

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Overview of Draft Options for MPA Arrays and First Draft Proposals

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

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Where we are in the process?

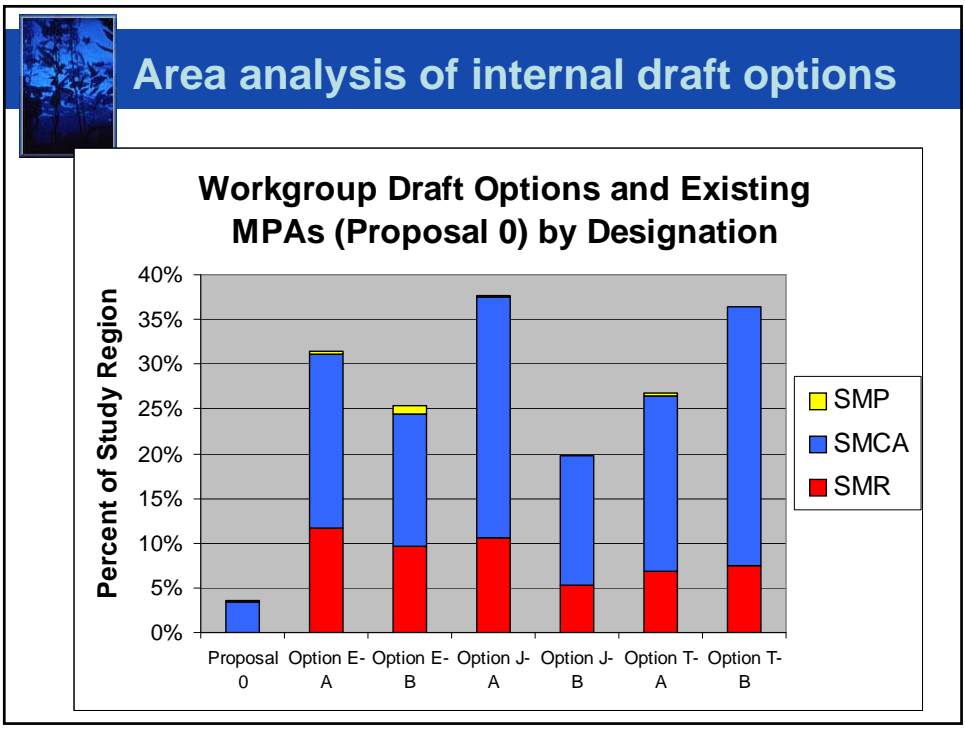
- Regional Stakeholder Group – three cross-interest work groups have developed draft options for MPA arrays to gather initial feedback from the Science Advisory Team and Blue Ribbon Task Force
- Six work group draft arrays are not yet full proposals and have not been agreed to by all work group members
- Four draft proposals developed outside the work group process (“external”)
- Current evaluation of draft options for arrays and draft MPA proposals is the first of three iterations

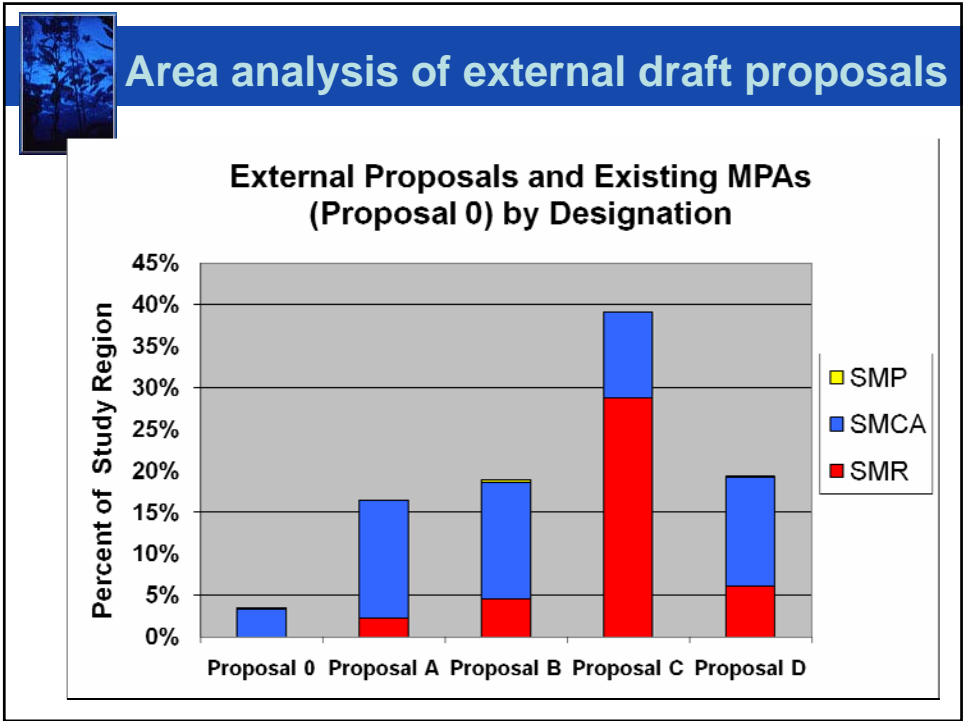
Internal and External MPA Arrays

Staff and SAT evaluated 11 options or proposals

Work Group Draft Options for MPA Arrays	Draft "External" Proposals
Emerald option "EA"	Proposal A
Emerald option "EB"	Proposal B
Jade option "JA"	Proposal C
Jade option "JB"	Proposal D
Turquoise option "TA"	
Turquoise option "TB"	

+ Proposal Zero (existing MPAs)





- ### Key Considerations
- #### Ecological/Socioeconomic Tradeoffs
- Meeting SAT guidelines
 - Habitat representation – unique and representative habitats
 - Size and spacing to promote connectivity
 - Protecting ecosystem function and integrity
 - Unique ecological features of region



Key Considerations

Ecological/Socioeconomic Tradeoffs

- Considering ports / areas of consumptive use
- Commercial fisheries – crab, salmon, urchin, rockfish, squid, and many others
- Recreational fisheries – abalone, shore-based fishing, small-boat fishing, party-boat trips
- Incorporating recent consumptive and non-consumptive data collection efforts



Key Considerations

Access

- Few public access locations, especially in northern portion of study region
- Access is key to both consumptive and non-consumptive use
- Access tends to be through public lands, state parks, private campgrounds and resorts



Key Considerations

Weather and Safety

- Strong winds and rough seas common
- Protected anchorages are important and few
- Small craft use important in the region
- Limited boat ramps/launch sites



Key Considerations

Marine Birds and Mammals

- Globally significant marine bird/mammal populations
- Existence of spatially discrete colonies/rookeries
- Potential use of “special closures” to provide protection from disturbance (seasonal or year-round no access areas)



Key Considerations

Mariculture

- Leases for mariculture exist in Tomales Bay and Drakes Estero
- SAT has determined that allowing mariculture in an MPA constitutes a moderate or low level of protection
- Existing leases must be taken into consideration and can likely not be broken



Key Considerations

Native American Tribal Use

- Several tribal groups within the study region (e.g. Pomo, Miwok, Ohlone)
- Traditional collection and gathering of marine resources for personal use – food, medicine, ceremonial use
- Entire shoreline of study region is important culturally to tribes
- Gathering information on areas of highest importance through workshops and meetings with local tribal members



Key Considerations

Meeting DFG Feasibility Guidelines

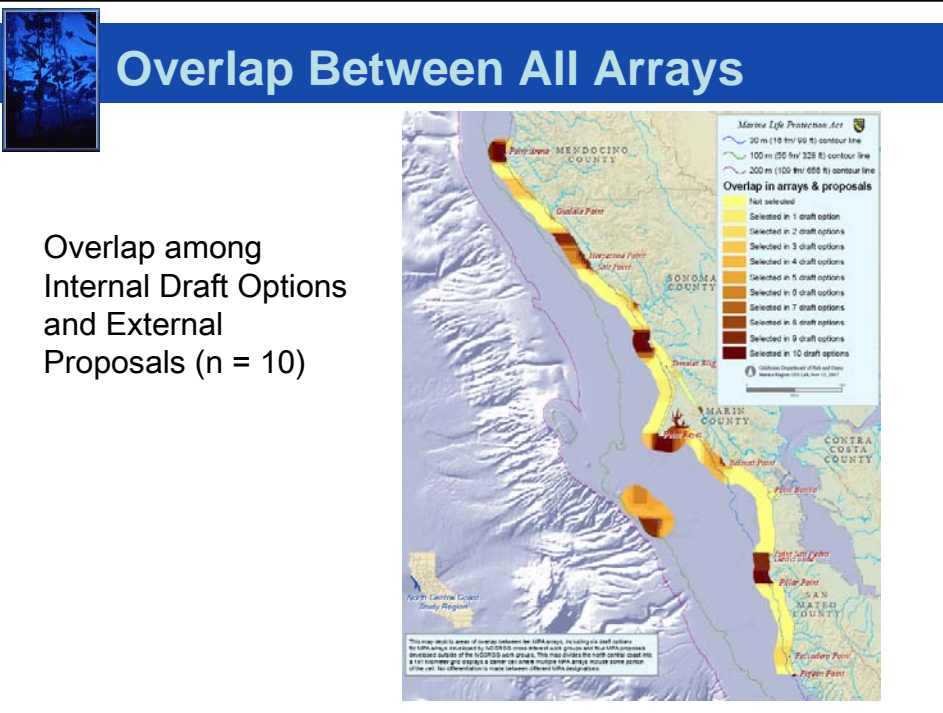
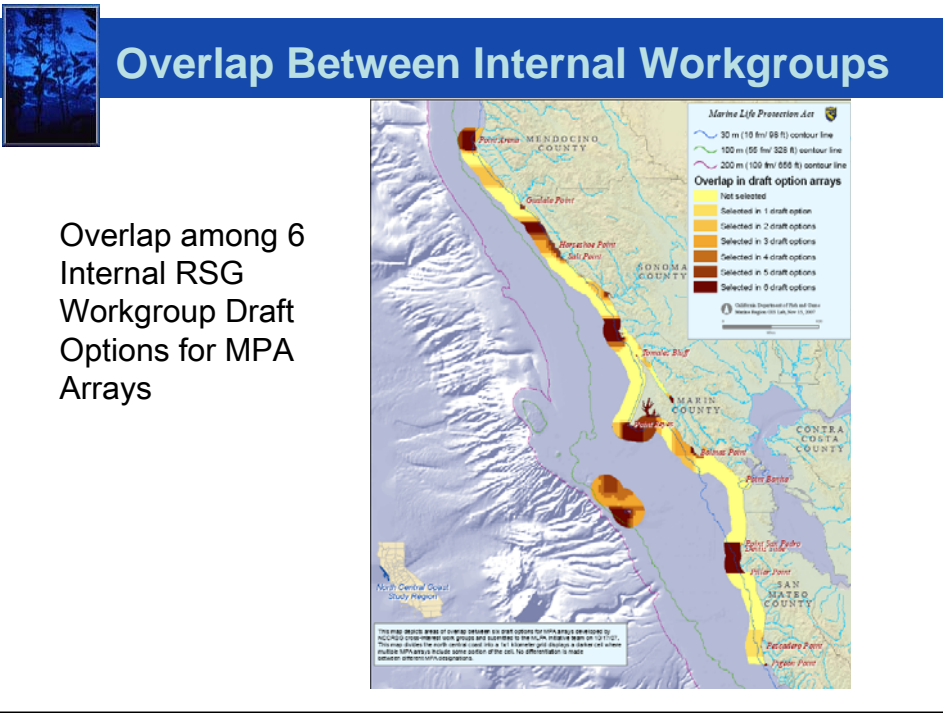
- Straight lines
- Major lines of latitude/longitude
- No “donuts”
- Simple regulations
- No intertidal only restrictions



Key Considerations

Existing MPAs and Other Regulations

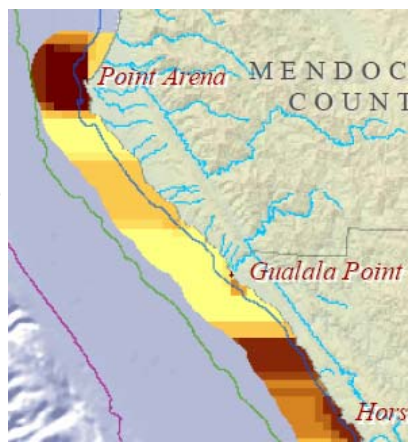
- Existing MPAs
 - Modification of boundaries/regulations
 - Incorporation without change
 - Proposed for deletion
- Rockfish Conservation Areas and other fishery closures





Subregion 1

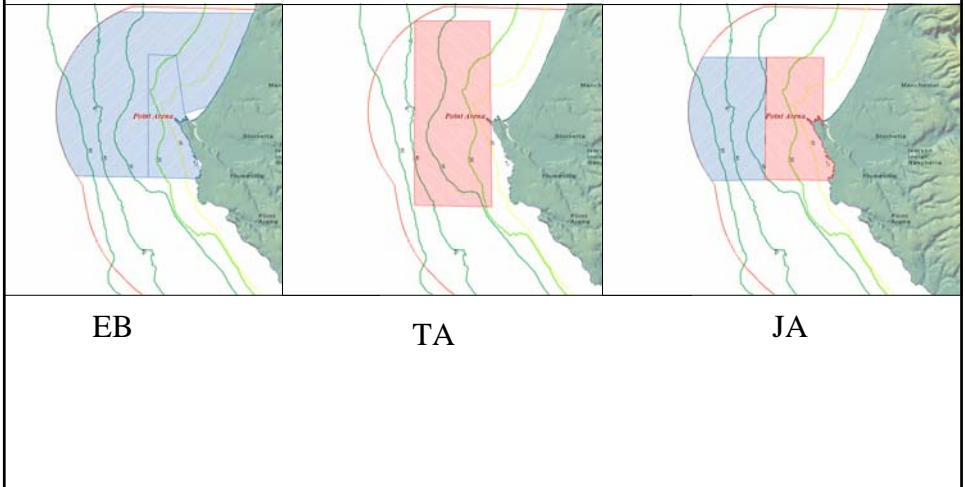
- Large upwelling center, fairly extensive rocky and kelp habitat (large near-shore reefs)
- Gualala and Garcia estuaries
- Port of Point Arena; Arena Cove
- Consideration of MPAs along private (Sea Ranch, etc.) vs. public land ownership
- Abalone fishery - Stornetta Ranch, abalone index site



Subregion 1

Some Point Arena boundary options

All Options include SMR or SMCA in this region



Subregion 1

Some Haven's Neck/Saunders boundary options
4 Options include MPAs in this area

EB JA D

Subregion 1

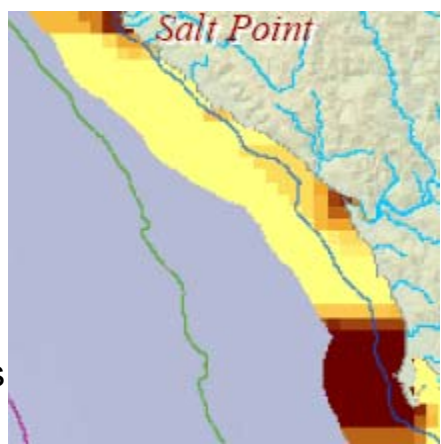
Some Salt Point boundary options
All options include an MPA in this area

A EA JA



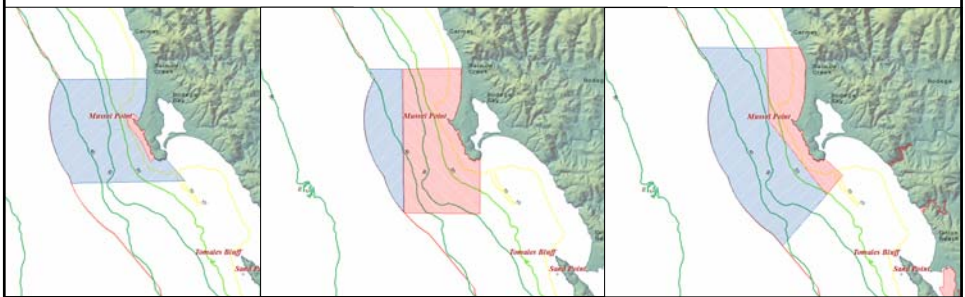
Subregion 2

- Nearby port of Bodega Bay – recreational and commercial fisheries (salmon, crab, rockfish)
- Russian River estuary
- Four abalone index sites
- Four existing small MPAs



Subregion 2

Some Bodega boundary options
 All options include an MPA in this area



A

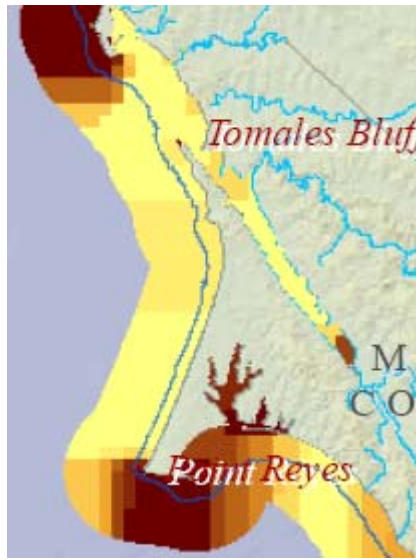
C

B



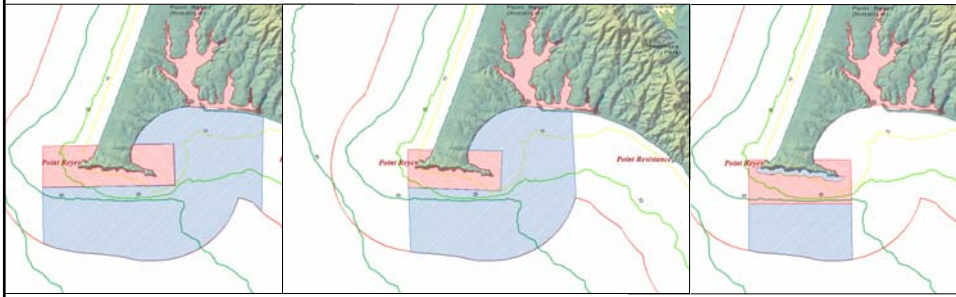
Subregion 3

- Characterized by rocky, sandy, and estuarine habitat
- Numerous bird and mammal rookeries
- Numerous estuaries (Tomales, Drakes, etc)
- Port of Bodega Bay – rockfish, salmon, crab, halibut fishing
- Tomales Bluff and Point Reyes important ecologically and economically
- Mariculture leases



Subregion 3

Some Point Reyes boundary options
 All options include an MPA around Pt. Reyes
 All options include SMR in Drakes Estero



TB

D

EB



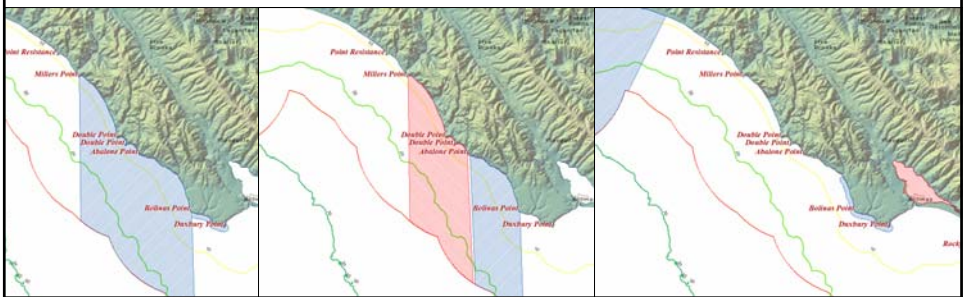
Subregion 4

- Influenced by output of SF Bay
- Ecologically/economically important Duxbury Reef
- Bird, mammal colonies
- Bolinas, San Francisco ports – rockfish, salmon, crab fisheries



Subregion 4

Some Duxbury/Bolinas boundary options
 Eight of Ten Options include an MPA in this area



EA

C

JA



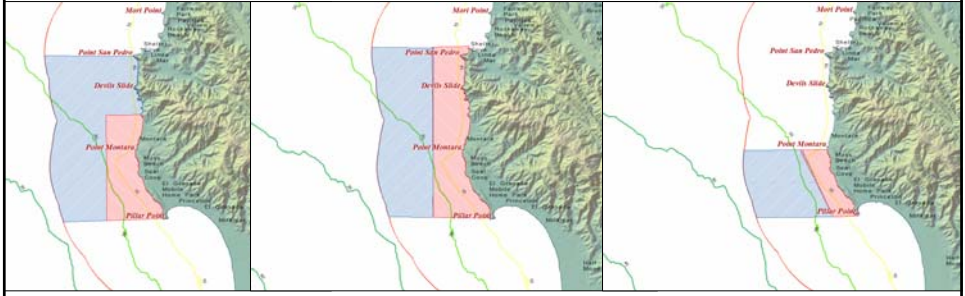
Subregion 5

- Shallow sandy shelf; more limited rocky habitat
- Important seabird colonies (eg. Devils Slide)
- Pescadero Marsh
- Port of Half Moon Bay – salmon, crab, rockfish, squid
- Existing Fitzgerald SMP



Subregion 5

Some Fitzgerald boundary options
 All options include an MPA in this area




JB

EA

A

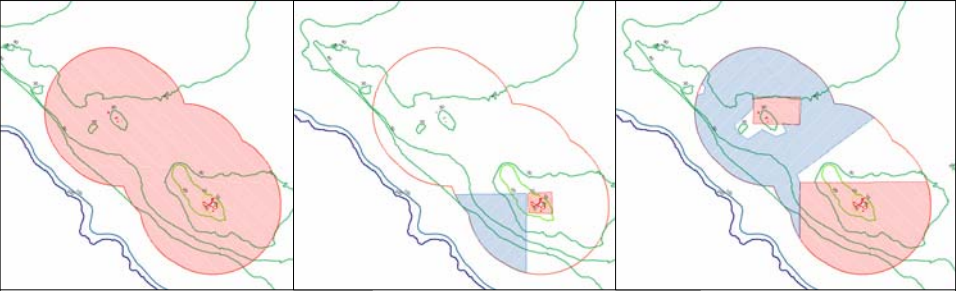
Subregion 6

- Unique habitats; globally significant bird and mammal colonies; deep water habitat
- Socioeconomic importance – recreational and commercial
- Rough weather/ anchorages
- Existing fishery regulations already protect some depth zones



Subregion 6

Some Farallones boundary options
All options include an MPA in this area



C A EA



Convergence

- NCCRSG members have expressed desire to converge to the extent possible
- Many areas of geographic overlap between arrays (though regulations and specific boundaries differ)
- Multiple array options attempt to address “key considerations” – BRTF and SAT guidance may facilitate winnowing