

What is a California marine protected area (or “MPA”)?

An MPA is a type of managed area primarily set aside to protect or conserve marine life and habitats in marine 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. Fishing and collecting are banned at marine reserves such as Judith Rock State Marine Reserve, providing this MPA with the highest level 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 reserve?

One of the goals for Judith Rock State Marine Reserve is to protect the sandy seafloor, surfgrass beds, rocky reefs, and extensive kelp forest habitat found there. The reserve's exposure to the wind and open ocean makes it unique and contributes to an array of life not found on the other, less exposed Channel Islands. Open-ocean seabirds such as the black-footed albatross and Laysan albatross may be spotted over the reserve's offshore waters. The beaches are used by multiple species of seals and sea lions, and include the State's largest northern elephant seal rookery. Offshore, rocky crevices and ledges anchor the reserve's kelp forests, home to species such as vermillion rockfish, wolf-eel, and red abalone.

Judith Rock State Marine Reserve was established as one of 13 Channel Islands MPAs in 2003, and re-established as part of the statewide [MPA Network](#) in 2012. The reserve overlaps [San Miguel Island Special Closure](#), [Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary](#), and [Channel Islands National Park](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local 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: Judith Rock State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 4.56 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.4 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 487 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
Rock: 0.54 square miles
Sand/mud: 1.78 square miles



Restrictions apply where reserve overlaps
San Miguel Island Special Closure

No Fishing

No Collecting

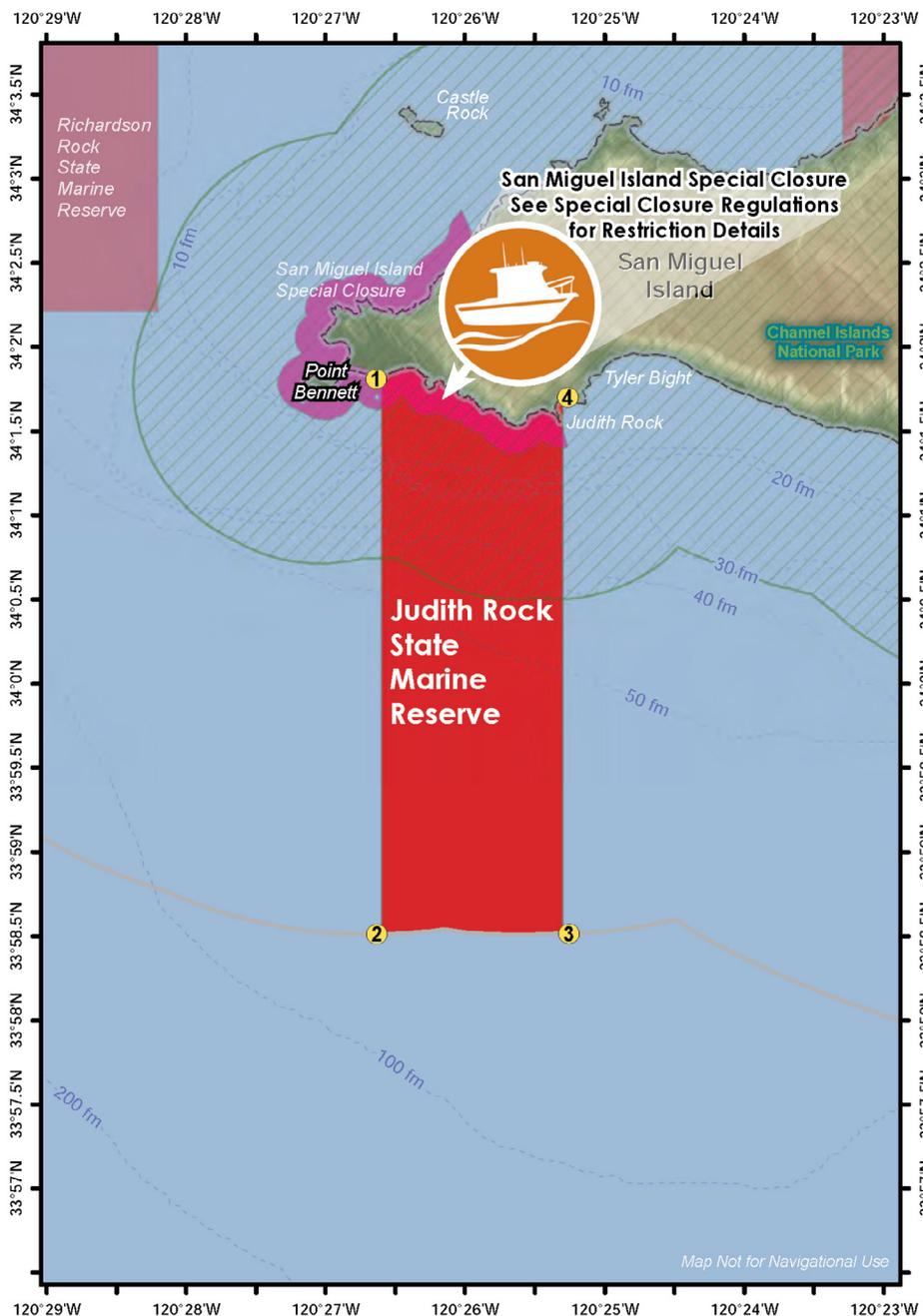
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Sea lions resting on the rocky shores at Judith Rock State Marine Reserve, photo © Tim Hauf, timhaufphotography.com. Lower right: Black-footed albatross at the reserve, photo © Alexander Viduetsky CC BY-NC 2.0. Lower left: Red abalone at Tyler Bight, CDFW photo by D. Stein.

Judith Rock State Marine Reserve

Southern California - Channel Islands



Version 2, September 2022

Judith Rock State Marine Reserve 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:

- 34° 01.802' N. lat. 120° 26.600' W. long. ①;
- 33° 58.513' N. lat. 120° 26.600' W. long. ②; thence eastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 33° 58.518' N. lat. 120° 25.300' W. long. ③; and
- 34° 01.689' N. lat. 120° 25.300' W. long. ④

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

It is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource.



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/MMPAs/Network.

Information about [San Miguel Island Special Closure](#)