

**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 A**  
*Date Revised: March 9, 2010*

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

Type of MPA <sup>a</sup>	# of MPAs	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	% of Study Region
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	4	14.43	1.4%
State Marine Recreational Managed Area (SMRMA)	1	2.44	0.2%
State Marine Park (SMP)	0	0.00	0.0%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	10	161.50	15.7%
<b>All MPAs combined</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>178.37</b>	<b>17.4%</b>

<sup>a</sup> 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 A**

Level of Protection (LOP)	# Proposed	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	% of Study Region
Very High <sup>b</sup>	5	16.87	1.6%
High	0	0.00	0.0%
Moderate-High	2	32.84	3.2%
Moderate	0	0.00	0.0%
Low <sup>c</sup>	8	128.65	12.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>178.37</b>	<b>17.4%</b>

<sup>b</sup> The “Very High” category includes MPAs with SMR designation, as well as SMRMA designations.

<sup>c</sup> 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 A<sup>d</sup>**

MPA Name	Size <sup>e</sup> (mi <sup>2</sup> )	Alongshore Span <sup>f</sup> (mi)	Depth Range <sup>g</sup> (ft)
Pyramid Point (FS) SMCA <sup>h</sup>	21.30	4.7	0 - 124
Crescent City Mobile SMCA <sup>h</sup>	22.27	4.4	0 - 245
Reading Rock (FS) SMCA	19.03	2.8	0 - 244
Trinidad Mobile SMCA <sup>h</sup>	17.69	3.7	0 - 172
Eureka Mobile SMCA <sup>h</sup>	13.81	3.7	0 - 143
Humboldt Bay SMRMA <sup>h</sup>	2.44	N/A	Depth data not available
Punta Gorda (FS) SMCA	21.46	5.7	0 - 1598
Shelter Cove Mobile SMCA <sup>h</sup>	6.21	1.8	0 - 823
Ten Mile (FS) SMR <sup>h</sup>	13.77	3.6	0 - 343
Ten Mile Estuary SMR	0.19	N/A	Depth data not available
Noyo Mobile SMCA <sup>h</sup>	12.85	3.4	0 - 346
Point Cabrillo (FS) SMR	0.37	0.8	0 - 40
Albion Mobile SMCA <sup>h</sup>	13.85	3.6	0 - 368
Navarro River Estuary SMR <sup>h</sup>	0.09	N/A	Depth data not available
Point Arena Mobile SMCA <sup>h</sup>	13.03	3.4	0 - 240

- <sup>d</sup> This array proposes a new concept where mobile MPAs would rotate within a given area, referred to as a “stewardship zone.” Please see External MPA Array A’s supporting materials for a list of those stewardship zones.
- <sup>e</sup> Statue mile is the unit of measurement used for this analysis.
- <sup>f</sup> 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
- <sup>g</sup> 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.
- <sup>h</sup> 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 A**

Habitat <sup>i</sup>	SMR		SMRMA		SMP		SMCA		Total MPAs	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Intertidal										
Sandy or gravel beach*	1.93	1%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	22.69	13%	24.62	14%
Rocky shores*	10.70	7%	0.28	<1%	0.00	0%	24.14	15%	35.12	22%
Hardened shores*	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	1.85	8%	1.85	8%
Coastal marsh*	2.94	3%	2.27	3%	0.00	0%	0.30	<1%	5.52	6%
Coastal marsh	0.06	2%	0.05	1%	0.00	0%	0.01	<1%	0.11	3%
Tidal flats*	0.33	<1%	1.09	2%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	1.42	2%
Seagrass beds										
Humboldt Eelgrass	0.00	0%	0.92	13%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.92	13%

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Habitat <sup>i</sup>	SMR		SMRMA		SMP		SMCA		Total MPAs	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Estuarine										
Estuary	0.28	1%	2.44	6%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	2.73	6%
Hard bottom										
0-30 meters proxy* <sup>j</sup>	1.30	2%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	10.15	19%	11.45	21%
0-30 meters	0.76	2%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	6.26	15%	7.02	17%
30-100 meters	0.69	2%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	6.65	15%	7.35	16%
100-200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.23	23%	0.23	23%
>200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.05	52%	0.05	52%
Soft bottom										
0-30 meters proxy* <sup>j</sup>	2.60	2%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	24.88	16%	27.48	17%
0-30 meters	1.92	1%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	47.22	19%	49.14	19%
30-100 meters	9.20	2%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	62.52	15%	71.72	17%
100-200 meters	0.53	1%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	9.29	15%	9.82	16%
>200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	2.12	28%	2.12	28%
Unknown										
0-30 meters proxy* <sup>j</sup>	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	3.47	18%	3.47	18%
0-30 meters	1.32	1%	2.44	1%	0.00	0%	22.19	13%	25.96	16%
30-100 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	4.96	19%	4.96	19%
100-200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
>200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
Other										
Offshore rocks*	4.42	3%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	27.54	20%	31.96	23%
Linear kelp*	2.92	6%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	9.10	17%	12.02	23%

<sup>i</sup> Note: Habitats are measured as an area (mi<sup>2</sup>) except for those with a \* notation. Habitats with a \* notation are expressed in linear units (mi).

<sup>j</sup> 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.