

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



Update on Levels of Protection for the MLPA South Coast Study Region

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SAT-Assigned Levels of Protection

	Level of Protection	MPA Type	Activities Associated with this Level of Protection
	Very high	SMR	No take
	High	SMCA	<p>Coastal pelagic finfish and bonito (pelagic seine, dip net); pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass (spearfishing); market squid (pelagic seine, dip net); jumbo squid (H&L-squid jigs); swordfish (harpoon);</p> <p>In water depth > 50m: pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass (H&L);</p>
	Mod-high	SMCA	<p>Pier fishing (H&L, hoop-net); halibut (spearfishing); catch and release (H&L-surface gear, single barbless hooks, and artificial lures)</p> <p>In water depth <10m: Catch and release (H&L-single barbless hooks and artificial lures)</p> <p>In water depth 30<50m on mainland: pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass (H&L, surface gear only);</p>
	Moderate	SMCA SMP	<p>spot prawn (trap); sea cucumber (diving); grunion (hand harvest); giant kelp (hand harvest); clams (hand harvest);</p>
	Mod-low	SMCA SMP	<p>Shore fishing (H&L, hoop net); kelp bass, barred sand bass, lingcod, cabezon, and rockfish (H&L, spearfishing); sheephead (H&L, spearfishing, trap); spotted sand bass and halibut (H&L); lobster (trap, hoop net, diving); urchin (diving); rock crab (trap, hoop net); Kellett's whelk (trap); catch and release (H&L-general)</p> <p>In water depth <10m: Catch and release (H&L-single barbless hooks and artificial lures)</p> <p>In water depth <50m at islands and <30m on mainland: pelagic finfish, bonito and white seabass (H&L);</p>
	Low	SMCA SMP	<p>Rock scallop (diving); mussels (hand harvest); giant kelp (mechanical harvest); marine algae other than giant and bull kelp (hand harvest);</p>



Levels of Protection Update

- Most approved levels of protection (LOPs) now available to stakeholders in MarineMap
- Supporting text for LOPs approved at the last meeting not yet ready for review
- Ongoing conversations with California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) enforcement staff to ensure that allowed uses translate readily into regulations



Enforcement Concerns

Staff working with DFG to define gear and methods in enforceable language

- **Catch and release** – enforcement has not yet determined whether this is enforceable
- **Surface gear** – may not be defined in fish and game code or enforceable
- **Piers versus jetties** – DFG definition of a “public pier” includes some jetties and breakwalls; it may be infeasible to differentiate between piers and these other structures
- **Squid jigs** – advice from enforcement to change language to hook and line



Example Gear Descriptions

Diving	Includes the take of organisms by persons who are in the water and may be using a supplied air system (scuba or hookah) in compliance with existing fishing regulations.
Hand Harvest	Includes take of organisms by hand or using hand-operated appliances in compliance with existing fishing regulations. Hand-operated appliances include but are not limited to spades, shovels, hoes, rakes, dive knives, and devices commonly known as abalone irons.
Hook and Line	Take of marine organisms by hook and line with the line held in the hand, or with the line attached to a pole or rod held in the hand or closely attended in such manner that the fish voluntarily takes the bait or lure in its mouth.
Spearfishing	The taking of fish by spear or hand by persons who are in the water and may be using underwater goggles, face plates, breathing tubes, SCUBA or other artificial underwater breathing device.



New Activities for LOP Assignment

- **Sablefish** (longline)
- **Piers versus jetties** – if not possible to differentiate piers and jetties, what is the LOP for fishing from jetties?
- Others?
- Timeline?