



Marine Life Protection Act



Summary of Central Coast Study Region MPAs

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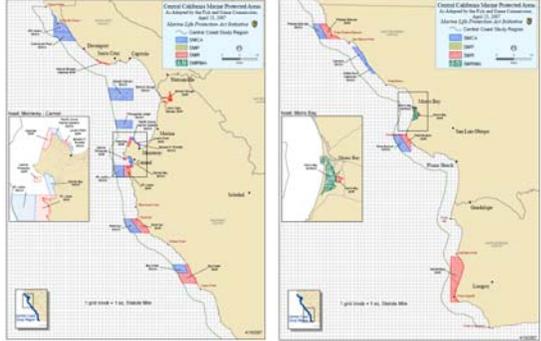
Summary of Central Coast MPAs

Type of MPA	# MPA	Area (mi ²)	% of Study Region
State Marine Reserve (SMR)	14	85.34 mi ²	7.42%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)*	2	6.35 mi ²	0.55%
State Marine Conservation Area (SMCA)**	13	112.19 mi ²	9.76%
All MPAs combined	29	203.88 mi²	17.73%

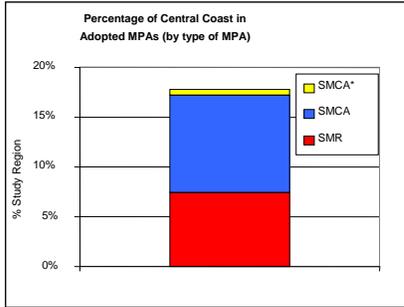
* Elkhorn Slough SMCA and Cambria SMCA, are proposed for SMP designation in the future and are considered separately in this analysis.
 **Morro Bay SMRMA considered along with the SMCAs



Central Coast Study Region MPAs



Study region summary



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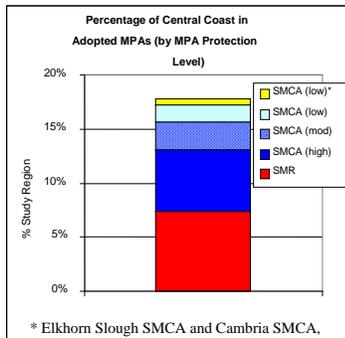
Summary of level of protection

SMR - no take

SMCA high - allows take of pelagic finfish and prohibits bottom contact of any fishing gear

SMCA mod - allow some bottom contact, such as spot prawn traps, and may also allow some small scale hand harvest of kelp

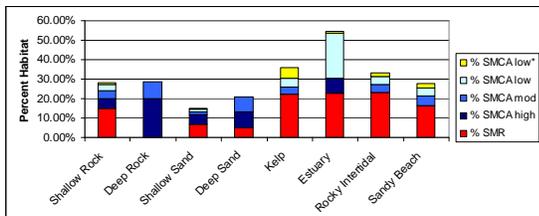
SMCA low - allows some take of groundfish or other high impact activities



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Habitat protection

Habitats included in the adopted MPAs in the central coast region



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Size analysis - High Protection MPAs

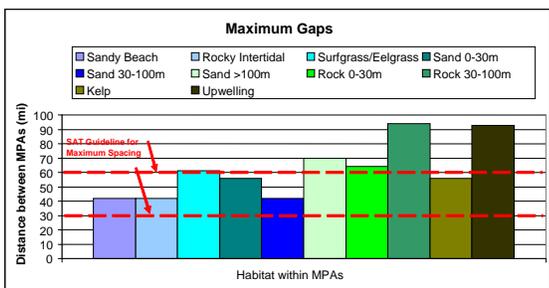
# of MPA Clusters	Below Minimum (<9mi ²)	At Minimum (9mi ²)	Above Minimum (>9mi ²)
11	4	3	4

Clusters are groups of MPAs that adjoin each other

Using the state water boundary of 3 mi offshore and the minimum SAT guidance of 3 mi alongshore = minimum size of 9 mi²



Habitat Spacing





Distance between MPAs for various habitat

Average Maximum Gap	Largest Gap	Gaps > Guideline
62 miles	94 miles	0

- Only habitats frequent enough to meet the SAT guideline
- Average distance between MPAs containing the habitat
- Largest gap between MPAs is for Rock habitat at depths 30-100m

