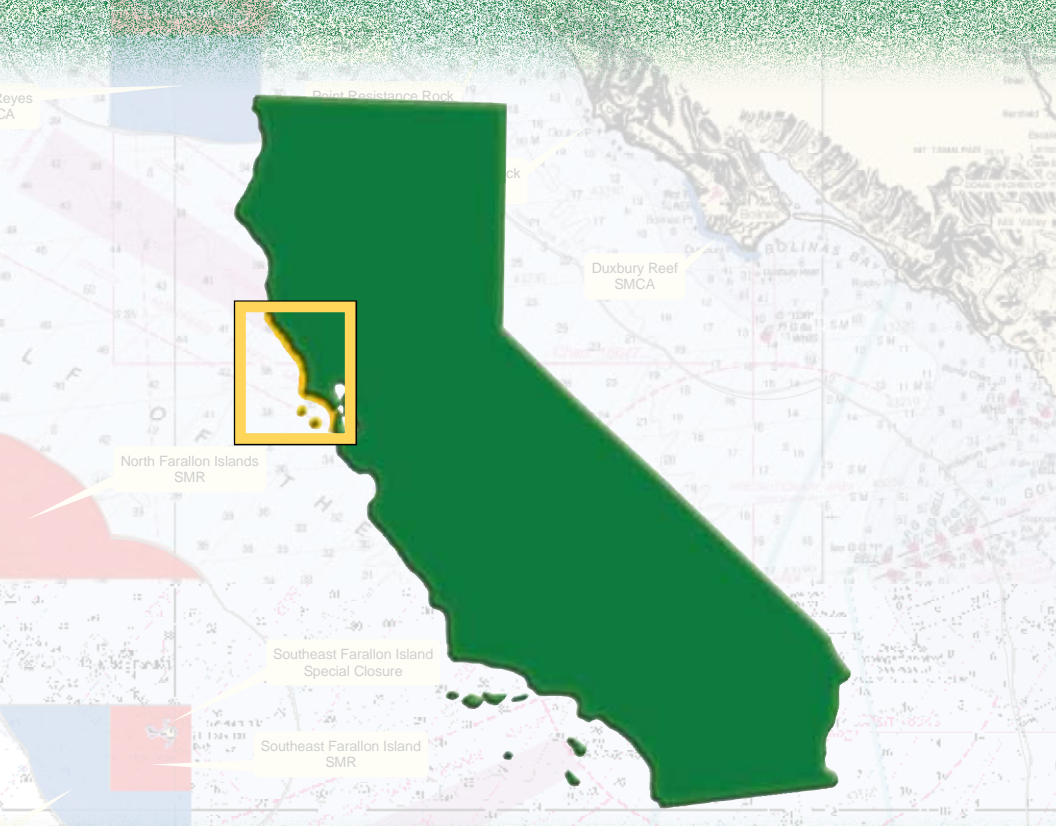


Guide to the North Central California Marine Protected Areas *Point Arena to Pigeon Point*



October 2014 - Amended

California's coast and ocean are among our most treasured resources.

The productivity, wildness, and beauty found here is central to California's identity, heritage, and economy. The need to safeguard the long-term health of our marine life was recognized by the California Legislature in 1999 with the passage of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA). This act aims to protect California's marine natural heritage through establishing a statewide network of marine protected areas (MPAs) designed, created, and managed using sound science and stakeholder input. MPAs protect the diversity and abundance of marine life, the habitats they depend on, and the integrity of marine ecosystems. The MLPA recognizes that a combination of MPAs with varied amounts of allowed activities and protections (marine reserves, marine conservation areas, and marine parks) can help conserve biological diversity, provide a sanctuary for marine life, and enhance recreational and educational opportunities. MPAs can also provide scientific reference points to assist with resource management decisions, and protect a variety of marine habitats, communities, and ecosystems for their economic and intrinsic value, for generations to come.

Implementation of the MLPA along the California coast was achieved through regional planning, facilitated by the MLPA Initiative, that created new and revised MPAs for consideration and adoption by the California Fish and Game Commission. The North Central California MPAs went into effect on May 1, 2010 from Alder Creek, near Point Arena (Mendocino County) to Pigeon Point (San Mateo County). Together, they represent one component of a statewide network designed to meet the goals of the MLPA.





Guide to the North Central California MPAs

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Goals of the Marine Life Protection Act

*I*n 1999, the California Legislature identified the need to reexamine and redesign California's MPA system to increase its coherence and its effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems.

To improve the design and management of that system, the California Fish and Game Commission, pursuant to Section 2859, adopted a Marine Life Protection program that has all of the following goals:

1. To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.
2. To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
3. To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.
4. To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value.
5. To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
6. To ensure that the state's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

From California Fish and Game Code Section 2853



Commonly Used Terms and Definitions

Marine Protected Area (MPA)

MPAs are named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas seaward of the mean high tide line or the mouth of a coastal river, including any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora and fauna, that have been designated by law or administrative action to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. There are three types of state MPAs: state marine reserve (SMR), state marine park (SMP - none exist in the North Central California region), and state marine conservation area (SMCA). Special closures and marine recreational management areas are not technically MPAs, but are managed within the MPA network and are included here for ease of identification by the public. "Take" (see definition, pg. 5) may be authorized in any MPA under a scientific collecting permit or during authorized research, restoration, or monitoring activities. The following types of MPA are found in North Central California:

State Marine Reserve (SMR, shown in red on maps)

An MPA where take, damage, injury, or possession of any marine resource (living, geological, or cultural) is prohibited.

State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA, shown in blue on maps)

An MPA where take, damage, injury, or possession of any marine resource (living, geological, or cultural) is prohibited EXCEPT for species expressly allowed for recreational and/or commercial take (restrictions vary by location).

State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA, shown in green on maps)

A marine managed area that restricts the take of living marine resources while allowing for legal waterfowl hunting to occur (restrictions vary by location).

Special Closure (shown in pink on maps)

An area with boating or access restrictions designated to provide localized protection for sea bird nesting and rookery sites, and marine mammal haul-out sites. May overlap with other marine protected areas.



General Rules That Apply To All MPAs

There are several general rules that apply to all MPAs, including rules regarding access, anchoring, transit and drifting, introducing species, feeding fish, and public safety. The complete language is found in California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section (§) 632(a).

Anchoring Inside MPAs: Anchoring is allowed inside MPAs with the following restrictions: Vessels shall be allowed to anchor in any MPA or marine managed area with catch onboard unless otherwise specified in sub-section 632(b), Areas and Special Regulations for Use. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while anchored in a state marine

reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified as allowed for take in sub-section 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while anchored in a SMRMA, SMP, or SMCA. Anchoring regulations shall be consistent with federal law and allowances made for anchoring required by emergency or severe weather.



Commercial fishing vessels
Bodega Bay Fisherman's Festival

CDFW / M. Palmer-Zwahlen

Transit or Drifting: Vessels shall be allowed to transit through MPAs and MMAs with catch onboard. Fishing gear shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine reserve. Fishing gear, except legal fishing gear used to take species identified as allowed for take in subsection 632(b), shall not be deployed in the water while transiting through a state marine recreational management area, state marine park or state marine conservation area.

Spearfishermen with or without catch shall be allowed to transit through marine protected areas and marine managed areas. While transiting areas that prohibit spearfishing or while in possession of species not identified as allowed for take in the area being transited, spearfishing gear shall be in an unloaded condition, not carried in hand, and the diver shall remain at the surface.

Public Safety (activities that protect the public: Public safety activities, including installation, maintenance, and/or seasonal placement and removal of safety-related artificial structures, including but not limited to



lifeguard towers, are allowed within any MPA classification pursuant to any required federal, state, and local permits, or as otherwise authorized by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW).

Introduction of Species (including catching and/or bringing fish, plants, or invertebrates to an MPA and releasing them): Unless authorized by the California Fish and Game Commission or as a result of authorized fishing activities, the release of any fish or wildlife species, including domestic or domesticated species, or the introduction of any plant species, is prohibited. The CDFW may reintroduce native species to MPAs or marine managed areas for management purposes.

Access: Access into MPAs or marine managed areas for non-consumptive uses, including but not limited to swimming, surfing, diving, boating, hiking, and walking, is allowed unless otherwise specified in subsection 632(b), Areas and Special Regulations for Use.

Feeding of Fish and Wildlife: The feeding of fish and wildlife is prohibited, except for permitted scientific collection pursuant to Section 650 or as a result of authorized fishing within SMCAs, SMPs, and SMRMAs, or unless feeding of fish is authorized in a specific MPA.

Shore Fishing: Take from shore, or shore fishing, for purposes of this section, means take of living marine resources from shore, including beaches, banks, piers, jetties, breakwaters, docks, and other man-made

structures connected to the shore. Unless specifically authorized in subsection 632(b), no vessel, watercraft (motorized or non-motorized), or floating device may be used to assist in the take, transport, or possession of species taken while shore fishing, except that a float tube or similar flotation device may be used when taking abalone only.

Take: Take means to hunt, pursue, catch, capture or kill fish, amphibians, reptiles, mollusks, crustaceans or invertebrates, or attempting to do so.



Red abalone with anemone "hitchhiker"

CDFW / D. Stein



Frequently Asked Questions

Q How were the North Central California MPAs created?

The North Central California MPAs were designed through a collaborative public process, facilitated by the MLPA Initiative, that included a regional stakeholder group with extensive knowledge of North Central California and its resources. This group included commercial and recreational fishermen, educators, and conservationists among others. The regional stakeholder group designed the North Central California MPAs, which then underwent science and policy reviews by a science advisory committee and a “blue ribbon” task force. As the lead agency, the CDFW along with California State Parks and others reviewed the proposed MPAs, which were ultimately approved by the California Fish and Game Commission, the final decision-making body under the MLPA.

Q How much area was set aside off the North Central California coast as MPAs?

The North Central California region encompasses approximately 763 square miles of state waters from Alder Creek (just north of Point Arena, Mendocino County) south to Pigeon Point (San Mateo County). A network of 25 marine managed areas (including 22 MPAs and three SMRMAs) covers approximately 152 square miles, or 20 percent, of state waters off North Central California.

North Central California State Protected Areas			
Type	Number	Area (mi ²)	Percent of North Central California state waters
SMR	10	84.24	11.04%
SMCA	12	67.61	8.86%
SMRMA	3	0.56	0.07%
Special Closures ¹	6	1.16	0.15%
Total¹	25	152.41	19.97%

¹Totals do not include special closures

Q How do North Central California MPAs affect existing fisheries management and closures?

The North Central California MPAs are intended to complement existing fishing regulations, not replace them. MPAs address a broad array of ecosystem concerns and, especially in reserves, allow for more natural interactions between popular, heavily-fished species and species that fishermen normally don’t target. Any changes to fishing regulations that are required in response to MPAs would occur through existing systems established in fisheries management plans and other regulatory frameworks.



Q What plants and animals live in North Central California MPAs?

North Central California's diverse marine habitats support thousands of species of invertebrates, plants, fish, marine mammals, and seabirds. Coastal bays, estuaries, and lagoons provide resting and feeding grounds for migratory waterfowl and shorebirds. Beneath the surface, eelgrass beds provide nursery areas for a variety of shrimp, fish, and crab. Bull kelp dominates rocky reefs close to shore, providing food for sea urchin and abalone, and a place to hunt and hide for lingcod, sculpin, and octopus. The Farallon Islands



provide important habitat for over two dozen threatened or endangered species, such as the ashy storm-petrel and Steller's sea lion. Between the Islands and the Golden Gate, whales, dolphins, and other creatures feed and thrive in the food-rich Gulf of the Farallones. In total, North Central California waters are home to 26 species of marine mammals, 94 species of seabirds, 345 species of fish, 4 species of sea turtles, over 5,000 species of invertebrates and more than 450 species of marine algae.

Q Where can I find more information about MPAs?

The CDFW maintains several websites with extensive MPA information, including current, past, and future activities related to California's MPAs. As the lead agency in MPA development and now implementation and monitoring, the CDFW strives for transparency and encourages public engagement and feedback. Please visit the following websites for more information:

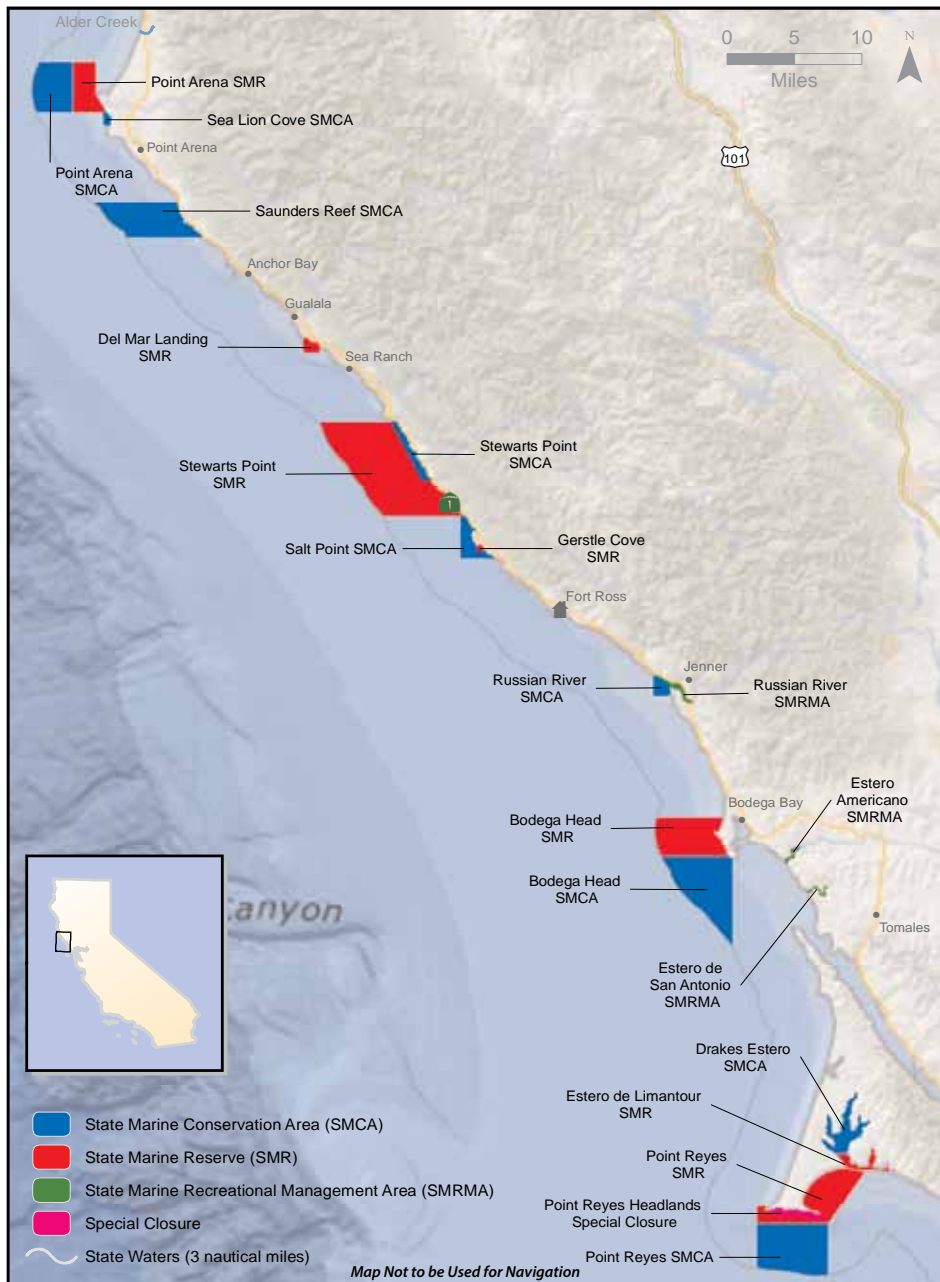
- ▶ California MPA website: www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/MPA
- ▶ Mobile-device friendly MPA website: www.dfg.ca.gov/m/MPA
- ▶ **Boaters:** To view or print MPAs on nautical charts or other background "basemaps," visit MarineBIOS, CDFW's interactive online marine and coastal map viewer at www.dfg.ca.gov/marine/gis/viewer.asp

Questions? Email AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov



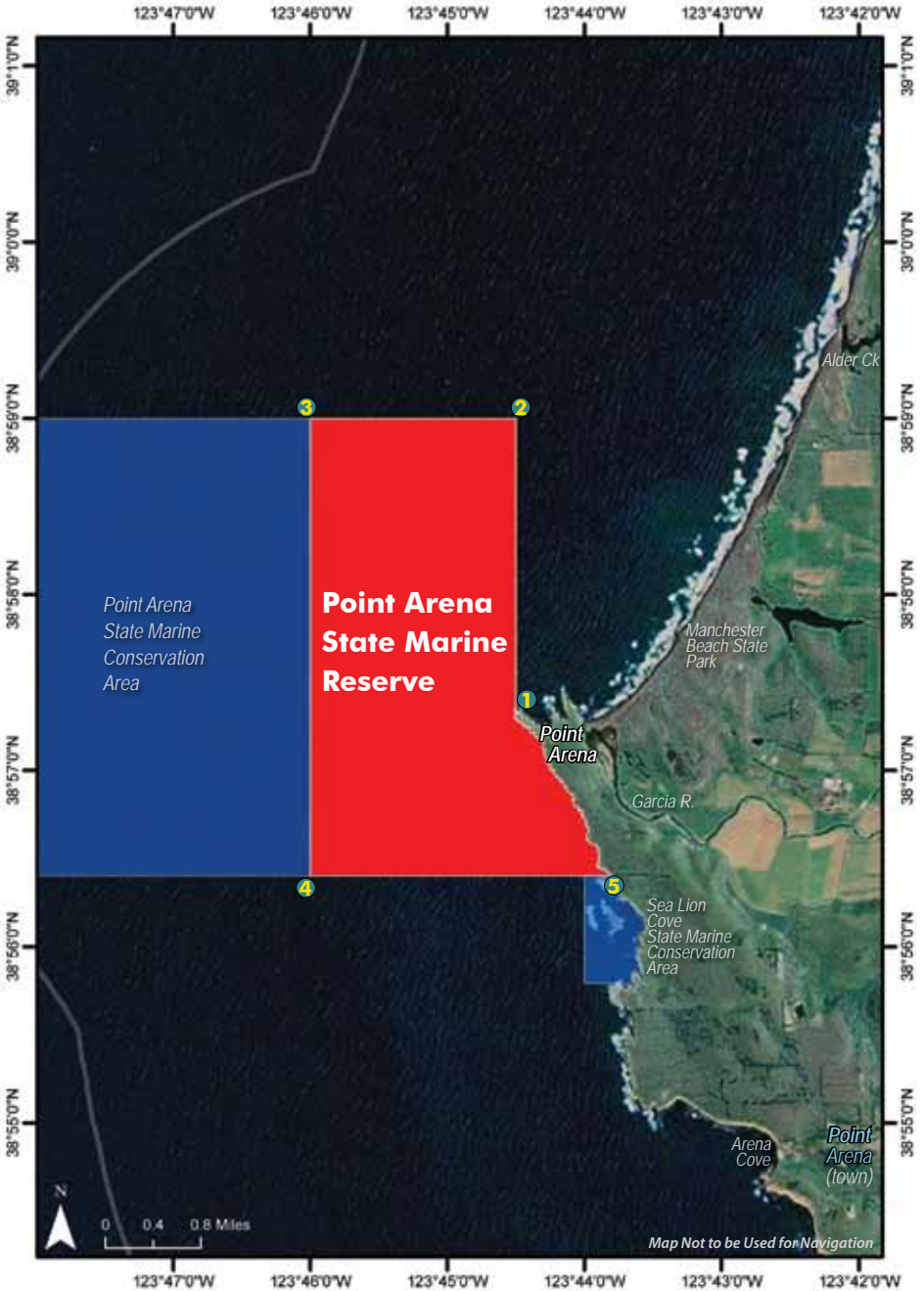
North Central California MPAs

Alder Creek to Point Reyes





Point Arena State Marine Reserve





Point Arena State Marine Reserve Boundaries and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

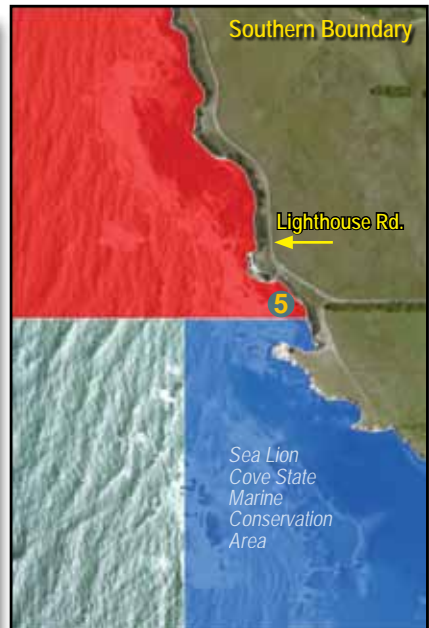
(A) Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 57.35'N. lat. 123° 44.50'W. long. ① ;
- 38° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 44.50'W. long. ② ;
- 38° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 46.00'W. long. ③ ;
- 38° 56.40'N. lat. 123° 46.00'W. long. ④ ; and
- 38° 56.40'N. lat. 123° 43.82'W. long. ⑤

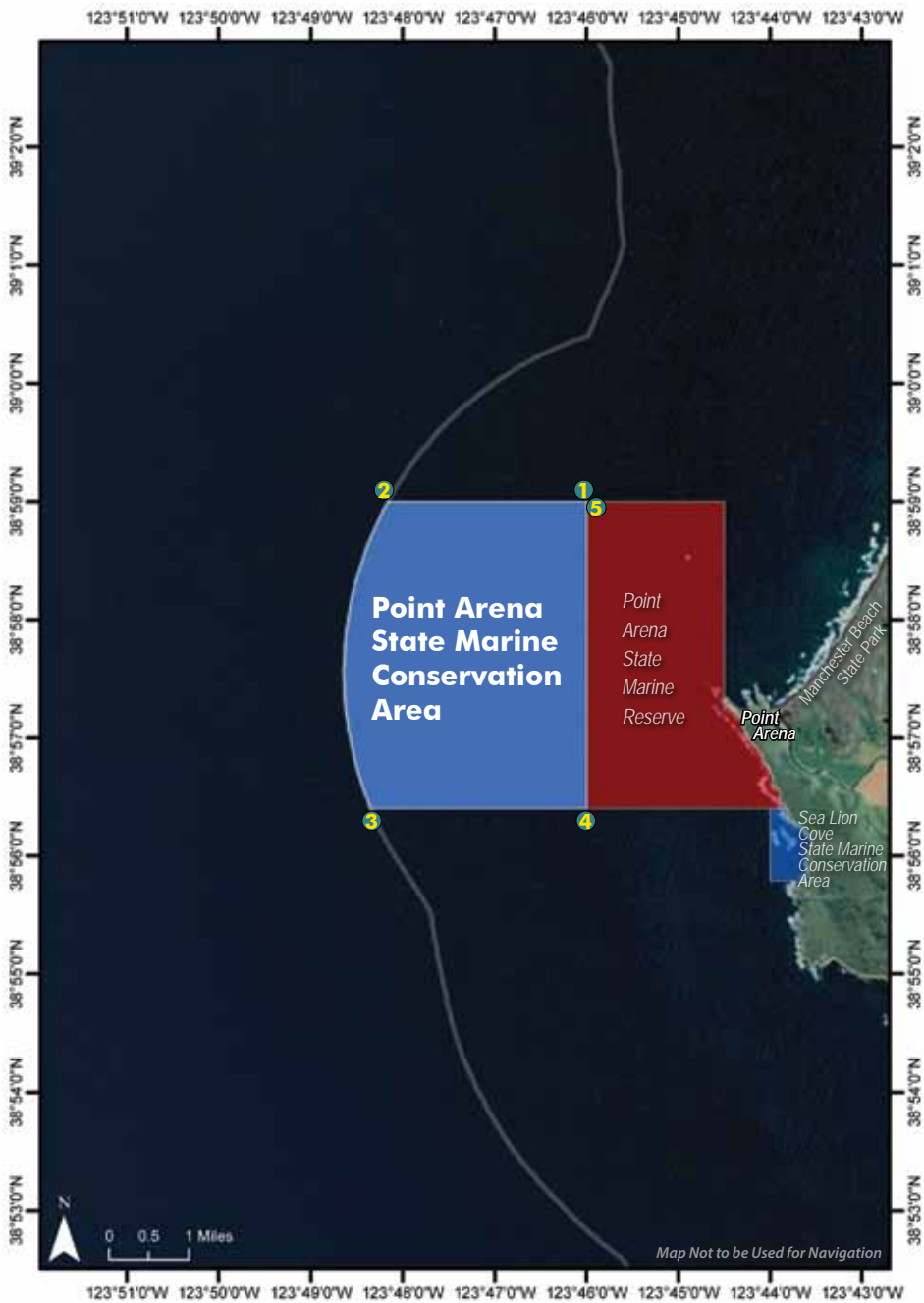
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) Boundary:

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 38° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 46.00'W. long. ①;
- 38° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 48.16'W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 56.40'N. lat. 123° 48.35'W. long. ③;
- 38° 56.40'N. lat. 123° 46.00'W. long. ④; and
- 38° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 46.00'W. long. ⑤

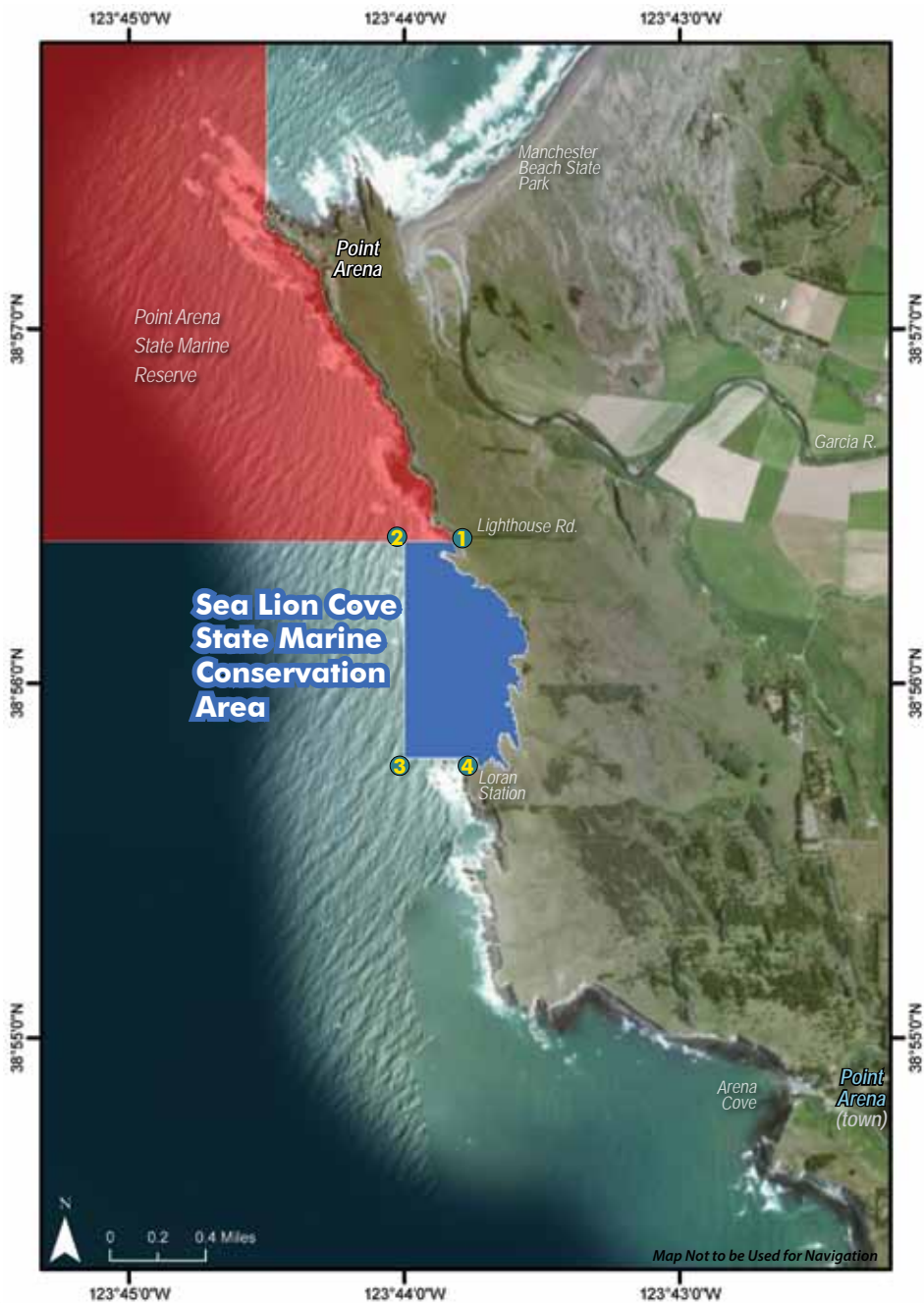
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling is allowed.
2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear is allowed.



Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area





Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary:

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 56.40'N. lat. 123° 43.82'W. long. ①;
- 38° 56.40'N. lat. 123° 44.00'W. long. ②;
- 38° 55.79'N. lat. 123° 44.00'W. long. ③; and
- 38° 55.79'N. lat. 123° 43.74'W. long. ④

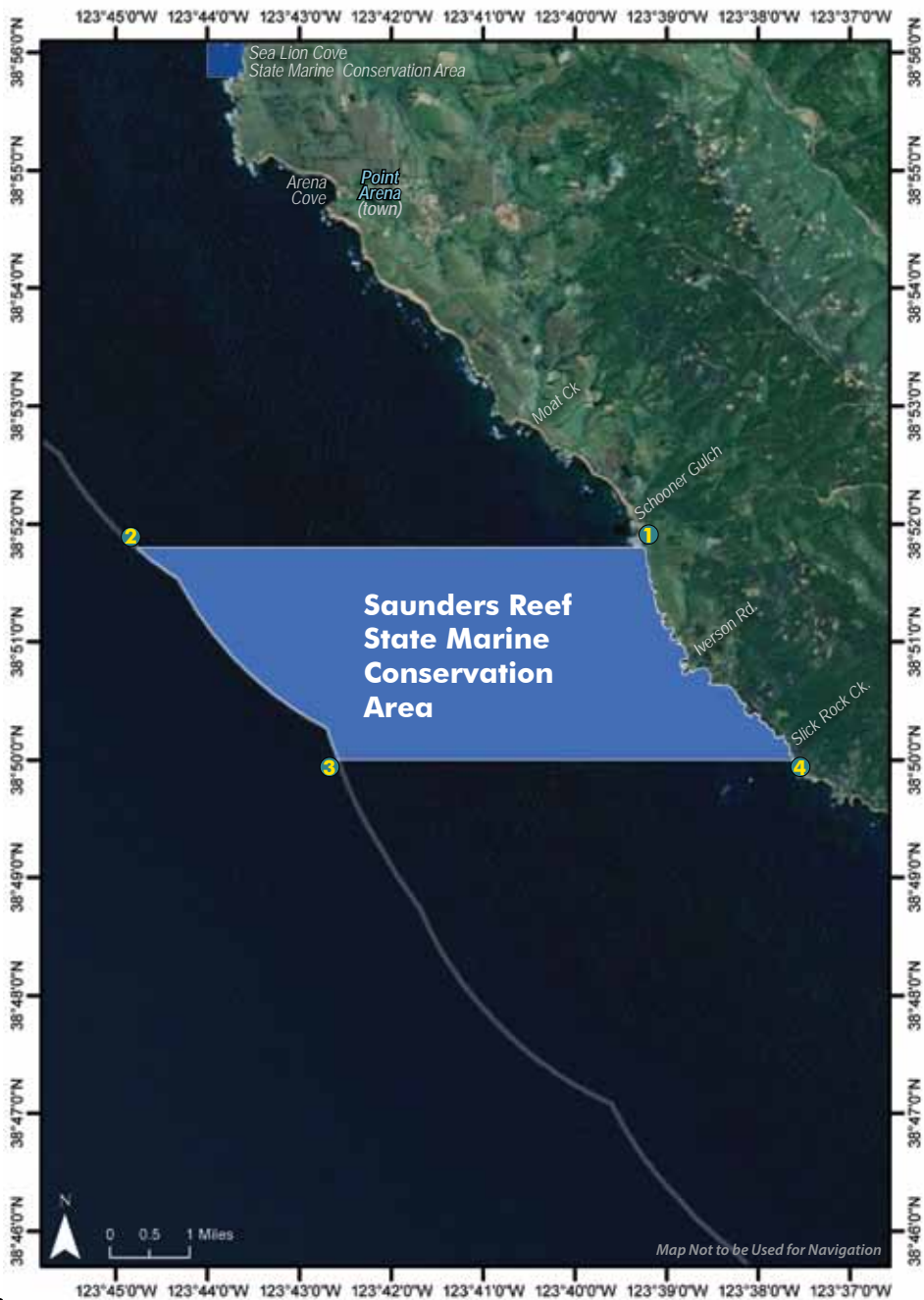
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses:

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational and commercial take of finfish.





Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) 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° 51.80'N. lat. 123° 39.23'W. long. ①;
- 38° 51.80'N. lat. 123° 44.78'W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 50.00'N. lat. 123° 42.58'W. long. ③; and
- 38° 50.00'N. lat. 123° 37.60'W. long. ④

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling is allowed.
2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and sea urchin is allowed.





Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve





Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 44.70'N. lat. 123° 31.00'W. long. ①;
- 38° 44.20'N. lat. 123° 31.00'W. long. ②;
- 38° 44.20'N. lat. 123° 30.30'W. long. ③; and
- 38° 44.43'N. lat. 123° 30.30'W. long. ④

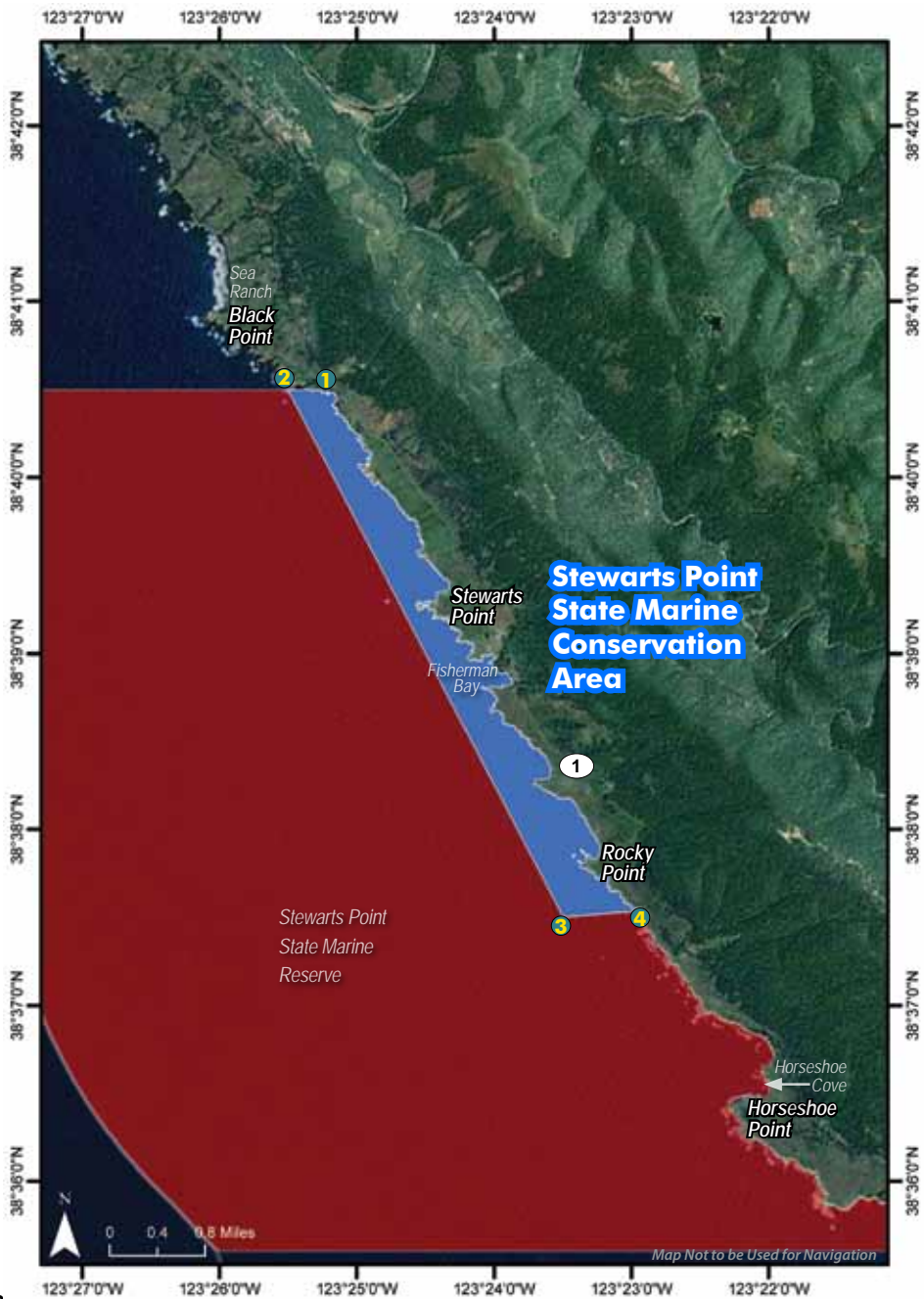
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area





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

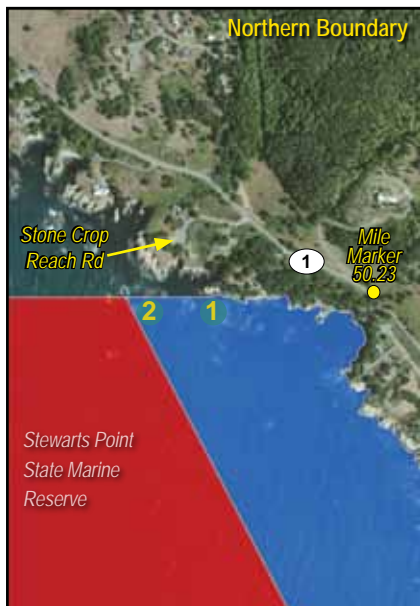
(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 40.500' N. lat. 123° 25.370' W. long. ①;
- 38° 40.500' N. lat. 123° 25.500' W. long. ②;
- 38° 37.500' N. lat. 123° 23.500' W. long. ③;
- 38° 37.535' N. lat. 123° 23.027' W. long. ④

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the following may be taken recreationally from shore only: marine aquatic plants other than sea palm, marine invertebrates, finfish by hook and line, surf smelt by beach net, and species authorized in Section 28.80 of these regulations by handheld dip net.





Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve





Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

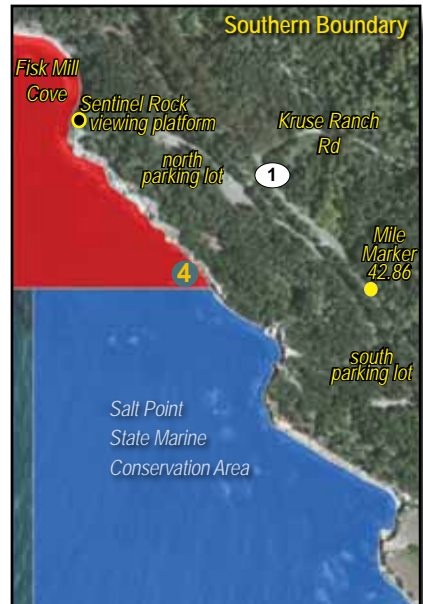
(A) Boundary

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° 40.50'N. lat. 123° 25.37'W. long. ①;
- 38° 40.50'N. lat. 123° 30.24'W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 35.60'N. lat. 123° 26.01'W. long. ③; and
- 38° 35.60'N. lat. 123° 20.80'W. long. ④ except that Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area as described in subsection 632 ... is excluded.

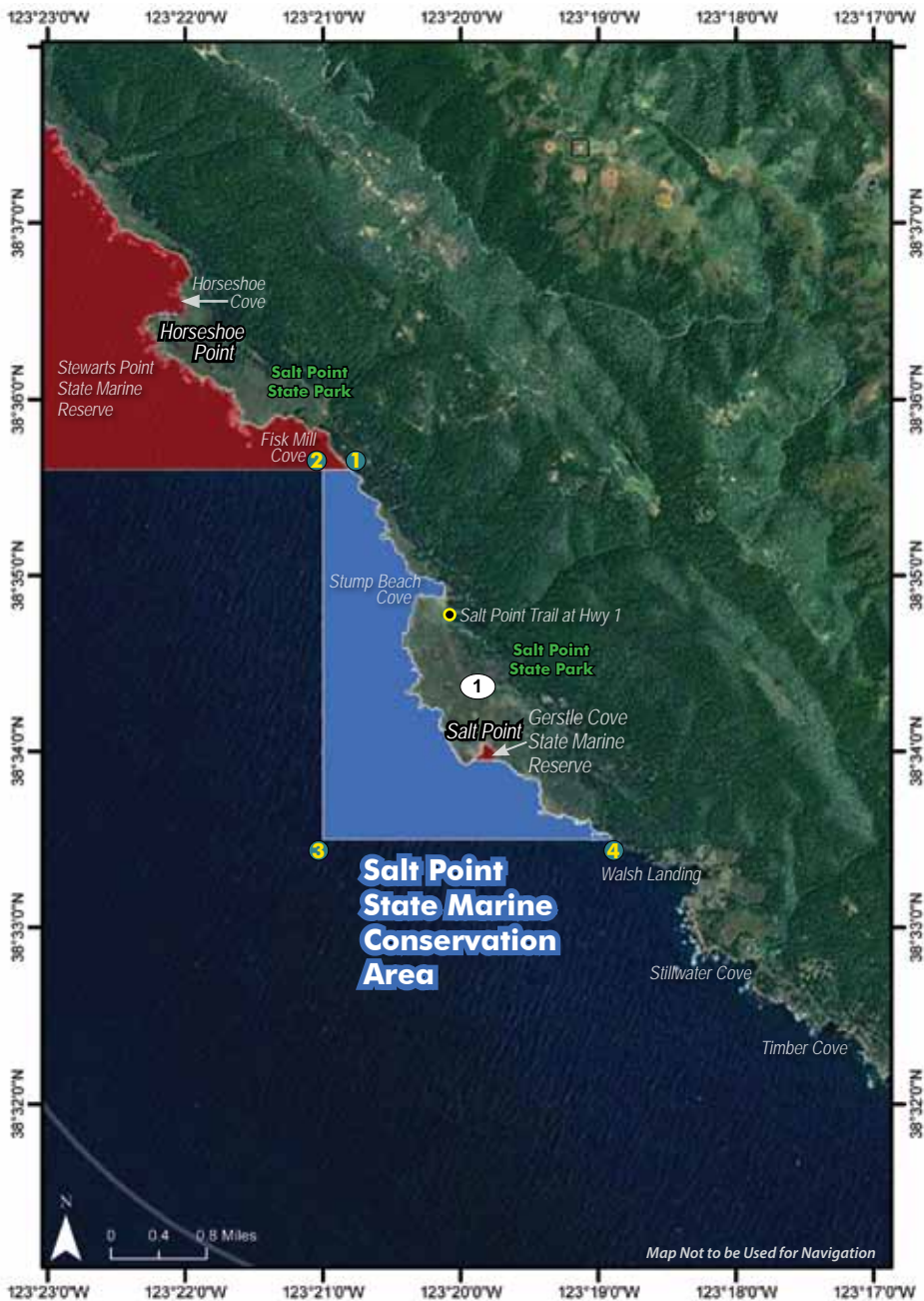
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38°35.60'N. lat. 123°20.80'W. long. ①;
- 38°35.60'N. lat. 123°21.00'W. long. ②;
- 38°33.50'N. lat. 123°21.00'W. long. ③;
- 38°33.50'N. lat. 123°18.91'W. long. ④, except that Gerstle Cove as described in subsection 632 ... is excluded.

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational take of abalone and finfish.





Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve





Map Not to be Used for Navigation



Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations *from* California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area lies within the Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area and is bounded by the mean high tide line and a straight line connecting the following points:

38° 33.95'N. lat. 123° 19.92'W. long. ; and
38° 33.95'N. lat. 123° 19.76'W. long. 

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.



Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area





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

(A) 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° 27.16'N. lat. 123° 07.91'W. long. ①;

38° 27.01'N. lat. 123° 07.74'W. long. ②

And westward of the Highway 1 Bridge ③.

(B) Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations.

(C) Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Russian River State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line, the mouth of the Russian River estuary as defined in subsection 632(b)(37)(A), and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 38° 27.38'N. lat. 123° 08.58'W. long. ①;
- 38° 26.38'N. lat. 123° 08.58'W. long. ②;
- 38° 26.38'N. lat. 123° 07.70'W. long. ③

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

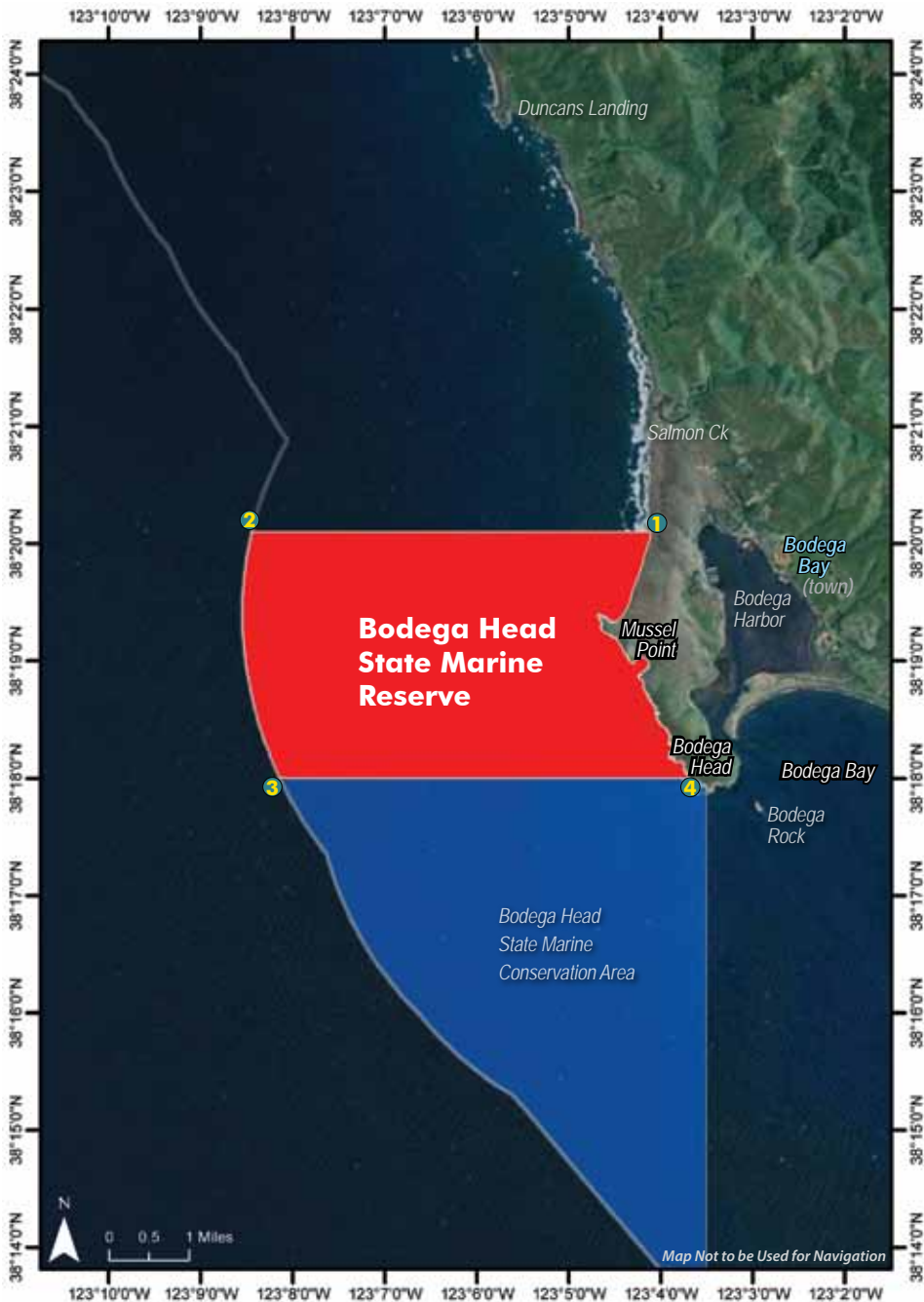
Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. Only the following species may be taken recreationally: Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt using hand-held dip net or beach net.
2. Only the following species may be taken commercially: Dungeness crab by trap.





Bodega Head State Marine Reserve





Bodega Head State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) 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° 20.10' N. lat. 123° 04.04' W. long. ①;
- 38° 20.10' N. lat. 123° 08.38' W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 18.00' N. lat. 123° 08.08' W. long. ③; and
- 38° 18.00' N. lat. 123° 03.64' W. long. ④

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

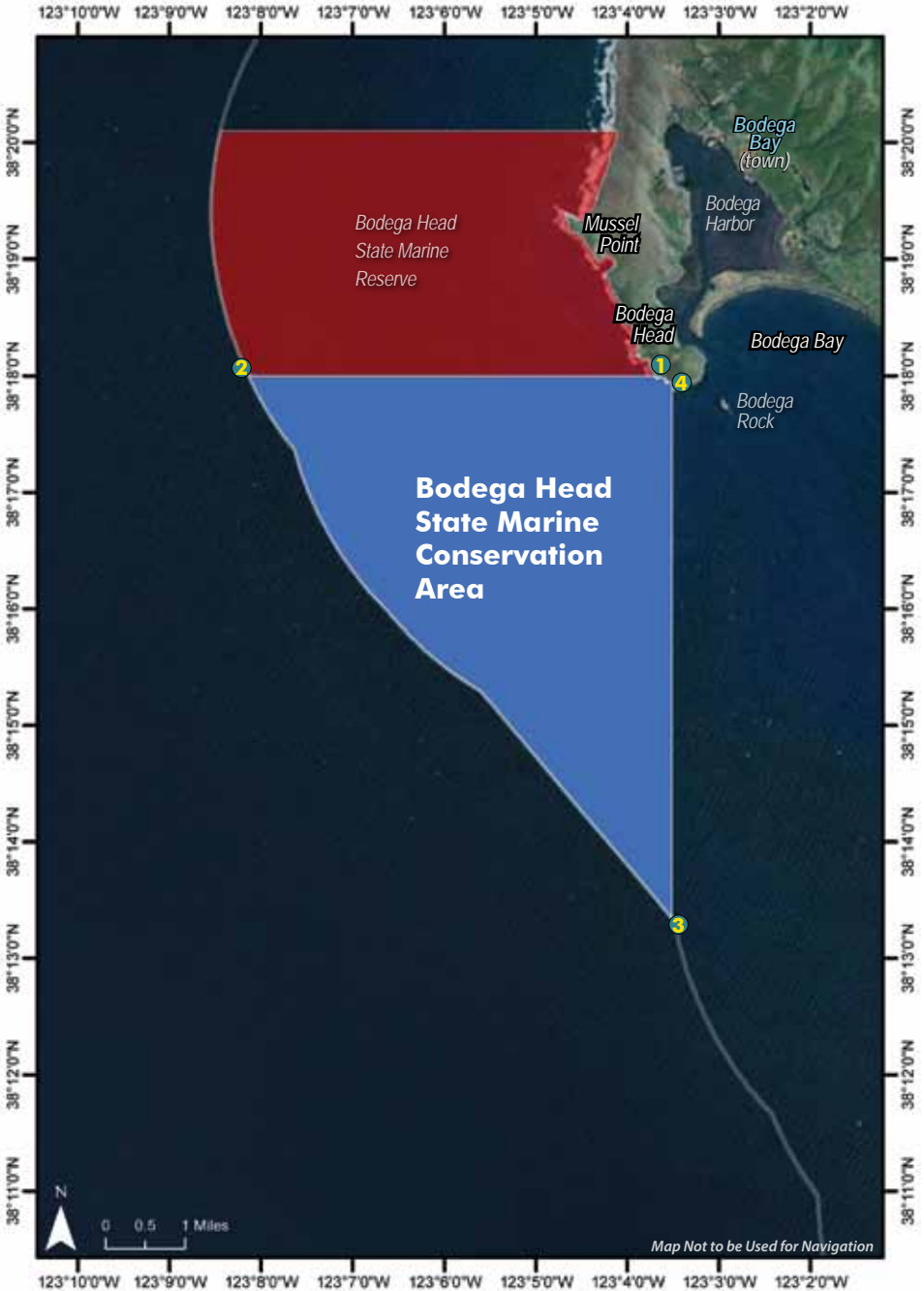
Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except for take pursuant to Fish and Game Code Section 10661 and the director of the Bodega Marine Life Refuge may authorize certain activities in the formerly designated Bodega Marine Life Refuge (Section 10903, Fish and Game Code) pursuant to subsections (b) and (c) of Section 10502.7 and Section 10656 of the Fish and Game Code.

[No anchoring or mooring except as permitted by federal law, or in hazardous weather. CDFW and the Bodega Marine Life Refuge director may permit take for scientific or educational purposes, access, anchoring, and/or mooring.]





Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) 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° 18.00'N. lat. 123° 03.64'W. long. ①;
- 38° 18.00'N. lat. 123° 08.08'W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 38° 13.34'N. lat. 123° 03.51'W. long. ③; and
- 38° 17.93'N. lat. 123° 03.51'W. long. ④

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net, is allowed.
2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish by troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net, is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial pelagic finfish or market squid catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.



* "Pelagic finfish" is defined as:
 northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*),
 barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.),
 billfishes (family Istiophoridae),
 dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*),
 Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*),
 jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*),
 Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*),
 salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.),
 Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*),
 blue shark (*Prionace glauca*),
 salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*),
 shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*),
 thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.),
 swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*),
 tunas (family Scombridae) including
 Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and
 yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*).
 The commercial take of marlin is not allowed.



Estero Americano State Marine Recreational Management Area





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

(A) Boundary

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Estero Americano westward of longitude 122° 59.25'W.

(B) Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations.

(C) Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.






Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area





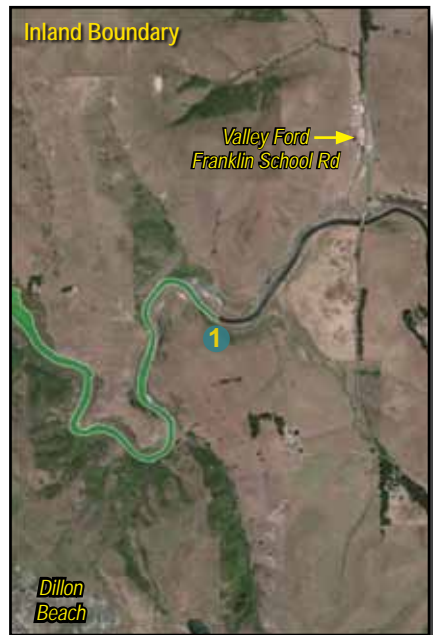
Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Estero de San Antonio westward of longitude 122° 57.40'W .

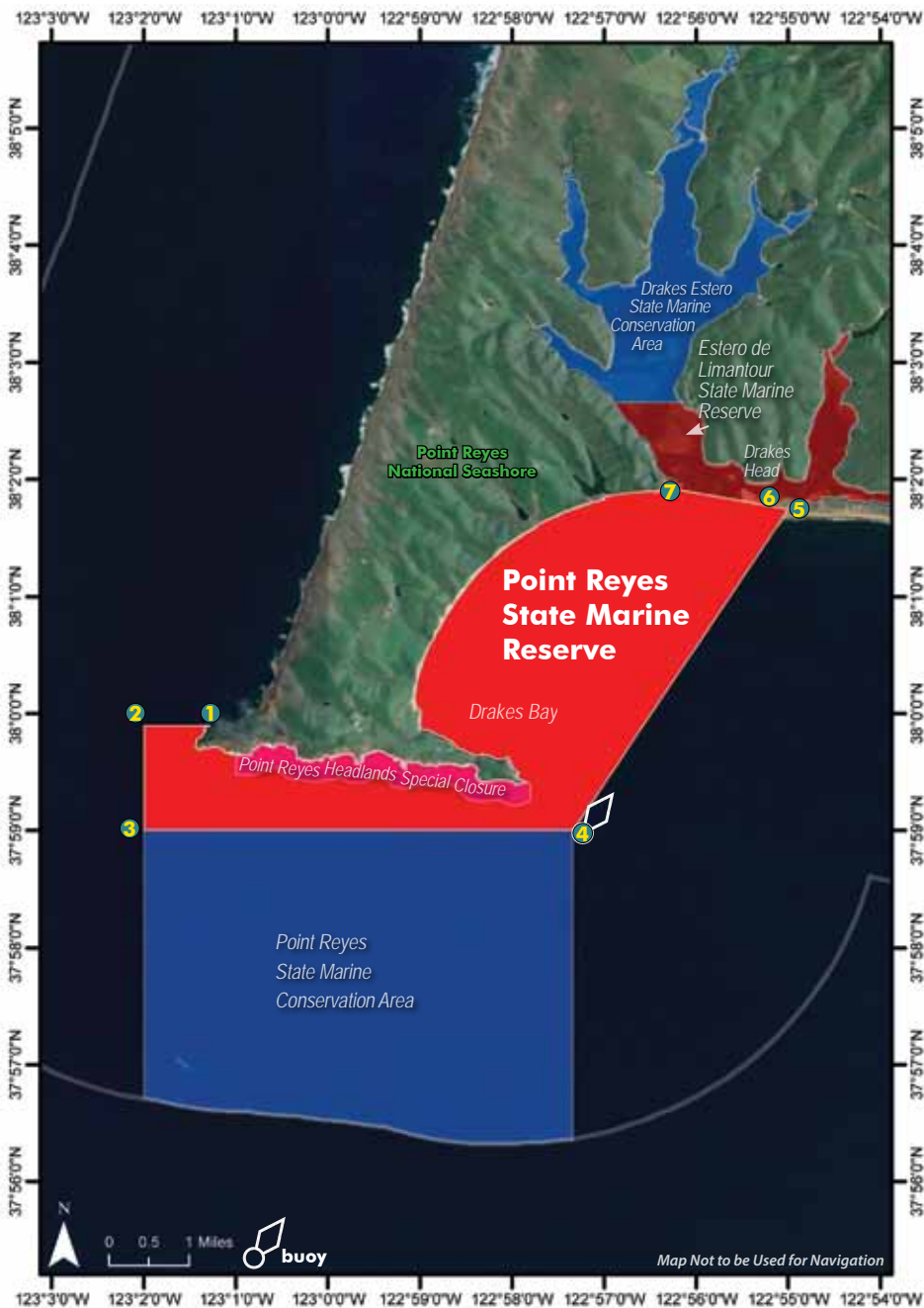
(B) Waterfowl may be taken in accordance with the general waterfowl regulations.

(C) Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Point Reyes State Marine Reserve





Point Reyes State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

- 37° 59.90'N. lat. 123° 01.29'W. long. ❶;
- 37° 59.90'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. ❷;
- 37° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. ❸;
- 37° 59.00'N. lat. 122° 57.34'W. long. ❹; and
- 38° 01.75'N. lat. 122° 55.00'W. long. ❺; thence westward along the mean high tide line onshore boundary to
- 38° 01.783'N. lat. 122° 55.286'W. long. ❻; and
- 38° 01.954'N. lat. 122° 56.451'W. long. ❼

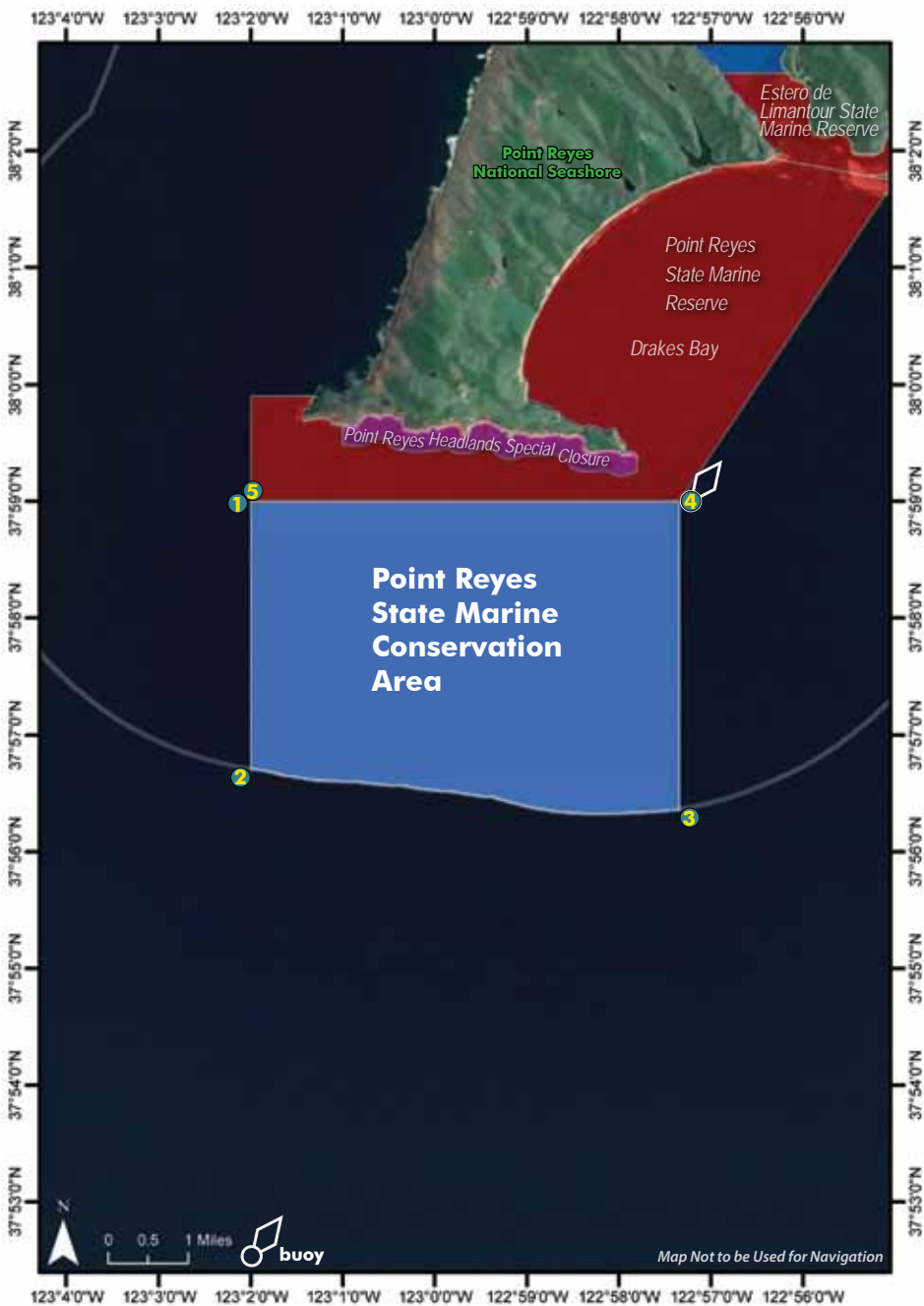
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 37° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. ①;
- 37° 56.71'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. ②; thence eastward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 56.36'N. lat. 122° 57.34'W. long. ③;
- 37° 59.00'N. lat. 122° 57.34'W. long. ④; and
- 37° 59.00'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. ⑤

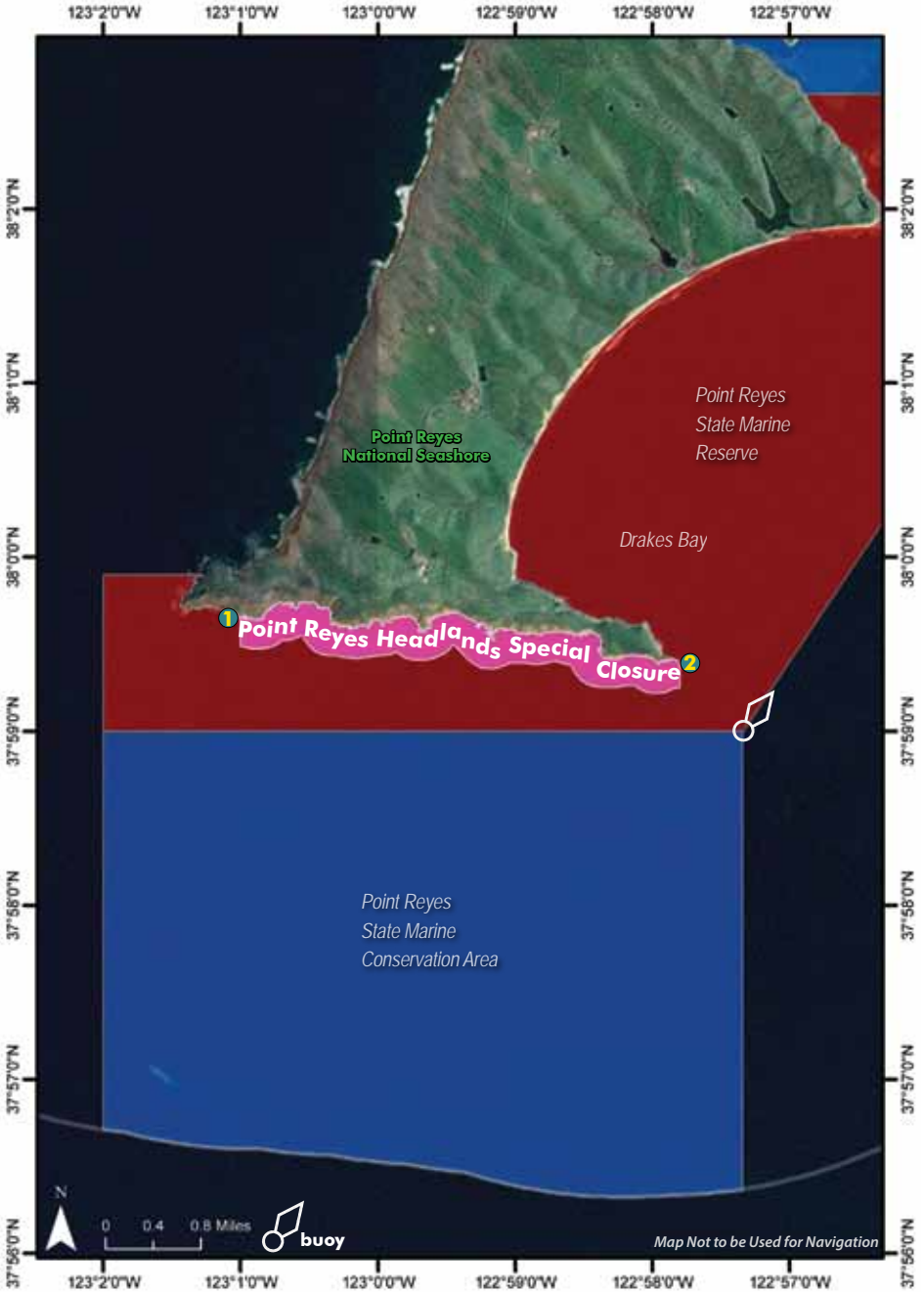
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.
2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap is allowed.



Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure







Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special restrictions on boating and access apply to the Point Reyes headlands as follows.

(A) A special closure is designated on the south side of the Point Reyes headlands from the mean high tide line to a distance of 1,000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline between lines extending due south from each of the following two points:

37° 59.65'N. lat. 123° 01.00'W. long. ; and

37° 59.39'N. lat. 122° 57.80'W. long. 

(B) No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter this area at any time.



Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve





Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area consists of waters below the mean high tide line within Estero de Limantour and within Drakes Estero, southward of a line connecting the following two points:

- 38° 02.66'N. lat. 122° 56.89'W. long. ❶; and
- 38° 02.66'N. lat. 122° 56.15'W. long. ❷

And northward of a line connecting the following two points:
38° 01.783'N. lat. 122° 55.286'W. long. ❸; and
38° 01.954'N. lat. 122° 56.451'W. long. ❹

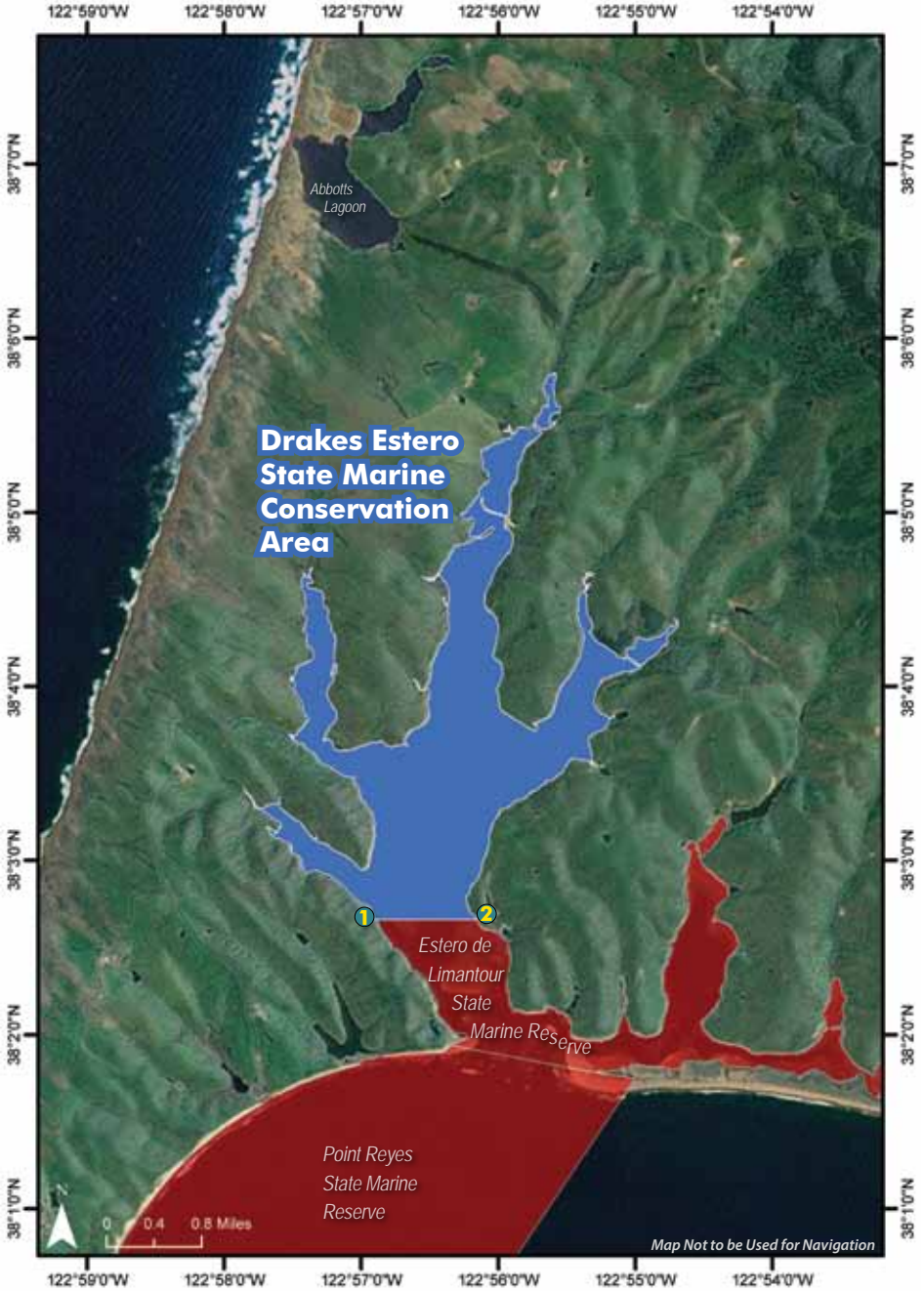
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area





Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations *from* California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area includes the waters below the mean high tide line within Drakes Estero northward of a line connecting the following two points:

- 38° 02.66'N. lat. 122° 56.89'W. long.
- 38° 02.66'N. lat. 122° 56.15'W. long.

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. The recreational take of clams; and
2. Aquaculture of shellfish, pursuant to a valid State water bottom lease and stocking permit.






Point Resistance Rock Special Closure





Point Resistance Rock Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

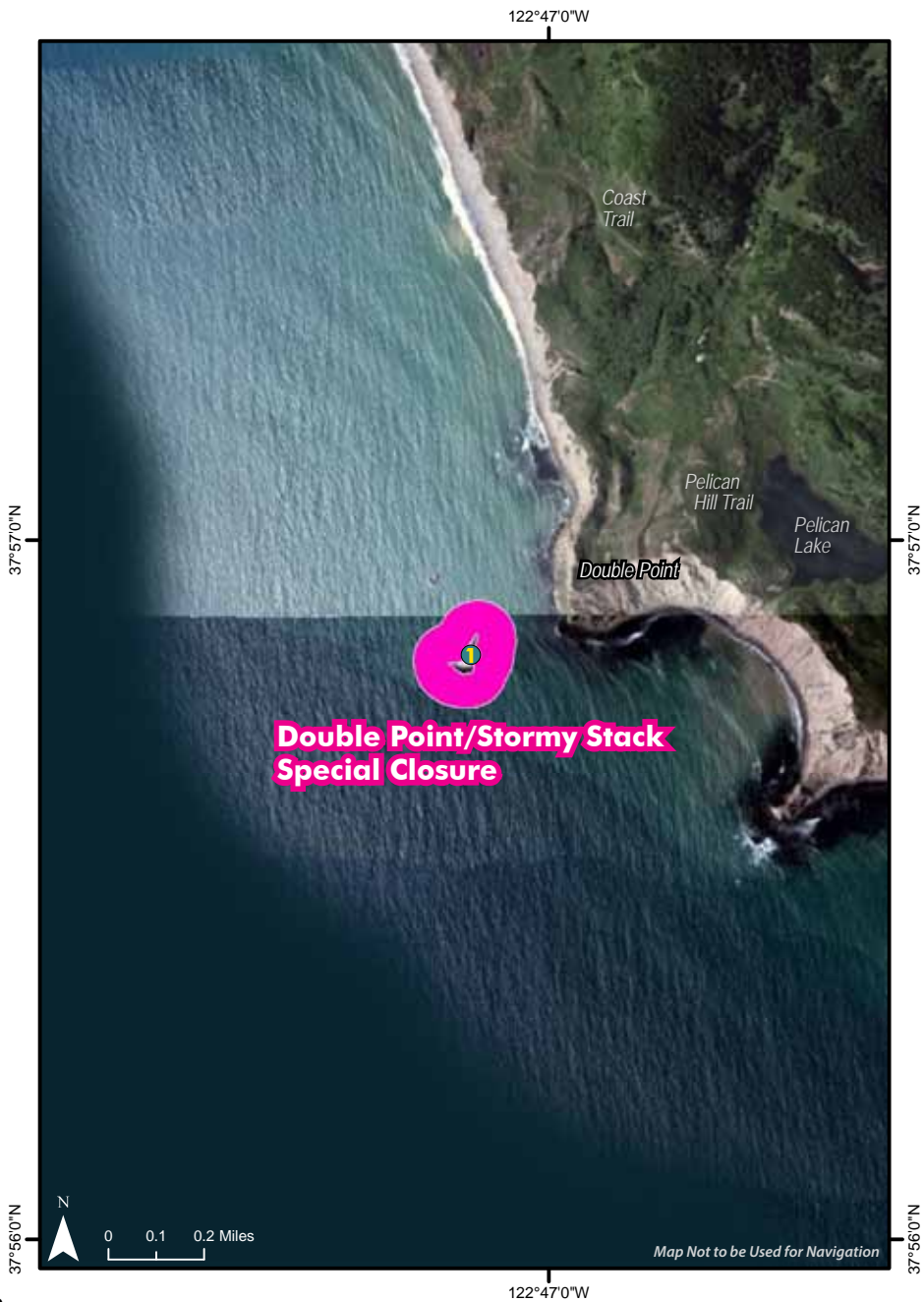
Special restrictions on boating and access apply to Point Resistance Rock as follows:

(A) A special closure is designated from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of Point Resistance Rock, located in the vicinity of 37° 59.92'N. lat. 122° 49.75'W. long. 

(B) No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter this area at any time.



Double Point/Stormy Stack Special Closure





Double Point/Stormy Stack Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special restrictions on boating and access apply to Stormy Stack Rock as follows.

(A) A special closure is designated from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of Stormy Stack Rock, located in the vicinity of 37° 56.83'N. lat. 122° 47.14'W. long. 🌐

(B) No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter this area at any time.



Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by the mean high tide line, a distance of 1,000 feet seaward of mean lower low water, and the following points:

- 37° 55.52'N. lat. 122° 44.17'W. long. ①;
- 37° 55.42'N. lat. 122° 44.31'W. long. ②;
- 37° 53.65'N. lat. 122° 41.91'W. long. ③; and
- 37° 53.77'N. lat. 122° 42.02'W. long. ④

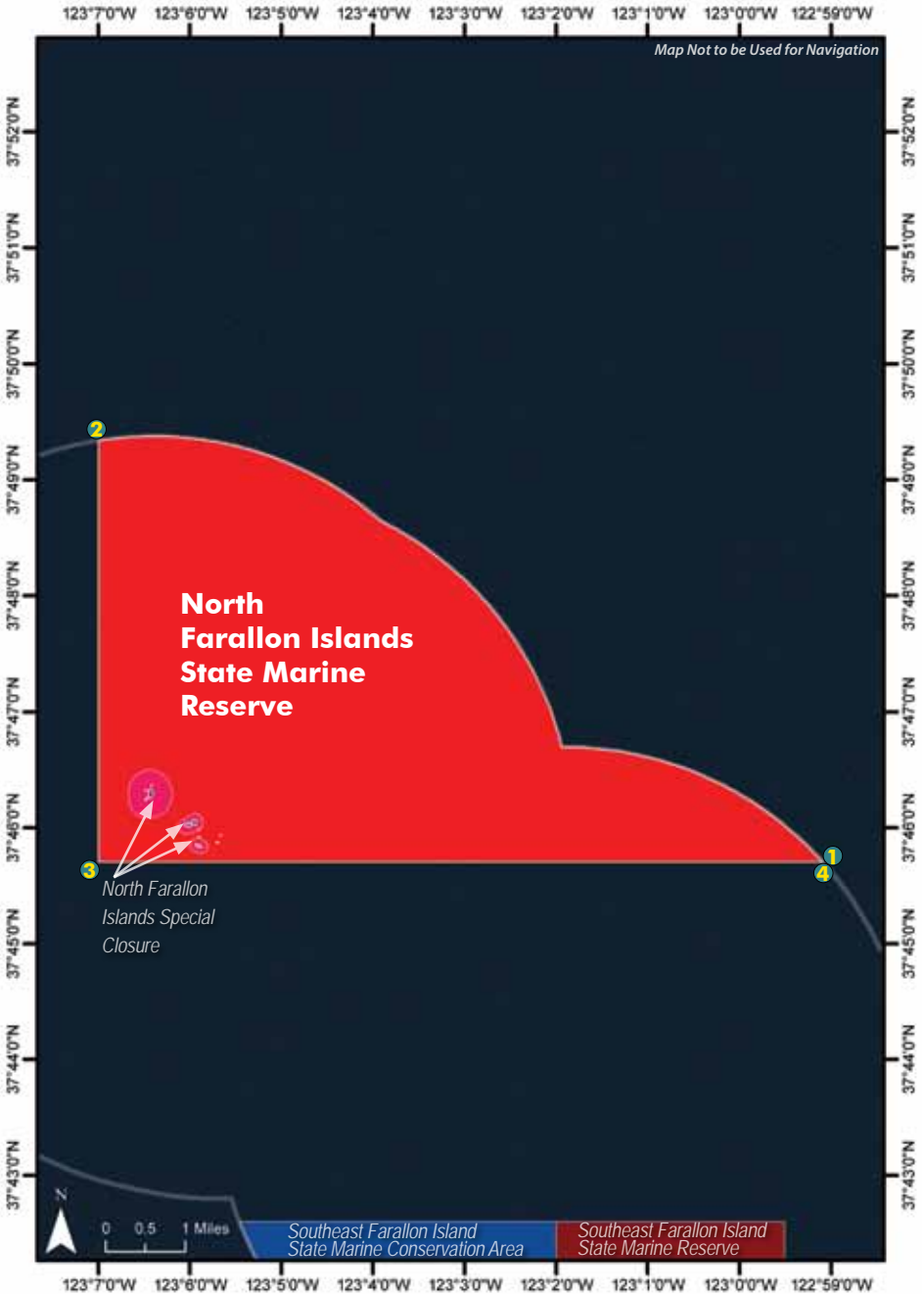
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational take of finfish from shore and abalone.





North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve





North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

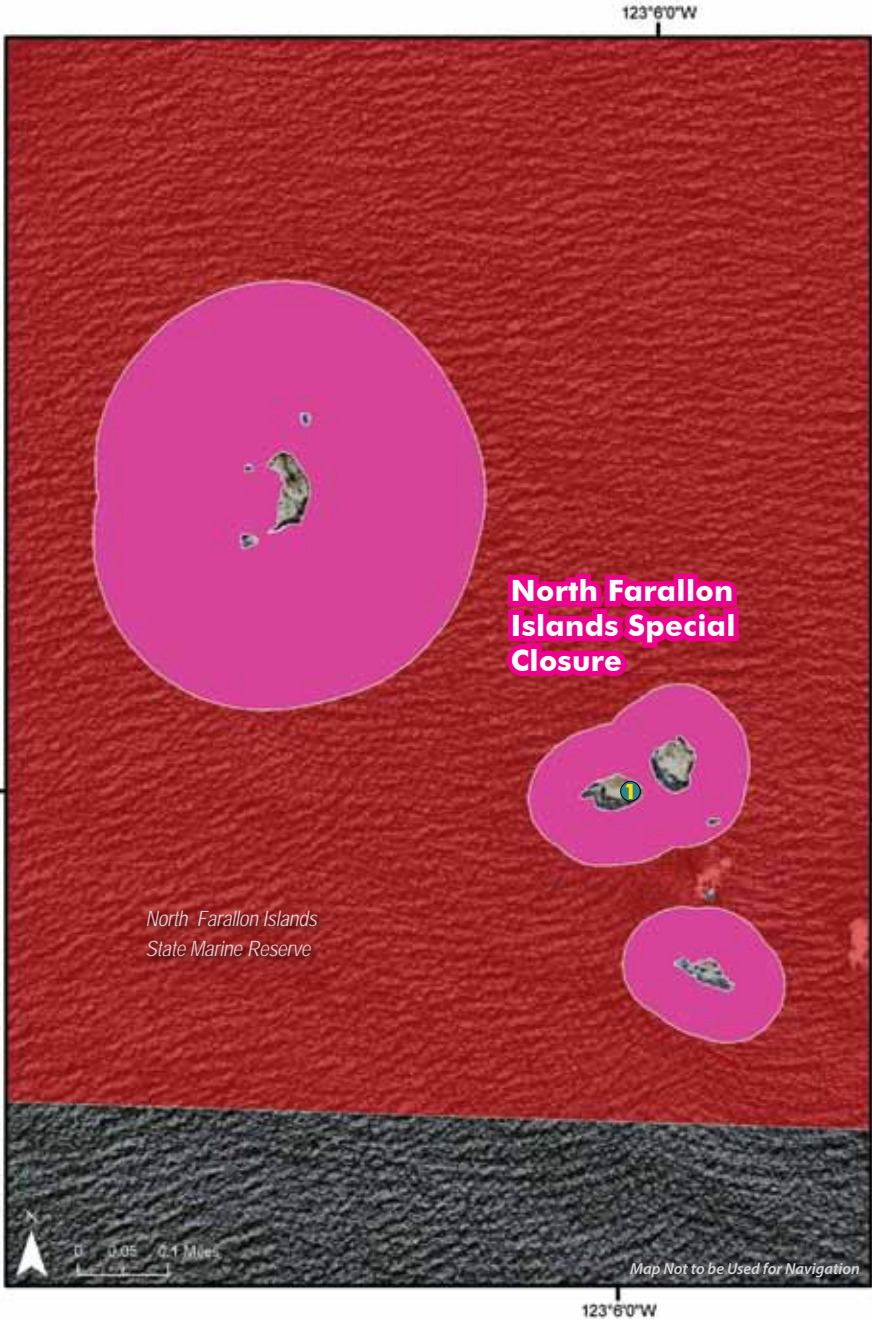
- 37° 45.70'N. lat. 122° 59.08'W. long. ①; thence northwestward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 49.34'N. lat. 123° 7.00'W. long. ②;
- 37° 45.70'N. lat. 123° 7.00'W. long. ③; and
- 37° 45.70'N. lat. 122° 59.08'W. long. ④

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.



North Farallon Islands Special Closure






North Farallon Islands Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Section 632

Special regulations on boating and access apply to the North Farallon Islands as follows.

(A) A special closure is established at the islets comprising the North Farallon Islands.

(B) Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, or as authorized by subsection 632 ... (C) [*below*], no vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 1,000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of North Farallon Island, or to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the remaining three southern islets, including the Island of St. James, in the vicinity of 37° 46.00'N. lat. 123° 06.00'W. long. 

(C) No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter the area defined in subsection 632 ... (B) [*above*].

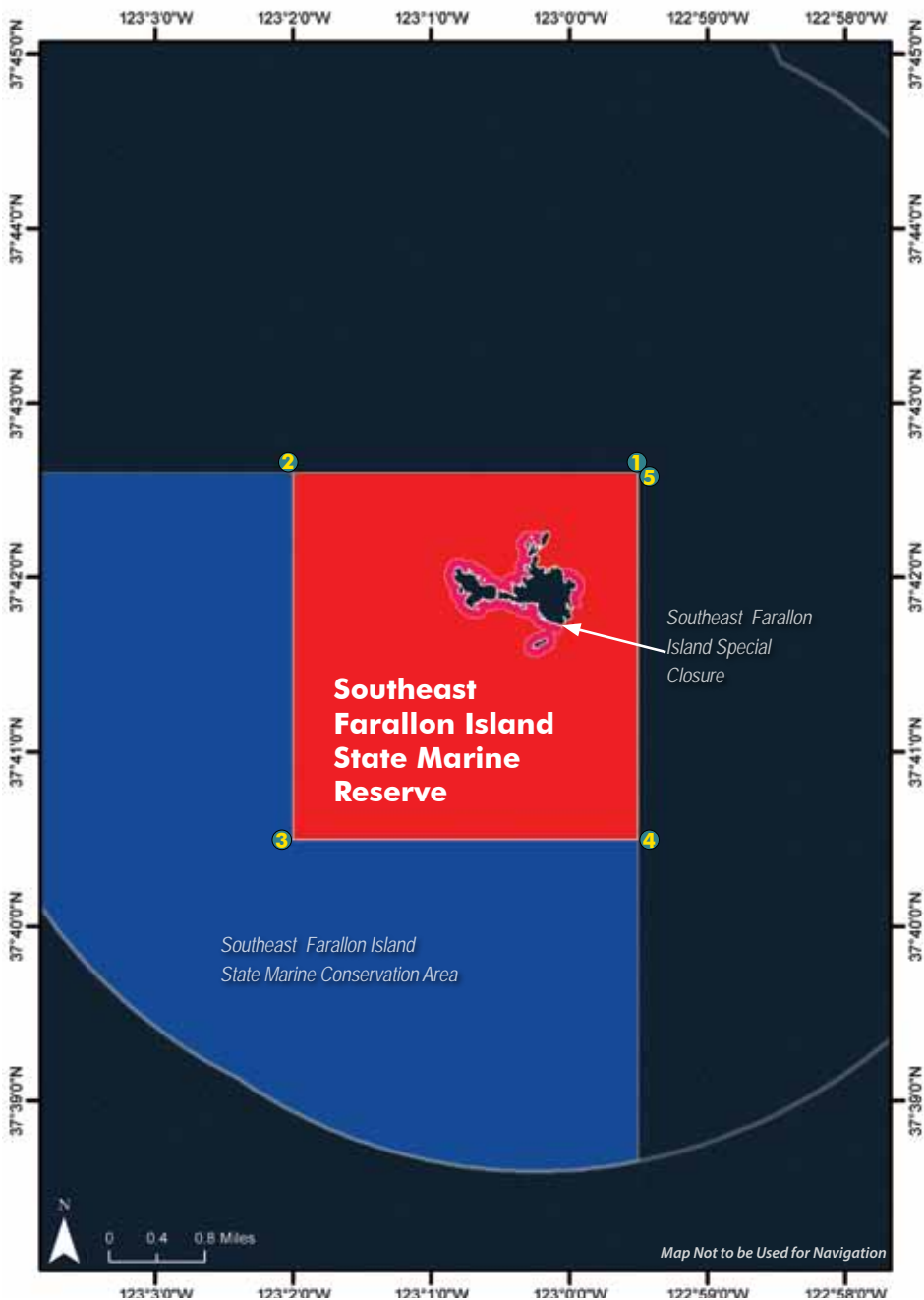
(D) All vessels shall observe a five (5) nautical mile per hour speed limit within 1,000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the islets defined in subsection 632 ... (B) [*above*].

(E) In an area bounded by the mean high tide line and a distance of one nautical mile seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any of the four islets comprising the North Farallon Islands, the following restrictions apply:

1. All commercial diving vessels operating in the defined area shall have their vessel engine exhaust system terminate either through a muffler for dry exhaust systems, or below the vessel waterline for wet exhaust systems.
2. All commercial diving vessels equipped with an open, deck-mounted air compressor system, while operating in the defined area, shall have their air compressor's engine exhaust system terminate below the vessel waterline.



Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve





Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

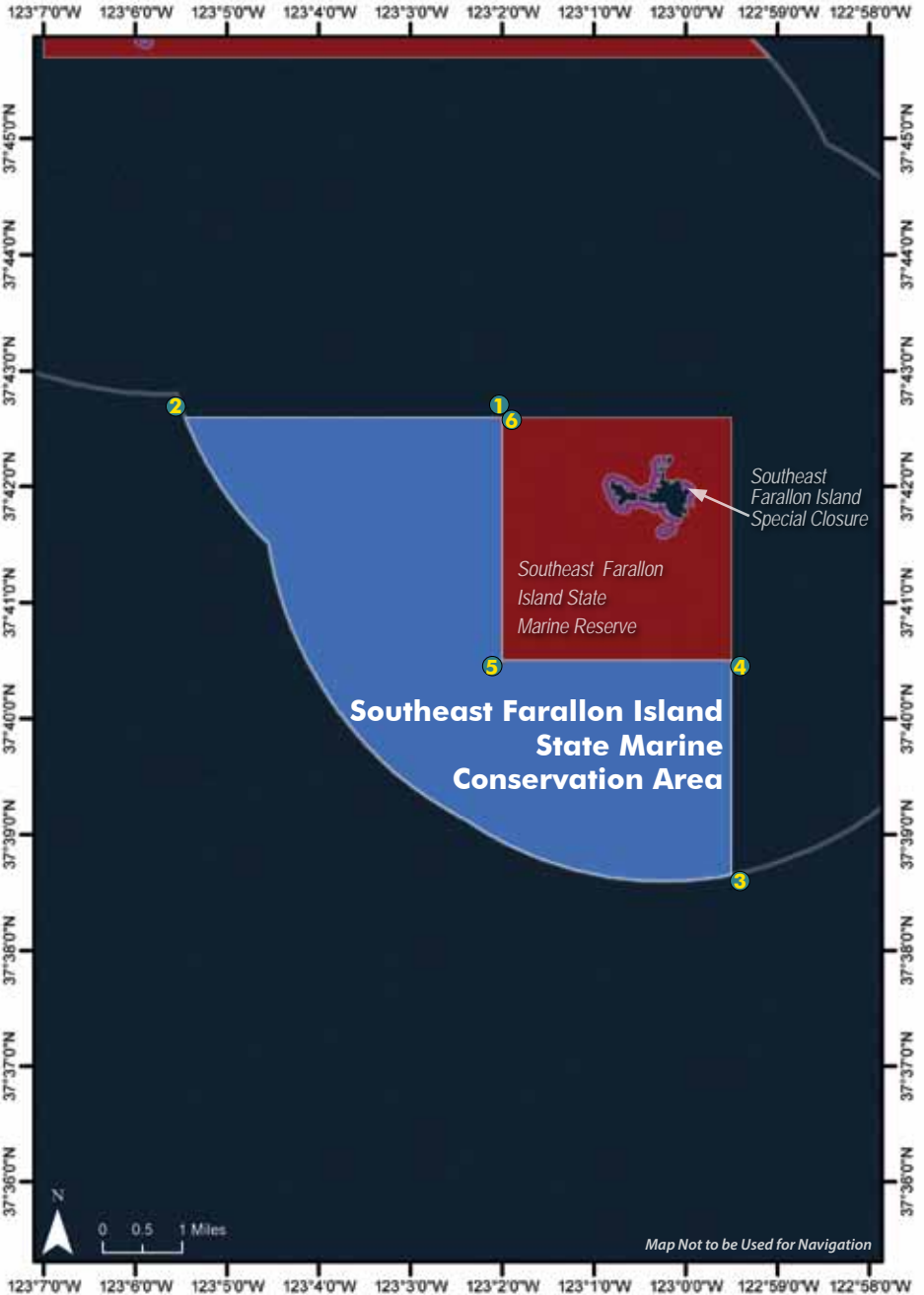
- 37° 42.60'N. lat. 122° 59.50'W. long. ①;
- 37° 42.60'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. ②;
- 37° 40.50'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. ③;
- 37° 40.50'N. lat. 122° 59.50'W. long. ④; and
- 37° 42.60'N. lat. 122° 59.50'W. long. ⑤

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.



Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area





Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations, Title 14 Section 632

(A) Boundary

This area is bounded by straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

- 37° 42.60'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. 🌐;
- 37° 42.60'N. lat. 123° 05.46'W. long. 🌐; thence southeastward
along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 38.66'N. lat. 122° 59.50'W. long. 🌐;
- 37° 40.50'N. lat. 122° 59.50'W. long. 🌐;
- 37° 40.50'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. 🌐; and
- 37° 42.60'N. lat. 123° 02.00'W. long. 🌐

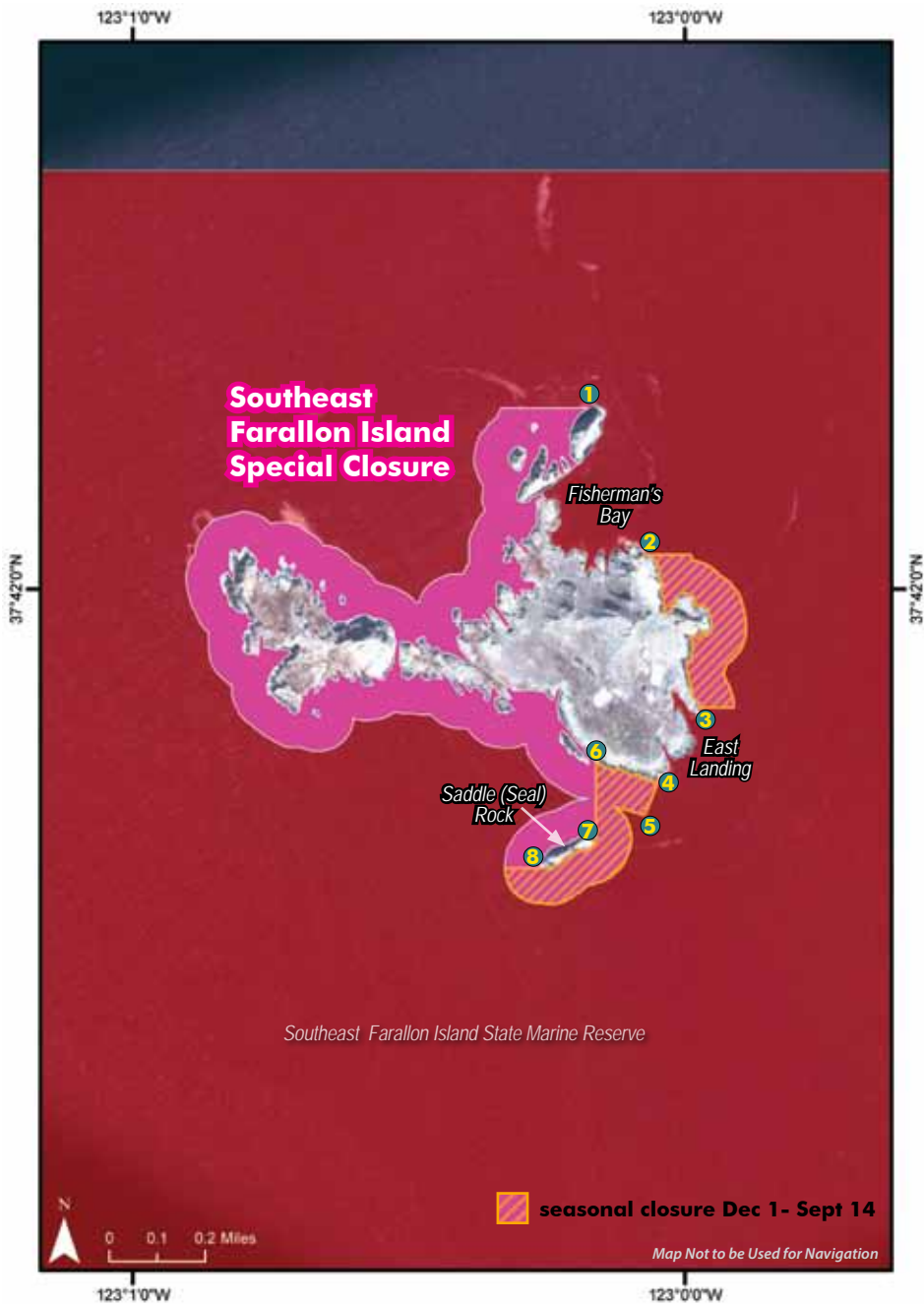
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling is allowed.
2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear is allowed.



Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure





Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special regulations on boating and access apply to the island and islets comprising the Southeast Farallon Island as follows.

(A) A special closure is established at the Southeast Farallon Island.

(B) Except as permitted by federal law or emergency caused by hazardous weather, or as authorized by subsection 632 ... (D) [below], no vessel shall be operated or anchored at any time from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the Southeast Farallon Island year-round, EXCEPT:

1. The area north of Fisherman's Bay, from a line extending due west from 37° 42.26' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long. ①, following clockwise around the island (including Fisherman's Bay), to a line extending due east from 37° 42.05' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long. ②
2. At East Landing, from a line extending due east from 37° 41.83' N. lat. 122° 59.98' W. long. ③ following clockwise around the island, to a straight line connecting the following two points: 37° 41.72' N. lat. 123° 00.05' W. long. ④; and 37° 41.68' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long. ⑤

(C) This closure as defined in subsection 632 ... (B) [above] exists year round, except for the following areas, which are closed only from December 1 through September 14 of each year:

1. From Fisherman's Bay to East Landing, from a line extending due east from 37° 42.05' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long. ②, following clockwise around the island to a line extending due east from 37° 41.83' N. lat. 122° 59.98' W. long. ③
2. The area southwest of East Landing, from a straight line connecting the following two points: 37° 41.72' N. lat. 123° 00.05' W. long. ④; and 37° 41.68' N. lat. 123° 00.07' W. long. ⑤

Following clockwise around the main island to a straight line extending due south from 37° 41.76' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long. ⑥ to 37° 41.64' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long. ⑦, and on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from a straight line extending due south from 37° 41.76' N. lat. 123° 00.16' W. long. ⑥, following clockwise around Saddle (Seal) Rock, to a line extending due west from 37° 41.60' N. lat. 123° 00.26' W. long. ⑧

(D) No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter the area defined in subsection 632 ... (B) [above] or 632 ... (C) [above] during the closure period.

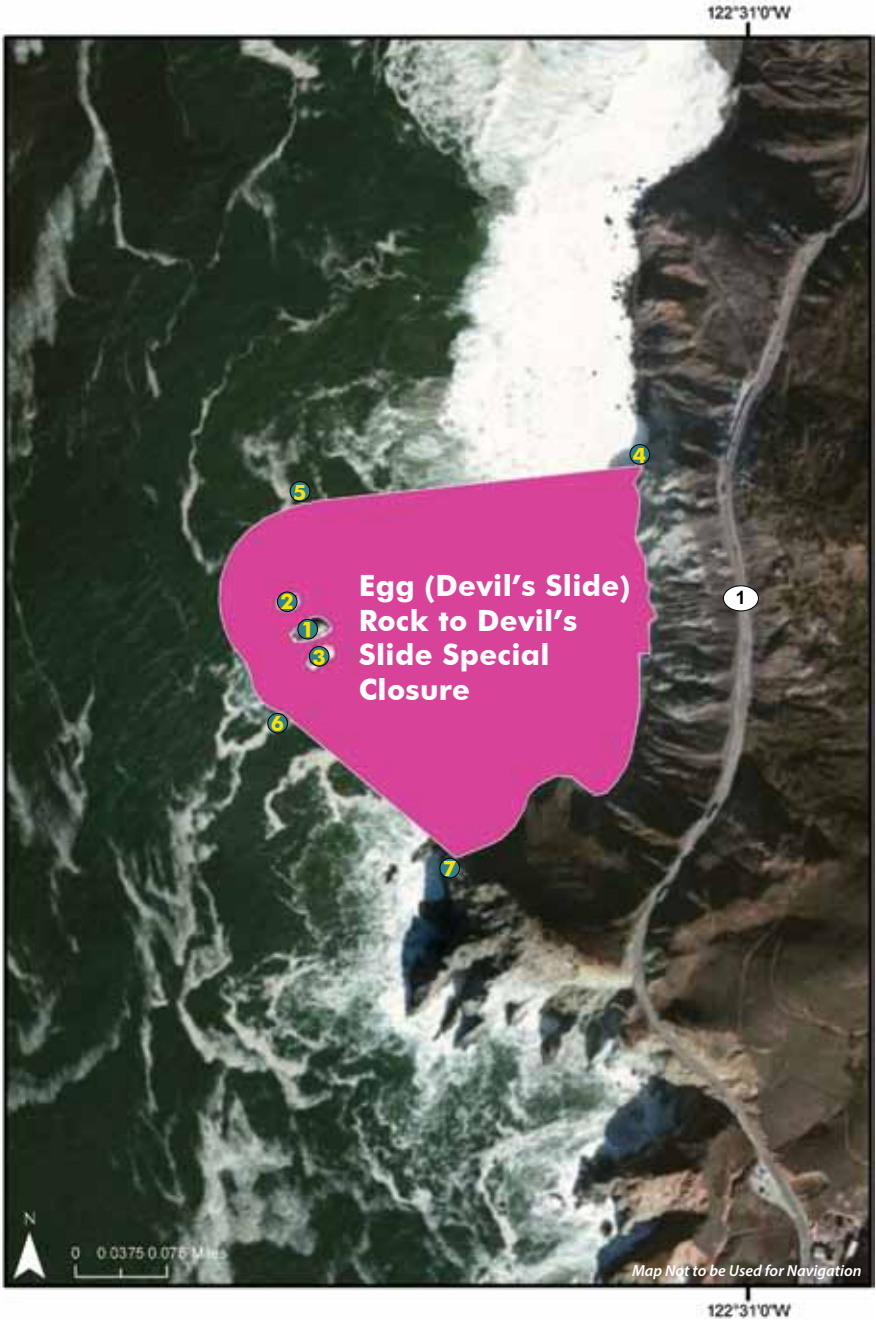
(E) All vessels shall observe a five (5) nautical mile per hour speed limit 1,000 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of the Southeast Farallon Island.

(F) In an area bounded by the mean high tide line and a distance of one nautical mile seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any of the islands and islets comprising the Southeast Farallon Island, the following restrictions apply:

1. All commercial diving vessels operating in the defined area shall have their vessel engine exhaust system terminate either through a muffler for dry exhaust systems, or below the vessel waterline for wet exhaust systems.
2. All commercial diving vessels equipped with an open, deck-mounted air compressor system, while operating in the defined area, shall have their air compressor's engine exhaust system terminate below the vessel waterline.



Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock to Devil's Slide Special Closure





Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock to Devil's Slide Special Closure Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

Special restrictions on boating and access apply as follows.

(A) A special closure is designated from the mean high tide line to a distance of 300 feet seaward of the mean lower low tide line of any shoreline of any of the three rocks comprising Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock, located in the vicinity of:

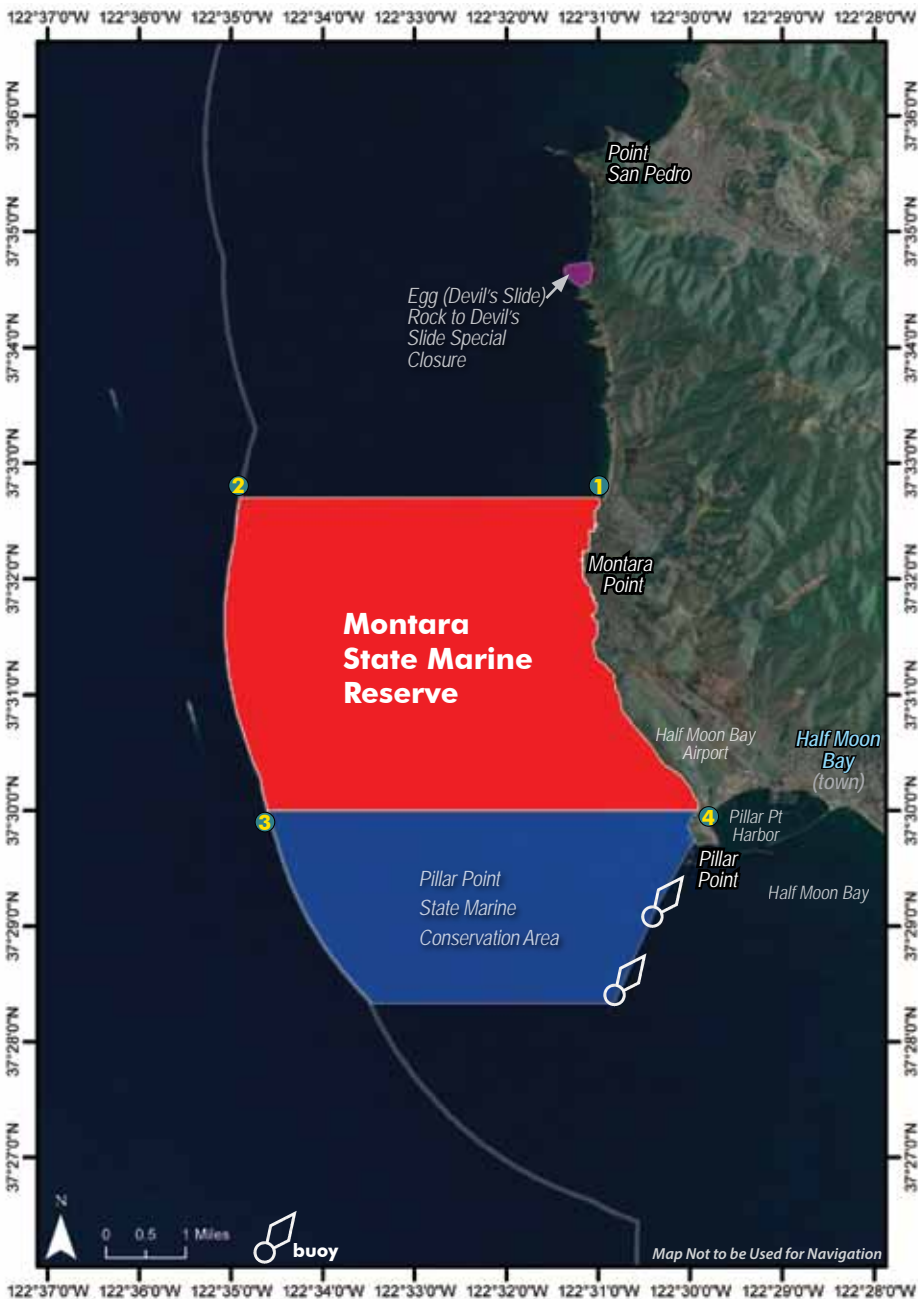
- 37° 34.64'N. lat. 122° 31.29'W. long. ①;
- 37° 34.66'N. lat. 122° 31.32'W. long. ②; and
- 37° 34.63'N. lat. 122° 31.29'W. long. ③; and the area bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:
 - 37° 34.74'N. lat. 122° 31.08'W. long. ④;
 - 37° 34.72'N. lat. 122° 31.31'W. long. ⑤;
 - 37° 34.60'N. lat. 122° 31.33'W. long. ⑥; and
 - 37° 34.52'N. lat. 122° 31.21'W. long. ⑦

(B) Transit in between the rock and the mainland between these points is prohibited at any time.

(C) No person except department employees or employees of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or United States Coast Guard, in performing their official duties, or unless permission is granted by the department, shall enter this area.



Montara State Marine Reserve





Montara State Marine Reserve Boundary and Regulations from California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632

(A) 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:

- 37° 32.70'N. lat. 122° 31.00'W. long. ①;
- 37° 32.70'N. lat. 122° 34.91'W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 30.00'N. lat. 122° 34.61'W. long. ③; and
- 37° 30.00'N. lat. 122° 29.93'W. long. ④

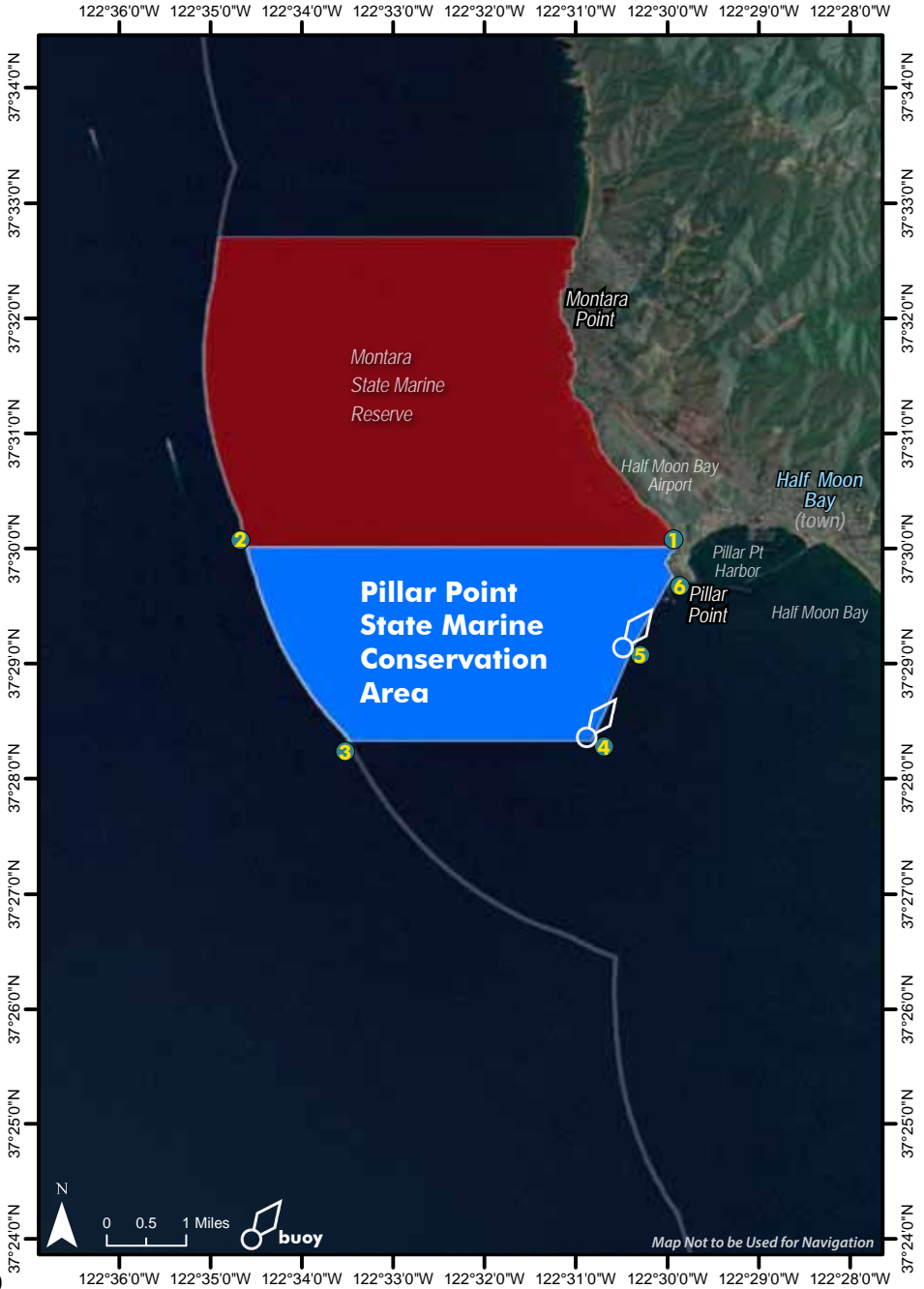
(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.





Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area





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

(A) 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:

- 37° 30.00'N. lat. 122° 29.93'W. long. ①;
- 37° 30.00'N. lat. 122° 34.61'W. long. ②; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to
- 37° 28.33'N. lat. 122° 33.47'W. long. ③;
- 37° 28.33'N. lat. 122° 30.83'W. long. ④;
- 37° 29.18'N. lat. 122° 30.36'W. long. ⑤; and
- 37° 29.74'N. lat. 122° 29.97'W. long. ⑥

(B) Permitted/Prohibited Uses

Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net is allowed.
2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish* by troll or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net is allowed. Not more than five percent by weight of any commercial pelagic finfish or market squid catch landed or possessed shall be other incidentally taken species.



* "Pelagic finfish" is defined as:
 northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*),
 barracudas (*Sphyraena* spp.),
 billfishes (family Istiophoridae),
 dolphinfish (*Coryphaena hippurus*),
 Pacific herring (*Clupea pallasii*),
 jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*),
 Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*),
 salmon (*Oncorhynchus* spp.),
 Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*),
 blue shark (*Prionace glauca*),
 salmon shark (*Lamna ditropis*),
 shortfin mako shark (*Isurus oxyrinchus*),
 thresher sharks (*Alopias* spp.),
 swordfish (*Xiphias gladius*),
 tunas (family Scombridae) including
 Pacific bonito (*Sarda chiliensis*), and
 yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*).
 The commercial take of marlin is not allowed.

Notes

Do You Have The Most Current Information?

For current regulations, check the California MPA website at www.wildlife.ca.gov/marine/MPA or the official regulatory language in California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 632, available online at <http://ccr.oal.ca.gov>.

For more information about MPAs and the Marine Life Protection Act, visit the California MPA website or your local CDFW office.

Questions, comments, and requests for copies of this guide can be sent to AskMPA@wildlife.ca.gov



Amendments to North Central MPA Regulations (Through October 2014)

1. Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve - boundaries modified to establish Stewarts Point State Marine Conservation Area in nearshore portion of reserve. Operative 7/19/2010
2. Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure - boundaries for seasonal portion of special closure updated; regulatory language revised to improve clarity. Operative 1/12/2011
3. Renumbering of all MPA subsections in 632(b) *Areas and Special Regulations for Use* upon adoption of new MPAs in Northern California. Operative 12/19/2014
4. Amendment of subsections 632(a)(3) and (8); (b): (30)(B), (39)(B)-(E), (40)(B)1.-2., (66)(B)1.-2. Operative 10/1/2014

The information in this publication does not replace the official regulatory language found in CCR Title 14, Section 632.



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