

Navigating the Nation's Marine Managed Areas for the United States of America



What is the Navigating Marine Managed Areas Project?

The National Marine Protected Areas (MPA) Center was established to develop and support an effective national system of MPAs in the United States. To help accomplish this goal, the MPA Center's Science Institute is collaborating with NOAA's Office of Coast Survey on "Navigating the Nation's Marine Managed Areas," a joint project to incorporate key information about existing marine managed areas (MMAs) into the U.S. *Coast Pilot*® and other navigational products. The maritime community relies heavily on the U.S. *Coast Pilot* and NOAA navigational charts for information about coastal issues relating to safe navigation, access to marine facilities, and environmental regulations. Information about existing MMAs, in a concise format, will assist mariners and other users in understanding the location, purpose, jurisdictions and allowed activities within these special areas, which in turn will enhance safe navigation and environmental stewardship.



What is the U.S. Coast Pilot?

The U.S. *Coast Pilot* has been in continuous print by the federal government since 1867. Ships of 1,600 or more gross tons, and large U.S. Naval vessels, are required to carry both the U.S. *Coast Pilot* and the local NOAA charts that pertain to their area of transit. Many smaller vessels also carry both the U.S. *Coast Pilot* and local U.S. charts, although they are not required to do so.

The U.S. *Coast Pilot* is a series of nine regional books. Each U.S. *Coast Pilot* book contains a variety of information important to navigators of coastal and intra-coastal waters, and the Great Lakes. Each book also contains supplemental information that is difficult to portray on a nautical chart. Examples of topics covered in each U.S. *Coast Pilot* include channel descriptions, anchorages, bridge and cable clearances, currents, tide and water levels, prominent features, pilotage, towage, weather, ice conditions, wharf descriptions, dangers, routes, traffic separation schemes, small-craft facilities, and federal regulations applicable to navigation. To date, only limited information on federal and state MMAs has been incorporated into NOAA's navigational products, thus making it challenging for the mariner to fully understand these important areas.

How is MMA information incorporated into the U.S. Coast Pilot?

Data about existing marine managed areas is synthesized from the U.S. MMA Inventory (a project of the MPA Center) and other public sources. However, MMAs included in this project will be a subset of the U.S. MMA Inventory. Those MMAs that will be included are those that occur in navigable waters, and have rules or regulations that affect mariners (e.g., fishing, vessel traffic, anchoring, etc.). Syntheses of this information will appear in each book of the U.S. *Coast Pilot* series, and will include:

- Summary paragraphs at certain points in each book describing general information about the region's MMAs that may be of importance to mariners
- Inclusion of MMA site references into the U.S. *Coast Pilot* chapters as they occur along the coast
- A table in each book's appendix that summarizes some general information about each pertinent MMA in that region (on reverse side)

| | | | MMA Restrictions of Interest to Mariners | | | | MMA Management Approach | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|-----------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---|
| | | | Navigation | | Fishing | | Conservation/Management Focus | | | Level of Protection | | | | | | |
| MMA # | MMA Site Name | MMA Description | Vessel Traffic | Anchoring | Commercial Fishing | Recreational Fishing | Natural Heritage | Cultural Heritage | Sustainable Production | Uniform Multiple Use | Zoned Multiple Use | Zoned, with No Take Areas | No Take | No Impact | No Access | Management Agency and Contact Information |
| 3-1 | Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge | Several sites spread along most of Alaska's 47,300 mile coastline, extending from Forrester Island N to Gulf of Alaska, W to include all Aleutians, and N to Icy Cape on the Arctic Ocean. | † | † | ○ | ○ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Alaska Regional Office 907-786-3309 ----- On-site info: 907-235-6546 |
| 12-1 | Sitka Pinacles Marine Reserve | Consists of area totaling 2.5 nm ² off Cape Edgecumbe, on SW corner of Kruzoff Island. | | ○ | ○ | ● | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | National Marine Fisheries Service Alaska Region 907-586-7221 |
| 12-2 | Sitka National Historical Park | Located at mouth of Indian River on Baranof Island. Coastline is adjacent to Crescent and Jamestown Bays. Total park surface area: ~2.5 nm ² | ○ | ○ | ● | ○ | ✓ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | National Park Service Alaska Area Region 907-644-3510 ----- On-site Info: 907-747-0110 |
| 15-1 | Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve | Located in N part of SE Alaska, just N of Chichigof Island. Marine waters make up nearly one-fifth of park's area. Marine waters surface area: ~716 nm ² | ○ | | ○ | ○ | ✓ | | | ✓ | | | | | | National Park Service Alaska Area Region 907-644-3510 ----- On-site Info: 907-747-2230 |
| ○ Restricted - Activities that are generally allowed, but may have specific regulations or restrictions. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ● Prohibited - Activities that are not allowed, unless authorized by permit. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ✓ Applicable to this MMA | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| † Data not available | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Data derived from NOAA's MMA Inventory.

What are the next steps?

The MPA Center, in conjunction with the Coast Pilot Branch, will systematically insert information on MMAs into successive *Coast Pilot* books as the series is published throughout the year. In addition, the MPA Center, the Office of Coast Survey, and the University of New Hampshire are collaborating to provide key information on MMAs in other navigation products, including paper charts and Electronic Navigation Charts.

For Additional Information

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