

Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



In-depth Comparison of Draft MPA Proposals for the North Central Coast

Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force
 February 14, 2008 • Pacifica, CA
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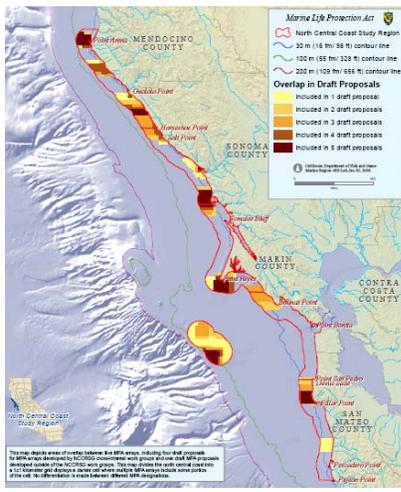
Draft MPA Proposals

Round 2: Five draft proposals, plus existing marine protected areas:

- Proposal 0 (existing MPAs)
- Draft Proposal 1 (EC)
- Draft Proposal 2 (JD)
- Draft Proposal 3 (TC)
- Draft Proposal 4 (JC)
- Revised Draft External Proposal A

Overlap Among Draft Proposals

- Geographically similar, but many differences between individual proposed MPAs (especially boundaries, allowed activities)
- Subregional scale review of key considerations, proposal similarities and differences

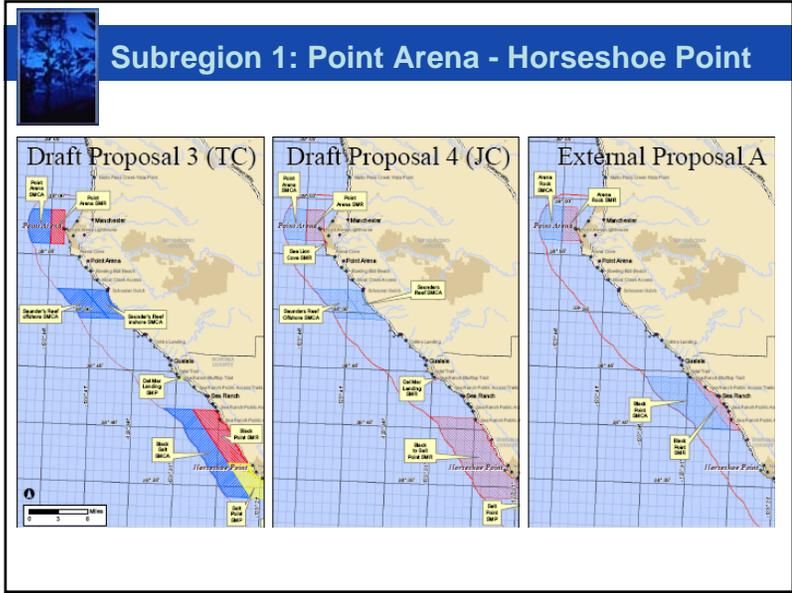
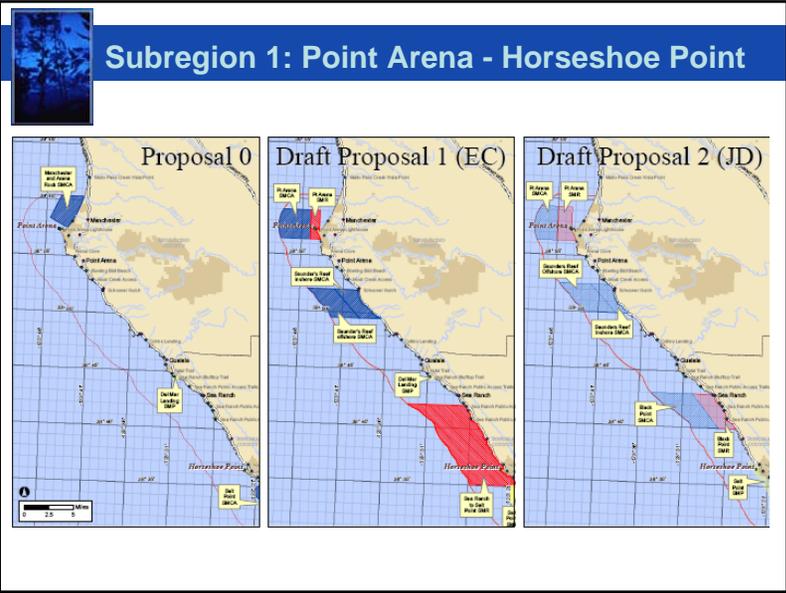


Subregion 1: Point Arena - Horseshoe Point

Subregional Considerations

- Persistent upwelling center; extensive rocky reefs, kelp beds; Garcia and Gualala estuaries; sandy offshore
- Existing MPAs: Manchester and Arena Rock SMCA and Del Mar Landing SMP
- Port of Arena: urchin, salmon, near-shore finfish, D. crab
- Recreational abalone fishery, small boat and shore-fishing
- Importance of recreational and commercial fisheries to local economy
- Tribal uses
- Access points and public/ private lands





Subregion 1: Draft Proposal Comparison

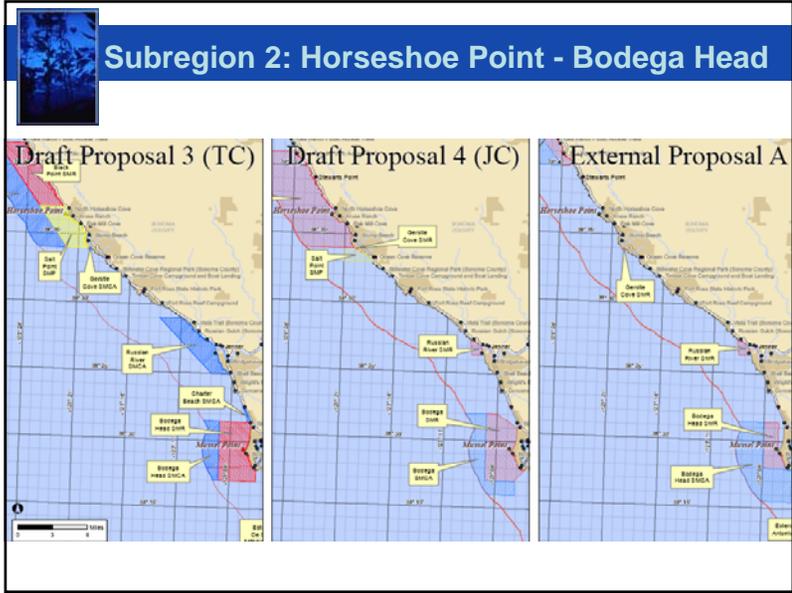
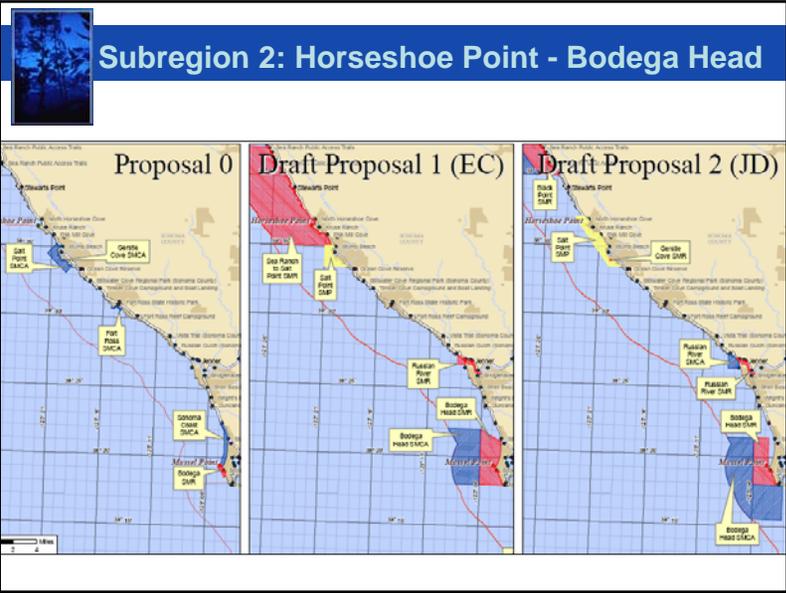
- Existing MPAs: All proposals would eliminate Manchester SMCA, 3 proposals include Del Mar SMP with only Proposal 4 changing it to SMR
- Point Arena
 - All proposals have SMR/SMCA cluster around Point Arena
 - Proposals 1, 3, 4 and External A SMCA: would allow only salmon
 - Proposal 2 SMCA: would allow salmon, crab, anchovy, sardine, herring
- Saunders Reef
 - All 4 internal proposals with clusters of 2 SMCAs
 - Higher protection MPA proposed offshore in 3 proposals (allow only salmon)
 - Because Proposal 4's offshore SMCA is closer to shore, it received a lower level of protection of moderate-high
- Sea Ranch/ Salt Point Area
 - North-south boundaries vary - consideration of access and public/private lands. SMR proposed inshore in all proposals.
 - Proposals 2 and External A have MPA clusters more adjacent to Sea Ranch area; proposals 1, 3 and 4 are further south of Sea Ranch.

Subregion 2: Horseshoe Point - Bodega Head

Subregional Considerations

- Down-current from upwelling center; rocky reefs, kelp beds; numerous sea bird and marine mammal colonies; Russian River estuary
- Existing: Salt Point SMCA, Gerstle Cove SMCA, Sonoma Coast SMCA, Bodega SMR
- Port of Bodega Bay: D. crab; salmon; herring; Dover sole / Thornyheads / Sablefish (DTS)
- Recreational abalone, angling (especially Salt Point, Russian River, Sonoma coast area)

Map of Subregion 2: Horseshoe Point - Bodega Head showing various Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Marine Reserves (SMRs). Labels include Salt Point SMCA, Gerstle Cove SMCA, Sonoma Coast SMCA, Bodega SMR, and Russian River.



Subregion 2: Draft Proposal Comparison

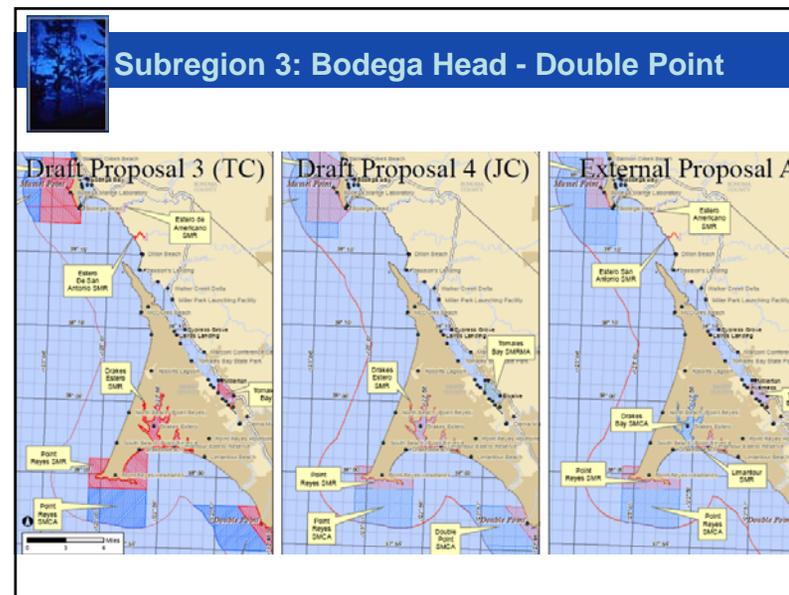
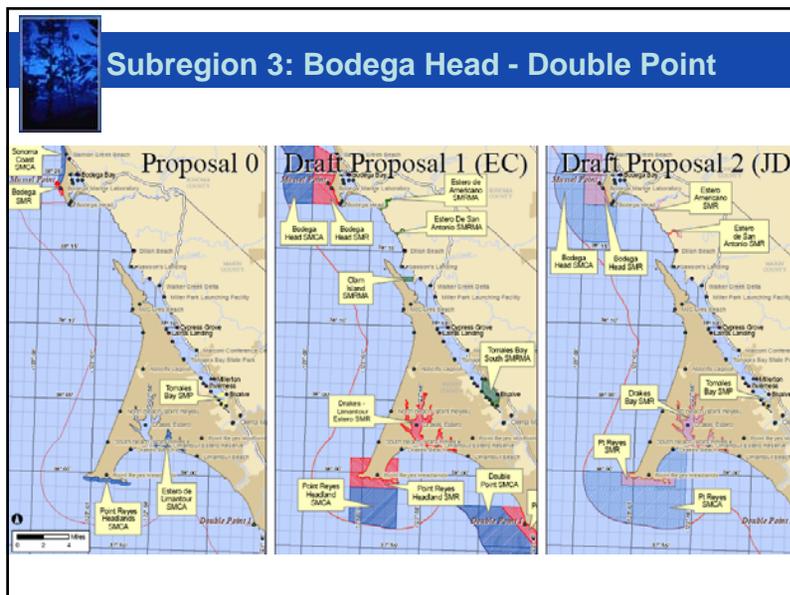
- Existing MPAs: Salt Point SMCA and Gerstle Cove SMCA were replaced, modified or included, depending on proposal. Fort Ross SMCA was eliminated or replaced. Most proposals included some of the Sonoma Coast SMCA area in their Bodega Bay concept; Proposal 3 retains a portion of existing MPA. All proposals modified the Bodega SMR to increase in size.
- Salt Point/Gerstle Cove
 - Proposals 1 and 2: SMP would allow recreational abalone and finfish
 - Proposal 3: SMP would allow all recreational take and add moderate-high SMCA (would allow salmon and crab) offshore
 - Proposal 4: SMP would keep existing regulations
 - Proposals 2, 4 and A: Change Gerstle Cove to SMR
 - Proposal 1 removes Gerstle Cove; Proposal 3 retains existing regulations
- Russian River
 - Proposals 1, 4 and External A: propose SMR at mouth of river up to Hwy 1 bridge
 - Proposal 2: moderate-low SMCA (would allow take of all species except salmon)
 - Proposal 3: significantly larger moderate-high SMCA (would allow only crab)
- Bodega Head
 - All propose inshore SMR/offshore SMCA
 - SMCAs: Proposals 1 and 4 (would allow only salmon), Proposals 3 and External A (would allow salmon and crab), Proposal 2 (allow salmon, crab, herring, sardine, and anchovy)

Subregion 3: Bodega Head - Double Point

Subregional Considerations

- Highly productive near-shore; retention zone; more limited rocky habitat; numerous estuaries (waterfowl); marine mammal and seabird colonies
- Existing MPAs: Tomales Bay SMP, Point Reyes Headlands SMCA, Estero de Limantour SMCA
- Ports of Bodega (D. crab, salmon, herring, DTS) and Bolinas (D. crab, halibut, salmon, deeper near-shore rockfish)
- Important recreational fishing from Bodega and Bolinas; clamming
- Aquaculture leases - Drakes Estero and Tomales Bay

Proposal 0



Subregion 3: Draft Proposal Comparison

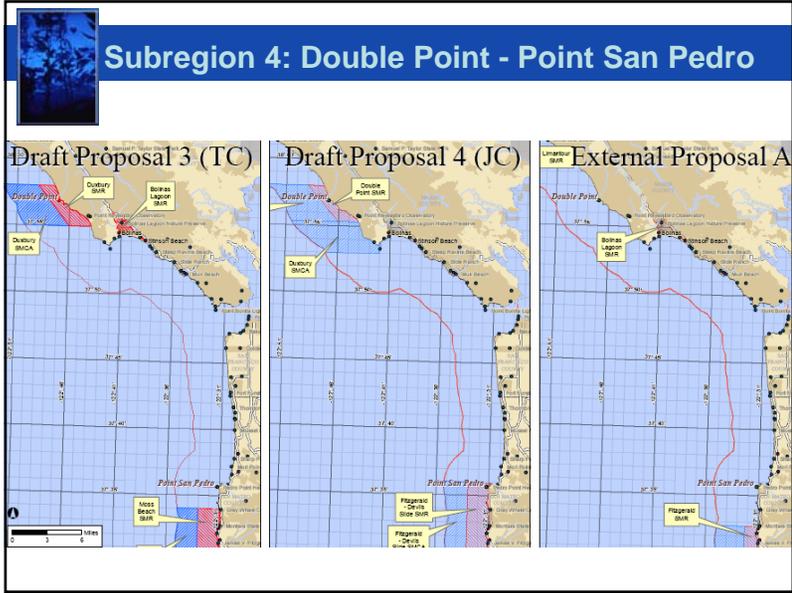
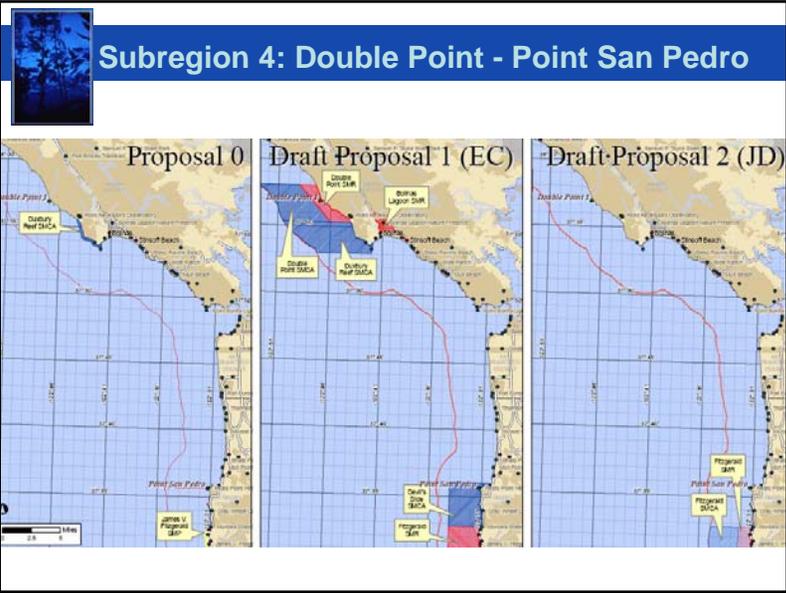
- Existing MPAs: All proposals, except Proposal 2, would modify Tomales Bay SMP to an SMR. Point Reyes Headlands SMCA would modify in all proposals to include SMR/SMCA cluster. All proposed enlarging the Estero de Limantour SMCA and most would change it to an SMR.
- Estero Americano and Estero de San Antonio
 - All proposals but proposals 1 and 4 include SMRs (Proposal 1 includes SMRMAs and Proposal 4 proposes no MPAs)
- Tomales Bay
 - Proposals 1, 3, 4 and External A: would enlarge existing MPA and propose SMR
 - Proposals 1 and 4: propose SMRMA (no take, but allows duck hunting)
- Point Reyes
 - All had similar MPA cluster (SMR/SMCA), SMR size and boundaries proposed differ to accommodate fishing activities
 - Proposals 1, 3 and 4 have moderate-high SMCA (salmon and crab), Proposals 2 and External A would allow salmon, crab, anchovy, sardine, herring, squid
- Drakes Bay/ Estero de Limantour
 - All propose SMRs except External A (SMCA allowing mariculture)

Subregion 4: Double Point - Point San Pedro

Subregional Considerations

- Influenced by outflow from San Francisco Bay; broad sandy shelf; marine mammal and seabird colonies)
- Existing MPAs: Duxbury Reef SMCA
- Ports of SF (D. crab, salmon, halibut, DTS complex) and Bolinas (D. crab, halibut, salmon, deeper near-shore rockfish)
- Recreational vessels from San Francisco ports (e.g., party boats), small boat angling

Proposal 0



Subregion 4: Draft Proposal Comparison

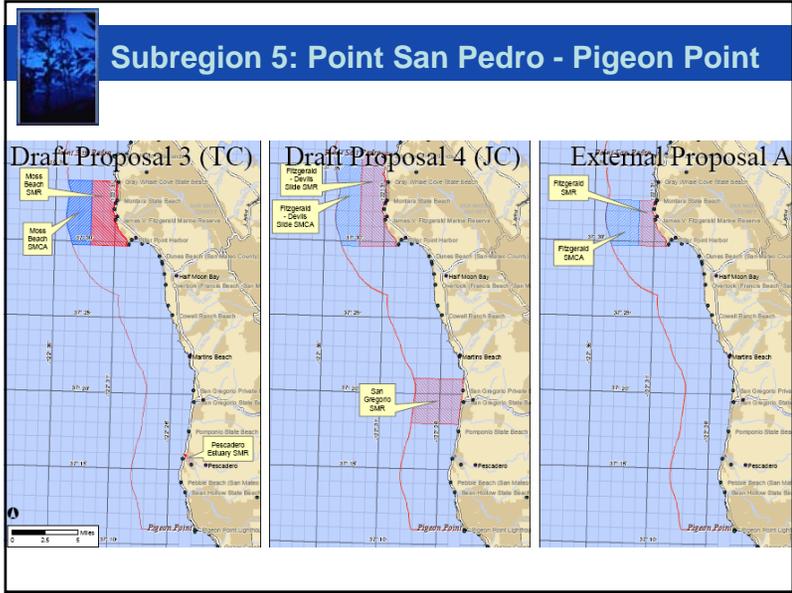
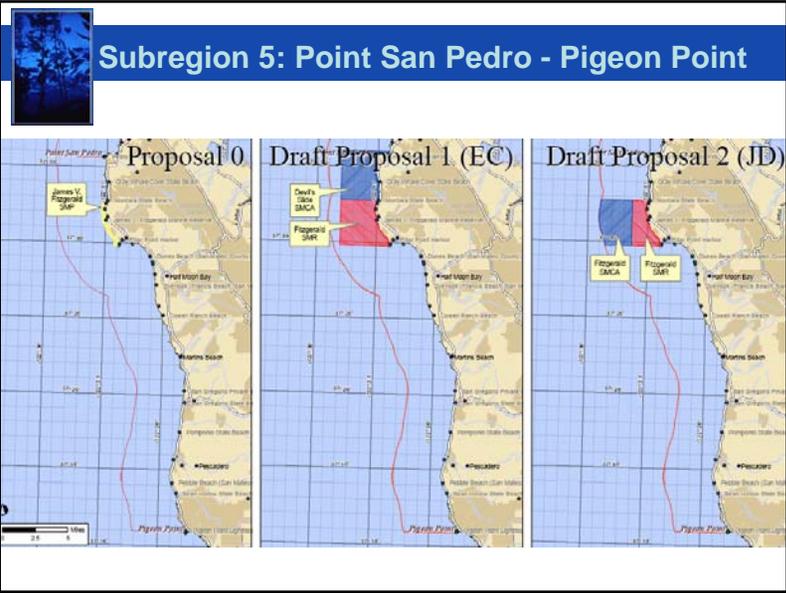
- Existing MPA: Proposals 1, 3 and 4 propose to modify or replace Duxbury Reef SMCA. Proposals 2 and External A propose to eliminate.
- Duxbury
 - Proposals 1 and 4: 3 MPAs: inshore SMR, offshore moderate-high SMCA (allow salmon and crab), and an SMCA to the south which would allow salmon, crab, commercial halibut and recreational finfish from shore.
 - Proposal 3: Inshore SMR and offshore SMCA (same regulations and boundaries as Prop 1 and 4) without an additional SMCA to the south.
 - Proposals 2 and A: Propose no MPAs in this area

Subregion 5: Point San Pedro - Pigeon Point

Subregional Considerations

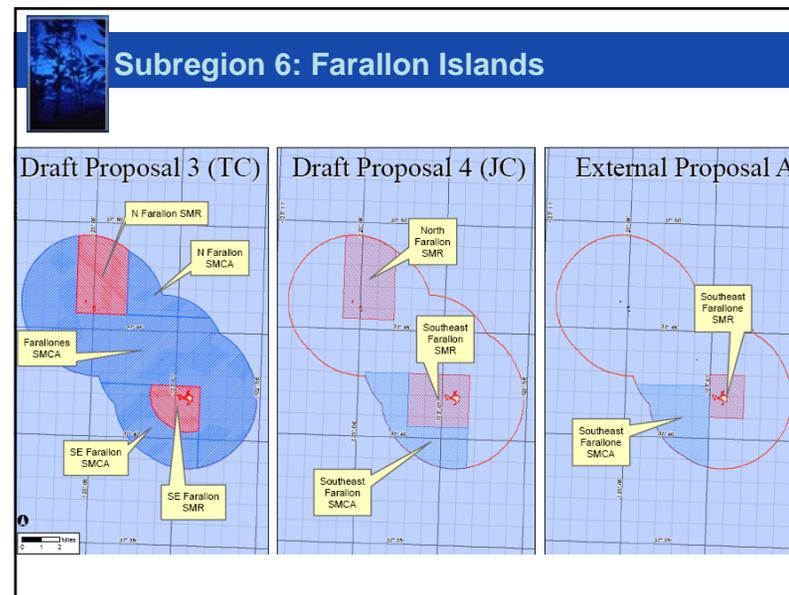
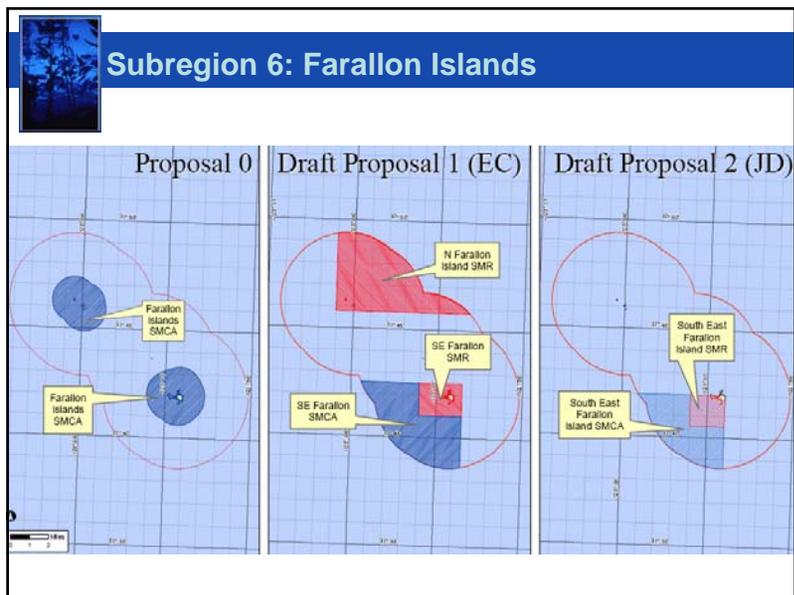
- Broad shallow sandy shelf; more limited rocky reef and kelp; seabird and migratory waterfowl areas (Devils Slide, Pescadero)
- Existing MPAs: James V. Fitzgerald SMP
- Port of Half Moon Bay (Pillar Point): D. crab, salmon, halibut, squid
- Recreational shore-based and small boat anglers; party boats from Half Moon Bay; steelhead (Pescadero)

Proposal 0



- ### Subregion 5: Draft Proposal Comparison
- Existing MPA: All proposals would modify James V. Fitzgerald SMP with SMR/SMCA cluster
 - Fitzgerald
 - Proposal 1: only "stack" configuration; SMCA would allow salmon, crab, wetfish
 - Proposals 2 and External A leaves area to north (San Pedro Point) open; SMCA would allow salmon, crab, anchovy, sardine and herring
 - Proposals 3 and 4: SMCA would allow salmon and crab
 - San Gregorio
 - Proposal 4: only proposal with SMR here
 - Pescadero
 - Proposal 3 would include an SMR at Pescadero Estuary

- ### Subregion 6: Farallon Islands
- #### Subregional Considerations
- Shallow/deep rock and sand; unique habitats downstream from upwelling center; globally important for seabirds, mammals, and great white sharks
 - Existing MPAs: Farallone Islands SMCA
 - Ecotourism (whale watching, seabird and marine mammal watching, etc)
 - Accessed by commercial fishing boats from Bolinas, San Francisco, Half Moon Bay (salmon, rockfish, squid)
 - Recreational – party boats, private boats (rockfish, salmon, etc)
 - Anchoring/safety concerns
-
- The map shows the Farallon Islands with two overlapping circles representing the SMCA and SMR. The SMCA is a larger circle, and the SMR is a smaller circle nested within it. A scale bar at the bottom left indicates 0, 2, 4, and 6 miles.



- ### Subregion 6: Draft Proposal Comparison
- Existing MPA: Farallone Islands SMCA was proposed for modification by all proposals.
 - North Farallon
 - No MPA proposed in proposals 2 and External A
 - Proposal 1: SMR proposed to state waters in NW quadrant
 - Proposal 3: SMR/SMCA to state waters in NW quadrant (moderate-high SMCA allow only salmon)
 - Proposal 4: SMR to state waters in the north (same SMR shape as Proposal 3)
 - Southeast Farallon
 - All propose SMR around island; Proposal 2 leaves north open
 - All propose salmon only SMCA but Proposal External A only moderate-high SMCA because extends into shallow areas
 - Farallons Islands overall
 - Proposal 3: puts remaining area within state waters as moderate-low SMCA (only prohibits sardine, anchovy, squid)

- ### Summary
- MPAs proposed in similar geographies, but with different regulations and configurations
 - MPA design is shaped by balancing goals/guidance and tradeoffs
 - Stakeholders looking for guidance from the BRTF, SAT, and DFG and feedback from the public to inform revisions for third and final round of proposals



Evaluation/Summary Documents

Document	Source
Proposal Templates	Staff/RSG
Habitat Calculations	Staff
Staff Summaries	Staff
Area Histograms	Staff
Maps and regulations	Staff/RSG
Goal 3 Analysis	Staff
Feasibility Analysis	DFG
Abalone Analysis	DFG
Commercial/ Recreational Analysis (Ecotrust)	DFG
Goals 1 and 4 Analysis (Habitat Representation)	SAT
Goals 2 and 6 Analysis (Size and Spacing)	SAT
Birds and Mammals Analysis	SAT

Evaluation documents at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/mlpa/nccrsg-dprops.asp>