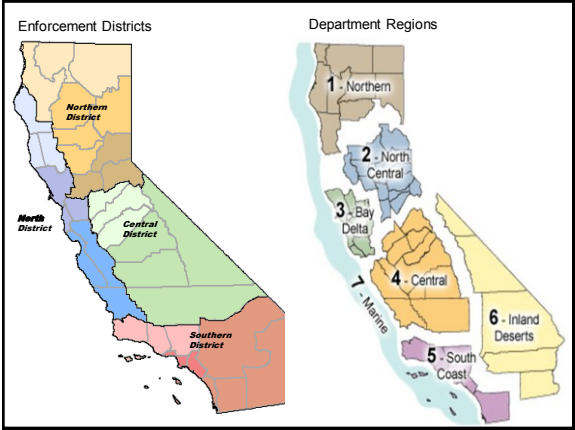




Marine Life Protection Act



California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Becky Ota
February 24, 2014





Marine Life Protection Act






What is the MLPA?

Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA) (1999)

- Requires redesign of California’s existing Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) to meet specific goals
- Applies to state waters (0-3 miles offshore)
- Local knowledge and science incorporated
- Requires adoption of regulations by the Fish and Game Commission



Marine Protected Areas

→ A regional approach to California’s 1,100 mile coast.

→ The state was divided into five study regions:

- North Coast
- North Central Coast
- Central Coast
- South Coast
- San Francisco Bay



Regional Planning to Implement MLPA

1) Central Coast – Sep 2007

2) North Central Coast – May 2010

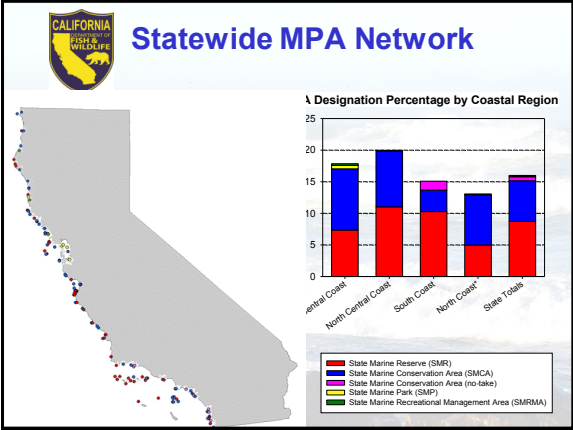
3) South Coast – Jan 2012
(*Channel Islands MPAs integrated)


4) North Coast – Dec 2012

5) San Francisco Bay – after Bay-Delta planning



The map shows the five study regions for MLPA implementation: North Coast*, North Central Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, and South Coast. The regions are color-coded: North Coast (grey), North Central Coast (blue), San Francisco Bay (green), Central Coast (orange), and South Coast (purple).






Elkhorn Slough SMCA & Elkhorn Slough SMR

Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve	
Summary of Objectives Continue to provide complete protection for one of the few estuarine areas of the central coast and expand this protection to include the entire slough channel as opposed to one half of the channel as is presently included. (Goals: 1,2,3,4)	DFG Regulations Take of all living marine resources is prohibited.

Elkhorn Slough State Marine Conservation Area	
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. (Goals: 1,2,3)	DFG Regulations Take of all living marine resources is prohibited except: 1. Only the following species may be taken recreationally: fish 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 (sub-section 550(a)).






Post-Adoption Collaboration

- Outreach and Education
- Baseline Monitoring
- Ongoing Monitoring and Evaluation
- Adaptive Management





Restoration in MPAs

~MLPA – “...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...” *Fish and Game Code, Section 2850-2863*

~MMAIA - “...Research, restoration, and monitoring may be permitted by the managing agency...” *PRC 36700-36900*

~Title 14, CCR, Section 632 (a) and (b) - *Provides general provisions and specific regulations for all the MPAs*



Restoration Examples

Russian River SMRMA – Habitat restoration for Coho Salmon

Morro Bay SMRMA - Eelgrass Restoration



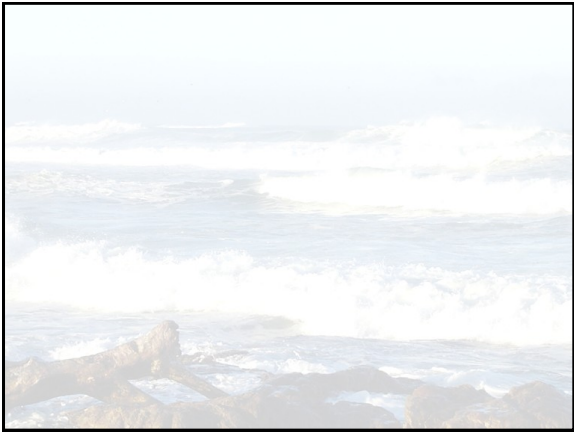


Thank You!

Questions?

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Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA)

- Redesign California's system of marine protected areas (MPAs) to function as a network.
 - increase coherence and effectiveness
 - protecting the state's marine life and marine ecosystems, and natural heritage
 - improve recreational, educational and study opportunities
 - subject to minimal human disturbance



Statewide Marine Protected Areas Statistics

Type of Protected Area	Count	Area (sq mi) in All Coastal State Waters ¹	Percent of All Coastal State Waters ¹
SMR	48	463.23	8.76%
SMCA (no-take)	10	33.60	0.64%
SMCA	60	344.50	6.52%
SMCA/SMP ²	1	6.26	0.12%
SMRMA	5	4.43	0.08%
Special Closures ³	15	3.25	0.06%
Total³	124	852.02	16.12%

17 Monterey Area MPAs

Monterey County MPAs

1. Elkhorn Slough SMR
2. Elkhorn Slough SMCA
3. Moro Cojo Estuary SMR
4. Soquel Canyon SMCA
5. Portuguese Ledge SMCA
6. Edward F. Ricketts SMCA
7. Lovers Point SMR
8. Pacific Grove Marine Gardens SMCA
9. Asilomar SMR
10. Carmel Pinnacles SMR
11. Carmel Bay SMCA
12. Point Lobos SMR
13. Point Lobos SMCA
14. Point Sur SMR
15. Point Sur SMCA
16. Big Creek SMR
17. Big Creek SMCA



County

Type	Counties in Central Coast Region			
	Santa Cruz	Monterey	San Luis Obispo	Santa Barbara
SMR	1	8	3	1
SMCA	2	9	4	-
SMP	-	-	-	-
SMRMA	-	-	1	-
All	3	17	8	1

