

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Summary of the Goal 3 Evaluation for the
MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Recommendations
Document created January 14, 2011

At its meeting on October 25-26, the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) adopted seven motions with recommendations related to marine protected areas (MPAs) and special closures in the MLPA North Coast Study Region. Only three of these motions require the consideration of Goal 3.

The first recommendation forwards the Revised Round 3 North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal (RNCP) to the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) for consideration. The revisions to the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal were minor and limited to MPA name changes and updates to recreational uses intended to accommodate tribal uses. Thus the results of the Goal 3 evaluation for the revised proposal are the same as for the original, and the Goal 3 findings for the round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal apply to the RNCP (see Attachment A for the Goal 3 results from Round 3).

The BRTF is also forwarding the North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (ECA) to the Commission. The placement of MPAs is the same in the ECA and RNCP. However, the ECA adds nearshore ribbon SMCAs to four MPAs, adds recreational take of pelagic finfish by spearfishing, and reduces the proposed allowed uses in the offshore SMCAs that are clustered with the nearshore ribbons. After a review of the Goal 3 evaluation, staff determined an additional evaluation was not necessary for ECA given the modifications would not change the results of the Goal 3 analysis. The results of the evaluation for the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal also apply to the ECA.

The BRTF's last recommendation related to Goal 3 proposes to retain three existing MPAs with modifications: MacKerricher State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA), Russian Gulch SMCA and Van Damme SMCA. Should the three existing SMCAs be added to any of the proposals, as recommended by the BRTF, then the Goal 3 evaluation would be subject to change. As a reminder, only MPAs that have been specifically identified as Goal 3 MPAs will be considered in the MLPA Goal 3 evaluation. For more details on the Goal 3 evaluation, please refer to: <http://www.nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=24253>.

California MLPA North Coast Project
Evaluation of the Round 3 North Coast Regional Stakeholder
Group MPA Proposal Relative to Goal 3 of the Marine Life Protection Act
Document created October 21, 2010

California Marine Life Protection Act, Goal 3:

“To improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity.”

(Subsection 2853(b)(3), California Fish and Game Code)

Background

In the MLPA North Coast Study Region (NCSR), staff members drafted a Goal 3 guidance document to assist stakeholders in addressing Goal 3 while designing their proposed marine protected area (MPA) proposals. The guidance document also outlined new evaluation methods designed by MLPA Initiative staff members to provide more information than Goal 3 evaluations have in previous study regions. The refined Goal 3 evaluation better aligns with those conducted by two state agencies, the California Department of Fish and Game and the California Department of Parks and Recreation. After an opportunity for public comment, the guidance document was finalized in May and the refined evaluation methods were implemented in Rounds 2 and 3 of the north coast process.

According to the guidance document, MPA proposals will be considered to adequately address Goal 3 if each of the three elements (recreational, educational, and study opportunities) are improved in at least one MPA in each of the two bioregions in the NCSR. In order for an MPA to be considered in the Goal 3 evaluation, the stakeholders had to specifically identify each Goal 3 MPA and explain how it contributes to one or more of the Goal 3 elements. This evaluation provides a summary of how well Proposal 0 (existing MPAs) and the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal addressed Goal 3.

Proposal 0

Proposal 0 has 5 existing MPAs that could be considered to address Goal 3, and do address all three Goal 3 elements in the southern bioregion (see Table 1 and Map 1). However, Proposal 0 has no existing MPAs in the northern bioregion, so it does not address any Goal 3 opportunities for that bioregion (see Map 1).

Table 1. MPAs in Proposal 0 that contribute to Goal 3

MPA	Bioregion ¹	Recreational	Educational	Study
Punta Gorda SMR	Southern			Yes
MacKerricher SMCA	Southern	Yes	Yes	
Point Cabrillo SMCA	Southern	Yes	Yes	Yes
Russian Gulch SMCA	Southern	Yes	Yes	
Van Damme SMCA	Southern	Yes	Yes	
Total MPAs in Northern Bioregion		0	0	0
Total MPAs in Southern Bioregion		4	4	2
Total MPAs		4	4	2

¹ Northern Bioregion extends from the California/Oregon border to the Mattole River. The Southern Bioregion extends from Mattole River to Alder Creek.

Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal

The Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal had twelve MPAs identified as contributing to Goal 3; six in the northern bioregion and six in the southern bioregion (see Table 2 and Map 2). The even distribution of MPAs in each of the bioregions helps ensure that Goal 3 opportunities are available throughout the study region. The proposal fully meets the Goal 3 guidelines by including at least one MPA in each bioregion that improves recreational, educational, or study opportunities. Four MPAs improved multiple Goal 3 elements; two of those improved all three Goal 3 elements. At the study region scale, large number of Goal 3 MPAs improved study opportunities and/or recreational opportunities with more study opportunities offered in the northern bioregion and more recreational opportunities offered in the southern bioregion.

A number of MPAs included in the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal did receive a lower level of protection (LOP) from the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) due to the accommodation of tribal uses. These LOPs were taken into consideration during the Goal 3 evaluation and specifically impacted whether an MPA was considered to improve study opportunities. In general, most MPAs identified as contributing to study opportunities had higher LOPs. Pyramid Point SMCA was one MPA identified by the stakeholders as improving study opportunities, but it was not included for that element given its lower level of protection. Some MPAs with lower LOPs were identified as contributing to study opportunities, if they were accessible and had existing monitoring efforts or monitoring sites.

The Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal did improve upon Goal 3 evaluation relative to draft MPA proposals developed in Round 2. Two major issues found in the Round 2 evaluations were 1) most draft MPA proposals did not address educational opportunities for the northern bioregion and 2) many Round 2 MPAs did not provide sufficient information for how they contribute to Goal 3. The NCRSG addressed both these issues in its Round 3 proposal and as such the

Goal 3 guidelines have been met and improved relative to Proposal 0 and Round 2 draft proposals.

Table 2. MPAs in the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal that contribute to Goal 3

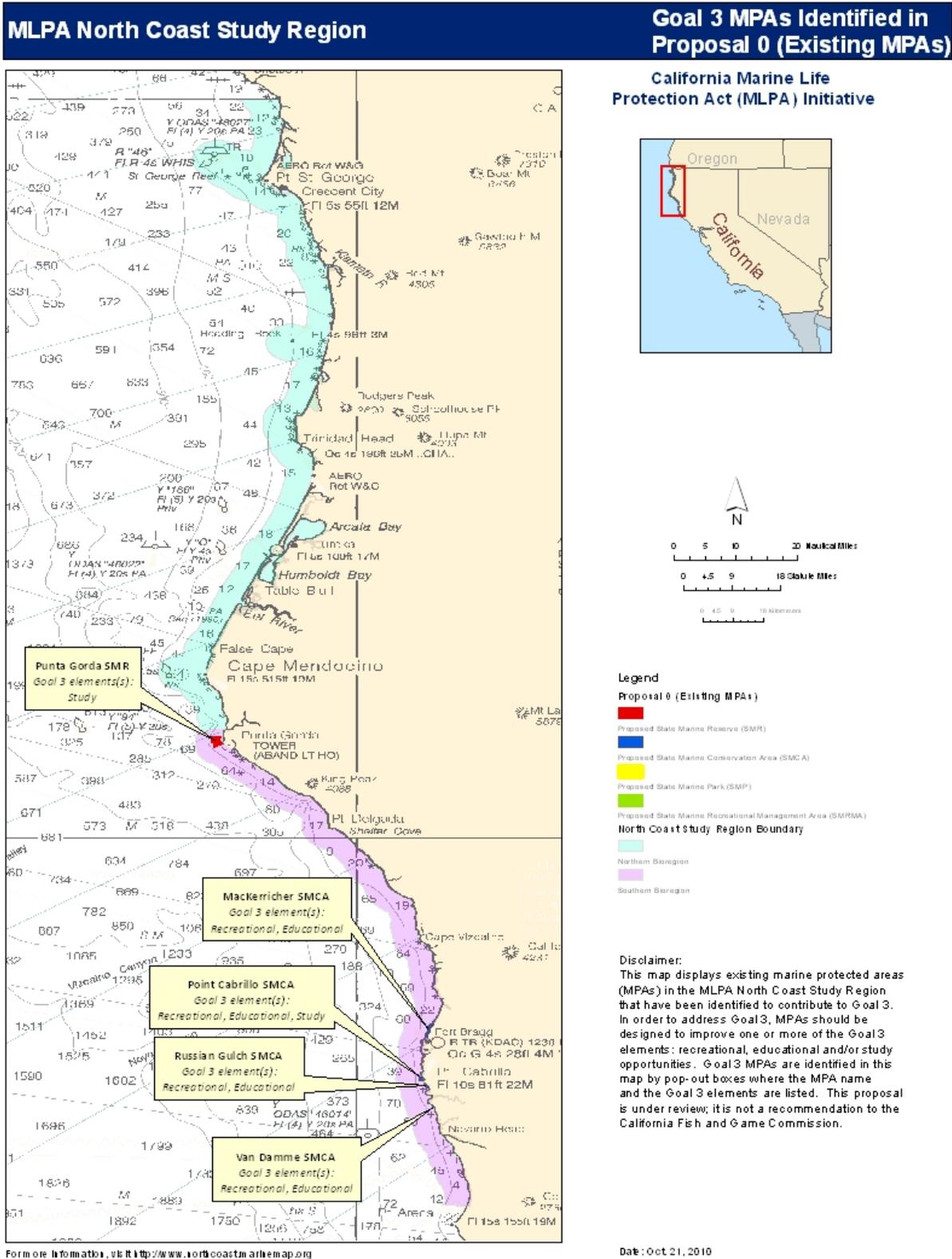
Proposed MPA	Bioregion ¹	Recreational	Educational	Study
Pyramid Point SMCA	Northern	Yes		
Point St. George Reef Offshore SMCA	Northern			Yes
Reading Rock SMCA	Northern			Yes
South Humboldt Bay SMRMA	Northern	Yes	Yes	Yes
South Cape Mendocino SMR	Northern			Yes
Mattole Canyon SMR	Northern			Yes
Sea Lion Gulch SMR	Southern			Yes
Ten Mile SMR	Southern	Yes		Yes
Ten Mile Estuary SMRMA	Southern	Yes		
Point Cabrillo SMR	Southern	Yes	Yes	Yes
Big River Estuary SMP	Southern	Yes	Yes	
Navarro River Estuary SMRMA	Southern	Yes		
Total MPAs in Northern Bioregion		2	1	5
Total MPAs in Southern Bioregion		5	2	3
Total MPAs		7	3	8

² Northern Bioregion extends from the California/Oregon border to the Mattole River. The Southern Bioregion extends from Mattole River to Alder Creek.

Conclusions

The Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal fully meets the Goal 3 guidelines by including at least one MPA in each bioregion that improves recreational, educational, or study opportunities. Additionally, the NCRSG MPA Proposal improves Goal 3 opportunities throughout the study region, as evidenced by the even division of Goal 3 MPAs between the two bioregions.

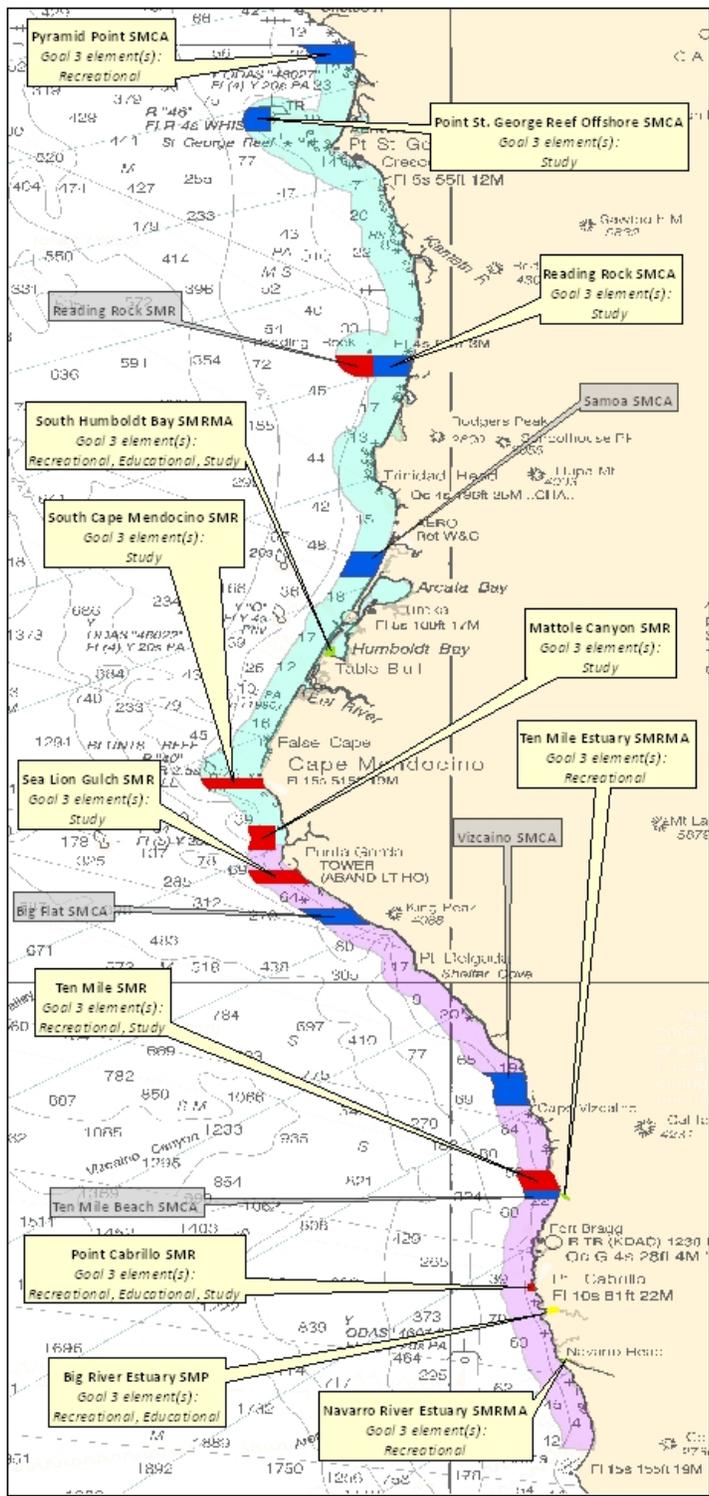
Map 1: MPAs Identified in Proposal 0 that Contribute to Goal 3



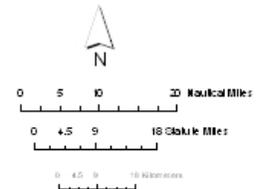
Abbreviations: SMCA = state marine conservation area SMP = state marine park
 SMR = state marine reserve SMRMA = state marine recreational management area

Map 2. MPAs Identified in the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal that Contribute to Goal 3

MLPA North Coast Study Region **Goal 3 MPAs Identified in the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal**



California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative



Legend

- Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal
- Proposed State Marine Reserve (SMR)
- Proposed State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
- Proposed State Marine Park (SMP)
- Proposed State Marine Recreational Management Area (SMRMA)
- North Coast Study Region Boundary
- North Bioregion
- Southern Bioregion

Disclaimer:
 The MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) developed a single marine protected area (MPA) proposal for Round 3. This map displays proposed MPAs from the Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal that have been identified to contribute to Goal 3. In order to address Goal 3, MPAs should be designed to improve one or more of the following Goal 3 elements, recreational, educational and/or study opportunities. Goal 3 MPAs are identified in this map by pop-out boxes where the MPA name and the Goal 3 elements are listed. This NCRSG MPA Proposal is under review; it is not a recommendation to the California Fish and Game Commission.

Date: October 18, 2010

For more information, visit <http://www.northcoastnriemap.org>

Abbreviations: SMCA = state marine conservation area SMP = state marine park
 SMR = state marine reserve SMRMA = state marine recreational management area