

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Summary of MPA Boundaries, Proposed Regulations, Rationales, Potential Impacts and Public Comments for
MLPA Initiative Staff Package S (February 22, 2006)
March 13, 2006

MPA (SAT Protection Level)	Alongshore Span and Total Area	Proposed Regulations	Source of Boundaries and Regulations	Rationale/Benefits	Potential impacts on fisheries ¹	Other Potential Impacts	Notes from Public Comment (Jan 30-March 10, 2006)
Ano Nuevo SMR (SMR+SMCA Mod)	Alongshore Span: 11.3 mi Total Area: 22.31 mi ²	No Take.	From Package 2 and 3; staff revised boundary "intertidal" portion to improve enforceability. Revised boundary resulted in higher "impacts" that are not likely real due to shallow depths	Rationale: Large reserve extending offshore to meet SAT guidelines; focused south of point to protect forage area; configuration allows continued shore fishing at Scott Creek. Habitats: Protects rocky intertidal, shallow to mid-depth rock and soft; seabird and marine mammal rookeries and foraging area; upwelling; bull kelp (main forest in region)	>1% impact on: Anchovy, Dungeness crab, Halibut, Kelp Greenling, Lingcod, Mackerel, Rockfish Nearshore, Sardine, White seabass, Squid Rec-Rockfish.	Concern about "intertidal" boundary being too far offshore	
Natural Bridges SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 4.5 mi Total Area: 2.25 mi ²	No Take.	From packages 2 and 3; staff revised straight line offshore boundary to improve enforceability based on DFG recommendation	Rationale: adjacent to Long Marine Lab (intertidal research) and state parks. Habitats: rocky benches, beaches, shallow rock	>1% impacts on: none	Some unquantified potential impacts to shorefishing and tidepool collecting.	
Elkhorn Slough SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 7.0 mi Total Area: 1.56 mi ²	No Take.	From packages 1, 2 and 3; boundary revised by staff to extent of tidal influence	Rationale: expands protection of existing Elkhorn SMR; treats the entire estuary as a ecological unit for management. Habitats: estuary, eelgrass (not mapped), marsh, tidal flats	>1% impacts on: none	Some unquantified potential impacts on unrepresented subsistence fishers and recreational clamming and fishing	
Moro Cojo SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 5.0 mi Total Area: 0.46 mi ²	No Take.	From packages 1, 2 and 3; boundary revised by staff to extent of tidal influence	Rationale: Provides full protection for rare estuarine habitat. Habitats: estuary, tidal flats, marsh	>1% impacts on: none		

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Soquel Canyon SMCA (SMCA High)	Alongshore Span: 7.2 mi Total Area: 23.41 mi ²	Allows commercial and recreational take of pelagic finfish	Shape from packages 2 and 3; regulations from Package 2	Rationale: Protection/restoration of depleted groundfish. Allows continued use of area for commercial and recreational salmon fishing. Habitats: Protects deep canyon habitats, natural refugia (still big fish present), benthic community.	>1% impact on: Dungeness crab, Sablefish		
Portuguese Ledge SMCA (SMCA High)	Alongshore Span: 5.5 mi Total Area: 10.85 mi ²	Allows commercial and recreational take of pelagic finfish	Shape from packages 2 and 3; designation from Package 3	Rationale: restoration of depleted groundfish. Habitats: deepwater shelf habitat	>1% impacts on: none	Minimal potential impacts expected; historically was important for groundfish.	
Ed Ricketts SMCA (SMCA Low)	Alongshore Span: 0.7 mi Total Area: 0.16 mi ²	Allows recreational take of finfish by hook and line and commercial take of kelp by hand north of latitude 36.61333 (the Chart House Restaurant).	Staff revision of Package 1 to be more enforceable based on DFG recommendation.	Rationale: Fishermen and other consumptive interests benefit. Kelp harvest can continue. Fishing from the breakwater can occur. Small skiffs are allowed a protected location where they can fish. Habitats: intertidal, shallow rock/sand, kelp.	>1% impacts on: none	Does not remedy existing diver-fishermen conflict near the breakwater.	Comments suggesting an "unbroken State Marine Reserve from Breakwater to Lovers Point, including Hopkins Deep Reef" bc of divers being hooked by recreational anglers, high biodiversity, concern over harvest of kelp.
Hopkins SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 1.0 mi Total Area: 0.44 mi ²	No Take.	Staff revision of packages 1, 2 and 3 to make boundary more enforceable based on DFG recommendation.	Rationale: Expansion of existing reserve will benefit Hopkins Marine Station, protecting an area with extensive baseline studies. Hopkins deep reef will be protected. Habitats: intertidal, shallow rock/sand, kelp.	>1% impact on: Rec-rockfish		

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Pacific Grove SMCA (SMCA Low)	Alongshore Span: 3.0 mi Total Area: 1.51 mi ²	Allows commercial take of kelp by hand. Allows recreational take of finfish.	Staff revision of Package 1 to be more enforceable, based on DFG recommendation. Regulations revised by staff.	Rationale: Provides full protection for intertidal and limited protection for subtidal as recreational fishing and commercial kelp allowed. Habitats: intertidal, shallow rock/sand, kelp	>1% impacts on: none		General comments that proposed MPA affords little protection over the status quo. Comments supporting a ban on spearfishing contests. Support for maintaining Pacific Grove Marine Garden Fish Refuge.
Carmel Pinnacles SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 0.9 mi Total Area: 0.85 mi ²	No Take.	From Package 3	Rationale: Protects pinnacles with SMR status that divers want; Stillwater Cove left open to recreational fishing and access. Habitats: rocky intertidal, pinnacles, shallow rock/sand.	>1% impact on: Rec-rockfish		Support for eastward expansion of Carmel Pinnacles SMR to include Pescadero Rocks and Dali's Reef. Concern by kayak anglers about closing off the Pinnacles.
Carmel Bay SMCA (SMCA Low)	Alongshore Span: 3.0 mi Total Area: 2.15 mi ²	Allows recreational take of finfish and commercial take of kelp by hand	Shape from packages 1 and 3; regulations revised by staff.	Rationale: Protects invertebrates from recreational and commercial take, prevents commercial groundfish, squid take. Allows spearfishermen and kayak anglers weather-protected locations to fish that are near shoreline access points. Habitats: intertidal, shallow sand, minimal rock	>1% impacts on: none		Comments supports a ban on spearfishing contests. Comments concerned with kelp harvest.

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Point Lobos SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 4.6 mi Total Area: 4.36 mi ²	No Take.	Staff revised from packages 1, 2, and 3; southern boundary extended to protect Yankee Point Reef and northern boundary at northern Monastery Beach and along 50 fathom boundary, as suggested by fishermen, Package 3 proponents, and recommended for enforceability.	Rationale: Balances uses; includes some of Carmel Canyon (but not canyonhead) and all of Yankee Point reef in SMR. Expands successful Point Lobos SMR. Habitats: intertidal, shallow and mid-depth rock/sand, some canyon.	>1% impacts on: none		
Point Lobos SMCA (SMCA Mod)	Alongshore Span: 3.0 mi Total Area: 9.19 mi ²	Allows recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish, squid, and spotprawns.	Staff revised from packages 2 and 3.	Provides onshore-offshore protection of benthic habitat and groundfish. Protects deep rocky habitat.	>1% impacts on: none	Allowing take of coastal pelagics (anchovy, makeral, etc) does not then protect top predators such as marine mammals/seabirds.	General comment that it doesn't have enough protection, in particular because of the take of forage species.
Point Sur SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 3.6 mi Total Area: 8.81 mi ²	No Take.	Staff derived from packages 2 and 3. Area smaller than Package 2 and incorporates onshore SMR and offshore SMCA as in Package 3.	Rationale: Key upwelling center - largest one in region. Minimizes impacts to fishing in this area that is important to many fisheries. Provides large area with onshore-offshore gradient. Leaves area in lee of Pt. Sur open for vessel anchoring. Habitats: shallow/mid depth rock/sand habitat, upwelling center, kelp, and intertidal.	> 1% impact on: Cabezon, Deep Nearshore Rockfish, Kelp Greenling, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore	Morro Bay fishermen concerned about 3 SMRs that disrupt salmon trolling tracks in lee of headlands, and "wipes out" spot prawn and nearshore fisheries (top 90% best places) along Big Sur. Also causes a potential safety hazard.	Concern that Pt. Sur SMR should extend to Pt. Sur and that it should be larger. Concern over small gaps between Pt. Sur, JPB, and Big Creek bc configuration may discourage the propogation and retention of mature fish (prefers 2 larger SMRs over 3 smaller).

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Point Sur SMCA (SMCA High)	Alongshore Span: 2.9 mi Total Area: 6.39 mi ²	Allows recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish	Staff derived from Package 3, smaller area to reduce impacts. Regulations meant to be consistent with packages 1 and 3.	Same as above. Captures head of Sur Canyon, waters mostly >50m depth.	>1% impacts on: none	Regulations for take of pelagic finfish inconsistent w/ protection of forage fish.	Not enough protection because allows take of forage species.
Julia Pfeffer Burns SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 3.7 mi Total Area: 6.54 mi ²	No Take.	Staff derived to capture deep rock and canyon habitat. This MPA overlaps but is further north than one proposed by Package 1.	Rationale: Needed to capture deep rock >100m and canyon. Partington Canyon is rare and unique due to proximity of deep canyon nearshore (better candidate for protection than Carmel due to lower impacts). Habitats: Capturing 0-30m and deeper canyon and >100m rocky habitats - one of the only places to get deep rock habitat. Also intertidal, kelp.	> 1% impact on: Cabezon, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore, Spot Prawn, Squid	Significant potential impacts to salmon (disrupt trolling tracks in lee of Pt. Sur) and to spot prawn (in canyons). Morro Bay fishermen concerned about 3 SMRs that disrupt salmon trolling tracks in lee along coast, and "wipes out" spot prawn and nearshore fisheries (top 90% best places). Two small MPA clusters on Big Sur coast do not protect large adult fish that move more than 3 miles; one larger MPA cluster would be better.	Comment that it disrupts salmon trolling south of Pt. Sur (mostly fishermen from Morro Bay).
Julia Pfeffer Burns SMCA (SMCA Mod)	Alongshore Span: 3.7 mi Total Area: 6.95 mi ²	Allows recreational and commercial take of pelagic finfish, squid, and spotprawns	Staff derived to minimize impacts of SMR extending offshore to state waters. This MPA overlaps but is further north than one proposed by Package 1.	Rationale: Extending offshore to meet SAT guidelines. Habitats: Deeper canyon and rock/sand	>1% impacts on: none	Minimal potential impacts expected.	

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Big Creek SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 3.9 mi Total Area: 13.19 mi ²	No Take.	Staff revised from Package 3, but much smaller in size to reduce impacts.	Rationale: Extends to 3mi to meet SAT guidelines. Expanding existing SMR as per science review of effectiveness. Capturing deep and canyon habitats. Habitats: intertidal, shallow, mid-depth and deep sand/rock, significant amount of canyon habitat.	> 1% impact on: Deep Nearshore Rockfish, Spot Prawn	Significant potential spot prawn impacts at Big Creek (preferred fishing ground over Partington area). Disrupt salmon trolling tracks nearshore in lee of Pt. Sur. Morro Bay fishermen concerned about 3 SMRs that disrupt salmon trolling tracks in lee along coast, and "wipes out" spot prawn and nearshore fisheries (top 90% best places). Two small MPA clusters on Big Sur coast do not protect large adult fish that move more than 3 miles; one larger MPA cluster would be better.	General comment that it doesn't have enough protection, in particular because of the take of forage species.
Piedras Blancas SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 6.9 mi Total Area: 9.04 mi ²	No Take.	From Package 3	Rationale: large upwelling area and key rookeries for seabirds and marine mammals. Needed for spacing guidelines. Habitats: shallow-mid depth rock/sand habitats, upwelling, kelp, rocky intertidal. Seabird and marine mammal rookeries and forage areas.	> 1% impact on: Cabezon, Deep Nearshore Rockfish, Kelp Greenling, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore, White seabass, Surfperch Rec-Rockfish		
Piedras Blancas SMCA (SMCA High)	Alongshore Span: 6.9 mi Total Area: 12.02 mi ²	Allows commercial and recreational take of pelagic finfish	From Package 3	Rationale: Capturing deeper habitats and onshore-offshore extent. Habitats: mid-depth rock/sand, upwelling.	>1% impact on: cabezon	Regulations allowing take of pelagic finfish (including anchovy, makeral, etc) does not then protect top predators such as marine mammals/seabirds that forage on those species.	General comment that it doesn't have enough protection, in particular because of the take of forage species.

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Cambria SMP (SMP Low)	Alongshore Span: 4.7 mi Total Area: 5.51 mi ²	No commercial take.	Staff revised from Package 1 with boundary moved north to improve enforceability.	Rationale: Providing recreational fishing benefits; supported by Cambria Fishing Club. Near onshore facilities and access for recreation. Habitats: shallow rock/sand, kelp.	> 1% impact on: Cabezon, Halibut, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore, Surfperch		
Cambria SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 3.8 mi Total Area: 3.59 mi ²	No-take	Staff revised from Package 3 with boundary changed to improve enforceability	Rationale: Needed for spacing of sand, kelp habitats; onshore link to Ken Norris Reserve for research/monitoring/enforcement. Habitats: shallow rock and sand, kelp, rocky intertidal.	> 1% impact on: Cabezon, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore		
Estero Bluffs SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 1.4 mi Total Area: 0.14 mi ²	No take	From Package 2	Rationale: Provides needed rocky intertidal habitat for spacing and educational opportunity close to population centers in south of region; stakeholder and community support, terrestrial park. Habitat: rocky intertidal.	>1% impacts on: none	Some unquantified potential impacts to recreational shore fishing and tidepool collection	
Morro Bay SMCA (SMCA Low)	Alongshore Span: 6.2 mi Total Area: 1.97 mi ²	Allows recreational take of finfish by hook and line and commercial aquaculture and receiving of bait.	From packages 1, 2, and 3	Rationale: provides minimal protection of rare estuarine habitat while allowing most recreational and commercial uses. Allows continued fishing from small boats, piers, etc. Allows continued aquaculture (oysters) and bait receiving. Habitats: estuary, eelgrass, tidal flat, marsh.	>1% impacts on: none	Minimal potential impacts expected	

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South Morro Bay SMRMA (SMCA High)	Alongshore Span: 3.4 mi Total Area: 0.78 mi ²	No commercial or recreational fishing allowed; hunting of waterfowl permitted.	From packages 1, 2, and 3 but change to State Marine Recreational Management Area to be more compatible with waterfowl hunting.	Rationale: Protects eelgrass and estuarine nursery habitat in back bay while allowing continued hunting of waterfowl. SMRMA status is best solution to issue of hunting; stakeholders support it. Habitats: estuary, eelgrass, tidal flat, marsh	>1% impacts on: none	Minimal potential impacts expected	
East Morro Bay SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 1.4 mi Total Area: 0.32 mi ²	No Take.	From packages 2 and 3	Rationale: protects (unmapped) eelgrass; might promote better management and restoration of east bay. Habitat: estuary, marsh, tidal flat, eelgrass	>1% impacts on: none	Minimal potential impacts expected	
Point Buchon SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 5.2 mi Total Area: 6.56 mi ²	No Take.	Staff revised from Package 3, made smaller to reduce impacts and boundaries changed to improve enforceability. Regulations meant to be consistent with Package 3.	Rationale: Needed for spacing of rocky habitat; minimizes impact on recreational fishermen from Avila and Morro Bay; allows continued fishing north of point in preferred area. New onshore park/access near Diablo. Habitats: protects intertidal, kelp, shallow rock/sand habitat; upwelling area.	> 1% impact on: Cabezon, Kelp Greenling, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore, Rockfish Shelf		Inquiry regarding boundary in relation to Diablo Canyon power plant.
Point Buchon SMCA (SMCA High)	Alongshore Span: 5.2 mi Total Area: 10.40 mi ²	Allows commercial and recreational take of pelagic finfish	Staff revised from Package 3, made smaller to reduce impacts and boundaries changed to improve enforceability. Regulations meant to be consistent with Package 3.	Rationale: capturing deeper rocky and sandy habitat offshore for SAT guidelines; minimizing fishing impacts. Habitats: mid-deep rock/sand.	>1% impact on: Rec-rockfish	Regulations allowing take of pelagic finfish (including anchovy, makeral, etc) does not then protect top predators such as marine mammals/seabirds that forage on those species.	

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Purisima Point SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 4.7 mi Total Area: 16.74 mi ²	No Take	Staff revised from Package 2 to make boundaries more enforceable.	Rationale: Needed for spacing guidelines and representation of rocky habitat. Better habitat than at Pt. Sal. Focused south of point to reduce impacts. Habitats: capturing rare rocky habitat, sand habitat, upwelling.	>1% impact on: Cabezon, Dungeness crab, Deep Nearshore Rockfish, Kelp Greenling, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore, Rockfish Shelf, Rock Crab, White seabass		
Vandenberg SMR (SMR)	Alongshore Span: 12.3 mi Total Area: 15.74 mi ²	No Take.	Staff revised from Package 2 to include more rocky habitat north of Pt. Arguello.	Rationale: Focused on Arguello to Purisima area to capture needed habitats (rock and kelp) and meet size and spacing guidelines. Takes advantage of security zones. Minimizes fishery impacts in important areas south of Arguello towards Pt. Conception. Habitats: rare nearshore and mid-depth rock, sandy habitat, intertidal, kelp, and upwelling.	>1% impact on: Cabezon, Deep Nearshore Rockfish, Kelp Greenling, Lingcod, Rockfish Nearshore, White seabass, Squid		
1. Commercial fisheries listed if >1% of total fishing grounds VALUE affected by MPA; for recreational fishing this was >1% of total trips. Based on revised Ecotrust analysis.							
General, non-MPA specific comments about Package S	Package S appears to favor SMR plus SMCA-High combinations over larger SMRs that extend into deeper waters offshore.						
	Package S appears to favor more closely spaced, but smaller MPAs over larger ones.						
	Package S allows take of critical prey species (pelagic finfish such as anchovy, herring and sardines and in some cases even squid) in SMCAs located offshore of SMRs						
	Concern that package S was mainly adapted from packages 2, 3 and AC.						