

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 Southeast Farallon Island 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 [Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area](#) is to protect the deeper sandy seafloor habitat found there, while allowing commercial and recreational salmon fishing to continue. The conservation area also protects forage fish such as sardine and anchovy near the Farallon Islands, which are an important food source for a suite of marine mammals and fish. Hagfish, brittle stars, sea whips, rockfish, Dungeness crab, box crab, and sea cucumbers are among the many species found on the conservation area's sandy sea floor.

Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area shares a border with [Southeast Farallon Island 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: Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 12.95 square miles
- **Depth range:** 130 to 382 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Sand/mud: 9.25 square miles
 - Rock: 1.59 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing
See Regulations
On Back

No Collecting

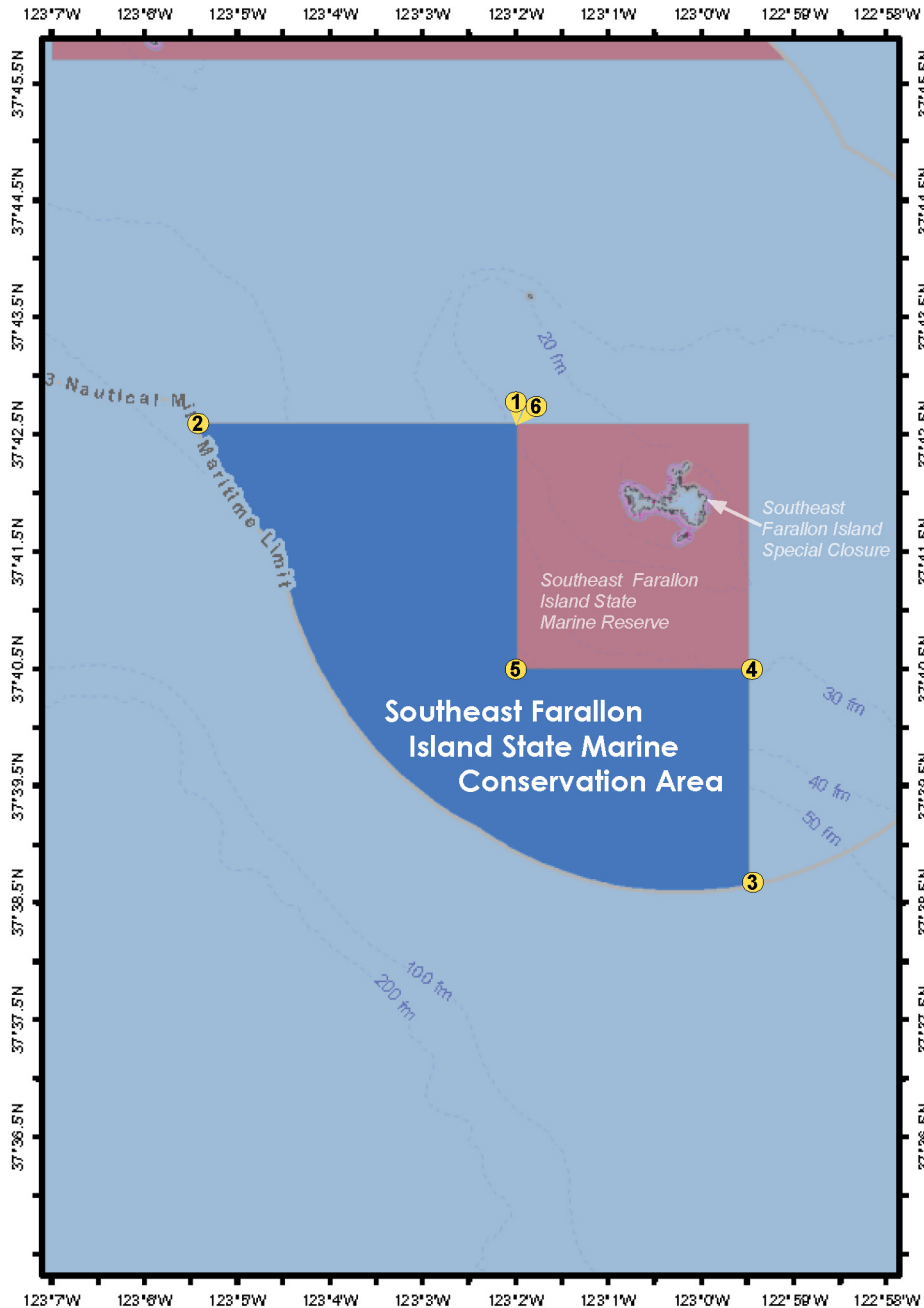
Further Information:

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

Photos - **Upper:** Northern fulmar at Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area. photo © R.J. Adams, CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower right:** Feather star swimming at Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area. CDFW/MARE photo **Lower left:** Hagfish at Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area CDFW/MARE photo

Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area

North Central California - San Francisco County



Southeast Farallon Island 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° 42.600' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ①;
- 37° 42.600' N. lat. 123° 05.461' W. long. ②; thence southeastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 38.654' N. lat. 122° 59.500' W. long. ③;
- 37° 40.500' N. lat. 122° 59.500' W. long. ④;
- 37° 40.500' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ⑤; and
- 37° 42.600' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ⑥

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 is allowed.
 - b. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear 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/Network.