

1

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative




Draft Methods Used to Evaluate MPA Proposals in the MLPA North Coast Study Region

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2

Evaluation Methods Document



Changes for review and approval:

- **Chapter 3: Protection Levels** (changes described in previous presentation, B1)
- **Chapter 4: Habitat Representation Analyses** (changes described in this presentation)
- **Chapter 7: MPA Spacing** (suggested changes described in this presentation)



Chapter 4: Habitat Representation Analyses

New text describing evaluation of "ribbon" MPAs:

Due to the strong depth dependence of nearshore marine communities, only MPAs that encompass the full range of depths from 0-30m are likely to include the complete suite of biodiversity species associated with these nearshore habitats. For this reason the SAT only considers those MPAs or MPA clusters that encompass the entire depth zone, from the shoreline to 30m depth, to contribute toward representation of nearshore habitats (0-30m rock, 0-30m soft bottom, and kelp) in the MPA network. In cases where the 0-30m depth zone is split across multiple MPAs with different levels of protection, these nearshore habitats are evaluated at the lowest level of protection (LOP) afforded within the 0-30m depth zone. For example, shoreline or "ribbon" MPAs that confine uses to a narrow band along the shoreline may lower the level of protection afforded to the shallowest portion of the 0-30m depth zone and alter the unique marine communities specific to this depth zone.

MPA = marine protected areas m = meters SAT = MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team

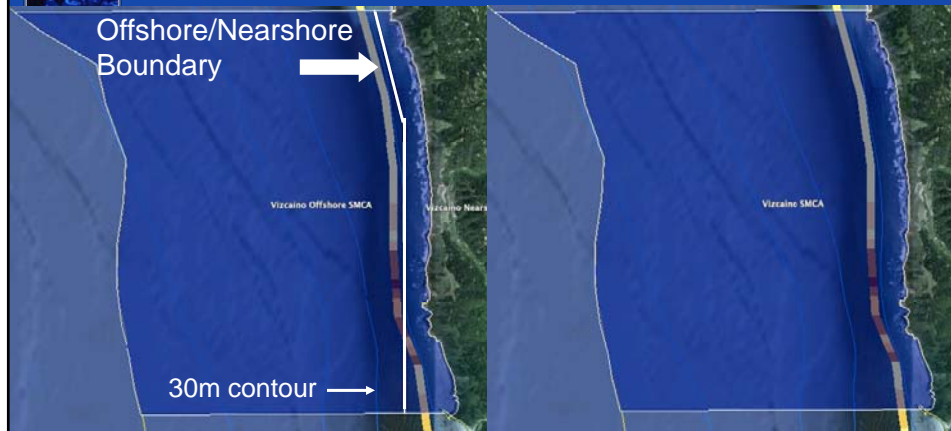


Chapter 4: Habitat Representation Analyses

New text (cont ...)

... Furthermore, take activities allowed within the ribbon MPA may alter the abundances of species across the entire 0-30m zone if the species utilize a range of depths either through movement of individuals or through seasonal or ontogenetic shifts in habitat use. Thus, in the case of an MPA configuration that includes an offshore MPA with a higher LOP and a nearshore ribbon MPA with a lower LOP, representation of nearshore (0-30m) habitats will be assessed at the lower LOP assigned to the ribbon MPA.

Nearshore "Ribbon" Example: Vizcaino



ECA

- Offshore LOP = Moderate High
- Nearshore LOP = Low

RNCP

- LOP = Low

ECA = North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal

RNCP = Revised Round 3 North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group MPA Proposal

Chapter 7: MPA Spacing

Suggested new clarifying text:

In the MLPA North Coast Study Region, spacing will be measured between MPAs that contain replicates of the same habitats, extending from the nearest MPA established in the MLPA North Central Coast Study Region to the nearest potential habitat replicate north of the California-Oregon border. Because detailed habitat mapping was not readily available for Oregon waters, the California-Oregon border was used as the northern endpoint for all open coast habitats and the southernmost estuary in Oregon of at least the minimum estuarine size (Chetco River) was used as the northern endpoint for all estuarine habitats.