

### 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 North Farallon Islands 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?

The Farallon Islands archipelago is a highly productive area filled with all manner of marine life, from plankton to whales. One of the goals for North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve is to protect part of this globally significant marine ecosystem, which includes a highly productive and unique mix of habitats at all depths. The reserve helps to protect concentrations of prey and foraging predators, such as the black-footed albatross and the small fish and squid they eat. Many species of fish including vermilion, copper, and bocaccio rockfish, lingcod, salmon, and halibut are abundant in the reserve. Marine mammals like northern fur seals, California sea lions, and harbor porpoises hunt for fish, attracting a healthy population of white sharks. The Farallon Islands are known for having one of the largest congregations of white sharks in the world.

North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve overlaps [North Farallon Islands Special Closure](#) and a portion of the [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



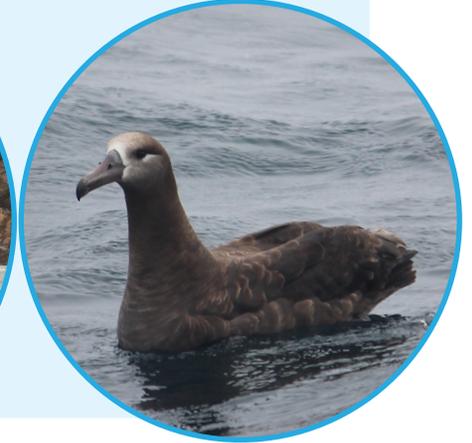
Report poachers and polluters  
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

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



### Quick Facts: North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 18.07 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 8.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 275 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
  - Rock: 1.03 square miles
  - Sand/mud: 16.06 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

No Collecting

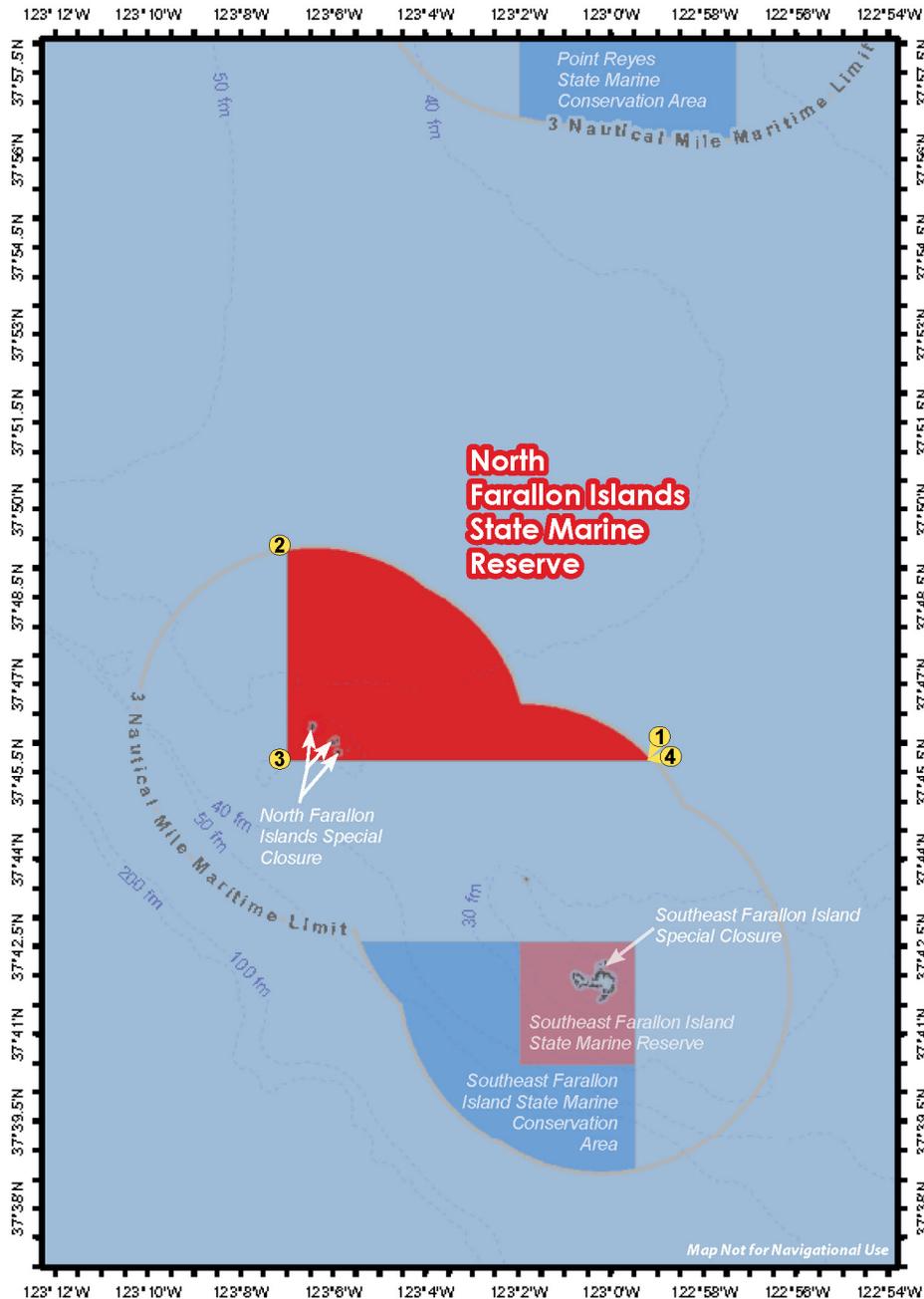
### Further Information:

- 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: Rocky shore at North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve, photo © Christian Schwarz, CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower right: Black-footed albatross at the reserve, photo © C. Sulots, CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower left: Northern fur seals at the reserve, photo © Christian Schwarz, CC BY-NC 2.0.

# North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve

North Central California - San Francisco County



Version 2, September 2022

## North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve 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° 45.700' N. lat. 122° 59.085' W. long. ①; thence northwestward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 49.344' N. lat. 123° 07.000' W. long. ②;
- 37° 45.700' N. lat. 123° 07.000' W. long. ③; and
- 37° 45.700' N. lat. 122° 59.085' 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/MFAs/Network](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MFAs/Network).