

California Department of Parks and Recreation
California State Parks Evaluation of North Coast Round 1 External
Proposed MPA Arrays
March 23, 2010

As both trustee and managing agency overseeing nearly 30% of the state's coastline, California State Parks has a responsibility to ensure that marine protected area (MPA) proposals are consistent with management objectives of existing state park units and to evaluate those MPAs proposed for inclusion into the California State Park System for consistency with California State Park policies, goals and objectives. In March 2010 the North Coast Regional Stakeholders Group (NCRSG) was presented with the California State Parks' *Guidelines for Creating Marine Managed Areas*.

California State Parks has reviewed the external proposed MPA arrays as well as subsequent NCRSG proposals. In this round of evaluation, the California State Parks review was limited in scope and covered only proposed MPAs that were adjacent to California State Park terrestrial units and those proposed MPAs that are not adjacent to California State Park lands but which, by statute, California State Parks would bear management responsibilities (i.e. state marine parks). These evaluations were carried out by California State Park Natural Resources staff in coordination with staff from two California State Park districts responsible for managing units in the MLPA North Coast Study Region.

In reviewing the proposed MPAs, the primary considerations were: 1) consistency of the proposed MPA designation and regulation with California State Park unit purpose; 2) recognizable boundaries for management and enforcement; 3) non-adjacent proposed state marine parks (SMPs); and 4) existing California State Park underwater units. Within the tables that follow, are comments specific to each MPA in each external array.

Generally, the proposed MPAs were not inconsistent with California State Park management plans, goals or priorities. An example of an MPA inconsistent with a Park unit is a proposed MPA that restricts shore angling off a park unit for which the primary purpose is public access for fishing. There are a few such instances among these arrays. However, it is important to note that this inconsistency would not necessarily preclude the designation of such an MPA, provided that nearby access opportunities still exist.

Boundary issues were straightforward and are easily remedied either by alignment with park boundaries or by the use of landmarks that are easily recognizable on the ground. The proposed designations of SMPs, in particular those not connected to terrestrial California State Park units, require special attention. In these instances, it is important that the intent of the designation be specific with respect to proposed California State Park management of that unit. In this portion of the MLPA process, the California Fish and Game Commission can only designate a state marine reserve (SMR), a state marine conservation area (SMCA), or a state marine recreational management area (SMRMA) specific to hunting. Since the actual designation of an SMP will be made by the Park and Recreation Commission at a later date, any proposed SMP will initially be designated by the California Fish and Game Commission as an SMCA.

Within the study region, California State Parks has three existing underwater units. These units are extensions of existing terrestrial units through long-term leases. Since it is the intent of

California State Parks to maintain these units within the California State Park system, it would be advantageous to have these units incorporated into larger MPAs or at least left as they are.

Finally, the use of “stewardship zones” with mobile SMCAs, as proposed in one array, are impractical from the point of view of California State Parks, as well as not fitting the definition of an MPA in both the Marine Life Protection Act and the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act. For logistical and enforcement feasibility reasons, this mobile system would not be feasible for California State Parks.

The following pages contain graphic tables summarizing California State Parks’ evaluation of the external MPA arrays.

Table 1: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array A

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Pyramid Point (FS) SMCA	Pelican State Beach	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Reading Rock (FS) SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
Ten Mile (FS) SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	
Ten Mile Estuary SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
Point Cabrillo (FS) SMR	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Note: shipwreck the Frolic is located in small cove to the north of the lighthouse. Adjusting the north boundary to include it would add protection of a cultural resource.
Navarro River Estuary SMR	Navarro River Redwoods State Park	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	Upstream portion of MPA may be difficult to enforce by State Parks.

Table 2: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array B

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Pyramid Point SMR	Pelican State Beach	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Reading Rock SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
Ten Mile SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Use landmarks or park boundary for MPA boundary placement.
Ten Mile Beach SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Use landmarks or park boundary for MPA boundary placement.
Ten Mile Estuary SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
Point Cabrillo SMCA	Caspar Headlands State Beach	yes	no	no	no	no	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Point Cabrillo SMR	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Note: shipwreck the Frolic is located in small cove to the north of the lighthouse.
Navarro River Estuary SMR	Navarro River Redwoods State Park	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	Upstream portion of MPA may be difficult to enforce by State Parks.

Table 3: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array C

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Pyramid Point SMCA	Pelican State Beach	yes	no	yes	no	yes	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Reading Rock Coastline SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
Ten Mile SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	
Ten Mile Estuary SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
MacKerricher SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.
Point Cabrillo SMCA	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Note: shipwreck the Frolic is located in small cove to the north of the lighthouse.
Russian Gulch SMCA	Russian Gulch State Park	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
Big River Estuary SMP	Mendocino Headlands State Park; Mendocino Woodlands State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	
Van Damme SMCA	Van Damme State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.
Albion River Estuary SMP		yes	no	no	N/A	N/A	N/A	This SMP is not adjacent to a State Parks unit. Management needs to be addressed.
Navarro River Estuary SMCA	Navarro River Redwoods State Park	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	Upstream portion of MPA may be difficult to enforce by State Parks.

Table 4: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array D

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Pyramid Point SMR	Pelican State Beach	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Reading Rock SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
Patrick's Point SMCA	Humboldt Lagoons State Park; Patrick's Point State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	Shore angling is an important recreational component.
Ten Mile River Estuary SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
MacKerricher SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.
Point Cabrillo SMR	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	no	Russian Gulch State Park is a very active abalone dive site
Big River Estuary SMP	Mendocino Headlands State Park; Mendocino Woodlands State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	
Van Damme SMCA	Van Damme State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.
Albion River Estuary SMP		yes	no	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	This SMP is not adjacent to a State Parks unit. Management needs to be addressed.
Navarro River Estuary SMR	Navarro River Redwoods State Park	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	Upstream portion of MPA may be difficult to enforce by State Parks.

Table 5: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array E

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Pyramid Point SMCA	Pelican State Beach	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
False Klamath SMCA	Del Norte Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	
Reading Rock SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
S.E.A. Ten Mile SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	
S.E.A. Ten Mile Estuary SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
MacKerricher SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.
Point Cabrillo SMR	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Note: shipwreck the Frolic is located in small cove to the north of the lighthouse.
Russian Gulch SMCA	Russian Gulch State Park	no	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
Big River Estuary SMP	Mendocino Headlands State Park; Mendocino Woodlands State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	yes	yes	
Van Damme SMCA	Van Damme State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.

Table 6: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array F

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Pyramid Point SMCA	Pelican State Beach	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Reading Rock SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
Ten Mile SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	
Ten Mile Beach SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Use landmarks or park boundary for MPA boundary placement.
Ten Mile Estuary SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
MacKerricher SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.
Point Cabrillo SMCA	Caspar Headlands State Beach	yes	no	no	no	no	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Point Cabrillo SMR	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Note: shipwreck the Frolic is located in small cove to the north of the lighthouse.
Russian Gulch SMCA	Russian Gulch State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.
Van Damme SMCA	Van Damme State Park	no	yes	yes	yes	yes	yes	Size and level of protection are minimal (see CCR title 14, sec. 29). An opportunity exists to improve this MMA.

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Navarro River Estuary SMR	Navarro River Redwoods State Park	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	Upstream portion of MPA may be difficult to enforce by State Parks.

Table 7: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array G

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Pyramid Point SMCA	Pelican State Beach	no	no	yes	no	yes	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Reading Rock SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
Ten Mile SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Use landmarks or park boundary for MPA boundary placement.
Ten Mile Beach SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Use landmarks or park boundary for MPA boundary placement.
Ten Mile Estuary SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
Point Cabrillo SMCA	Caspar Headlands State Beach	yes	no	no	no	no	no	Closes state beach for shore fishing. "State Beach" is a designated state recreation area according to Public Resources Code (sec. 5019.56).
Point Cabrillo SMR	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Note: shipwreck the Frolic is located in small cove to the north of the lighthouse.
Navarro River Estuary SMR	Navarro River Redwoods State Park	yes	no	yes	yes	no	no	Upstream portion of MPA may be difficult to enforce by State Parks.

Table 8: State Parks Evaluation of External Proposed MPA Array H

Proposed MPA	State Park Unit(s)	Provide special protection for intertidal species and habitats.	Provide important venues for special marine interpretation and education programs	Facilitate law enforcement needed to protect and perpetuate important natural and cultural resource values.	MPA designation is consistent with State Park General Plan or purpose.	MPA boundary is feasible	Aligned with recreational uses	Other issues / comments
Reading Rock SMCA	Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	no	Gold Bluffs beach popular for shore angling.
Ten Mile SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Use landmarks or park boundary for MPA boundary placement.
Ten Mile Beach SMCA	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Use landmarks or park boundary for MPA boundary placement.
Ten Mile Estuary SMR	MacKerricher State Park	yes	yes	no	yes	no	yes	
Point Cabrillo SMR	Point Cabrillo Light Station State Historic Park	yes	yes	yes	yes	no	yes	Note: shipwreck the Frolic is located in small cove to the north of the lighthouse.