

California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Marine Protected Areas Update

Updated May 7, 2013

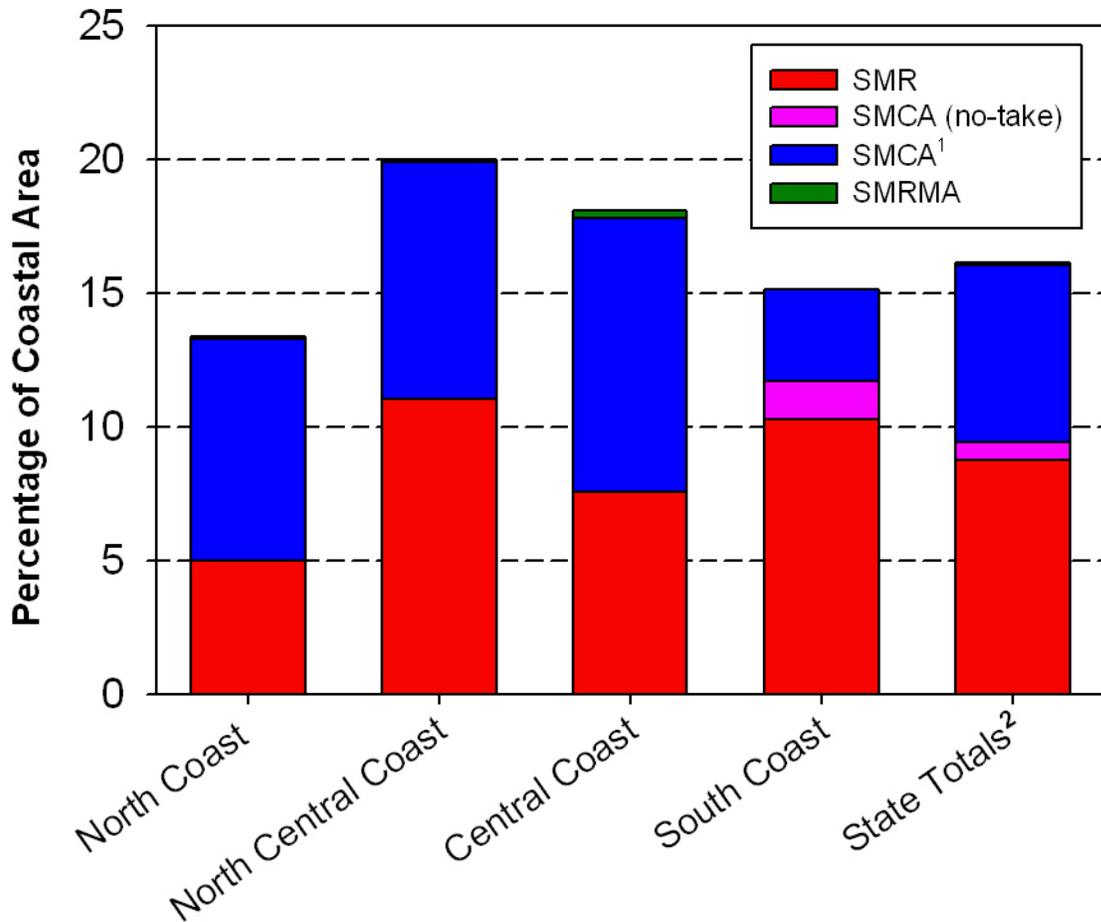
Passed by the California State Legislature in 1999, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) required the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to redesign its system of marine protected areas (MPAs) to increase its coherence and effectiveness at protecting the state's marine life, habitats, and ecosystems. For the purposes of MPA planning, a public-private partnership commonly referred to as the MLPA Initiative was established, and the state was split into five distinct regions (four coastal and the San Francisco Bay) each of which had its own MPA planning process. All four coastal regions have completed these individual planning processes. As a result the coastal portion of California's MPA network is now in effect statewide. Options for a planning process in the fifth and final region, the San Francisco Bay, have been developed for consideration at a future date.

There are different marine managed areas classifications used in California's MPA network. This includes three MPA designations (State Marine Reserve, State Marine Conservation Area, State Marine Park), a marine recreational management area (State Marine Recreational Management Area), and special closures:

- State Marine Reserve (SMR): Prohibits all take and consumptive use (commercial and recreational, living or geologic). Scientific research, and non-consumptive uses are allowed.
- State Marine Park (SMP): Prohibits commercial take but may allow select recreational harvest to continue. Scientific research and non-consumptive uses are allowed.
- State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA): May allow select recreational and commercial harvest to continue. Scientific research and non-consumptive uses are allowed.
- State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA): Provides subtidal protection equivalent to an MPA, while allowing legal waterfowl hunting. Scientific research and non-consumptive uses are allowed.
- Special closure: An area designated by the Fish and Game Commission that prohibits access or restricts boating activities in waters adjacent to sea bird rookeries or marine mammal haul-out sites.

Summary statistics for each marine managed area classification type as described above are provided below in Figure 1 and Tables 1-5. All reported values are current as of May 7, 2013 and are subject to change.

Figure 1. Percentage of each of the four California coastal regions and statewide total in protected areas.



¹ **SMCA/SMP** - The California Fish and Game Commission designated Cambria SMCA, which was subsequently also adopted as Cambria SMP by the State Park and Recreation Commission (August 2010) with the same boundaries and no change to regulations. The dual designation is represented in the central coast section of this report.

² State totals include all MPAs effective in the north coast, north central coast, central coast, and south coast regions, and do not include existing MPAs in the San Francisco Bay or special closures. Special closures were integrated into the MPA designation process and were used to provide further protections for breeding seabirds and marine mammals that would not otherwise be afforded by MPA designation within the same geographical location.

Statewide Totals: California covers a total of approximately 5,285 square miles (sq mi) of coastal state waters (excluding state waters in San Francisco Bay which represent approximately 473 sq mi). The statewide coastal network of marine managed areas (including 119 MPAs and five state marine management areas) covers approximately 852 sq mi¹ of state waters or about 16% or all

coastal state waters (approximately 9% is in SMRs). There are also 15 special closures. (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary statistics for protected areas within the entire statewide coastal network. These represent rounded values.

Type of Protected Area	Count	Area (sq mi) in All Coastal State Waters ¹	Percent of All Coastal State Waters ¹
SMR	48	463.23	8.76%
SMCA (no-take)	10	33.60	0.64%
SMCA	60	344.50	6.52%
SMCA/SMP ²	1	6.26	0.12%
SMRMA	5	4.43	0.08%
Special Closures	15	3.25	0.06%
Total³	124	852.02	16.12%

¹ Excluding state waters in San Francisco Bay.

² The California Fish and Game Commission designated Cambria SMCA, which was subsequently also adopted as Cambria SMP by the State Park and Recreation Commission (August 2010) with the same boundaries and no change to regulations. Therefore, this marine protected area has dual designations, as reflected in the table.

³ Statewide totals include all MPAs effective in the north coast, north central coast, central coast, and south coast regions, and do not include special closures or existing MPAs in the San Francisco Bay.

The following is a north to south regional summary of marine managed area classifications that occur within each region.

North Coast Region: This region covers approximately 1,027 sq mi of state waters from the California/Oregon border south to Alder Creek near Point Arena (Mendocino County). A network of 20 marine managed areas (including 19 MPAs one state marine recreational management area) covers approximately 137 sq mi of state waters or about 13% of the north coast region. These marine managed areas, along with seven special closures, were adopted June 6, 2012 by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) and went into effect on December 19, 2012. (Table 2)

Table 2. Summary statistics for protected areas within state waters in the north coast region. These represent rounded values.

Type of Protected Area	Count	Area (sq mi) in North Coast State Waters	Percent of North Coast State Waters
SMR	6	51.28	4.99%
SMCA	13	85.32	8.30%
SMRMA	1	0.81	0.08%
Special Closures ¹	7	0.20	0.02%
Total¹	20	137.41	13.37%

¹ Totals do not include special closures.

North-Central Coast Region: This region covers approximately 763 sq mi of state waters from Alder Creek near Point Arena (Mendocino County) south to Pigeon Point (San Mateo County). A network of 25 marine managed areas (including 22 MPAs and three state marine recreational management areas) covers approximately 152 sq mi of state waters or about 20% of the north central coast region. These marine managed areas, along with six special closures, were adopted August 5, 2009 by the Commission and went into effect May 1, 2010. (Table 3)

Table 3. Summary statistics for protected areas within state waters in the north central coast region. These represent rounded values.

Type of Protected Area	Count	Area (sq mi) in North Central Coast State Waters	Percent of North Central Coast State Waters
SMR	10	84.24	11.04%
SMCA	12	67.61	8.86%
SMRMA	3	0.56	0.07%
Special Closures ¹	6	1.16	0.15%
Total¹	25	152.41	19.97%

¹ Totals do not include special closures.

Central Coast Region: This region covers approximately 1,144 sq mi of state waters from Pigeon Point (San Mateo County) south to Point Conception (Santa Barbara County). A network of 29 marine managed areas (including 28 MPAs) covers approximately 207 sq mi of state waters or about 18% of the central coast region. These marine managed areas were adopted April 13, 2007 by the Commission and went into effect September 21, 2007. (Table 4)

Table 4. Summary statistics for protected areas within state waters in the central coast region. These represent rounded values.

Type of Protected Area	Count	Area (sq mi) in Central Coast State Waters	Percent of Central Coast State Waters
SMR	13	86.25	7.54%
SMCA	14	111.21	9.72%
SMCA/SMP ¹	1	6.26	0.55%
SMRMA	1	3.07	0.27%
Total	29	206.7	18.08%

¹ **SMCA/SMP** - The California Fish and Game Commission designated Cambria SMCA, which was subsequently also adopted as Cambria SMP by the State Park and Recreation Commission (August 2010) with the same boundaries and no change to regulations. Therefore, this marine protected area has dual designations, as reflected in the table.

South Coast Region: This region covers approximately 2,351 sq mi of state waters from Point Conception (Santa Barbara County) south to the California/Mexico border, including state waters around the Channel Islands. A network of 50 MPAs (including 13 previously established at the northern Channel Islands that were retained without change) covers approximately 355 sq mi of state waters or about 15% of the south coast region. These marine managed areas, along with two special closures, were adopted December 15, 2010 by the Commission and went into effect on January 1, 2012 (Table 5).

Table 5. Summary statistics for protected areas within state waters in the south coast region. These represent rounded values.

Type of Protected Area	Count	Area (sq mi) in South Coast State Waters	Percent of South Coast State Waters
SMR	19	241.546	10.27%
SMCA (no-take)	11	33.60	1.43%
SMCA	20	80.36	3.42%
Special Closures ¹	2	1.89	0.08%
Total¹	50	355.42	15.12%

¹ Totals include northern Channel Islands MPAs (effective since 2003), and do not include special closures.