

California Department of Fish and Game
Examples of MPA regulations, boundary descriptions and
specific objectives from the MLPA central coast process

MPA: Greyhound Rock State Marine Conservation Area

Primary habitat types: sandy beach, rocky intertidal, surfgrass, shallow hard and soft bottom, kelp bed.

Regulations:

(A) This area is bounded by the mean high tide line, the three nautical mile offshore boundary and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed except where noted:

37° 04.70' N. lat. 122° 16.20' W. long.;

37° 04.70' N. lat. 122° 21.00' W. long.;

37° 03.55' N. lat. 122° 21.00' W. long.; thence southward along the three nautical mile offshore boundary to

37° 02.57' N. lat. 122° 19.10' W. long.; and

37° 02.57' N. lat. 122° 14.00' W. long.

(B) Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. Only the following species may be taken recreationally: giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest only, squid, salmon, and, by hook-and-line from shore only, other finfish.

2. Only the following species may be taken commercially: giant kelp (*Macrocystis pyrifera*) by hand harvest only, salmon, and squid except that not more than five percent (5%) by landed weight of any commercial squid catch may be other species taken incidentally to squid.

Examples of species likely to benefit: nearshore and shelf rockfishes, lingcod, cabezon, kelp greenling, surfperches, sardine, mackerel, anchovy, California halibut, sanddabs, Dungeness crab, littleneck clams, murrees, shearwaters.

Summary of Objectives: Provide increased protection to shallow soft and hard substrates and associated species in the northern portion of the study region characterized by low-relief shale and a mixture of giant kelp and bull kelp. This area is intended to protect the subtidal fish and invertebrate and intertidal invertebrate communities while allowing for uses that have little on those communities to continue. This area is important to the formation of an ecologically sound MPA network component, by linking these habitats to similar habitats in other parts of the region.

Detailed Objectives (with reference to regional goal and objective):

- Protect area of high benthic species diversity characteristic of the central coast region north of Monterey Bay and maintain benthic species diversity and abundance as demonstrated by monitoring appropriate indicator species, with focus on Nearshore Fishery Management Plan species. (Goal 1, Objective 1)

- Protect natural size and age structure and genetic diversity of populations of nearshore rockfish species and invertebrates including appropriate indicator species. (Goal 1, Objective 3)
- Protect important forage area for nearby breeding colonies of listed marine birds by prohibiting the harvest of pelagic finfish other than salmon. (Goal 2, Objective 1)
- Protect larval source and enhance reproductive capacity of invertebrate species such as Dungeness crab, limpets, mussels, turban snails, red abalone, black abalone, and finfish species including nearshore rockfishes and California halibut. (Goal 2, Objective 2)

MPA: Point Sur State Marine Reserve

Primary habitat types: sandy beach, rocky intertidal, surfgrass, shallow hard and soft bottom, kelp bed, canyon head.

Regulations:

(A) This area is bounded by the mean high tide line and straight lines connecting the following points in the order listed:

36° 18.40' N. lat. 121° 54.10' W. long.;

36° 18.40' N. lat. 121° 56.00' W. long.;

36° 15.00' N. lat. 121° 52.50' W. long.; and

36° 15.00' N. lat. 121° 50.25' W. long.

(B) Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.

Examples of species likely to benefit: nearshore and shelf rockfishes, lingcod, cabezon, kelp greenling, surfperches, giant kelp, bull kelp, squid, Dungeness crab, murre, guillemots, cormorants, petrels, auklets.

Summary of Objectives: Provide for complete protection of a diverse area containing shallow hard and soft habitats, kelp beds, and associated fish and invertebrate species while minimizing impact to shelf rockfish fisheries through the incorporation of part of the Rockfish Conservation Area into the MPA. This area is important to the formation of an ecologically sound MPA network component, by linking these habitats to similar habitats in other parts of the region.

Detailed Objectives (with reference to regional goal and objective):

- Protect area of particularly high species diversity associated with upwelling cell in lee of headland, as well as area immediately north of a headland, and maintain species diversity and abundance as demonstrated by monitoring indicator species. (Goal 1, Objective 1, and 2)
- Protect natural age and size structure of invertebrate and fish species associated with sandy beach, rocky intertidal, kelp bed, shallow rocky reef, and shallow sandy bottom habitat. (Goal 1, Objective 3)

- Protect natural trophic structure and food webs, including forage species such as juvenile rockfish, squid, and coastal pelagic finfish that serve as prey for other fish, marine birds, and marine mammals. (Goal 1, Objective 4)
- Provide protection to an area that contains a persistent upwelling plume and generally southerly flow, well-suited to provide larval dispersal to other areas. (Goal 1, Objective 5)
- Help protect populations of overfished rockfish species including bocaccio, yelloweye, and canary. (Goal 2, Objective 1)
- Protect forage base for listed marine birds and marine mammals as well as overfished rockfish species. (Goal 2, Objective 1)
- Protect larval sources and enhance reproductive capacity of shelf species including rockfishes. (Goal 2, Objective 2)
- Establish a marine protected area near a terrestrial state park where an adjacent PISCO subtidal monitoring site exists. (Goal 3, Objective 1)
- Include submarine canyon head within a state marine reserve. (Goal 4, Objective 1)
- Include shallow hard and soft bottom, and shallow canyon habitat within a state marine reserve, including an area of broad continental shelf within a larger area of primarily narrow continental shelf. (Goal 4, Objective 2)
- Minimize negative socio-economic impacts by incorporating a portion of the Rockfish Conservation Area (closed to groundfish take), and considering existing squid fishing grounds. (Goal 5, Objective 1)
- Establish a marine protected area complex (along with Point Sur State Marine Conservation Area) that meets preferred Master Plan Framework scientific guidelines for size. (Goal 5, Objective 3)

MPA: Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area

Primary habitat types: estuary, coastal marsh, tidal flats, shallow soft bottom.

Regulations:

(31) Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area.

(A) This area includes the waters below mean high tide within Elkhorn Slough east of the Highway 1 Bridge and west of longitude 121° 46.40' W.

(B) Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except:

1. Only the following species may be taken recreationally: finfish by hook-and-line only and clams. Clams may only be taken on the north shore of the slough in the area adjacent to the Moss Landing State Wildlife Area [subsection 550(a)].

Examples of species likely to benefit: crabs, ghost shrimp, mud shrimp, worms, eelgrass.

Summary of Objectives: Provide increased protection for one of the few estuarine areas of the central coast while allow for traditional uses of recreational fishing. The intent of the area is to allow small scale recreational fishing activities to continue, while limiting any future increases in use that do not presently occur. The area will also

prohibit take of clams in an area used by sea otters for foraging, potentially providing more available prey for the otters.

Detailed Objectives (with reference to regional goal and objective):

- Protect estuarine area with high bird diversity. (Goal 1, Objective 1)
- Protect communities associated with area with diversity of estuarine habitats, including open channels, mud flats, and eelgrass beds, in close proximity to each other. (Goal 1, Objective 2)
- Protect natural age, size structure, and genetic diversity of some invertebrate species, such as fat innkeeper worms, characteristic of one of largest estuarine systems within the central coast. (Goal 1, Objective 3)
- Provide for traditional recreational consumptive and nonconsumptive uses while offering some protection due to the prohibition of commercial fishing. (Goal 2, Objective 3)