

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
North Central Coast Project
Staff Summary of Area and Habitats in MPA Proposal 2-XA
Revised May 1, 2008

Overall Summary for Proposal 2-XA (March 19, 2008 version)

Type of MPA ^{1,2}	# Proposed	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
State Marine Reserve (SMR) ³	12	68.1	8.9%
State Marine Park (SMP)	1	0.7	0.1%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)	8	68.4	9.0%
All MPAs combined	21	137.2	18.0%

¹ Note: These are proposed marine protected area (MPA) designations, NOT levels of protection assigned by the Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT).

² Note: SMCA = state marine conservation area, SMP = state marine park, SMR = state marine reserve, and SMRMA = state marine recreational management area.

³ Note: The SMR category groups together SMRs and SMRMAs.

Summary of MPAs by Level of Protection for Proposal 2-XA (March 19, 2008 version)

Level of Protection (LOP)	# Proposed	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
Very High	12	68.1	8.9%
High	3	30.3	4.0%
Moderate-High	3	34.7	4.6%
Moderate	1	0.7	0.1%
Low ⁴	2	3.4	0.4%
Total	21	137.2	18.0%

⁴ Note: The Low category groups together MPAs that are assigned a moderate-low or low LOP.

Individual MPAs in Proposal 2-XA (March 19, 2008 version)

MPA Name	Size (mi ²)	Along-shore span ⁵ (mi)	Depth range (ft)
Pt Arena SMR	5.05	3.5	0-176
Pt Arena SMCA	7.42	3.5	153-324
Black Point SMR	9.61	5.0	0-240
Black Point SMCA	9.89	5.0	229-298
Gerstle Cove SMR	0.01	0.2	0-10
Russian River Estuary SMRMA	0.35	1.8	0-10
Russian River SMCA	0.85	1.0	0-57
Bodega Head SMR	9.30	2.5	0-266
Bodega Head SMCA	12.34	3.8	0-267
Estero Americano SMRMA	0.15	1.2	0-10
Estero de San Antonio SMRMA	0.09	1.0	0-10
Pt Reyes Headlands SMR	9.29	7.5	0-132
Pt Reyes Headlands SMCA	11.99	4.2	51-217
Estero de Limantour SMR	1.51	5.0	0-10
Drakes Estero SMCA	2.55	5.9	0-10
Duxbury SMP	0.66	3.0	0-10
Montara SMR	9.28	2.6	0-165

Individual MPAs in Proposal 2-XA (continued)

Pillar Point SMCA	10.41	2.8	0-174
North Farallon SMR	18.09	NA	0-275
SE Farallon SMR	5.33	NA	0-238
SE Farallon SMCA	12.97	NA	130-382

⁵ Note: Alongshore span measured as direct line from one end of the MPA to the other.

Habitat Representation in Proposal 2-XA (March 19, 2008 version)

Habitat	Area ⁶ (mi ²) and percentage of mapped habitat in proposed MPA designations in the study region ⁷			
	SMR ⁸	SMP	SMCA	Total MPAs
Intertidal				
Sandy or gravel beach *	12.56 (11%)	0.22 (< 1%)	1.67 (1%)	14.46 (12%)
Rocky intertidal & cliff *	29.98 (18%)	1.64 (1%)	7.14 (4%)	38.76 (23%)
Coastal marsh	0.26 (17%)	0.00 (0%)	0.21 (14%)	0.48 (31%)
Tidal flats*	4.78 (26%)	0.00 (0%)	1.44 (8%)	6.23 (34%)
Seagrass beds				
Surfgrass*	12.00 (17%)	3.39 (5%)	1.44 (2%)	16.83 (24%)
Eelgrass	1.43 (24%)	0.00 (0%)	2.35 (39%)	3.79 (63%)
Estuary				
Estuary	1.90 (10%)	0.00 (0%)	2.52 (13%)	4.42 (23%)
Soft bottom				
0-30 meters*	6.36 (6%)	0.00 (0%)	1.37 (1%)	7.73 (8%)
30-100 meters	40.47 (10%)	0.00 (0%)	51.73 (12%)	92.19 (22%)
100-200 meters ⁹	NA	NA	NA	NA
>200 meters ⁹	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hard bottom				
0-30 meters*	16.32 (20%)	0.00 (0%)	3.06 (4%)	19.39 (24%)
30-100 meters	8.07 (15%)	0.00 (0%)	6.34 (12%)	14.41 (28%)
100-200 meters ⁹	NA	NA	NA	NA
>200 meters ⁹	NA	NA	NA	NA
Substrate < 50 m deep				
Hard substrate	8.65 (14%)	0.00 (0%)	4.59 (7%)	13.25 (21%)
Soft substrate	15.86 (6%)	0.00 (0%)	10.11 (4%)	25.97 (9%)
Kelp forest				
Kelp 1989	0.35 (11%)	0.00 (0%)	0.00 (0%)	0.35 (11%)
Kelp 1999	0.17 (10%)	0.00 (0%)	0.00 (0%)	0.17 (10%)
Kelp 2002	0.15 (8%)	0.00 (0%)	0.01 (< 1%)	0.16 (9%)
Kelp 2003	0.12 (10%)	0.00 (0%)	0.00 (0%)	0.12 (10%)
Kelp 2004	0.10 (7%)	0.00 (0%)	0.01 (< 1%)	0.10 (7%)
Kelp 2005	0.08 (8%)	0.00 (0%)	0.00 (0%)	0.08 (8%)
Average Kelp*	5.02 (14%)	0.00 (0%)	0.29 (1%)	5.31 (15%)

⁶ Note: Habitats measured as an area (mi²) except for those with a * notation. Habitats with a * notation are expressed in linear units (mi).

⁷ Note: These are proposed MPA designations, NOT levels of protection assigned by the SAT

⁸ Note: The SMR category groups together SMRs and SMRMAs.

⁹ Note: The "NA" notation is due to the fact that these habitats are not found or are only found in small areas in this study region.

Special Closures in Proposal 2-XA (March 19, 2008 version)

Geography	Boundary	Area (mi²)	Seasonality	Species Intended to Protect
Point Resistance	300 ft.	0.01	Year round	Intended to protect breeding Common Murre and roosting Brown Pelican.
Egg Rock	300 ft.	0.01	Year round	Intended to protect breeding Common Murre, Brandt's cormorant, and roosting Brown Pelican.
Stormy Stack	300 ft.	0.02	Year round	Intended to protect harbor seals in haul out and breeding, California sea lions in haul out and 2nd largest seabird breeding colony in the subregion (e.g Ashy storm-petrel, murre, Brown Pelican, Brandt's cormorant, Pelagic Cormorant, Pigeon Guillemot).
North Farallon Islands	300 ft (around North Island and Isle of St. James)	0.08	Year round	Intended to protect Stellar sea lion haul out and > 72,000 nesting seabirds (e.g. Common Murre, Pigeon Guillemot, Pelagic Cormorant, Brandt's cormorant, Western Gull, Cassin's Auklet).
South Farallons	300 ft (except Fisherman's Bay and East Landing)	0.17	Year round	Intended to protect Steller sea lions (haul out and rookery) and California sea lions (haul out), Northern fur and Northern elephant seals (both breeding), and more than 180,000 seabirds.