

North Farallon Islands 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.

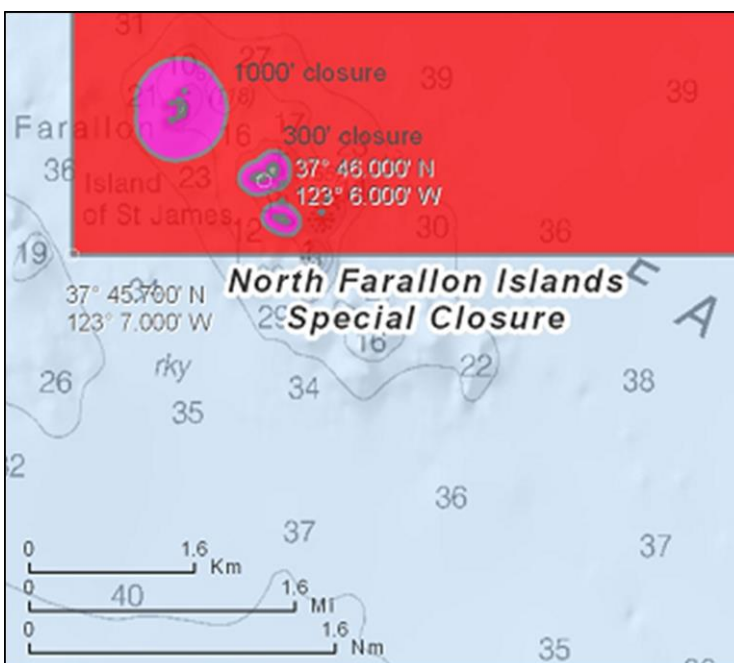
What is a Special Closure?

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.

North Farallon Islands Special Closure Overview

- **Special closure size:** 0.21 square miles
- **Primary habitat:** Rocky shores
- **Closure season:** Year round
- **Closure distance:** 1000 to 300 feet

Where is North Farallon Islands Special Closure?



Boundaries and Regulations

Boundary: Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, or as authorized by subsection 632(b)(52)(C), no vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 1000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of North Farallon Island, or to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the remaining three southern islets, including the Island of St. James, in the vicinity of 37° 46' N. lat. 123° 06' W. long.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses: Special regulations on boating and access, seasonal closure including speed limits, anchoring, commercial diving operation exhaust procedures and transit apply to the North Farallon Islands and can be found in [Title 14, Section 632\(b\)\(52\)](#).

North Farallon Island Special Closure

How North Farallon Island was Chosen for a Special Closure

This special closure was developed by a work group made up of members from the larger cross-interest regional stakeholder group (RSG) as part of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). Work group members used local knowledge and input, and scientific data to identify areas where the special closure designation could be applied. Suggested special closure locations were then brought to entire RSG, who after open discussion decided what special closures would be included in their regional marine protected area (MPA) proposal. Final proposals were sent to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for adoption. North Farallon Island special closure was adopted by the Commission in 2010.

Why North 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 North Farallon Island Special Closure:

This special closure is intended to protect a Steller sea lion haul out and more than 72,000 nesting seabirds, which include Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Pelagic Cormorant, Brandt's Cormorant, Western Gull, and Cassin's Auklet.

North Central Coast Regional Resources

California MPA Overview:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Overview

North Central Coast Regional Goals and Objectives:

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

Methods Used to Evaluate MPAs in the North Central Coast:

www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/pdfs/nccrsg-dprops/evaluationmethods.pdf

MPA Research and Monitoring Activities:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Research-And-Monitoring

Regional MPA Statistics:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Statistics

Regional Planning History:

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

California Marine Life Protection Act Marine Protected Areas Master Plan:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Master-Plan

Marine Life Protection Act Summary and Network Goals:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs/Network-Goals



For more Information, visit:

www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs

Email:

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