

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 Bodega Head 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 Bodega Head State Marine Reserve is to protect rocky reef, surfgrass, kelp forest, and sand/mud seafloor habitat in a region known for persistent upwelling of nutrient-rich water. Together, the reserve and the neighboring conservation area cover about three-quarters of one of the largest rocky reefs in northern California. The reef itself covers about 10 square miles, extending to a depth of 260 feet, and provides habitat for a wide variety of marine species. China rockfish, lingcod, and kelp greenling are common on the reef, along with giant red sea cucumber, white-plumed anemone, and sea stars. Dungeness crab search for food on the sandy seafloor, while California halibut camouflage themselves in the sediments.

Bodega Head State Marine Reserve shares a southern border with [Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area](#) and overlaps the [Bodega Area of Special Biological Significance](#), Bodega Marine Life Refuge, 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: Bodega Head State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 9.34 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 2.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 266 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 5.15 square miles
Sand/mud: 6.48 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities



Anchoring Restricted
See Regulations on Back



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: The coastline at Bodega Head State Marine Reserve, photo © Jon Evans, CC BY 2.0.
Lower right: China rockfish at Bodega Head State Marine Reserve, CDFW/MARE photo.
Lower left: A blueband hermit crab in surfgrass at Bodega Head State Marine Reserve, photo © Jacob Gorneau, CC BY-NC 2.0

Bodega Head State Marine Reserve

North Central California - Sonoma County



Bodega Head State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

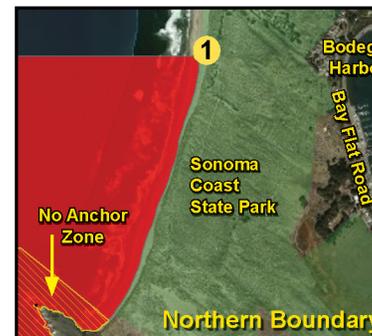
- 38° 20.100' N. lat. 123° 04.123' W. long. ①;
- 38° 20.100' N. lat. 123° 08.448' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 18.000' N. lat. 123° 08.140' W. long. ③; and
- 38° 18.000' N. lat. 123° 03.680' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, with the following specified exceptions:

- a. Take pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 10661 is allowed, and the director of the Bodega Marine Life Refuge may authorize certain activities in the Bodega Marine Life Refuge (Section 10903, Fish and Game Code) pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of Section 10502.7 and Section 10656 of the Fish and Game Code.

[Additionally, within the Bodega Marine Life Refuge (a small nearshore area within Bodega Head SMR): No anchoring or mooring except as permitted by federal law, or during hazardous weather. CDFW and the Bodega Marine Life Refuge director may permit access, anchoring, and take for scientific or educational purposes.]



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/CCR-T14-MPAs.