

Individual MPA Objectives
Alternative 3
(NCCRSR Proposal 4)
North Central Coast Study Region

In the following document, Goals (G) and Objectives (O) refer to “Regional goals, objectives, and design and implementation considerations for the north central coast regional component of a statewide MPA network.”

Point Arena SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects complex and unique combination of habitats fueled by persistent upwelling including: pinnacles, wash rocks, caverns, cliffs, honeycomb formations, undercut and vertical rock walls, cobbles, sand, kelp, and associated rockfish and other species.
- May help rebuild yelloweye rockfish – historically abundant at Arena Rock.
- A replicate, to some degree, of habitat near Fisk Mill and Horseshoe Coves in Stewarts Point SMR.

Point Arena SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Extends protection to the state boundary to encompass deeper habitats and associated species in a regional center of high productivity.
- Helps protect an iconic place and may replicate some aspects of Point Reyes, Bodega, and Fitzgerald MPA clusters.

Sea Lion Cove SMCA

Proposed Regulations: Commercial and recreational take of invertebrates and marine aquatic plants is prohibited. Take of all other species is allowed

Specific Objectives:

- Contributes to the protection of vulnerable abalone populations and intertidal ecosystem.
- Creates opportunities for education and enjoyment related to intertidal areas and invertebrate communities in an unusually scenic spot.

Saunders Reef SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Protects complex and highly productive rocky reef and kelp habitat including part of an extensive stand of bull kelp, and associated species, including nearshore finfish and multiple abalone species.
- Protects deeper sand and rock habitat in a regional center of high productivity.

Del Mar Landing SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects community of marine species and their habitat.
- Provides greater ecosystem protection at an existing MPA originally established as an "ecological reserve."

Stewarts Point SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Provides the highest protection to complex rocky habitat and kelp (including coves, wash rocks, shelves, walls, cobble and boulders), dependent communities and ecosystem functions within a preferred-size SMR.
- Includes area with a relatively steep depth gradient.
- Portion sited adjacent to Salt Point State Park provides opportunity for continuous land-sea protection and management of scenic area for natural heritage purposes.

Salt Point SMCA¹

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT: the recreational take of finfish, and abalone

Specific Objectives:

- Enhance recreational experience via proximity to Stewarts Point and Gerstle Cove SMRs.

Gerstle Cove SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects intertidal habitat in an existing MPA that appears to be working for resident species.
- Enhances biodiversity protection from existing MPA via proximity to Stewarts Point SMR.

Russian River Estuary SMR²

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects estuary and nursery habitat, as well as Coho, Chinook, and steelhead aggregations.
- Protects foraging and breeding areas for harbor seals and seabird colonies.

Russian River SMCA

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited EXCEPT:
1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab, and surf smelt by hand-held dip net or beach net from shore only
2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab

Specific Objectives:

- To help conserve salmonid populations at a particularly vulnerable time in their life cycle.

Bodega SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects a range of low and higher relief rocky habitat to near the edge of the reef.
- Protects benthic species in area with restoration potential.
- Increases opportunities for study and research from Bodega Marine Institute.

Bodega SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Protects an example of low and high relief rocky habitat to the edge of the rocky reef.
- Protects benthic species in area with high restoration potential.
- Increases opportunities of study and research from Bodega Bay Marine Lab.

Estero Americano SMR²

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protect unique estuary habitat with tidewater goby, migratory birds, rare nudibranch, sea cucumbers, and high biodiversity.
- It protects eel grass habitat that provides important nursery areas.

Estero de San Anotonio SMR²

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protect unique estuary habitat with tidewater goby, migratory birds, rare nudibranch, sea cucumbers, and high biodiversity.
- It protects eel grass habitat that provides important nursery areas.

Tomales Bay SMR²

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- To protect shallow estuary system with eel grass and protect nursery grounds for Coho, steelhead, and tidewater goby.

Point Reyes SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects a diversity of species, including bird colonies, fish and mammals.
- Covers a high energy rocky shoreline, headland, lee of headland, offshore islets, and ocean floor habitats characterized by fractured granite and a mix of eroded bedrock, rocky shelf, and soft bottom.
- Protects an iconic place.

Point Reyes SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Helps protect a diversity of species, including fish and mammals.

- Covers a diversity of bottom habitats and oceanographic/wind conditions.
- Protects an iconic place.

Drakes Estero SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects eelgrass habitat and dependent species, as well as a nursery ground, harbor seal pupping ground, and a foraging area for leopard shark and bat ray.
- Foraging and roosting area for black Brandt and brown pelican.

Drakes Estero SMCA

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited, EXCEPT: The commercial aquaculture of shellfish pursuant to a valid State Water Bottom Lease and permit

Specific Objectives:

- Protect critical nursery habitat with eelgrass.
- One of the largest eel grass stands in the state.
- Also a nursery grounds for steelhead, Dungeness crab, Coho.
- Critical seasonal bird habitat.
- One the largest harbor seal pupping habitat in the state.

Double Point SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Protects sand and rock mosaic habitat with rocky stacks, bull kelp stands, and associated fish, invertebrates (including red and black abalone), and seal colonies.
- Juvenile rockfish, kelp, larval retention zone.
- Helps protect habitat for seabirds (ashy storm petrel, common murre, brown pelican).

Duxbury SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Increases protection for shale reef habitat and diverse intertidal habitats, with associated species.
- Includes portion of one of largest shale reefs in state in productive area that may be a rockfish nursery.

Agate Beach Intertidal SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Help protect intertidal benthic invertebrate community in area with significant public use for educational and study purposes.

Devil's Slide SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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 hook and line or round haul net

Specific Objectives:

- Helps protect a diverse mix of habitats, including rocky reef, bull kelp, and surfgrass.
- Protects a diverse array of fish, marine mammals, and invertebrates.
- Contributes to enhanced research and education opportunities.

Fitzgerald SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects a mix of habitats, including rocky reef, bull kelp, and surfgrass, and wide array of fish, marine mammals, and invertebrates in one of most biodiverse areas of state, in an SMR above minimum size (and a cluster in the preferred size range).
- Includes seabird and marine mammals.

San Gregorio SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects a mix of rock and sand habitats, including an offshore rocky reef and intertidal habitats.
- Contributes toward network connectivity in the southern portion of the study region, with different exposure to wind and upwelling than closest MPA to south.

North Farallon Islands SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects predators, including seabirds and marine mammals, and availability of prey in a highly productive habitat and important foraging area.
- Protects a globally important heritage site.

Southeast Farallon Island SMR

Proposed Regulations: Take of all living marine resources is prohibited

Specific Objectives:

- Protects foraging predators, including as seabirds and marine mammals, and availability of prey in a highly productive mix of habitats.
- Protects a globally important heritage site.

Southeast Farallon Island SMCA

Proposed Regulations: 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

Specific Objectives:

- Protects deeper habitats southeast of the Farallon Islands.
- This area connects with drop to deep habitat to southwest of islands.

¹ Note: This area will initially be designated as an SMCA, though its regulations allow later change to SMP by the State Park and Recreation Commission.

² Note: An option is provided in the proposed regulations for designation as a state marine recreational management area (SMRMA) to allow for the recreational hunting of waterfowl. A final decision for a SMRMA designation would add text in the proposed regulations and specific objectives to that effect.