

**California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Central Coast Project**

**Candidate MPA Package 4**

**OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATE MPA PACKAGES**

**Package Name: CCRSG PACKAGE 4**

Type of MPA	# Proposed	Area (sq. mi)	% of Study Region
<b>State Marine Reserve</b>	8	29.76	2.59%
<b>State Marine Park</b>	2	63.64	5.53%
<b>State Marine Conservation Area</b>	12	147.17	12.80%
<b>All MPAs combined</b>	22	240.57	20.92%

**Individual MPAs in Package:**

Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve (9.68 mi. sq.)
Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (18.41 mi. sq.)
Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve (2.61 mi. sq.)
Natural Bridges State Marine Conservation Area (21.11 mi. sq.)
Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area (20.87 mi. sq.)
Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area (9.31 mi. sq.)
Hopkins State Marine Reserve (0.33 mi. sq.)
Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area (5.13 mi. sq.)
Carmel Bay State Marine Park (2.49 mi. sq.)
Point Lobos State Marine Reserve (1.11 mi. sq.)
Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area (12.68 mi. sq.)
Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area (10.40 mi. sq.)
Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Reserve (2.74 mi. sq.)
Big Creek State Marine Reserve (2.48 mi. sq.)
Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area (9.55 mi. sq.)
Salmon Creek State Marine Reserve (3.69 mi. sq.)
Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area (11.77 mi. sq.)
Cambria State Marine Conservation Area (18.66 mi. sq.)
Cambria State Marine Reserve (7.11 mi. sq.)
Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area (3.35 mi. sq.)
Purisima State Marine Conservation Area (5.94 mi. sq.)
Conception State Marine Park (61.15 mi. sq.)

# CCRSG Package 4: North Central Coast Study Region

## Marine Life Protection Act



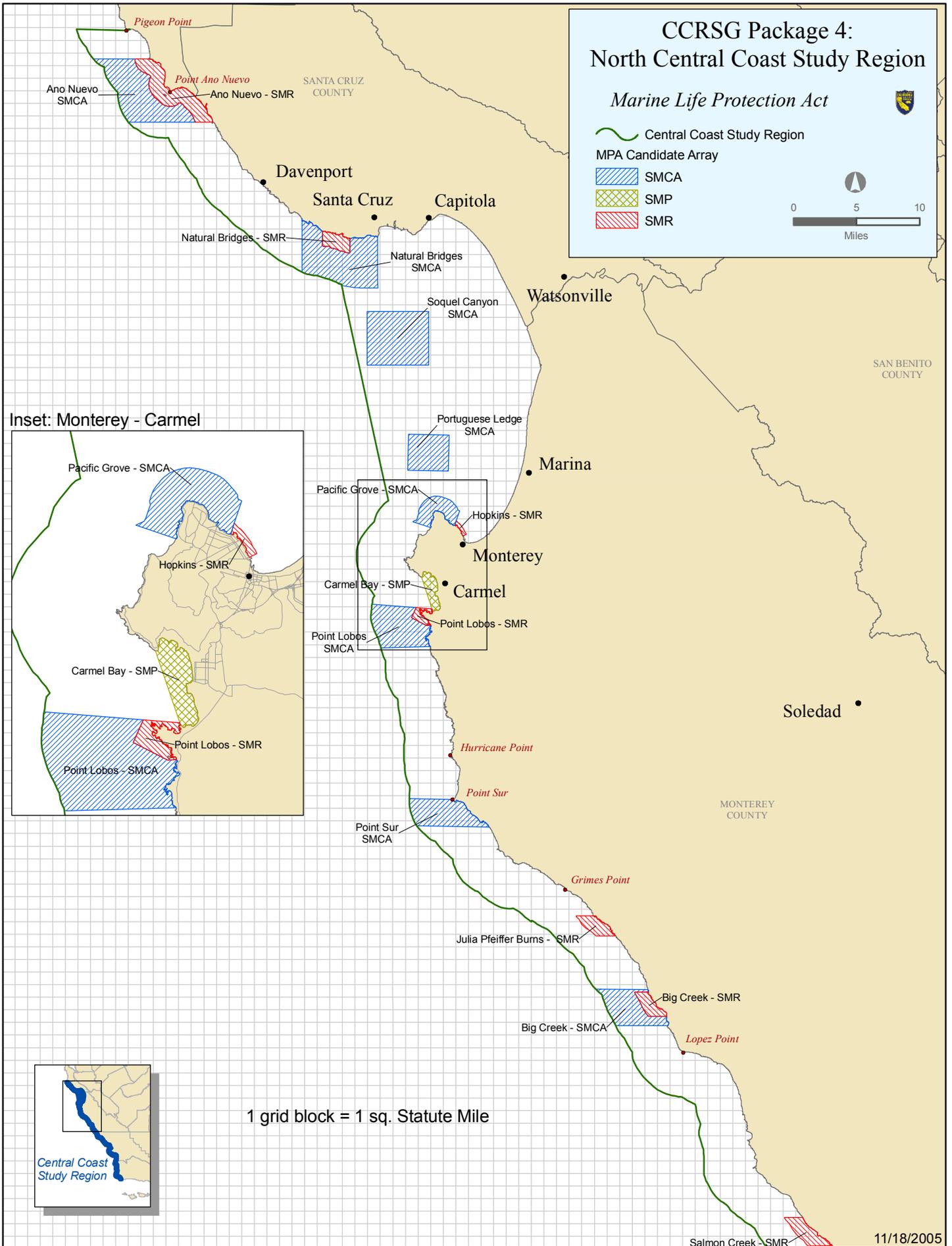
Central Coast Study Region

MPA Candidate Array

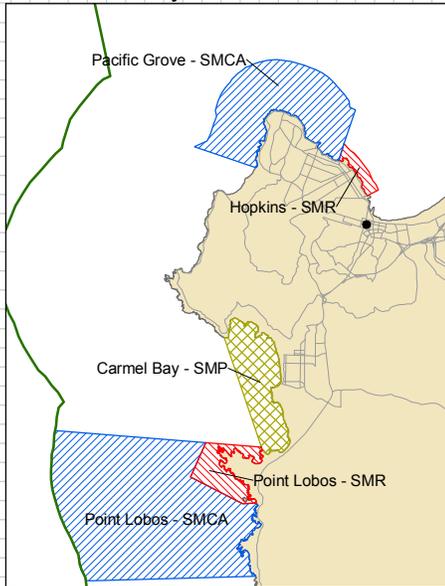
SMCA

SMP

SMR



### Inset: Monterey - Carmel



1 grid block = 1 sq. Statute Mile



# CCRSR Package 4: South Central Coast Study Region

## Marine Life Protection Act



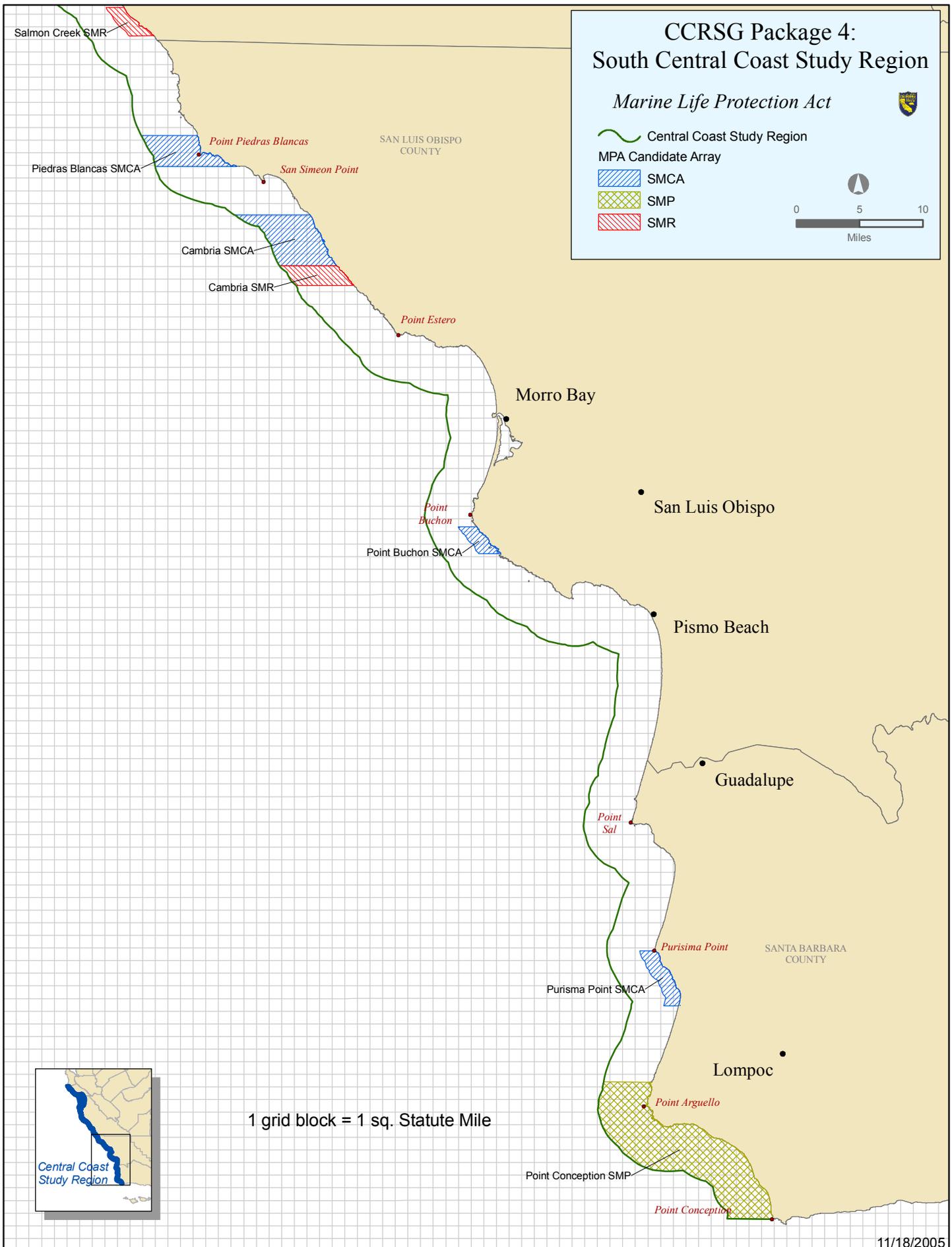
Central Coast Study Region

MPA Candidate Array

SMCA

SMP

SMR



1 grid block = 1 sq. Statute Mile

**Summary of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) within Candidate MPA Package 4**

**Number and Type of MPAs in Package:** 8 State Marine Reserves (SMRs), 2 State Marine Park (SMP), 12 State Marine Conservation Areas (SMCAs), TOTAL: 22 MPAs

**Total Area of MPAs in Package (sq. mi.):** 240 mi<sup>2</sup>

<b>MPA Name (concept file name)</b>	<b>Area (sq. mi.)</b>	<b>Alongshore span (mi)</b>	<b>Modification to Existing Central Coast MPA or new MPA?</b>	<b>Allowed/ Disallowed Uses</b>	<b>Regional Goals, Objectives, and Design Criteria toward which this MPA contributes</b>
Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve (AñoNuevo_SMR)	9.68	8.0	Modification to existing MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, but anchoring allowed south of Point Año Nuevo.	Not completed at this time
Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area (AñoNuevo_SMCA)	18.41	8.0	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon.	Not completed at this time
Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve (Natural Bridges_SMR)	2.61	2.3	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.	Not completed at this time
Natural Bridges State Marine Conservation Area (NaturalBridges_SMCA)	21.11	6.3	New MPA	No commercial fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel. Recreational fishing permitted.	Not completed at this time

<b>MPA Name (concept file name)</b>	<b>Area (sq. mi.)</b>	<b>Alongshore span (mi)</b>	<b>Modification to Existing Central Coast MPA or new MPA?</b>	<b>Allowed/ Disallowed Uses</b>	<b>Regional Goals, Objectives, and Design Criteria toward which this MPA contributes</b>
Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area  (SoquelCanyon_SMCA)	20.87	6.5	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.	Not completed at this time
Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area  (PortugueseLedge_SMCA)	9.31	4.3	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.	Not completed at this time
Hopkins State Marine Reserve  (Hopkins_SMR)	0.33	1.1	Modification of Existing MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.	Not completed at this time
Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area  (PacificGrove_SMCA)	5.13	3.5	Modification to existing MPA	No commercial fishing except for salmon, sardines, mackerel, anchovy, squid, and herring, and kelp. Recreational fishing allowed for finfish only.	Not completed at this time
Carmel Bay State Marine Park  (CarmelBay_SMP)	2.49	4.3	Modification to existing MPA	No commercial fishing permitted. Recreational fishing allowed for all species except mollusks and crustaceans.	Not completed at this time

<b>MPA Name (concept file name)</b>	<b>Area (sq. mi.)</b>	<b>Alongshore span (mi)</b>	<b>Modification to Existing Central Coast MPA or new MPA?</b>	<b>Allowed/ Disallowed Uses</b>	<b>Regional Goals, Objectives, and Design Criteria toward which this MPA contributes</b>
Point Lobos State Marine Reserve  (PointLobos_SMR)	1.11	3.0	Existing MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.	Not completed at this time
Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area  (PointLobos_SMCA)	12.68	4.9	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, mackerel, and, by trap only, spot prawns.	Not completed at this time
Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area  (PointSur_SMCA)	10.40	3.6	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.	Not completed at this time
Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Reserve  (JuliaPfeifferBurns_SMR)	2.74	2.3	Modification to existing MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.	Not completed at this time
Big Creek State Marine Reserve  (BigCreek_SMR)	2.48	2.4	Existing MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.	Not completed at this time

<b>MPA Name (concept file name)</b>	<b>Area (sq. mi.)</b>	<b>Alongshore span (mi)</b>	<b>Modification to Existing Central Coast MPA or new MPA?</b>	<b>Allowed/ Disallowed Uses</b>	<b>Regional Goals, Objectives, and Design Criteria toward which this MPA contributes</b>
Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area (BigCreek_SMCA)	9.55	3.3	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, mackerel, and herring.	Not completed at this time
Salmon Creek State Marine Reserve (SalmonCreek_SMR)	3.69	3,3	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted	Not completed at this time
Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area (PiedrasBlancas_SMCA)	11.77	4.6	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.	Not completed at this time
Cambria State Marine Conservation Area (Cambria_SMCA)	18.66	4.5	New MPA	Recreational fishing is permitted. No commercial fishing is permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.	Not completed at this time
Cambria State Marine Reserve (Cambria_SMR)	7.11	2.0	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.	Not completed at this time

MPA Name (concept file name)	Area (sq. mi.)	Alongshore span (mi)	Modification to Existing Central Coast MPA or new MPA?	Allowed/ Disallowed Uses	Regional Goals, Objectives, and Design Criteria toward which this MPA contributes
Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area  (PointBuchon_SMCA)	3.35	2.8	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.	Not completed at this time
Purisima State Marine Conservation Area  (Purisima_SMCA)	5.94	4.8	New MPA	No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for except for finfishing by hook-and-line from shore.	Not completed at this time
Conception State Marine Park  (Conception_SMP)	61.15	16.9	Modification to existing MPA	No commercial fishing permitted. No recreational fishing permitted except for finfish by hook and line from shore	Not completed at this time
<b>Abbreviations:</b> MPA: Marine Protected Area SMR: State Marine Reserve SMP: State Marine Park SMCA: State Marine Conservation Area					

DRAFT ANALYSIS OF CANDIDATE MPA PACKAGE #4

	<i>How measured?</i>	<i>Total amount in Region</i>	<i>Total percent of Region</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Reserves</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMRs</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Parks</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMPs</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Conservation Area</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMCAs</i>	<i>Amount in all proposed MPAs in region</i>	<i>Percent of Total in existing MPAs</i>	<i>Spatial Data Source</i>
<b>Area</b>	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	1150.01	100%	29.76	2.59%	63.64	5.53%	147.17	12.80%	240.57	20.92%	GIS analysis
<b>Number of MPAs</b>	<b>Count</b>		NA	8		2		12				GIS analysis
<b>HABITATS</b>												
<b>Intertidal</b>												
Sandy or gravel beaches	<b>Linear (mi)</b>	223.66	52.3%	16.55	7.40%	19.03	8.51%	22.62	10.11%	58.20	26.02%	NOAA-ESI 2002
Rocky intertidal and cliff	<b>Linear (mi)</b>	209.21	48.9%	25.38	12.13%	16.06	7.67%	30.97	14.80%	72.40	34.61%	NOAA-ESI 2002
Coastal marsh	<b>Linear (mi)</b>	36.53	8.5%	0.49	1.33%	0.00	0.00%	0.42	1.15%	0.90	2.47%	NOAA-ESI 2002
Tidal flats	<b>Linear (mi)</b>	23.48	5.5%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.16	0.66%	0.16	0.66%	NOAA-ESI 2002
<b>Seagrass beds (0-30m): Surfgrass</b>	<b>Linear (mi)</b>	161.09	37.7%	16.48	10.23%	3.63	2.25%	16.04	9.95%	36.14	22.43%	Minerals Management Service / Tenera Inc.
<b>Seagrass beds (0-30m): Eelgrass</b>	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	1.07	0.1%	0.00	0.00%		0.00%		0.00%	0.00	0.00%	Elkhorn Slough Foundation; Morro Bay National Estuary Program
<b>Estuary</b>	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	7.90	0.7%	0.00	0.00%		0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	Inventory; CNDDB; USGS
<b>Fine-scale Soft bottom</b>												Fine-scale based on Kvitek et al multibeam and sidescan sonar; available for only about 25% of the region
0-30 meters	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	24.21	5.7%	0.59	2.42%	7.74	31.96%	2.02	8.36%	10.35	42.74%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
30-100 meters	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	93.72	21.9%	2.13	2.27%	20.42	21.79%	7.73	8.25%	30.28	32.31%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
100-200 meters	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	1.93	0.5%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.39	20.07%	0.39	20.07%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
>200 meters	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	0.29	0.1%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	1.03%	0.00	1.03%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
<b>Coarse-scale Soft bottom</b>												Greene et al 2004; coarse scale data overestimates soft substrata
0-30 meters	<b>Area (mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>	294.14	25.8%	10.24	3.48%	18.67	6.35%	19.84	6.74%	48.74	16.57%	Greene et al 2004

	<i>How measured?</i>	<i>Total amount in Region</i>	<i>Total percent of Region</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Reserves</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMRs</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Parks</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMPs</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Conservation Area</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMCAs</i>	<i>Amount in all proposed MPAs in region</i>	<i>Percent of Total in existing MPAs</i>	<i>Spatial Data Source</i>
30-100 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	575.78	50.6%	12.18	2.11%	39.08	6.79%	84.15	14.61%	135.41	23.52%	Greene et al 2004
100-200 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	58.46	5.1%	0.20	0.34%	0.00	0.00%	8.78	15.03%	8.98	15.36%	Greene et al 2004
>200 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	105.52	9.3%	0.07	0.07%	0.00	0.00%	12.14	11.51%	12.21	11.57%	Greene et al 2004
<b>Fine-scale Rocky reef; hard bottom</b>												Fine-scale based on Kvittek et al multibeam and sidescan sonar; available for only about 25% of the region
0-30 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	20.16	4.7%	0.47	2.34%	2.69	13.32%	4.38	21.73%	7.54	37.38%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
30-100 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	20.59	4.8%	0.27	1.33%	1.07	5.17%	3.41	16.54%	4.75	23.05%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
100-200m	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	0.40	0.1%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.08	21.14%	0.08	21.14%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
>200 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	0.01	< .01%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	7.55%	0.00	7.55%	Total amount is only that which has been mapped to date.
<b>Coarse-scale Rocky reef; hard bottom</b>												Greene et al 2004; coarse scale data underestimates hard substrata
0-30 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	46.66	4.1%	5.65	12.10%	4.15	8.89%	7.78	16.67%	17.57	37.66%	Greene et al 2004
30-100 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	26.78	2.4%	0.77	2.86%	0.97	3.61%	6.65	24.85%	8.39	31.31%	Greene et al 2004
100-200 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	13.91	1.2%	0.02	0.17%	0.00	0.00%	5.07	36.44%	5.09	36.61%	Greene et al 2004
>200 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	16.16	1.4%		0.00%	0.00	0.00%	1.58	9.77%	1.58	9.77%	Greene et al 2004
<b>Kelp forest</b>												
<b>1989 Kelp</b>	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	17.94	1.6%	1.39	7.76%	1.01	5.62%	3.55	19.76%	5.95	33.14%	1989 CDFG aerial survey
<b>1999 Kelp</b>	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	2.56	0.2%	0.21	8.26%	0.06	2.35%	0.26	10.06%	0.53	20.66%	1999 CDFG aerial survey
<b>2002 Kelp</b>	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	12.55	1.1%	1.44	11.47%	0.62	4.91%	2.64	21.03%	4.70	37.41%	2002 CDFG aerial survey
<b>2003 Kelp</b>	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	9.53	0.8%	0.99	10.38%	0.79	8.27%	1.70	17.79%	3.48	36.45%	2003 CDFG aerial survey
<b>Persistent Kelp</b>	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> ); present in 3 of 4 years	3.18	0.3%	0.38	11.96%	0.14	4.31%	0.54	16.86%	1.05	33.13%	Present in 3 of 4 CDFG aerial survey datasets
<b>Pinnacles *</b>												
0-30 meters	Count	76.00		20		9		1		*		Bathymetry data
30-100 meters	Count	218.00		29		1		57		*		Bathymetry data
100-200 meters	Count	27.00		*		*		2		*		Bathymetry data

	<i>How measured?</i>	<i>Total amount in Region</i>	<i>Total percent of Region</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Reserves</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMRs</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Parks</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMPs</i>	<i>Amount in State Marine Conservation Area</i>	<i>Percent of Total in SMCAs</i>	<i>Amount in all proposed MPAs in region</i>	<i>Percent of Total in existing MPAs</i>	<i>Spatial Data Source</i>
>200 meters	Count	4.00		*		*		*		*		Bathymetry data
<b>Submarine canyon</b>												
0-30 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	0.56	0.1%	0.00	0.00%	0.19	33.10%	0.00	0.00%	0.19	33.10%	Coarse-scale substrata (Greene et al 2004)
30-100 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	4.42	0.4%	0.18	4.14%	0.03	0.57%	0.65	14.79%	0.86	19.49%	Coarse-scale substrata (Greene et al 2004)
100-200 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	6.06	0.5%	0.21	3.42%	0.00	0.00%	1.29	21.29%	1.50	24.71%	Coarse-scale substrata (Greene et al 2004)
>200 meters	Area (mi <sup>2</sup> )	42.77	3.8%	0.07	0.17%	0.00	0.00%	4.42	10.34%	4.49	10.51%	Coarse-scale substrata (Greene et al 2004)

Pinpoint data extent is limited, asterisk indicates either zero count or no data available

**Marine Life Protection Act Initiative  
Central Coast Project**

**Proponent Rationale  
Candidate MPA Package #4  
November 21, 2005**

## **Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) Initial Draft Concepts for Marine Protected Area (MPA) Networks- South Central Region**

### **Background**

The MLPA Planning Team is charged with advising and assisting the Department of Fish and Game in preparing a master plan for redesigning California's MPA system to improve protection of marine life in state marine reserves. This master plan may also contain areas with different levels of protection where certain forms of extraction are allowed. The ultimate goal of the MLPA process is to produce a plan that will increase the coherence of California's system of MPAs and its effectiveness at protecting the State's marine life, habitat, and ecosystems.

As specified in the MLPA, the Team has been actively reviewing and redesigning MPA systems in each of four designated marine regions, which we call north, north central, south central, and south. To facilitate obtaining much needed public input, the MLPA Planning Team has chosen to publicly present draft concept maps that outline a working set of MPAs for each marine region. These concepts are preliminary and have been established to provide a starting point for discussion.

The MLPA Planning Team is seeking advice from interested parties on the size and location of individual MPAs and MPA networks. The initial draft concepts will be discussed at public workshops planned for July. Following this introductory text is the text for the initial draft concept for the South Central Region, with coastal boundaries at Point Año Nuevo and Point Conception, and including San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and San Nicolas Islands.

We encourage you to submit written comments concerning the concepts, before or after the workshops, to:

Paul Reilly  
Dept. Fish and Game  
20 Lower Ragsdale Drive Suite 100  
Monterey CA 93940

### **MLPA Goals**

The goals for the redesign of California's MPAs are set forth in the MLPA:

- 1) Protect the natural diversity and abundance of marine life, and the structure, function, and integrity of marine ecosystems;
- 2) Help sustain, conserve and protect marine life populations, including those of economic value, and rebuild those that are depleted;
- 3) Improve recreational, educational, and study opportunities provided by marine ecosystems that are subject to minimal human disturbance, and to manage these uses in a manner consistent with protecting biodiversity;
- 4) Protect marine natural heritage, including protection of representative and unique marine life habitats in California waters for their intrinsic value;
- 5) Ensure that California's MPAs have clearly defined objectives, effective management measures, and adequate enforcement, and are based on sound scientific guidelines;

6) Ensure that the State's MPAs are designed and managed, to the extent possible, as a network.

The goals listed in the MLPA for the redesigned system of MPAs do not include fishery management as a primary goal. However, these MPAs can be a tool used to assist in meeting fishery management needs such as those listed in the Marine Life Management Act, the nearshore fishery management plan and recent squid management recommendations.

A positive contribution of an MPA will be a reduction in the risk of overfishing for those protected species through the potential increase in production of young. MPAs can function as natural hatcheries insuring against recruitment failure although reducing fishable area. Thus, ecosystem protection provided by MPAs is not necessarily a loss to fisheries.

### **MLPA Designations**

To meet these MLPA goals the Planning Team primarily used three of the new classifications, as specified in the Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act, with the following definitions, restrictions, and allowable uses :

(a) A "**state marine reserve**," is a non-terrestrial marine or estuarine area that is designated so the managing agency may achieve one or more of the following:

- (1) protect or restore rare, threatened or endangered native plants, animals or habitats in marine areas;
- (2) protect or restore outstanding, representative or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems;
- (3) protect or restore diverse marine gene pools; or
- (4) contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems.

Restrictions: 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. Therefore, access and use (such as walking, swimming, boating and diving) may be restricted to protect marine resources.

Allowable uses: research, restoration and monitoring may be permitted by the managing agency. Educational activities and other forms of non-consumptive human use may be permitted by the designating entity or managing agency in a manner consistent with the protection of all marine resources.

(b) A "**state marine park**," is a non-terrestrial marine or estuarine area that is designated so the managing agency may provide opportunities for spiritual,

scientific, educational, and recreational opportunities, as well as one or more of the following:

- (1) protect or restore outstanding, representative or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems;
- (2) contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems;
- (3) preserve cultural objects of historical, archaeological and scientific interest in marine areas; or
- (4) preserve outstanding or unique geological features.

Restrictions: it is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any living or nonliving marine resources 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.

Allowable uses: 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.

(c) A "**state marine conservation area**," is a non-terrestrial marine or estuarine area that is designated so the managing agency may achieve one or more of the following:

- (1) protect or restore rare, threatened or endangered native plants, animals or habitats in marine areas;
- (2) protect or restore outstanding, representative or imperiled marine species, communities, habitats and ecosystems;
- (3) protect or restore diverse marine gene pools;
- (4) contribute to the understanding and management of marine resources and ecosystems by providing the opportunity for scientific research in outstanding, representative or imperiled marine habitats or ecosystems;
- (5) preserve outstanding or unique geological features; or
- (6) provide for sustainable living marine resource harvest.

Restrictions: it is unlawful to injure, damage, take or possess any specified living, geological or cultural marine resources for certain commercial, recreational, or a combination of commercial and recreational purposes. In general, any commercial and/or recreational uses that would compromise protection of the species of interest, natural community, habitat or geological features may be restricted by the designating entity or managing agency.

Allowable uses: research, education and recreational activities, and certain commercial and recreational harvest of marine resources may be permitted.

### **Design Criteria**

The procedures used by the Planning Team for developing these draft concepts were designed to meet the requirements of the MLPA and have been

applied to each marine region. The use of three levels of protection for MPAs addresses the need to consider socio-economic issues while providing adequate protection for all or some forms of marine life in certain areas. For example, by using the State Marine Conservation Area designation, additional protection can be provided to residential species associated with the bottom or kelp beds while not impacting fisheries for migratory or mobile pelagic species. The use of the State Marine Park designation is designed to provide recreational opportunities in the ocean, consistent with its terrestrial counterpart.

It is important to realize that the draft concepts for the four regions necessarily differ because each region is characterized by differences in 1) environmental conditions; 2) the status of marine populations and ecosystems; 3) the levels of historical and on-going extraction and human use; and 4) the extent of existing MPAs. **No predetermined percentage** of State waters has been designated for any form of protection in any of the regions.

To meet the MLPA goals, the MLPA Planning Team employed the following criteria in developing the draft concepts for regional networks of MPAs for California. Design elements included MPA location, shape, size, number, association with existing MPAs and other area-based regulations. The criteria are organized into three categories: 1) habitat; 2) size and spacing; and 3) practicality.

### **Habitat**

1. Include a range of representative habitats, with emphasis on:
  - a. areas where habitat quality does (or potentially can) support diverse and high-density populations.
  - b. benthic habitats and non-pelagic species.
  - c. hard bottom as opposed to soft bottom, because fishing activities within state waters have had the greatest impact on fishes associated with hard bottom, and because soft bottom habitat is interspersed within areas containing rocky habitat.
  - d. habitats associated with those species that are officially designated as overfished (lingcod and many rockfish), those associated with threatened or endangered species (nesting and feeding seabirds, haul-out sites for marine mammals, abalone habitat), and productive habitats such as kelp forests and seagrass beds.
2. Include unique habitats.
3. Include a variety of ocean conditions such as upwelling centers, upwelling shadows, and exposed and semi-protected coastlines

### **Size and spacing**

1. Incorporate or expand upon existing MPAs that are considered to be effective.
2. Include a variety of sizes of MPAs that are dispersed in a network. This would:
  - a. Provide enough space within individual MPAs for the movement of juveniles and adults of many species.
  - b. Achieve beneficial ratios of edge to area.
  - c. Help to include a variety of habitats.

- d. Facilitate analysis of the effects of different-sized MPAs.
- e. Provide a network of sources for larval dispersal.
- f. Enable the use of MPAs as reference sites to evaluate the effects of climate change and other factors on marine ecosystems, without the complicating effects of fishing.
- g. Minimize the likelihood that catastrophic events will impact all MPAs.

**Practicality**

1. Use simple and easily recognizable boundaries to facilitate identification and enforcement of MPA regulations.
2. To the extent practicable, locate MPAs in areas where there is onsite presence to facilitate enforcement.
3. Consider non-extractive uses, cultural resources, and existing fisheries and fishing regulations.
4. Consider proximity to ports, safe anchorage sites, and points of access, to minimize negative impacts on people and increase benefits.
5. Facilitate monitoring of MPA effectiveness by including well-studied sites, both in MPAs and unprotected areas.
6. Consider positive and negative socioeconomic consequences.

122°30'0"W

122°0'0"W

121°30'0"W

37°0'0"N

36°30'0"N

36°0'0"N

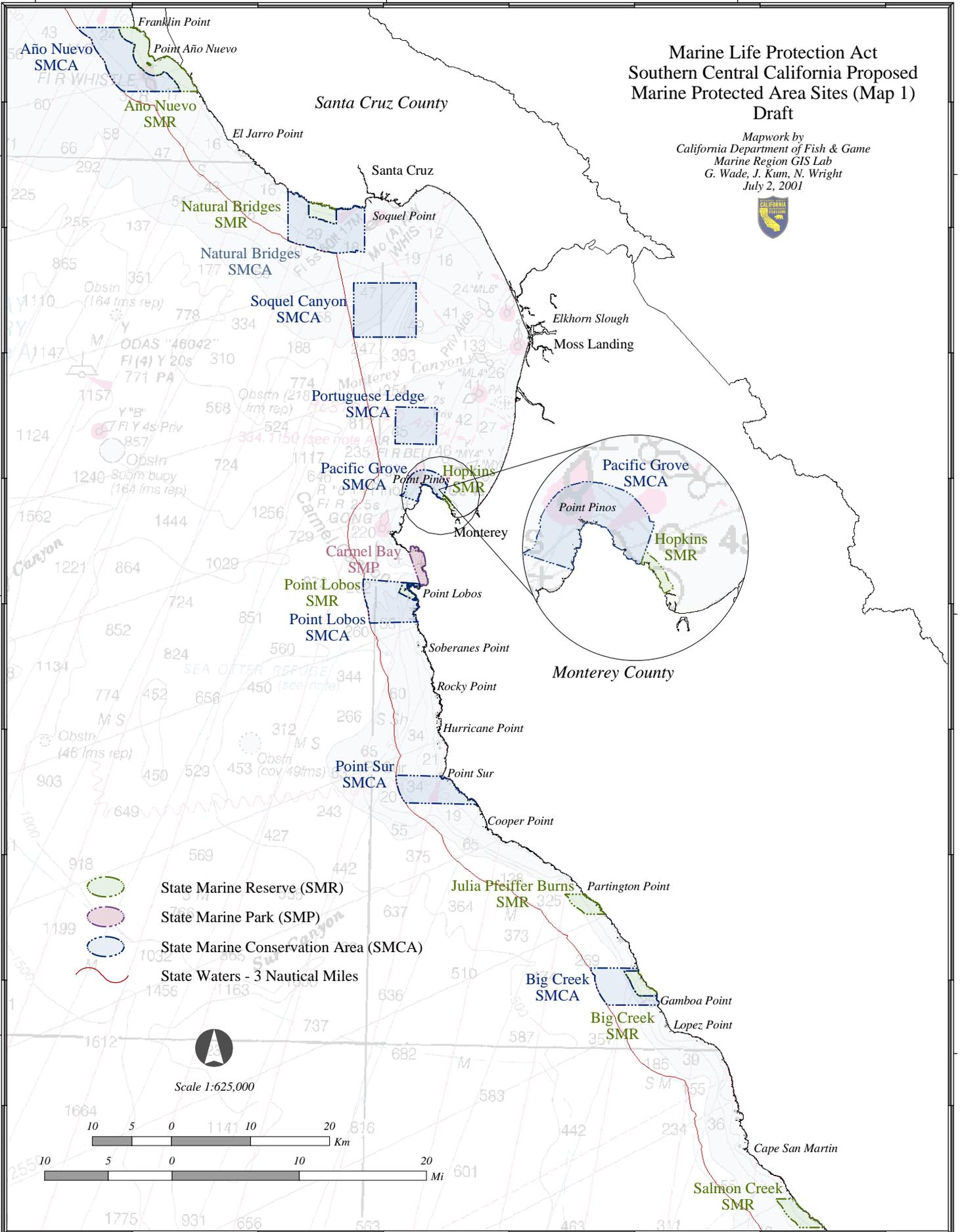
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36°30'0"N

36°0'0"N

# Marine Life Protection Act Southern Central California Proposed Marine Protected Area Sites (Map 1) Draft

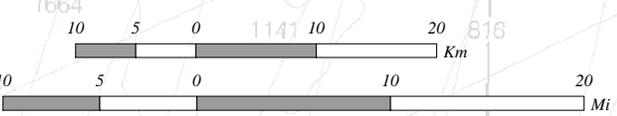
Mapwork by  
California Department of Fish & Game  
Marine Region GIS Lab  
G. Wade, J. Kum, N. Wright  
July 2, 2001



-  State Marine Reserve (SMR)
-  State Marine Park (SMP)
-  State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)
-  State Waters - 3 Nautical Miles



Scale 1:625,000



122°0'0"W

121°30'0"W

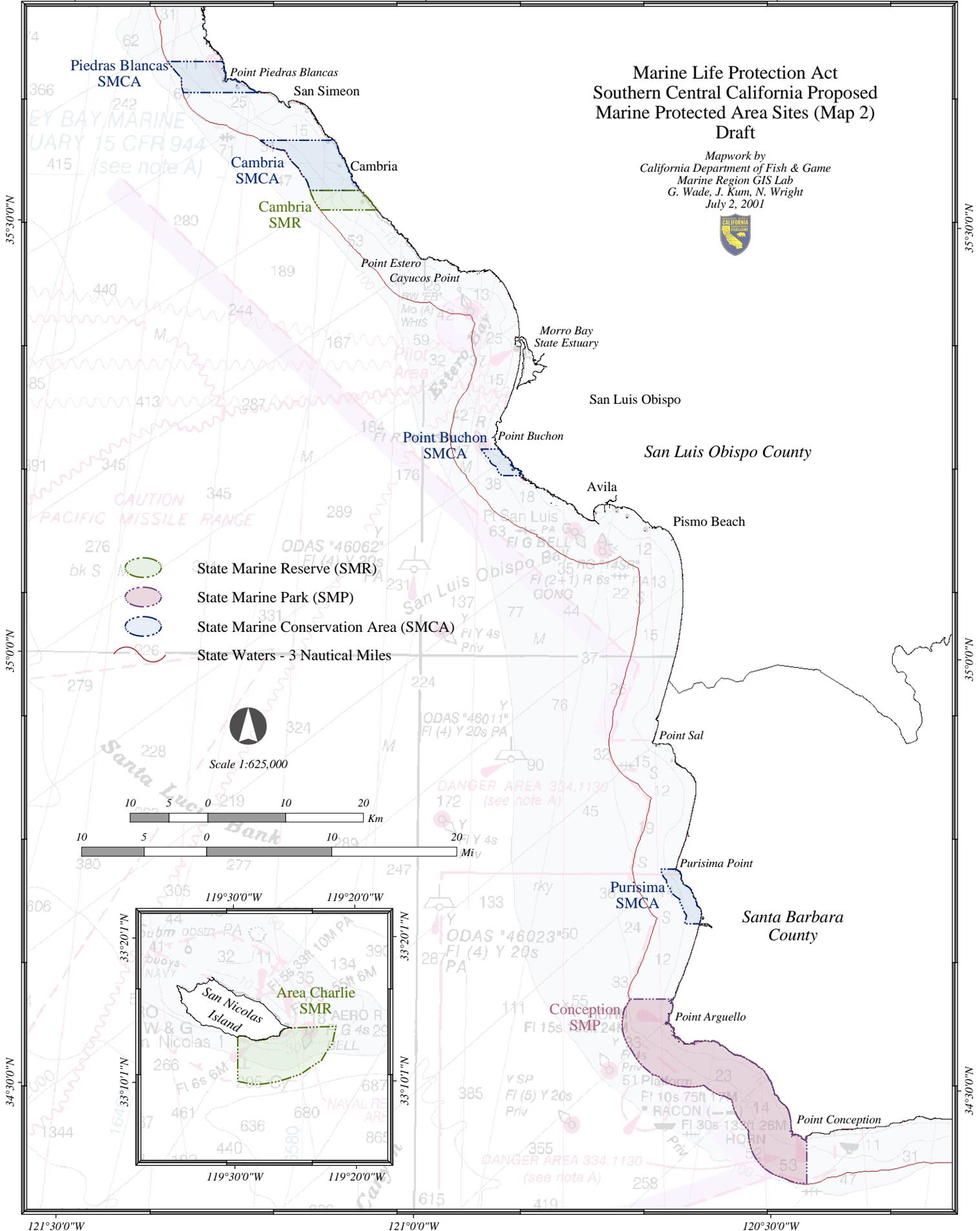
121°30'0"W

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120°30'0"W

# Marine Life Protection Act Southern Central California Proposed Marine Protected Area Sites (Map 2) Draft

Mapwork by  
California Department of Fish & Game  
Marine Region GIS Lab  
G. Wade, J. Kum, N. Wright  
July 2, 2001



## **Descriptions and Rationale for Proposed Marine Protected Areas in Initial Draft Concept for South Central Region**

### **1. Marine Region:** North Central/South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is from Franklin Point to 1 nautical mile offshore at latitude 37° 8.9' N . Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore. Southern boundary is from first small point of land south of Waddell Creek to 1 nautical mile offshore at latitude 37° 4.7' N. This proposed area encompasses two marine regions.

**Total Area:** 7.28 square nautical miles (area within south central region 4.29 square nautical miles)

**Total Shoreline length:** 9.20 nautical miles (length within south central region 5.49 nautical miles)

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No, although there is a terrestrial state reserve at Año Nuevo. In addition, this encompasses an existing marine managed area, the Año Nuevo Point and Island Area of Special Biological Significance (ASBS).

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and kelp, sand bottom, outlet for steelhead and coho salmon stream. Depth range 0-17 fathoms, or 0-30 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, but anchoring allowed south of Point Año Nuevo.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

### **Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This is adjacent to a terrestrial reserve and encompasses an ASBS. It is an upwelling center. It is recognized as the northern range limit for commercially abundant giant kelp. It is an important area for resident adult black rockfish, which have been heavily fished in central California in the past decade. It is a popular research and public education site. It serves as a feeding area for marbled murrelets, and is a well known pinniped haul-out site. It is an important site for foul weather anchorage.

### **2. Marine Region:** North Central/South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Año Nuevo State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is from nautical one mile due west of Franklin Point at latitude 37° 8.9' N to 3 nautical miles offshore. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore. Southern boundary is from one nautical mile due west from first small point of land south of Waddell Creek at latitude 37° 4.7' N to 3

nautical miles offshore. Inshore boundary is the offshore boundary of the proposed Año Nuevo State Marine Reserve. This proposed area encompasses two marine regions.

**Total Area:** 12.64 square nautical miles (area within south central region 6.96 square nautical miles)

**Total Shoreline length:** not applicable.

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No, although there is a terrestrial state reserve at Año Nuevo. In addition, this encompasses an existing marine managed area, the Año Nuevo Point and Island Area of Special Biological Significance .

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and kelp, sand bottom, outlet to steelhead and coho salmon stream. Depth range 10-35 fathoms, or 18-64 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area encompasses part of the Año Nuevo Point and Island Area of Special Biological Significance. It is an upwelling center. It is an important area for resident adult black rockfish, which have been heavily fished in central California in the past decade. It serves as a feeding area for marbled murrelets. The adjacent inshore area is a popular research and public education site, as well as an important pinniped haul-out site.

**3. Marine Region: South Central**

**Proposed name of MPA:** Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Western boundary is from Needle Rock (36° 57.4' N, 122° 6.3' W) along longitude 122° 6.3' W. Eastern boundary is from the eastern edge of Natural Bridges State Beach (36° 56.9' N, 122° 3.9' W) along longitude 122° 3.9' W. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 1.97 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 2.84 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Shale reefs and extensive kelp, sand bottom, rocky intertidal zone.  
Depth range 0-19 fathoms, or 0-34 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area is located in an “upwelling shadow,” so that larvae of some fish and invertebrates may be retained within the northern Monterey Bay area. It is representative of the shale reefs and kelp forests found along the coast between Santa Cruz and Davenport, and includes heavily-visited and well-studied tidepools at Natural Bridges State Park. Since it is close to a port, recreational fishing would be allowed within the State Marine Conservation Area (see below), and a buffer zone without commercial fishing would be provided around the Reserve. The presence of a State Park and the laboratories for U.C. Santa Cruz and the National Marine Fisheries Service will facilitate enforcement of the reserve.

**4. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Natural Bridges State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Western boundary is from Table Rock (36° 58.1' N, 122°

8.1' W) due south along longitude 122° 8.1' W. Eastern boundary is from Point

Santa Cruz (36° 57.1' N, 122° 1.5' W) due south along longitude 122° 1.5' W.

Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore. Inshore boundary is the shoreline, except for that portion which is the offshore boundary of the proposed Natural Bridges State Marine Reserve.

**Total Area:** 14.45 square nautical miles. Total area within the proposed Natural Bridges SMR and SMCA is 16.42 square nautical miles.

**Total Shoreline length:** 4.95 nautical miles. Total shoreline within the proposed Natural Bridges SMR and SMCA is 7.79 nautical miles.

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No.

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Shale reefs and extensive kelp, sand bottom, rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-39 fathoms, or 0-70 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel. Recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area is located in an “upwelling shadow,” so that larvae of some fish and invertebrates may be retained within the northern Monterey Bay area. It is representative of the shale reefs and kelp forests found along the coast between Santa Cruz and Davenport, and includes heavily-visited and well-studied tidepools at Natural Bridges State Park. Since it is close to a port, recreational fishing would be allowed within the State Marine Conservation Area, and a buffer zone without commercial fishing would be provided around the Reserve. The presence of a State Park and the laboratories for U.C. Santa Cruz and the National Marine Fisheries Service will facilitate enforcement of the reserve.

**5. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Soquel Canyon State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** A square delimited by a northern boundary latitude line of 36° 52' N, eastern boundary longitude line of 121° 57' W, southern boundary latitude line of 36° 48.3' N, and western boundary of longitude line 122° 2.2' W.

**Total Area:** 15.76 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** not applicable

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No.  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Submarine canyon with varied habitat, including vertical rock walls, rock outcrops, and soft sediment. Depth range 38-334 fathoms, or 70-611 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area would include nearly all of one branch of the Monterey Submarine Canyon, and includes a variety of deep-water habitats. A natural refugium from fishing has been documented in this area, but it has otherwise been subject to fishing and shows signs of depletion. The habitat has been mapped, and the fishes have been surveyed by submersible. It is located within the Monterey Bay oceanographic system.

**6. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Portuguese Ledge State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** A square delimited by a northern boundary latitude line of 36° 43.5' N, eastern boundary longitude line of 121° 55' W, southern boundary latitude line of 36° 41' N, and western boundary longitude line of 121° 58.5' W.

**Total Area:** 7.03 square nautical miles  
**Total Shoreline length:** not applicable.

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 48-112 fathoms, or 88-205 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area includes deep-water reef habitat that has been fished for decades. Surveys of this area by submersibles show that few large fish remain in the area. However, the previous fishery in the area and the surveys by submersibles show that the habitat will support populations of deepwater rockfish and other species, so it is a good site for recovery of these species. It is within the Monterey Bay oceanographic system.

**7. Marine Region: South Central**

**Proposed name of MPA:** Hopkins State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Existing Hopkins Marine Life Refuge, extended to base of Monterey Breakwater (36° 36.55' N, 121° 53.6' W,) which is the eastern onshore corner, and out to the eastern offshore corner (36° 36.7' N, 121° 53.3' W) at a depth of 60 feet (20 m). The western onshore corner (36° 37.6' N, 121° 54.2' W) extends out to a depth of 60 feet (20 m) which is the western offshore corner (36° 37.6'N, 121° 54.4' W). The offshore boundary is at 60 feet depth (20 m).

**Total Area:** 0.25 square nautical miles.

**Total Shoreline length:** 1.59 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? Yes (Hopkins Marine Life Refuge)**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site? Yes, it is extended to the east.**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-11 fathoms, or 0-20 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** Yes, within the proposed expanded area only. The existing Hopkins Marine Life Refuge prohibits all commercial and recreational harvest.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area is an expansion of the Hopkins Marine Life Refuge, which has been under some degree of protection since 1931, and has been totally protected since 1984. Extensive scientific studies have been carried out within the HMLR, and long-term monitoring sites have been established in the HMLR and off Cannery Row. The area off Cannery row is a popular area for observation of marine life by kayakers and SCUBA divers. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes. Its location off Hopkins Marine Station, the Monterey Bay Aquarium, and other public facilities will facilitate enforcement.

**8. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Pacific Grove State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Existing lateral boundaries of Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Refuge. Eastern onshore boundary is the proposed western boundary of Hopkins SMR out to 1 nautical mile (36° 38.29' N, 121° 54' W). The inshore boundary follows the curve of the land from the eastern onshore boundary around Pt. Piños to Asilomar. Southern onshore boundary (36° 37.08' N, 121° 56.46' W) out to 1 nautical mile (36° 37.47' N, 121° 58' W). Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 3.88 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 4.12 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge).

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** Yes, the proposed boundary is expanded offshore.

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; extensive rocky intertidal zone. Depth range 0-37 fathoms, or 0-68 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial fishing except for salmon, sardines, mackerel, anchovy, squid, and herring, and kelp. Recreational fishing allowed for finfish only.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** Yes. Currently recreational fishing for other invertebrates besides mollusks and crustaceans, and marine aquatic plants, is permitted.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This has been an MPA since 1984, and existing rules have been extended to the enlarged MPA. It serves as a buffer zone for the proposed Hopkins State Marine Reserve, but allows recreational fishing for finfish in an area that is protected from the weather and is accessible from shore. It is a popular area for the observation of marine life, and the site of many scientific studies. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes. Extension of the MPA to 1 mile from shore provides a degree of protection to extensive deeper reefs, as well as the extensive shallow reefs and kelp forests.

**9. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Carmel Bay State Marine Park

**Proposed boundaries:** Same as existing boundaries. Western boundary begins at Pescadero Point (36° 33.654' N, 121° 57.12' W) and continues in a straight line to Granite Point (36° 31.41' N, 121° 56.1' W) at compass bearing roughly southeast. All other boundaries of this reserve are bound by the coastline.

**Total Area:** 1.87 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 5.79 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Carmel Bay Ecological Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No

**Habitats:** Rock reef and interspersed soft bottom; kelp forests; submarine canyon. Depth range 0-77 fathoms, or 0-141 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial fishing permitted. Recreational fishing allowed for all species except mollusks and crustaceans.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area has been an MPA since 1976, and current levels of protection have been extended. This area covers a wide range of habitats, including rock reefs, sand bottom, and the head of the Carmel submarine canyon. It is a popular area for the observation of marine life, and the site of long-term monitoring sites and many scientific studies. The canyon head serves as a reserve for spot prawns, a species harvested commercially. The Monterey Peninsula is a northerly outpost for some southern California fishes, and Carmel Bay is oceanographically complex due to its proximity to both Monterey Bay and the Pt. Sur upwelling center.

**10. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Point Lobos State Marine Reserve

Present boundaries of Point Lobos Ecological Reserve. Northeastern onshore boundary (36° 31.4' N, 121° 56.2' W) out to northeastern offshore boundary (36° 31.5' N, 121° 56.2' N). Northern boundary at a latitude line 36° 31.5' N to a western offshore boundary (36° 31.5' N, 121° 57.5' W). Southwest onshore boundary (36° 30.3' N, 121° 56.3' W) to a Southwest offshore boundary (36° 30.9' N, 121° 57.9' W).

**Total Area:** 0.83 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 6.71 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Point Lobos Ecological Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow off Pt. Lobos and Yankee Point; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-32 fathoms, or 0-59 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The Point Lobos Ecological Reserve has been in existence since 1974, and is a popular area for observation of marine life. It is adjacent to a state terrestrial reserve, so entry is monitored closely. It is the site of several surveys of fish and biota in both shallow and deep water, and a long-term monitoring site. The Pt. Lobos Ecological Reserve contains extensive reef and kelp-forest habitat, seabird roosts, and pinniped haul-outs. The proposed surrounding SMCA contains more of this habitat, as well as deeper reefs and canyon heads. This area is representative of the habitats found between Pt. Lobos and Pt. Sur. It is near the upwelling center at Pt. Sur, and to the circulation of Carmel Bay.

**11. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Point Lobos State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern inshore boundary latitude 36° 31.7'N from offshore northern corner of Point Lobos SMR extended west to 3 nautical miles. Southern boundary is at a unnamed point (36° 28.8' N, 121° 56.2' W) due west of the mouth of Malpas Creek , and east of the mouth of Malpas Creek at a latitude 36° 28.8' N. Inshore boundary is the shoreline, except for that portion which is the offshore and southern boundary of the proposed Point Lobos State Marine Reserve. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

**Total Area:** 8.57 square nautical miles. Total area within the proposed Pt. Lobos SMR and SCMA is 9.40 square nautical miles.

**Total Shoreline length:** 4.12 nautical miles. Total shoreline length within the proposed Pt. Lobos SMR and SCMA is 10.83 nautical miles.

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow off Pt. Lobos and Yankee Point; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-290 fathoms, or 0-530 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, mackerel, and, by trap only, spot prawns.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The proposed area would serve as a buffer zone for Pt. Lobos State Marine Reserve and would provide extensive protection for bottom-associated fishes, particularly rockfishes. The proposed area contains extensive reef and kelp-forest habitat, seabird roosts, and pinniped haul-outs, as well as deeper reefs and canyon heads. This area is representative of the habitats found between Pt. Lobos and Pt. Sur. It is near the upwelling center at Pt. Sur, and to the circulation of Carmel Bay.

**12. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is a latitude line 36° 18.4' N from Point Sur (36° 18.4' N, 121° 54.1' N) to 3 nautical miles offshore. Southern boundary is a latitude line 36° 16.5' N from unnamed point onshore (36° 16.5' N, 121° 50.9' W) to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

**Total Area:** 7.81 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.98 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-42 fathoms, or 0-77 meters

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

Point Sur is an upwelling center, where larvae of fish and invertebrates may be transported to other areas. This area contains extensive reefs, in both deep and shallow water. This site and nearby areas of similar habitat are exploited by commercial and recreational fisheries. It is adjacent to Andrew Molera State Park, and near a long-term monitoring site.

**13. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is a latitude line 36° 10.5' N from Partington Point (36° 10.5' N, 121° 41.9' W) to 1 nautical mile. Southern boundary is a latitude line 36° 9.2' N from Anderson Canyon (36° 9.2' N, 121° 40' W) to 1 nautical mile. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 2.06 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.29 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Julia Pfeiffer Burns State Park)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** Yes

**Habitats:** Rocky intertidal; rock reefs and interspersed sand in shallow water; submarine canyon heads, kelp forests. Depth range 0-137 fathoms, or 0-251 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** Yes, existing regulations prohibit the commercial and recreational take of certain invertebrates and the recreational take of kelp only.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:** Most of this area has been designated as an underwater park, for its underwater topography and excellent diversity of marine life. It is adjacent to a terrestrial state park. Surveys of the marine life in this area have been conducted by the State Parks department in designating it an underwater park. This and the Big Creek reserve will serve as replicated no-take areas within a region of similar habitat and oceanography. It is located between upwelling centers.

**14. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Big Creek State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is a latitude line of 36° 5.3' N from onshore point (36° 5.3' N, 121° 37.1' W) out to northern offshore corner (36° 5.3' N, 121° 37.9' W). Southern boundary is a latitude line of 36° 3.6' N from onshore point (36° 3.6' N, 121° 35.5' W) out to southern offshore corner (36° 3.6' N, 121° 36.4' W). Offshore boundary is 50 fathoms depth.

**Total Area:** 1.89 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 2.69 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Big Creek Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** No

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-50 fathoms, or 0-92 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** No.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The Big Creek Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve has existed since 1994, and is the site of monitoring studies in both deep and shallow water. The proposed State Marine Conservation area extends the north and south boundaries to more easily-recognized points, and extends protection of benthic species to deeper water. This MPA is south of the Pt. Sur upwelling center, and just north of a small upwelling center at Lopez point. A large and diverse intertidal system occurs at Gamboa Point. This MPA leaves Lopez Point and other reef areas near the coastal access at Mill Creek open for fishing.

**15. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Big Creek State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is from Rat Creek (36° 5.5' N, 121° 37.1' W) at latitude line 36° 5.5' N to 3 nautical miles offshore. Southern boundary is from Gamboa Point (36° 3.0' N, 121° 35.4' W) at latitude line 36° 3.0' N to 3 nautical miles offshore. Inshore boundary is the shoreline, except for that portion which is the offshore, northern and southern boundary of the proposed Big Creek State Marine Reserve.

**Total Area:** 6.97 square nautical miles. Total area within the proposed Big Creek SMR and Big Creek SMCA is 8.86 square nautical miles.

**Total Shoreline length:** 1.06 nautical miles. Total shoreline length within the proposed Big Creek SMR and Big Creek SMCA is 3.75 nautical miles.

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Extensive rock reef deep and shallow; extensive kelp forests; interspersed soft bottom; submarine canyon heads. Depth range 0-399 fathoms, or 0-729 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, mackerel, and herring.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The proposed State Marine Conservation area extends the north and south boundaries of the existing Big Creek MRPA Ecological Reserve to more easily-recognized points, and extends protection of benthic species to deeper water. This proposed MPA is south of the Pt. Sur upwelling center, and just north of a small upwelling center at Lopez point. A large and diverse intertidal system occurs at Gamboa point. This proposed MPA leaves Lopez Point and other reef areas near the coastal access at Mill Creek open for fishing.

**16. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Salmon Creek State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is a latitude line of 35° 49.9' N from White Rock #1 to 1 nautical mile offshore. Southern boundary is a latitude line of 35° 48' N from White Rock #2 to 1 nautical mile offshore. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 2.81 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.18 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No, but it does encompass an existing Area of Special Biological Significance, which provides water quality protection.

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and kelp forest, interspersed with sand bottom. Depth range 0-24 fathoms, or 0-44 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This small proposed state marine reserve overlaps with an existing Area of Special Biological Significance, and includes shallow-water reef and kelp habitat. It is south

of a small upwelling center at Cape San Martin, and provides an MPA in the region between the Big Creek and Piedras Blancas MPAs.

**17. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Piedras Blancas State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is latitude line 35° 41.2' N from Hearst Castle Rock (35° 41.2' N, 121° 17.3' W) out to 3 nautical miles. Southern boundary is latitude line 35° 39.1' N from a unnamed point (35° 9.1' N, 121° 14' W) south of Point Piedras Blancas out to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

**Total Area:** 8.40 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 5.24 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Extensive and popular intertidal zone; rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-54 fathoms, or 0-99 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

Pt. Piedras Blancas and the coast to the south include a rocky intertidal region that has been the subject of study for over 50 years, including ongoing monitoring studies. Elephant seals have established a new haul-out site in this area. Extensive areas of reef and kelp occur offshore, and some subtidal surveys have been conducted there. The proposed Piedras Blancas SMCA complements the proposed Cambria SMCA and SMR in a region where nearshore fisheries have been heavily utilized.

**18. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Cambria State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is a latitude line 35° 35.8' N from Pico Rock (35° 35.8' N, 121° 7.7' W) out to 3 nautical miles. Southern boundary is a latitude line 35° 32.4' N from Von Helm Rock (35° 2.4' N, 121° 5.4' W) out to 3 nautical miles offshore. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles.

**Total Area:** 13.12 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 4.53 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-47 fathoms, or 0-86 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** Recreational fishing is permitted. No commercial fishing is permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The region between Pt. Estero and Pt. Piedras Blancas contains extensive reef and kelp habitat, and has been heavily utilized by commercial and recreational fisheries. The proposed Cambria SMCA includes a launch site that has been traditionally used by recreational fishermen, and more recently by commercial fishermen. By allowing recreational but not commercial fishing within the proposed SMCA, recreational and commercial fishing can be partitioned spatially, and the effects of recreational and recreational plus commercial fishing can be evaluated. The proposed Cambria SMR (see below) provides an additional area, subject to no fishing, for comparison.

**19. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Cambria State Marine Reserve

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is the southern boundary of the proposed Cambria State Marine Conservation Area latitude line 35° 32.4' N from Von Helm Rock (35° 32.4' N, 121° 5.4' W) out to 3 nautical miles offshore. Southern boundary is latitude 35° 31' N from unnamed point (35° 31' N, 121° 04' W) out to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

**Total Area:** 5.18 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.63 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site? No**  
**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom. Depth range 0-54 fathoms, or 0-99 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The region between Pt. Estero and Pt. Piedras Blancas contains extensive reef and kelp habitat, and has been heavily utilized by commercial and recreational fisheries. The proposed Cambria SMCA (see above) includes a launch site that has been traditionally used by recreational fishermen, and more recently by commercial fishermen. By allowing recreational but not commercial fishing within the proposed SMCA, recreational and commercial fishing can be partitioned spatially, and the effects of recreational and recreational plus commercial fishing can be evaluated. The proposed Cambria SMR provides an additional area, subject to no fishing, for comparison. The proposed Cambria SMR is located adjacent to a University of California natural reserve, and a long-term marine monitoring site has been established here.

**20. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Point Buchon State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is at latitude 35° 14.5' N from R'2" F1R6 Whistle, onshore point (35° 14.5' N, 120° 53.4' W) out to 1 nautical mile. Southern boundary is at latitude 35° 12.6' N from unnamed rock (35° 12.6' N, 120° 51.3' W) at Diablo Cove out to 1 nautical mile. Offshore boundary is 1 nautical mile from shore.

**Total Area:** 2.53 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 3.97 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rock reef and kelp forests, with interspersed soft bottom; offshore pinnacles. Depth range 0-27 fathoms, or 0-49 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for salmon, albacore, sardine, anchovy, herring, and mackerel.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

This area of extensive rock reefs represents the region of rock habitat between Pt. Buchon and Pt. San Luis. This region has been heavily utilized by recreational and commercial fisheries. Considerable biological and oceanographic information about the region has been gathered in this region for over 25 years as monitoring for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant. The location of the southern boundary of the proposed SMCA off Diablo Canyon was designed to take advantage of the northern monitoring sites for Diablo Canyon.

**21. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Purisima State Marine Conservation Area

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is latitude 34° 45.3' N from Purisima Point (34° 45.3' N, 120° 38.2' W) out to 1 nautical mile. Southern boundary is latitude 34° 41.6' N from an unnamed onshore point (34° 41.6' N, 120° 36.1' W) which is the north of Ocean Beach Park at the Santa Ynez River. Offshore boundary 1 nautical from shore.

**Total Area:** 4.52 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 5.18 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rocky intertidal and rock reefs characteristic of the region; kelp forests, soft bottom. Depth range 0-17 fathoms, or 0-31 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted, except for except for finfishing by hook-and-line from shore.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The area surrounding Point Conception is of great biological value because it is the transition between the biotas of central and southern California. In addition, the area near Purisima Point is one of the few areas of reef and kelp between Point San Luis and Point Conception, and the reef areas there support a somewhat distinct assemblage of species. Brown rockfish is targeted in fisheries here, as well as rock crab offshore of the proposed MPA. Finfishing from shore would be allowed to accommodate personnel stationed at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

**22. Marine Region:** South Central/South

**Proposed name of MPA:** Conception State Marine Park

**Proposed boundaries:** Northern boundary is latitude 34° 36.3' N from Point Pedernales (34° 36.3' N, 120° 38.3' W) out to 3 nautical miles offshore. Eastern boundary is longitude 120° 27' W from Government Point (34° 26.8' N, 120° 27' W). This proposed State Marine Park is in both the South Central and Southern California Region.

**Total Area:** 55.45 square nautical miles (in south central region area is 54.98 square nautical miles).

**Total Shoreline length:** 19.95 nautical miles (in south central region shoreline length is 18.14 nautical miles).

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** Yes (Vandenberg Marine Resources Protection Act Ecological Reserve)

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?** Yes

**Habitats:** Rock reef, sandy bottom, and kelp beds. Cultural artifacts (shipwrecks). Depth range 0-77 fathoms, or 0-140 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial fishing permitted. No recreational fishing permitted except for finfish by hook and line from shore .

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** Yes, this would allow finfishing from shore within the existing Vandenberg MRPA Ecological Reserve, which is now prohibited. It would prohibit fishing in the proposed expanded area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The area surrounding Point Conception is of great biological significance. It is one of the world's most striking biogeographic boundaries marking the abrupt transition from cold water species from the north (Oregonian province) to warm water species from the south (California province). The region of overlap in this proposed state marine park includes a unique mix of species that is not found anywhere else along the Pacific coast. The sharp transition in species arises from the collision of ocean currents. The cold, nutrient rich waters of the southward flowing California Current collide with the warmer, nutrient poor waters of the Santa Barbara Channel in the vicinity of Point Conception. The region between Point Arguello and Point Conception is characterized by extensive upwelling during the spring and summer because of the strong, persistent north winds. Extensive research has been done on the biology and oceanography of coastal ecosystems around Pt. Conception, including many long-term studies. These databases will enable detailed evaluations of reserve effectiveness. The sensitivity of this region to human disturbance is greatly accentuated, because the settlement of young fish and invertebrates to the region is chronically low, probably due to the strong surface currents moving offshore due to the intense upwelling. As a result, populations in this region may be especially sensitive to human disturbance. The direction of ocean circulation in this region also suggests that young produced on the mainland coast in the Point Conception area may commonly be exported to the northern Channel Islands. The sensitivity of adult populations because of low larval settlement coupled with the likely importance of these populations as a source of young to island populations make this a critical area to reduce impacts. In addition to the special ecosystem features of this region, there are substantial culturally important features of the proposed state marine park, including several historically important shipwrecks. Limited shoreline access makes this a low-use area, so the effects on consumptive users should be minimal. Shore-based recreational finfishing around Jalama Beach and Boathouse are relatively common and will be permitted to continue in this marine park.

**23. Marine Region:** South Central

**Proposed name of MPA:** Area Charlie State Marine Reserve (San Nicolas Island)

**Proposed boundaries:** Navy "Area C" out to 3 miles. Western boundary from range markers at Dutch Harbor (33° 13.1' N, 119° 29.7' W) at longitude 119° 29.7' W out to 3 nautical miles. Northern boundary at East End Light (33° 13.8' N, 119° 25.3' W) at latitude 33° 13.8'N to 3 nautical miles. Offshore boundary is 3 nautical miles from shore.

**Total Area:** 19.36 square nautical miles

**Total Shoreline length:** 4.56 nautical miles

**Does this encompass an existing MPA site?** No

**If yes, is this an expansion of an existing site?**

**Habitats:** Rocky reefs, kelp forests, and sand bottom. Depth range 0-389 fathoms, or 0-711 meters.

**Proposed regulations:** No commercial or recreational fishing permitted. NOTE: This reserve does not intend to limit or restrict U.S. Military exercises in the region.

**If this is an existing site, is this a change in existing regulations?** This is a new proposed marine protected area.

**Criteria and rationale for recommendation:**

The biota of San Nicolas Island is transitional between southern California and central California, because of its exposure to the California Current. This reserve provides protection for habitat that is representative of San Nicolas Island. Subtidal biological surveys have been carried out in the area of this reserve and at other sites on San Nicolas Island.

**San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands**

Please note that San Miguel and Santa Rosa Islands are purposely omitted from this initial draft concept in deference to a recommendation being developed jointly by DFG and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary for MPAs for these and three other Channel Islands. This recommendation will be presented to the Fish and Game Commission at its late August meeting.

**Proposed elimination of existing MPAs**

Four existing sites are proposed for elimination within the south central region:

Atascadero Beach Pismo Clam Preserve

Morro Beach Pismo Clam Preserve

Pismo Invertebrate Reserve

## Pismo-Oceano Beach Pismo Clam Preserve

These four areas were originally designated primarily to protect Pismo clams. With the expansion of the range of sea otters, Pismo clams are no longer abundant, and these MPAs are not effective in meeting their original objective.

### **State Water Quality Protection Areas:**

The South Central Region contains seven sites now known as “Areas of Special Biological Significance (ASBS)”. Under the new classification system, each of these would be re-named as a State Water Quality Protection Area with no change in regulations. At this time the planning Team is recommending no change in regulations for these sites, which are as follows:

Pacific Grove Marine Gardens Fish Refuge and Hopkins Marine Life Refuge ASBS  
Carmel Bay ASBS  
Point Lobos Ecological Reserve ASBS  
Julia Pfeiffer Burns Underwater Park ASBS  
Ocean Area Surrounding the Mouth of Salmon Creek ASBS  
San Miguel, Santa Rosa, and Santa Cruz Islands ASBS (part of this is in South Region)  
San Nicolas Island and Begg Rock ASBS

Note that some of these sites overlap existing or proposed marine protected areas.

### **Existing estuarine marine protected areas:**

The following existing estuarine areas are within the south central region.  
Elkhorn Slough Ecological Reserve  
Morro Bay State Estuary

Under the new classification system, Elkhorn Slough would be re-named as a State Marine Conservation Area, with no change in regulations. Note that, by definition within the new classification system, “Marine” includes estuarine areas. Morro Bay State Estuary currently has no site specific regulations for fishing which are more restrictive than the existing Fish and Game regulations. At this time the MLPA Planning Team is recommending no change in either boundaries or regulations for these sites.