



## Marine Life Protection Act



**California Department of Fish and Game Evaluation and  
Guidance for NCCRSR MPA Proposals**

**MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force Meeting**  
**April 22, 2008 • San Rafael, CA**  
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California Department of Fish and Game



## Overview

- Department *does not*
  - make recommendation for preferred alternative
  - support any individual stakeholder proposal
- Purpose of review: To ensure proposals meet Department guidelines **and goals of MLPA**

**Proposals Outcomes:**

- **Proposals have converged significantly**
  - Locations
  - MPA design
- **Differences exist in**
  - Proposed regulations
  - Inclusion/exclusion of individual MPAs



## Department Concerns

### Concerns Include

- Inadequate improvements to existing MPAs
- Lack of boundary or regulation clarity or difficulties with enforcement
- Incomplete development of reasonable and measurable goals and objectives
- MPAs unnecessary to fulfill the MLPA mandate and with inadequate protection



## Existing MPAs

### Inadequate Improvements to Existing MPAs

- Boundary concerns not addressed
- Level of protection not improved
  - Due to liberal take allowances, intertidal boundaries, etc...

### MPAs include

- Del Mar
- Duxbury Reef (intertidal portions)

Existing MPAs: Del Mar

**Not Improved**

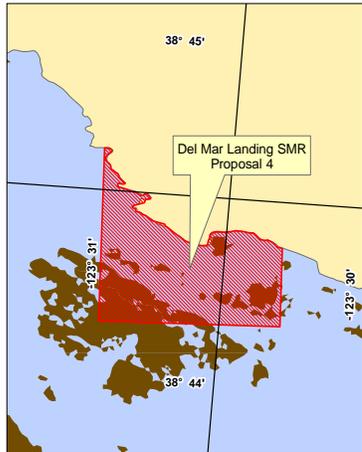
- Boundaries do not meet guidelines
- Allows most existing take to continue



Proposal 1-3

**Improved**

- Boundaries meet guidelines
- LOP increased



Proposal 4

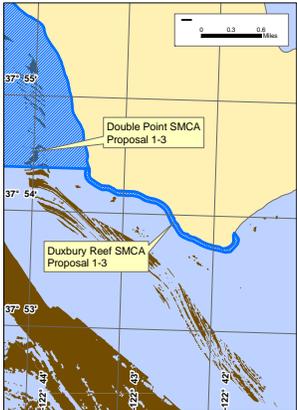
Existing MPAs: Duxbury Reef area

**Science guidelines**

- Not recommended
- Should extend to deeper waters
- Allows most existing take

**Feasibility**

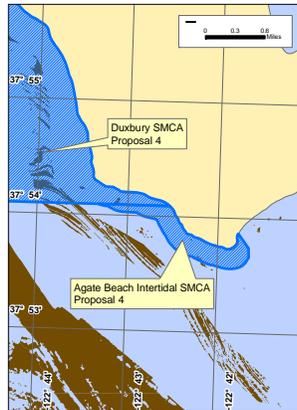
- Difficult to enforce
- Confusing boundaries (distance offshore)



Proposal 1-3



Proposal 2-XA



Proposal 4



## Feasibility: Boundaries, Regulations

### MPAs with boundary concerns

- Del Mar Landing SMP (1-3)
- Bodega Head SMCA (1-3); SMR (4)
- Duxbury Reef area (All)
- Black Point SMCA & SMR (2-XA)

### MPAs with multiple zoning concerns

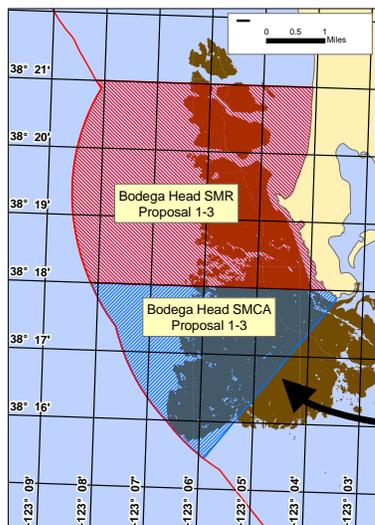
- Duxbury Reef area (4)

### MPAs with designation/ regulation concerns

- Estuary SMRs should use SMRMAs where **waterfowl** hunting occurs
- Fisheries management measure
  - Russian River SMCA (2-XA)



## Boundary Feasibility: Bodega Head



Proposal 1-3

### Diagonal line

- Difficult to enforce
- Decreases public understanding

Boundary Feasibility: Black Point

**Diagonal line**

- Not anchored at whole minutes
- Difficult to enforce
- Decreases public understanding

Proposal 2-XA

Multiple Concerns - Duxbury Reef

- Allowed take
- Intertidal MPAs

- Confusing boundaries
- Multiple zoning

Proposal 1-3

Proposal 2-XA

Proposal 4

## Designation concerns

Estuary SMRs should use SMRMAs where **waterfowl** hunting occurs

The figure consists of three maps of the same geographic area, each showing a different proposal for designating Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio. The maps are labeled 'Proposal 1-3', 'Proposal 2-XA', and 'Proposal 4'. Each map shows the coastline and the two estuaries. In Proposal 1-3, both estuaries are designated as SMRs (Special Management Regions) and are outlined in red. In Proposal 2-XA, both estuaries are designated as SMRMAs (Special Management Resource Management Areas) and are outlined in green. In Proposal 4, Estero Americano is designated as an SMR (red outline) and Estero de San Antonio is designated as an SMR (red outline). The maps include latitude and longitude coordinates and a scale bar.

Estero Americano SMR  
Proposal 1-3

Estero de San Antonio SMR  
Proposal 1-3

Proposal 1-3

Estero Americano SMRMA  
Proposal 2-XA

Estero de San Antonio SMRMA  
Proposal 2-XA

Proposal 2-XA

Estero Americano SMR  
Proposal 4

Estero de San Antonio SMR  
Proposal 4

Proposal 4

## Regulation concerns

The map shows the Russian River estuary area. It features a blue hatched area labeled 'Russian River SMCA Proposal 2-XA' and a green hatched area labeled 'Russian River Estuary SMRMA Proposal 2-XA'. The map includes latitude and longitude coordinates and a scale bar from 0 to 0.6 miles.

- **Fishery management**
  - Russian River SMCA (2-XA)
    - Only restricts the take of salmon
    - Acts as a fishery management measure
  - Remedies
    - Eliminate the MPA from the proposal
    - Change take allowances
    - Use salmon fishery regulations
- **Designation concerns**
  - Russian River (Estuary) SMRMA
    - **Waterfowl** hunting has not occurred in several years use SMR



## Goals and Objectives (G&O)

- **NCC regional goals and objectives**
  - Developed by NCCRS
  - Regional goals adopted from MLPA
  - Objectives specifically crafted for MPAs and region
  - Considered and selected as MPAs were developed
- **Purpose of goals and objectives**
  - Collectively fulfil MLPA goals and network objectives
  - Drive MPA design (geographic placement, boundaries, regulations, designation)
  - Guide future monitoring activities and evaluation
  - Influence future adaptive management



## Goals and Objectives (G&O)

- **Evaluation overview**
  - Examines compatibility of proposed MPAs with stated objectives
  - Provides recommendations to fix incompatibility
  - Intent to help ensure MPAs are successful and advance intent of MLPA



## Goals and Objectives (G&O)

**Example of content**

- Table and document with **Yellow** and **Grey** highlights
- **Yellow** = one type of activity is incompatible with objectives - Department recommends fixing the goals and objectives or allowed uses
- **Grey** = multiple activities hinder meeting intent of MLPA or science guidelines - **Department recommends removing these MPAs**

Area	(Proposal) MPA	Type of Goals and Objectives Concern				Options to Remedy
		Conflicts with specified allowed take	Not appropriate for type of MPA	Not applicable at scale of individual MPA	Other Concern	
Point Arena	(1-3) Point Arena SMR		G2-O4	G4-O2, G6		• Delete all problematic goals/objectives
	(1-3) Point Arena SMCA		G1-O1, G1-O5	G4-O2		• Delete all problematic goals/objectives
	(2-XA) Point Arena SMR	G1-O4		G4-O2, G5-O2, G6-O1, G6-O2		• Delete all problematic goals/objectives
	(2-XA) Point Arena SMCA	G1-O4	G1-O1, G1-O5	G4-O2, G5-O2, G6-O1, G6-O2		• Delete all problematic goals/objectives, or • Delete G1-O1, G1-O5, G4-O2, G5-O2, G6-O1, G6-O2, and disallow take of pelagic finfish
	(4) Point Arena SMR, Sea Lion Cove SMCA			G4-O2, G5-O2, G6-O1, G6-O2		• Delete all problematic goals/objectives
(4) Point Arena SMCA		G1-O1, G1-O5			• Delete all problematic goals/objectives	
Saunders Reef	(1-3) Saunders Reef SMCA	G1-O2, G1-O3		G4-O2, G5-O2	G5-O3	• Eliminate MPA, or • Delete G4-O2, G5-O2, G5-O3 and reduce allowed take
	(4) Saunders Reef SMCA			G4-O2, G5-O2		• Eliminate MPA, or • Delete all problematic goals/objectives
Del Mar Landing	(1-3) Del Mar Landing SMP				G3-O2	• Eliminate MPA, or • Reduce allowed take
	(4) Del Mar Landing SMR			G5-O2		• Eliminate MPA, or • Delete all problematic goals/objectives



## G&O Concerns: Wrong Scale or MPA Type

### Most common problem (~75%)

- **Application at inappropriate scale or to inappropriate MPA type**
  - Example: Network objective applied to an MPA  
G5-O2: “For all MPAs in the region involve interested parties to help develop objectives, a long term monitoring plan...”
  - Example: Inappropriate objective applied to an SMR  
G2-O4: “Protect selected species...while allowing harvest...through use of state marine conservation areas and state marine parks” (inappropriate for SMR)
- **Suggested remedy:** Delete problematic objectives



## G&O Concerns: Conflicting Take

- **One type of allowed activity/take conflicts with objective(s) and/or narrative reason for establishing MPA**
- **Example:**
  - Narrative reason for establishing MPA and selecting G1-04:  
"Protect natural trophic structure and food webs, including pelagic finfish that serve as prey for other fish, marine birds & marine mammals"
  - Conflicting allowed take: Pelagic finfish



## G&O Concerns: Conflicting Take

- **Proposed MPAs with single conflicting take**
  - Point Arena SMCA (2-XA)
  - Black Point SMCA (2-XA)
  - Bodega Head SMCA (1-3 and 2-XA)
  - Point Reyes SMCA (All)
  - Pillar Point SMCA (2-XA)
  - SE Farallon SMCA (2-XA)
- **Suggested remedies**
  - Delete problematic objective(s), or
  - Remove allowed take in question



## Designing Protection

### **MPAs unnecessary to fulfill the MLPA mandate and with inadequate protection**

- **Allows most existing take to continue**
- **Conflicts with intent of MLPA**
- **Does not provide true improvement to MPA network**
- **Remedies**
  - Reduce the allowed take
  - Eliminate the MPA from the proposal



## Intent of the MLPA

- **MPAs unnecessary to fulfill the MLPA mandate and/or with inadequate protection**
  - Saunder's Reef SMCA (1-3 & 4)
  - Del Mar Landing SMP (1-3)
  - Salt Point SMP (4)
  - Double Point SMCA (1-3)
  - Duxbury SMP (2-XA)
  - Duxbury SMCA (4)
  - Agate Beach Intertidal SMCA (4)
  - Montara SMCA (1-3)
  - San Gregorio SMR (4)



## Special Closures

**Most Special Closures meet Department guidelines**

### Concerns

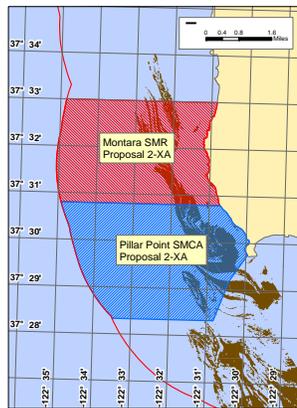
- Shore access
  - Pebble Beach/ Bean Hollow (1-3)
  - Point Resistance (1-3 & 2-XA)
- Boundary distance
  - Point Resistance (1-3)  
[500' vs recommended 300' or 1000']



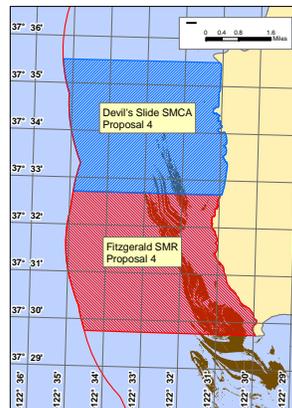
## Design to Support Monitoring/Adaptive Management

- Preferred cluster design: North/south orientation
- Consider other feasibility or goal and objectives concerns

Fitzgerald (2-XA)



Fitzgerald (4)



**DESIGN TO SUPPORT MONITORING/ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

- Preferred cluster design: North/south orientation
- Consider other feasibility or goal and objectives concerns

Fitzgerald (1-3)

Fitzgerald (2-XA)

Fitzgerald (4)

**DESIGN TO SUPPORT MONITORING/ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT**

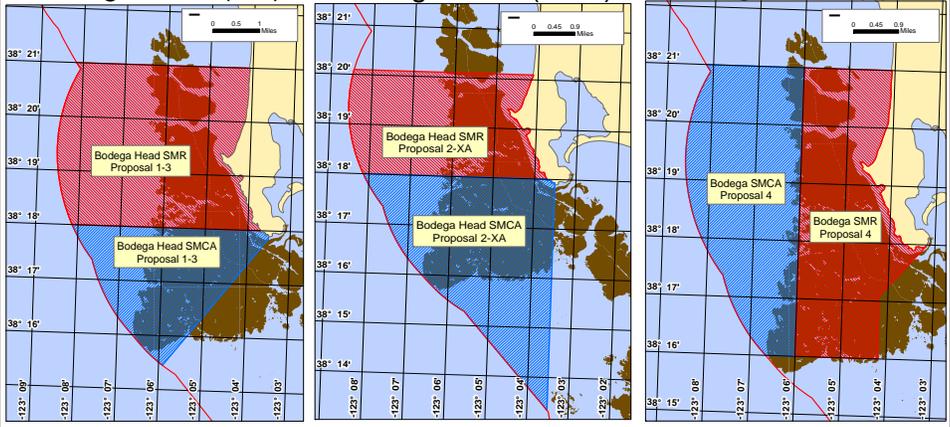
- Preferred cluster design: North/south orientation
- Designed to achieve certain objectives

Bodega Head (2-XA)

 **Design to Support Monitoring/Adaptive Management**

- **Preferred cluster design:** North/south orientation
- Design configurations achieve different objectives
- Consider feasibility/public understanding/enforcement concerns

**Bodega Head (1-3)      Bodega Head (2-XA)      Bodega Head (4)**



 **Summary of Department Recommendations**

- Recommends the BRTF revise goals and objectives for all proposals forwarded;
- Recommends adjustments in BRTF preferred alternative to meet feasibility concerns;
- Recommends eliminating from proposals MPAs that do not meet the intent of the MLPA