

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 Stewarts Point 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 Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the rocky intertidal areas and reefs, kelp forests, and sandy seafloor found here. The rocky intertidal zone, along with wash rocks and cobble and boulder beaches, offer habitat for chitons, barnacles, snails, gobies, and sculpins. Kelp forests just offshore cling to rocky reefs, and provide shelter and food for striped seaperch and red abalone. Red sea urchins, crabs, gumboot chitons, and sea stars move slowly among the sedentary anemones and sponges on the rocky coastline. Sand crabs and worms buried in the sandy sediment of pocket beaches feed on the plankton that washes over them with each incoming wave.

Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area is surrounded on three sides by [Stewarts Point 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

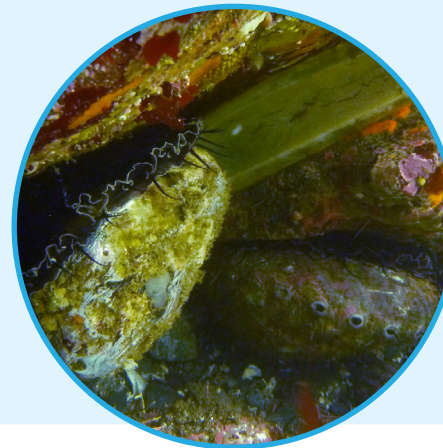
Call CalTIP: 1 (888) 334-2258

or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



Quick Facts: Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 1.19 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 3.9 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 134 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Sand/mud: 0.21 square miles
Rock: 2.31 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Fishing and Collecting
See Regulations On Back

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: Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area. photo © Calla Allison, MPA Collaborative Network Lower right: Black leather chiton at the reserve. photo © ecodanielle, CC BY-NC 2.0 Lower left: Red abalone in a crevice at the reserve. photo © Kevin Joe

Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area

North Central California - Sonoma County



Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

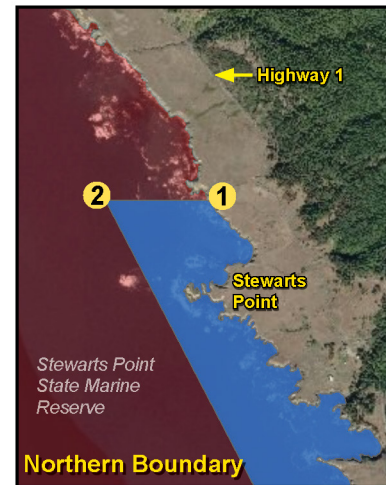
Boundary:

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

- 38° 39.527' N. lat. 123° 24.483' W. long. ①;
- 38° 39.527' N. lat. 123° 24.851' W. long. ②;
- 38° 36.958' N. lat. 123° 23.139' W. long. ③; and
- 38° 36.958' N. lat. 123° 22.468' 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 following may be taken recreationally from shore only: marine aquatic plants other than sea palm, marine invertebrates, finfish* by hook-and-line, surf smelt by beach net, and species authorized in Section 28.80 of these regulations by hand-held dip net.



*Finfish are defined here as any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays).

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.