



Humboldt Bay Harbor District

(707) 443-0801 or
www.humbolddbay.org

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

For more information:
www.wildlife.ca.gov

For boundaries and regulations, go to:
www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/MPA

To protect, maintain, enhance
and restore California's
marine ecosystems for
their ecological values and
their use and enjoyment by
the public through good
science and effective
communication.

California Department of
Fish and Wildlife,
Marine Region

Image above: Woodley Island Marina (Neva Swensen)
below: black brants (Neva Swensen)



Help stop poaching & polluting, call:
1-888-334-CALTIP (1-888-334-2258)

Report lost fishing gear:
1-888-491-GEAR (4237)
or
www.lostfishinggear.org

Learn more about clean boating at:
www.BoatingCleanandGreen.com
415-904-6905

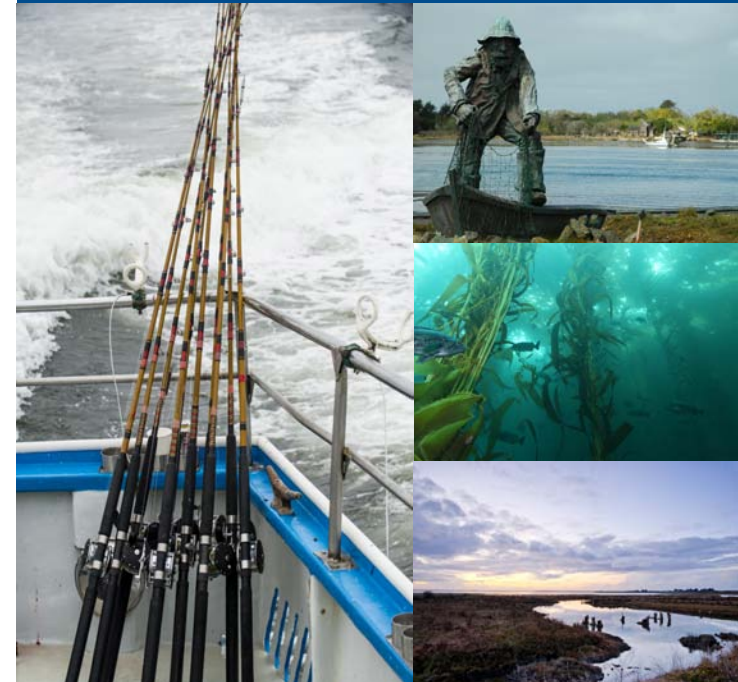
Help protect Seabirds!
For tips and info on special closures, visit:
www.SeabirdProtectionNetwork.org

This publication is available in
alternate formats by contacting
California Marine Sanctuary Foundation
831-647-4209
or CMSF@CaliforniaMSF.org



Cover: left (Bart Selby); top right (Neva Swensen);
middle right (Chad King); bottom right (Humboldt State U.)

A Guide to Fishing and Marine Protected Areas Humboldt Bay Harbor



Reading Rock State Marine Reserve
Reading Rock State Marine Conservation Area
Samoa State Marine Conservation Area
South Humboldt Bay State Marine Recreational
Management Area
Sugarloaf Island Special Closure
South Cape Mendocino State Marine Reserve
Steamboat Rock Special Closure

Fishing and California's Marine Protected Areas

What are Marine Protected Areas?

Marine protected areas (MPAs) are special designated underwater areas, similar to the nation's parks, forests and wilderness areas on land, that prohibit or limit the take of marine resources.

Why does California need MPAs?

MPAs are recognized tools for protecting, enhancing and restoring marine life. MPAs foster healthy habitats and natural diversity, safeguarding the ocean's bounty for the economic and recreational opportunities of future generations.

How many MPAs are in California?

California was the first state in the nation to establish a statewide network of MPAs. There are now 124 MPAs from the border of Oregon down to the border of Mexico. The MPA network protects a variety of key habitats by linking MPAs along the coast.

Photo credit: top left (Tressa Bronner); top right (NOAA/NOS); middle center (Bart Selby)



kelp bass (Steve Lonhart)



black rockfish (Chad King)



kayaking (Claire Fackler)



copper rockfish (Chad King)



crab pots (Bart Selby)



dungeness crab (Bart Selby)

Is Fishing Allowed in MPAs?

Fishing and the take of marine life such as shellfish or seaweed is not allowed in marine reserves and no-take marine conservation areas, which make up about half of California's marine protected areas. An inset map of local MPAs with their regulations is provided in this brochure.



Is Anchoring and Transit Allowed in MPAs?

Boats are allowed to anchor and transit through an MPA, however, fishing gear may not be deployed when in marine reserves or other MPAs that prohibit fishing for the species you have onboard. For additional information, scan the QR code on the right to visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's website.

MPAs & Fishing Regulations



Scan the QR code to the left with your smartphone or other internet enabled device to visit the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's MPA mobile website.

The website allows you to search for information about MPA boundaries and regulations. You can also use your GPS location to locate the closest MPA(s) and determine whether or not you are currently in an MPA.

Go Fishing

Recreational & Commercial Fishing Information:
phone: 831-649-2870
website: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/fishing

Recreational Groundfish "hotline"
831-649-2801
Recreational Salmon "hotline"
707-576-3429

MPA	Allowed Uses
Reading Rock and South Cape Mendocino SMRs	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.

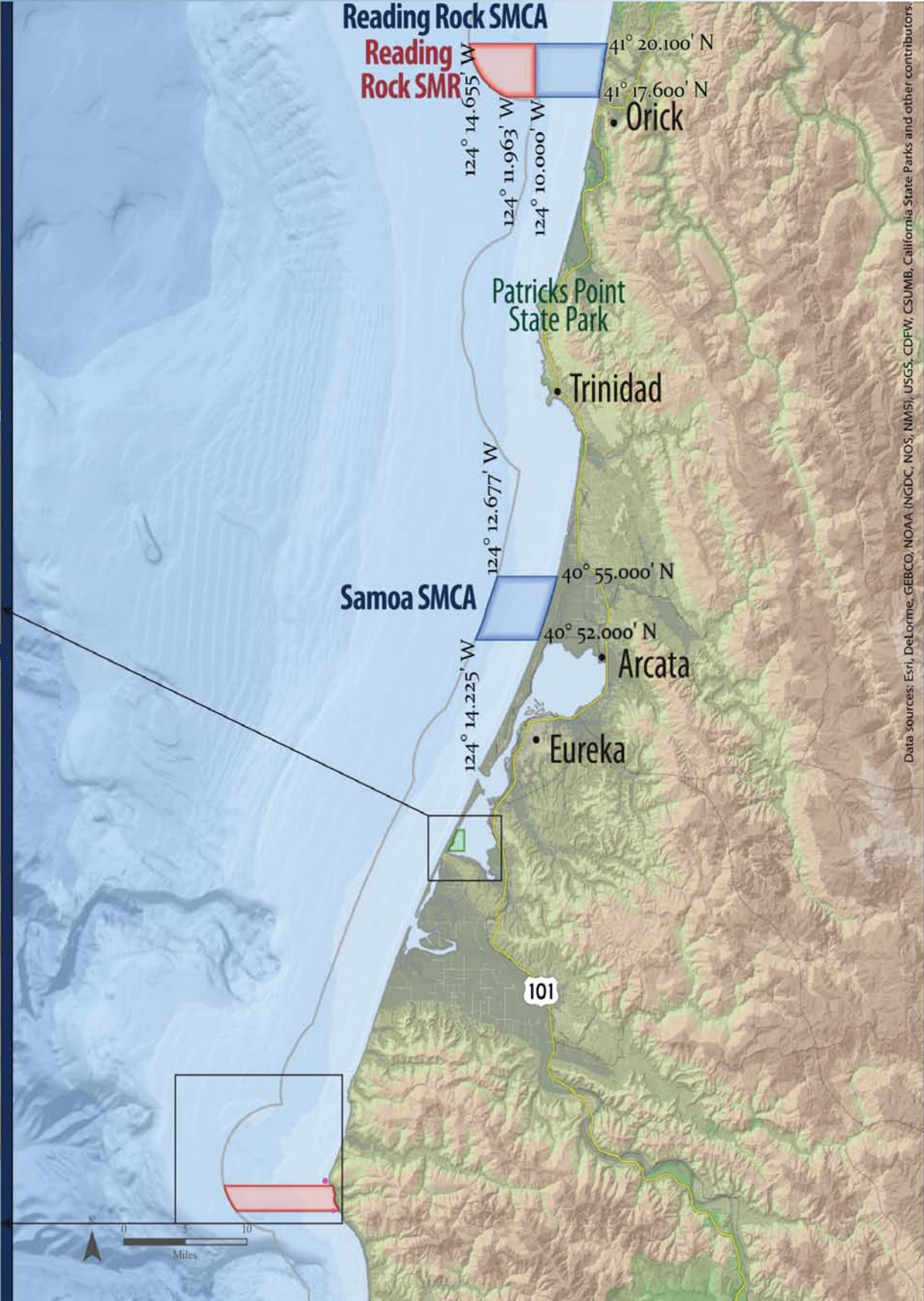
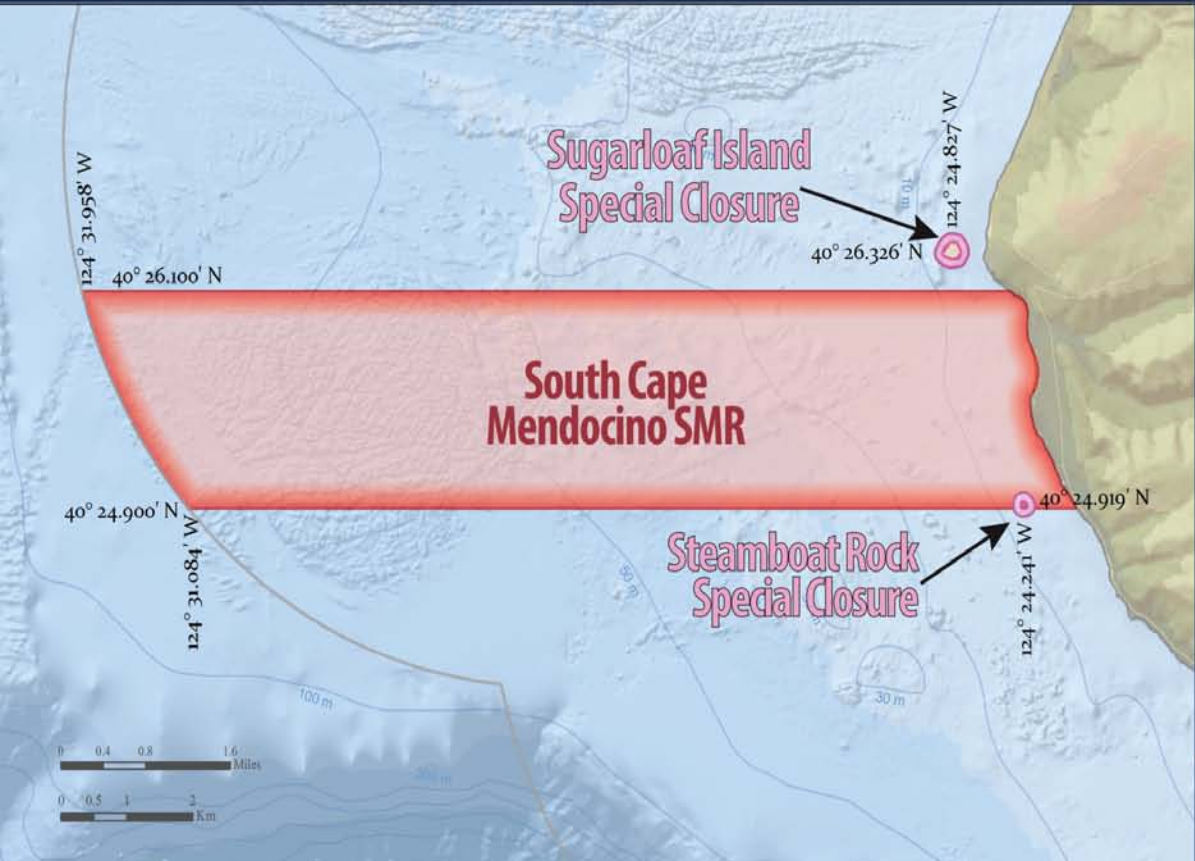
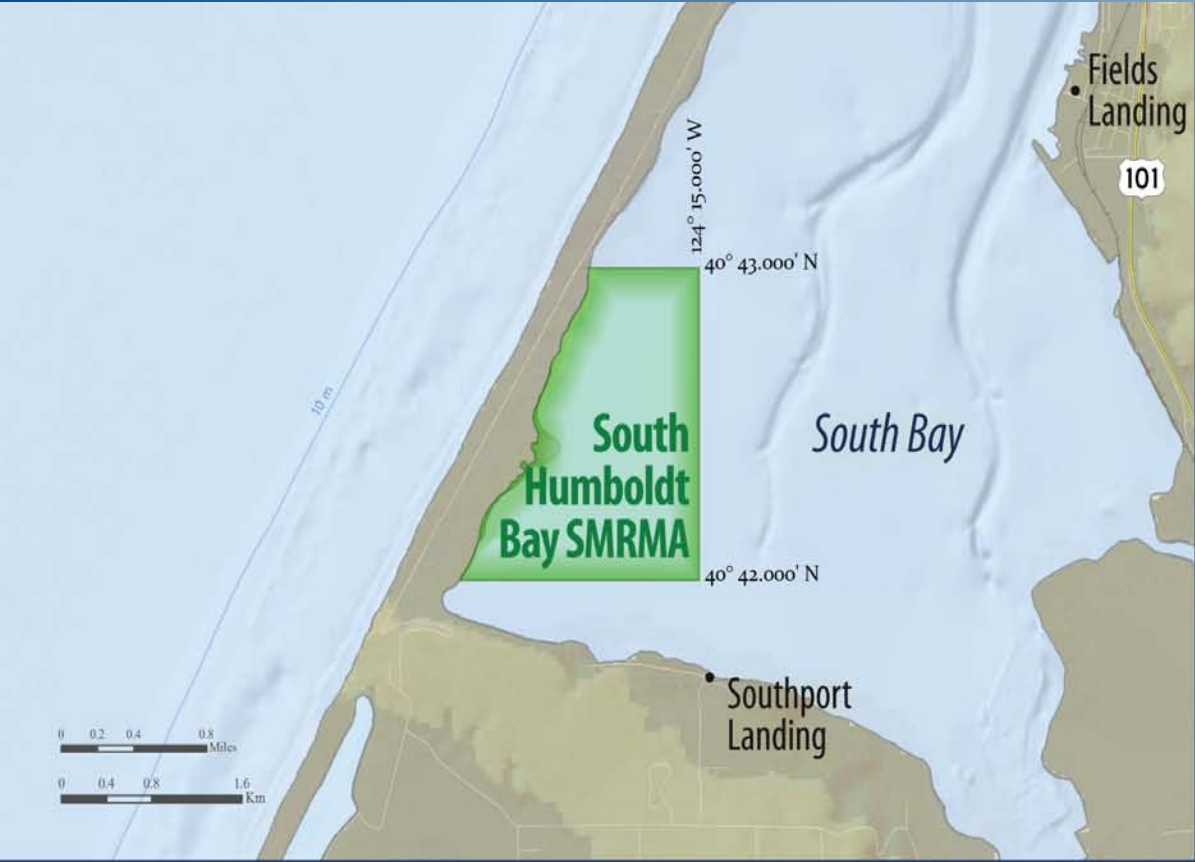
MPA	Allowed Uses
	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:
Reading Rock and Samoa SMCA	Recreational take of salmon by trolling, surf smelt by dip net or Hawaiian type throw net and Dungeness crab by trap, hoop net or hand; Commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, surf smelt by dip net and Dungeness crab by trap. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹

MPA	Allowed Uses
	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:
South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	Take of waterfowl in accordance with general waterfowl regulations. Includes take exemptions for some federal tribes ¹

¹Certain federally recognized tribes are exempted from the area and take regulations for this MPA. For information regarding tribal take, please see California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632(a)(11)

Name	Special Closure Restrictions
Boating, access, and other specific activities are restricted as follows:	
Year Round: Sugarloaf Island Special Closure	Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, no vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 ft. seaward of the lower low tide line of any shoreline of the special closure area.
Mar. 1 - Aug. 31 Only: Steamboat Rock Special Closure	No person except employees of CDFW, USFWS, NOAA or USCG during performance of their official duties, or unless permission is granted by CDFW, shall enter the area.

Humboldt Bay Area Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)



MPAs - Good for the Ocean; Good for You!
Know the Rules Before You Head Out.

For Ocean Fishing Laws & Regulations, go to:
www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/regulations.asp

For MPA boundaries, maps, coordinates, and allowed uses, go to: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA/MPA_summary.asp

Regulations

This document is provided as a courtesy, and does not replace the official laws and regulations found in the California Fish and Game Code or the California Code of Regulation Title 14.

- A fishing license is required for any fishing.
- All existing take regulations still apply in addition to the ones listed above.
- Unless otherwise stated, all non-consumptive recreational activities are allowed.
- "Take" means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill fish, mollusks, or crustaceans or attempting to do so.

MPA Mobile Website

