

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 C
Date Created: March 5, 2010

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

Type of MPA ^a	# of MPAs	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	0	0.00	0.0%
State Marine Recreational Managed Area (SMRMA)	1	1.84	0.2%
State Marine Park (SMP)	2	0.27	<0.1%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	14	119.51	11.6%
All MPAs combined	17	121.62	11.8%

^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 C

Level of Protection (LOP)	# Proposed	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
Very High ^b	1	1.84	0.2%
High	9	86.64	8.4%
Moderate-High	3	27.64	2.7%
Moderate	0	0.00	0.0%
Low ^c	4	5.51	0.5%
Total	17	121.62	11.8%

^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 C

MPA Name	Size ^d (mi ²)	Alongshore Span ^e (mi)	Depth Range ^f (ft)
Pyramid Point SMCA ^g	21.26	4.7	0 - 124
False Klamath Cove SMCA ^g	9.01	2.0	0 - 121
Reading Rock SMCA ^g	19.57	6.3	96 - 253
Reading Rock Coastline SMCA ^g	11.56	3.5	0 - 105
Humboldt Bay SMRMA ^g	1.84	N/A	Depth data not available
Punta Gorda SMCA ^g	21.09	5.3	0 - 1667
Vizcaino Outside SMCA ^g	7.07	3.4	150 - 394
Vizcaino SMCA ^g	5.95	3.4	0 - 254
Ten Mile SMCA ^g	13.97	3.6	0 - 343
Ten Mile Estuary SMCA ^g	0.19	N/A	Depth data not available
MacKerricher SMCA ^g	0.72	3.0	0 - 38
Point Cabrillo SMCA ^g	4.29	1.1	0 - 404
Russian Gulch SMCA ^g	4.72	1.2	0 - 402
Big River Estuary SMP ^g	0.22	N/A	Depth data not available
Van Damme SMCA ^g	0.02	0.2	0 - 11
Albion River Estuary SMP ^g	0.05	N/A	Depth data not available
Navarro River Estuary SMCA ^g	0.09	N/A	Depth data not available

^d Statute 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 C

Habitat ^h	SMR		SMRMA		SMP		SMCA		Total MPAs	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Intertidal										
Sandy or gravel beach*	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	1.05	1%	17.92	10%	18.98	11%
Rocky shores*	0.00	0%	0.28	<1%	0.82	1%	28.79	18%	29.89	19%
Hardened shores*	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
Coastal marsh*	0.00	0%	1.90	2%	3.55	4%	2.94	3%	8.39	9%
Coastal marsh	0.00	0%	0.04	1%	0.04	1%	0.06	2%	0.14	4%
Tidal flats*	0.00	0%	0.98	1%	0.28	<1%	0.33	<1%	1.59	2%
Seagrass beds										
Humboldt Eelgrass	0.00	0%	0.57	8%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.57	8%
Estuarine										
Estuary	0.00	0%	1.84	4%	0.27	1%	0.28	1%	2.39	6%

*California MLPA North Coast Study Region
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Habitat ^h	SMR		SMRMA		SMP		SMCA		Total MPAs	
	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%	Area	%
Hard bottom										
0-30 meters proxy ^{*,i}	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	6.68	12%	6.68	12%
0-30 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	4.91	12%	4.91	12%
30-100 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	3.68	8%	3.68	8%
100-200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.31	31%	0.31	31%
>200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.05	52%	0.05	52%
Soft bottom										
0-30 meters proxy ^{*,i}	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	18.94	12%	18.94	12%
0-30 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	33.70	13%	33.70	13%
30-100 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	53.89	13%	53.89	13%
100-200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	10.56	17%	10.56	17%
>200 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	2.40	31%	2.40	31%
Unknown										
0-30 meters proxy ^{*,i}	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%
0-30 meters	0.00	0%	1.84	1%	0.25	<1%	9.65	6%	11.73	7%
30-100 meters	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.36	1%	0.36	1%
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%	0.02	10%	0.02	10%
Other										
Offshore rocks*	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	19.88	14%	19.88	14%
Linear kelp*	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	0.00	0%	6.11	12%	6.11	12%

^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.