

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. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level of protection.

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 reserve?

One of the goals for Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve is to protect coastal estuary habitat, including extensive tidal mudflats, coastal marsh, sand/mud bottom, and eelgrass beds. Dungeness crab, perch, and flatfish such as California halibut depend on the extensive eelgrass beds for nursery habitat, and brants are commonly seen in the area feeding on eelgrass. Migrating and resident birds in the thousands, including cormorants, sandpipers, and pelicans, feed and rest in the estuary. Over half of all North American bird species have been documented migrating through or living in the Point Reyes area, and many of them use the estuaries here for feeding, resting, and raising young. Harbor seals give birth in the reserve each year as well, and are often seen resting on the mudflats.

Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve is surrounded by [Point Reyes National Seashore](#) and shares a northern border with [Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area](#) and a southern border with [Point Reyes State Marine Reserve](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high 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 Limantour State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 1.45 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.2 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 10 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Estuary: 1.27 square miles
 - Eelgrass: 0.22 square miles
 - Coastal marsh: 1.61 square miles



Non-Consumptive
Activities



No Fishing



No Collecting

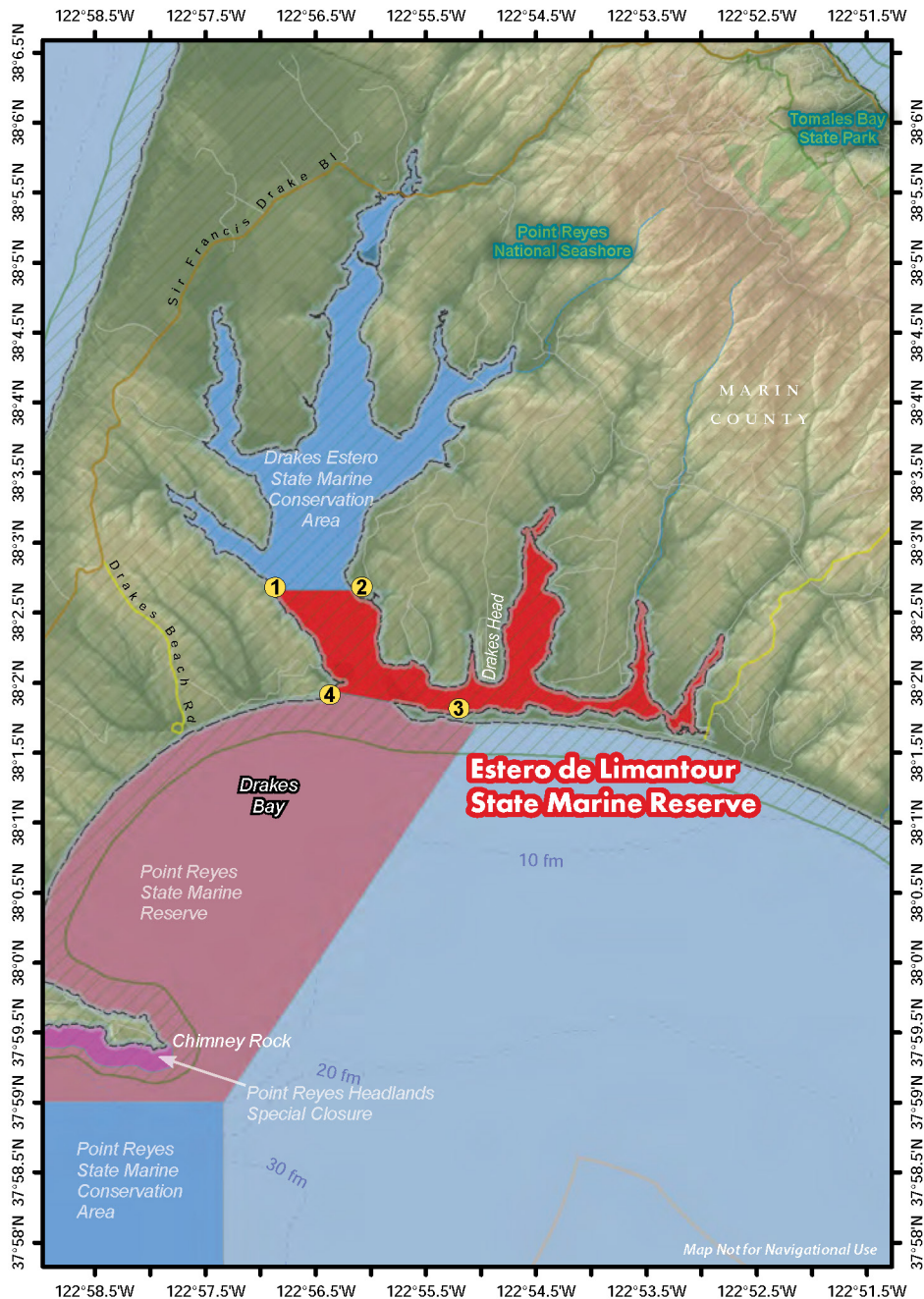
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Estero de Limantour, photo © phoca2004, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0. **Lower right:** Nuttall's cockle at Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve, photo © David Loeb, CC BY-NC 2.0. **Lower left:** American white pelicans on a mudflat at the reserve, photo © Lorri Gong, CC BY-NC 2.0

Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve

North Central California - Marin County



Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

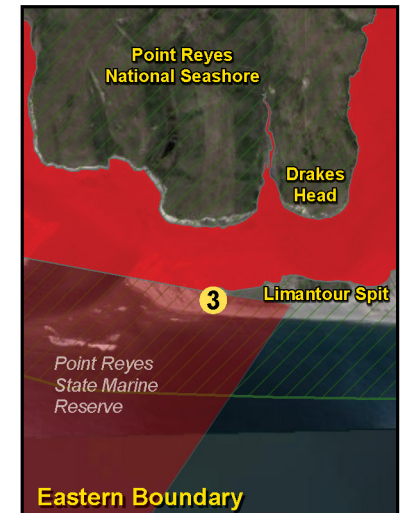
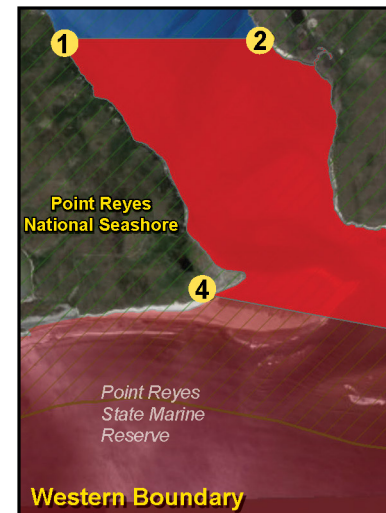
Boundary:

This area consists of waters below the mean high tide line within Estero de Limantour and within Drakes Estero, southward of a line connecting the following two points:

- 38° 02.660' N. lat. 122° 56.900' W. long. ①; and
- 38° 02.660' N. lat. 122° 56.150' W. long. ② and northward of a line connecting the following two points:
- 38° 01.783' N. lat. 122° 55.286' W. long. ③; and
- 38° 01.941' N. lat. 122° 56.364' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



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/Network.