

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

Summary of MPAs by Designation for Topaz Draft MPA Proposal

| Type of MPA ¹ | # of MPAs | Area (mi ²) | % of Study Region |
|--|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| State Marine Reserve (SMR) | 34 | 302.9 | 12.9% |
| State Marine Recreational Managed Area (SMRMA) | 1 | 1.5 | 0.1% |
| State Marine Park (SMP) | 3 | 1.5 | 0.1% |
| State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA) | 26 | 66.3 | 2.8% |
| Undesignated | 2 | 36.7 | 1.6% |
| All MPAs combined | 66 | 408.8 | 17.4% |

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 Topaz Draft MPA Proposal

| Level of Protection (LOP) | # Proposed | Area (mi ²) | % of Study Region |
|-----------------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------|
| Very High | 34 | 302.9 | 12.9% |
| High ² | 9 | 26.0 | 1.1% |
| Moderate-High | 4 | 15.1 | 0.6% |
| Moderate | 0 | 0.0 | 0.0% |
| Low ³ | 17 | 28.1 | 1.2% |
| Not applicable ⁴ | 2 | 36.7 | 1.6% |
| Total | 66 | 408.8 | 17.4% |

² Note: The "High" category includes MPAs with SMCA 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 Topaz 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 |

| MPA Name | Size (mi²) | Along-shore Span⁶ (mi) | Depth Range⁷ (ft) |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|---|
| Point Conception SMR | 26.05 | 6.6 | 0 - 489 |
| Refugio SMCA | 0.85 | 2.1 | 0 - 51 |
| Naples SMCA | 2.56 | 1.9 | 0 - 162 |
| Helo SMR | 12.62 | 3.3 | 0 - 701 |
| Devereux Lagoon SMR | 0.09 | N/A | N/A |
| Goleta Slough SMR | 0.25 | N/A | N/A |
| Carpinteria Salt Marsh SMR | 0.28 | N/A | N/A |
| Ventura River Mouth SMCA | 0.02 | N/A | N/A |
| Santa Clara Rivermouth SMCA | 0.17 | N/A | N/A |
| Magu/ Muwu Lagoon SMRMA | 1.46 | N/A | N/A |
| Deer Creek SMCA | 9.46 | 2.5 | 0 - 708 |
| Sequit SMCA | 1.30 | 1.9 | 0 - 95 |
| Point Dume SMCA | 9.02 | 2.3 | 0 - 2023 |
| Point Dume SMR | 6.50 | 1.7 | 0 - 1976 |
| Palos Verdes SMR | 13.97 | 3.8 | 0 - 2477 |
| Point Fermin SMP | 0.12 | 0.6 | 0 - 23 |
| Bolsa Chica SMP | 0.25 | N/A | N/A |
| Upper Newport Bay SMP | 1.10 | N/A | N/A |
| Crystal Cove SMCA | 3.04 | 3.4 | 0 - 224 |
| Laguna SMR | 16.88 | 5.1 | 0 - 1635 |
| Three Arch Bay SMCA | 0.41 | 2.2 | 0 - 49 |
| Dana Point SMCA | 1.08 | 2.5 | 0 - 63 |
| Doheny Beach SMCA | 0.28 | 0.9 | 0 - 13 |
| Agua Hedionda Lagoon SMR | 0.14 | N/A | N/A |
| Batiquitos Lagoon SMR | 0.67 | N/A | N/A |
| Swamis SMCA | 2.44 | 1.8 | 0 - 102 |
| San Elijo Lagoon SMR | 0.44 | N/A | N/A |
| Del Mar SMR | 11.08 | 3.1 | 0 - 1057 |
| San Dieguito Lagoon SMR | 0.52 | N/A | N/A |
| Los Penasquitos Marsh SMCA | 0.35 | N/A | N/A |
| La Jolla North SMR | 0.90 | 1.3 | 0 - 214 |
| La Jolla South SMR | 0.80 | 0.6 | 0 - 70 |
| La Jolla South SMCA | 0.72 | 0.6 | 0 - 57 |
| Kendal Frost SMCA | 0.19 | N/A | N/A |
| Ocean Beach SMCA | 3.06 | 0.8 | 0 - 242 |
| Ocean Beach SMR | 6.18 | 1.7 | 0 - 323 |
| San Diego River/Famosa Slough SMCA | 0.45 | N/A | N/A |
| Cabrillo SMR | 0.38 | 1.3 | 0 - 30 |
| South San Diego Bay SMCA | 5.55 | N/A | N/A |
| Imperial Beach SMCA | 0.67 | 2.2 | 0 - 40 |
| Tijuana Estuary SMR | 0.75 | N/A | N/A |
| Emerald Bay SMCA | 0.85 | 2.7 | 0 - 320 |
| Catalina Isthmus SMCA | 5.09 | 2.3 | 604 - 2551 |
| Blue Cavern SMR | 3.89 | 2.3 | 0 - 1416 |
| Cat Harbor SMCA | 0.33 | 0.7 | 0 - 186 |

| MPA Name | Size (mi²) | Along-shore Span⁶ (mi) | Depth Range⁷ (ft) |
|---|------------------------------|--|---|
| Long Point SMR | 3.54 | 3.0 | 0 - 988 |
| Farnsworth SMCA | 9.24 | 2.7 | 0 - 1909 |
| Casino Point SMR | 0.01 | 0.1 | 0 - 73 |
| Lover's Cove SMCA | 0.06 | 0.4 | 0 - 188 |
| Silver Canyon SMR | 0.28 | 1.3 | 0 - 62 |
| 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 Topaz Draft MPA Proposal

| Habitat ⁸ | SMR | | SMRMA | | SMP | | SMCA | | Undesignated | | Total MPAs | |
|----------------------------------|-------|-----|-------|-----|------|-----|-------|-----|--------------|-----|------------|-----|
| | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % |
| Intertidal | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandy or gravel beach* | 28.09 | 7% | 1.00 | <1% | 0.09 | <1% | 29.28 | 8% | 6.04 | 2% | 64.51 | 17% |
| Rocky shores* | 36.35 | 13% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.61 | <1% | 13.03 | 5% | 1.82 | 1% | 51.81 | 18% |
| Hardened shores* | 1.06 | <1% | 0.05 | <1% | 0.96 | <1% | 13.10 | 4% | 0.11 | <1% | 15.28 | 5% |
| Coastal marsh* | 18.01 | 30% | 9.36 | 16% | 9.73 | 16% | 5.58 | 9% | 0.00 | 0% | 42.68 | 72% |
| Coastal marsh | 1.50 | 25% | 0.72 | 12% | 0.81 | 13% | 0.86 | 14% | 0.00 | 0% | 3.89 | 64% |
| Tidal flats* | 2.50 | 9% | 0.90 | 3% | 3.14 | 11% | 5.26 | 18% | 0.00 | 0% | 11.80 | 41% |
| Seagrass beds | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Surfgrass* | 22.96 | 32% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 10.15 | 14% | 3.09 | 4% | 36.20 | 50% |
| Eelgrass | 0.20 | 4% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 1.77 | 38% | 0.00 | 0% | 1.97 | 42% |
| Estuarine | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Estuary | 3.14 | 7% | 1.46 | 3% | 1.35 | 3% | 6.73 | 16% | 0.00 | 0% | 12.68 | 29% |
| Soft bottom | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-30 meters | 22.32 | 5% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 11.99 | 3% | 0.01 | <1% | 34.32 | 8% |
| 0-30 meters proxy*. ⁹ | 30.01 | 8% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 17.84 | 5% | 1.30 | <1% | 49.15 | 14% |
| 30-100 meters | 89.89 | 13% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 15.87 | 2% | 0.96 | <1% | 106.72 | 16% |
| 100-200 meters | 33.72 | 21% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 4.17 | 3% | 0.00 | 0% | 37.88 | 24% |
| >200 meters | 21.45 | 9% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 10.29 | 4% | 0.00 | 0% | 31.74 | 14% |
| Hard bottom | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-30 meters | 9.92 | 9% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.10 | <1% | 4.15 | 4% | 1.79 | 2% | 15.96 | 14% |
| 0-30 meters proxy*. ⁹ | 21.21 | 11% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 11.13 | 6% | 7.02 | 4% | 39.36 | 21% |
| 30-100 meters | 8.13 | 17% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.71 | 1% | 1.07 | 2% | 9.91 | 21% |
| 100-200 meters | 0.72 | 19% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.01 | <1% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.74 | 19% |
| >200 meters | 0.85 | 39% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.02 | 1% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.87 | 40% |
| Unknown | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-30 meters | 6.27 | 4% | 1.46 | 1% | 1.36 | 1% | 8.69 | 6% | 0.46 | <1% | 18.23 | 12% |
| 30-100 meters | 30.42 | 14% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.76 | <1% | 5.89 | 3% | 37.07 | 17% |
| 100-200 meters | 15.00 | 13% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.07 | <1% | 6.42 | 6% | 21.50 | 19% |
| >200 meters | 1.87 | 1% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.48 | <1% | 20.08 | 10% | 22.42 | 11% |

| Habitat ⁸ | SMR | | SMRMA | | SMP | | SMCA | | Undesignated | | Total MPAs | |
|----------------------|-------|-----|-------|----|------|-----|-------|----|--------------|----|------------|-----|
| | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % | Area | % |
| Kelp forest | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Maximum kelp* | 33.93 | 10% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.23 | <1% | 15.56 | 5% | 8.43 | 3% | 58.14 | 17% |
| Kelp persistence* | 15.48 | 8% | 0.00 | 0% | 0.58 | <1% | 9.24 | 5% | 7.02 | 4% | 32.32 | 18% |

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.