07.910 ' W. long.; 38° 27.010 ' N. lat. 123° 07.740 ' W. long.], and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 27.380' N. lat. 123° 08.580' W. long. ①;
- 38° 26.380' N. lat. 123° 08.580' W. long. ②;
- 38° 26.380' N. lat. 123° 07.700' W. long. ③

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. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt using hand-held dip net or beach net is allowed.
- b. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.



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