

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
MLPA North Coast Study Region: Round 1 Evaluations
Staff Summary of Area and Habitats in External Proposed MPA Array H
Date Created: March 5, 2010

Table 1. Summary of MPAs by Designation for External Proposed MPA Array H

| Type of MPA ^a | # of MPAs | Area (mi ²) | % of Study Region |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| State Marine Reserve (SMR) | 6 | 58.93 | 5.7% |
| State Marine Recreational Managed Area (SMRMA) | 1 | 1.84 | 0.2% |
| State Marine Park (SMP) | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) | 3 | 25.75 | 2.5% |
| All MPAs combined | 10 | 86.52 | 8.4% |

^a These are proposed marine protected area (MPA) designations, NOT levels of protection assigned by the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT). SMRMA is not an MPA designation, but rather a marine managed area designation.

Table 2. Summary of MPAs by Level of Protection for External Proposed MPA Array H

| Level of Protection (LOP) | # Proposed | Area (mi ²) | % of Study Region |
|---------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Very High ^b | 7 | 60.77 | 5.9% |
| High | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Moderate-High | 3 | 25.75 | 2.5% |
| Moderate | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Low ^c | 0 | 0.00 | 0.0% |
| Total | 10 | 86.52 | 8.4% |

^b The "Very High" category includes MPAs with SMR designation, as well as SMRMA designations.

^c The "Low" category groups together MPAs that are assigned a moderate-low and low level of protection.

Table 3. Individual MPAs in External Proposed MPA Array H

| MPA Name | Size ^d (mi ²) | Alongshore Span ^e (mi) | Depth Range ^f (ft) |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Pyramid Point SMR ^g | 18.89 | 4.7 | 11 - 124 |
| Reading Rock SMR ^g | 11.38 | 2.5 | 90 - 247 |
| Reading Rock SMCA ^g | 9.88 | 3.1 | 0 - 101 |
| Humboldt Bay SMRMA ^g | 1.84 | N/A | Depth data not available |
| Eel River SMCA ^g | 13.20 | 3.7 | 0 - 120 |
| Punta Gorda SMR ^g | 19.36 | 4.9 | 0 - 1667 |
| Ten Mile SMR ^g | 8.81 | 2.3 | 0 - 335 |
| Ten Mile Beach SMCA ^g | 2.67 | 0.7 | 0 - 288 |
| Ten Mile Estuary SMR ^g | 0.19 | N/A | Depth data not available |
| Point Cabrillo SMR ^g | 0.30 | 0.7 | 0 - 40 |

^d Statue mile is the unit of measurement used for this analysis.

^e Alongshore span measured as direct line from one end of the MPA to the other, roughly paralleling the coastline. An alongshore span is not calculated for estuarine MPAs

^f Comprehensive bathymetric data for all estuaries is not available. Though bathymetric data do exist in portions of some estuaries, depth ranges are not provided for estuarine MPAs for consistency in evaluations.

^g Tribal uses are proposed in this MPA. However, pending further policy guidance, these uses are not currently considered in assigning the level of protection for this MPA.

Table 4. Habitat Representation in External Proposed MPA Array H

| Habitat ^h | SMR | | SMRMA | | SMP | | SMCA | | Total MPAs | |
|---------------------------------|------|-----|-------|-----|------|----|------|-----|------------|-----|
| | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % |
| Intertidal | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandy or gravel beach* | 4.92 | 3% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 7.65 | 4% | 12.58 | 7% |
| Rocky shores* | 8.83 | 6% | 0.28 | <1% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.02 | <1% | 9.13 | 6% |
| Hardened shores* | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% |
| Coastal marsh* | 2.30 | 3% | 1.90 | 2% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 4.20 | 5% |
| Coastal marsh | 0.05 | 1% | 0.04 | 1% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.09 | 3% |
| Tidal flats* | 0.00 | 0% | 0.98 | 1% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.98 | 1% |
| Seagrass beds | | | | | | | | | | |
| Humboldt Eelgrass | 0.00 | 0% | 0.57 | 8% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.57 | 8% |
| Estuarine | | | | | | | | | | |
| Estuary | 0.19 | <1% | 1.84 | 4% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 2.03 | 5% |
| Hard bottom | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-30 meters proxy* ⁱ | 3.10 | 6% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 3.10 | 6% |
| 0-30 meters | 2.51 | 6% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 2.51 | 6% |
| 30-100 meters | 1.66 | 4% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 1.66 | 4% |
| 100-200 meters | 0.23 | 23% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.23 | 23% |
| >200 meters | 0.05 | 52% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.05 | 52% |

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| Habitat ^h | SMR | | SMRMA | | SMP | | SMCA | | Total MPAs | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|----|------|----|-------|-----|------------|-----|
| | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % |
| Soft bottom | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-30 meters proxy ^{*,i} | 9.45 | 6% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 3.84 | 2% | 13.29 | 8% |
| 0-30 meters | 17.77 | 7% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 8.75 | 3% | 26.52 | 11% |
| 30-100 meters | 27.76 | 7% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 1.97 | <1% | 29.73 | 7% |
| 100-200 meters | 3.06 | 5% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 3.06 | 5% |
| >200 meters | 2.40 | 31% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 2.40 | 31% |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-30 meters proxy ^{*,i} | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 3.77 | 20% | 3.77 | 20% |
| 0-30 meters | 3.19 | 2% | 1.84 | 1% | 0.00 | 0% | 14.01 | 8% | 19.04 | 12% |
| 30-100 meters | 0.30 | 1% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 1.03 | 4% | 1.33 | 5% |
| 100-200 meters | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% |
| >200 meters | 0.02 | 10% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.02 | 10% |
| Other | | | | | | | | | | |
| Offshore rocks [*] | 5.00 | 4% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.01 | <1% | 5.01 | 4% |
| Linear kelp [*] | 2.55 | 5% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 2.55 | 5% |

^h Note: Habitats are measured as an area (mi²) except for those with a * notation. Habitats with a * notation are expressed in linear units (mi).

ⁱ There is limited fine scale data for nearshore habitat, shallower than 10-20 meters depth, in the north coast study region. A proxy for this area was created using a line parallel to the coast and classifying the substrate as either hard or soft substrate depending on the dominant habitat type for the 0-30 meter depth zone in that area based on available fine-scale substrate data, shoreline type, kelp abundance, and expert knowledge.