

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. The ban on collecting and fishing in no-take marine conservation areas such as Goleta Slough State Marine Conservation Area provides very high levels 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 conservation area?

One of the goals for Goleta Slough State Marine Conservation Area is to protect the critical salt marsh habitat there, and the plants, fish, birds, and invertebrates that inhabit it. The mud and sand tidal flats, and estuary plants such as pickleweed, are used by a wide variety of marine species such as lined shore crabs, yellow shore crabs, and horned snails. The endangered tidewater goby, topsmelt, and the young of many fish and invertebrates find shelter in the quiet, brackish waters. Water birds such as brown pelican, great blue heron, and night heron breed, rest, and feed in the slough.

This marine conservation area is located near Goleta Beach County Park and is within [Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve](#). Together, the MPA and ecological reserve protect many different habitat types. Placing a no-take state marine conservation area here provides very high levels of protection for 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: Goleta Slough State Marine Conservation Area

- **MPA size:** 0.16 square miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 10 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Coastal marsh: 0.78 square miles
Estuary: 0.15 square miles



Entry and Hiking Restrictions
See Regulations on Back



No Boating, Diving,
Swimming, or Wading



No Fishing



No Collecting

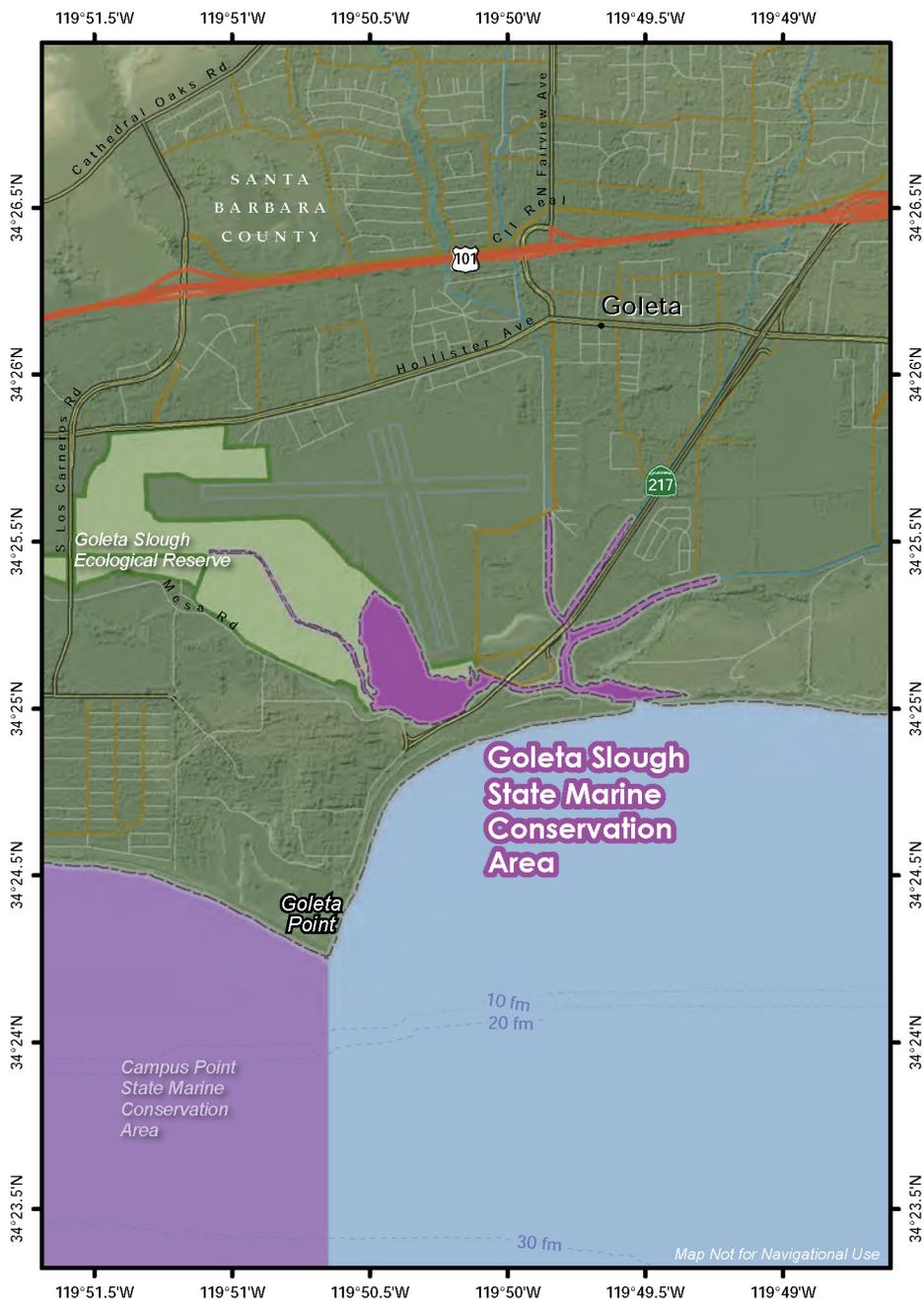
Further Information:

- MPA Website: www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap
- Email: AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov

Photos - Upper: Goleta Slough State Marine Conservation Area, near slough mouth, photo © Damian Gadal CC BY 2.0. Lower right: Great blue heron with topsmelt in Goleta Slough, photo © Eric Jacob CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower left: Spotted sandpiper in Goleta Slough, photo © Jeremiah Bender CC BY-NC 2.0

Goleta Slough State Marine Conservation Area

Southern California - Santa Barbara County



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

This area overlaps a portion of the Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve. Ecological reserve rules are in effect as defined in Section 630 or as posted.

Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Goleta Slough.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

1. It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial and/or recreational purposes, with the following specified exceptions:
 - a. Take pursuant to routine maintenance, dredging, habitat restoration, research and education, maintenance of artificial structures, and operation and maintenance of existing facilities in the conservation area is allowed pursuant to any required federal, state and local permits, or activities pursuant to Section 630, or as otherwise authorized by the Department.
2. In waters below the mean high tide line inside the Goleta Slough Ecological Reserve as defined within Section 630, the following restrictions apply:
 - a. Boating, swimming, wading, and diving are prohibited.
 - b. No person shall enter this area and remain therein except on established trails, paths or other designated areas except Department employees or designated employees of Santa Barbara Airport, City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Sanitary District and Goleta Valley Vector Control District for the purposes of carrying out official duties.



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/Conservation/Marine/MPAs/Network.