

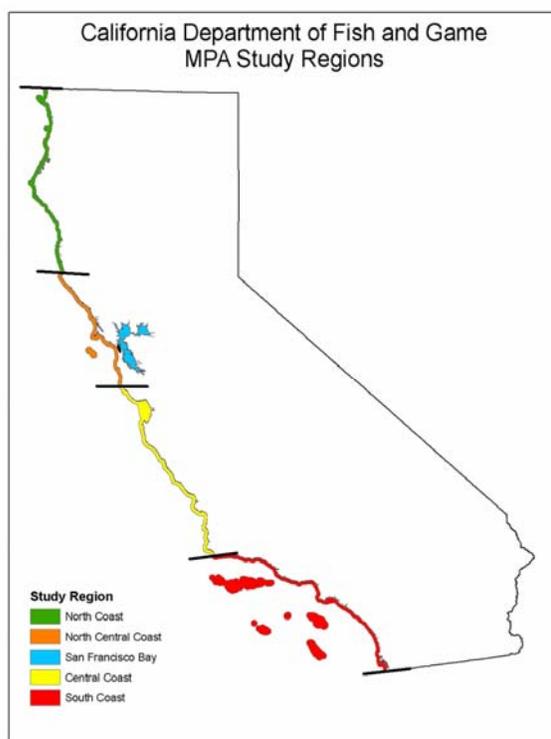
## State Marine Protected Areas along North Central Coast of California to be Considered by California Fish and Game Commission

The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) would like to inform the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC) of progress in implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) in California, including regulatory options for marine protected areas that will be contemplated through the end of 2008. While the CDFG is not intending to solicit comments from the PFMC through this report, details of the current process to date are provided so that the PFMC will be better prepared to comment during the formal regulatory process.

### Background

The MLPA directs the State of California to evaluate and improve existing marine protected areas (MPAs) and to create a redefined suite of MPAs spanning the coastline. These MPAs must function, to the extent possible, as a network that is complementary to sound fisheries management. For purposes of regionally-specific planning, the State has been divided into five regions for successive planning and implementation of the MLPA by 2011. In order, these regions are: the Central Coast (completed in 2007), the north-central coast (in progress), the south coast (will commence late summer 2008), the north coast (future) and San Francisco Bay (future). A map of MLPA study regions is included below (Figure 1).

Figure 1. Map of MLPA study regions in California



## **Current Proposals for MPAs in North Central Coast**

This report focuses primarily on informing the PFMC of new proposals for Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the north central coast of California that will be considered by the California Fish and Game Commission (FGC) during a regulatory process commencing this summer. A decision on the proposed new regulations is expected in December 2008. The proposed regulations are for California state waters between Pigeon Point (37° 11' N latitude) and Alder Creek, near Point Arena (39° 00' 18" N latitude). Proposed regulations would restrict or prohibit extractive uses, including commercial and/or recreational fishing within the newly-designated MPAs. While the proposed MPAs are intended as long-term ecosystem-based management tools rather than fishery management measures, they should be accounted for when the PFMC is considering fishery management that may be influenced by the presence of these MPAs.

### ***Proposal Development in the North Central Coast***

Proposals to be forwarded to the Fish and Game Commission were developed during a comprehensive public input process, overseen by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF). The BRTF was empanelled by the Secretary for Resources to provide policy direction and to provide recommendations on proposed MPAs to the FGC. The development of MPA proposals occurred primarily in a North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG), convened by the Director of CDFG and the Chair of the BRTF. From May 2007 to March 2008, the NCCRSG held eight formal meetings and three work sessions, which resulted in the development of three final MPA proposals. These final three proposals drew from earlier draft proposals as informed by evaluations from the MLPA Science Advisory Team (SAT) and the CDFG relative to scientific guidelines and CDFG feasibility criteria, along with policy guidance from the BRTF.

The BRTF received the three final NCCRSG proposals on April 22-23, 2008. The BRTF decided to forward all three NCCRSG-generated MPA proposals and drew from the three proposals to craft an integrated preferred alternative (IPA) to recommend to the FGC.

The FGC is the final decision making body in the MLPA process and has the sole authority to adopt proposed MPAs after their own public process. The formal regulatory process will commence after the BRTF submits its recommendations to the FGC in a joint BRTF/FGC meeting in June 2008. The Commission plans to hold special hearings separate from their regularly scheduled meetings to receive public testimony on the MPA proposals. While the CDFG is not soliciting comments from the PFMC through this report, the PFMC may wish to comment during the Commission regulatory process. The most up-to-date FGC meeting dates are available at [www.fcg.ca.gov](http://www.fcg.ca.gov).

### **Options for MPAs in the North Central Coast Study Region of California**

The following table provides a summary of each MPA proposal to be forwarded to the California FGC, and is divided by different MPA classifications, based on allowed uses. Table 1 provides the total percentage of state waters in the study region included in each proposal, and the break-down by percentage for proposed no-take State Marine Reserves (SMRs), limited take State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs) and State Marine Parks (SMPs), plus State Marine Recreational Management Areas (SMRMAs) and Special Closures. Attachment 1 includes a map and a table of associated regulations for the Integrated Preferred Alternative developed by the BRTF.

Table 1. Area and percentage of state waters contained in MPAs by classification for proposals in the North Central Coast Study Region

MPA Proposal Name	Area (sq. miles) within State Waters	Percent of State Water in North Central Coast		
		State Marine Reserves	State Marine Conservation Areas	State Marine Parks
<b>Proposal 1-3</b>	164.6	11.4%	10.1%	<0.1%
<b>Proposal 2-XA</b>	137.2	8.9%	9.0%	0.1%
<b>Proposal 4</b>	204.9	13.8%	12.7%	0.4%
<b>BRTF IPA</b>	153.3	11.2%	8.4%	0.5%

Table 2. Total Number of MPAs and area by Proposal for the North Central Coast Study Region.

	Proposal 1-3	Proposal 2XA	Proposal 4	BRTF IPA
<b>Total # MPAs</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>22</b>
<b># SMRs</b>	12	9	15	11
<b># SMCAs</b>	10	8	12	9
<b># SMPs</b>	1	1	1	2
<b># SMRMAs</b>	0	3	0	2
<b># Special Closures</b>	8	5	7	6
<b>Area in MPAs (mi<sup>2</sup>)*</b>	164	137	204	153.3
<b>% of study region in MPAs*</b>	21.57 %	18.02 %	26.85 %	20.1%

\*Areas approximate based on preliminary evaluation

### **Adopted MPAs in the Central Coast Study Region (CCSR)**

On April 13, 2007 the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) took final action to adopt a new suite of 29 marine protected areas (MPAs) along California's central coast study region (bounded by Pigeon Point at 37° 11' N latitude and by Point Conception at 34° 27' N latitude). The 29 MPAs represent approximately 204 square miles (or approximately 18%) of state waters within the study region, with 85 square miles (approximately 7.5% of the study region) designated as "no-take" state marine reserves (Attachment 2, Figure 1). Attachment 2, Table 1 shows total percentage of state waters and the percentage of no-take SMRs, and limited take SMCAs and SMPs within the CCSR.

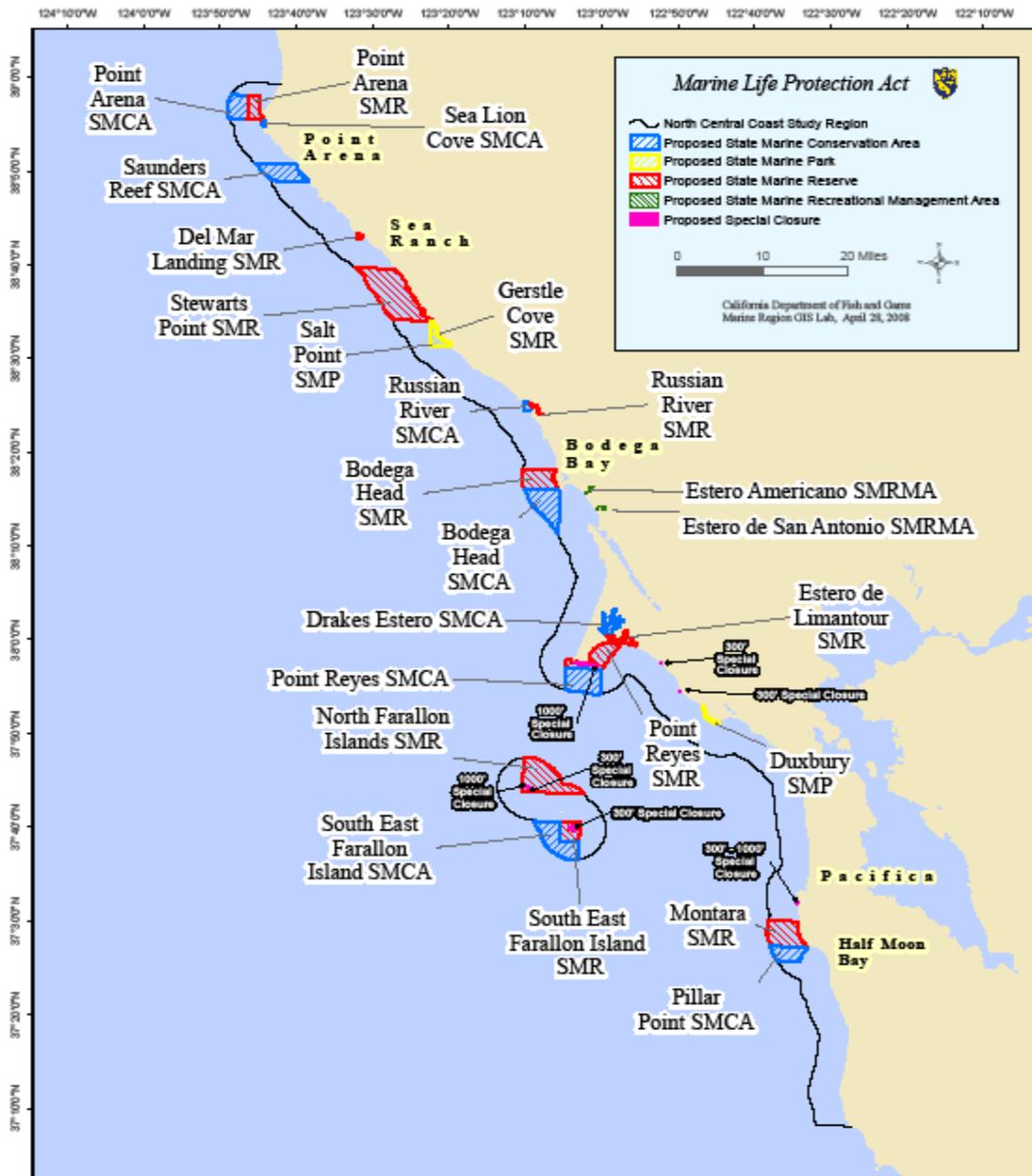
## **Preparations for the South Coast Study Region**

Preparations are underway for the third phase of the MLPA Initiative process, which will focus on the south coast of California, in state waters from Point Conception (34°27' N latitude) to the US/Mexico border. Among the earliest actions that will take place in the third phase of the MLPA Initiative process will be the appointment of a new BRTF, Regional Stakeholder Group (RSG), and SAT. Over approximately the next 1½ years, the RSG, the SAT and BRTF, will again engage in a cooperative effort to craft various MPA proposals.

Requests for nominations will go out in summer 2008 for the RSG and SAT. The RSG will provide local knowledge, evaluate existing MPAs, develop MPA proposals and discuss MLPA process issues with various constituent groups. The SAT will provide scientific knowledge and expert opinions for use in developing MPAs, and will review draft documents, MPA proposals, and scientific papers using established scientific guidelines. Opportunities for public involvement are outlined in Attachment 3.

The CDFG intends to keep the PFMC informed of progress in the planning and implementation of the MLPA in California. For more information, please see [www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa) or contact Mr. John Ugoretz, Marine Habitat Conservation Program Manager at (805) 893-5822 or by E-mail at [jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov](mailto:jugoretz@dfg.ca.gov).

Attachment 1. Map of proposed Marine Protected Areas in the BRTF-recommended Integrated Preferred Alternative and proposed regulations



**North Central Coast Study Region  
 Integrated Preferred Alternative**

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was unanimously selected on April 23, 2008 by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) as its preferred alternative and is being submitted to the California Fish and Game Commission (CFG) for consideration. This proposal integrates elements from three proposals developed by the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCSRG) (proposals 1-3, 2-XA, and 4). These NCCSRG proposals will also be forwarded in their entirety to the CFG for consideration. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.



<b>MPAs proposed under Integrated Preferred Alternative</b>	<b>Proposed Uses</b>
Point Arena SMR	All take is prohibited
Point Arena SMCA	All take is prohibited, EXCEPT recreational and commercial salmon trolling
Sea Lion Cove SMCA	Commercial and recreational take of invertebrates (including abalone), algae and other plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed.
Saunders Reef SMCA	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT the commercial and recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of urchin,
Del Mar Landing SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Stewarts Point SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Salt Point SMP	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT only the following species may be taken recreationally: abalone and finfish only.
Gerstle Cove SMR	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.
Russian River SMR	All take is prohibited.
Russian River SMCA	All take is prohibited, EXCEPT recreational and commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap and recreational take of surf smelt by hand beach nets/dip nets.
Bodega Head SMR	All take of living marine resources is prohibited.
Bodega Head SMCA	All take of living marine resources is prohibited except: 1) Only the following species may be taken commercially: pelagic finfish (including salmonids) by troll or pelagic seine, Dungeness crab by traps, market squid by pelagic seine, in accordance with state regulations. 2) Only the following species may be taken recreationally: pelagic finfish (including salmonids) by troll or pelagic seine, Dungeness crab by traps and market squid by pelagic seine, in accordance with state regulations.
Estero Americano SMRMA	All take of living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551 and 552)
Estero de San Antonia SMRMA	All take of living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551 and 552)
Point Reyes SMR	All take is prohibited.
Point Reyes SMCA	All take is prohibited, EXCEPT recreational and commercial salmon trolling and take of Dungeness crab by trap.
Estero de Limantour SMR	All take is prohibited.
Drakes Estero SMCA	All take is prohibited, EXCEPT shellfish mariculture and recreation clamming. If at any time, it becomes feasible to create an SMR at Drakes Ester, this proposal recommends doing so.
Duxbury SMP	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1) Only the following species may be taken recreationally: finfish from shore and abalone.
Montara SMR	All take of living marine resources is prohibited.
Pillar Point SMCA	All take of living marine resources is prohibited except: 1) Only the following species may be taken commercially: pelagic finfish (including salmonids) by troll or pelagic seine, Dungeness crab by trap, market quid by pelagic seine, in accordance with state regulations. 2) Only the flowing species may be taken recreationally: pelagic finfish (including salmonids) by troll or pelagic seine, in accordance with state regulations.
North Farallon Islands SMR	All take of living marine resources is prohibited.
Southeast Farallon Island SMR	All take of living marine resources is prohibited.
Southeast Farallon Island SMCA	All take of living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT recreational and commercial salmon trolling.

Table 1. Integrated Preferred Alternative proposed MPAs and associated regulations

Attachment 2: Adopted Marine Protected Areas in the Central Coast of California



SMCA = state marine conservation area    SMP = state marine park  
 SMR = state marine reserve    SMRMA = state marine recreational management area

Type of MPA	Area (sq. miles) of MPAs in Central Coast State Waters	Percent of Central Coast State Waters
<b>SMR</b>	85.3	7.4%
<b>SMP</b>	6.4	0.6%
<b>SMCA</b>	112.2	9.8%
<b>Total</b>	203.9	17.7%

Table 1. Adopted Central Coast MPAs total area and percentage of state waters covered.

**Table 2. Permitted and prohibited uses in Marine Protected Areas of the Central Coast Study Region of California.**

<b>Central Coast Marine Protected Areas Adopted April 13, 2007 Recreational and Commercial Uses</b>	
<b>Marine Protected Areas (from north to south)</b>	<b>Permitted/Prohibited Uses</b>
Año Nuevo SMCA	<b>No recreational take allowed.</b> <b>Allows commercial take</b> of giant kelp by hand.
Greyhound Rock SMCA	<b>Allows recreational take</b> of giant kelp by hand, salmon, squid. Finfish other than salmon may be taken <b>by hook and line from shore only.</b> <b>Allows commercial take</b> of giant kelp by hand, salmon, squid.
Natural Bridges SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Elkhorn Slough SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Elkhorn Slough SMCA	<b>Allows recreational take</b> of finfish by hook and line, and clams in area adjacent to DFG wildlife area in northwest. <b>No commercial take allowed.</b>
Moro Cojo Slough SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Soquel Canyon SMCA	<b>Allows recreational and commercial take</b> of pelagic finfish <sup>†</sup>
Portuguese Ledge SMCA	<b>Allows recreational and commercial take</b> of pelagic finfish <sup>†</sup>
Edward F. Ricketts SMCA	<b>Allows recreational take</b> of finfish by hook and line. <b>Allows commercial take</b> of kelp by hand north of 36° 36.83' N. latitude with limits on monthly take.
Lovers Point SMCA	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA	<b>Allows recreational take</b> of finfish. <b>Allows commercial take</b> of kelp by hand with limits on monthly take.
Asilomar SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Carmel Pinnacles SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Point Lobos SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b> Note: Current rules at Point Lobos Reserve (State Park Unit) limiting diver access do not apply to new areas in this MPA.
Point Lobos SMCA	<b>Allows recreational take</b> of salmon, albacore. <b>Allows commercial take</b> of salmon, albacore, and spot prawn.
Point Sur SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Point Sur SMCA	<b>Allows recreational and commercial take</b> of salmon and albacore.
Big Creek SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Big Creek SMCA	<b>Allows recreational take</b> of salmon, albacore. <b>Allows commercial take</b> of salmon, albacore, and spot prawn.
Piedras Blancas SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Piedras Blancas SMCA	<b>Allows recreational and commercial take</b> of salmon and albacore.
Cambria SMCA	No restrictions on recreational and commercial take.
White Rock (Cambria) SMCA	<b>No recreational take allowed.</b> <b>Allows commercial take</b> of kelp with limits on monthly take.
Morro Bay SMRMA	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed south of 35° 19.70' N. latitude</b> <b>In other areas, allows recreational take</b> of finfish. <b>In other areas, allows commercial</b> bait fish receive ring, and aquaculture by permit.
Morro Bay State Marine Reserve SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Point Buchon SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>
Point Buchon SMCA	<b>Allows recreational and commercial take</b> of salmon and albacore.
Vandenberg SMR	<b>No recreational or commercial take allowed.</b>

## **Attachment 3: Opportunities for Public Involvement**

### **North Central Coast Study Region Opportunities for Public Input**

#### **California Fish and Game Commission Meetings**

- Attend and provide comments at meetings
- View live webcasts
- View video and list to audio tapes archived on the MLPA website

### **South Coast Study Region Opportunities for Public Participation**

#### **Blue Ribbon Task Force Meetings**

- Attend and provide comment at meetings
- View and provide input on stakeholder presentations
- View live webcasts
- View video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA website

#### **Science Advisory Team Meetings**

- Attend and provide comments at meetings
- View video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA website

#### **Statewide Interests Group meetings**

- Representatives suggest strategies for public involvement

#### **Regional Stakeholder Group meetings**

- Provide comments and suggestions on the North Central Coast Regional Profile
- Work with a member of the Regional Stakeholder Group to ensure various interests and needs are addressed while packages of MPAs are being developed
- Attend and provide comment at regional stakeholder group meetings
- View live webcasts
- View video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA web site

#### **California Fish and Game Commission meetings**

- Attend and provide comments at meetings
- View live webcasts
- View video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA web site

#### **Workshops**

- Participate in workshops held in the study region

#### **Ongoing**

- Review documents for comment on the MLPA web site
- Submit comments, ideas and suggestions to [MLPACommetns@resources.ca.gov](mailto:MLPACommetns@resources.ca.gov)
- Contact MLPA staff (contact information on web)

*For more information about the MLPA Initiative visit: [www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa).*