

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
South Coast Study Region: Round 2 Evaluation
Staff Summary of Area and Habitats in Opal Draft MPA Proposal
June 9, 2009

Summary of MPAs by Designation for Opal Draft MPA Proposal

Type of MPA ¹	# of MPAs	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	35	298.8	12.7%
State Marine Recreational Managed Area (SMRMA)	1	0.5	0.0%
State Marine Park (SMP)	3	1.4	0.1%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	15	61.4	2.6%
Undesignated	2	36.7	1.6%
All MPAs combined	56	398.8	17.0%

¹ Note: 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. The "Undesignated" are the pending military closures.

Summary of MPAs by Level of Protection for Opal Draft MPA Proposal

Level of Protection (LOP)	# Proposed	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
Very High ²	36	299.3	12.7%
High	3	43.4	1.8%
Moderate-High	2	2.6	0.1%
Moderate	0	0.0	0.0%
Low ³	13	16.8	0.7%
Not applicable ⁴	2	36.7	1.6%
Total	56	398.8	17.0%

² Note: The "Very High" category includes MPAs with SMR designation, as well as MPAs with a SMRMA designation.

³ Note: The "Low" category groups together MPAs that are assigned a moderate-low and lower level of protection.

⁴ Note: These are the pending military closures. These are not assigned a level of protection.

Individual MPAs in Opal Draft MPA Proposal

MPA Name	Size (mi ²)	Along-shore Span ⁶ (mi)	Depth Range ⁷ (ft)
Richardson Rock SMR ⁵	40.69	6.3	95 - 558
Judith Rock SMR ⁵	4.55	1.2	0 - 487
Harris Point SMR ⁵	25.35	5.4	0 - 557
South Point SMR ⁵	13.05	3.5	0 - 1071
Carrington Point SMR ⁵	12.76	4.0	0 - 211
Skunk Point SMR ⁵	1.39	2.2	0 - 83
Painted Cave SMCA ⁵	1.78	1.9	0 - 291
Gull Island SMR ⁵	19.91	4.8	0 - 2205
Scorpion SMR ⁵	9.62	2.6	0 - 769
Footprint SMR ⁵	7.05	4.7	171 - 1656
Anacapa Island SMCA ⁵	7.30	2.0	0 - 490
Anacapa Island SMR ⁵	11.54	3.1	0 - 709
Santa Barbara Island SMR ⁵	12.76	1.0	0 - 1655

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MPA Name	Size (mi²)	Along-shore Span⁶ (mi)	Depth Range⁷ (ft)
Point Conception SMR	18.86	5.0	0 - 452
Coal Oil Point SMR	10.11	2.7	0 - 701
Devereux Lagoon SMR	0.10	N/A	N/A
Goleta Slough SMR	0.25	N/A	N/A
Point Mugu Estuary SMRMA	0.49	N/A	N/A
Lechuza SMR	5.22	1.4	0 - 1266
Point Dume SMCA	16.89	4.5	0 - 2023
Point Vicente SMR	15.76	4.7	0 - 2640
Point Fermin SMP	0.07	0.6	0 - 20
Bolsa Chica SMP	0.25	N/A	N/A
Upper Newport Bay SMP	1.10	N/A	N/A
Laguna North SMCA	1.50	4.0	0 - 105
Laguna SMR	12.00	2.9	0 - 1801
Laguna South SMCA	2.65	6.2	0 - 93
Agua Hedionda Lagoon SMR	0.04	N/A	N/A
Batiquitos Lagoon SMR	0.67	N/A	N/A
Encinitas SMCA	0.11	0.9	0 - 10
Del Mar SMR	13.25	3.7	0 - 1092
San Dieguito SMR	0.52	N/A	N/A
Penasquitos SMR	0.35	N/A	N/A
San Diego-Scripps SMCA	0.11	0.5	0 - 10
La Jolla SMR	0.77	1.1	0 - 214
Little Bird Rock SMR	0.45	1.2	0 - 29
Ocean Beach SMCA	1.51	0.4	0 - 242
Sunset Cliffs SMR	8.92	2.6	0 - 336
Cabrillo SMR	0.38	1.3	0 - 30
Sweetwater Marsh SMR	0.31	N/A	N/A
South San Diego Bay SMCA	1.09	N/A	N/A
Tijuana Reef SMCA	1.14	1.1	0 - 42
Tijuana River Mouth SMR	2.91	2.3	0 - 55
Tijuana River Estuary SMR	0.75	N/A	N/A
Arrow Point-Lion's Head SMCA	0.44	2.6	0 - 140
Catalina Harbor SMCA	0.32	0.7	0 - 186
Santa Catalina Marine Science Center SMR	1.31	2.2	0 - 691
Long Point SMCA	15.69	5.3	307 - 2735
Long Point SMR	2.68	2.7	0 - 950
Farnsworth Bank SMCA	10.83	9.2	125 - 2953
China Point SMR	6.55	6.5	0 - 705
Casino Point SMR	0.01	0.1	0 - 73
Lovers Cove SMCA	0.05	0.3	0 - 125
Begg Rock SMR	37.96	6.9	219 - 374
San Clemente Pending Military Closure 1	17.44	3.9	0 - 1682
San Clemente Pending Military Closure 2	19.24	5.4	0 - 3938

⁵ Note: State MPAs around the Northern Channel Islands are to be part of all proposals, as directed by the California Fish and Game Commission and are notated by the footnote. MPAs listed below the broken line are those being proposed.

⁶ *Note: Alongshore span measured as direct line from one end of the MPA to the other. Estuarine MPAs are not given an alongshore span.*

⁷ *Note: 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.*

Habitat Representation in Opal Draft MPA Proposal

Habitat ⁸	SMR		SMRMA		SMP		SMCA		Undesignated		Total MPAs	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Intertidal												
Sandy or gravel beach*	36.78	10%	0.63	<1%	0.00	0%	17.24	5%	6.04	2%	60.69	16%
Rocky shores*	50.38	18%	0.00	0%	0.54	<1%	17.07	6%	1.82	1%	69.81	25%
Hardened shores*	0.77	<1%	0.00	0%	0.96	<1%	4.59	2%	0.11	<1%	6.44	2%
Coastal marsh*	17.22	29%	3.13	5%	9.73	16%	0.40	1%	0.00	0%	30.47	51%
Coastal marsh	1.46	24%	0.26	4%	0.81	13%	0.02	<1%	0.00	0%	2.55	42%
Tidal flats*	2.92	10%	0.68	2%	3.14	11%	0.92	3%	0.00	0%	7.66	27%
Seagrass beds												
Surfgrass*	34.01	47%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	6.43	9%	3.09	4%	43.53	60%
Eelgrass	0.22	5%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.06	1%	0.00	0%	0.27	6%
Estuarine												
Estuary	2.97	7%	0.48	1%	1.35	3%	1.09	3%	0.00	0%	5.90	14%
Soft bottom												
0-30 meters	30.27	7%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	5.74	1%	0.01	<1%	36.02	8%
0-30 meters proxy*. ⁹	42.80	12%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	17.89	5%	1.30	<1%	61.99	17%
30-100 meters	104.60	16%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	16.47	2%	0.96	<1%	122.03	18%
100-200 meters	34.53	22%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	4.27	3%	0.00	0%	38.80	24%
>200 meters	23.34	10%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	25.70	11%	0.00	0%	49.03	21%
Hard bottom												
0-30 meters	14.83	13%	0.00	0%	0.07	<1%	1.62	1%	1.79	2%	18.31	16%
0-30 meters proxy*. ⁹	35.68	19%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	5.69	3%	7.02	4%	48.39	25%
30-100 meters	9.85	21%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.62	1%	1.07	2%	11.55	24%
100-200 meters	0.78	20%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.02	<1%	0.00	0%	0.80	20%
>200 meters	0.06	3%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.79	37%	0.00	0%	0.85	40%
Unknown												
0-30 meters	7.05	5%	0.49	<1%	1.35	1%	3.71	2%	0.46	<1%	13.06	8%
30-100 meters	37.37	17%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	1.72	1%	5.89	3%	44.97	21%
100-200 meters	27.73	25%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.53	<1%	6.42	6%	34.68	31%
>200 meters	45.04	22%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.24	<1%	20.08	10%	65.35	32%

Habitat ⁸	SMR		SMRMA		SMP		SMCA		Undesignated		Total MPAs	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Kelp forest												
Maximum kelp*	55.73	17%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	5.44	2%	8.43	3%	69.60	21%
Kelp persistence*	31.32	17%	0.00	0%	0.11	<1%	1.70	1%	7.02	4%	40.14	22%

⁸ Note: Habitats measured as an area (mi²) except for those with a * notation. Habitats with a * notation are expressed in linear units (mi).

⁹ Note: There is limited fine scale data for nearshore habitat, shallower than 10-20 meters depth, in the south 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 in that area based on available data.