

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Overview of North Central Coast MPA Proposals and Recommended Integrated Preferred Alternative

Presentation to the California Fish and Game Commission and the
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
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MPAs and Other Designations

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

- State marine reserve (SMR) – no extraction
- State marine park (SMP) – may allow/limit recreational extraction, prohibits commercial
- State marine conservation area (SMCA) – may allow/limit recreational or commercial extraction

Other Designations:

- State marine recreational management area (SMRMA) – may limit take of marine resources; recommended by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in areas with existing waterfowl hunting
- Special closures – year-round or seasonal no access zones for protection of sensitive populations



Design of MPA Proposals

Inputs into marine protected area design:

- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) guidance – create several alternatives that meet requirements of the MLPA, meet the science guidelines, and have broad cross-interest support; and limited use of special closures
- Science guidelines – habitat representation, replication, size and spacing of MPAs
- CDFG guidance – feasibility, measurable goals and objectives
- Ecological and socioeconomic considerations
- Local knowledge and spatial data – habitats, important ecological features, areas of importance to fisheries and other users, etc.
- Public comments, stakeholder input



Evolution of MPA Proposals

Round 1- October '07 (10 options + existing MPAs)

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)
- 6 North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Options
- 4 Draft External Proposals



Round 2- December '07 (5 draft proposals + existing MPAs)

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)
- 4 Draft NCCRSG Proposals
- 1 Revised Draft External Proposal



Round 3- March '08 (3 final proposals + existing MPAs)

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)
- 3 NCCRSG Proposals (Proposal 1-3, Proposal 2-XA, Proposal 4)

BRTF Recommendation

BRTF Meeting - April 22-23, 2008

5 MPA proposals forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission:

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs) – no action alternative
- 3 NCCRSR Proposals (1-3, 2-XA, 4) – forwarded in their entirety, stakeholders directed to ensure goals/objectives consistent with MPA design and intent
- Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA) - recommendation by the MLPA BRTF to be the preferred alternative
 - Developed at the BRTF meeting through interactive dialog with stakeholders
 - Integrates elements from all three NCCRSR proposals to meet goals of MLPA, science guidelines, and bridge gap among stakeholder proposals

Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)

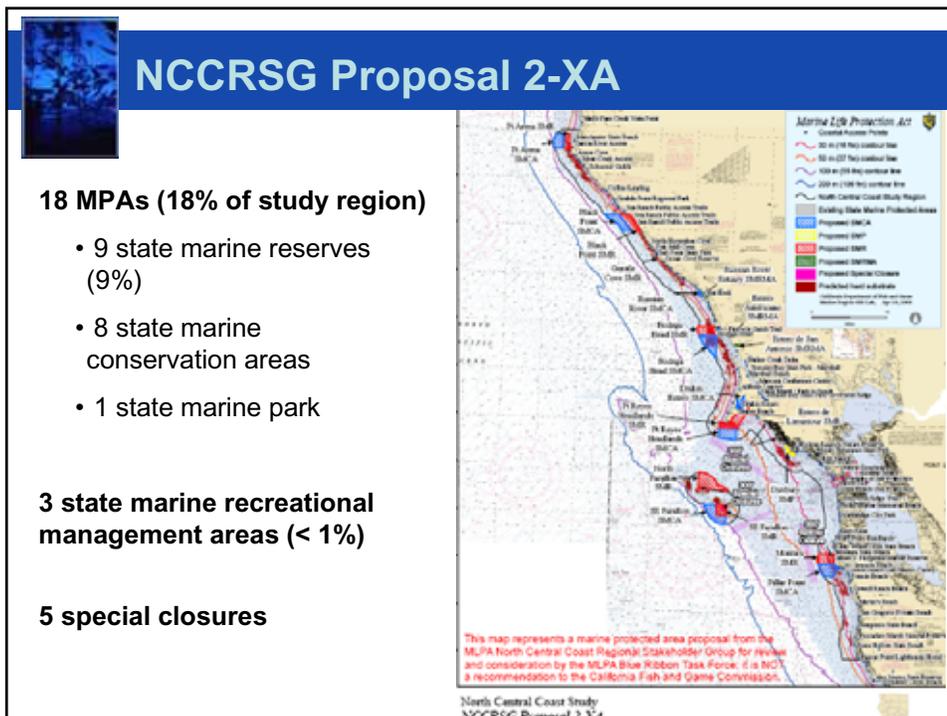
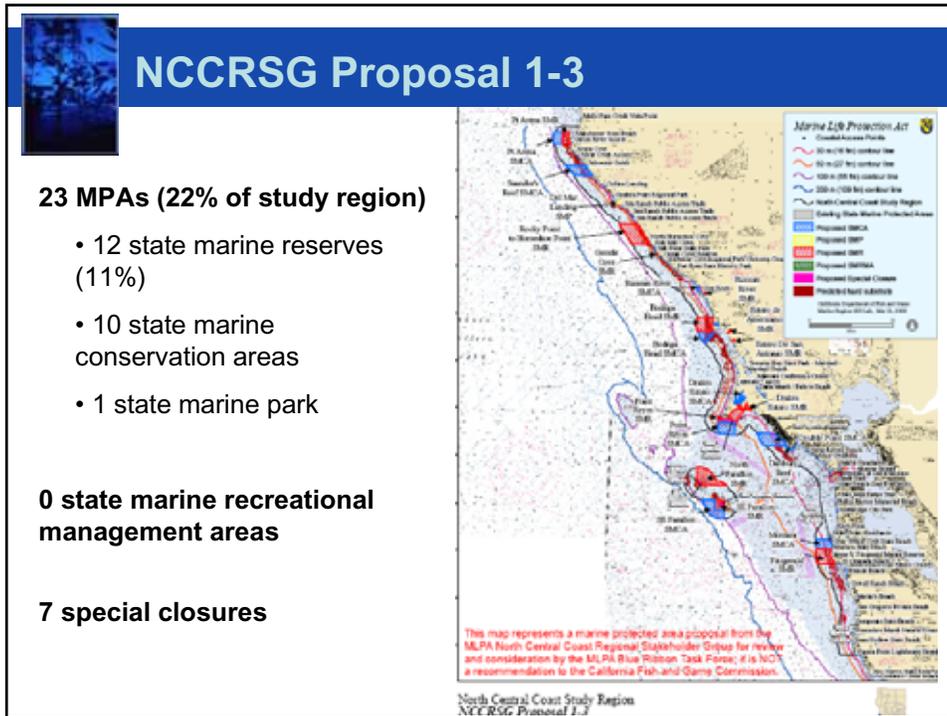
13 MPAs (< 4% of study region)

- 1 state marine reserve (<1%)
- 10 state marine conservation areas
- 2 state marine parks

0 state marine recreational management areas

0 special closures

Map 1 North Central Coast Study Region and Existing State Marine Protected Areas



NCCRSR Proposal 4

28 MPAs (27% of study region)

- 15 state marine reserves (14%)
- 12 state marine conservation areas
- 1 state marine park

0 state marine recreational management areas

7 special closures

This map represents a marine protected area proposal from the MLPA North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group for review and consideration by the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force; it is NOT a recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

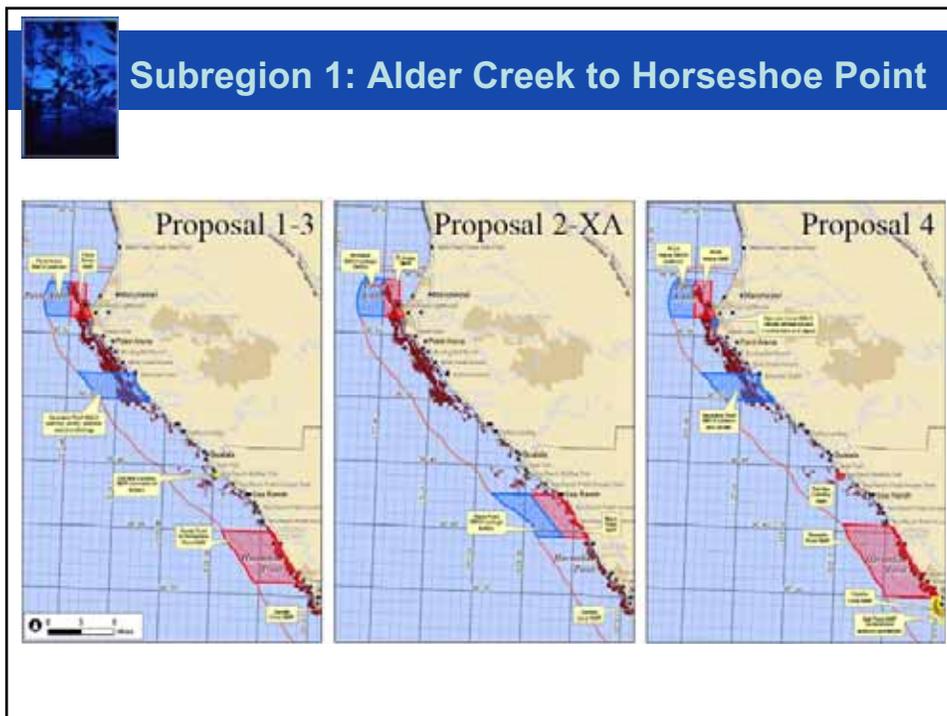
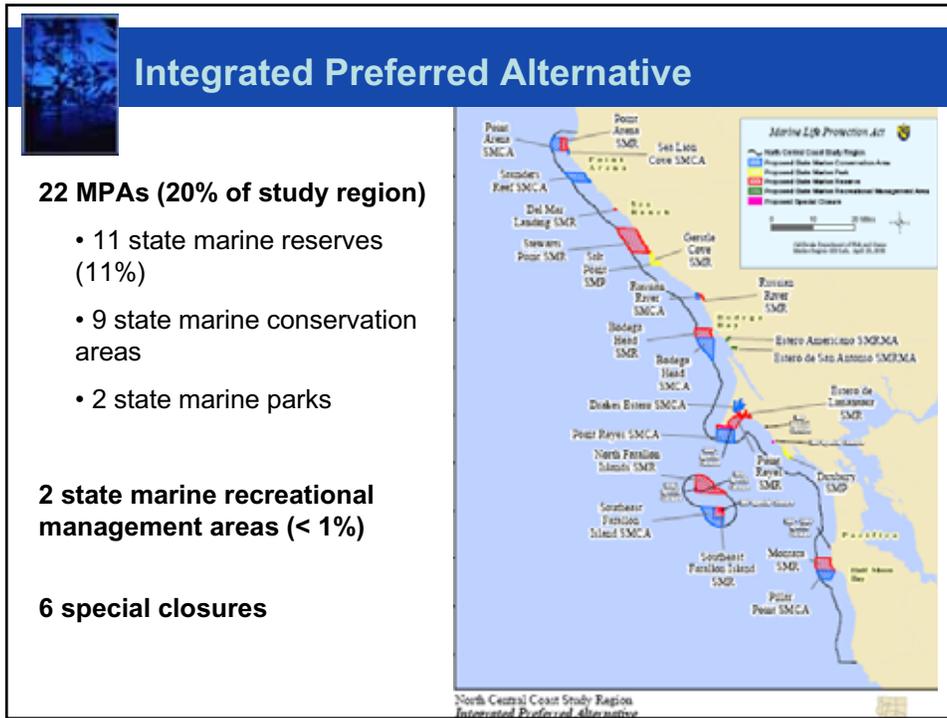
North Central Coast Study Region
NCCRSR Proposal 4

Geographic Convergence Among Proposals

Development of Integrated Preferred Alternative facilitated by:

- Strong geographic convergence among stakeholder proposals
- Stakeholder proposals designed to meet goals of MLPA and science guidelines, while also presenting a range of options

North Central Coast Study Region
NCCRSR Proposal 4



Subregion 1: Alder Creek to Horseshoe Point



Point Arena SMR/SMCA cluster
 Near convergence among all three NCCRSR proposals; used Proposal 1-3 design
 Northern “backbone” of system; supported by local port and community; minimized socioeconomic impacts

Sea Lion Cove SMCA
 Used Proposal 4 design
 Protection of abalone population and intertidal resources; strong local support

Saunders Reef SMCA
 Design from proposals 1-3 and 4; regulations from Proposal 4; boundary modified to integrate Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) preferences
 Protects expansive kelp forest and reef; allowed uses minimize socioeconomic impacts

Del Mar Landing SMR
 Design from proposal 4; with strong local support

Subregion 2: Horseshoe Point to Bodega Head



Subregion 2: Horseshoe Point to Bodega Head



Salt Point SMR/SMP cluster

- From Proposal 4, modified with DPR input
- Protects range of habitats to state waters in SMR; SMP expands recreational opportunities
- Balances across consumptive/non-consumptive interests and public/private land holdings and access

Gerstle Cove SMR

- Consensus design in all three proposals; protects small cove with high visitor use

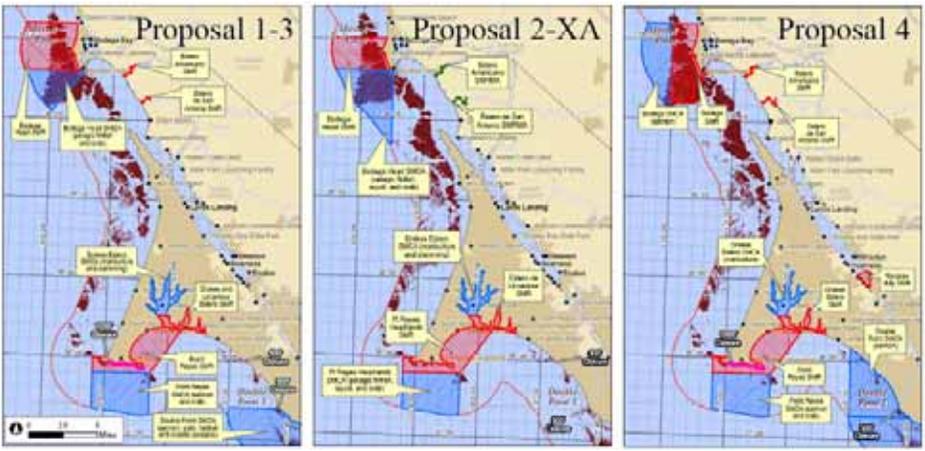
Russian River SMR/SMCA cluster

- From Proposal 1-3 but near consensus in all three proposals; protects estuary and salmonid aggregations

Bodega Head SMR/SMCA cluster

- Design from Proposal 2-XA; moderate-high protection "backbone" component
- Protects range of habitats; minimizes socioeconomic impacts; "stacked" design facilitates study opportunities

Subregion 3: Bodega Head to Double Point



Subregion 3: Bodega Head to Double Point



Estero Americano SMRMA and Estero de San Antonio SMRMA

From Proposal 2-XA but near consensus design in all three proposals

SMRMA designation allows waterfowl hunting; also protects estuarine habitats

Point Reyes SMR/SMCA cluster

From Proposal 1-3 but similar design in all three proposals

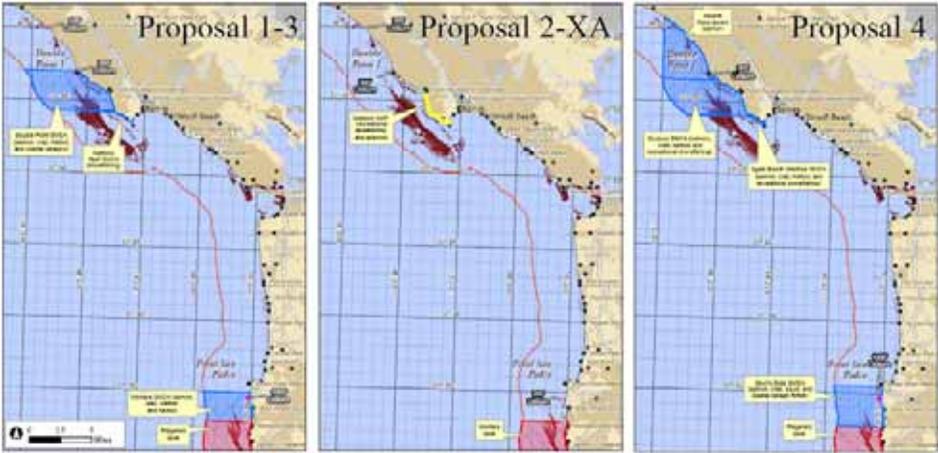
Protects range of habitats and unique headland and retention zone

Estero de Limantour SMR / Drakes Estero SMCA

From Proposal 1-3, but similar design in all three proposals

Protects estuarine habitat; SMCA allows for existing mariculture operation and clamming

Subregion 4: Double Point to Point San Pedro



Proposal 1-3

Proposal 2-XA

Proposal 4

Subregion 4: Double Point to Point San Pedro



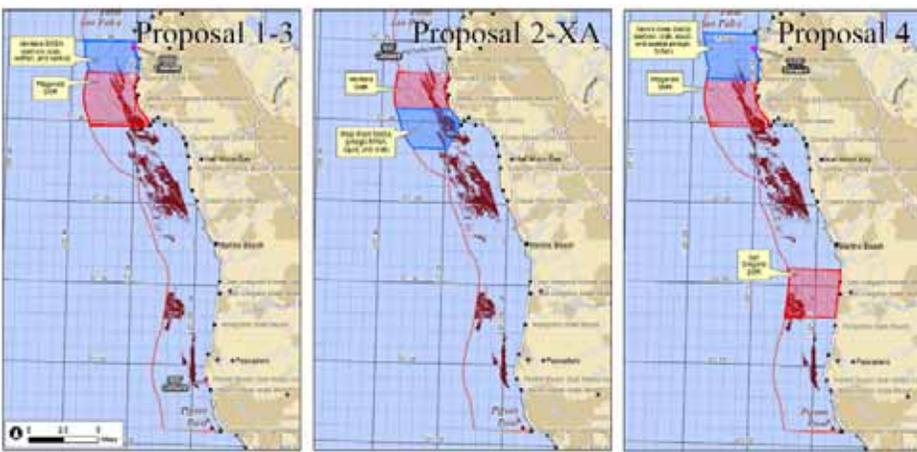
Duxbury Reef SMP

From Proposal 2-XA

Protects most rocky intertidal resources; maintains existing MPA with educational and research history

Minimizes socioeconomic impacts in this area, which is important to fishermen from both Bolinas and San Francisco

Subregion 5: Point San Pedro to Pigeon Point



Proposal 1-3

Proposal 2-XA

Proposal 4

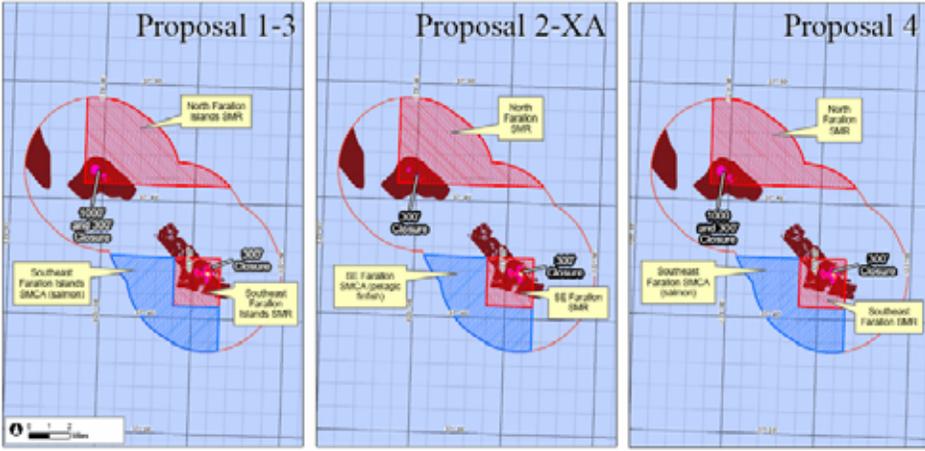
Subregion 5: Point San Pedro to Pigeon Point



Montara SMR / Pillar Point SMCA cluster

- From Proposal 2-XA, but modified to incorporate input from DPR and stakeholders
- Protects range of habitats in SMR of at least minimum size; southern component of "backbone" of MPAs, with moderate-high protection
- Strong community support to expand existing Fitzgerald MPA; "stacked" design facilitates study opportunities
- Placing SMCA on southern end of cluster minimizes impacts to recreational and commercial user users

Subregion 6: Farallon Islands



Proposal 1-3

- North Farallon Islands SMR
- 3007 and 3008 Closures
- Southeast Farallon Islands SMCA (BARTON)
- Southeast Farallon Islands SMR

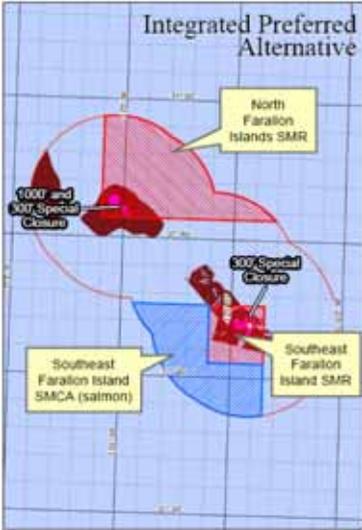
Proposal 2-XA

- North Farallon SMR
- 3007 Closure
- SE Farallon SMCA (peragic facility)
- SE Farallon SMR

Proposal 4

- North Farallon SMR
- 3007 and 3008 Closures
- Southeast Farallon SMCA (BARTON)
- Southeast Farallon SMR

Subregion 6: Farallon Islands



North Farallon Islands SMR

Consensus design in all three proposals

Protects range of habitats in preferred size SMR; minimizes socioeconomic impacts

Southeast Farallon SMR/SMCA cluster

Consensus design in all three proposals

Protects range of habitats in preferred size high protection MPA cluster; minimizes socioeconomic impacts

Six Special Closures in IPA

- Special closures – no access zones designed to protect seabird and/or marine mammal populations, year-round
- Incorporated designs from NCCRSR proposals and input from Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
 - Modified Devils Slide/ Egg Rock proposal per feasibility guidance
 - Added seasonal component to Southeast Farallon design, per stakeholder input

<p>Point Reyes Headland</p> 	<p>Stormy Stack</p> 
<p>Point Resistance</p> 	<p>Devils Slide / Egg Rock</p> 
<p>North Farallones</p> 	<p>Southeast Farallon</p> 



Summary

- Stakeholders worked very hard and successfully to develop range of alternatives and to achieve a high degree of convergence
- BRTF integrated all three NCCRSG proposals into the Integrated Preferred Alternative
- BRTF unanimously voted to forward five proposals to California Fish and Game Commission for review and consideration:
 - Proposal 0 (existing MPAs, no action alternative)
 - Proposals 1-3, 2-XA and 4 (from NCCRSG)
 - Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA)
- BRTF unanimously voted to recommend adoption of the Integrated Preferred Alternative as the preferred alternative moving forward