California MLPA North Central Coast Project
Initial External Proposal C
October 4, 2007

PROPOSAL NAME: ***Initial External Proposal C: Collaborative Proposal***

PROPOSAL CONTRIBUTORS: ***Proponents include: Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association; The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education; Defenders of Wildlife; The Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve; California Coastkeeper Alliance; Russian Riverkeeper; San Francisco Baykeeper; The Marine Mammal Center; the Natural Resources Defense Council; and Ocean Outreach***

FORMAT IN WHICH PROPOSED MPA BOUNDARIES WERE SUBMITTED:

___X__ MPA ARRAY IN DORIS _____ HARDCOPY MAP TO STAFF _____ GIS FORMAT

NUMBER AND TYPE OF MPAS IN INITIAL MPA PROPOSAL:

__11__ SMR _____ SMP __8___ SMCA __19___ Total # MPAs

NARRATIVE RATIONALE: See cover letter (appended to the end of this document).

Initial MPA Proposal
October 4, 2007

Proposal Name: INITIAL EXTERNAL PROPOSAL C

Provide ALL the information listed below for each individual MPA included in the recommendation.

MPA Name	Type (SMCA, SMP, SMR)	GIS ID #	General MPA Boundaries (describe in words)	Allowed or Disallowed Uses	Goals/Objectives/Design Criteria this MPA Contributes Toward	Comments, Questions or Important Information
Point Arena SMR	SMR	13	Due north from west side of Garcia River mouth to northern boundary, a line due west of Brush Creek. West boundary a N-S line starting at 30 m depth. South boundary a line due west from a point just north of Arena Cove.	No Take	An SMR would protect complex and unique habitats (pinnacles, wash rocks, caverns, clefts, honeycomb formation, undercut and vertical rock walls, cobbles, deep sand, kelp), fueled by persistent upwelling (Goals 1 and 4). Arena Rock is a center of productivity that supports high diversity of rockfish and other species (Goal 1). Declines in rockfish numbers and size since 1970s documented; restoration potential likely high, and protection likely to produce benefits to broader area. (Goal 2). Protects habitat for overfished rockfish (yellow eye, canary historically abundant) and recently healthy abalone and intertidal populations. Enhances recreational and study activities and has history of monitoring (e.g. DFG abalone and intertidal assessments) (Goal 3). A high protection MPA in this complex of unique and representative	Staffing at lighthouse, caretaker at Mendocino College research station and rangers for BLM lands bolster enforcement resources. Leaves open for fishing the harbor, rich area directly south of the harbor, most of Manchester Beach crab grounds, shore fishing on Manchester, extensive salmon fishing areas and cultural uses near the Garcia River mouth and Manchester Beach.

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					habitats anchors the network at the north end of the region (Goal 6).	
Point Arena SMCA	SMCA	12	SMCA (salmon only) extends to state line, bounded to North by line due west of Brush Creek, and to south by a line due west of a point just north of Arena Cove.	Salmon only	An SMCA adjacent to the Point Arena SMR would extend high protection to the state boundary encompassing deeper habitat in a regional center of high productivity (see above).	
Mendocino Coast SMCA I	SMCA	9	North boundary from Schooner Gulch (Galloway Creek) due west; west boundary a line roughly parallel to the coast about 2.5 miles from shore; south boundary, a line from Fish Rock Beach due west (excluding Haven's Anchorage, but including cove at Haven's Neck and Fish Rocks).	Urchin harvest only	Goals: SMCA at this site would protect complex and highly productive kelp and rocky reef habitat and associated species, including nearshore rockfish and multiple abalone species, in an area fished heavily in the past Inclusion of Fish Rock would help protect breeding site for marine mammals and 9 seabird species, including cormorants, guillemots, storm petrels. This is the most important bird colony north of Pt.Reyes. The rocky reef habitat here is younger and more complex, and extends further from shore, than the area off Sea Ranch.	Leaves Saunders Reef open for urchin fishery—a major contributor to revenues of Point Arena harbor. Maintains significant fishing and diving opportunities to the south of Haven's Neck for abalone divers and small boats launched from Anchor Bay.
Mendocino Coast SMCA II	SMCA	10	North boundary Schooner Gulch (Galloway Creek) due	Salmon only	SMCA would extend protection of most species to deeper water habitats out to the state line.	Salmon fishing in deeper water would continue.

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			west, east boundary a line roughly parallel to the coast about 2.5 miles from shore, west boundary at state line, south boundary a line due west from Fish Rock beach.			In combination with Point Arena MPA cluster, the Mendocino coast SMCAs aim to provide some of the benefits of a bigger MPA while maintaining fishing opportunities from the harbor
Sonoma Coast SMR	SMR	17	North boundary Black Point due west to state line; south boundary Salt Point due west to state line, including Gerstle Cove.	No Take	SMR protects complex rocky habitat, kelp (including a series of coves, and off Salt Point, wash rocks, shelves, walls, cobble and boulders) and dependent species in an area that gets deeper faster than many parts of the region. Likely to have good larval production for invertebrates (Goal 1 and 2). Dive rangers have observed a decline in rock fish over past 20 years; restoration potential likely high (Goal 2). Extending SMR out to state line captures depth and habitat diversity (Goal 1). In the preferred size range for an effective network (Goal 6).	Would leave open for fishing and abalone diving the most popular fishing and abalone diving area in this portion of the coast, extending from Salt Point south to the Fort Ross reef.
Russian River SMR	SMR	16	West boundary is line due south from point at west end of Russian River Rocks. South boundary is line due west from point just south of Arched Rock	No Take	Protects portion of the Russian River plume and lower Russian River Estuary (Goal 1, 4); Coho, Chinook, and steelhead as they gather to enter the Russian River (Goal 2); and foraging and breeding areas for harbor seal colony and Russian River Rocks and	

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			(about 1.5 mi. south of river mouth). Extend to north-south line in estuary through Penny Island.		Arched Rock seabird colonies (Goal 2). Water quality issues and impaired habitat upstream.	
Bodega Head SMR	SMR	2	North boundary a line due west of Salmon Creek; South boundary at 38.17 N. East boundary approximately 123.3.4 W to shore. West boundary of SMR a north-south line starting at north boundary at about 30 fm line (approximately 123.6' 45" W).	No Take	SMR/SMCA combination at this site protects uncommon example of rocky habitat in a continuous swath to state waters boundary (Goals 1 and 4). This MPA could capture high energy headlands and portions of lee retention area as well as rocky reefs of varying depth and diverse populations they support, including overfished rockfish (Goal 1, Goal 2, and Goal 4). Protection of forage fish could benefit stellar sea lions and other marine mammals (Goal 1). Would expand long-term study area (Goal 3). MPA cluster is in the preferred size range (Goal 6).	Proximity to Bodega Marine Institute would leverage monitoring and enforcement resources.
Bodega Head SMCA	SMCA	1	Nort boundary a line due west of Salmon Creek; South boundary at 38.17 N; East boundary a north-south line starting at the north boundary at 30m; West	Salmon and crab only	SMCA would extend protection to include additional habitat and deeper water, and contribute to purposes of SMR (see above).	

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			boundary is state line.			
Tomales Bluff SMR	SMR	19	North boundary a line due west from north end of McClure's Beach. South line due west from Abbott's Lagoon. West boundary a north-south line 1 mi. from shore at north boundary.	No Take	SMR/SMCA combination protects shallow to 100m waters with complex mosaic of rocky and soft bottom habitat and dependent species from shore to state line. Substrate includes very diverse mix of fractured granite (geological transition in this area from sedimentary in north to granitic from here south), mix of eroded bedrock, rocky shelf and sand; dense and diverse bird colonies (Goals 1, 2). One of only four main congregation areas for apex predators in central coast (three are in NCC Study Region) (Goals 1, 2, 4). High energy rocky shoreline; intertidal includes surfgrass, steep relief and boulders, mussel beds (1). Benefits from continuity with protected land areas; part of iconic Point Reyes Seashore (Goal 4).	
Tomales Bluff SMCA	SMCA	18	North boundary a line due west from north end of McClure's Beach. South line due west from Abbott's Lagoon. East boundary a north-south line 1 mi. from shore at north	Salmon and crab	SMCA extends protection for diverse mix of rock and sand habitats to deeper water (Goal 1).	

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			boundary; west boundary at state line.			
Point Reyes Headland SMR	SMR	15	North boundary is 38° 00'N, south boundary is 37° 58.6'N; west boundary is 123° 02'W; east boundary is 122° 57.3'W, approximately the chimney rock buoy.	No Take	Iconic place; one of 2 major headlands in region; MPA combo would provide complete protection to habitats with soft and hard substrates and associated species in an area characterized by both fractured granite and a mixture of eroded bedrock, rocky shelf, and soft bottom. (Goal 1 and 2) This area is important to the formation of an ecologically sound MPA network component, by linking the north and south bioregions in the study area. (Goal 6). SMR would protect a high diversity of species: near shore fisheries management species; forage, breeding and nesting for very dense and diverse bird colonies around points (14 sp nesting seabirds); leatherback turtle, cetacean, pinniped, and apex predator foraging; rocky habitat and species off headlands; some area in lee of headlands (Goals 1, 2, 4). History of monitoring; likely to enhance non-consumptive uses benefiting many thousands of visitors per year. (Goal 3). MPA will benefit from enforcement potential of and connection to PRNS (Design guideline 6).	Leaves open salmon, crab and rockfish to west, halibut to immediate north on the west side, and crab, halibut and portion of squid grounds on the north east side.

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Point Reyes Headland SMCA	SMCA	14	North boundary is 37° 58.6'N, south boundary is state water boundary; west boundary is 123° 02'W; east boundary is 122° 57.3'W, approximately the chimney rock buoy.	Salmon and crab	SMCA would protect continuum of deeper habitat and sand to state boundary offshore from Point Reyes Headland SMR. Protects groundfish, forage fish and squid (Goal 1, 2 and 4)	
Drakes-Limantour Estero SMR	SMR for Limantour Estero ; Future SMR for Drakes	3	Includes whole area of Drakes' and Limantour Esteros.	No Take starting in 2012	Helps preserve limited eelgrass left in state; Estero may represent ~ 7% of state total (Goal 1, 4). Includes important fish and invertebrate nursery ground, leopard shark and bat ray foraging and possible breeding location, Dungeness crab and halibut nursery area, steelhead trout, likely tidewater goby, large harbor seal haul out and pupping site. (Goal 2) Protects important foraging area for migratory shorebirds and waterfowl including Black Brandt (eelgrass dependent) (Goal 2).	Phase in SMR when the oyster reservation of use expires in 2012. Retain Limantour SMCA in the mean time. There is also a seasonal closure of Drakes to all watercraft (excluding oyster boats) during the Harbor Seal pupping season.
Duxbury-Double Point SMR	SMR	8	West boundary is line from Miller's Point (Coast creek) due south to state line; east boundary is a line from Abalone Point due south to state line.	No Take	SMR protects productive area with diverse habitats that may include a rockfish nursery (Goals 1, 2). SMR/SMCA complex encompasses mosaic of rock (fractured shale, eroded bedrock, outcrops, rocky shelf), including habitat of very high complexity, kelp and soft bottom; portion of one of the largest shale reefs	Leaves open for fishing the popular Duxbury Reef, much of the surrounding rock and rock-sand finger area, and 11 Fathom Bank.

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					in California. Habitat for rockfish including overfished species, forage and breeding areas for harbor seals and seabirds. Rich intertidal includes mussels, crabs, fish, and surfgrass beds (Goal 1). Good restoration potential due to productivity fueled by upwelling (Goal 2). Adjacent to iconic Point Reyes Seashore and Marin County Park (Goal 4, Design guideline 6). History of monitoring includes two PISCO monitoring sites at Bolinas Point, educational use of Duxbury Reef, twenty seven-year study by Gordon Chan of College of Marin (invertebrates and some algae), flora and fauna inventories by Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary in 1996 (Goal 3). Protects Double Point area with good water quality rocky habitat, ashy storm petrel, common murre, cormorants, 1500 harbor seal haulout and colony, CASL haul out on offshore rocks, kelp beds, black abalone, brown pelican resting spots (very important requirement for the species).	
Duxbury-Double Point SMCA	SMCA	7	West boundary is a line from Abalone Pt. due south to state line; east boundary is a line from Bolinas Pt due south.	Allows salmon, crab, and halibut only	SMCA would include rocky reef and protect rockfish and forage fish in heavily impacted rock and sand habitat, while allowing fishing for salmon and sandy bottom species (Goals 1, 2) (see	

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					above).	
Fitzgerald-Devils Slide SMR	SMR	6	North boundary is 37° 36'N aligned with Shelter Cove Point, and south boundary is aligned with extent of current Fitzgerald Park at Pillar Point 37° 29.7'N; west boundary is 122° 39'W.	No take	SMCA/SMR combo provides full protection to an area that has been called by scientists one of the most biodiverse regions in California. Protects a portion of the offshore reefs in support of the Nearshore Fisheries Management Plan. Includes a mix of sandy, rocky, bull kelp, and surf grass habitat characterized by highly diverse fish, invertebrate and plant communities (Goal 1, 2, 4). Declining landings trends suggest restoration potential is high (Goal2). Longstanding education and study site with LIMPET and PISCO sites (Goal 3). Highly popular, iconic area (Goal 4). Near San Pedro Point: bird diversity, disturbance issues, rich forage fish area (Goal 1 and 2). Including area from Pillar Point to Point San Pedro meets guideline of encompassing diverse habitats within an MPA cluster, and the MPA meets the SAT's preferred size range (Goal 6).	
Fitzgerald-Devils Slide SMCA	SMCA	5	North boundary is 37° 36N aligned with Shelter Cove Point, and south boundary is	Salmon and crab only	SMCA would protect continuum of deeper habitat and sand to state boundary offshore from Fitzgerald - Devils Slide SMR. Protect groundfish,	

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			aligned with extent of current Fitzgerald Park at Pillar Point 37° 29.7'N; east boundary is 122° 39'W; west boundary is the state water boundary.		forage fish and squid (Goal 1, 2 and 4).	
Pescadero-Bean Hollow SMR	SMR	11	North boundary is 37° 16.5N aligned with cliffs at north end of Pescadero State Beach, and south boundary is 37° 13.4N aligned with small point at the south end of Bean Hollow Beach. West boundary is the state water boundary.	No Take	SMR would protect a larger mix of rocky and sandy bottom habitat and bull kelp with different exposure to wind, waves, and upwelling than nearby Año Nuevo Marine Reserve; Pescadero is the windward side of the Pigeon Point to Año Nuevo area. Pescadero has complex offshore rocky habitat at more depths than Año Nuevo (Goals 1 and 4). Protect more diversity of shoreline habitats than Año Nuevo Reserve including wave-cut rock platforms, washrocks, pocket beaches of mixed sand and gravel, fine sand beaches, rocky promontory, coves, seasonal river mouth, long beach, rocky intertidal with connection to Pescadero watershed and marsh, and dependent species (Goal 1). Conserve rich rockfish habitat to contribute to recovery of Nearshore Fisheries Management species, with benefits for nearby fishing areas (Goal 2). Protect forage area for endangered Marbled	

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					Murrelets that breed in the Pescadero watershed; the murrelets depend on the local foraging area in good years that are crucial to their reproduction (in bad years they may fail to breed or fledge young) (Goal 1 and 2). Pigeon Point and Bean Hollow have high quality black abalone habitat (Goal 2). Excellent and often used seabird viewing along this stretch (Goal 3). Steelhead and coho gather to enter Pescadero Creek.	
Farallon SMR	SMR	4	Entire state waters area surrounding islands.	No Take	An SMR here would help protect the persistent, recurring concentrations of prey and foraging predators--fish, seabirds, and marine mammals--at the Farallon Archipelago. The area is widely recognized as a unique and highly productive habitat deserving protection as a heritage site (Goal 4). SMR would protect natural diversity and allows the varied, interdependent organisms to function as a natural ecosystem (Goal 1). Protects large mature rockfish to help assure the recovery of depleted ground fish, to increase the number of large adults and larval fish which can disperse to adjacent areas for fisheries harvest (Goal 2). Availability of forage fish (including juvenile rockfish) near the	

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					islands key to health of birds (Goal 1). Protects endangered apex predators and seeks to minimize disturbances to their congregation and foraging (Goals 1, 2, 4). Habitat complexity and prime location in path of upwelling plume makes area highly productive and unique (1, 4). SMR aims to protect resident seabirds from disturbance and harm of night lights on squid and salmon fishing boats, and enhance the reproductive success of the diverse seabirds and marine mammals using the islands which are a globally important breeding location (Goal 2). Long-term monitoring and data record (Goal 3). This area is a globally recognized area of importance for white sharks, and provides unique opportunity for study (Goals 3, 4). Addresses scientists' recommendations for larger MPAs, and encompasses unique as well as representative habitats (Goals 4, 6).	

Consideration of Existing State MPAs

Please indicate how each of the following existing MLPA North Central Coast MPAs is considered within your initial MPA proposal.

Existing MPA	Included Without Changes (proposed to be retained)	Included with Boundary or Regulation Change (proposed to be modified)	Not Included (proposed for elimination)
Manchester and Arena Rock SMCA		Partially included, with boundary and regulation change	
Del Mar Landing SMP			Will consider in next version
Salt Point SMCA		Partially included, with boundary and regulation change	
Gerstle Cove SMCA		Included, with regulation change	
Fort Ross SMCA			Not included
Tomales Bay SMP		X	Will consider in next version
Point Reyes SMCA		Included, w/ regulation and boundary change	
Estero de Limantour SMCA		Included, w/ regulation change	
Duxbury Reef SMCA		Included, w/ regulation and boundary change	
Sonoma Coast SMCA		Included, w/ regulation and boundary change	
Bodega SMR		Included, w/ regulation and boundary change	
Fitzgerald SMP		Included, w/ regulation and boundary change	
Farallon Islands SMCA		Included, w/ regulation and boundary change	

Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association
The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education
Defenders of Wildlife
The Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
California Coastkeeper Alliance
Russian Riverkeeper
San Francisco Baykeeper
The Marine Mammal Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ocean Outreach

October 4, 2007

Re: Initial "Collaborative" Proposed Array of Protected Areas

Dear I-Team,

The undersigned groups—Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association; The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education; Defenders of Wildlife; The Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve; California Coastkeeper Alliance; Russian Riverkeeper; San Francisco Baykeeper; The Marine Mammal Center; the Natural Resources Defense Council; and Ocean Outreach — propose the attached initial draft MPA array for evaluation ("the collaborative" proposal). We have published this array in DORIS, and the filenames are included in the attached document along with additional information on each site. Please use the attached document for boundary descriptions. We have attempted to capture those in Doris, but please refer to the attached text over Doris if there are inconsistencies.

We appreciate that the MLPA Initiative process offers many opportunities for stakeholders and other members of the public to put ideas on the table for consideration and evaluation. We have developed this proposal with input from working group meetings and conversations with other residents of the North Central Coast region and we present it as a contribution to the ongoing discussion among the NCCRSG, SAT, BRTF and Fish & Game Commission. We consider it a living document, and hope to improve it through continued discussions with interested parties and information from the SAT evaluation.

Our array aims to meet all the goals and guidelines of the MLPA. The array aims to include the full diversity of species and habitats in the region in high-protection MPAs and replicate representative habitats in marine reserves (Goal 1). We have incorporated sites that have high restoration potential as habitats for depleted species (Goal 2). A number of our MPAs are sited in productivity centers (Arena Rock, Saunders Reef) that are likely to generate benefits beyond their borders (Goal 2). By creating sites in places of high biological diversity (often adjacent to land parks) our array will enhance the experience of people who want to observe thriving ocean species, including seabird and marine mammal colonies (Goal 3). We have also built on the foundation of several existing protected areas that have long data records, including the Bodega Institute research reserve and Fitzgerald Preserve (Goal 3). Our array encompasses several world class natural heritage sites, including Point Arena, Point Reyes, and the Farallon Islands. We have attempted to design an array that encompasses examples of all habitat types, meets the spacing guidelines, and includes 7 MPAs or MPA clusters in the

preferred size range (Goal 6). We have also tried to meet the feasibility guidelines by using vertical and horizontal lines wherever possible.

Sincerely,

Farallones Marine Sanctuary Association (FMSA)
The Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research, and Education
Defenders of Wildlife
The Friends of Fitzgerald Marine Reserve
California Coastkeeper Alliance
Russian Riverkeeper
The Marine Mammal Center
Natural Resources Defense Council
Ocean Outreach