

Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area

North Central California - Established May, 2010



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. California marine recreational management areas focus on the protection, restriction, or enhancement of an area's recreational opportunities while preserving basic natural resources.

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 recreational management area?

One of the goals for [Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area](#) is to protect coastal marsh and estuary habitat, which is rare along this stretch of California coast. The shallow marsh is teeming with fish such as Chinook and coho salmon, steelhead trout, American shad, surfperch, and bay pipefish. For these and other species, including harbor seals, river otters, and numerous wetland birds, the estuary provides critical habitat during various points in their life cycles. The marshy, sandy estuary supports resident and migrating birds, such as snowy egrets, western grebes, and common mergansers. Crabs and shrimp may be found sheltering in the wetland's submerged vegetation, as well.

Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area shares a western border with [Russian River State Marine Conservation Area](#), and part of a border with [Sonoma Coast State Park](#). Placing a state marine recreational management area here provides moderate levels of protection for local marine species and the habitats they use.



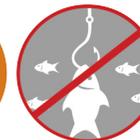
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or text 847411 - begin message with "Caltip" followed by the details.



Quick Facts: Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area

- **Size:** 0.36 square miles
- **Shoreline span:** 1.44 miles
- **Depth range:** 0 to 10 feet
- **Habitat composition:**
 - Estuary: 0.02 square miles
 - Coastal marsh: 0.78 square miles



Non-Consumptive Activities

Waterfowl Hunting
See Hunting Regulations

No Fishing

No Collecting

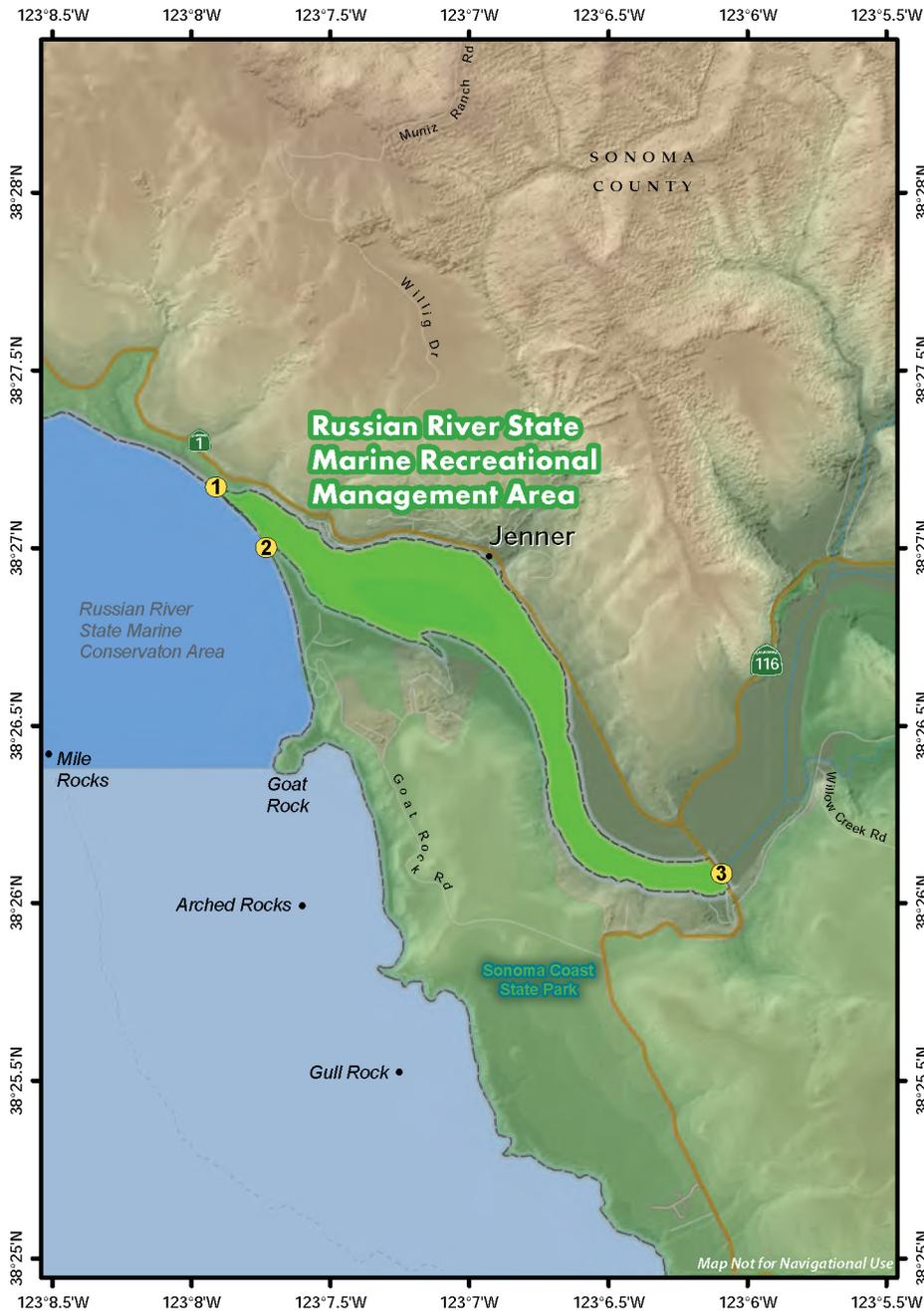
Further Information:

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

Photos - Upper: Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area, photo © Ed Brownson, CC BY-NC-ND 2.0 **Lower right:** Great blue heron in wetland glasswort in the recreational management area, photo © rmyoshihara CC BY-NC 2.0 **Lower left:** Female harbor seal nursing its pup in the recreational management area, photo © Dave Manely, CC BY-NC 2.0

Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area

North Central California - Sonoma County



Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

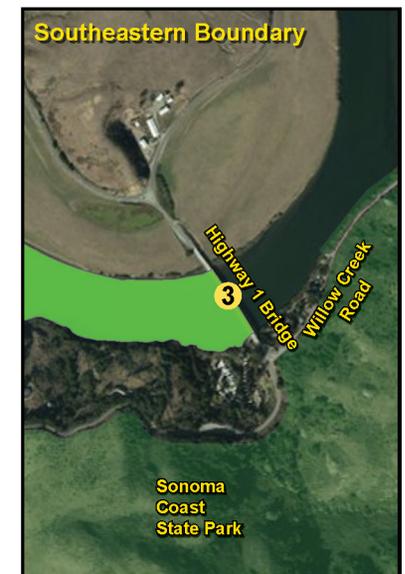
Boundary:

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line eastward of the mouth of the Russian River estuary defined as a line connecting the following two points:

- 38° 27.160' N. lat. 123° 07.910' W. long. ①;
- 38° 27.010' N. lat. 123° 07.740' W. long. ② and westward of the Highway 1 Bridge ③.

Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

- Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations (Sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).
- Take of all living, geological, or cultural marine resources is prohibited.



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.