

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 Point Reyes 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 Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the soft, sandy seafloor and rocky reef habitat found there. Dungeness crab, coonstripe shrimp, sea whips and sea pens are common on the sandy sediments of the ocean floor, while rockfish shelter in rocky reefs. Several species of marine mammals, notably gray whales, northern elephant seals, and Steller sea lions, share these waters with numerous fish-eating birds, including common murre, brown pelicans, and cormorants. Over 50 percent of all North American bird species have been documented migrating through or living in the protected land and waters of the [Point Reyes National Seashore](#).

Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area shares a northern border with [Point Reyes State Marine Reserve](#) 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.



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Quick Facts: Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 12.27 square miles
- **Depth range:** 51 to 217 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 12.23 square miles
 - Rock: 0.08 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations On Back

No Collecting

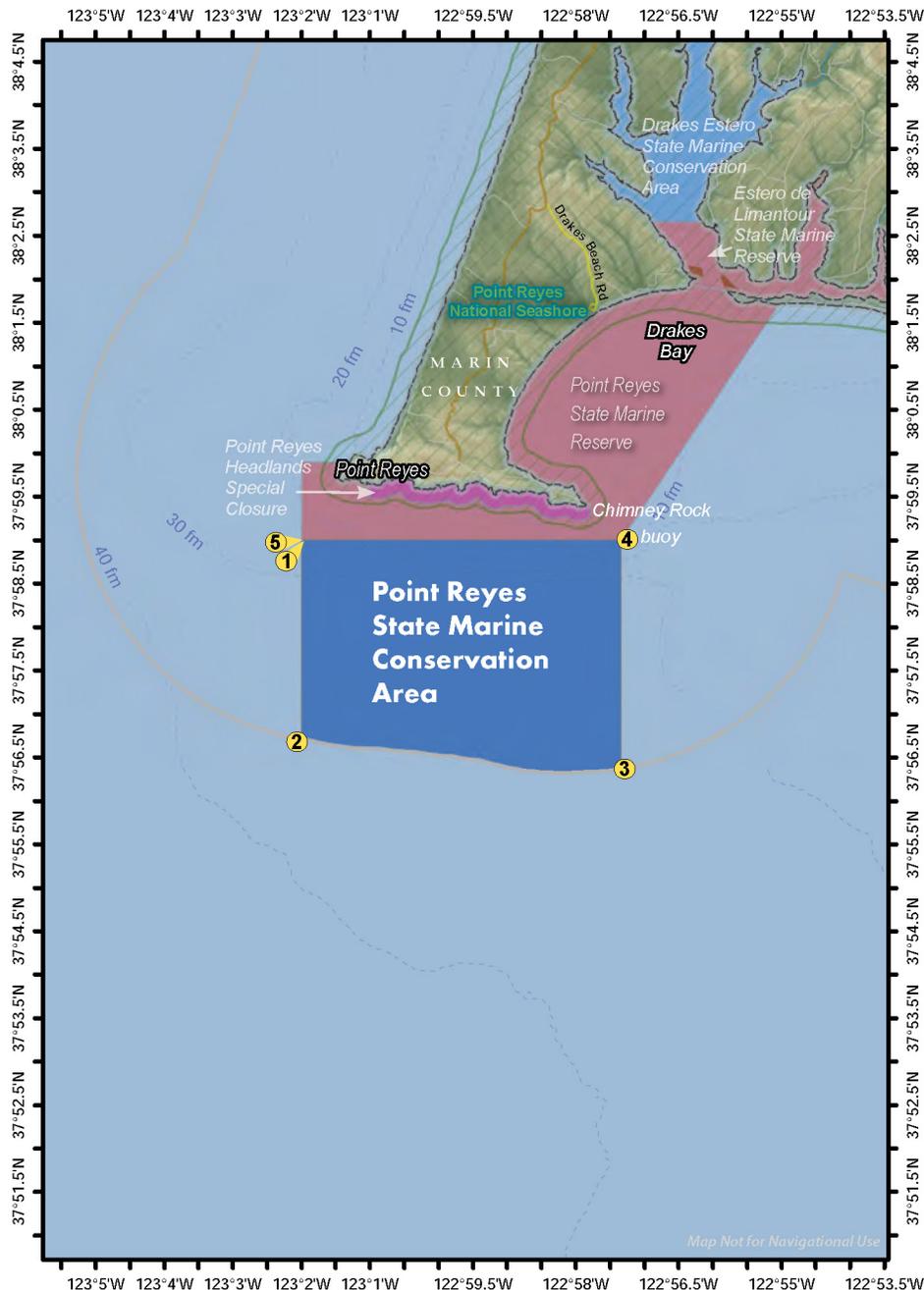
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: View of Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area from the headlands. NPS photo/Anela Ramos Kopshever **Lower right: Dungeness crab near Point Reyes.** CDFW/MARE photo **Lower left: Brandt's cormorants near Point Reyes.** photo © East Bay Birding, CC BY-NC 2.0

Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area

North Central California - Marin County



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

Boundary:

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 37° 59.000' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ①;
- 37° 56.712' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ②; thence eastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 56.370' N. lat. 122° 57.340' W. long. ③;
- 37° 59.000' N. lat. 122° 57.340' W. long. ④; and
- 37° 59.000' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ⑤

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 salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.
 - b. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and 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/Conservation/Marine/MPAs.