

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Potential Additions to the List of Species Likely to Benefit from MPAs

MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team
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Barred surfperch

- Found from Washington to Baja California
- Live primarily in shallow sandy habitats
- Give live birth to low numbers
- Frequently caught at spawning aggregations, females targeted for larger size
- Taken both commercially and recreationally by surf fishermen
- Statewide account for approximately 33% of the recreational surfperch catch

Barred surfperch catches

CRFS* recreational catch data for selected surfperch species

Common Name	Species	Number of Fish
Barred surfperch	<i>Amphistichus argenteus</i>	825
Black surfperch	<i>Embiotoca jacksoni</i>	713
Calico surfperch	<i>Amphistichus koelzi</i>	100
Pile surfperch	<i>Damalichthys vacca</i>	173
Rainbow surfperch	<i>Hypsurus caryi</i>	178
Redtail surfperch	<i>Amphistichus rhodoterus</i>	457
Rubberlip surfperch	<i>Phacochilus toxotes</i>	210
Shiner surfperch	<i>Cymatogaster aggregata</i>	2044
Striped surfperch	<i>Embiotoca lateralis</i>	863
Walleye surfperch	<i>Hyperprosopon argenteum</i>	876
White surfperch	<i>Phanerodon furcatus</i>	226

sampled catches for the years 2000-2006 for all fishing modes

From October 16-17 RSG questions

7. The NCCRSR would like the SAT to (re)consider and comment on the following as possible additions to the list of species likely to benefit from MPAs.
 - a. Flat abalone, *Haliotis walallensis*, and Northern abalone, *Haliotis kamtschatkana* (see Rogers-Bennett, 2007, Sloan, 2004, and Gladstone, 2002)
 - b. White sharks - SAT response to NCCRSR questions (revised Oct 12), "Since little is known about the breeding locations of white sharks, protecting forage species in areas where white sharks aggregate (e.g. the Farallones, Tomales Point) would likely benefit them."



Flat and Northern Abalone

Flat abalone

- Range from British Columbia to La Jolla, California
- Not plentiful but can be locally abundant
- Not harvested in California
- No longer in southern California

Northern (Pinto) abalone

- Range from Alaska to Monterey
- Long lived (up to 50 years)
- Short adult movements
- Aggregate in shallows to spawn
- Not harvested in California and were never commercially harvested to any extent



Flat and Northern Abalone

Both could qualify for list of species likely to benefit from MPAs

- Sedentary behavior
- Low larval dispersal distances
- Long lifespans and slow growth

Not good candidates for most likely to benefit from MPAs

- Not harvested in California
- No evidence they suffer direct negative impacts from human activities
- Significant proportions of species distribution are outside of study region



White sharks

- Highly mobile
- Establish (at least temporary) foraging territories – in particular off Pt. Reyes, Tomales Point, and Farallon Islands
- Despite benefits pinnepeds may gain its unclear if proportion of pinneped populations that would benefit from MPAs represents significant proportion of forage base for individual's life span
- Not targeted by a fishery
- Other sharks on the list have life history traits that rely on specific habitats, such as nursery areas in eel grass beds