



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 Bodega Head 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 Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the rocky reef, surfgrass, and sand/mud seafloor habitat found there. Together, the conservation area and the neighboring marine reserve 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. Brown rockfish, lingcod, and kelp greenling are common on the reef, along with giant red sea cucumber, white-plumed anemone, and sea stars. On the sandy seafloor, Dungeness crab search for food while flatfish such as California halibut camouflage themselves in the sediments.

Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area shares a northern border with [Bodega Head 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.



Report poachers and polluters

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Quick Facts: Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 12.31 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 0.2 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 267 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 7.98 square miles
Rock: 5.80 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: Bodega Headlands. CDFW photo by A. Frimodig Lower right: White-plumed anemones at Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area. photo © MARE/IfAME-CSUMB Lower left: Dungeness crab in the conservation area. photo © MARE/IfAME-CSUMB



Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area 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° 18.000' N. lat. 123° 03.680' W. long. ①;
- 38° 18.000' N. lat. 123° 08.140' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 13.340' N. lat. 123° 03.510' W. long. ③; and
- 38° 17.930' N. lat. 123° 03.510' W. long. ④

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 pelagic finfish* by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed.
 - b. The commercial take of pelagic finfish* by troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net, is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial pelagic finfish or market squid catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.

* "Pelagic finfish" is defined as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.), billfishes (family Istiophoridae), dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*), Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), blue shark (*Prionace glauca*), salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*), shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*), thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.), swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*), tunas (family Scombridae) including Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). The commercial take of marlin is not 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/CCR-T14-MPAs.