

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 Southeast Farallon Island 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 Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve is to protect the surfgrass, sandy seafloor and rocky reef habitat found there. Strong upwelling of cold, nutrient-rich water from the depths to the surface during the spring makes the reserve a highly productive area for seaweeds, invertebrates, fishes, marine mammals, and birds. Notable species found here include white sharks, cabezon, blue rockfish, abalone, octopus, whales, northern elephant seals, and Steller sea lions. From seabirds to marine mammals, these islands provide significant habitat and feeding opportunities for many threatened or endangered species.

Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve overlaps [Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure](#) and shares a border with [Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area](#). The reserve also overlaps a portion of the [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#) and [Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



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Quick Facts: Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 5.36 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 238 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Rock: 4.73 square miles
 - Sand/mud: 2.77 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

No Collecting

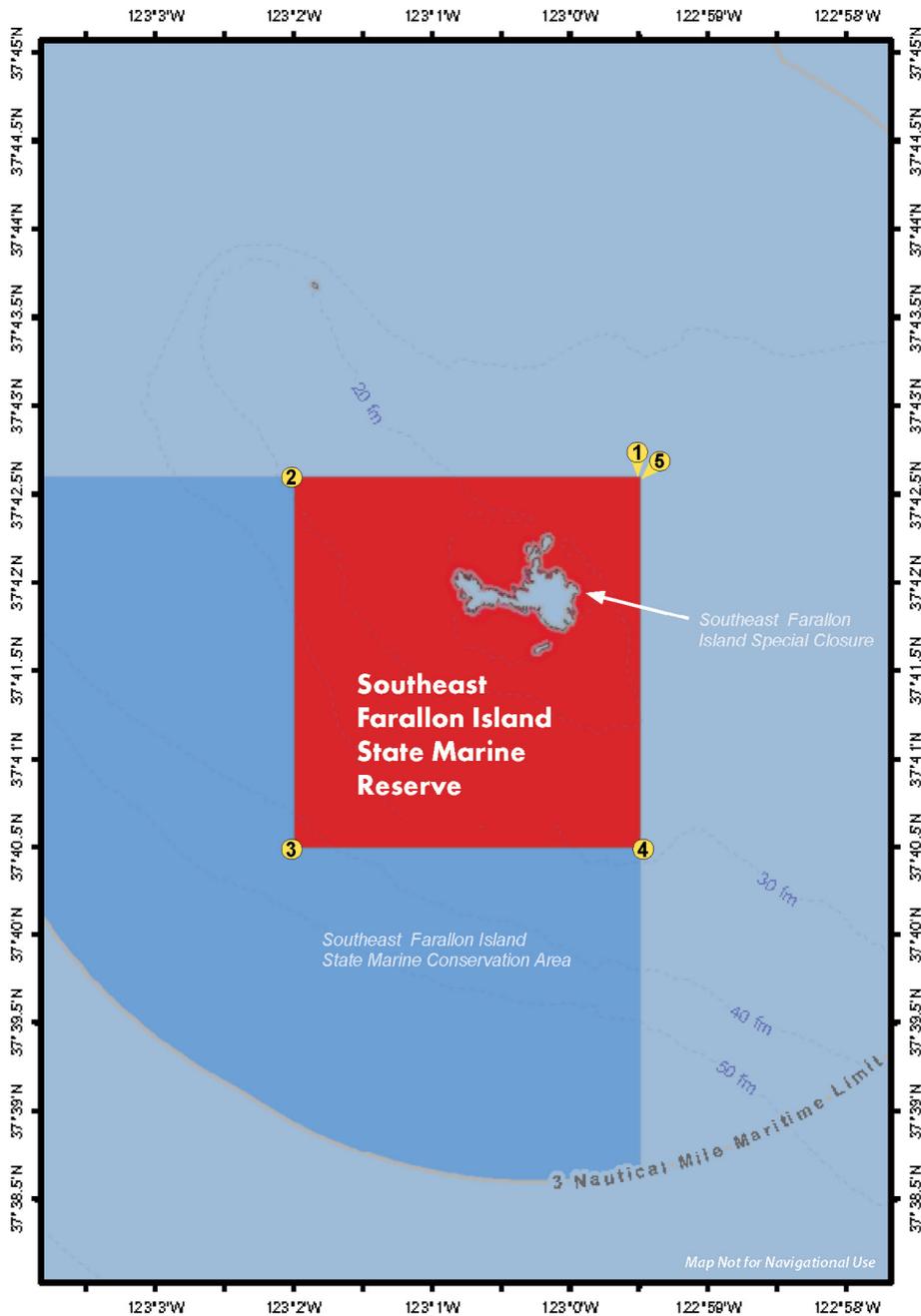
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Aerial view of Southeast Farallon Island, photo © Jan Roletto. Lower right: Blue rockfish, red sea urchin, and sea anemone in Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo. Lower left: Octopus at the reserve, CDFW/MARE photo.

Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve

North Central California - San Francisco County



Southeast Farallon Island 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:

- 37° 42.600' N. lat. 122° 59.500' W. long. ①;
- 37° 42.600' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ②;
- 37° 40.500' N. lat. 123° 02.000' W. long. ③;
- 37° 40.500' N. lat. 122° 59.500' W. long. ④; and
- 37° 42.600' N. lat. 122° 59.500' W. long. ⑤

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.