

### 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 Stewarts Point 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 Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve is to protect the rocky intertidal areas and reefs, kelp forests, and sandy seafloor found there. The rocky intertidal zone offers habitat for encrusting coralline algae, gooseneck barnacles, and sculpins. Offshore, kelp attached to the rocky reef provides food and shelter for the red abalone, purple urchins, crabs, and gumboot chitons moving slowly among sedentary anemones and sponges. Black rockfish, kelp greenling, and striped seaperch swim among the rocks and kelp, while flatfish, smelt, and Dungeness crab navigate the deep sandy seafloor. Here, species such as sea whips, sea pens, and anemones protrude from the ever-changing sandy seafloor.

Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve shares boundaries with [Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area](#) and [Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area](#). The reserve also overlaps a portion of the [Greater Farallones National Marine Sanctuary](#). Placing a state marine reserve here provides very high levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



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### Quick Facts: Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve

- **MPA size:** 24.06 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 7.3 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 294 feet
- **Habitat composition:**  
Rock: 3.62 square miles  
Sand/mud: 22.38 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

No Fishing

No Collecting

### Further Information:

- MPA Website: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/MPAs)
- MPA and Sportfishing Interactive Map: [www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/OceanSportfishMap)
- Email: [AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:AskMarine@wildlife.ca.gov)

Photos - Upper: Coastline at Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve.  
Lower right: Gooseneck barnacles feeding at the reserve.  
Lower left: Red abalone eating a blade of kelp at the reserve.

photos © Kevin Joe

# Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve

North Central California - Sonoma County



Version 2, September 2022

## Stewarts Point 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:

- 38° 40.500 ' N. lat. 123° 25.345 ' W. long. ①;
- 38° 40.500 ' N. lat. 123° 30.243 ' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 35.600 ' N. lat. 123° 26.018 ' W. long. ③; and
- 38° 35.600 ' N. lat. 123° 20.800 ' W. long. ④, except that Stewarts Point SMCA as described in subsection 632(b)(33)(A) is excluded.

### 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/CCR-T14-MPAs](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov/CCR-T14-MPAs).