

California MLPA North Coast Study Region
Description of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in Array F
Document Updated March 5, 2010

Name of Array: North Coast External Proposed MPA Array F (ExF)
Author: Albion Harbor Regional Alliance

Total number of MPAs: 16
 Number of SMRs: 7
 Number of SMCAs: 8
 Number of SMPs: 0
 Number of SMRMAs: 1
 Number proposing tribal uses: 13

Bioregions:
 Northern: Oregon/California border to Mattole River
 Southern: Mattole River to Alder Creek near Point Arena

| MPA Name | MPA ID | Bioregion | MPA Boundaries (Exact or Approximate) | Designation | Level of Protection* | Propose Tribal Uses? | Proposed Take Regulations | Other Proposed Regulations |
|-------------------|--------|--------------------|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------------|--|--|
| Pyramid Point SMR | 73968 | Northern Bioregion | State waters from the Oregon Border(42 00') southward to rocks immediately south of the Smith River mouth(41 56')(not including the Smith River), from, 42 00.00N/124 12.800W SSE to 41 59.700N/124 12.600W, S to 41 59.400N/ 124 12.600W, SSE to 41 59.200N/124 12.400W, S to 41 57.700N/124 12.400W, SSW to 41 57.700N/124 12.500W, SSW to 41 57.200N/124 12.700W, W to 41 57.200N/124 12.600W, S to 41 57.100N/124 12.600W, W to 41 57.100N/124 12.700W, to 41 57.00N/124 12.600W, SSE to 41 56.900N/124 12.500W, S to 41 56.700N/124 12.500, SSE to 41 56.00N/124 12.600W,41 56.700N/124 12.500 to 41 56.00N/124 12.300. | SMR | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. |

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| Pyramid Point SMR | N/A | G1,G2,G3,G4,G5,G6: Clustered with Pyramid Point SMCA to protect a diversity of coastal marine species and habitats from the Oregon Border to the Smith River, seaward to federal waters. Includes rocky shore, beach, shallow reef, soft bottom, and kelp habitats, and a large off-shore island (Prince Island), and several off-shore rocks important for sea bird colonies and Aleutian Canada geese. Together the cluster provides 21 square miles of protected forage habitat for pinnipeds and cetaceans. | Provides clear and enforceable boundaries with abundant coastal access and vantage points. Provides nearby vessel access (Port of Brookings, OR) for study and enforcement. Reduces distance from Crescent City to fishing grounds thereby improving safety of Crescent City fishers. Reduces economic impacts to sport and commercial fisheries in California's highest poverty level area. |

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| Pyramid Point SMCA | 73967 | Northern Bioregion | From the Oregon Border south, and from the eastern boundary of Pyramid Point SMR shoreward along a line from: 42 00.00N/124 12.800W SSE to 41 59.700N/124 12.600W, S to 41 59.400N/ 124 12.600W, SSE to 41 59.200N/124 12.400W, S to 41 57.700N/124 12.400W, SSW to 41 57.700N/124 12.500W, SSW to 41 57.200N/124 12.700W, W to 41 57.200N/124 12.600W, S to 41 57.100N/124 12.600W, W to 41 57.100N/124 12.700W, to 41 57.00N/124 12.600W, SSE to 41 56.900N/124 12.500W, S to 41 56.700N/124 12.500, SSE to 41 56.00N/124 12.600W. | SMCA | High | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Native American gathering for ceremonial, customary, and subsistence purposes are allowed. |
| Reading Rock SMR | 73970 | Northern Bioregion | MPA boundaries: North: 41 24.000 minutes to state water lboundary (Extension of inland MPA) then following state water boundary. West: Following state water line South: 41 21.300 minutes North East: 124 08.000 minutes (West boundary of Inland MPA) | SMR | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. |

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| Pyramid Point SMCA | N/A | G1,G2,G3,G4,G5,G6: The Pyramid Point SMCA is clustered with the Pyramid Point SMR to protect intertidal species and habitats and recognize Native American ceremonial, customary, and subsistence gathering uses along intertidal zones of Tolowa ancestral territory. | Provides easy and efficient enforcement via various public access and vantage points. Native American uses of this area, including beach or nearshore gathering for subsistence and ceremonial purposes, have occurred since time immemorial. Those uses should be considered de minimis. Enforcement officials can maintain lawful gathering by way of Native American card or other official identification. |
| Reading Rock SMR | N/A | Combined with the Reading Rock SMCA, this reserve protects diverse habitats including beaches, soft and hard bottom habitats. Note that anecdotal accounts indicate more rocky habitat present than is depicted in MarineMap. This will be assessed in the near future. Contributes to goals 1-6 of the MLPA. | Minimizes social and economic impacts while combining with the Reading Rock SMCA to form a 21 square mile MPA cluster which will substantially contribute to the State MPA System. |

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| Reading Rock SMCA | 73969 | Northern Bioregion | MPA boundaries: North: 41 24.000 minutes (Approximation of parking lot at end of road) West: 124 08.000 minutes (Approximation of 3nm state water boundary) South: 41 21.300 minutes (Approximation of Lagoon and Creek entrance) East: Mean high tide line | SMCA | Moderate high | Yes | The take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by hoop net; Dungeness crab by diving; and Dungeness crab by trap. 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. Traditional commercial surf fishing as defined and allowed by H.R. 233 (Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act) should be allowed. The uses defined by this Act should be assigned a high level of protection by the MLPA Initiative. Staff Note: For Round 1, traditional commercial surf fishing was not taken into consideration when levels of protection were assigned because the LOP for this use conflicted with the stated intentions of array proponents. In future rounds, this proposed activity will be assigned an LOP of moderate in all MPAs where it is allowed. |
| Humboldt Bay SMRMA | 73971 | Northern Bioregion | MPA boundaries: These boundaries are all inside Humboldt Bay. North: 40 42.700 minutes West: Mean high tide line South: Mean high tide line East: 124 14.100 minutes (Wilderness area boundary) | SMRMA | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. Hunting shall be permitted. |

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| Reading Rock SMCA | N/A | Combined with the Reading Rock Reserve, this SMCA protects diverse habitats including beaches, soft and hard bottom habitats. Note that anecdotal accounts indicate more rocky habitat than is depicted in MarineMap. This will be assessed in the near future. Contributes to goals 1-6 of the MLPA. | Minimizes social and economic impacts while combining with the Reading Rock Reserve to form a 21 square mile MPA cluster which will substantially contribute to the State MPA System. |
| Humboldt Bay SMRMA | N/A | The MPA contains a significant proportion of Humboldt Bay's eelgrass. The Humboldt Bay Harbor District has an ongoing eelgrass monitoring program in Humboldt Bay and would expand that program to include this MPA if adopted. Comparison of this MPA with other areas would allow for a meaningful comparison of areas where clamming is allowed verses restricted. | The MPA is designed to overlap with portions of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge. |

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| Eel River SMCA | 73972 | Northern Bioregion | MPA boundaries: North: 40 39.000 minutes West: State waters boundary South: 40 36.000 minutes East: Mean high tide line to beach not including any part of the Eel River) | SMCA | Moderate high | Yes | The take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by hoop net; Dungeness crab by diving; and Dungeness crab by trap. 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. |
| Punta Gorda SMR | 73973 | Northern Bioregion | MPA boundaries: North: 40 20.000 minutes West: State waters boundary South: 40 15.700 minutes (Approximation of visible point and rock in water) East: Mean high tide line to beach not including any part of the Mattole River) | SMR | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. Retrieval of recreational and commercial crab traps that drift accidentally into the SMR will be permitted, anything within said traps must be released immediately. |

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| Eel River SMCA | N/A | This unique location attracts feed for numerous pinnipeds, porpoise, whales, birds, and fish like salmon. The combination of river mouth with a nearby canyon make this a highly diverse and productive area with lots of krill and small fish present for much of the year. | This SMCA is a little south of the river mouth to better avoid recreational salmon fishing which occurs in this area. |
| Punta Gorda SMR | N/A | <p>This SMR enlarges an already existing SMR at Punta Gorda continuing to protect natural ecosystem structure and function with minimal human-induced changes. It will maintain high benthic species abundance and biodiversity which is characteristic of the north coast region.</p> <p>Protects natural trophic structure & food webs, including pelagic finfish that serve as prey for other fish, marine birds & marine mammals.</p> <p>Provides protection to an area that contains one of most persistent & important upwelling plumes along entire California Coast & provides for significant downstream larval dispersal.</p> <p>Protects larval sources & enhance reproductive capacity of shelf species including rockfishes.</p> <p>Protects benthic habitat and forage base for fish, birds and mammals at islands.</p> <p>Increases supply of large adults & larval fish which can disperse to adjacent areas for fisheries harvest outside MPAs.</p> | None specified |

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| Ten Mile SMR | 73964 | Southern Bioregion | Southern Boundary: 39.33.3 Northern boundary: 39.35.2 out to the 3-mile limit | SMR | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. Retrieval of recreational and commercial crab traps that have drifted into the Ten Mile SMR shall be ermitted. Removal of invasive species permitted. |
| Ten Mile Beach SMCA | 73966 | Southern Bioregion | 39.33.3 northern boundary (first washrock north of the Ten Mile River mouth 39.32.7 southern boundary | SMCA | Moderate high | Yes | The take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. The recreational take of Dungeness crab by trap. 2. The commercial take of Dungeness crab by trap. | No wave energy projects or oil exploration/leases. Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. |
| Ten Mile Estuary SMR | 73965 | Southern Bioregion | Estuary extends from the mouth of Ten Mile River to an area upstream of approximately 1.7 miles. | SMR | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | No waterfowl hunting. Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. Retrieval of recreational and commercial crab traps that drift accidentally into the SMR will be permitted, anything within said traps must be released immediately. Removal of invasive species permitted. |

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| Ten Mile SMR | N/A | This SMR helps maintain biodiversity in fish, invertebrates, seabirds and marine mammals associated with the protection of the ecosystem. This MPA has great diversity in unique marine habitats including; exposed high energy rocky shoreline, sand and gravel beaches, offshore islets, surf grass, kelp beds, hard and soft substrates, while interfacing with the complex estuarine habitats consisting of eelgrass beds, marshlands and mudflat ecosystems. (G1, G2,G3) | According to the Ecotrust information, this area has a low economic impact on crab and commercial rockfish fisheries. This MPA is adjacent to the mouth of the Ten Mile estuary (proposed SMR). Located at the North end of this MPA is an established marine monitoring site, that along with numerous coastal access points makes it easy for research, recreation and enforcement possible. (G5) This MPA is clustered with an adjacent Ten Mile SMR. (G1,G3, G3) |
| Ten Mile Beach SMCA | N/A | Adds protection for soft bottom habitat to the adjacent SMR proposed to the north. Connects the estuarine reserve to the offshore SMR while allowing for commercial and recreational crabbing. Serves as an enforcement "buffer" for the "Randy's Rock" Reserve - a kind of "warden's rumble strip" as vessels approach the SMR. | Extremely important crabbing area for the private recreational and commercial passenger fishing vessel fleet out of Fort Bragg. This area must remain open to crabbing. |
| Ten Mile Estuary SMR | N/A | Estuary protection (Goals 1-5) Estuaries not only support local fish and shellfish populations that are harvested commercially and recreationally, but these waters also serve as spawning and nursery grounds for populations that are harvested offshore. Estuaries rank along with tropical rainforests and coral reefs as the world's most productive ecosystems, more productive than both the rivers and the ocean that influence them from either side. Supports current DFG coho and steelhead salmon habitat conservation projects while protecting essential habitat for federal and state listed threatened anadromous fish including coho, Chinook and steelhead salmon. Habitat for osmoregulation and acclimation for critical life phases of anadromous fish; important transportation corridor for adult salmon spawners; rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, rockfish, flatfish, and tidewater gobies and habitat for smoltification of juvenile salmonids; migratory corridor for spawning lampreys.(G2) | None specified |

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| Ten Mile Estuary SMR (continued) | | | | | | | | |

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| Ten Mile Estuary SMR (continued) | | <p>All species protected. Prime shorebird and waterfowl habitat; feeding area for pinnipeds; critical habitat and transportation corridor for river otters.</p> <p>This SMR protects larval source and enhance reproductive capacity of numerous invertebrate species such as dungeness crabs, clams, ghost shrimp, eel grass etc. (G1, G2, G4); and expands on long-term protections for complex estuarine habitats, including eelgrass beds, marshlands and mudflat ecosystems.(G1, G2)</p> <p>Almost the entire stretch of this array is close to population centers, with numerous coastal access points making it easy for research, long- term monitoring, recreation and enforcement. (G3, G5)</p> | |

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| Mackerricher SMCA | 74060 | Southern Bioregion | This area is bounded by the mean high tide line, the 3-fathom depth contour and the following points: 39o 29.81' N. lat. 123o 47.50' W. long.; 39o 29.95' N. lat. 123o 47.80' W. long.; 39o 27.62' N. lat. 123o 48.80' W. long.; and 39o 27.55' N. lat. 123o 48.52' W. long. | SMCA | Low | No | The take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. The recreational take of Finfish, red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobster, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and marine worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed unless taken incidentally to the take of mussels.. 2. The commercial take of Finfish, crabs, ghost shrimp, jackknife clams, sea urchins, squid, algae except giant kelp and bull kelp and worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed, nor may any person pick up, remove, detach from the substrate any other organisms, or break up, move or destroy any rocks or other substrate or surfaces to which organisms are attached. | None |
| Point Cabrillo SMCA | 73961 | Southern Bioregion | From a visible landmark at the south Caspar Headlands, to include all of Frolic Cove, an important archaeological site. The existing Point Cabrillo SCMA bisects this cove, making it difficult to enforce. | SMCA | Moderate low | Yes | The take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. The recreational take of red abalone by free-diving. 2. The commercial take of urchin by diving. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. |

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| MacKerricher SMCA | N/A | None | None |
| Point Cabrillo SMCA | N/A | <p>Allows for research opportunities to study the ecosystem relationships between abalone, algae and sea urchins. Side by side with an SMR, the biodiversity can be compared with an adjacent conservation area that allows harvest of both abalone and sea urchin. No take of kelp/algae.</p> <p>This study area will additionally provide a opportunity to study the relationship between understory canopy and benthic layer turf algae.</p> | <p>Easy access for research. This has area is part of a larger area closed to sea commercial urchin harvest (only) since 1992(?). Ongoing studies occur here. By reopening this area to recreational abalone harvest and commercial and recreational sea urchin harvest, biologists can learn about how the adjacent area (Pt. Cabrillo SMR) replenishes an adjacent fished area.</p> <p>This SMCA only allows the legal taking of urchin and abalone, thus providing a site for the practice of adaptive management as originally stated in the intent of the law.</p> |

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| Point Cabrillo SMR | 73962 | Southern Bioregion | Southern boundary = 39 20.606' Northern boundary = 39 21.209' Western boundary = 123 50' | SMR | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. |
| Russian Gulch SMCA | 74063 | Southern Bioregion | This area is bounded by the mean high tide line, the 3-fathom depth contour and the following points: 39o 19.86' N. lat. 123o 48.84' W. long.; 39o 19.85' N. lat. 123o 48.89' W. long.; 39o 19.52' N. lat. 123o 48.46' W. long.; and 39o 19.52' N. lat. 123o 48.23' W. long. | SMCA | Low | No | The take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. The recreational take of Finfish, red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobster, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and marine worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed unless taken incidentally to the take of mussels. 2. The commercial take of Finfish, crabs, ghost shrimp, jackknife clams, sea urchins, algae except giant kelp and bull kelp and worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed, nor may any person pick up, remove, detach from the substrate any other organisms, or break up, move or destroy any rocks or other substrate or surfaces to which organisms are attached. | None |

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| Point Cabrillo SMR | N/A | This proposed SMR contains high-quality invertebrate habitat and has been closed to commercial and recreational take of invertebrates since 1975, and the area was also closed to recreational take of finfish while allowing commercial take of finfish. This SMR would replace the existing Pt. Cabrillo SMCA and make the boundaries more feasible. Local biologists say this area is large enough to conduct studies on sea urchins and abalone. Along with the adjacent SMCA to the north, this cluster will provide side by side study opportunity of a no-take zone and an area of sustainable harvests of abalone and urchins. | Increases feasibility using easily distinguishable landmarks. Adjacent to a state park for recreational non-extractive activities such as scuba diving. Very accessible for research. Maintains a long time series of data from previous studies. We have proposed to local tribal councils that they adopt these regulations for their members, but pending government-to-government consultations, any regulations affecting tribal members must be passed by both the California Fish & Game Commission and the tribal councils concurrently, similar to the creation of a State Marine Park. This is a perfect area for study that could allow for the development of adaptive management, and collaborative research with the local fishing community, biologists and the tribes. |
| Russian Gulch SMCA | N/A | None | None |

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| Van Damme SMCA | 74067 | Southern Bioregion | This area is bounded by the mean high tide line, the 3-fathom depth contour and the following points: 39o 16.45' N. lat. 123o 47.60' W. long.; 39o 16.355' N. lat. 123o 47.60' W. long.; 39o 16.27' N. lat. 123o 47.545' W. long.; and 39o 16.27' N. lat. 123o 47.43' W. long. | SMCA | Low | No | The take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. The recreational take of Finfish, red abalone, chiones, clams, cockles, rock scallops, native oysters, crabs, lobster, ghost shrimp, sea urchins, mussels and marine worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed unless taken incidentally to the take of mussels. 2. The commercial take of Finfish, crabs, ghost shrimp, jackknife clams, sea urchins, algae except giant kelp and bull kelp and worms except that no worms may be taken in any mussel bed, nor may any person pick up, remove, detach from the substrate any other organisms, or break up, move or destroy any rocks or other substrate or surfaces to which organisms are attached. | None |
| Navarro River Estuary SMR | 73963 | Southern Bioregion | Mouth of the Navarro River to 3.450 miles inland in estuary waters seasonally affected by the tidal influence. | SMR | Very high | Yes | Take of all living marine resources is prohibited. | Traditional Tribal subsistence, gathering and ceremonial uses should not be regulated in the MLPA Process. Retrieval of recreational and commercial crab traps permitted. Removal of invasive species permitted. Vessels permitted. |

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| Van Damme SMCA | N/A | None | None |
| Navarro River Estuary SMR | N/A | <p>Estuary protection (Goals 1.2.3.4 & 6) Anadromous fish refugia: habitat for osmoregulation and acclimation for critical life phases of anadromous fish; important transportation corridor for adult salmon spawners; provides rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids, rockfish, flatfish, and tidewater gobies and habitat for smoltification of juvenile salmonids; migratory corridor for spawning lampreys.</p> <p>All species protected. Prime shorebird and waterfowl habitat; feeding area for pinnipeds; critical habitat and transportation corridor for river otters.</p> | <p>Recreational kayaking and canoeing destination. Close proximity to Navarro Beach Campground [part of the Navarro River Redwoods SP] and shorebird and mammal viewing.</p> <p>Easily accessible to the public; no negative socio-economic impact on fishing, sea urchin or seaweed harvesting industries or related businesses.</p> |

SMCA=state marine conservation area SMP=state marine park SMRMA=state marine recreational management area SMR=state marine reserve TBD=to be determined
* Levels of protection assigned do not take into account proposed Tribal uses.