

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. Special closures such as Point Resistance Rock Special Closure are specifically designed to minimize human disturbance at significant marine mammal haulout sites and seabird rookeries by restricting boating and access, seasonally or year-round.

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 special closure?

One of the goals for Point Resistance Rock Special Closure is to shield nesting seabirds such as common murres, brown pelicans, cormorants, and black oystercatchers from human disturbance. The special closure creates ideal nesting habitat for breeding common murres, and roosting locations for brown pelicans. The abundant food in the area helps to ensure the survival of both young common murres and their parents, who dedicate months to raising just one chick every season. Point Resistance Rock is surrounded by tidepools and a shallow intertidal zone filled with surfgrass, sea stars, mussels, barnacles, owl limpets, and small fish.

Point Resistance Rock Special Closure overlaps [Point Reyes National Seashore](#) and the [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#), and Point Resistance Rock itself is part of the [California Coastal National Monument](#). Placing a special closure here provides very high levels of protection for seabirds, marine mammals, and the habitats they use.



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Quick Fact: Point Resistance Rock Special Closure

- **Size:** 0.01 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 10 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 0.02 square miles



See Regulations On Back

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: Point Resistance Rock. photo © Common Murre Project U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Lower right: Brown pelicans near the special closure. photo © Paul Tavares, CC BY-NC 2.0
Lower left: Cormorants on Point Resistance Rock. photo © Maxwell Forton

Point Resistance Rock Special Closure

North Central California - Marin County



Point Resistance Rock Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special restrictions on boating and access apply to Point Resistance Rock as follows:

1. A special closure is designated from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of Point Resistance Rock, located in the vicinity of 37° 59.916' N. lat. 122° 49.759' W. long. ①
2. No person except Department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the Department, shall enter this area at any time.

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.