

## Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



### Overview of MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force North Coast MPA Proposals and Special Closures Recommendations

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

February 2, 2011 • Sacramento, CA

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## BRTF North Coast Recommendations

The MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) forwarded two marine protected area (MPA) proposals and a special closures recommendation:

- Revised Round 3 MLPA North Coast Regional Stakeholder Group (NCRSG) MPA Proposal (abbreviated RNCP)
- North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal (abbreviated ECA)
  - Builds from RNCP, with modifications to improve compliance with science guidelines and California Department of Fish and Game feasibility criteria
- North Coast Special Closures Recommendation
  - Developed by NCRSG



## Key Differences between Proposals

| Revised NCRSG MPA Proposal (RNCP)  | Enhanced Compliance Alternative (ECA)   |
|--|---|
| SMCAs at Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat and Vizcaino (0-3 miles offshore) include all recreational uses proposed by NCRSG, including those intended to accommodate traditional tribal uses | Nearshore “ribbon” SMCAs at Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat and Vizcaino include all recreational uses in RNCP<br><br>Offshore SMCAs at Pyramid Point, Samoa, Big Flat and Vizcaino retain only uses with moderate-high and high LOP |
| Includes statement of intent to restrict specific recreational uses to only tribes and tribal communities in all MPAs after appropriate administrative or legislative action               | Includes statement of intent about tribal uses from RNCP; BRTF also made additional recommendation for traditional, noncommercial tribal uses   |

*SMCA = state marine conservation area LOP = level of protection*



## Key Differences between Proposals

| MPA Name                    | RNCP             | ECA  |
|-----------------------------|------------------|--|
| All SMCAs                   |                  | Include recreational take of pelagic finfish (except salmon) by spearfishing |
| Reading Rock SMCA           | low LOP          | moderate-high LOP  |
| South Humboldt Bay SMRMA    | moderate-low LOP | very high LOP  |
| Big River Estuary SMP       | low LOP          | moderate LOP   |
| Navarro River Estuary SMRMA | low LOP          | moderate LOP   |

*SMP = state marine park SMRMA = state marine recreational management area*



# North Coast MPA Proposals

## Two MPA Proposals and Proposal 0

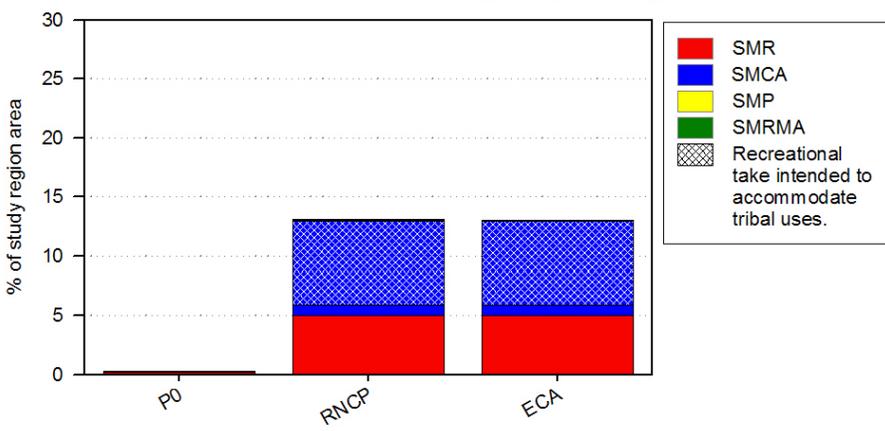
|  | Acronym | Number of MPAs* (SMRs) | Percent of Study Region (SMRs) |
|--|---------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Proposal 0 (existing MPAs)                               | P0      | 5 (1)                  | 0.3% (0.2%)                    |
| Revised Round 3 NCRSG MPA Proposal                       | RNCP    | 17 (6)                 | 13.1% (5%)                     |
| North Coast Enhanced Compliance Alternative MPA Proposal | ECA     | 21 (6)                 | 13.1% (5%)                     |

\* Numbers include state marine recreational management areas, a type of marine managed area



# North Coast MPA Proposals

Comparison of Existing MPAs (Proposal 0) and the BRTF Recommendations for the NCSR by Designation Type

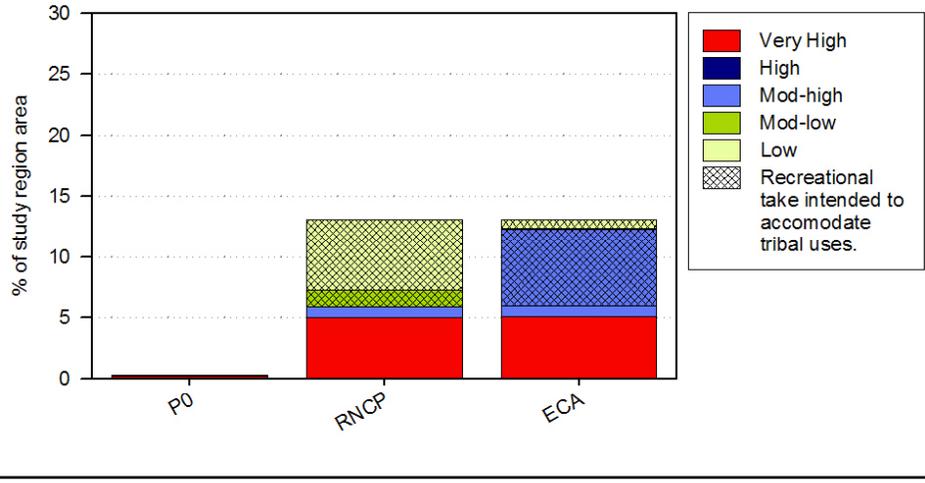


SMCA = state marine conservation area SMP = state marine park  
 SMR = state marine reserve SMRMA = state marine recreational management area

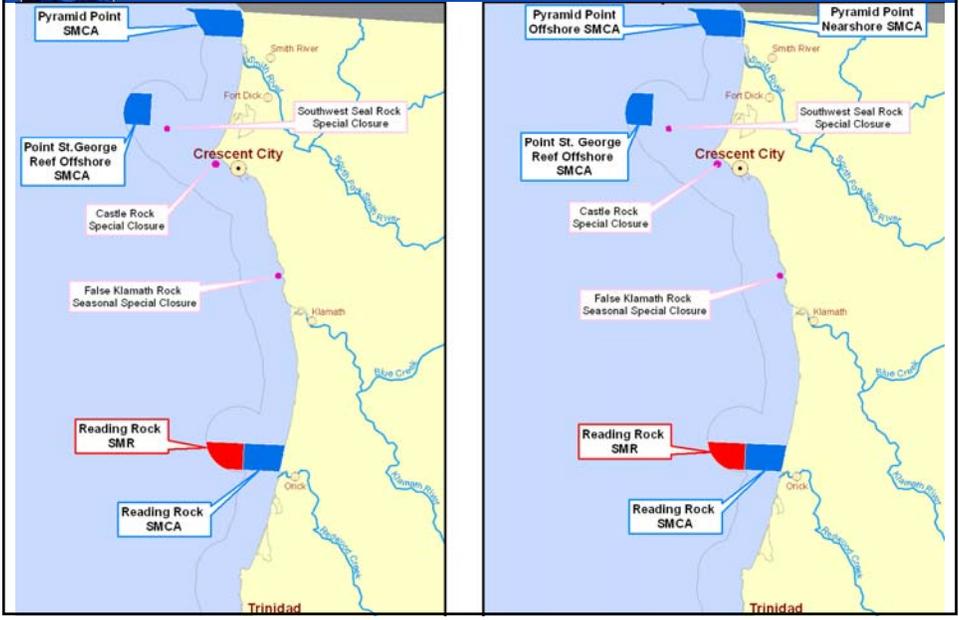


# North Coast MPA Proposals

Comparison of Existing MPAs (Proposal 0) and the BRTF Recommendations for the NCSR by Level of Protection

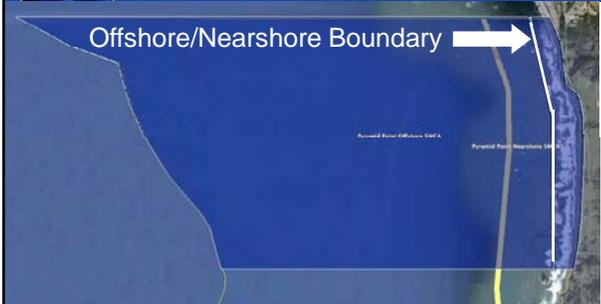


# Northern Bioregion





# Pyramid Point



## ECA

- Nearshore “ribbon” SMCA = low LOP
- Offshore SMCA: Moderate-high LOP
- Does not add additional habitats

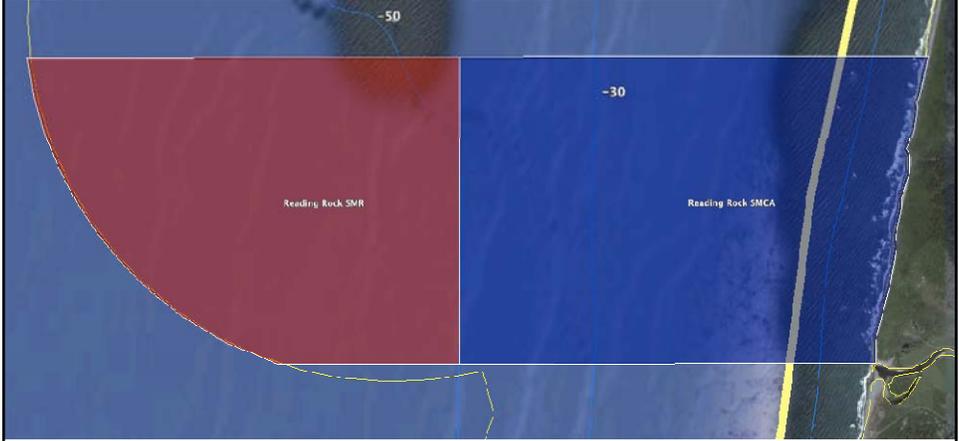


## RNCP

- SMCA: Low LOP



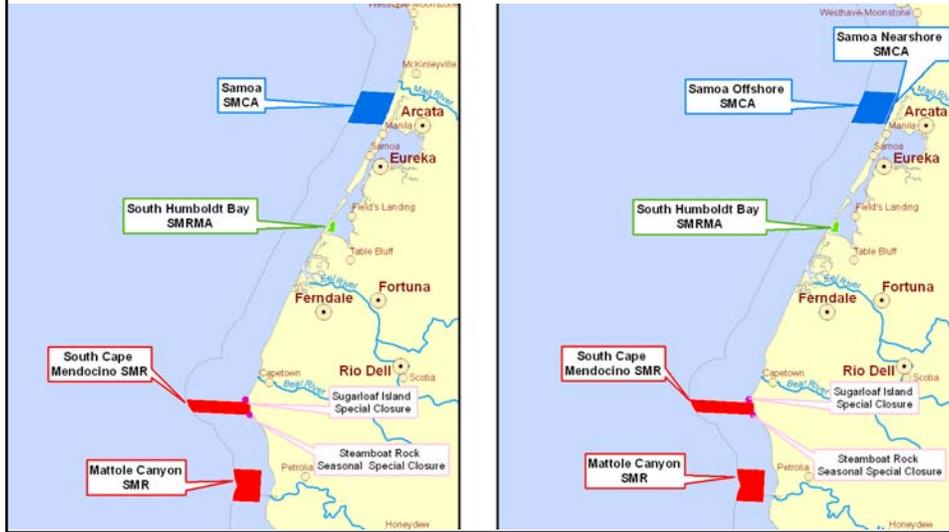
# Reading Rock



**ECA SMCA:** Moderate-high LOP, adds beaches, rocky shore and soft 0-30 meter habitats

**RNCP SMCA:** Low LOP

# Northern Bioregion Continued



## Samoa



### ECA

- Nearshore “ribbon” SMCA = moderate-low LOP
- Offshore SMCA = moderate high LOP, adds soft 30-100 meter habitat



### RNCP

- Moderate-low LOP



# South Humboldt Bay



**ECA:** Very high LOP, adds estuary, marsh and eelgrass  
**RNCP:** Moderate-low LOP



# Southern Bioregion



# Big Flat SMCA



**ECA:** Nearshore “ribbon” SMCA: Low LOP; Offshore SMCA: moderate-high LOP, adds soft 30-100m and 100-3000m habitats



**RNCP:** Low LOP

# Vizcaino



**ECA**

- Nearshore “ribbon” SMCA: Low LOP
- Offshore SMCA: Moderate-high LOP, adds soft 30-100m and soft 100-3000m habitats

**RNCP**

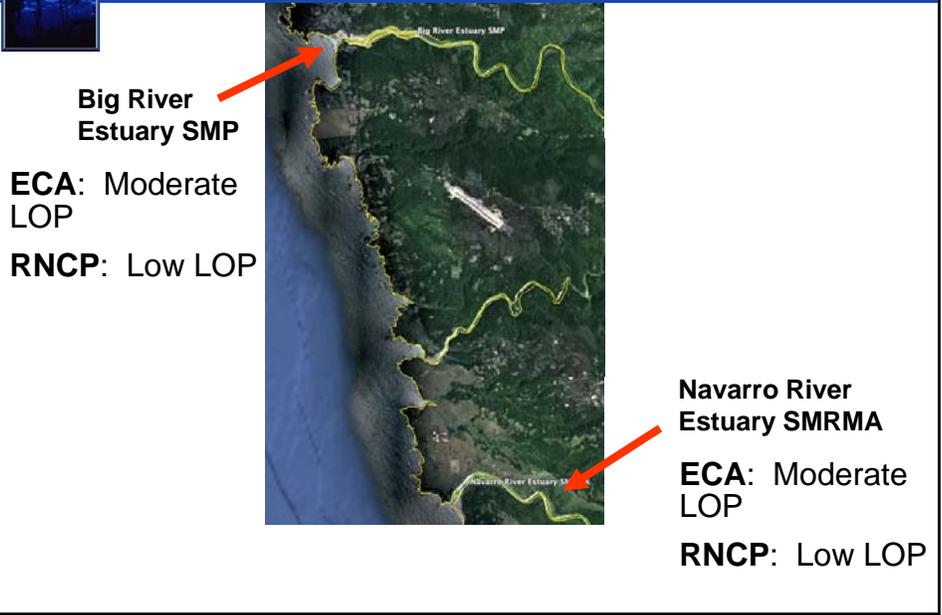
- LOP = low



# Southern Bioregion Continued



# Big River and Navarro River





## Special Closures

- Seven special closure options
  - Two closures focus on marine mammal protection
  - Five closures focus on marine bird protection
- All special closures suggested as 300-foot, no-entry zones
- Four of seven special closures are seasonal, from March 1 - August 31
- Includes proposal for an alternative to special closures at Green Rock and Flatiron Rock
- Includes language regarding intent to allow access for traditional, non-commercial, tribal activities when it becomes possible within State of California authority