

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 Double Point/Stormy Stack 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 [Double Point/Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure](#) is to shield nesting seabirds from human disturbance. This rocky pinnacle sits roughly 800 feet from shore at the north end of the [Double Point Area of Special Biological Significance](#), and protects one of the area's largest seabird rookeries. The craggy surface and crevices in the rock provide ideal nesting habitat for common murres, Brandt's cormorants, brown pelicans, pigeon guillemots, and ashy storm-petrels. California sea lions also haul out on the exposed shores of Stormy Stack Rock to rest after feeding on the area's salmon, lingcod, and California halibut.

Double Point/Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure overlaps [Point Reyes National Seashore](#) and the [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#), and Stormy Stack 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 Facts: Double Point/Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure

- **Size:** 0.02 square miles
- **Depth:** 0 to 32 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 0.01 square miles
 - Rock: 0.04 square miles



**NO
ENTRY**

See Regulations On Back

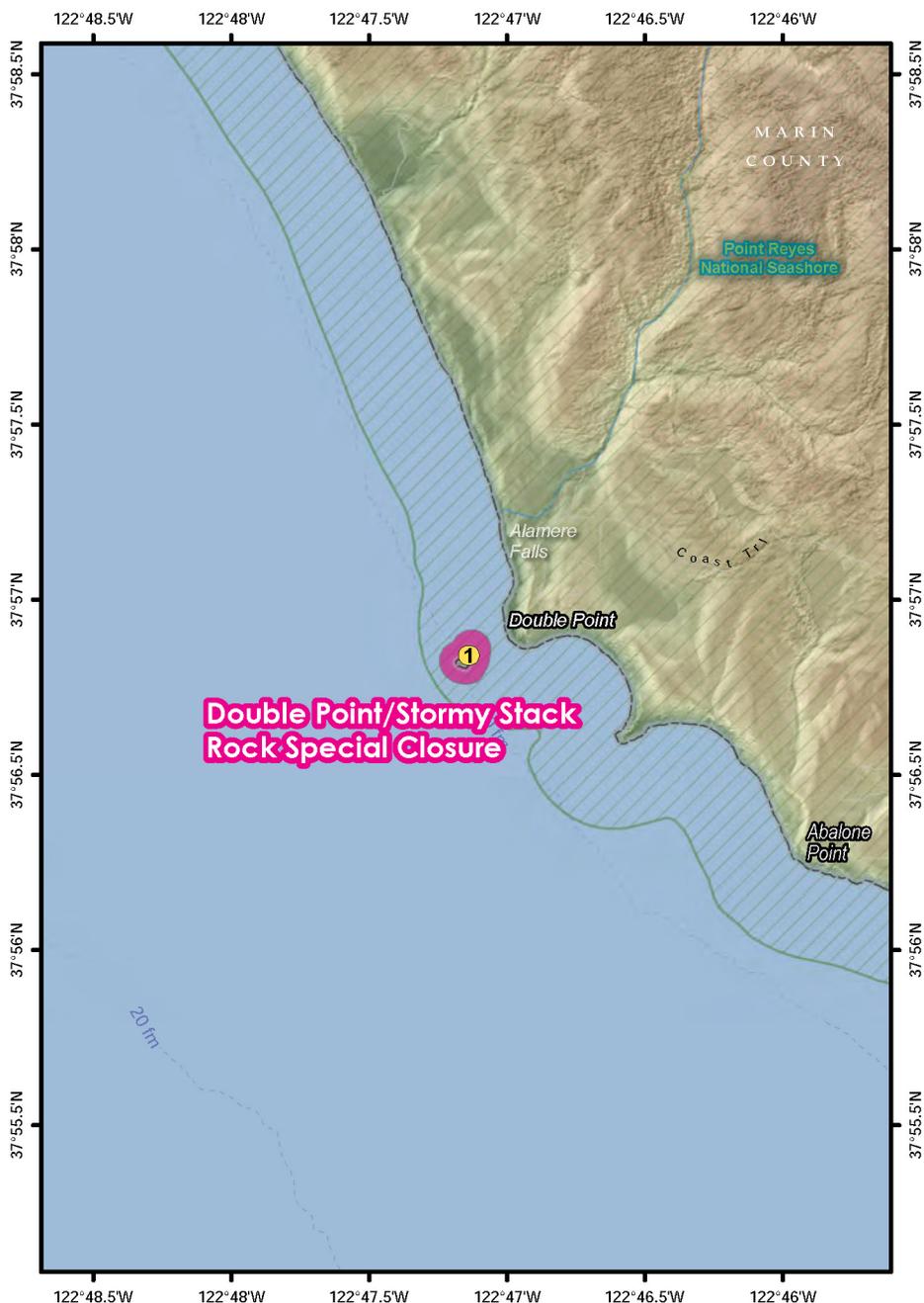
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Stormy Stack Rock, off Double Point. photo © Adam Gulkis, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 Lower right: Pigeon guillemot near the special closure. photo © Lorri Gong, CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower left: Brown pelicans and common murres on Stormy Stack Rock. photo © Common Murre Project, USFWS

Double Point/Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure

North Central California - Marin County



Double Point/Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special restrictions on boating and access apply to Stormy Stack 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 Stormy Stack Rock, located in the vicinity of 37° 56.830' N. lat. 122° 47.140' 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.