

SUMMARY OF CURRENT FEDERAL FISHING REGULATIONS IN THE PROPOSED CHUMASH HERITAGE NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY

Federally managed fisheries in and near the proposed Chumash Heritage National Marine Sanctuary (Chumash NMS) include Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS), Pacific Coast Groundfish, Highly Migratory Species (HMS), and Pacific Salmon. All are managed via the Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process.

Pacific Salmon

Fishing regulations for Pacific Salmon are set annually, based on projected returns and conservation objectives. The proposed Chumash NMS is in the management area 'Monterey and South.' There is sport and commercial salmon fishing allowed most years, and the duration and allowable harvest fluctuate depending on available harvest. Salmon effort and catch can occur as far south as Pt. Conception and is composed of Chinook salmon. Coho retention off California is prohibited. Current year salmon regulations for the area are found on the California Ocean Salmon Fishery Information [webpage](#). Federal regulations can be found at [50 CFR 660 subpart H](#).

Pacific Coast Groundfish

Regulations for Pacific Coast Groundfish include limited entry, open access, and recreational fishery sectors. Management measures and harvest limits are set on a biennial basis, with regulations at [50 CFR 660 Subparts C through G](#). Primary target species in and near the proposed Chumash NMS include several species of rockfish (*Sebastes* spp.), sablefish, and other roundfishes such as cabezon and lingcod. Harvest methods include trawl and non-trawl (longline, pot, rod and reel, etc.). Commercial fishery management measures include allocations, quotas, trip landing and frequency limits, and size limits by gear type. Recreational fishery regulations include time/area closures, bag limits, size limits, boat limits, hook limits, and dressing requirements.

The Groundfish Fishery Management Plan also includes over 75 distinct areas designed to protect essential fish habitat (EFH). These Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Areas (EFHCAs) are closed to bottom trawling, all bottom contact gear, or bottom contact gear other than demersal seine, depending on the specific EFHCA. The proposed Chumash NMS encompasses portions of four of these EFHCAs that are closed to bottom trawling other than demersal seine (see Figure 1). EFHCAs are defined at [50 CFR 660.75](#).

Coastal Pelagic Species

The Coastal Pelagic Species (CPS) fishery includes northern anchovy, Pacific sardine, Pacific mackerel, market squid, and jack mackerel. CPS stocks are characterized by wide fluctuations in abundance, and landings vary significantly. CPS fishing south of Point Arena (including the area around the Chumash NMS) is managed via limited entry permits and is fished almost entirely by purse seine gear. Some CPS stocks have annual harvest specifications and management measures, while other species have annual catch limits but no specified schedule for assigning harvest specifications. Market squid is federally managed but annual allowable harvest is based on California's harvest limit of 118,000 short tons. Market squid is exempt from ACLs because it is a short-lived species of less than one year. CPS regulations are found at [50 CFR 660 Subpart I](#).

Highly Migratory Species

The Highly Migratory Species (HMS) fishery includes several species of tunas and sharks, as well as swordfish and dorado. In California there is a significant hook-and-line recreational fishery for HMS. Commercial harvest methods include hook-and-line, deep-set buoy gear, drift gillnet, and harpoon. Pelagic longline fishing for HMS is prohibited in the West Coast Exclusive Economic Zone. HMS regulations are found at [50 CFR 660 Subpart K](#).

Other Fisheries

Although Pacific halibut fishing is allowed, the Chumash NMS is near the edge of Pacific halibut range. Few, if any, landings are recorded in the area. In addition, this summary does not include state-managed fisheries such as California halibut, sea cucumber, or spot prawns, which may occur in the area of the proposed Chumash NMS.

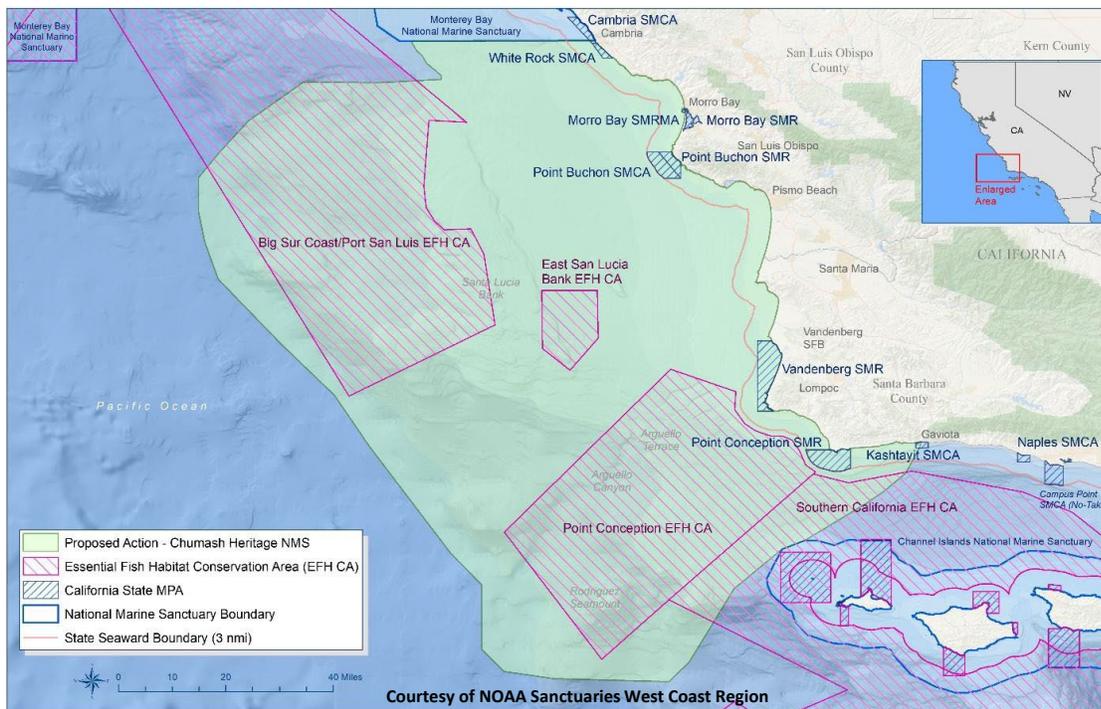


Figure 1: Proposed Chumash NMS and EFHCAs

PFMC
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