

# Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure

North Central California Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), *Established May 2010*



## Site Overview

Photos are representative of the North Central Coast Region and may not be within this Special Closure

## What is an MPA?

MPAs are a type of [marine managed area](#) (MMA) where marine or estuarine waters are set aside primarily to protect or conserve marine life and associated habitats. California has a coastal network of 124 protected areas designed to help increase the coherence and effectiveness of protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. The network includes three types of MPA: [state marine reserve](#) (SMR), [state marine conservation area](#) (SMCA), and [state marine park](#) (SMP); one MMA: [state marine recreational management area](#) (SMRMA); and [special closures](#). There are 119 MPAs, 5 MMAs and 15 special closures, each with unique boundaries and regulations in the network. Non-consumptive activities, restoration, and permitted scientific research are allowed.

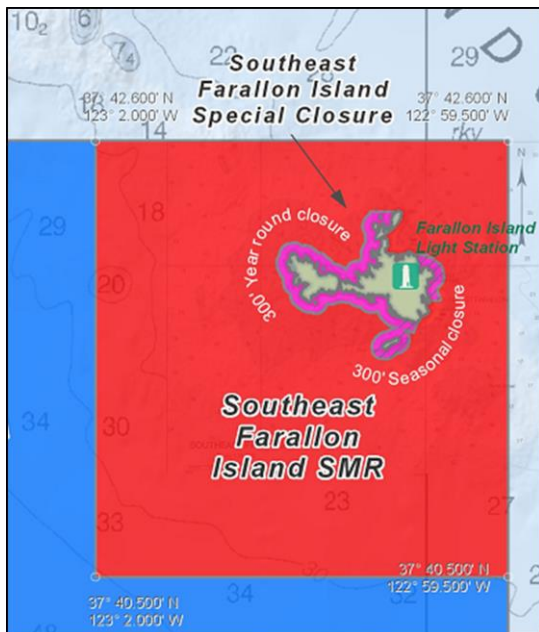
## What is a Special Closure?

A **special closure** is an area designated by the Fish and Game Commission that prohibits access and/or restricts boating activities in waters adjacent to sea bird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites.

## Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure Overview

- **Special closure size:** 0.18 square miles
- **Primary habitat:** Rocky shores
- **Closure season:** Year round
- **Closure distance:** 300 feet

## Where is Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure?



## Boundaries

**Boundary:** Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, or as authorized by subsection 632(b)(55)(D), no vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the Southeast Farallon Island year-round EXCEPT:

The area north of Fisherman's Bay, from a line extending due west from 37° 42.26' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long., following clockwise around the island (including Fisherman's Bay), to a line extending due east from 37° 42.05' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long.

At East Landing, from a line extending due east from 37° 41.83' N. lat. 122° 59.98' W. long., following clockwise around the island, to a straight line connecting the following two points:

37° 41.72' N. lat. 123° 00.05' W. long.; and  
37° 41.68' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long.

This closure as defined in subsection 632(b)(55)(B) exists year round, except for the following areas, which are closed only from December 1 through September 14 of each year:

From Fisherman's Bay to East Landing, from a line extending due east from 37° 42.05' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long., following clockwise around the island to a line extending due east from 37° 41.83' N. lat. 122° 59.98' W. long.

The area southwest of East Landing, from a straight line connecting the following two points:

37° 41.72' N. lat. 123° 00.05' W. long.; and  
37° 41.68' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long.

Following clockwise around the main island to a straight line extending due south from 37° 41.76' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long. to 37° 41.64' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long., and on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from a straight line extending due south from 37° 41.76' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long., following clockwise around Saddle (Seal) Rock, to a line extending due west from 37° 41.60' N. lat. 123° 00.26' W. long.

# Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure

## Regulations

**Permitted/Prohibited Uses:** Special regulations on boating and access apply to the Southeast Farallon Island as follows:

1. No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter the area defined in subsection 632(b)(55)(B).
2. All vessels shall observe a five (5) nautical mile per hour speed limit 1,000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the Southeast Farallon Island.
3. In an area bounded by the mean high tide line and a distance of one nautical mile seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any of the islands and islets comprising the Southeast Farallon Island, the following restrictions apply:
  - a. All commercial diving vessels operating in the defined area shall terminate their vessel engine exhaust system either through a muffler for dry exhaust systems, or below the vessel waterline for wet exhaust systems.
  - b. All commercial diving vessels equipped with an open, deck-mounted air compressor system, while operating in the defined area, shall have the air compressor's engine exhaust system terminate below the vessel waterline.

## Why Southeast Farallon Island was Chosen for a Special Closure

Special closures are designed to minimize the human disturbance of seabirds and marine mammals by restricting boating and access (seasonal or year round) to the area. Smaller than MPAs, special closures work within the overall MPA network to provide localized protection to seabird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites in areas of significant importance to the marine ecosystem. In some instances special closures may offer protection from geographically-specific threats that are not necessarily addressed by MPAs including disturbance.

### **North Coast RSG Identified Rationale Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure:**

This special closure is intended to protect a Steller sea lion haul out and rookery, a California sea lion haul out, Northern fur seal and Northern elephant seals breeding site, and more than 180,000 seabirds.

## North Central Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview)

North Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders/b4da.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/binders/b4da.pdf)

California MLPA North Central Coast Study Region Description of MPAs:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/ipa\\_description.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/ipa_description.pdf)

Methods Used to Evaluate MPAs in the North Central Coast:

[www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/nccrsg-dprops/evaluationmethods.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/nccrsg-dprops/evaluationmethods.pdf)

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring)

Regional MPA Statistics:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics)

Regional Planning History:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Planning-Process)

## California MPA Network Resources

Detailed MPA guidebooks maps and brochures:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network)

California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan)

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals)



**For more Information, visit:**

[www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)

**Email:**

[AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov)

**MPA Mobile:**



Report poaching and polluting,  
Call CalTIP

**1-888-334-2258**

The information in this document does not replace the official regulatory language found in the California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632 [www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Title-14-Section-632](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network/Title-14-Section-632)