

# Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area

North Central California - Established May, 2010



## What is a California marine protected area (or "MPA")?

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine 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. California marine recreational management areas focus on the protection, restriction, or enhancement of an area's recreational opportunities while preserving basic natural resources.

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 recreational management area?

One of the goals for Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area is to protect the sand flat and estuarine creek habitats found there, while allowing traditional waterfowl hunting to continue. A sandbar often forms at the mouth of the estuary during the summer and fall, damming it until winter rains arrive to wash it away. Cut off from the sea, the estuary becomes a refuge for nesting shorebirds, and provides nursery habitat for young fish. Tidewater goby, Pacific herring, staghorn sculpin, starry flounder and surfperch are some of the many species of fish found within the estuary. Invertebrates such as rock crab, ghost shrimp, and mud shrimp, as well as large aggregations of sea and shore birds, use this area for food and shelter.

Placing a state marine recreational management area here provides moderate levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



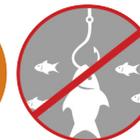
**Report poachers and polluters**  
**Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258**

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



## Quick Facts: Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area

- **Size:** 0.07 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.0 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 10 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Estuary: 0.07 square miles  
Eelgrass: < 0.01 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Waterfowl Hunting  
See Hunting Regulations

No Fishing

No Collecting

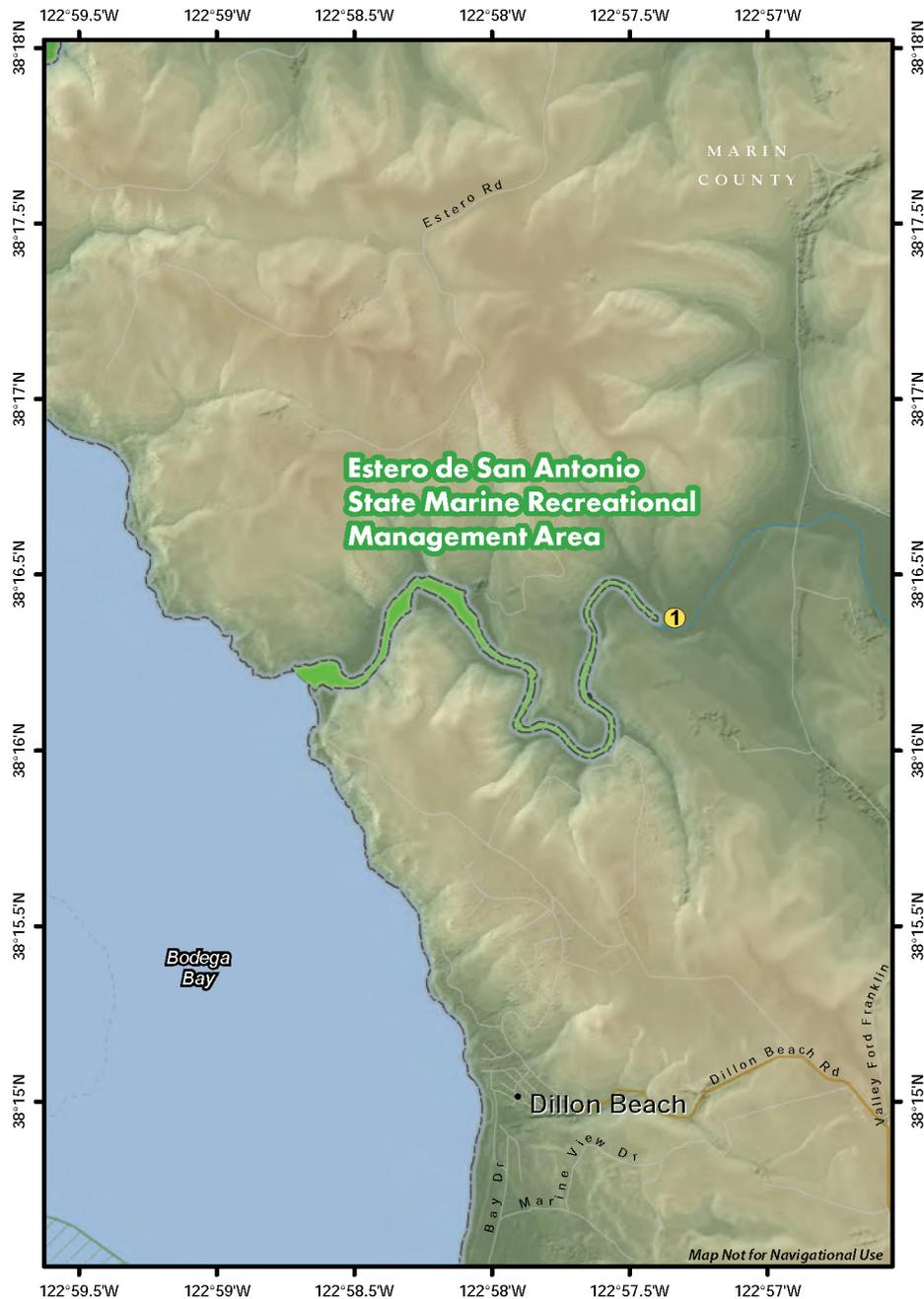
## Further Information:

- 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:** Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area, photo © Stepheng3 **Lower right:** Bat ray in the recreational management area, photo © AJ Wacaser, CC BY 2.0 **Lower left:** Brooding anemone in the recreational management area, photo © abbyt, CC BY-NC 2.0

# Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area

North Central California - Marin County



Version 1 - September 2022

## Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

### Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Estero de San Antonio westward of longitude 122° 57.400' W ①.

### Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).
2. Take of all living, geological, or cultural marine resources 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).