

- To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.
- To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
- 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.
- To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value.
- To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.
- To ensure that the State's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

(1) Ecosystem Based Resource Management Concept

As indicated above, language in the MLPA supports the concept of ecosystem-based resource management. Additionally, the Marine Life Management Act (MLMA, Stats. 1998, ch. 1052) created a broad programmatic framework for managing fisheries through a variety of conservation measures, including MPAs. The MLMA specifically states that long term resource health shall not be sacrificed for short term benefits and that habitat should be maintained, restored, and enhanced [Fish and Game Code subsections 7056(a) and (b)].

The MLPA requires that the Commission adopt a Marine Life Protection Program that, in part, contains an improved marine reserve (now state marine reserve) component [Fish and Game Code subsection 2853(c)(1)] and protects the natural diversity of marine life and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems [Fish and Game Code subsection 2853(b)(1)]. This protection may help provide sustainable resources as well as enhance functioning ecosystems that provide benefits to both consumptive and non-consumptive user groups. A growing body of scientific literature reviewing benefits to marine species inside reserves (including increases in size and number of individuals, and in diversity of species) and to a lesser degree outside reserves (through spillover, larval transport, and protected spawning populations) also supports these concepts.

(2) The Network Concept

Important in developing the proposed regulation was the consideration for the north central coast MPAs to form a component of a statewide network. By definition in the MLPA, a network is applied to a biogeographical region. The revised draft Master Plan for MPAs adopted by the Commission recognizes two biogeographical regions in California, with a boundary at Point Conception. The biological network concept calls for connectivity between MPAs through adult movements and larval transport of the species most likely to benefit from establishing MPAs. This includes marine plants, sedentary fishes and invertebrates, and species which are not highly mobile or migratory. This approach is consistent with the guidance provided in the MLPA [Fish and Game Code subsection 2853(b)(6)]. Networks may also be connected through consistency in the method of establishment, goals, objectives, and management and enforcement measures.

The proposed regulation establishes a network component of MPAs designed to include all representative north central coast habitats and major oceanic conditions. Unique and critical habitats were considered separately to guarantee both representation and protection.

From an ecological perspective, the proposed regulation creates a network component of MPAs consistent with the goals of the MLPA. From an economic and social perspective, the proposed regulation attempts to minimize potential negative socio-economic impacts and optimize potential positive socio-economic impacts for all users, to the extent possible.

(3) Legislative Responses for Marine Ecosystem Management

The MLPA was enacted in response to a variety of human and environmental factors. California's population has increased from about seven million people in the 1940's to 20 million in 1970 and more than 37 million today. Eighty percent of this population lives within 50 miles of the coast. Human population increases have led to not only higher demands on natural resources, but larger impacts through runoff, pollution, and habitat alteration.

At the same time, warm water oceanic conditions and disease have led to poor reproduction and recruitment of some marine species. This combination of increased use, poor environmental conditions,

and disease has contributed to declines in some marine resources. Popular finfish species like bocaccio, cowcod, canary, and widow rockfishes are federally listed as overfished, meaning their populations are below 25 percent of their unfished levels, and are now in recovery phase under a rebuilding plan. Abalone, a once important commercial and recreational species group, are now the subject of a fishery moratorium in California south of San Francisco and one species, white abalone, has become the first marine invertebrate to be listed as endangered by the Federal government. Finally, the scientific data used to manage many of these resources, while the best data available at the time, has since been shown to be inadequate. It is now known, for example, that some rockfish species have life spans of over 100 years and reproduce at much lower rates than other finfish.

All of these factors were present in the late 1990's and caused California's fisheries management agencies and the State Legislature to seek new solutions for protecting and sustaining resources. The MLMA addressed fisheries management in general and supported both an ecosystem perspective and the concept of MPAs. The MLPA established a programmatic framework for designating such MPAs in the form of a statewide network. The overriding goal of these acts is to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of California's marine resources. Unlike previous laws, which focused on individual species, the acts focus on maintaining the health of marine ecosystems and biodiversity in order to sustain resources. In addition, AB 2800 (Stats. 2000, ch. 385) enacted the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA), among other things, to standardize the designation of marine managed areas (MMAs), which include MPAs.

(4) Changes in California Fisheries and Fisheries Management

Increases in California's human population have coincided with shifts in recreational and commercial fishing activity, growth in consumer demand for live fish, and innovations in fishing gear and technology. For example, between 1993 and 2001, landings and value of live finfish in California showed a twenty-fold increase, from less than 50,000 pounds with a value of \$100,000 in 1993 to more than one million pounds with a value of nearly four million dollars in 2001. Some of this increase in effort and catch has resulted in more restrictive regulations within the past five years, particularly with respect to nearshore and shelf finfish fisheries leading to reduced landings.

Some of the major problems facing rockfish stocks, including those designated overfished, have been addressed in recent years by developing restricted access commercial fisheries, and by establishing extensive spatial fishery closures through the use of depth-based recreational and commercial Rockfish Conservation Areas and the Cowcod Conservation Areas. However, the goals of these fishery management measures, including protection of specific species of concern, are not a principal component of the MLPA, which focuses on the conservation of representative marine habitats, biodiversity, and ecosystems.

(5) Implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act in the north central coast region

The planning process to implement the MLPA in the north central coast was conducted pursuant to the processes defined in the Commission's revised draft Master Plan for MPAs. The MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) began meeting in May, 2007 to develop alternative MPA proposals for the north central coast region. The NCCRSG met during eight one- to two-day meetings and three work sessions between May 2007 and March 2008 before forwarding three proposals to a Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF). The BRTF was appointed by the Secretary for Resources to provide policy guidance and oversight to the process.

Based on the six goals of the MLPA, the NCCRSG developed a set of six regional goals for the north central coast and a series of regional objectives and design and implementation considerations based on the regional goals (Attachment 1). For each proposal, objectives for individual MPAs were developed and linked to the regional goals and objectives. These goals and objectives were critical guidelines used by the NCCRSG and others to propose MPAs for the north central coast. The NCCRSG goals and objectives also serve as a significant improvement over the fragmented and non-cohesive approach to creating MPAs prior to the 1990's.

Regarding Department contribution to the planning process, rather than developing its own preferred alternative or recommend any particular alternative as a whole, the Department provided input to the NCCRSG and BRTF throughout proposal development. This input was in the form of feasibility and design guidelines, and formal evaluations of MPA proposals based on those guidelines. The Department generated criteria to evaluate the feasibility of proposed MPA designs to ease public understanding, increase

enforceability, and facilitate management. A memo outlining these guidelines was provided to the NCCRSRSG following the first RSG meeting, in June 2007 (Attachment 12), and a follow-up memo was provided to the NCCRSRSG in February 2008 to further clarify feasibility guidelines (Attachment 13). The Department provided detailed feedback in the form of feasibility evaluations to the NCCRSRSG and BRTF following each iteration of MPA proposals. MPA proposals improved after each iteration, resulting in MPA packages that largely followed Department input. This review was a key part of the Department's role in the MLPA implementation process to help ensure proposals meet Department guidelines. Department review of proposals focused not only on feasibility aspects of individual MPAs, but also on appropriate assignment of goals and objectives of individual MPAs, and on the individual areas' prospects to help achieve the MLPA goals.

The BRTF received the NCCRSRSG proposals at a joint BRTF and NCCRSRSG meeting on April 22-23, 2008. The BRTF noted that all three NCCRSRSG proposals (referred to by the NCCRSRSG as Proposals 1-3, 2XA, and 4) generally met the science guidelines of the revised draft Master Plan for MPAs, generally met Department feasibility criteria, and to a large extent minimized socioeconomic impacts. Thus, the BRTF members unanimously voted to forward all three NCCRSRSG proposals to the Commission for its review and consideration.

At the same meeting, the BRTF created an Integrated Preferred Alternative proposal (IPA) by selecting, and in some cases slightly modifying, MPAs from each of the three NCCRSRSG proposals (Attachment 14). The BRTF created the IPA with the intent to meet scientific guidelines and achieve the MLPA goals, while also bridging some of the remaining areas of divergence among the NCCRSRSG proposals. The BRTF recommended that the Commission select the IPA as the regulatory preferred alternative for the north central coast.

The Commission received the BRTF recommendations at a joint meeting on June 11, 2008 and directed the Department to prepare this regulatory notice using the IPA as the Commission's preferred alternative and the NCCRSRSG proposals as other alternatives. The NCCRSRSG alternatives are described below as alternative 1 (NCCRSRSG Proposal 1-3), alternative 2 (NCCRSRSG Proposal 2-XA), and alternative 3 (NCCRSRSG Proposal 4).

(6) Classifications of MPAs

The MMAIA created three new classifications of MPAs, three new classifications of other MMAs, and deleted the previously-used classification names for use in the marine environment. By definition, MPAs and other MMAs are also applicable designations in estuarine areas. The three MPA classifications are: state marine reserve (SMR), state marine park (SMP), and state marine conservation area (SMCA). The California Fish and Game Commission has the statutory authority to designate SMRs and SMCAs. Public Resources Code Section 36710 lists the restrictions applied in these classifications of MMAs as:

State Marine Reserves: In a state marine reserve, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the Commission for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes.

State Marine Conservation Areas: In a state marine conservation area, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial or recreational purposes, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes except as specified in subsection 632(b), Title 14, California Code of Regulations, areas and special regulations for use. The Commission may permit research, education, and recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources, provided that these uses do not compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat, or geological features.

The third MPA classification, state marine parks, may only be created, modified, or deleted under the authority of the Park and Recreation Commission. The Park and Recreation Commission has the authority to establish state marine parks, but may not regulate take of living marine resources within these areas without the concurrence of the Fish and Game Commission on any such proposed regulations. Although the use of the state marine park designation under the MMAIA is limited to the Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC 36725(b)), some fish and game MPAs were designated as state marine parks. The proposed regulation corrects these classifications pursuant to the Fish and Game Commission's authority (PRC 36725(a)).

One of the three MMA classifications, the state marine recreational management area (SMRMA), is applicable to this process. This MMA classification was created specifically to allow or restrict certain types of recreation:

State Marine Recreational Management Areas: In a state marine recreational management area, it is unlawful to perform any activity that, as determined by the designating entity or managing agency, would compromise the recreational values for which the area may be designated. Recreational opportunities may be protected, enhanced, or restricted, while preserving basic resource values of the area. No other use is restricted.

The MMAIA enacted Fish and Game Code Sections 1590 and 1591, and authorized the Commission to designate, delete, or modify state marine recreational management areas established by the Commission for hunting purposes, state marine reserves, and state marine conservation areas, as delineated in Public Resources Code Section 36725(a), and to incorporate by reference the provisions of the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act.

(7) Commission preferred alternative (i.e., the Integrated Preferred Alternative) Proposed Regulation

The proposed regulations (the Commission preferred alternative, i.e., the Integrated Preferred Alternative), along with alternatives 2 and 3, include one or more areas recommended by stakeholders as new state marine parks. However, because the Commission does not have statutory authority to establish state marine parks, the proposed regulation designates these areas as state marine conservation areas. These areas can later be also designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The proposed regulations also remove or retain, re-designate and redesign certain MPAs previously classified as state marine parks to an appropriate MPA designation consistent with the MMAIA. These retained areas can later be also designated as marine parks at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

In addition to MPA designations, two additional designations, state marine recreational management areas (SMRMAs) and special closures were used in the north central coast process. SMRMAs were recommended by the Department, to the NCCRSG and BRTF in its feasibility guidance and evaluations of MPA proposals, as the appropriate designation for proposed SMRs in estuarine areas

where waterfowl hunting is currently allowed. This recommendation was to allow for continued waterfowl hunting while providing SMR-like protection subtidally. The BRTF, in its development of the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA), applied the Department's designation recommendation and used a SMRMA designation for Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio, two estuaries where waterfowl hunting was known to occur. The BRTF did not use this designation for the proposed Russian River SMR due to Department understanding that development had precluded waterfowl hunting along the estuary. Subsequent to BRTF submission of the IPA to the Commission, the Department became aware that waterfowl hunting did occur in a portion of the proposed Russian River SMR. Therefore, for the proposed regulation contained herein, and consistent with BRTF intention to follow Department guidance, the designation was changed to a SMRMA for Russian River.

Special closures were used in areas of significant importance to seabirds and marine mammals as part of the marine ecosystem. This special closure category works in conjunction with the MPA designation process and was used to provide further protections that would not otherwise be afforded by MPA designation within the same geographical location. This includes minimizing disturbance of seabirds and marine mammals at nesting, roosting, and haul-out sites, through special restrictions on boating and access in areas generally smaller than MPAs, either within an MPA or outside. From five to seven special closures are proposed in the Commission's preferred alternative and each alternative.

(8) Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the proposed regulation is provided to meet the purposes of the proposed regulation. Each alternative, with the exception of the no-change alternative, collectively meets the goals and guidelines of the MLPA to varying degrees, and attempts to adhere to the Science Advisory Team (SAT) guidelines in the Master Plan Framework to the extent possible.

One of the three alternatives (alternative 2) to the proposed regulation includes proposed SMRMAs in three locations where waterfowl hunting traditionally occurs. This includes Russian River estuary, Estero Americano, and Estero de San Antonio. The remaining two alternatives to the proposed regulation propose SMRs where waterfowl hunting traditionally occurs. This includes estuary, Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio in alternatives 1 and 3, and Tomales Bay in alternative 3. In

Department feasibility guidance and evaluations of MPA proposals provided to the NCCRSG in crafting these alternatives, the Department recommended proposed SMRs in estuarine areas where waterfowl hunting is currently allowed to be re-designated as SMRMAs to account for waterfowl hunting while providing SMR-like protection subtidally. These recommendations were applied by NCCRSG members to alternative 2. However, NCCRSG members that crafted alternatives 1 and 3 chose to focus only on MPA designations and to defer to the Commission for consideration of other MMA designations that account for existing activities outside MLPA. To facilitate the Commission's consideration of this deferred decision, an option is provided in alternatives 1 and 3 to assign a SMRMA designation in these locations.

(A) The proposed regulation

The proposed regulation, also known as the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA) includes a total of 21 MPAs, three marine managed areas (SMRMAs) for the north central coast region (Table 1, Figure 1, and Attachment 2) and six special closures (four along mainland; two at Farallon Islands). Ten existing MPAs are included and/or have been expanded. Although the proposed regulation contains 21 new MPAs, 15 are directly adjacent to, or include portions of, existing MPAs and can be considered expansions of the area. In these 15 cases, the incorporation and/or additional expansion are within a marine protected area with some allowed take. Thus, the proposed regulation includes 9 MPAs that are in geographical areas previously not designated as MPAs. One proposed SMR provides sub-options for alternate names: Option 1) "Montara" refers to the adjacent geography, and Option 2) "Fitzgerald" is the locally-popular historic name of the existing intertidal MPA proposed for expansion in the IPA. There is no other difference between the sub-options.

At its May 14, 2009 meeting, the Commission requested the addition of a sub-option that excludes Sea Lion Cove SMCA from the IPA, to address public comments regarding the potential socio-economic impacts to the abalone fishery from proposed MPAs that prohibit abalone take. Two options now exist within the IPA regarding Sea Lion Cove: Option 1 includes Sea Lion Cove as originally proposed, and Option 2 removes Sea Lion Cove from the proposed IPA network. At this same meeting, the Commission also approved a boundary correction to the southern boundary of the proposed SMCA at Salt Point. While the southern boundary was intended to align with the southern land-based boundary of Salt Point State

Park, a mapping error resulted in an incorrect extension of the SMCA boundary beyond State Park lands by 0.5' latitude. Within the revised proposal, a correction to the southern boundary has been made to Salt Point SMCA in both the proposed regulation (IPA) and Alternative 3. The southern boundary has been adjusted by one half minute (0.5') northward and now accurately captures original stakeholder intent by aligning the southern boundary of the proposed MPA with existing State Park boundaries.

Table 1. Proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative) for marine protected areas, marine managed areas and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and SAT assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
*Point Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
*Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
*Option 1: Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area	The recreational and commercial take of all marine invertebrates and marine aquatic plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed	Moderate-low
*Option 2: Exclusion of Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area	N/A	N/A
Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and urchin	Moderate-low
Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
*Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of abalone and finfish ⁴	Moderate-low
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
*Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
*Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT : 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net. 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by hand-held dip net 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ with troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high
*Estero Americano State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
*Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of salmon with trolling gear, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
*Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of clams 2. The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low
Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ⁴ from shore only, and the recreational take of abalone	Moderate
^ Option 1: Montara State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^ Option 2: Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by hand-held dip net 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ with troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Special Closures		
Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	1000 ft closure; year round	
Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	1000 ft closure at North Farallon Island and 300 ft closure at the southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except Fisherman's Bay and East Landing; year round except for a seasonal closure on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from Dec 1 to Sep 14. Boating restrictions within 1 mile of all islands; 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock to Devil's Slide Special Closure	300 ft closure around island rocks and no transit in area between Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock and mainland; year round	

* New MPAs that are not direct expansion of an existing area.

^ Sub-option exists for retaining the historic name of Fitzgerald, or the geographic reference of Montara

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

² These areas, recommended by stakeholders to become state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be designated also as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

³ Pelagic Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(3) 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*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

⁴ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.



North Central Coast Study Region

California Fish and Game Commission Preferred Alternative

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was selected on June 11, 2008 by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFG) as its preferred alternative. 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 were selected in their entirety as CFGC alternatives 1, 2, and 3. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.



Figure 1. Marine protected areas in proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative).

The 21 MPAs and 3 marine managed areas in the proposed regulation cover an area of approximately 153.3 square miles, representing approximately 20.1 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2, Attachment 3). Of this, more than half the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 85.8 square miles or approximately 11.2 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2). The remaining areas are primarily state marine conservation areas. Two of these SMCAs (Salt Point and Duxbury) were recommended for designation as state marine parks with restrictions consistent with this designation, and could subsequently be also designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission. Many of the SMCAs allow the take of either all pelagic finfish (defined above) or salmon and were considered by the SAT to offer high ecosystem protection (Figure 3). In some state marine conservation areas, take of other species such as squid, abalone and urchin, are also allowed. With a few exceptions, the state marine conservation areas protect benthic fishes and invertebrates most likely to benefit from area protection.

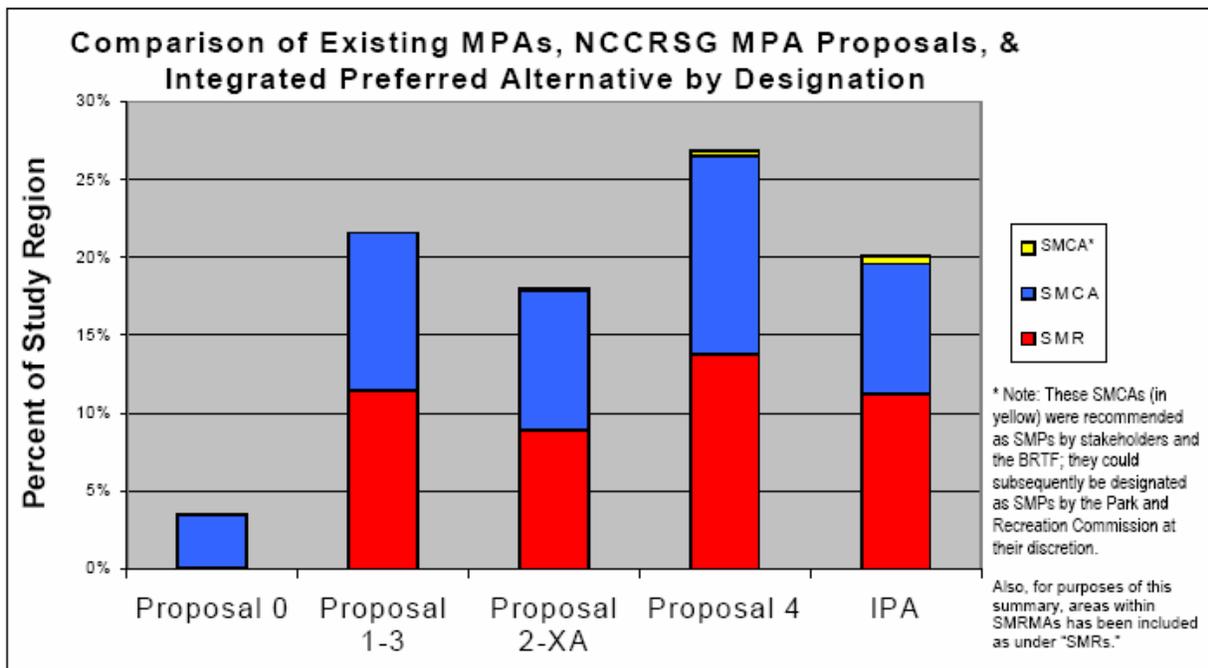


Figure 2. Percent of the north central coast study region included in the proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative) as compared to existing MPAs in the No-Project Alternative (Proposal 0) and alternative proposals [alternative 1 (Proposals 1-3), alternative 2 (Proposal 2-XA), alternative 3 (Proposal 4) and the IPA]. SMP = state marine park, SMCA = state marine conservation area, and SMR = state marine reserve.

Note that two state recreational management areas (Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio) are included in the calculations as SMRs based on their relative level of protection. Note that SMCAs represented in yellow were recommended as SMPs by stakeholders and the BRTF. While they would be adopted as SMCAs, they could be subsequently designated also as SMPs by the Park and Recreation Commission at their discretion.

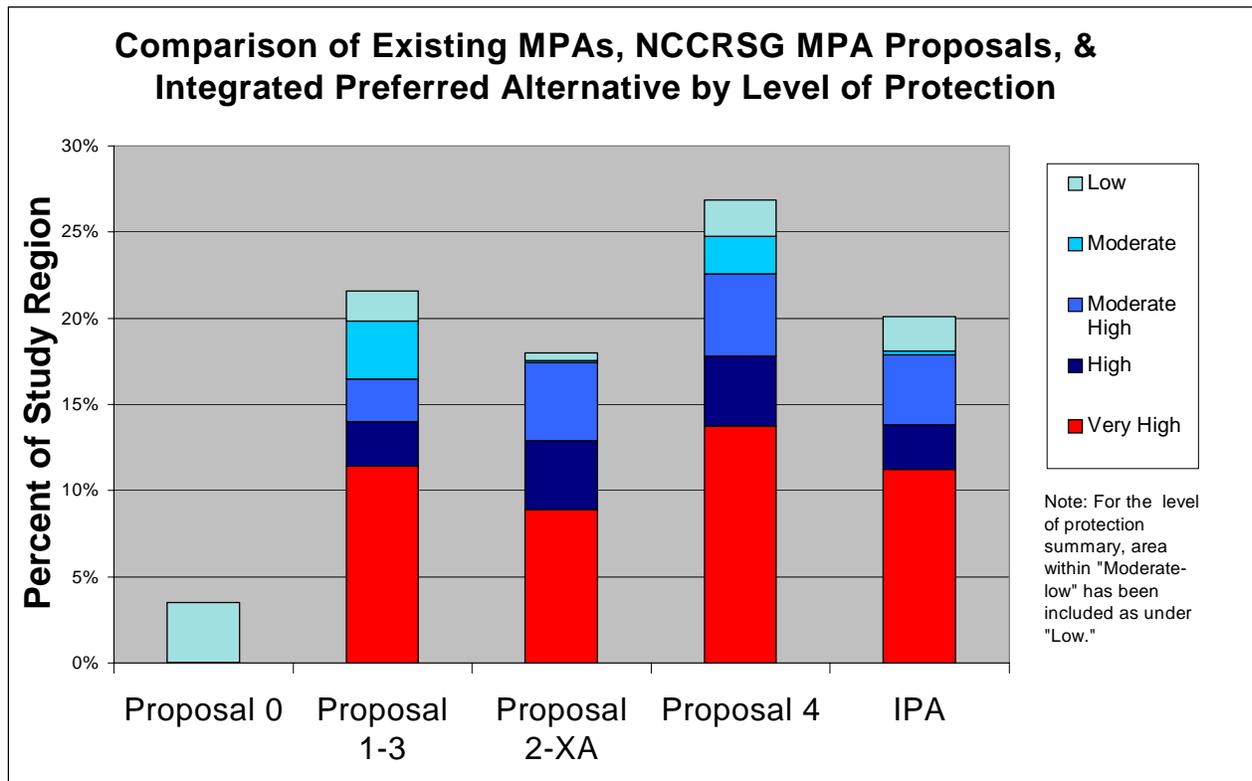


Figure 3. Percent of the north central coast study region included in the proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative) as compared to existing MPAs in the No-Project Alternative (Proposal 0) and alternative proposals [alternative 1 (Proposals 1-3), alternative 2 (Proposal 2-XA), alternative 3 (Proposal 4) and the IPA]. Level of protection (LOP) is noted as defined by the SAT in the Master Plan as modified by the SAT for refined evaluations of north central coast proposals. LOP rankings used for the north central coast will be appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of regulations. Note that two state marine recreational management areas (Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio) are included in the calculations as SMRs based on their relative level of protection.

- (B) **Other Alternatives**
Status Quo – This is the No-Project Alternative (NCCRSR Proposal 0) and consists of the existing 13 MPAs covering an area of approximately 26.8 square miles, representing approximately 3.5 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Table 2 and attachments 3 and 4). Of this, less than one percent of the area is within no-take state

marine reserves covering approximately 0.3 square miles or approximately 0.1 percent of state waters within the north central coast region.

Table 2. Status Quo No-Project Alternative: Existing marine protected areas in the north central coast, including allowed take and Science Advisory Team (SAT) assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Manchester & Arena Rock State Marine Conservation Area	<p>Only the following species may be taken recreationally: finfish, red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobster, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, and marine worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed unless taken incidentally to the take of mussels.</p> <p>Only the following species may be taken commercially: finfish, crabs, ghost shrimp, jackknife clams, sea urchins, algae except giant kelp and bull kelp and worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed, nor may any person pick up, remove, detach from the substrate any other organisms, or break up, move or destroy any rocks or other substrate or surfaces to which organisms are attached.</p>	Low
Del Mar Landing State Marine Park	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational take of finfish by hook and line or spear.	Moderate-Low

MPA Name	Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area	<p>Only the following species may be taken recreationally: finfish, red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobsters, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and marine worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed unless taken incidentally to the take of mussels.</p> <p>Only the following species may be taken commercially: finfish, crabs, ghost shrimp, jackknife clams, sea urchins, algae except giant kelp and bull kelp and worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed, nor may any person pick up, remove, detach from the substrate any other organisms, or break up, move or destroy any rocks or other substrate or surfaces to which organisms are attached.</p>	Low
Gerstle Cove State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the commercial take of finfish and algae except giant kelp and bull kelp.	Moderate-Low
Fort Ross State Marine Conservation Area	<p>Only the following species may be taken recreationally: finfish, red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobster, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and marine worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed unless taken incidentally to the take of mussels.</p> <p>The commercial take of all species other than giant kelp (<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>) and bull kelp (<i>Nereocystis</i> spp.) is allowed</p>	Low

MPA Name	Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Sonoma Coast State Marine Conservation Area	<p>Only the following species may be taken recreationally: finfish, red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobster, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and marine worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed unless taken incidentally to the take of mussels.</p> <p>The commercial take of all species other than giant kelp (<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>) and bull kelp (<i>Nereocystis</i> spp.) is allowed</p>	Low
Bodega State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Tomales Bay State Marine Park	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational hook and line take of species other than marine aquatic plants	Moderate-Low
Point Reyes Headlands State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the commercial take of finfish and algae other than giant kelp (<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>) and bull kelp (<i>Nereocystis</i> spp.)	Moderate-Low
Estero de Limantour State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the commercial take of finfish and algae other than giant kelp (<i>Macrocystis pyrifera</i>) and bull kelp (<i>Nereocystis</i> spp.)	Moderate-Low
Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area	<p>Only the following species may be taken recreationally: Red abalone, Dungeness crab, rock crabs, rockfish (family Scorpaenidae), lingcod, cabezon, surfperch (family Embiotocidae), halibut, flounder, sole, turbot, salmon, kelp greenling, striped bass, steelhead, monkeyface-eel, wolf-eel, smelt, and silversides.</p> <p>Commercial take of all species except giant kelp and bull kelp is allowed.</p>	Moderate-Low

MPA Name	Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
James V. Fitzgerald State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except the recreational take by hook and line or spear of: rockfish (family Scorpaenidae), lingcod, surfperch (family Embiotocidae), monkeyface eel, rock eel, white croaker, halibut, cabezon, kelp greenling, and smelt (Families Osmeridae and Atherinidae)	Moderate-Low
Farallon Islands State Marine Conservation Area	Take other than the recreational take of marine aquatic plants is allowed except in specific areas and timeframes	Moderate-Low

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals.

Alternative 1 – This is the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) “Proposal 1-3”, developed within RSG workgroups by constituents representing a variety of consumptive, non-consumptive, and environmental interests. It consists of 23 MPAs, with the sub-option three MPAs become marine managed areas (SMRMAs) covering an area of approximately 164.6 square miles, representing approximately 21.6 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 4 and Table 3 and attachments 3, 4, and 5) and seven special closures. Of this, over one half of the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 87.2 square miles or approximately 11.4 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2).

Table 3. Alternative 1 proposal for marine protected areas, marine managed areas and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and SAT assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Point Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, abalone, and finfish ² by hook and line or by spear from shore only 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and urchin	Moderate-low
Del Mar Landing State Marine Conservation Area ⁵	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ² by hook and line or spear	Moderate-low
Rocky Pt to Horseshoe Pt State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: the recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line except for recreational salmon take by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap; and the commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap.	Moderate-high
^Estero Americano Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero Americano Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
Drakes Estero/Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of clams 2. The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Double Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational and commercial take of salmon, Dungeness crab by trap, halibut by hook and line, and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except market squid by hook and line	Moderate
Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ² by hook and line from shore only	Moderate
Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Montara State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, coastal pelagic species and halibut by hook and line 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and coastal pelagic species and halibut by hook and line	Moderate
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Special Closures		
Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	1000 ft closure; year round	
Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	500 ft closure; year round	
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	1000 ft closure at North Farallon Island and 300 ft closure at the southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except Fisherman's Bay and East Landing; year round except for a seasonal closure on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from Dec 1 to Sep 14. Boating restrictions within one mile of all islands; five mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	
Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock Special Closure	1000 ft closure from any shoreline of the three rocks; year round	
Bean Hollow Special Closure	300 ft closure; seasonal (Feb-Aug)	

[^] Options exist for designation as a state marine reserve, or as a state marine recreational management area to allow recreational hunting of waterfowl to continue (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

² Pelagic Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(3) 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*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

³ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.

⁴ Coastal Pelagic Species are defined in Section 1.39 as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Loligo opalescens*).

⁵ These areas, recommended by stakeholders as state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be also designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.



**North Central Coast Study Region
CFG Alternative 1 (NCCRSR Proposal 1-3)**

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was finalized on March 19, 2008 by a work team of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSR) and was selected as alternative 1 by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFG) on June 11, 2008. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.



Figure 4. Marine protected areas in Alternative 1.

Alternative 2 – This is the “NCCRSG Proposal 2-XA”, developed both in RSG workgroups and groups external to the RSG process, by constituents representing commercial and recreational fishing interests along the north central coast. It consists of 18 MPAs and three marine managed areas (SMRMAs) covering an area of approximately 137.2 square miles, representing approximately 18.0 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Table 4, Figure 5 and attachments 3, 4, and 6), and five special closures. Of this, approximately half of the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 68.1 square miles or approximately 8.9 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2).

Table 4. Alternative 2 proposal for marine protected areas, marine managed areas and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and SAT assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Pt Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Pt Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by trolling only) and commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by troll fishing gear only), and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except market squid, by round haul net	High
Black Point State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Black Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by trolling only) and commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by troll fishing gear only), and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except market squid, by round haul net	High
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Russian River Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of marine invertebrates and finfish ⁵ except for Chinook salmon 2. The commercial take of marine invertebrates except for abalone and finfish ⁵ except for Chinook salmon	Low
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net and commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high
Estero Americano State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area	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)	Very High
Point Reyes Headlands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Point Reyes Headlands State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by trolling only), and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon with troll fishing gear only), coastal pelagic species ⁴ by round haul net, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of clams 2. The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low
Duxbury State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ⁵ from shore only, and the recreational take of abalone	Moderate
Montara State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ with troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by trolling only) and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except for market squid by hook and line 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon with troll fishing gear only) and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except for market squid, by round haul net	High
Special Closures		
Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	300 ft closure at North Farallon Island and southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except between Fisherman's Bay and East Landing; year-round. Boating restrictions within one mile of all islands; five mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	
Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure from any shoreline of the three rocks; year round	

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

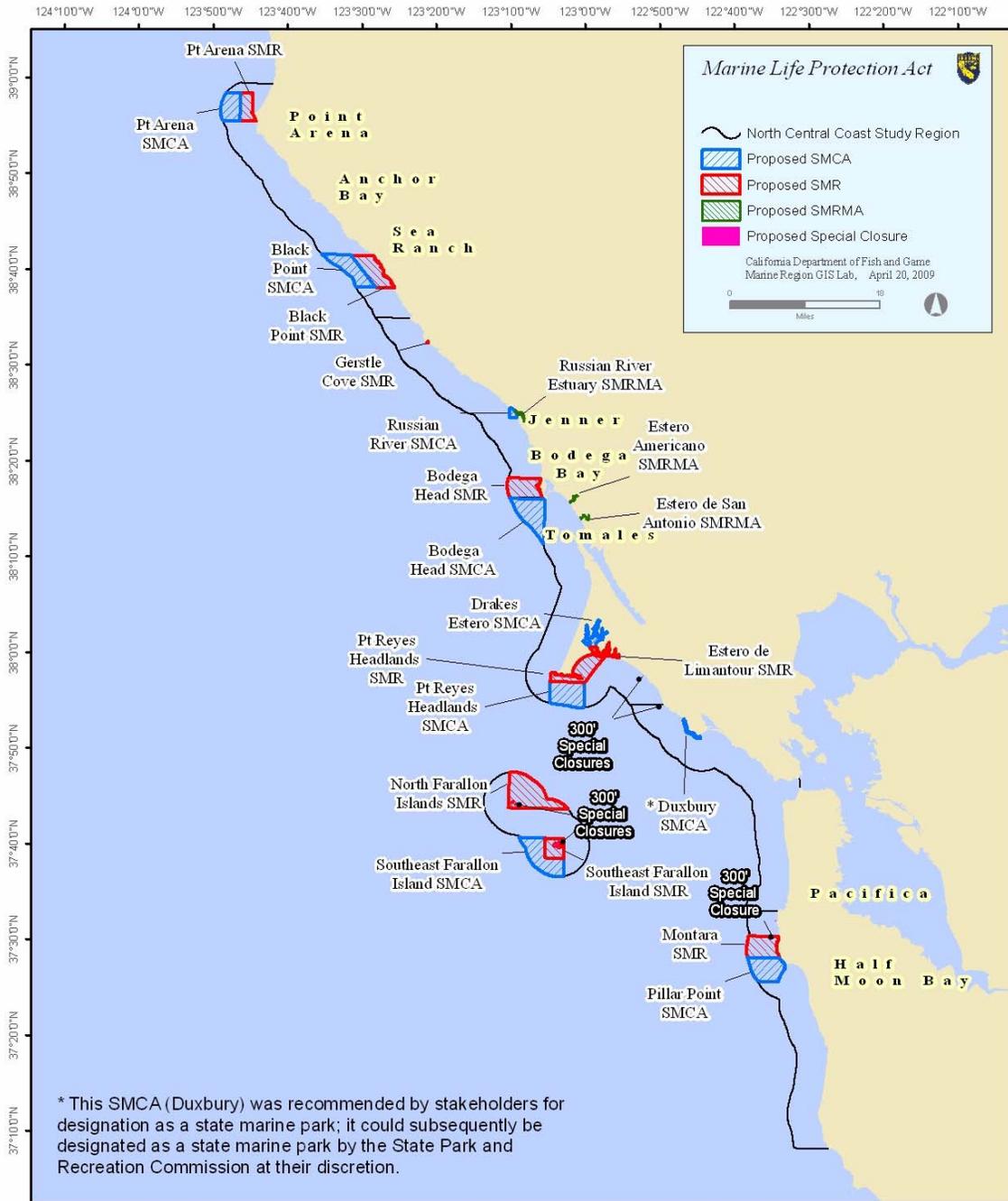
² These areas, recommended by stakeholders to become state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be designated also as state marine parks at the

discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

³ Pelagic Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(3) 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*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

⁴ Coastal Pelagic Species are defined in Section 1.39 as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Loligo opalescens*).

⁵ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.



North Central Coast Study Region
CFGC Alternative 2 (NCCRSR Proposal 2-XA)

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was finalized on March 19, 2008 by a work team of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSR) and was selected as alternative 2 by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) on June 11, 2008. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.



Figure 5. Marine protected areas in Alternative 2.

Alternative 3 – This is the “NCCRSG Proposal 4”, developed within RSG workgroups by constituents primarily representing non-consumptive and environmental interests along the north central coast. It consists of 28 MPAs with the sub-option that three MPAs become marine managed areas (SMRMAs) covering an area of approximately 204.9 square miles, representing approximately 26.9 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Table 5, Figure 6, and attachments 3, 4, and 7) and seven special closures. Of this, more than half of the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 105.0 square miles or approximately 13.8 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2).

Table 5. Alternative 3 proposal for marine protected areas, marine managed areas, and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and Science Advisory Team (SAT) assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Point Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling only, and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear only	High
Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area	Commercial and recreational take of invertebrates and marine aquatic plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed	Moderate-low
Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and urchin	Moderate-low
Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ³ , and abalone	Moderate-low

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Estuary Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Estuary Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net from shore only 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Very High
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling only and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear only	High
^Estero Americano Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero Americano Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
^Tomales Bay State Option 1: Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Tomales Bay State Option 2: Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
Drakes Estero State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low
Double Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	Moderate-high
Duxbury State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and finfish by hook and line from shore only 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and halibut	Moderate
Agate Beach Intertidal State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and finfish by hook and line from shore only 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and halibut	Moderate

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Devil's Slide State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and coastal pelagic species by hook and line 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net	Moderate-high
Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
San Gregorio State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Special Closures		
Arched Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
Gull Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	1000 ft closure; year round	
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	1000 ft closure around North Farallon Island and 300 ft closure around the southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except Fisherman’s Bay and East Landing; year round except for a seasonal closure on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from Dec 1 to Sep 14. Boating restrictions within one mile of all islands; five mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	
Egg (Devil’s Slide) Rock Special Closure	1000 ft closure from any shoreline of the three rocks; year round	

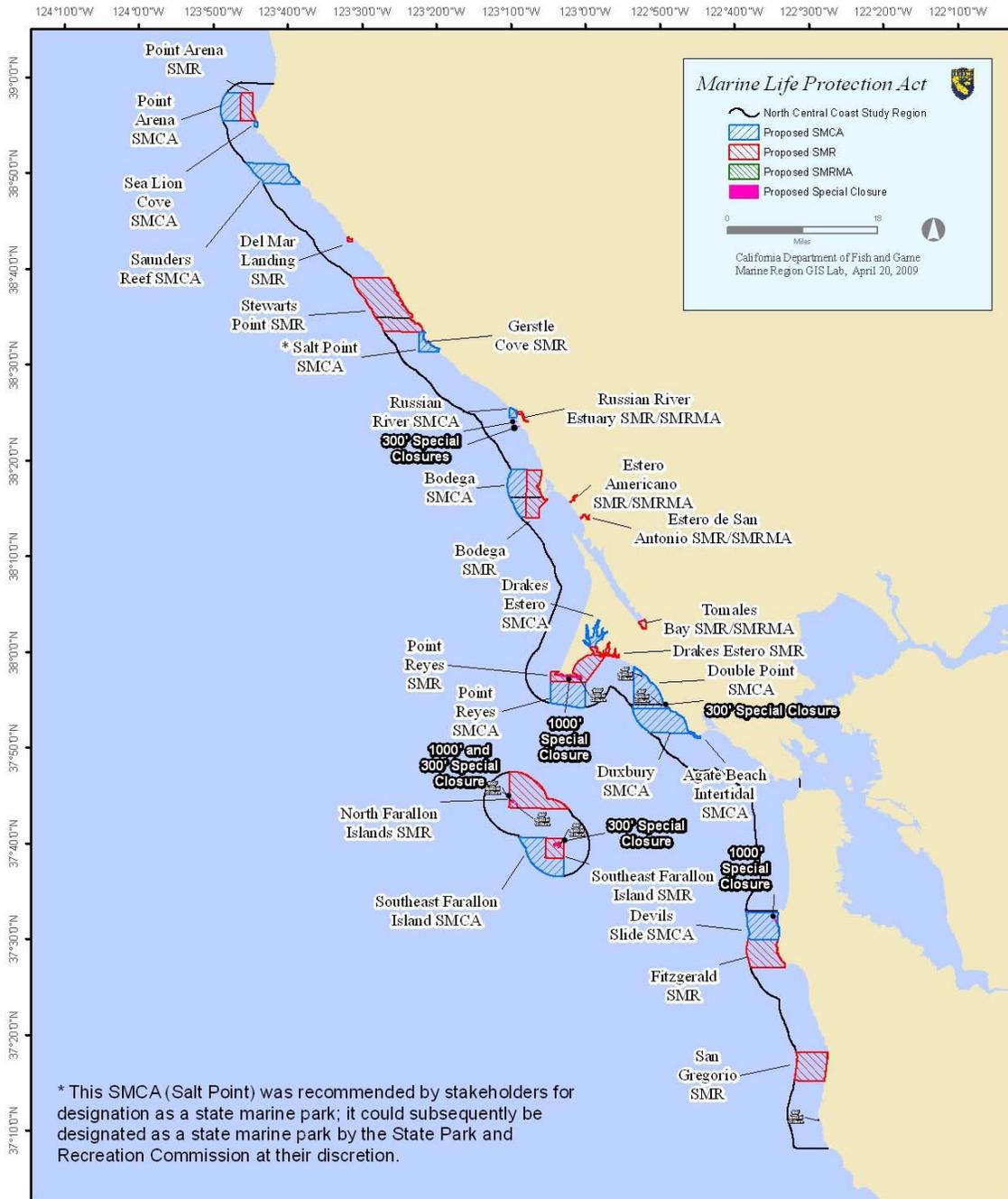
[^] Sub-option exists for designation as a state marine reserve, or a state marine recreational management area to allow recreational hunting of waterfowl to continue (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

² These areas, recommended by stakeholders to become state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

³ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.

⁴ Coastal Pelagic Species are defined in Section 1.39 as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Loligo opalescens*).



**North Central Coast Study Region
CFGC Alternative 3 (NCCRSR Proposal 4)**

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was finalized on March 19, 2008 by a work team of the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSR) and was selected as alternative 3 by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) on June 11, 2008. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.



Figure 6. Marine protected areas in Alternative 3.

- (b) Authority and Reference Sections from Fish and Game Code and Public Resources Code for Regulation.

Authority: Sections 200, 202, 203.1, 205(c), 219, 220, 1590, 1591, 2860, 2861, and 6750, Fish and Game Code; and Sections 36725(a) and 36725(e), Public Resources Code.

Reference: Sections 200, 202, 203.1, 205(c), 219, 220, 1580, 1583, 2861, 5521, 6653, 8420(e), and 8500, Fish and Game Code; and Sections 36700(e), 36710(e), 36725(a) and 36725(e), Public Resources Code.

- (c) Specific Technology or Equipment Required by Regulatory Change.

None.

- (d) Identification of Reports or Documents Supporting Regulation Change.

- Attachment 1: Regional goals, objectives, and design and implementation considerations for the north central coast regional component of a statewide MPA network
- Attachment 2: Detailed description, objectives and maps of the preferred alternative (IPA)
- Attachment 3: Comparison of areas and habitats in each alternative
- Attachment 4: Maps of alternatives
- Attachment 5: Individual MPA objectives for alternative 1
- Attachment 6: Individual MPA objectives for alternative 2
- Attachment 7: Individual MPA objectives for alternative 3
- Attachment 8: Estimates of the Maximum Potential Economic Impacts of Marine Protected Area Networks in the North Central California Coast
- Attachment 9: Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Estimated Long-Term Costs to Implement the California Marine Life Protection Act
- Attachment 10: MLPA SAT Levels of Protection for the NCCSR
- Attachment 11: March 13, 2008 Memo: Characterization of potential special closures options by marine bird and mammal disturbance work group members
- Attachment 12: June 11, 2007 Memo: Department of Fish and Game Statement of feasibility criteria for use in analyzing siting alternatives
- Attachment 13: February 11, 2008 Memo: Department of Fish and Game update of feasibility criteria for use in analyzing siting alternatives

Attachment 14: April 30, 2008 Memo: MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) Motions on April 23, 2008

(e) Public Discussions of Proposed Regulations Prior to Notice Publication

Meeting Dates	Location	Major Topics
June 19, 2008	Gualala, CA	Public workshop with public comment on the CEQA scoping process in the north central coast study region
June 18, 2008	Sausalito, CA	Public workshop with public comment on the CEQA scoping process in the north central coast study region
June 17, 2008	Pacifica, CA	Public workshop with public comment on the CEQA scoping process in the north central coast study region
June 11, 2008	Sacramento, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force & Fish & Game Commission joint meeting with public comment on support for specific MPA proposals and network design, the use and design of SAT models and existing mariculture in the north central coast study region. The Department provided a feasibility evaluation of the final NCCRSG proposals and the BRTF IPA to the Commission and BRTF.
April 22-23, 2008	San Rafael, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force & North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group joint meeting with public comment on final MPA proposals sent to the Fish & Game Commission for the north central coast study region, and MLPA process issues including water quality, transparency and socio-economic considerations. The Department provided a feasibility evaluation on the third round of MPA proposals to the BRTF and NCCRSG.
April 3, 2008	Pacifica, CA	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment on the MLPA process, the use of models and special closures and the role of mariculture

Meeting Dates	Location	Major Topics
March 18-19, 2008	San Rafael, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on specific MPA proposals under development for formal hand-off to the Blue Ribbon Task Force.
February 21, 2008	San Rafael, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on specific geographies incorporated into MPA proposals and Science Advisory Team guidance and models. The Department provided a feasibility criteria update and a feasibility evaluation on second round of MPA proposals to the NCCRSG.
February 13-14, 2008	Pacifica, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting with public comment on specific MPA proposals and geographies, MLPA process issues including MPA placement and private lands, mariculture, levels of protection and the use of special closures. The Department provided a feasibility criteria update and a feasibility evaluation on second round of MPA proposals to the BRTF.
February 6, 2008	Pacifica, CA	Public Workshop designed to inform the public of MLPA process updates and proposed MPAs in the north central coast study region.
February 5, 2008	Gualala, CA	Public Workshop designed to inform the public of MLPA process updates and proposed MPAs in the north central coast study region.
February 4, 2008	Petaluma, CA	Public Workshop designed to inform the public of MLPA process updates and proposed MPAs in the north central coast study region.
January 23, 2008	Pacifica, CA	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment on levels of protection and their association with specific activities, MLPA process issues including: the use of models and socio-economic concerns.
January 8, 2008	San Francisco, CA	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment level of protection for salmon trolling, and defining associated catch vs. by-catch.

Meeting Dates	Location	Major Topics
December 11-12, 2007	Pacifica, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on specific geographies, eco-tourism and the MLPA/MPA process, and the impact of proposed MPAs on commercial and recreational fishing efforts.
November 29, 2007	Via conference call	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment on the use of models in the MLPA process.
November 28, 2007	San Rafael, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on specific geographies within the north central coast study region, MPA impact to local communities, and MLPA process issues. The Department provided a feasibility evaluation on first round of MPA proposals to the NCCRSR.
November 19-20, 2007	San Rafael, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting with public comment on the MLPA process including scientific advice on design and levels of protection, specific MPA proposals and geographies and allowable uses, and socio-economic concerns with potential MLPA outcomes. The Department provided a feasibility evaluation on first round of MPA proposals to the BRTF.
November 13, 2007	Pacifica, CA	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment on fishing regulations and associated levels of protection, the need for a Statewide Interests Group, and the need for a clear definition of by-catch
October 16-17, 2007	Gualala, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on specific geographies within the north central coast study region, MPA impact to local communities, and MLPA process issues.
October 1, 2007	San Francisco, CA	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment on specific geographies and their potential inclusion in MPAs, levels of protection and bio-region designation.

Meeting Dates	Location	Major Topics
September 18, 2007	San Francisco, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting with public comment on coordination with agencies involved in water quality and the MLPA process.
September 17, 2007	Via conference call	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment on Science Advisory Team evaluations of MPA proposals, and levels of protection and associated fishing techniques.
August 28, 2007	Sacramento, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force hearing with public comments on nominations to the Regional Stakeholder Group, concerns over data by the recreational fishing community and MPA enforcement.
August 22-23, 2007	San Rafael, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on the importance of public involvement and MPA development.
August 16, 2007	San Francisco, CA	Science Advisory Team meeting with public comment on specific geographies, MLPA process issues including: the use of models, socio-economic concerns, fisheries management and transparency.
July 10-11, 2007	Pacifica, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on specific geographies in the north central coast study region, and the role of water quality in the MLPA process. The Department provided feasibility criteria to the NCCRSG.
June 26, 2007	San Francisco, CA	Science Advisory Team Force meeting with public comment on water quality, fisheries specific management issues and the need of Science Advisory Team guidance to the Regional Stakeholder Group.
June 19, 2007	Palo Alto, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting with public comment on the MLPA process. The Department provided feasibility criteria to the BRTF.
May 22-23, 2007	San Rafael, CA	North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group meeting with public comment on the Regional Stakeholder Group selection process, scientific guidelines, and the MLPA process.

Meeting Dates	Location	Major Topics
May 7, 2007	San Francisco, CA	Public Workshop with presentation and discussion of Ecotrust proposed study of commercial fisheries for the MLPA north central coast study region.
April 18, 2007	Sausalito, CA	Public Workshop with presentation and discussion of Ecotrust proposed study of commercial fisheries for the MLPA north central coast study region.
March 29, 2007	Sacramento, CA	Blue Ribbon Task Force meeting with public comment on the March MLPA workshops, and the MLPA process including lessons learned from the central coast process, the role of water quality and data gathering.
March 27, 2007	San Francisco, CA	Public Workshop designed to provide MLPA background and process information prior to the planning process in the north central coast study region.
March 26, 2007	Half Moon Bay, CA	Public Workshop designed to provide MLPA background and process information prior to the planning process in the north central coast study region.
March 21, 2007	Bodega Bay, CA	Public Workshop designed to provide MLPA background and process information prior to the planning process in the north central coast study region.
March 20, 2007	San Rafael, CA	Public Workshop designed to provide MLPA background and process information prior to the planning process in the north central coast study region.
March 19, 2007	Gualala, CA	Public Workshop designed to provide MLPA background and process information prior to the planning process in the north central coast study region.

VI. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

- (a) Alternatives to Regulation Change: See Section IV(a)(8)(B) of this Amended Initial Statement of Reasons for discussion of alternatives.
- (b) No Change Alternative:

The no change alternative would leave existing MPAs in state waters of the north central coast unchanged. This would provide no additional protection to resources or ecosystem-based protection. The no-change alternative would not address the goals or requirements of the Marine Life Protection Act and potentially lead to continued declines in certain populations of marine life, habitats, and the marine environment.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives:

In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

VII. Mitigation Measures Required by Regulatory Action:

The proposed regulatory action will have no negative impact on the environment; therefore, no mitigation measures are needed. A full discussion of the proposed regulation and alternatives is included in the Department of Fish and Game's Draft Environmental Impact Report for Marine Protected Areas in the North Central California Coast, scheduled for release in March 2009.

VIII. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following initial determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting Business, Including the Ability of California Business to Compete with Businesses in Other States:

The proposed regulation will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. Each alternative may have negative short-term impacts on commercial and recreational fishing businesses. The impacts presented here do not represent a complete socioeconomic impact analysis, but rather what is generally referred to as a Step 1 analysis or "maximum potential loss." This analysis simply sums up the activity that currently takes place within a given alternative and translates these activities into corresponding economic values. Maximum potential loss does not take into account other management strategies/regulations and human behavioral changes, such as moving to other areas or changing fishing gear, that may mitigate,

offset, or make matters better or worse. In addition, maximum potential loss does not consider possible future benefits.

The estimates of maximum potential impact shown here rely on the survey work and subsequent geographic information system (GIS) data analysis conducted by Ecotrust and reported in various documents to the SAT, RSG, and BRTF. Ecotrust interviewed fishermen to determine both location of fishing activities and the relative importance of each location. Ecotrust's importance indices were combined with cost share information from secondary sources to measure the maximum potential impacts of prospective closures on expected net economic values from commercial fishing. The methodology used to determine maximum potential impacts for Alternatives 1, 2 and 3 as well as for the Proposed Regulation (IPA) are described in Attachment 8. The estimates of the maximum potential annual losses for the four alternatives considered here (in real 2006 dollars) are approximately: \$465,153 (Alternative 1); \$396,583 (Alternative 2); \$696,094 (Alternative 3) and \$525,865 (Proposed Regulation) (Table 6). These are relative to average annual real 2000-2006 baseline gross revenues of approximately \$15,889,359 and net economic values of about \$8,336,602. They represent maximum potential percentage reductions in net pre-MPA economic values of: 5.6 percent (Alternative 1); 4.8 percent (Alternative 2); 8.3 percent (Alternative 3) and 6.3 percent (Proposed Regulation) (Table 7).

It should be noted, however, that due to the methodology and need to maintain confidentiality of individual fishermen's financial data, the average impacts across fisheries may not be representative of the true maximum potential impact to an individual and may underestimate the maximum potential impact to individuals.

That said, Ecotrust, as part of their assessment, was asked to provide summary information on any disproportionate impacts on individuals and/or particular fisheries. This was based on lessons learned in the central coast study region, where significant disproportionate impacts were only discovered in the implementation phase, leaving limited options to lessen these impacts.

Of note in the North Central Coast Study region proposed regulations are potential disproportionate impacts to fishing areas of stated importance for one fishery and three individual fishermen.

In Bodega Bay, the proposed regulation may experience a disproportionate impact on that fishery's closest and most valuable fishing grounds. Proposal IPA has a projected annual net economic impact there

of \$64,000, or a 43 percent reduction in profits. By contrast, the overall estimated net economic impact for the entire study region was only 6.3 percent. However, it should be noted that sea urchin landings in Bodega Bay have dropped dramatically due to market conditions, though they appear to be improving. Average landings over the last 5 years (2004-2008) have dropped to just 2.7 percent of the average landings from the 5 preceding years. Projected impacts from the Ecotrust evaluation assume a fully recovered market and landings at past levels.

Regarding potential individual impacts, Ecotrust evaluation results also show that there are three commercial fishermen who may be substantially and disproportionately impacted.

One fisherman may be disproportionately impacted by all four proposals being considered. One hundred percent of the fisherman's income comes from fishing and the estimated annual impact is:

- Proposal IPA: between 20–40% loss of ex-vessel revenue and > \$20K loss
- Alternative 1: between 20–40% loss of ex-vessel revenue and \$15K–\$20K loss
- Alternative 2: between 20–40% loss of ex-vessel revenue and \$15K–\$20K loss
- Alternative 3: between 40–60% loss of ex-vessel revenue and > \$20K loss

Additionally, two other individuals are estimated to be potentially disproportionately impacted by two proposals each.

Individual 1 (100% of income from fishing):

- Proposal 4: between 20–40% loss of ex-vessel revenue and > \$20K loss
- Proposal IPA: between 20–40% loss of ex-vessel revenue and > \$20K loss

Individual 2 (75% of income from fishing):

- Proposal 4: between 20–40% loss of ex-vessel revenue and \$15–20K loss
- Proposal IPA: between 20–40% loss of ex-vessel revenue and \$15–20K loss

For the commercial deeper nearshore and nearshore rockfish fisheries, Ecotrust also evaluated the additional impacts that potentially occur when considering the existing fishery management area closures and/or fishery exclusion zones, specifically the 2007 and 2008 Non-Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA) persistent closure (30 fm – 150 fm) and the closure between the shoreline and 10 fm around the Farallon Islands (Southeast Farallon Island, Middle Farallon Island, North Farallon Island, and Noon Day Rock). Ecotrust also considered the proposed 2009 Non-Trawl RCA persistent closure (20 fm – 150 fm).

Of particular note is the estimated impact on Bolinas deeper nearshore rockfish fishing grounds. Based on the 2008 RCA, 72.3 percent of the existing value (fishing grounds) was not available to the Bolinas rockfish fishermen and 81.8 percent is not available in 2009. Due to RCAs, just 20 percent of the original fishery value is available. Of the remaining 18.2 percent of their original deeper nearshore rockfish fishing grounds area, Proposal IPA will have an estimated 24 percent impact.

Table 6. Estimated annual maximum potential net economic value losses¹ relative to base scenario. NCCRSG proposal names are reflected in parenthesis

Fishery	Alternative 1 (1-3)²	Alternative 1 (2-XA)²	Alternative 1 (4)²	Proposed Regulation (IPA)
California Halibut	\$4,744	\$5,750	\$13,224	\$5,749
Coastal Pelagics	\$64	\$40	\$63	\$59
Squid	\$865	\$736	\$22,876	\$653
Deep Nearshore Rockfish	\$15,638	\$11,292	\$18,796	\$12,200
Nearshore Rockfish	\$21,510	\$11,285	\$26,703	\$22,514
Urchin	\$68,950	\$62,109	\$136,040	\$118,307
Dungeness Crab	\$218,139	\$193,574	\$331,896	\$232,494
Salmon	\$135,242	\$111,798	\$146,497	\$133,888
Total	\$465,153	\$396,583	\$696,094	\$525,865

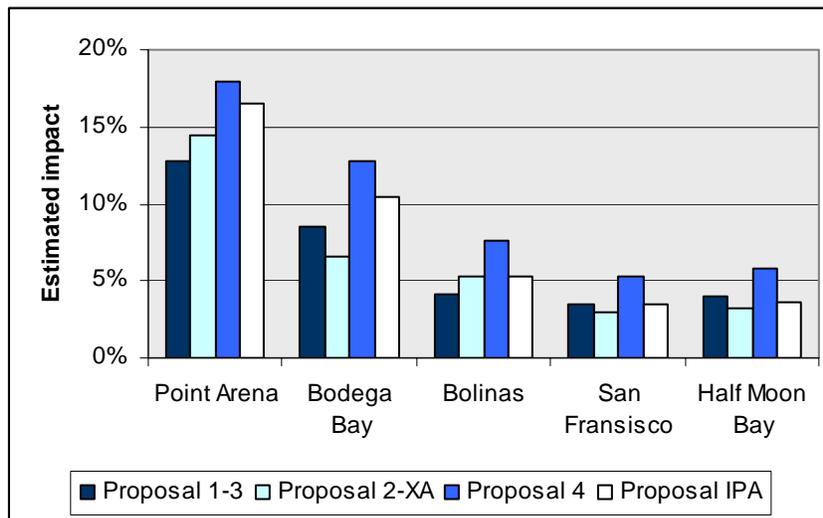
¹ Losses are calculated in 2006 dollars.

² NCCRSG proposal names are reflected in parentheses.

Table 7. Estimated annual maximum potential net value losses in percentage terms.

Fishery	Alternative 1 (1-3) ²	Alternative 2 (2-XA) ²	Alternative 3 (4) ²	Proposed Regulation (IPA)
California Halibut	3.1%	3.8%	8.7%	3.8%
Coastal Pelagics	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Squid	0.7%	0.6%	18.8%	0.5%
Deep Nearshore Rockfish	29.5%	21.3%	35.5%	23.0%
Nearshore Rockfish	28.7%	15.1%	35.6%	30.1%
Urchin	13.2%	11.9%	26.0%	22.6%
Dungeness Crab	5.0%	4.5%	7.7%	5.4%
Salmon	4.4%	3.6%	4.8%	4.4%
Total	5.6%	4.8%	8.3%	6.3%

It should also be noted, that, on average, the estimated percentage impact is greatest in Point Arena, the northernmost port and decreases as one moves north to south through the study region (see Figure 1).



Ecotrust also analyzed the maximum potential loss to recreational fishing area in terms of percentage of the fishing grounds within the study region, and percentage of stated importance values of the fishing grounds within the study region. Estimates represent areas of stated importance and not level of effort. Similar to the commercial estimates of maximum potential

loss, these estimates assume all fishing activity that previously occurred in a closed area is “lost” and not replaced by movement to another location. Little or no data was collected from recreational fishermen north of Bodega Bay. Subregions surveyed include Region 1 (Ocean Beach in San Francisco County), Region 2 (San Francisco Bay access points to Point Reyes), and Region 3 (Point Reyes north to Alter Creek).

Among the three sub-regions surveyed for recreational fishing grounds within the study region, none of the alternatives had greater than a 32.5 percent impact for rockfish, 17.9 percent impact for salmon, 21.5 percent impact for Dungeness crab, or greater than a 22.6 percent impact for California halibut for the fishing modes surveyed (CPFV, private vessels, kayak anglers and pier/shore). None of the estimated impacts to areas of value to recreational fisheries grounds within the study region exceeded 35 percent among all modes and sub-regions surveyed. While not economic losses, if realized, the loss in recreational fishing activity could lead to decreases in revenues to recreational fishing dependent businesses.

In the long term, the potential negative impacts are expected to be balanced by the positive impacts of sustainable fisheries, non-consumptive benefits, and ecosystem function in the reserve areas. In addition, potential benefits may be realized through adult fish spillover to areas adjacent to marine reserves and state marine conservation areas which prohibit bottom fishing for finfish, as well as through transport to distant sites.

- (b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California:

Each alternative has potential impacts on the creation and elimination of jobs related to commercial and recreational fishing and non-consumptive activities. Estimates of the numbers of jobs eliminated as a direct result of the proposed action are difficult to determine. Commercial fishing operations are generally small businesses employing few individuals and, like all small businesses are subject to failure for a variety of causes. Additionally, the long-term intent of the proposed action is to increase sustainability in fishable stocks and subsequently the long-term viability of these same small businesses. Jobs related to the non-consumptive tourism and recreational industries would be expected to increase over time by some unknown factor based on expected improvements in site quality and increased visitation to certain locations.

(c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business:

The agency is not aware of any cost impacts that a representative private person or business would necessarily incur in reasonable compliance with the proposed action.

(d) Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding to the State:

Additional costs to State agencies for enforcement, monitoring, and management of MPAs are difficult to estimate and are dependent on not only the impacts of the proposed regulation, but also other regulations and processes. Funding for the Department of Fish and Game (Department) has already been impacted due to a state budget crisis and prospects for additional impacts are unknown. However, partnerships with state and federal agencies, academic institutions and non-profit organizations are likely to continue to play an important role in assisting with MLPA implementation in coming years.

Current cooperative efforts with the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary have provided funding for some existing State costs, and contributions are expected to increase with the adoption of this regulation. In addition to agency partnerships, during planning and implementation of the first MLPA study region (i.e., central coast study region), substantial funding (in the millions) was contributed by private fund sources including MLPA Initiative partners, and through bond money distributed through the Ocean Protection Council (OPC). These contributions supported costs for baseline science and socioeconomic data collection, signage, and outreach and education, among other things, and allowed for a greater outcome than may have been possible with Department funding alone. While it is difficult to quantify the level of support that will be provided by partnerships in future years, the Department will continue to actively pursue and maximize such assistance.

While the actual costs to the Department to implement the proposed regulations in the north central coast are unknown, experience in implementing MPAs in the northern Channel Islands and the MLPA central coast region can inform prospective near-term expenditures using existing Department funds, and contributions from partners:

- For the Northern Channel Islands, which was the first portion of the MLPA South Coast Study Region to adopt MPAs, the Department spent approximately \$3.6 million on post-design one-time costs, and an additional \$0.9 million per year since 2004 for implementation, management, and enforcement of the central coast

MPAs. Partners contributed approximately \$2.2 million in one-time costs, and \$2.7 annually since the design phase was completed.

- In the MLPA central coast study region, the Department spent approximately \$4.5 million on post-design one-time costs, and an additional \$0.4 million per year since 2007 for implementation, management, and enforcement of the central coast MPAs. Partners have contributed approximately \$2.4 million since the design phase was completed.

The Department costs reference above utilized available funds to the Department at that time. Certainly, changes requiring additional enforcement, monitoring or management will increase the recurring costs to the Department as compared to the current efforts, and total state costs would increase as new study regions are designated and become operational. For the north central coast, the near-term cost to implement the proposed MPAs will include both one-time startup and baseline data collection costs, and recurring annual costs. A baseline data collection program methodology is currently being developed through the MPA Monitoring Enterprise. The costs associated with baseline data collection and future monitoring will be determined through that process and therefore cannot be estimated at this time. In light of uncertainty regarding the cost for monitoring, and the level of future funding from external partners, the estimated new funding requirements by the state for MLPA in the north central coast are unknown at this time.

(e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies:

None

(f) Programs Mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts:

None

(g) Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required to Be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4:

None

(h) Effect on Housing Costs:

None

Amended Informative Digest / Policy Statement Overview

Based on direction from the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) at its May 14, 2009 meeting, the revised proposal adds an option within the Commission's Preferred Alternative to remove Sea Lion Cove SMCA. In addition the Amended ISOR corrects an error in the southern boundary of Salt Point SMCA in the Preferred Alternative and Alternative 3 and moves its boundary northward by 0.5' latitude to align with the Salt Point State Park land boundary. No other changes to the originally noticed regulatory text have been made.

The Marine Life Management Act (MLMA, Stats. 1998, ch. 1052) created a broad programmatic framework for managing fisheries through a variety of conservation measures, including Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA, Stats. 1999, ch. 1015) established a programmatic framework for designating such MPAs in the form of a statewide network. AB 2800 (Stats. 2000, ch. 385) enacted the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act (MMAIA), among other things, to standardize the designation of Marine Managed Areas (MMAs), which include MPAs. The overriding goal of these acts is to ensure the conservation, sustainable use, and restoration of California's marine resources. Unlike previous laws, which focused on individual species, the acts focus on maintaining the health of marine ecosystems and biodiversity in order to sustain resources.

The proposed regulation change is intended to meet the goals described in the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA, Stats. 1999, ch. 1015) within a portion of California's State waters. The area covered in this proposal is the north central coast region, defined as State waters between Alder Creek, near Point Arena (Mendocino County) and Pigeon Point (San Mateo County). The MLPA goals address an overall concept of ecosystem-based management and the intent to improve upon California's existing array of marine protected areas (MPAs). The MLPA specifically requires that the Department of Fish and Game (Department) prepare a master plan and that the Fish and Game Commission (Commission) adopt regulations based on the plan to achieve the MLPA goals. These goals are:

- To protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems.
- To help sustain, conserve, and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted.
- 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.
- To protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value.
- To ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines.

- To ensure that the State's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

The Network Concept:

Important in developing the proposed regulation was the consideration for the north central coast MPAs to form a component of a statewide network. By definition in the MLPA, a network is applied to a biogeographical region. The revised draft Master Plan for MPAs adopted by the Commission recognizes two biogeographical regions in California, with a boundary at Point Conception. The biological network concept calls for connectivity between MPAs through adult movements and larval transport of the species most likely to benefit from establishing MPAs. This includes marine plants, sedentary fishes and invertebrates, and species which are not highly mobile or migratory. This approach is consistent with the guidance provided in the MLPA [Fish and Game Code subsection 2853(b)(6)]. Networks may also be connected through consistency in the method of establishment, goals, objectives, and management and enforcement measures.

The proposed regulation establishes a network component of MPAs designed to include all representative north central coast habitats and major oceanic conditions. Unique and critical habitats were considered separately to guarantee both representation and protection.

From an ecological perspective, the proposed regulation creates a network component of MPAs consistent with the goals of the MLPA. From an economic and social perspective, the proposed regulation attempts to minimize potential negative socio-economic impacts and optimize potential positive socio-economic impacts for all users, to the extent possible.

Implementation of the Marine Life Protection Act in the North Central Coast Region: Existing regulations (the no-project alternative) provide for 13 MPAs covering an area of approximately 26.8 square miles, representing approximately 3.5 percent of state waters within the north central coast region. Of this, less than one percent of the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 0.3 square miles or approximately 0.1 percent of state waters within the north central coast region.

The proposed regulations (the Commission preferred alternative, i.e., the Integrated Preferred Alternative), along with alternatives 2 and 3, include one or more areas recommended by stakeholders as new state marine parks. However, because the Commission does not have statutory authority to establish state marine parks, the proposed regulation designates these areas as state marine conservation areas. These areas can later be designated as marine parks at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Commission. The proposed regulations also remove or retain, re-designate and redesign certain MPAs previously classified as state marine parks to an appropriate MPA designation consistent with the MMAIA. These retained areas can later be designated as marine parks at the discretion of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The Commission's preferred alternative includes a state marine recreational management area (SMRMA) in Russian River, Estero Americano, and Estero de San Antonio, to allow for continued waterfowl hunting where it traditionally occurred, while providing SMR-like protection subtidally. SMRMAs were recommended by the Department, to the NCCRSG and BRTF in its feasibility guidance and evaluations of MPA proposals, as the appropriate designation for proposed SMRs in estuarine areas where waterfowl hunting is currently allowed. This recommendation was to allow for continued waterfowl hunting while providing SMR-like protection subtidally. The BRTF, in its development of the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA), applied the Department's designation recommendation and used a SMRMA designation for Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio, two estuaries where waterfowl hunting was known to occur. The BRTF did not use this designation for the proposed Russian River SMR due to Department understanding that development had precluded waterfowl hunting along the estuary. Subsequent to BRTF submission of the IPA to the Commission, the Department became aware that waterfowl hunting did occur in a portion of the proposed Russian River SMR. Therefore, for the proposed regulation contained herein, and consistent with BRTF intention to follow Department guidance, the designation was changed to a SMRMA for Russian River.

One of the three alternatives (alternative 2) to the proposed regulation includes proposed SMRMAs in three locations where waterfowl hunting traditionally occurs. This includes Russian River estuary, Estero Americano, and Estero de San Antonio. The remaining two alternatives to the proposed regulation propose SMRs where waterfowl hunting traditionally occurs. This includes Russian River estuary, Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio in alternatives 1 and 3, and Tomales Bay in alternative 3. In Department feasibility guidance and evaluations of MPA proposals provided to the NCCRSG in crafting these alternatives, the Department recommended proposed SMRs in estuarine areas where waterfowl hunting is currently allowed to be re-designated as SMRMAs to account for waterfowl hunting while providing SMR-like protection subtidally. These recommendations were applied by NCCRSG members to alternative 2. However, NCCRSG members that crafted alternatives 1 and 3 chose to focus only on MPA designations and to defer to the Commission for consideration of other MMA designations that account for existing activities outside MLPA. To facilitate the Commission's consideration of this deferred decision, an option is provided in alternatives 1 and 3 to assign a SMRMA designation in these locations.

Special closures were used in areas of significant importance to seabirds and marine mammals as part of the marine ecosystem. This special closure category works in conjunction with the MPA designation process and was used to provide further protections that would not otherwise be afforded by MPA designation within the same geographical location. This includes minimizing disturbance of seabirds and marine mammals at nesting, roosting, and haul-out sites, through special restrictions on boating and access in areas generally smaller than MPAs, either within an MPA or outside. Four to six special closures are proposed in the Commission's preferred proposal and alternatives (Attachment 11).

PROPOSED REGULATION:

Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA) - The proposed regulation, also known as the Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA) includes a total of 21 MPAs, three marine managed areas (SMRMAs) for the north central coast region (Table 1, Figure 1, and Attachment 2) and seven special closures (four along mainland; cluster of three at Farallon Islands; Attachment 11). Ten existing MPAs are included and/or have been expanded. Although the proposed regulation contains 21 new MPAs, 15 are directly adjacent to, or include portions of, existing MPAs and can be considered expansions of the area. In these 15 cases, the incorporation and/or additional expansion are within a marine protected area with some allowed take. Thus, the proposed regulation includes 9 MPAs that are in geographical areas previously not designated as MPAs. One proposed SMR provides sub-options for alternate names: Option 1) “Montara” refers to the adjacent geography, and Option 2) “Fitzgerald” is the locally-popular historic name of the existing intertidal MPA proposed for expansion in the IPA. There is no other difference between the sub-options.

At its May 14, 2009 meeting, the Commission requested the addition of a sub-option that excludes Sea Lion Cove SMCA from the IPA, to address public comments regarding the potential socio-economic impacts to the abalone fishery from proposed MPAs that prohibit abalone take. Two options now exist within the IPA regarding Sea Lion Cove: Option 1 includes Sea Lion Cove as originally proposed, and Option 2 removes Sea Lion Cove from the proposed IPA network. At this same meeting, the Commission also approved a boundary correction to the southern boundary of the proposed SMCA at Salt Point. While the southern boundary was intended to align with the southern land-based boundary of Salt Point State Park, a mapping error resulted in an incorrect extension of the SMCA boundary beyond State Park lands by 0.5’ latitude. Within the revised proposal, a correction to the southern boundary has been made to Salt Point SMCA in both the proposed regulation (IPA) and Alternative 3. The southern boundary has been adjusted by one half minute (0.5’) northward and now accurately captures original stakeholder intent by aligning the southern boundary of the proposed MPA with existing State Park boundaries.

Table 1. Proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative) for marine protected areas, marine managed areas and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and Science Advisory Team (SAT) assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
*Point Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
*Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
*Option 1: Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area	The recreational and commercial take of all marine invertebrates and marine aquatic plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed	Moderate-low
*Option 2: Exclusion of Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area	N/A	N/A
Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and urchin	Moderate-low
Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
*Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of abalone and finfish ⁴	Moderate-low
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
*Russian River State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
*Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT : 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net. 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by hand-held dip net 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ with troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high
*Estero Americano State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
*Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of salmon with trolling gear, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
*Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of clams 2. The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low
Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ⁴ from shore only, and the recreational take of abalone	Moderate
^ Option 1: Montara State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^ Option 2: Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by hand-held dip net 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ with troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Special Closures		
Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	1000 ft closure; year round	
Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	1000 ft closure at North Farallon Island and 300 ft closure at the southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except Fisherman's Bay and East Landing; year round except for a seasonal closure on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from Dec 1 to Sep 14. Boating restrictions within 1 mile of all islands; 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	
Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock to Devil's Slide Special Closure	300 ft closure around island rocks and no transit in area between Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock and mainland; year round	

* New MPAs that are not direct expansion of an existing area.

^ Sub-option exists for retaining the historic name of Fitzgerald, or the geographic reference of Montara.

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

² These areas, recommended by stakeholders to become state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

³ Pelagic Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(3) 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*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

⁴ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.



North Central Coast Study Region

California Fish and Game Commission Preferred Alternative

This marine protected area (MPA) proposal was selected on June 11, 2008 by the California Fish and Game Commission (CFGC) as its preferred alternative. 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 were selected in their entirety as CFGC alternatives 1, 2, and 3. Further information on each MPA proposal can be found in the associated text document with the same MPA proposal name.



Figure 1. Marine protected areas in the proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative)

The 21 MPAs and three marine managed areas in the proposed regulation cover an area of approximately 153.3 square miles, representing approximately 20.1 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2, Attachment 3). Of this, more than half the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 85.8 square miles or approximately 11.2 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2). The remaining areas are primarily state marine conservation areas. Two of these SMCAs (Salt Point and Duxbury) were recommended for designation as state marine parks with restrictions consistent with this designation, and could subsequently be designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission. Many of the SMCAs allow the take of either all pelagic finfish (defined above) or salmon and were considered by the SAT to offer high ecosystem protection (Figure 3). In some state marine conservation areas, take of other species such as squid, abalone and urchin, are also allowed. With a few exceptions, the state marine conservation areas protect benthic fishes and invertebrates most likely to from area protection.

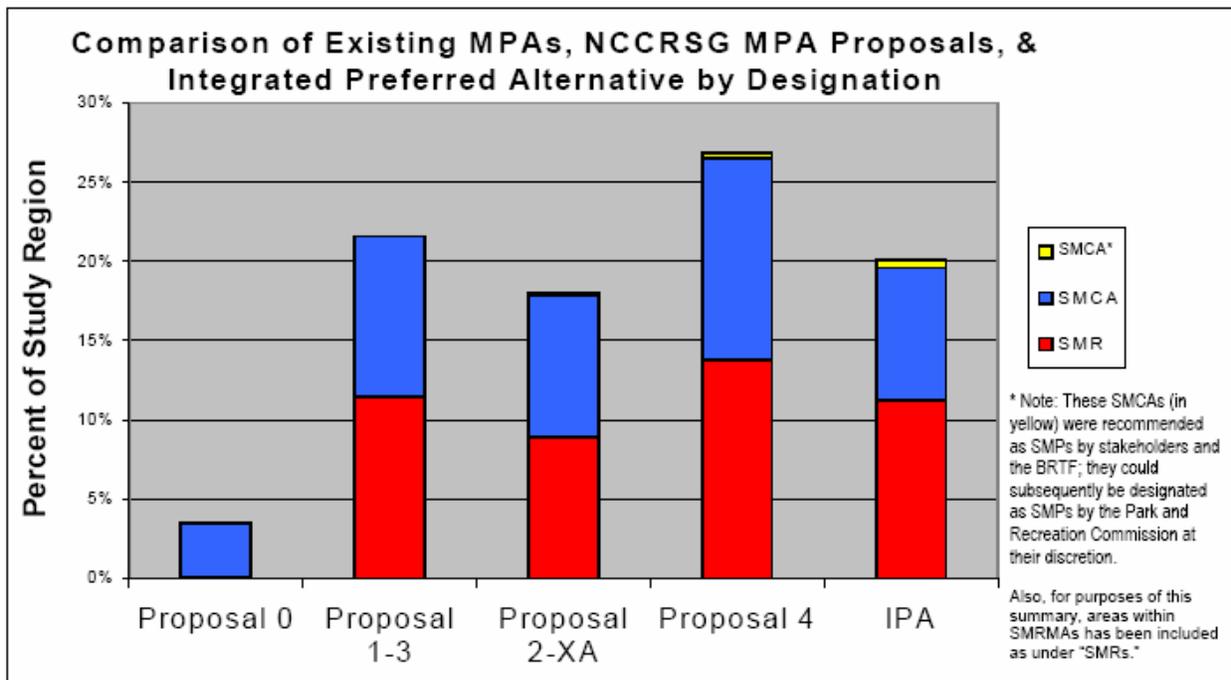


Figure 2. Percent of the north central coast study region included in the proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative) as compared to existing MPAs in the No-Project Alternative (Proposal 0) and alternative proposals [alternative 1 (Proposals 1-3), alternative 2 (Proposal 2-XA), alternative 3 (Proposal 4) and the IPA]. SMP = state marine park, SMCA = state marine conservation area, and SMR = state marine reserve. Note that two state recreational management areas (Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio) are included in the calculations as SMRs based on their relative level of protection. Note that SMCAs represented in yellow were recommended as SMPs by stakeholders and the BRTF. While they would be adopted as SMCAs, they could be subsequently designated also as SMPs by the Park and Recreation Commission at their discretion.

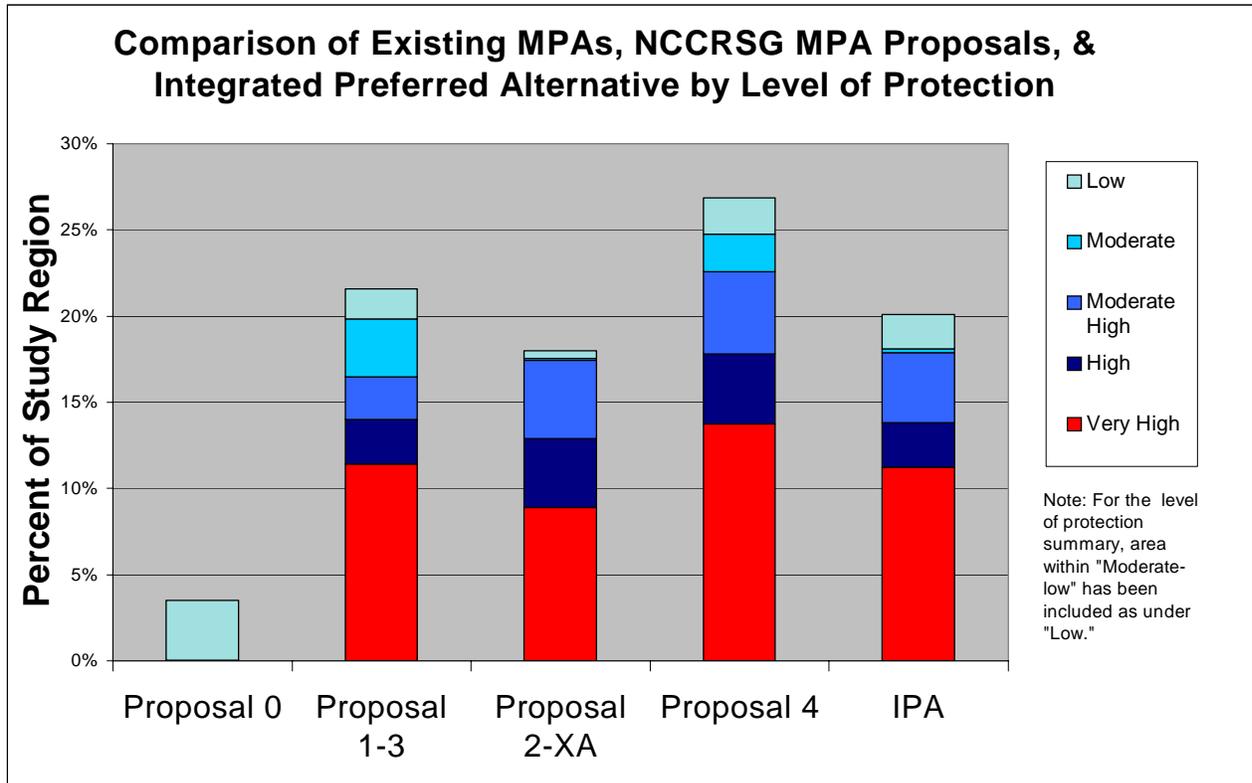


Figure 3. Percent of the north central coast study region included in the proposed regulation (Integrated Preferred Alternative) as compared to existing MPAs in the No-Project Alternative (Proposal 0) and alternative proposals [alternative 1 (Proposals 1-3), alternative 2 (Proposal 2-XA), alternative 3 (Proposal 4) and the IPA]. Level of protection (LOP) is noted as defined by the SAT in the Master Plan as modified by the SAT for refined evaluations of north central coast proposals. LOP rankings used for the north central coast will be appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of regulations. Note that two state marine recreational management areas (Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio) are included in the calculations as SMRs based on their relative level of protection.

ALTERNATIVES:

Alternative 1 – This is the North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCCRSG) “Proposal 1-3”, developed within RSG workgroups by constituents representing a variety of consumptive, non-consumptive, and environmental interests. It consists of 23 MPAs, with the sub-option three MPAs become marine management areas (SMRMAs) covering an area of approximately 164.6 square miles, representing approximately 21.6 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Table 3 and attachments 3, 4, and 5) and seven special closures. Of this, over one half of the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 87.2 square miles or approximately 11.4 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2).

Table 3. Alternative 1 proposal for marine protected areas, marine managed areas and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and SAT assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Point Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, abalone, and finfish ² by hook and line or by spear from shore only 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and urchin	Moderate-low
Del Mar Landing State Marine Conservation Area ⁵	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ² by hook and line or spear	Moderate-low
Rocky Pt to Horseshoe Pt State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: the recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line except for recreational salmon take by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap; and the commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by troll fishing gear and Dungeness crab by trap.	Moderate-high
^Estero Americano Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero Americano Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
Drakes Estero/Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of clams 2. The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Double Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational and commercial take of salmon, Dungeness crab by trap, halibut by hook and line, and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except market squid by hook and line	Moderate
Duxbury Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ² by hook and line from shore only	Moderate
Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Montara State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, coastal pelagic species and halibut by hook and line 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and coastal pelagic species and halibut by hook and line	Moderate
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Special Closures		
Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	1000 ft closure; year round	
Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	500 ft closure; year round	
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	1000 ft closure at North Farallon Island and 300 ft closure at the southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except Fisherman’s Bay and East Landing; year round except for a seasonal closure on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from Dec 1 to Sep 14. Boating restrictions within one mile of all islands; five mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	
Egg (Devil’s Slide) Rock Special Closure	1000 ft closure from any shoreline of the three rocks; year round	
Bean Hollow Special Closure	300 ft closure; seasonal (Feb-Aug)	

[^] Options exist for designation as a state marine reserve, or as a state marine recreational management area to allow recreational hunting of waterfowl to continue (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

² Pelagic Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(3) 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*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

³ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.

⁴ Coastal Pelagic Species are defined in Section 1.39 as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Loligo opalescens*).

⁵ These areas, recommended by stakeholders as state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

Alternative 2 – This is the “NCCRSG Proposal 2-XA”, developed both in RSG workgroups and groups external to the RSG process, by constituents representing commercial and recreational fishing interests along the north central coast. It consists of 18 MPAs and three marine managed areas (SMRMAs) covering an area of approximately 137.2 square miles, representing approximately 18.0 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Table 4 and attachments 3, 4, and 6), and five special closures. Of this, approximately half of the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 68.1 square miles or approximately 8.9 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2).

Table 4. Alternative 2 proposal for marine protected areas, marine managed areas and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and SAT assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Pt Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Pt Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by trolling only) and commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by troll fishing gear only), and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except market squid, by round haul net	High
Black Point State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Black Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by trolling only) and commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by troll fishing gear only), and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except market squid, by round haul net	High
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Russian River Estuary State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of marine invertebrates and finfish ⁵ except for Chinook salmon 2. The commercial take of marine invertebrates except for abalone, and finfish ⁵ except for Chinook salmon	Low

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high
Estero Americano State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Estero de San Antonio State Marine Recreational Management Area	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)	Very High
Point Reyes Headlands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Reyes Headlands State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon by trolling only), and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (salmon with troll fishing gear only), coastal pelagic species ⁴ by round haul net, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
Estero de Limantour State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of clams 2. The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low
Duxbury State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ⁵ from shore only, and the recreational take of abalone	Moderate
Montara State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Pillar Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and market squid by hand-held dip net 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ with troll fishing gear or round haul net, Dungeness crab by trap and market squid by round haul net	Moderate-high
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (except for salmon by trolling only) and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except for market squid by hook and line 2. The commercial take of pelagic finfish ³ by hook and line (except for salmon with troll fishing gear only) and coastal pelagic species ⁴ except market squid, by round haul net	High
Special Closures		
Point Resistance Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	300 ft closure at North Farallon Island, and southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except between Fisherman's Bay and East Landing; year-round. Boating restrictions within one mile of all islands; five mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	
Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure from any shoreline of the three rocks; year round	

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

² These areas, recommended by stakeholders to become state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

³ Pelagic Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(3) 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*), and yellowtail (*Seriola lalandi*). *Marlin is not allowed for commercial take.

⁴ Coastal Pelagic Species are defined in Section 1.39 as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Loligo opalescens*).

⁵ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.

Alternative 3 – This is the NCCRSG “Proposal 4,” developed within RSG workgroups by constituents primarily representing non-consumptive and environmental interests along the north central coast. It consists of 28 MPAs with the sub-option that three MPAs become marine managed areas (SMRMAs) covering an area of approximately 204.9 square miles, representing approximately 26.9 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Table 5 and attachments 3, 4, and 7) and seven special closures. Of this, more than half of the area is within no-take state marine reserves covering approximately 105.0 square miles or approximately 13.8 percent of state waters within the north central coast region (Figure 2).

Table 5. Alternative 3 proposal for marine protected areas, marine managed areas, and special closures in the north central coast, including proposed allowed take and Science Advisory Team (SAT) assigned level of protection. Areas arranged geographically from north to south.

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Point Arena State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Arena State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling only, and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear only	High
Sea Lion Cove State Marine Conservation Area	Commercial and recreational take of marine invertebrates and marine aquatic plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed	Moderate-low
Saunders Reef State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and urchin	Moderate-low
Del Mar Landing State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Stewarts Point State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Salt Point State Marine Conservation Area ²	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish ³ and abalone	Moderate-low
Gerstle Cove State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Estuary Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Russian River Estuary Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Russian River State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net from shore only 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap	Very High
Bodega Head State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Bodega Head State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling only and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear only	High
^Estero Americano Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero Americano Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 1: State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Estero de San Antonio Option 2: State Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
^Tomales Bay State Option 1: Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
^Tomales Bay State Option 2: Marine Recreational Management Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except recreational hunting of waterfowl is allowed unless otherwise restricted by hunting regulations (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552)	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Point Reyes State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, and Dungeness crab by trap 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, and Dungeness crab by trap	Moderate-high
Drakes Estero State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Drakes Estero State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and stocking permit	Low

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection ¹
Double Point State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	Moderate-high
Duxbury State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and finfish by hook and line from shore only 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and halibut	Moderate
Agate Beach Intertidal State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and finfish by hook and line from shore only 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and halibut	Moderate
Devil's Slide State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: 1. The recreational take of salmon by trolling, Dungeness crab by trap, and coastal pelagic species by hook and line 2. The commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear, Dungeness crab by trap, and coastal pelagic species by round haul net	Moderate-high
Fitzgerald State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
San Gregorio State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
North Farallon Islands State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Reserve	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited	Very High
Southeast Farallon Island State Marine Conservation Area	Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of salmon by trolling and the commercial take of salmon with troll fishing gear	High
Special Closures		

MPA Name	Proposed Allowed Take	SAT level of protection¹
Arched Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
Gull Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
Point Reyes Headlands Special Closure	1000 ft closure; year round	
Double Point/ Stormy Stack Rock Special Closure	300 ft closure; year round	
North Farallon Islands Special Closure	1000 ft closure around North Farallon Island and 300 ft closure around the southern islets including the Isle of St. James; year round. Boating restrictions and fishing activity modifications to reduce noise within 1 mile of all islands: 5 mph speed limit within 1000 feet of all islands; year round	
Southeast Farallon Island Special Closure	300 ft closure at Southeast Farallon Island, except Fisherman's Bay and East Landing; year round except for a seasonal closure on the southeast side of Saddle (Seal) Rock, from Dec 1 to Sep 14. Boating restrictions within one mile of all islands; five mph speed limit within 1000 feet of Southeast Farallon Island, fishing activity modifications to reduce noise; year round	
Egg (Devil's Slide) Rock Special Closure	1000 ft closure from any shoreline of the three rocks; year round	

[^] Sub-option exists for designation as a state marine reserve, or a state marine recreational management area to allow recreational hunting of waterfowl to continue (sections 502, 550, 551, and 552).

¹ In order to analyze the differences between no-take reserves and limited take conservation areas and recommended parks, the SAT developed a ranking for level of protection described in the Master Plan based on impact of allowed uses on ecological and ecosystem structure. Levels of protection are modified for each study region for evaluation purposes; and are appended to the Master Plan upon adoption of MPA proposals (Attachment 10).

² These areas, recommended by stakeholders to become state marine parks, will be designated as state marine conservation areas, and could subsequently be designated as state marine parks at the discretion of the State Park and Recreation Commission.

³ Finfish are defined in subsection 632(a)(2) as: any species of bony fish or cartilaginous fish (sharks, skates and rays). Finfish do not include amphibians, invertebrates, plants or algae. The definition of finfish provided in Section 159 does not apply to this Section.

⁴ Coastal Pelagic Species are defined in Section 1.39 as: northern anchovy (*Engraulis mordax*), Pacific sardine (*Sardinops sagax*), Pacific mackerel (*Scomber japonicus*), jack mackerel (*Trachurus symmetricus*), and market squid (*Loligo opalescens*).