

California Marine Life Protection Act Initiative
Summary of potential impacts of the February '06 proposed MPA packages on
commercial and recreational fisheries in the central coast study region

Final version, revised 8 March 2006

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Introduction

The following data sets were used in the analysis of relative effects of the proposed MPA packages on commercial and recreational fisheries that are conducted in the waters in the MLPA Central Coast Study Region:

- For the commercial fishery, we used data layers characterizing the spatial extent and relative stated importance of fishing grounds of 19 commercial fisheries in the Central Coast Study Area (SA) previously transmitted by Ecotrust to the Marine Life Protection Act Initiative (MLPAI) under the terms of contract agreement No. 2005-0067.¹ This information was collected during interviews in the summer of 2005, using a stratified, representative sample of 100+ fishermen whose individual responses about the relative importance of ocean areas for each fishery were standardized using a 100-point scale and normalized to the reported fishing grounds for each fishery;
- For the recreational fishery, we used recreational private and rental boat fishing effort data from the California Recreational Fisheries Survey (CRFS) 2004 and made available to Ecotrust by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). This information consists of observed number of angler trips per microblock, and is grouped for trips for particular species. Of those, we analyzed the trips for rockfish and salmon in order to characterize two of the most important recreational fisheries in the study area. Similar survey data for Commercial Passenger Fishing Vessels (CPFV) were not available in time for this analysis.

Overview of fisheries considered in the analysis

The commercial fisheries considered in this analysis are of varying importance in terms of ex vessel revenues. Table 1 below lists the species or groups considered and their share of central coast study region commercial fishing revenues, using the 6-year average of nominal ex vessel revenues between 1999 and 2004. In most cases, the same fisheries account for substantially different proportions of statewide landings. For example, Dungeness crab accounts for only 1.66% of CCRS landings (by ex vessel revenue), but 17.33% of state totals. Interestingly, private and rental boat fishing for both rockfish and salmon account for double the percentage of all trips in the study region (22% and 50%, respectively) than trips for the same species statewide (10% and 23%). Corresponding data for the charter boat fleet were not available at the time of this analysis. In general, however, CPFV trips consist of several times the number of anglers as private and rental boat trips.

¹ Scholz et al., forthcoming, "Commercial fishing grounds and their relative importance off the Central Coast of California", Final report on contract No. 2005-0067.

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Table 1 – Summary of fisheries considered in the analysis

Commercial			Recreational		
Species or group	% of CCSR fisheries revenues, 6-year average (1999-2004)	% of CA statewide fisheries revenues, 6-year average (1999-2004)	Species or group	% of CCSR observed private and rental boat recreational angler trips [No. of total trips: 84,000]	% of CA statewide [No. of total trips: 663,000]
Anchovy	2.17%	0.65%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cabazon	2.73%	0.59%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dungeness crab	1.66%	17.33%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Halibut	1.95%	2.24%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kelp Greenling	0.25%	0.08%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Lingcod	0.33%	0.17%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Mackerel	0.13%	1.10%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Deep Nearshore Rockfish	4.83%	1.24%	Rockfish	22%	10%
Rockfish Nearshore					
Rockfish Shelf	0.87%	0.72%			
Rockfish Slope	1.63%	0.48%			
Rock Crab	0.78%	1.03%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Salmon	12.57%	8.08%	Salmon	50%	23%
Sardine	7.19%	3.95%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sablefish	5.53%	3.40%	n/a	n/a	n/a
White Seabass	0.47%	0.47%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surfperch	0.20%	0.09%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Spot Prawn	7.38%	2.25%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Squid	24.49%	18.81%	n/a	n/a	n/a

Approach

The five MPA proposals under review (packages 1, 2, 3, S and AC) vary according to their spatial extent and the commercial and recreational fishing uses they affect. Specifically, they vary by the number and types of fisheries permitted within the boundaries of particular MPAs within a network. Furthermore, study area (SA) fisheries themselves vary in spatial extent and frequently overlap. Most of them are conducted in fishing grounds that extend beyond the state waters of the CCSR, and we report the effects both in terms of total fishing grounds (G) and those that fall within the study area. Since any one MPA may have different effects on different

uses, and different uses may be affected differently by all MPAs, it is therefore necessary to consider single MPAs and single fishery uses independently. Note that Package 0, the “no action” alternative of existing MPAs, has no differential effect on fisheries and was therefore not evaluated. Similarly, since current fishery closures such as the Rockfish Conservation Area affect all proposals equally, they have no differential effect.

We conducted an overlay of each MPA with each potential use. MPAs were grouped according to level of protection, using the same levels of protection as elsewhere in the MLPA Master Plan Science Advisory Team (SAT) evaluations and as described in the January 10 draft of the “Rationale for SAT categorization of MPAs by relative levels of protection” (ProtectionLevels_draft_10Jan06.doc), but uses were considered individually. In other words, for each MPA and protection level within each package, we assessed the fishery uses that would be affected.

We quantified the first order maximum effects of proposed MPAs on both commercial and recreational fishing, analyzing the percent of total fishing grounds for any one fishery included in a given MPA. This is a first-order, “worst case” analysis that is silent on the eventual behavioral response. In other words, the analysis assumed that all fishing in an area affected by an MPA would be lost completely, when in reality it is more likely that effort would shift to areas outside the MPA. There are, however, currently no data available to support an analysis of such an adaptive response.

We compiled results in a series of spreadsheets transmitted to the MPLAI and SAT, summarizing the effects of the various MPA packages on commercial and recreational fisheries both in terms of the area affected and the relative value lost. For the purposes of this analysis, “value” was measured not in terms of dollars, but using two proxies: 1) an index of relative, stated importance derived from interviews with fishermen in the case of the commercial fisheries, and 2) number of observed private and rental boat trips to a microblock in the case of the recreational fisheries.

For this first order evaluation, we assumed that all fishing in an area intersected by MPAs and fishing grounds would be affected. Where an MPA straddled a reporting block in the recreational data, we apportioned the number of trips associated with that block proportional to the area overlap. In the case of the commercial fisheries, data are at a sufficient spatial resolution to allow for direct summation. It is important to note that the analysis specifically does not constitute an economic impact analysis, nor account for behavioral responses such as shifts in fishing effort to other areas.

The percent of area and value affected was calculated based on the grounds identified within the central coast study region, not for the whole state

Assessing MPA packages

The percent change in area and value for each of the commercial fisheries were determined by the intersection of each MPA package and the fishing grounds specific to that use. Each MPA within a package was classified by whether it would affect the fishery or not. If a fishery was affected by an MPA, the area and value were summarized and then divided by the total area and value for the entire fishing grounds (G), as derived from interviews with fishermen, and the total study area (SA).

The total percent of the area and value affected for both the total fishing grounds and the grounds inside the study area was then summarized for all MPAs that affected each fishery per package. Packages vary considerably in their effects, both between and across fisheries, as the following table (Table 2) illustrates for commercial fisheries. Packages 1, 2 and 3 are based on the proponents' February 9 revisions. No revisions were made to the December 15 version of Package AC, and Package S is based on the draft of February 22, 2006.

Table 2 – Summary of potential effects on commercial fisheries

	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3	Package S	Package AC
Area of total fishing grounds potentially affected					
Anchovy	4.39%	7.98%	6.01%	4.35%	10.62%
Cabazon	13.27%	16.96%	14.95%	15.82%	24.31%
Dungeness crab	3.38%	7.09%	6.75%	7.06%	11.77%
Deep Nearshore Rockfish	13.02%	16.54%	14.97%	16.46%	23.86%
Halibut	9.08%	10.09%	9.50%	9.99%	18.04%
Kelp Greenling	12.33%	17.74%	16.16%	17.43%	23.82%
Lingcod	12.61%	18.44%	16.31%	17.40%	23.45%
Mackerel	6.66%	12.30%	9.41%	6.96%	16.64%
Rockfish Nearshore	11.92%	15.39%	13.70%	14.38%	23.72%
Rockfish Shelf	5.18%	13.21%	16.13%	11.53%	29.16%
Rockfish Slope	0.64%	1.10%	0.97%	0.96%	6.96%
Rock Crab	4.79%	6.63%	6.10%	6.23%	9.57%
Salmon	0.44%	1.05%	0.91%	0.80%	1.47%
Sardine	4.38%	7.91%	5.16%	4.30%	10.55%
Sablefish	0.86%	2.26%	2.26%	2.30%	2.94%
White seabass	9.47%	7.84%	8.36%	8.50%	16.56%
Surfperch	8.07%	16.77%	22.78%	15.65%	15.18%
Spot Prawn	0.87%	2.50%	2.88%	2.88%	3.70%
Squid	6.82%	10.89%	9.76%	9.92%	15.65%
Area of fishing grounds within the study area potentially affected					
Anchovy	10.14%	18.40%	13.88%	9.99%	24.55%
Cabazon	15.11%	19.31%	17.05%	18.05%	27.73%
Dungeness crab	6.96%	14.57%	13.87%	14.51%	24.18%

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Deep Nearshore Rockfish	14.39%	18.26%	16.54%	18.20%	26.39%
Halibut	11.07%	12.30%	11.59%	12.18%	21.98%
Kelp Greenling	12.74%	18.35%	16.73%	18.03%	24.61%
Lingcod	13.32%	19.53%	17.25%	18.38%	24.85%
Mackerel	9.49%	17.58%	13.44%	9.97%	23.82%
Rockfish Nearshore	13.73%	17.70%	15.73%	16.55%	27.23%
Rockfish Shelf	5.67%	14.48%	17.68%	12.64%	31.97%
Rockfish Slope	14.33%	24.76%	21.87%	21.64%	32.49%
Rock Crab	11.28%	15.59%	14.38%	14.63%	22.49%
Salmon	6.07%	13.82%	11.85%	10.71%	19.26%
Sardine	10.14%	18.40%	11.98%	9.99%	24.55%
Sablefish	8.05%	21.22%	21.22%	21.61%	27.58%
White seabass	11.56%	9.58%	10.22%	10.36%	20.24%
Surfperch	8.07%	16.79%	22.78%	15.65%	15.18%
Spot Prawn	6.49%	18.36%	21.17%	21.12%	27.08%
Squid	9.00%	14.37%	12.88%	13.08%	20.64%
	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3	Package S	Package AC
Value of total fishing grounds potentially affected					
Anchovy	3.65%	6.97%	5.26%	4.16%	10.46%
Cabazon	14.42%	27.34%	21.85%	24.58%	32.02%
Dungeness crab	1.92%	5.50%	5.78%	5.61%	12.33%
Deep Nearshore Rockfish	15.78%	21.81%	17.54%	20.59%	35.65%
Halibut	5.92%	9.24%	9.66%	8.24%	12.59%
Kelp Greenling	12.95%	23.60%	18.44%	21.36%	30.44%
Lingcod	12.87%	25.15%	21.30%	23.39%	33.44%
Mackerel	4.52%	8.72%	6.83%	5.99%	12.94%
Rockfish Nearshore	13.82%	24.78%	20.83%	23.24%	32.74%
Rockfish Shelf	6.99%	11.86%	15.33%	10.57%	26.30%
Rockfish Slope	0.64%	1.10%	0.97%	0.96%	6.96%
Rock Crab	5.79%	6.42%	6.78%	6.27%	10.99%
Salmon	0.77%	2.31%	1.89%	1.53%	3.57%
Sardine	3.45%	7.30%	4.57%	4.14%	10.60%
Sablefish	0.90%	3.09%	3.09%	3.14%	4.15%
White seabass	8.21%	7.38%	7.92%	7.15%	11.59%
Surfperch	2.73%	5.06%	9.41%	4.72%	5.94%
Spot Prawn	1.97%	4.19%	5.30%	5.22%	8.37%
Squid	5.87%	9.49%	7.34%	9.10%	17.77%
Value of fishing grounds within the study area potentially affected					
Anchovy	5.72%	10.89%	8.24%	6.51%	16.35%
Cabazon	14.64%	27.72%	22.15%	24.95%	32.47%
Dungeness crab	4.50%	12.83%	13.52%	13.10%	28.79%
Deep Nearshore Rockfish	16.49%	22.82%	18.39%	21.55%	37.37%

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Halibut	6.44%	10.00%	10.49%	8.96%	13.68%
Kelp Greenling	13.12%	23.91%	18.66%	21.64%	30.83%
Lingcod	13.11%	25.58%	21.68%	23.79%	34.02%
Mackerel	5.36%	10.28%	8.09%	7.10%	15.30%
Rockfish Nearshore	14.30%	25.65%	21.56%	24.07%	33.91%
Rockfish Shelf	7.46%	12.67%	16.37%	11.28%	28.07%
Rockfish Slope	14.33%	24.76%	21.87%	21.64%	32.49%
Rock Crab	11.99%	13.29%	14.07%	12.96%	22.69%
Salmon	3.42%	10.30%	8.49%	6.84%	15.85%
Sardine	5.24%	11.08%	6.94%	6.26%	16.07%
Sablefish	6.83%	23.30%	23.30%	23.71%	31.41%
White seabass	9.11%	8.16%	8.78%	7.93%	12.82%
Surfperch	2.73%	5.06%	9.41%	4.72%	5.94%
Spot Prawn	7.28%	15.48%	19.53%	19.26%	30.82%
Squid	6.27%	10.13%	7.83%	9.70%	18.91%

For example, Package 1 has lesser effects (both in area and value) on fisheries such as squid and spot prawn than on, say, Kelp greenling. Illustrating another set of effects, Package 3 affects 10% of the total fishing grounds for halibut, but 12% when considering those that fall into the (nearer to shore) study area waters. In this case, the effects on fishing area and importance are almost identical, with 10% and 11% of stated importance affected, respectively. In addition, from Table 1, the halibut fishery constitutes a little under 2% of study area commercial fisheries. In some cases, for example, deep nearshore rockfish, alternatives can have markedly different effects on area and relative “value”. For example, Package AC affects 26% of the study area fishing grounds for deep nearshore rockfish, but well over 1/3, 37%, of stated importance.

Table 3 summarizes the effects on recreational fisheries. The estimated effect on trip numbers is an upper boundary, since a trip may be counted twice in the data when it covered more than one microblock. Furthermore, the analysis assumes that all trips to a block would be lost.

Table 3 – Summary of potential effects on private and rental boat recreational fisheries

	Package 1	Package 2	Package 3	Package S	Package AC
Recreational Salmon Area affected statute miles²	0.05	9.68	3.72	4.51	7.08
Maximum Number of Salmon Trips affected	4	79	69	30	39
Recreational Rockfish Area affected statute miles²	17.58	43.52	49.26	37.88	49.26
Maximum Number of Rockfish Trips affected	269	487	479	351	479

Results in terms of the percent area of the fishing grounds affected to follow.

Summary of results from the analysis of fisheries effects

There are several patterns that emerge from the analysis of the four revised or new MPA packages:

- Compared to the previous versions, packages 1, 2, and 3 are converging in terms of economic impacts: Package 1 now has 41% greater economic impacts, while packages 2 and 3 now have 13% and 4%, respectively, lesser impacts on commercial fisheries—both in terms of grounds and relative value (stated importance) in the study area.
- All packages affect the 19 commercial fisheries differently, with the smallest effects in terms of both value and area affected generally evidenced in Package 1.
- In the commercial fishery, for 16 out of the 19 species investigated, Package 1 has the least effects on area and Package AC the most, packages S and 3 lie between packages 1 and 2 in 12 of the 19 fisheries.
- There are some deviations from this pattern in terms of the relative value of the affected areas, i.e., larger areas affected do not always correspond to higher stated importance;
- In the commercial fishery, for 18 out of the 19 species investigated, Package 1 has the least effects on the relative value and Package AC the most, Packages S and 3 lie between 1 and 2 in 11 of the 19 fisheries.
- Package S, has the least impact on area for 2 of the fisheries, anchovy and white seabass, with comparable impacts to Package 1 for 8 of the fisheries, (anchovy, halibut, mackerel, salmon, sardine, white seabass, and squid).
- Package S, has less than 10% impact on the stated importance within the study area for 8 of the 19 commercial fisheries, compared to 12 for Package 1, 7 for Package 3, 2 for Package 2 (5 additional fisheries for Package 2 are between 10% - 11%), and 1 for Package AC.
- Packages have similar effects on the two recreational fisheries considered, with the package that affects the smallest area of grounds being the one that affects the least number of trips.
- Package 1, followed by Package S, affects the least amount of recreational fishing area and trips for both salmon and rockfish, with Package 2 having the largest effect on the recreational fishing area and number of trips for salmon, while packages AC and 3 have the largest effect on the recreational fishing area and number of trips for rockfish.