Marine Life Protection Act Initiative

Overview of North Central Coast MPA Proposals and Recommended Integrated Preferred Alternative

Presentation to the California Fish and Game Commission and the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force

June 11, 2008 • Sacramento, CA

Mary Gleason, Principal Planner • California MLPA Initiative

MPAs and Other Designations

Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):

- State marine reserve (SMR) – no extraction
- State marine park (SMP) – may allow/limit recreational extraction, prohibits commercial
- State marine conservation area (SMCA) – may allow/limit recreational or commercial extraction

Other Designations:

- State marine recreational management area (SMRMA) – may limit take of marine resources; recommended by California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) in areas with existing waterfowl hunting
- Special closures – year-round or seasonal no access zones for protection of sensitive populations

Design of MPA Proposals

Inputs into marine protected area design:

- MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force (BRTF) guidance – create several alternatives that meet requirements of the MLPA, meet the science guidelines, and have broad cross-interest support; and limited use of special closures
- Science guidelines – habitat representation, replication, size and spacing of MPAs
- CDFG guidance – feasibility, measurable goals and objectives
- Ecological and socioeconomic considerations
- Local knowledge and spatial data – habitats, important ecological features, areas of importance to fisheries and other users, etc.
- Public comments, stakeholder input

Evolution of MPA Proposals

Round 1- October '07 (10 options + existing MPAs)

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)
- 6 North Central Coast Regional Stakeholder Group Options
- 4 Draft External Proposals

Round 2- December '07 (5 draft proposals + existing MPAs)

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)
- 4 Draft NCCRSG Proposals
- 1 Revised Draft External Proposal

Round 3- March '08 (3 final proposals + existing MPAs)

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)
- 3 NCCRSG Proposals (Proposal 1-3, Proposal 2-XA, Proposal 4)

BRTF Recommendation

<u>BRTF Meeting - April 22-23, 2008</u>

5 MPA proposals forwarded to the California Fish and Game Commission:

- Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs) – no action alternative
- 3 NCCRSG Proposals (1-3, 2-XA, 4) – forwarded in their entirety, stakeholders directed to ensure goals/objectives consistent with MPA design and intent
- Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA) - recommendation by the MLPA BRTF to be the preferred alternative
  - Developed at the BRTF meeting through interactive dialog with stakeholders
  - Integrates elements from all three NCCRSG proposals to meet goals of MLPA, science guidelines, and bridge gap among stakeholder proposals

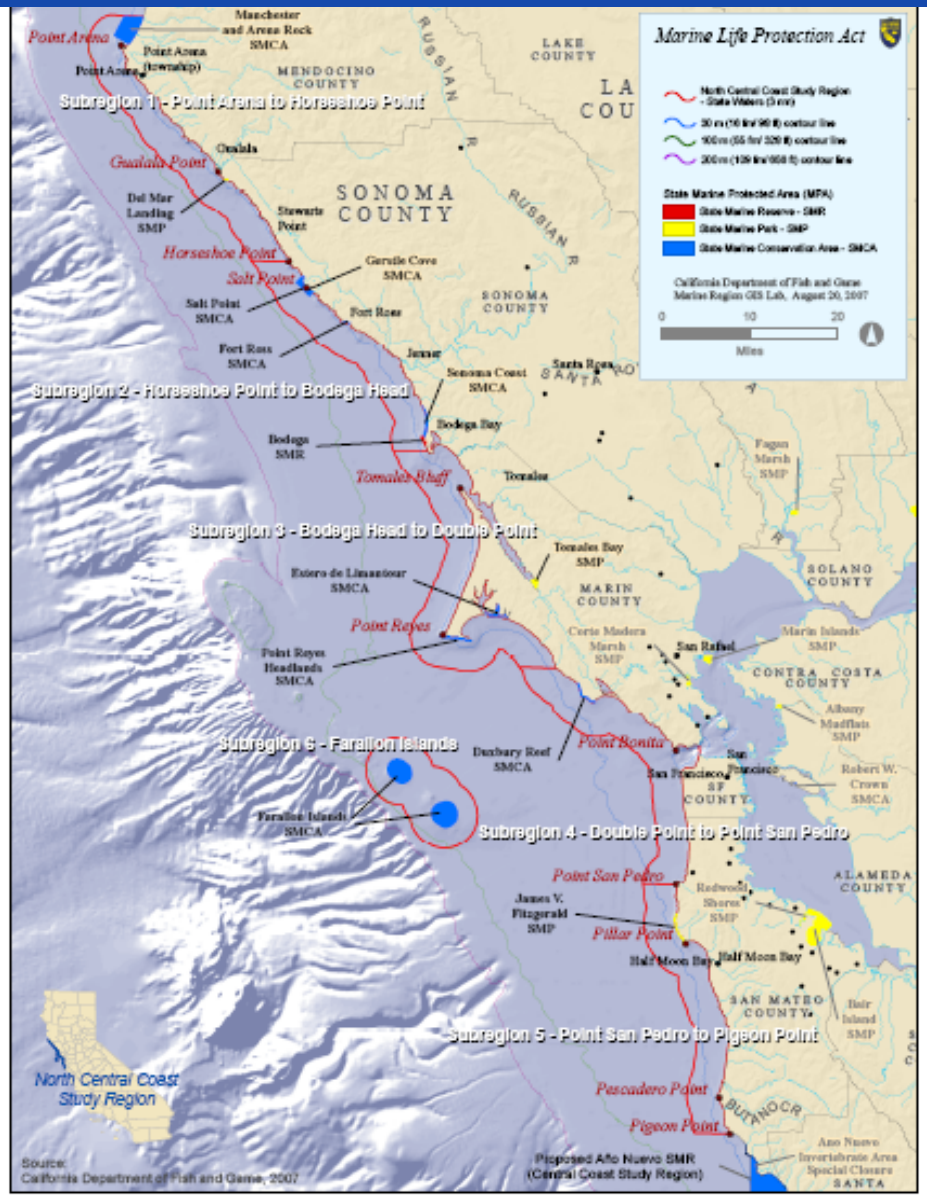
Proposal 0 (Existing MPAs)

13 MPAs (< 4% of study region)

- 1 state marine reserve (<1%)
- 10 state marine conservation areas
- 2 state marine parks

0 state marine recreational management areas

0 special closures



Map 1 *North Central Coast Study Region and Existing State Marine Protected Areas*

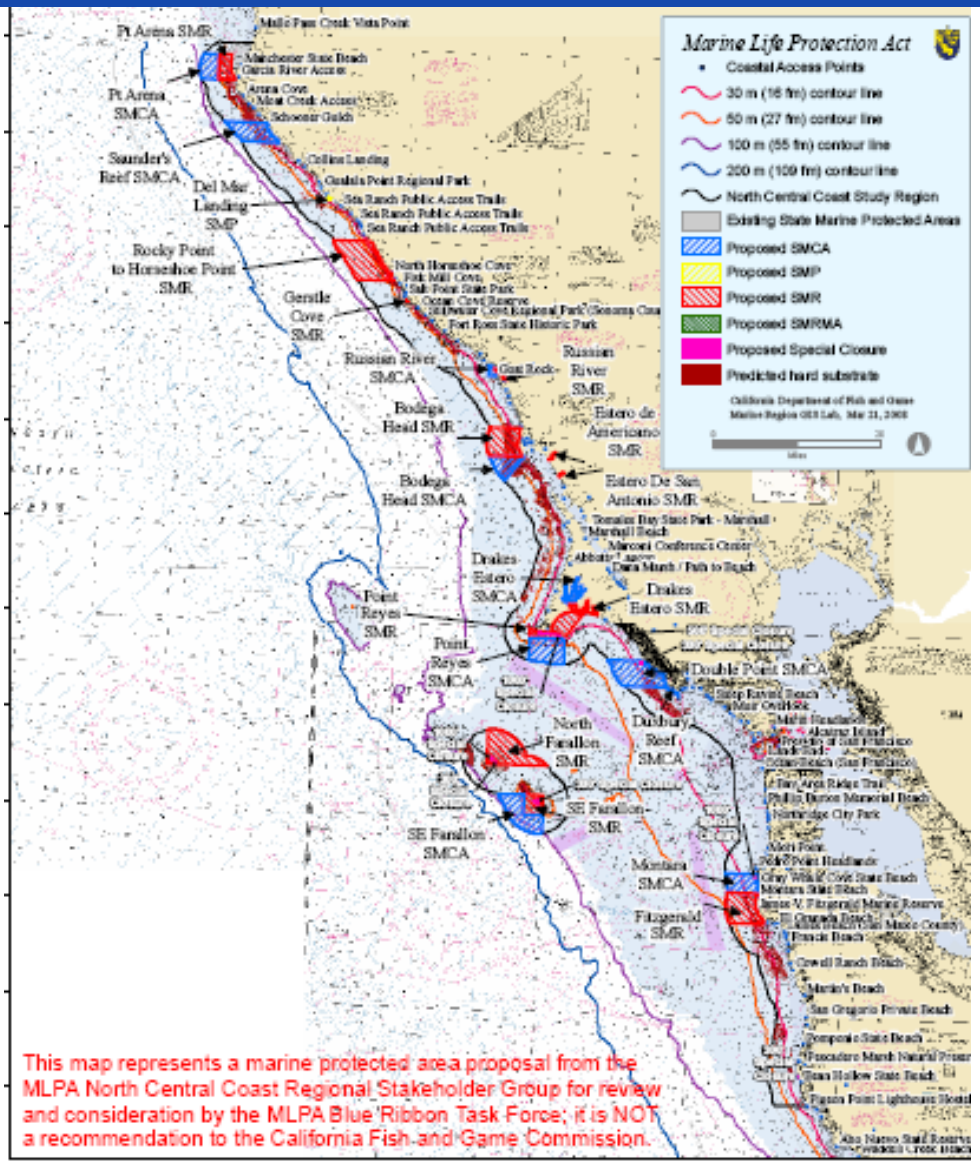
NCCRSG Proposal 1-3

23 MPAs (22% of study region)

- 12 state marine reserves (11%)
- 10 state marine conservation areas
- 1 state marine park

0 state marine recreational management areas

7 special closures



North Central Coast Study Region
NCCRSG Proposal 1-3

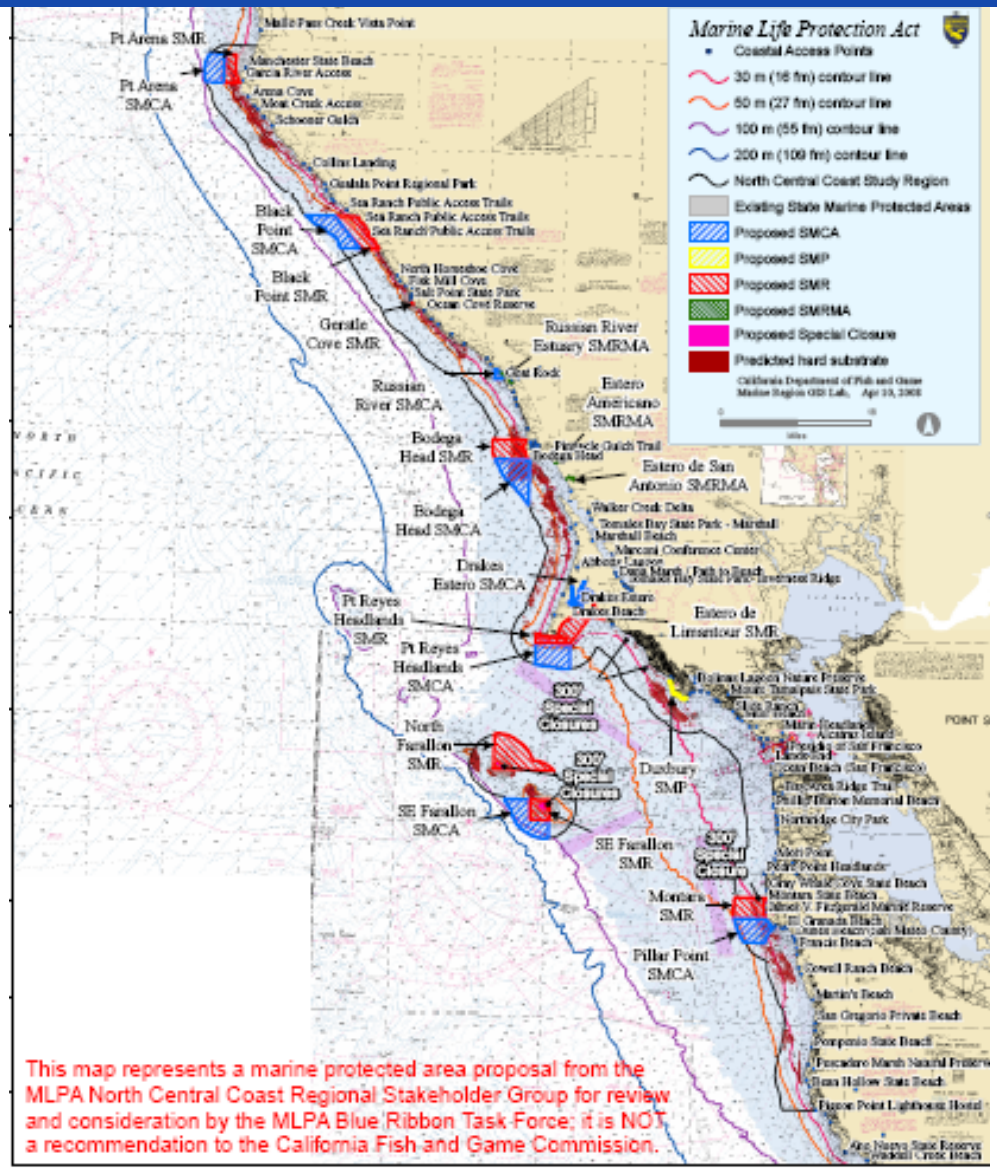
NCCRSG Proposal 2-XA

18 MPAs (18% of study region)

- 9 state marine reserves (9%)
- 8 state marine conservation areas
- 1 state marine park

3 state marine recreational management areas (< 1%)

5 special closures



North Central Coast Study
NCCRSG Proposal 2-XA

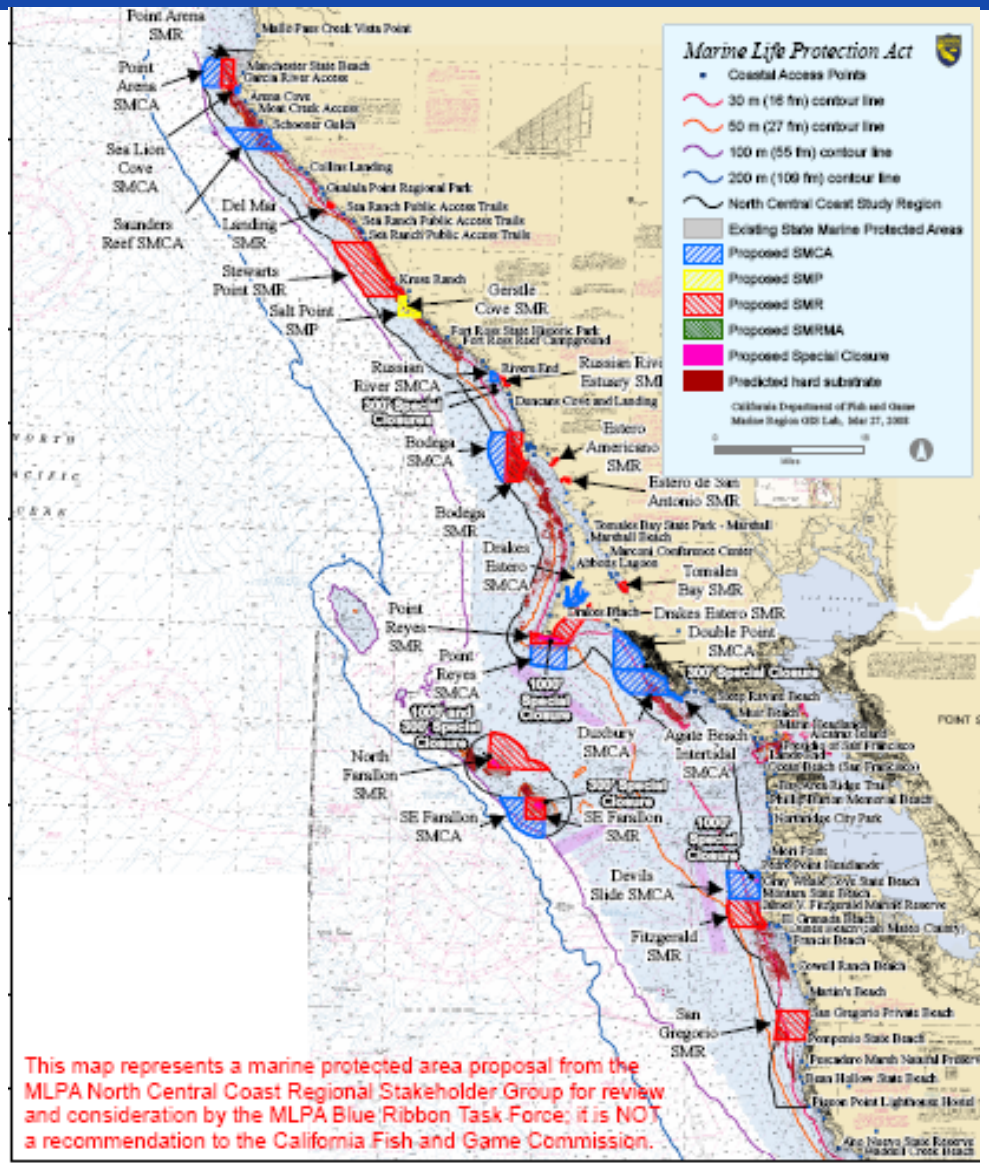
NCCRSG Proposal 4

28 MPAs (27% of study region)

- 15 state marine reserves (14%)
- 12 state marine conservation areas
- 1 state marine park

0 state marine recreational management areas

7 special closures

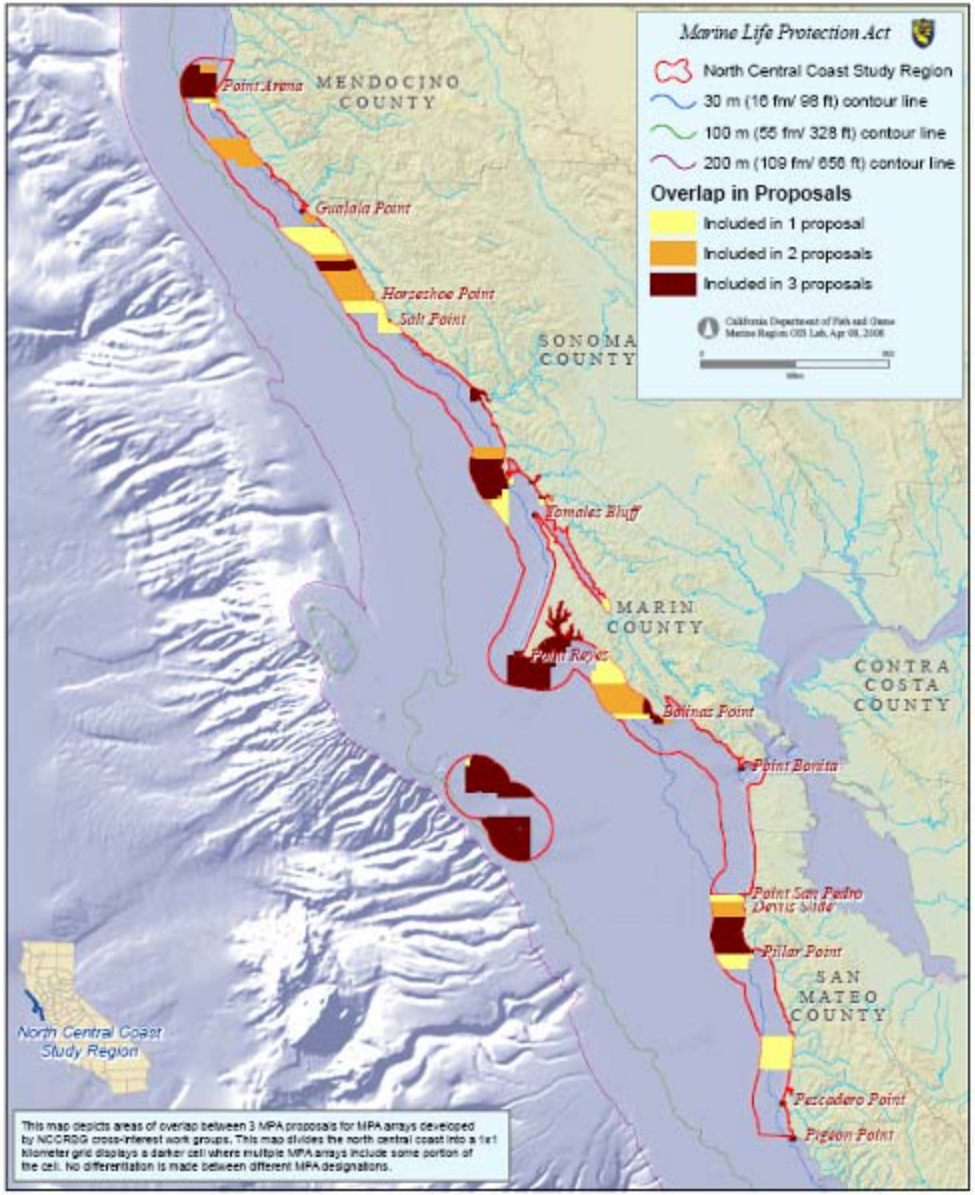


North Central Coast Study Region
NCCRSG Proposal 4

Geographic Convergence Among Proposals

Development of Integrated Preferred Alternative facilitated by:

- Strong geographic convergence among stakeholder proposals
- Stakeholder proposals designed to meet goals of MLPA and science guidelines, while also presenting a range of options



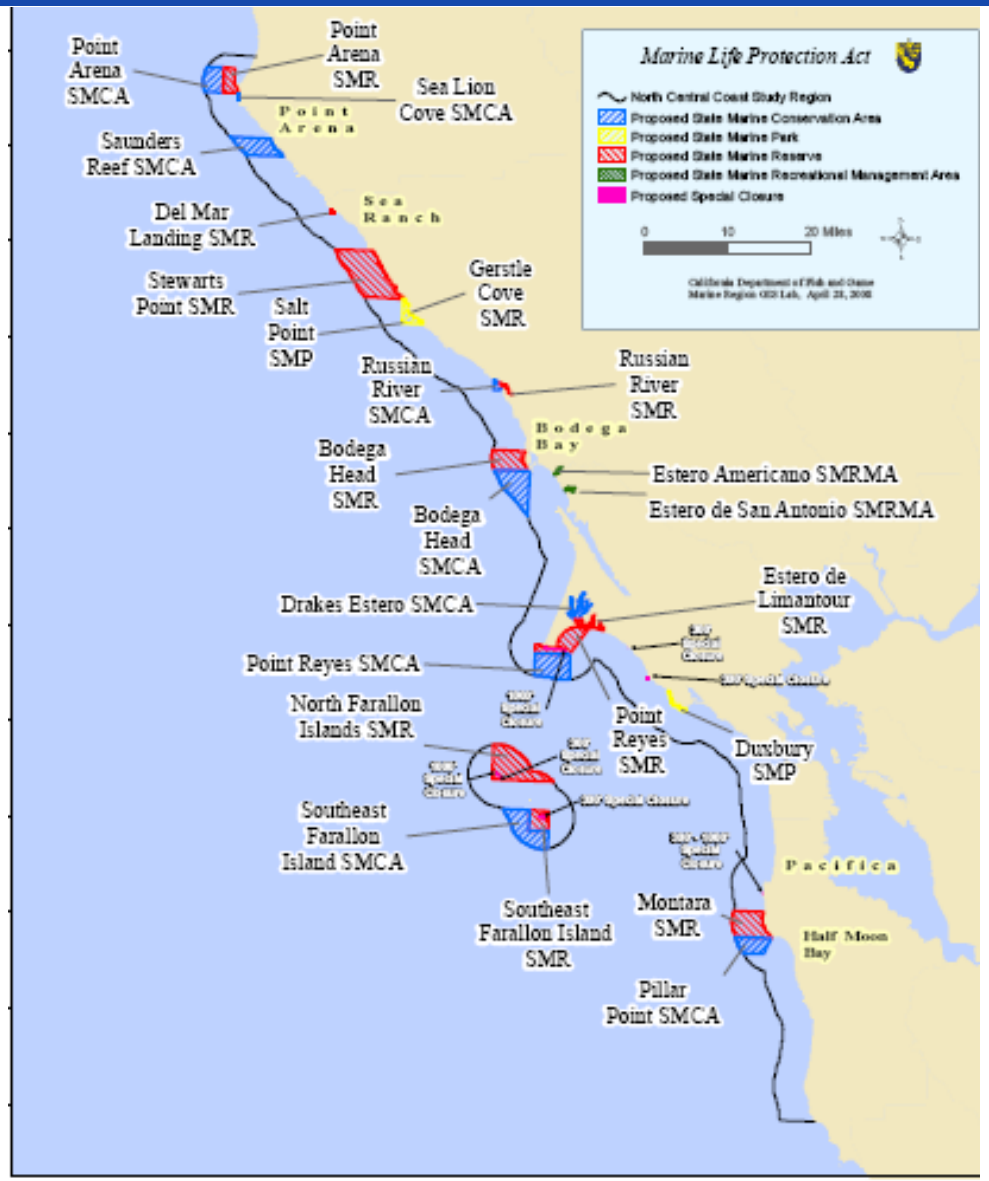
Integrated Preferred Alternative

22 MPAs (20% of study region)

- 11 state marine reserves (11%)
- 9 state marine conservation areas
- 2 state marine parks

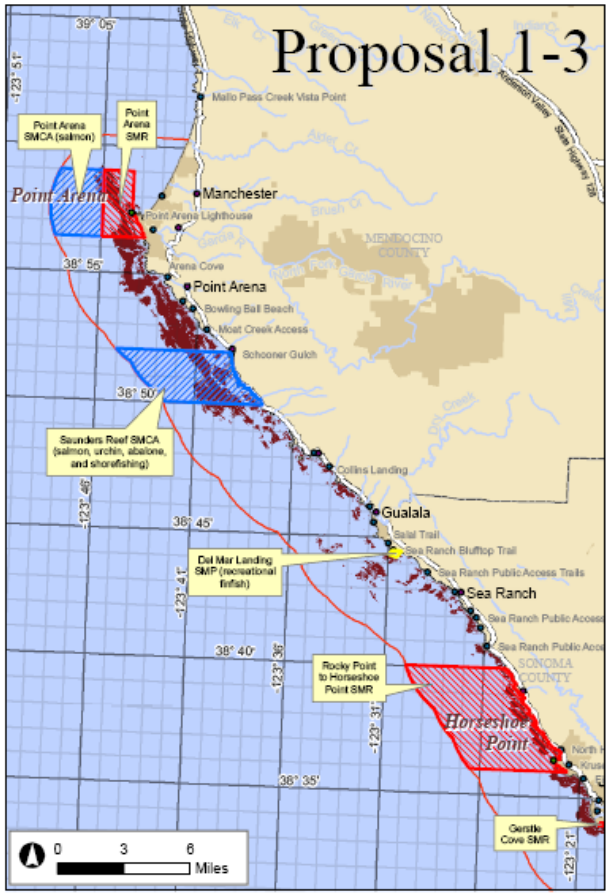
2 state marine recreational management areas (< 1%)

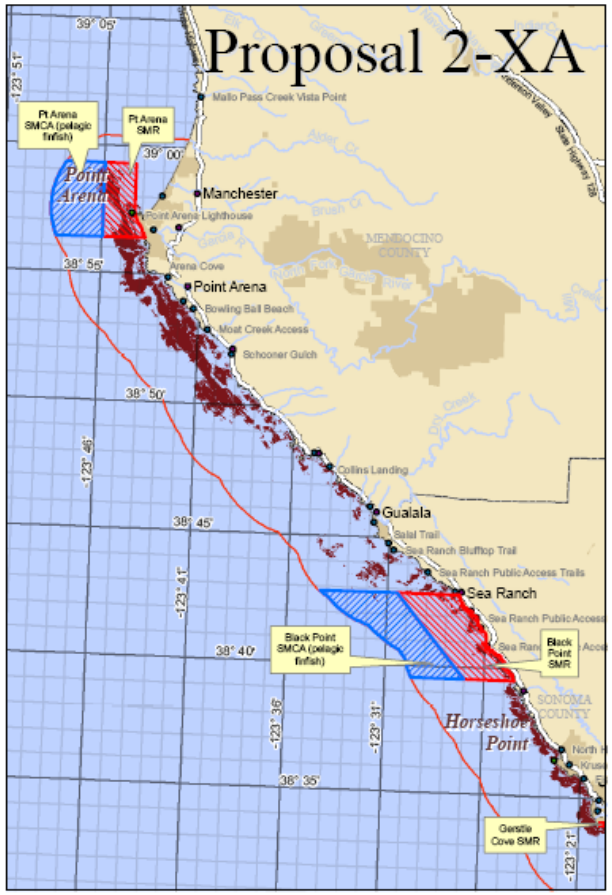
6 special closures

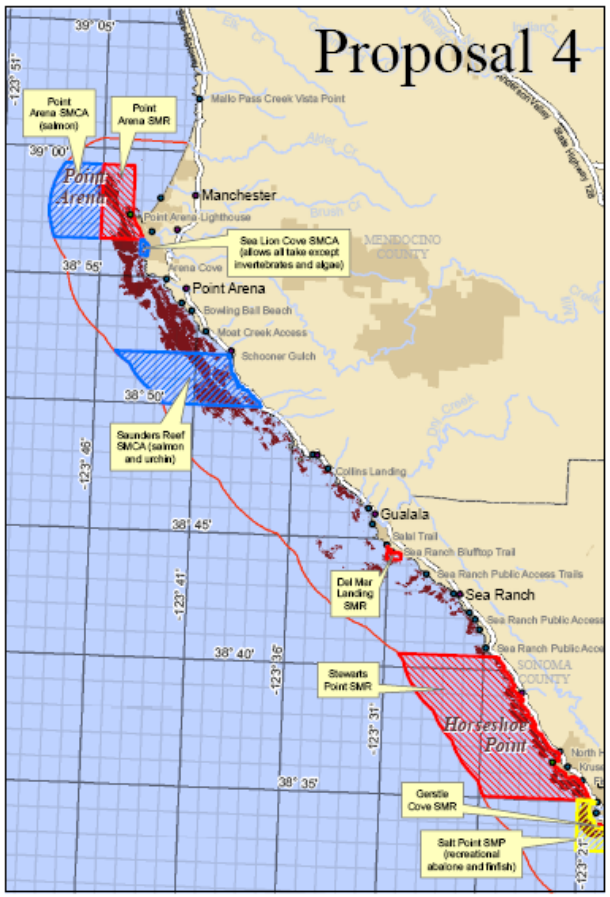


North Central Coast Study Region
Integrated Preferred Alternative

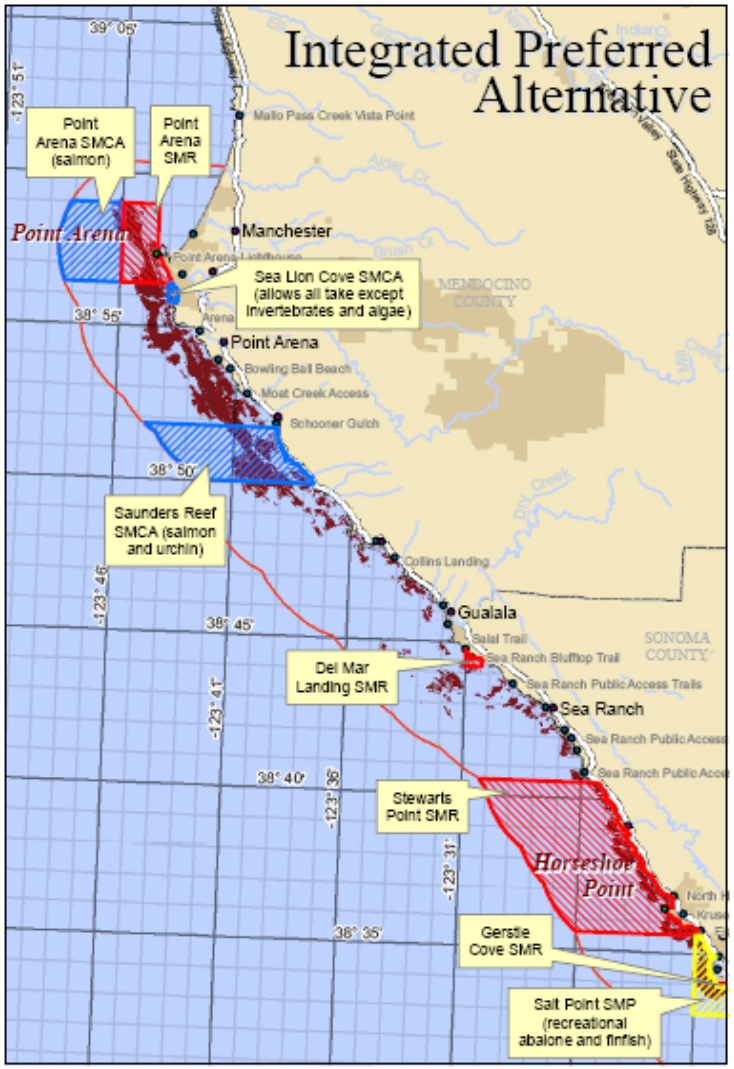
Subregion 1: Alder Creek to Horseshoe Point







Subregion 1: Alder Creek to Horseshoe Point



Point Arena SMR/SMCA cluster

Near convergence among all three NCCRSG proposals; used Proposal 1-3 design

Northern "backbone" of system; supported by local port and community; minimized socioeconomic impacts

Sea Lion Cove SMCA

Used Proposal 4 design

Protection of abalone population and intertidal resources; strong local support

Saunders Reef SMCA

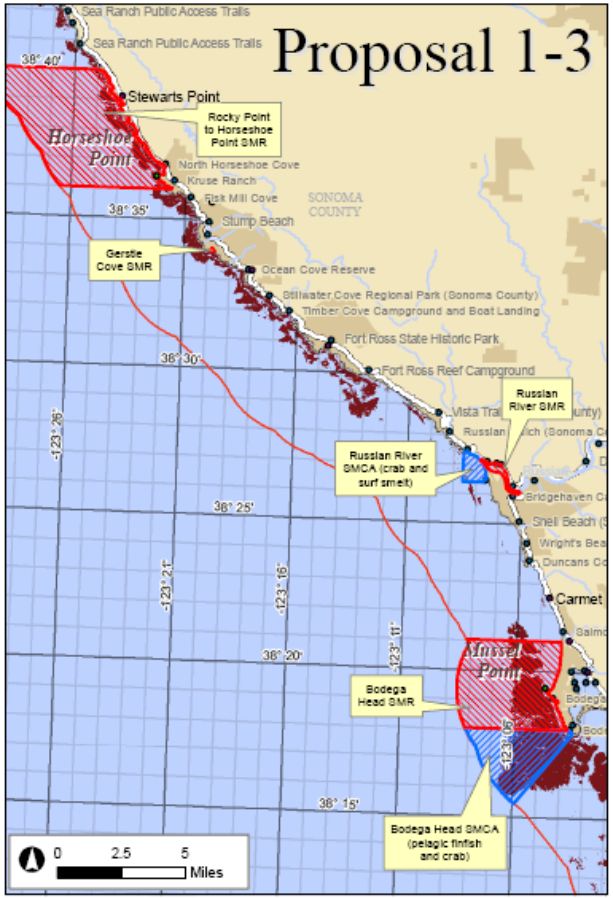
Design from proposals 1-3 and 4; regulations from Proposal 4; boundary modified to integrate Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) preferences

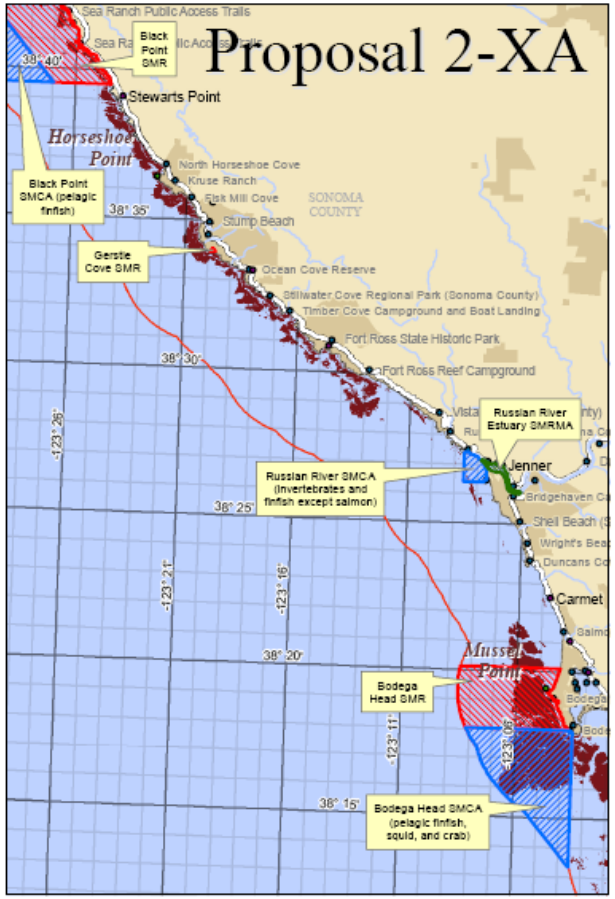
Protects expansive kelp forest and reef; allowed uses minimize socioeconomic impacts

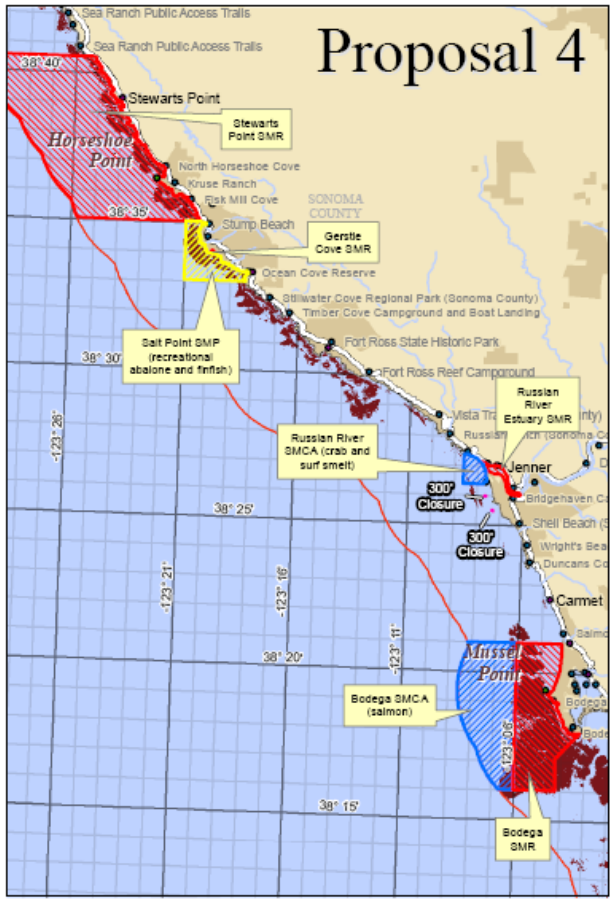
Del Mar Landing SMR

Design from proposal 4; with strong local support

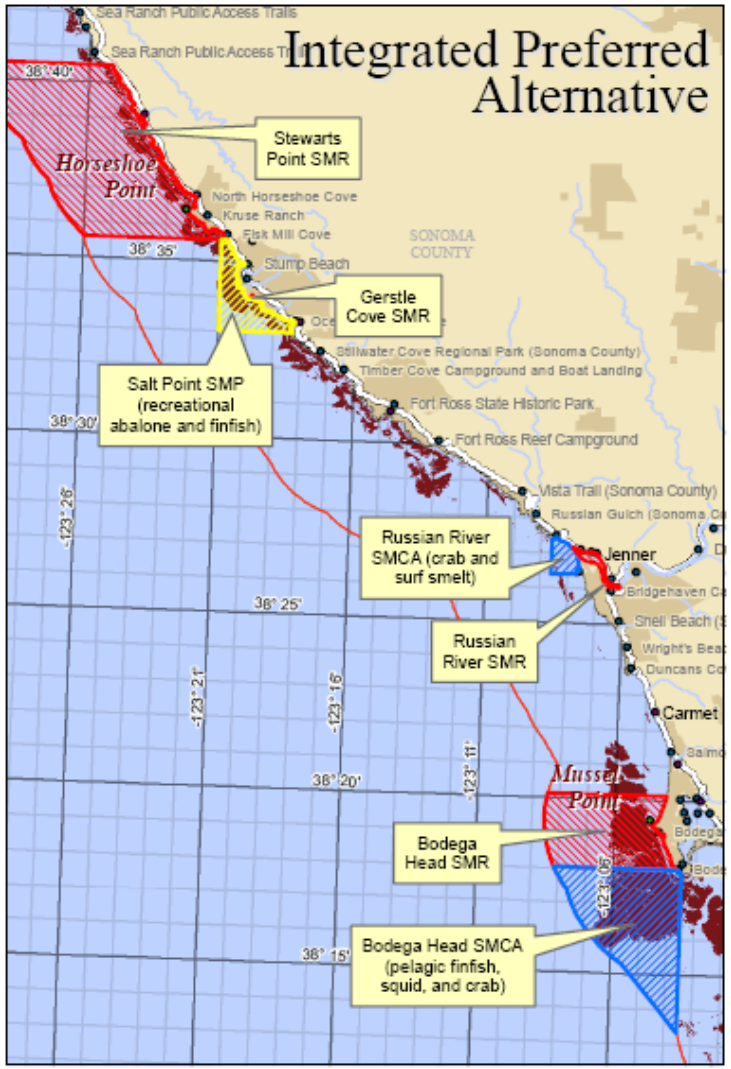
Subregion 2: Horseshoe Point to Bodega Head







Subregion 2: Horseshoe Point to Bodega Head



Salt Point SMR/SMP cluster

From Proposal 4, modified with DPR input

Protects range of habitats to state waters in SMR; SMP expands recreational opportunities

Balances across consumptive/non-consumptive interests and public/private land holdings and access

Gerstle Cove SMR

Consensus design in all three proposals; protects small cove with high visitor use

Russian River SMR/SMCA cluster

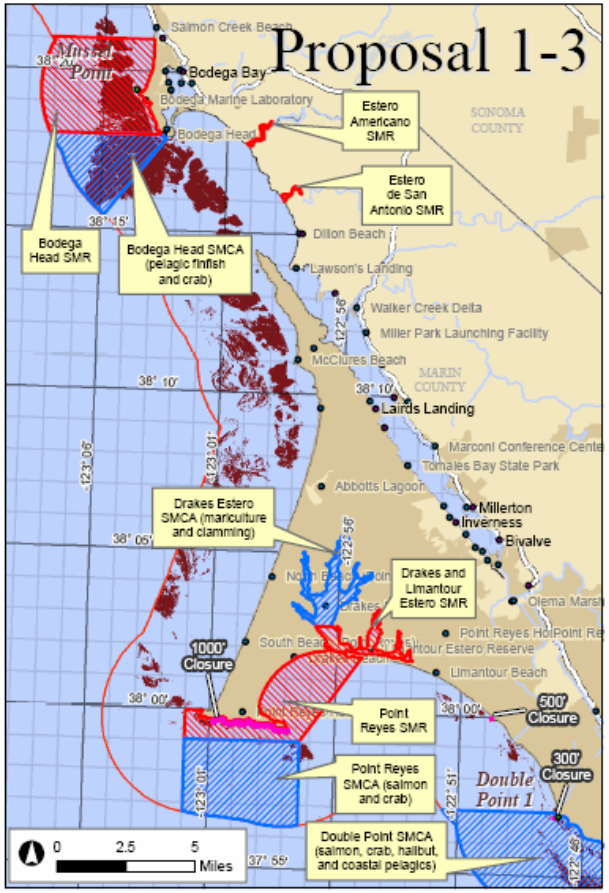
From Proposal 1-3 but near consensus in all three proposals; protects estuary and salmonid aggregations

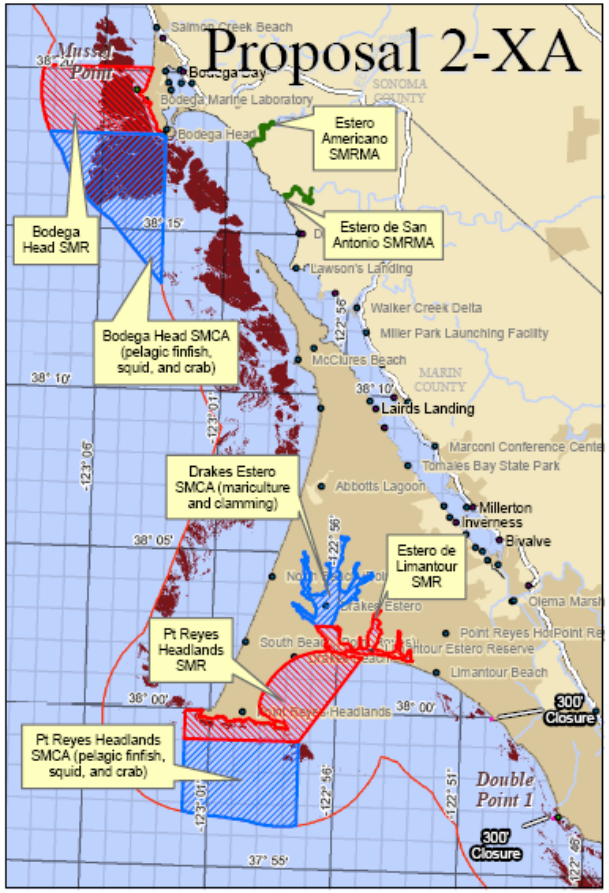
Bodega Head SMR/SMCA cluster

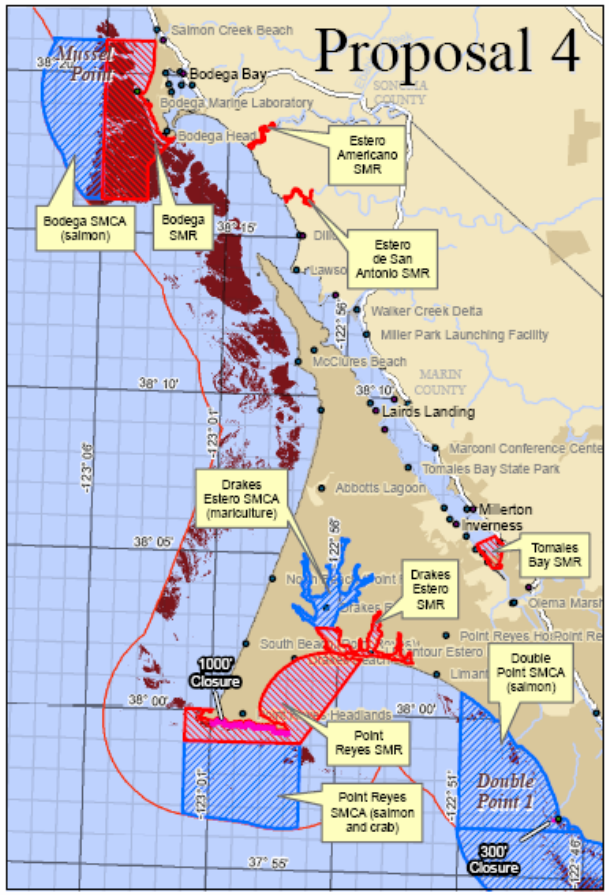
Design from Proposal 2-XA; moderate-high protection “backbone” component

Protects range of habitats; minimizes socioeconomic impacts; “stacked” design facilitates study opportunities

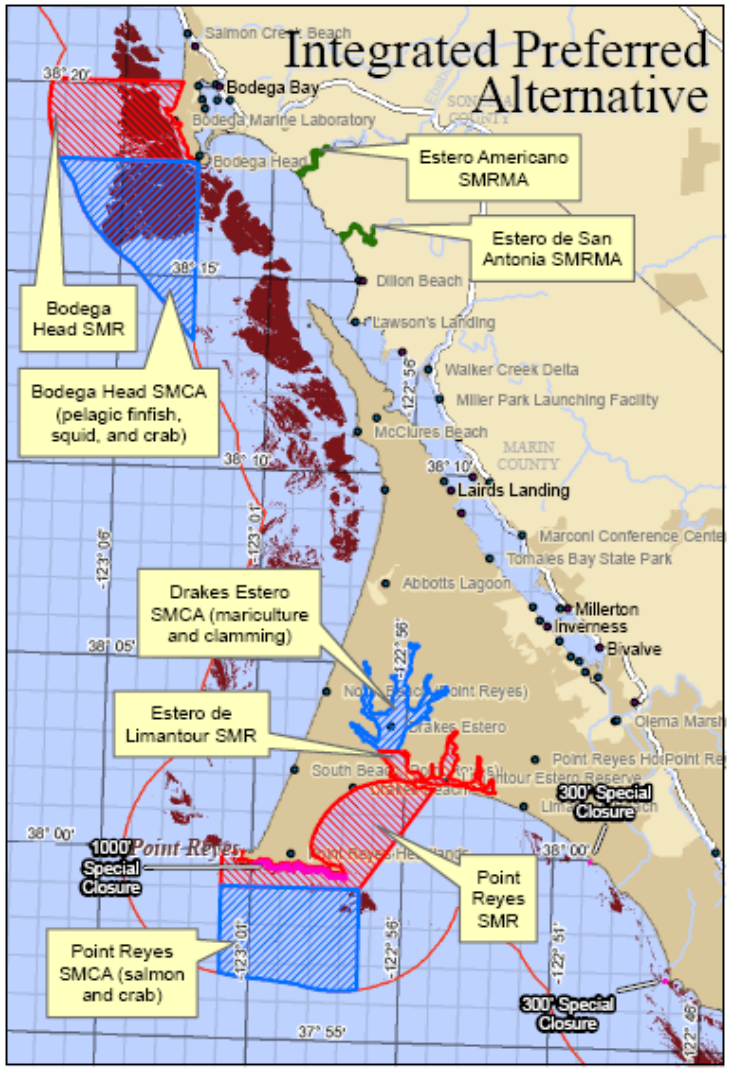
Subregion 3: Bodega Head to Double Point







Subregion 3: Bodega Head to Double Point



Estero Americano SMRMA and Estero de San Antonio SMRMA

- From Proposal 2-XA but near consensus design in all three proposals
- SMRMA designation allows waterfowl hunting; also protects estuarine habitats

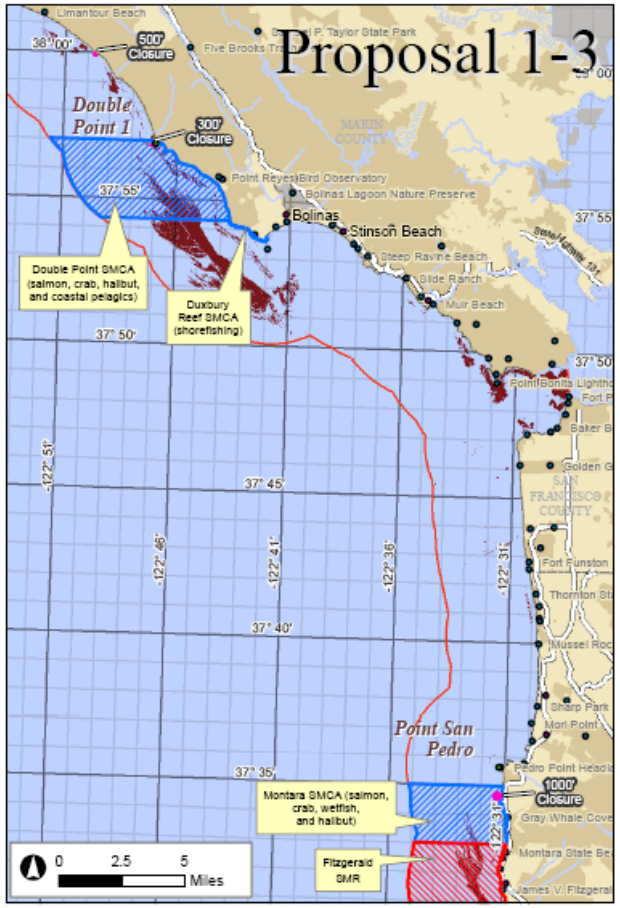
Point Reyes SMR/SMCA cluster

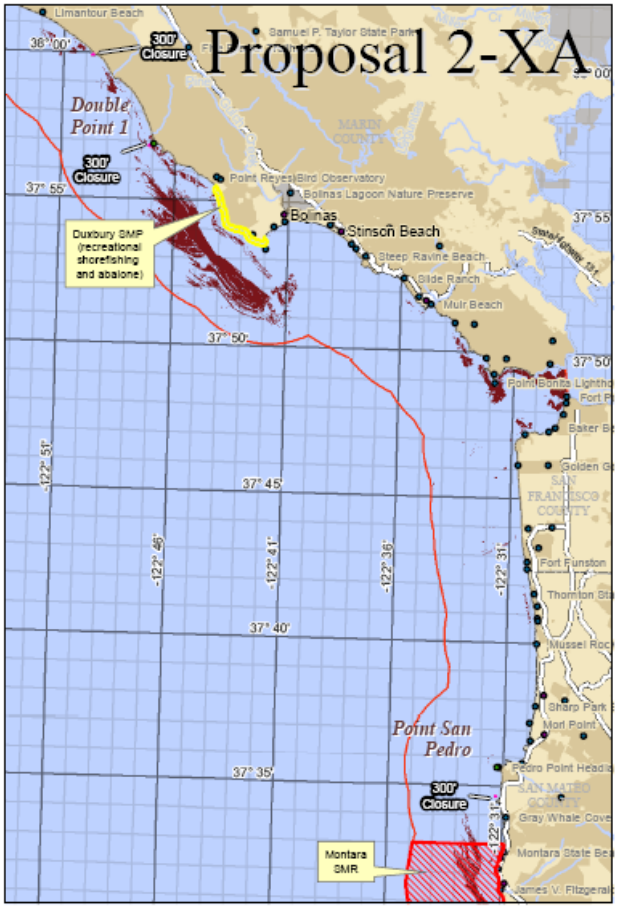
- From Proposal 1-3 but similar design in all three proposals
- Protects range of habitats and unique headland and retention zone

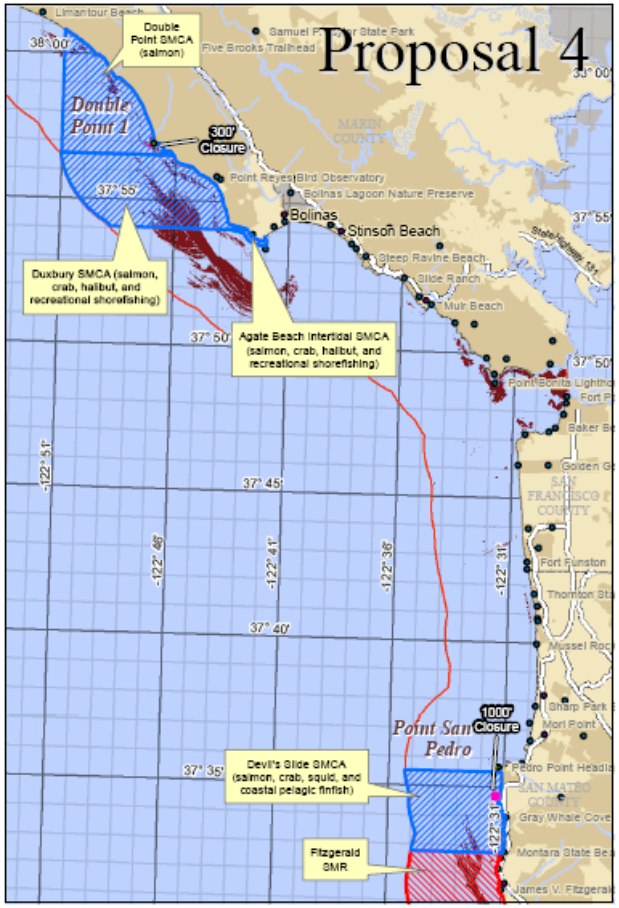
Estero de Limantour SMR / Drakes Estero SMCA

- From Proposal 1-3, but similar design in all three proposals
- Protects estuarine habitat; SMCA allows for existing mariculture operation and clamming

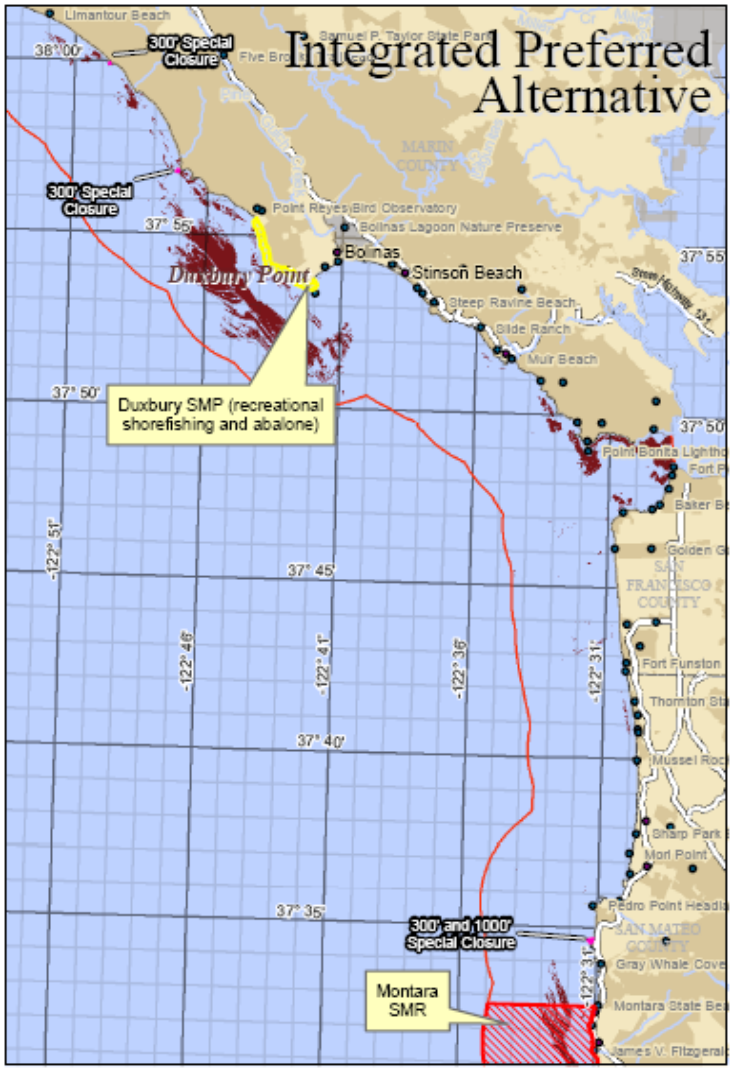
Subregion 4: Double Point to Point San Pedro







Subregion 4: Double Point to Point San Pedro



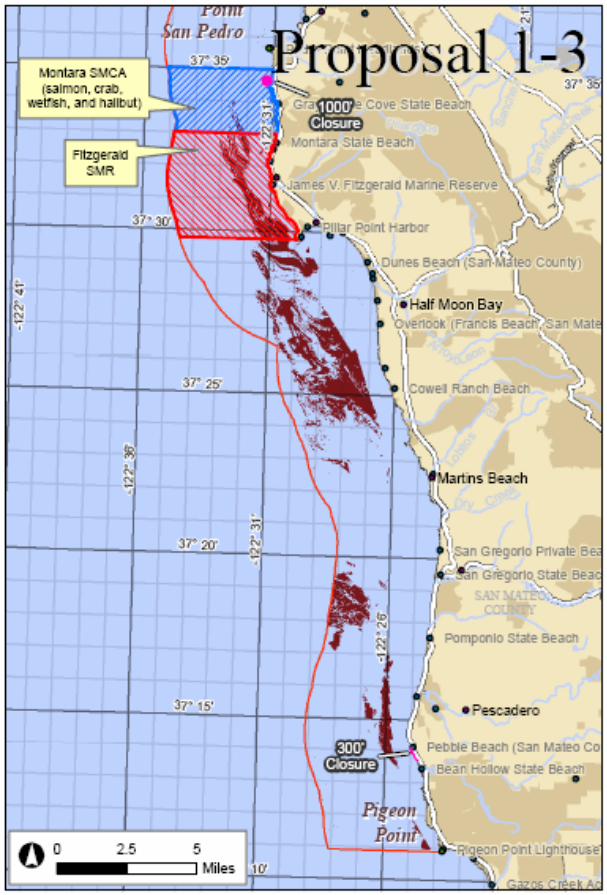
Duxbury Reef SMP

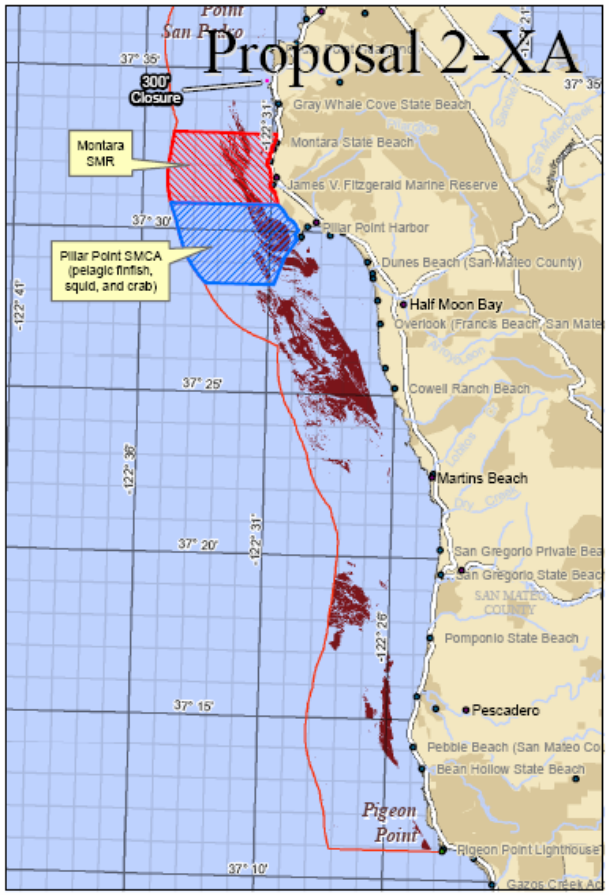
From Proposal 2-XA

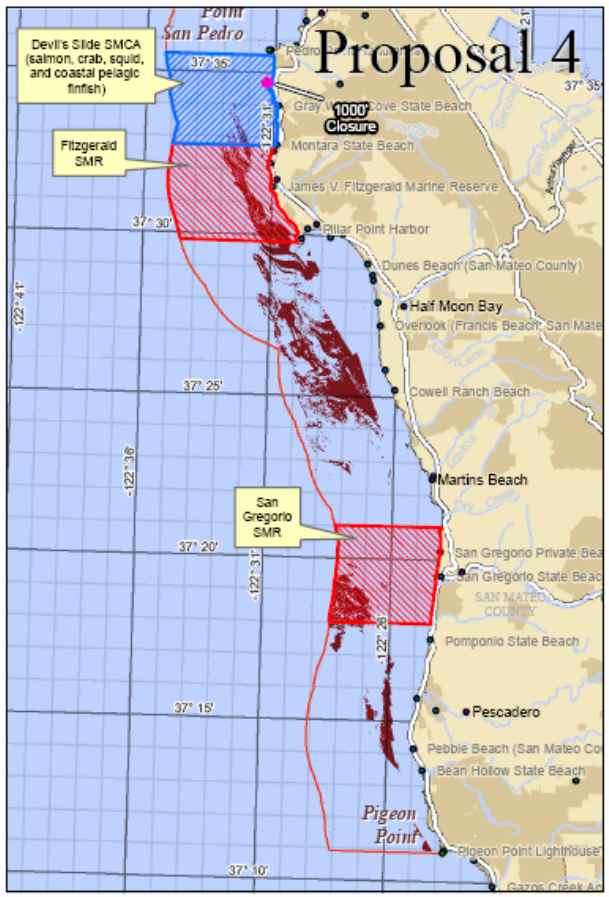
Protects most rocky intertidal resources; maintains existing MPA with educational and research history

Minimizes socioeconomic impacts in this area, which is important to fishermen from both Bolinas and San Francisco

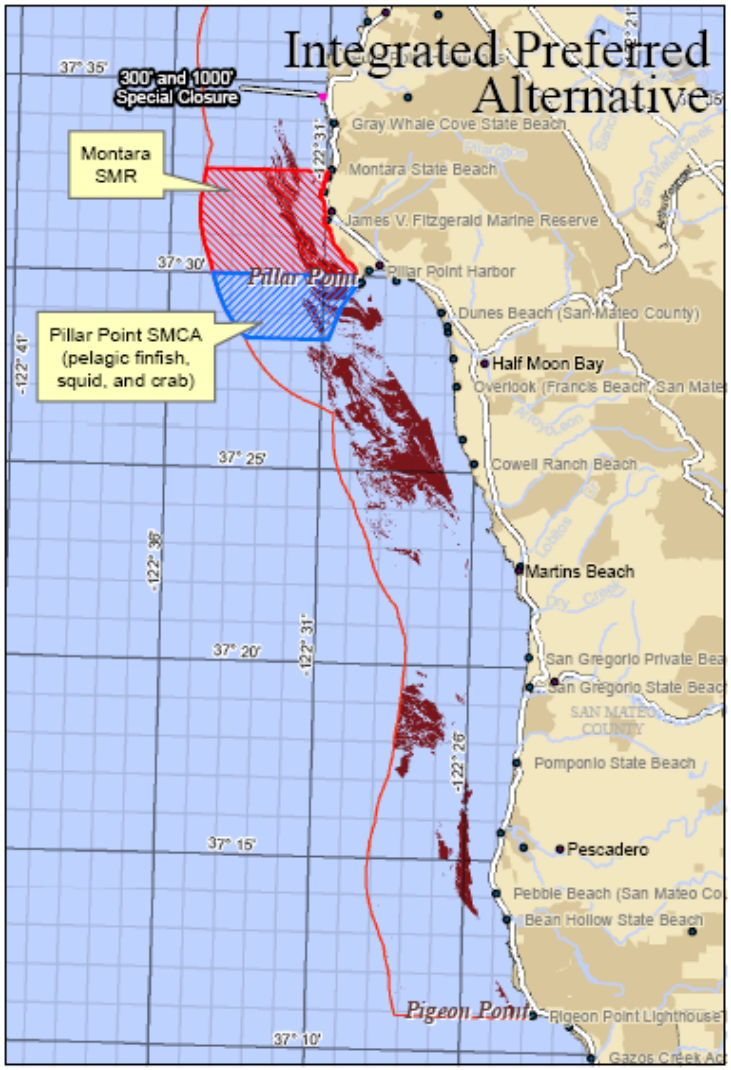
Subregion 5: Point San Pedro to Pigeon Point







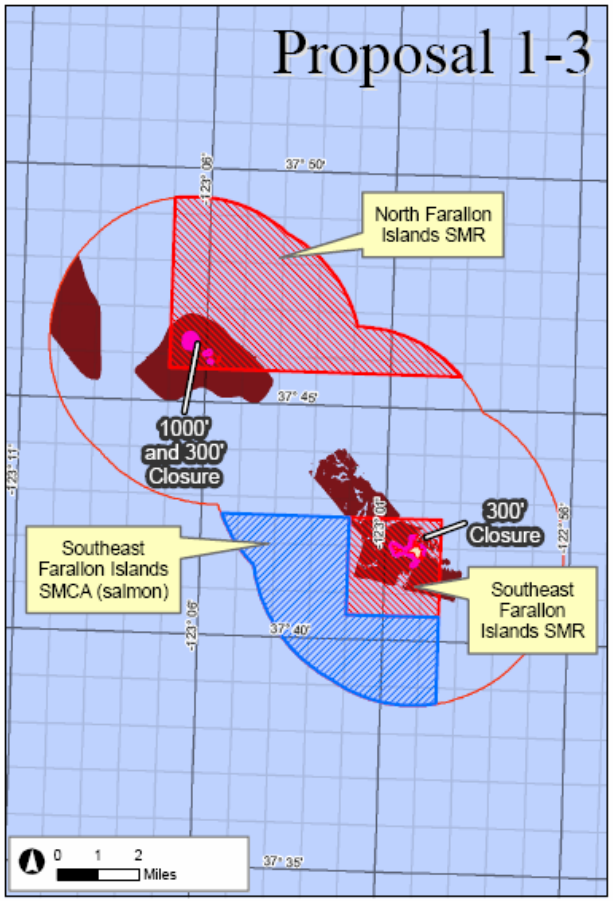
Subregion 5: Point San Pedro to Pigeon Point

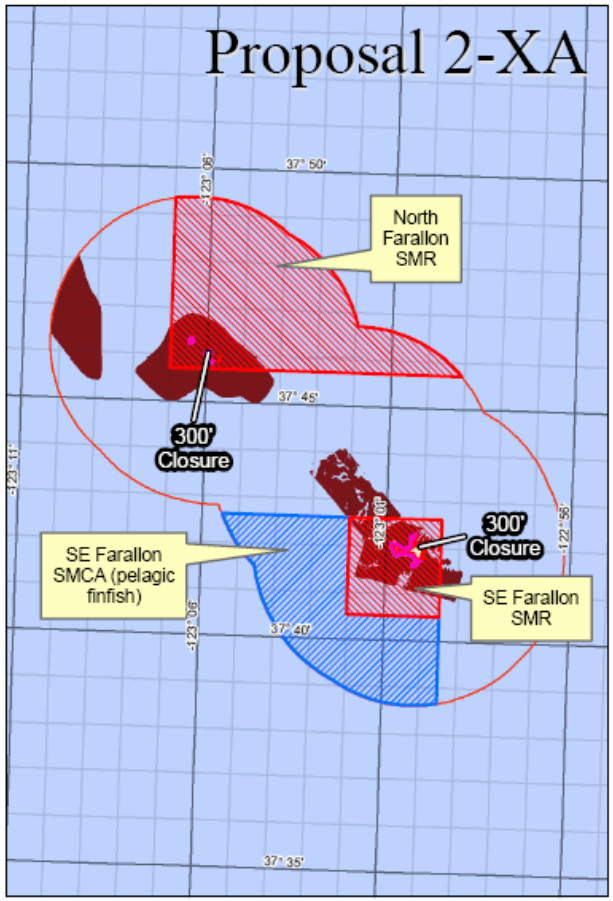


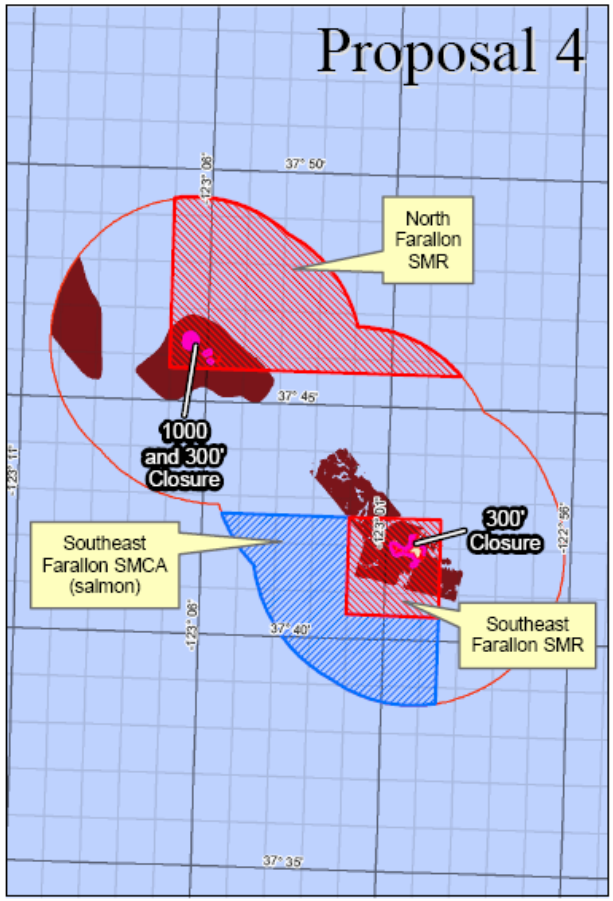
Montara SMR / Pillar Point SMCA cluster

- From Proposal 2-XA, but modified to incorporate input from DPR and stakeholders
- Protects range of habitats in SMR of at least minimum size; southern component of “backbone” of MPAs, with moderate-high protection
- Strong community support to expand existing Fitzgerald MPA; “stacked” design facilitates study opportunities
- Placing SMCA on southern end of cluster minimizes impacts to recreational and commercial user users

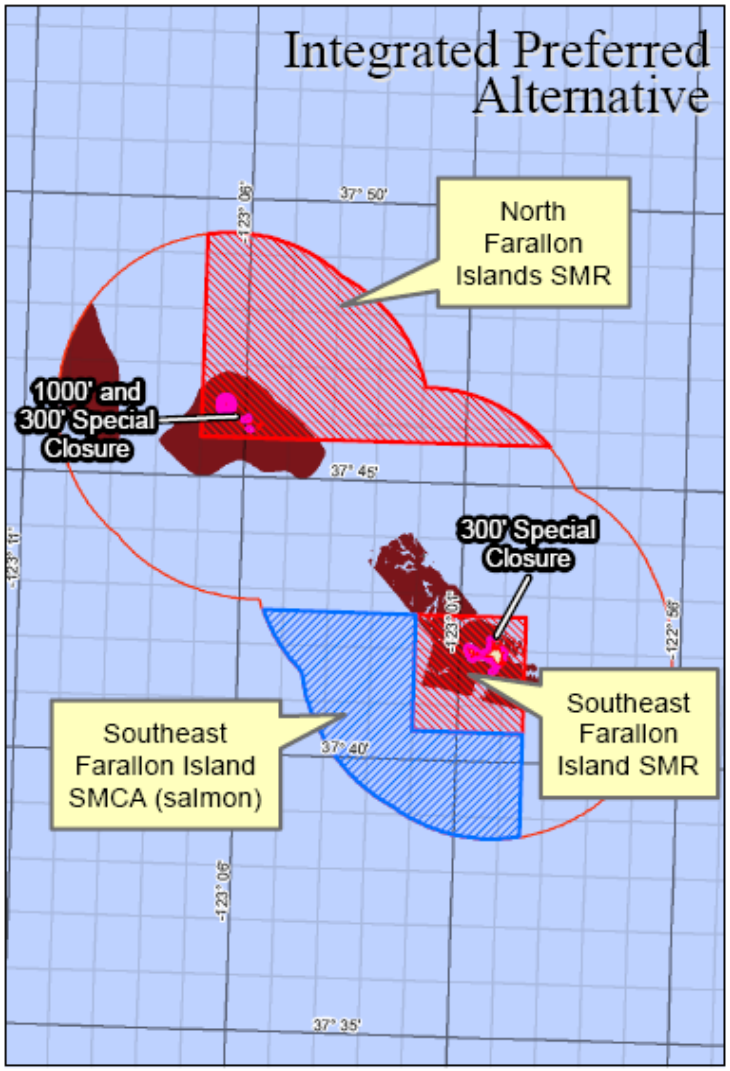
Subregion 6: Farallon Islands







Subregion 6: Farallon Islands



North Farallon Islands SMR

- Consensus design in all three proposals
- Protects range of habitats in preferred size SMR; minimizes socioeconomic impacts

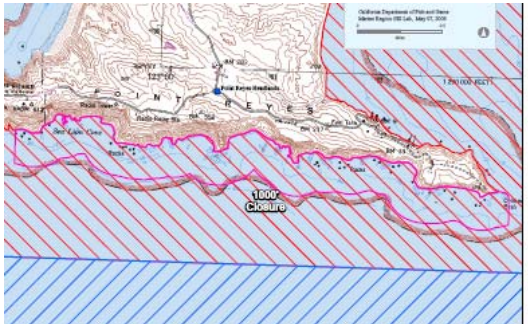
Southeast Farallon SMR/SMCA cluster

- Consensus design in all three proposals
- Protects range of habitats in preferred size high protection MPA cluster; minimizes socioeconomic impacts

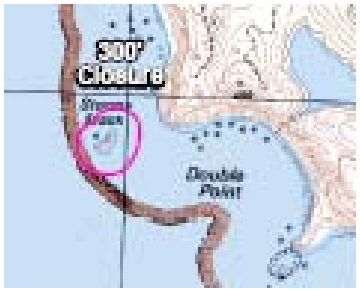
Six Special Closures in IPA

- Special closures – no access zones designed to protect seabird and/or marine mammal populations, year-round
- Incorporated designs from NCCRSG proposals and input from Gulf of Farallones National Marine Sanctuary
  - Modified Devils Slide/ Egg Rock proposal per feasibility guidance
  - Added seasonal component to Southeast Farallon design, per stakeholder input

Point Reyes Headland



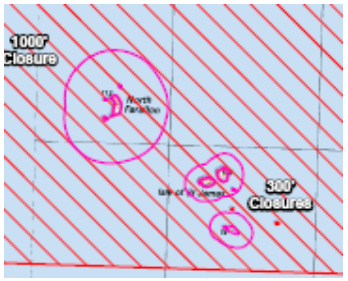
Stormy Stack



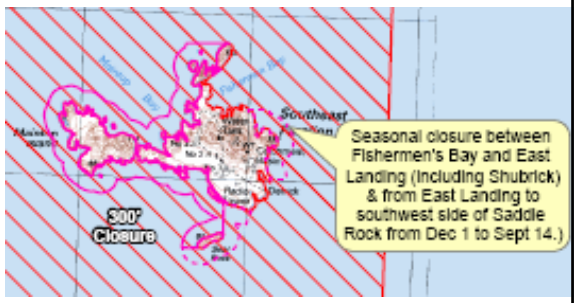
Point Resistance

Devils Slide / Egg Rock

North Farallones



Southeast Farallon



Summary

- Stakeholders worked very hard and successfully to develop range of alternatives and to achieve a high degree of convergence
- BRTF integrated all three NCCRSG proposals into the Integrated Preferred Alternative
- BRTF unanimously voted to forward five proposals to California Fish and Game Commission for review and consideration:
  - Proposal 0 (existing MPAs, no action alternative)
  - Proposals 1-3, 2-XA and 4 (from NCCRSG)
  - Integrated Preferred Alternative (IPA)
- BRTF unanimously voted to recommend adoption of the Integrated Preferred Alternative as the preferred alternative moving forward