



California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Second Phase (2007-2008)

What is the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative? A public-private partnership designed to help the State of California implement the Marine Life Protection Act, using the best readily available science as well as the advice and assistance of scientists, resource managers, experts, stakeholders and members of the public.

Why are you doing this? The Marine Life Protection Act was signed into law in 1999 and directs the state to redesign California's system of marine protected areas to increase its coherence and effectiveness in protecting the state's marine life and habitats, marine ecosystems, and marine natural heritage, as well as to improve recreational, educational and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems.

What are marine protected areas? Marine protected areas (MPAs) are named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine areas designed to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. Examples within California that you may be familiar with include Tomales Bay State Marine Park, James V. Fitzgerald State Marine Park, Point Lobos State Marine Reserve, Painted Cave State Marine Conservation Area, and Crystal Cove State Marine Conservation Area.

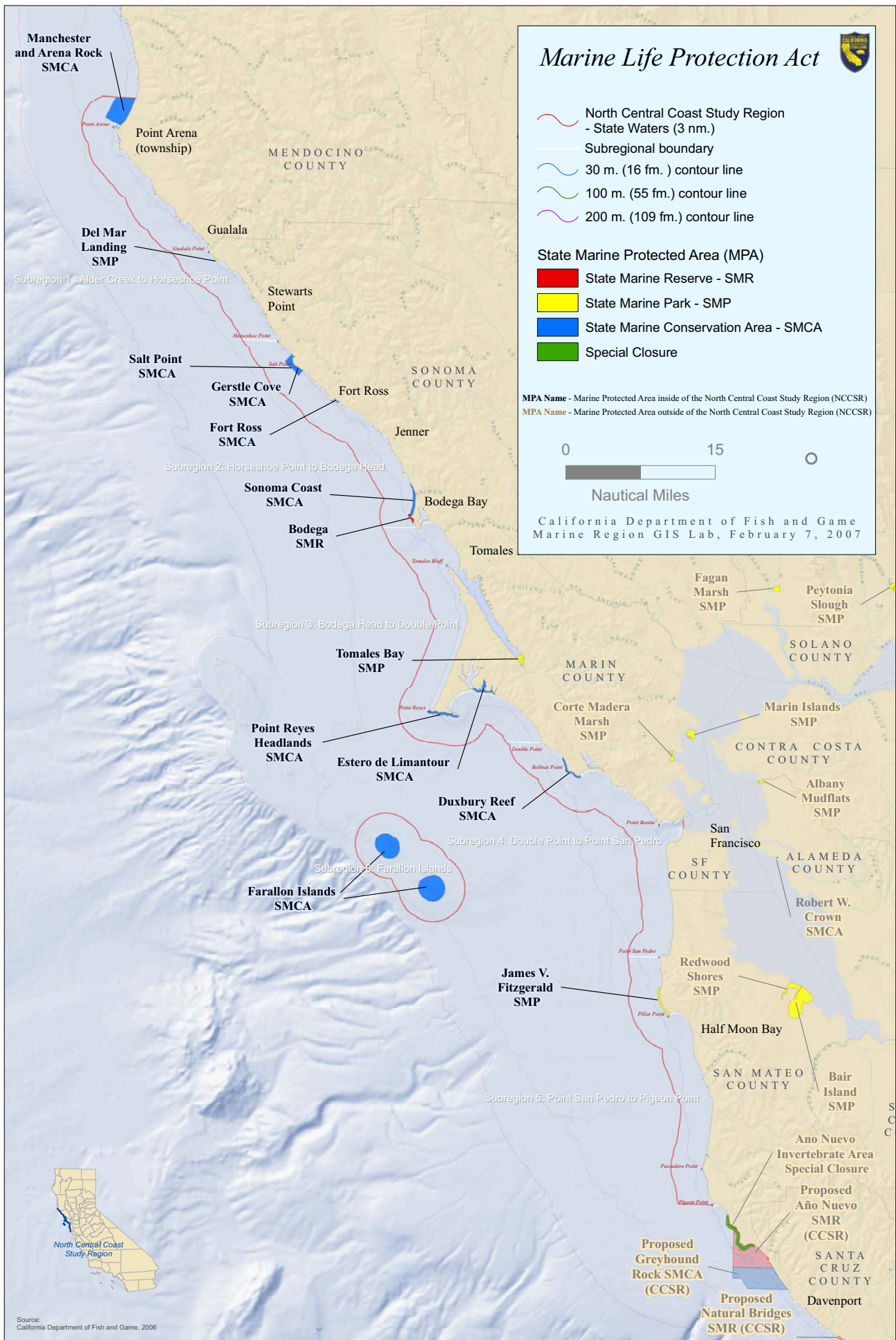
What can I do in a marine protected area? There are three types of MPAs: state marine reserve, state marine park, and state marine conservation area, each with different rules about what activities can or cannot be done within each. In general, marine reserves do not allow any type of extractive activities (including fishing or kelp harvesting), marine parks do not allow any commercial extraction, and marine conservation areas do not allow some combination of commercial and/or recreational extraction.

When and where did the MLPA Initiative start? Redesigning the system of MPAs along California's 1,100 mile coastline is such a large task that it was decided to take a regional approach and implement the MLPA in phases. In the first phase of the initiative, a master plan framework was created to help guide the planning process within individual geographic areas, called study regions. After the framework was created, the first effort to redesign a group of MPAs in a region took place along the central coast, from Pigeon Point in San Mateo County to Point Conception in Santa Barbara County. In April 2007 the California Fish and Game Commission is scheduled to decide on a final package of MPAs for the central coast.

When will the MLPA Initiative be in my area? The next study region to be evaluated is the north central coast, from Alder Creek in Mendocino County to Pigeon Point in San Mateo County (see map on reverse side). Eventually the remainder of the coast, including San Francisco Bay, will also be re-evaluated, but exact dates and the order in which those will take place has not yet been determined.

How do I get involved in the process? The success of the first phase of the MLPA Initiative was highly dependent upon the active involvement of stakeholders and the general public in a variety of ways, including a regional stakeholder group, workshops, public meetings, and providing input on documents and MPA packages as they were developed. The second phase of the MLPA Initiative will again afford many opportunities for public involvement, which began with a series of workshops in March 2007 along the north central coast. For more information about the MLPA Initiative and opportunities for involvement, please visit the initiative website:

www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa



WHAT ARE MARINE PROTECTED AREAS?

Defined in Public Resources Code, Sections 36602 and 36710

A "**marine protected area**" (MPA) is a named, discrete geographic marine or estuarine area seaward of the mean high tide line or the mouth of a coastal river, including any area of intertidal or subtidal terrain, together with its overlying water and associated flora and fauna that has been designated by law or administrative action to protect or conserve marine life and habitat. MPAs are primarily intended to protect or conserve marine life and habitat...

(a) In a **state marine reserve**, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource, except under a permit or specific authorization from the managing agency for research, restoration, or monitoring purposes. While, to the extent feasible, the area shall be open to the public for managed enjoyment and study, the area shall be maintained to the extent practicable in an undisturbed and unpolluted state. Access and use for activities such as walking, swimming, boating, and diving may be restricted to protect marine resources. Research, restoration, and monitoring may be permitted by the managing agency. Educational activities and other forms of nonconsumptive human use may be permitted by the designating entity or managing agency in a manner consistent with the protection of all marine resources. [PROHIBITS ALL EXTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES]

(b) In a **state marine park**, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living or nonliving marine resource for commercial exploitation purposes. Any human use that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community or habitat, or geological, cultural, or recreational features, may be restricted by the designating entity or managing agency. All other uses are allowed, including scientific collection with a permit, research, monitoring, and public recreation, including recreational harvest, unless otherwise restricted. Public use, enjoyment, and education are encouraged, in a manner consistent with protecting resource values. [PROHIBITS ALL COMMERCIAL EXTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES AND POTENTIALLY SOME RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES]

(c) In a **state marine conservation area**, it is unlawful to injure, damage, take, or possess any living, geological, or cultural marine resource for commercial or recreational purposes, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes, that the designating entity or managing agency determines would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat, or geological features. The designating entity or managing agency may permit research, education, and recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources. [LIMITS RECREATIONAL AND/OR COMMERCIAL EXTRACTIVE ACTIVITIES]



California's Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Second Phase Participants

Implementation of the California Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initiative's second phase will be carried out by a set of public and private partners. These include the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force, and the staff and contractors hired to support the initiative, in cooperation with scientists, stakeholders and the general public. This list identifies some of the organizations, entities and people that will be, or are likely to be, engaged in the MLPA Initiative.

Institutional Partners

- California Resources Agency
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Resources Legacy Fund Foundation
- California Fish and Game Commission

MLPA Initiative Groups

- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
- MLPA Statewide Interests Group
- Science advisory team
- Regional science sub-team
- Regional stakeholder group
- MLPA Steering Committee
- MLPA I-Team (task force and DFG staff and advisors)

Stakeholders

- Ocean industries, including commercial fishing
- Ocean recreation, including diving, sport fishing, whale-watching
- Conservation groups
- Educational and research institutions
- Other government agencies
- General public

Contractors

- Facilitation
- Outreach and communication
- Document editing and preparation
- Technical research
- GIS support
- Legal analyses

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative Opportunities for Public Participation in the Second Phase (2007-2008)

Blue Ribbon Task Force meetings

- attend and provide comment at meetings
- invited stakeholders to make presentations
- view live webcasts
- view video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA website

Master Plan Science Advisory Team meetings

- attend and provide comment at meetings
- view video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA website

Statewide Interests Group meetings

- representatives suggest strategies for public involvement

North Central Coast Project

- provide comments and suggestions on the North Central Coast Regional Profile
- Work with a member of the regional stakeholder group to ensure various interests and needs are addressed while packages of MPAs are being developed
- attend and provide comment at regional stakeholder group meetings
- view live webcasts
- view video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA website

California Fish and Game Commission meetings

- attend and provide comment at meetings
- view live webcasts
- view video and listen to audio tapes archived on the MLPA website

Workshops

- participate in workshops

Ongoing

- review documents for comment on MLPA website
- submit comments, ideas and suggestions to MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
- contact MLPA staff (contact information on website)

For more information about the MLPA Initiative, please visit www.dfg.ca.gov/mrd/mlpa, call us at 916.653.5656 or send us mail at:

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