

# Marine Life Protection Act Initiative



## Overview of Draft Options for MPA Arrays and First Draft Proposals

**Presentation to the MLPA Blue Ribbon Task Force**

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# Where we are in the process?

- Regional Stakeholder Group – three cross-interest work groups have developed draft options for MPA arrays to gather initial feedback from the Science Advisory Team and Blue Ribbon Task Force
- Six work group draft arrays are not yet full proposals and have not been agreed to by all work group members
- Four draft proposals developed outside the work group process (“external”)
- Current evaluation of draft options for arrays and draft MPA proposals is the first of three iterations



# Internal and External MPA Arrays

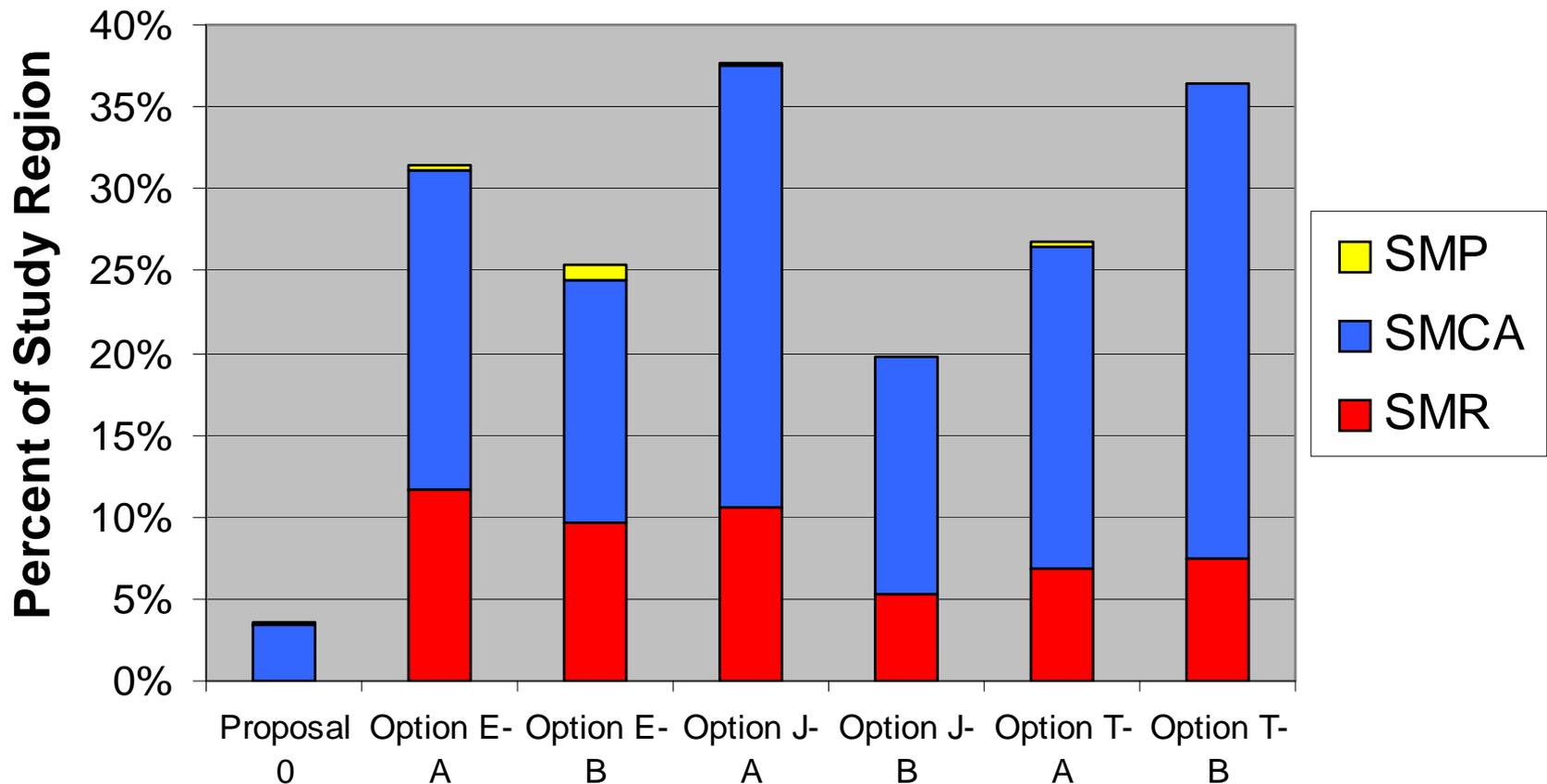
Staff and SAT evaluated 11 options or proposals

<b>Work Group Draft Options for MPA Arrays</b>	<b>Draft “External” Proposals</b>
Emerald option “EA”	Proposal A
Emerald option “EB”	Proposal B
Jade option “JA”	Proposal C
Jade option “JB”	Proposal D
Turquoise option “TA”	
Turquoise option “TB”	

+ Proposal Zero (existing MPAs)

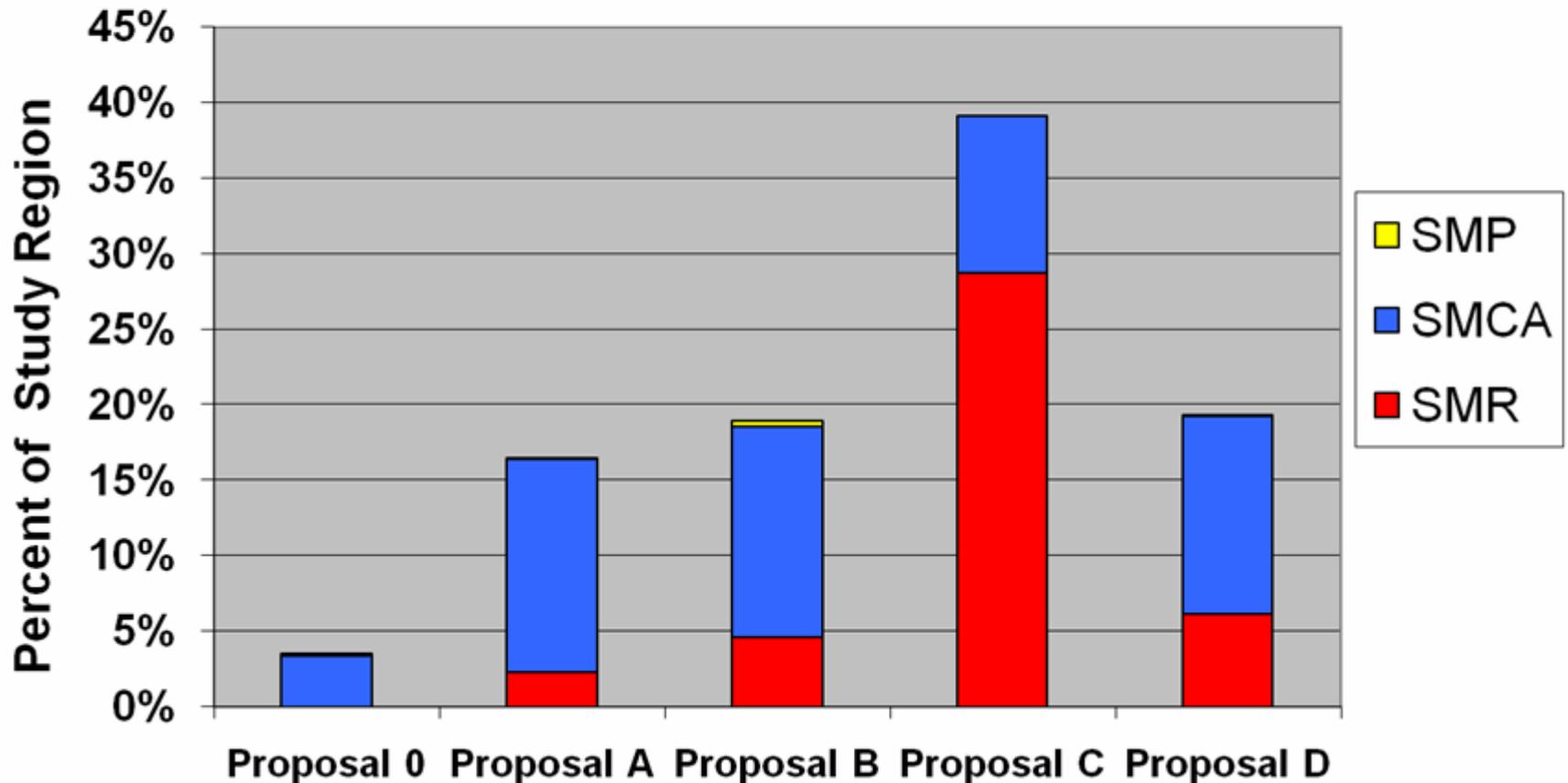
# Area analysis of internal draft options

## Workgroup Draft Options and Existing MPAs (Proposal 0) by Designation



# Area analysis of external draft proposals

## External Proposals and Existing MPAs (Proposal 0) by Designation





# Key Considerations

## **Ecological/Socioeconomic Tradeoffs**

- Meeting SAT guidelines
- Habitat representation – unique and representative habitats
- Size and spacing to promote connectivity
- Protecting ecosystem function and integrity
- Unique ecological features of region



# Key Considerations

## Ecological/Socioeconomic Tradeoffs

- Considering ports / areas of consumptive use
- Commercial fisheries – crab, salmon, urchin, rockfish, squid, and many others
- Recreational fisheries – abalone, shore-based fishing, small-boat fishing, party-boat trips
- Incorporating recent consumptive and non-consumptive data collection efforts



# Key Considerations

## Access

- Few public access locations, especially in northern portion of study region
- Access is key to both consumptive and non-consumptive use
- Access tends to be through public lands, state parks, private campgrounds and resorts



# Key Considerations

## Weather and Safety

- Strong winds and rough seas common
- Protected anchorages are important and few
- Small craft use important in the region
- Limited boat ramps/launch sites



# Key Considerations

## Marine Birds and Mammals

- Globally significant marine bird/mammal populations
- Existence of spatially discrete colonies/rookeries
- Potential use of “special closures” to provide protection from disturbance (seasonal or year-round no access areas)



# Key Considerations

## Mariculture

- Leases for mariculture exist in Tomales Bay and Drakes Estero
- SAT has determined that allowing mariculture in an MPA constitutes a moderate or low level of protection
- Existing leases must be taken into consideration and can likely not be broken



# Key Considerations

## Native American Tribal Use

- Several tribal groups within the study region (e.g. Pomo, Miwok, Ohlone)
- Traditional collection and gathering of marine resources for personal use – food, medicine, ceremonial use
- Entire shoreline of study region is important culturally to tribes
- Gathering information on areas of highest importance through workshops and meetings with local tribal members



# Key Considerations

## Meeting DFG Feasibility Guidelines

- Straight lines
- Major lines of latitude/longitude
- No “donuts”
- Simple regulations
- No intertidal only restrictions



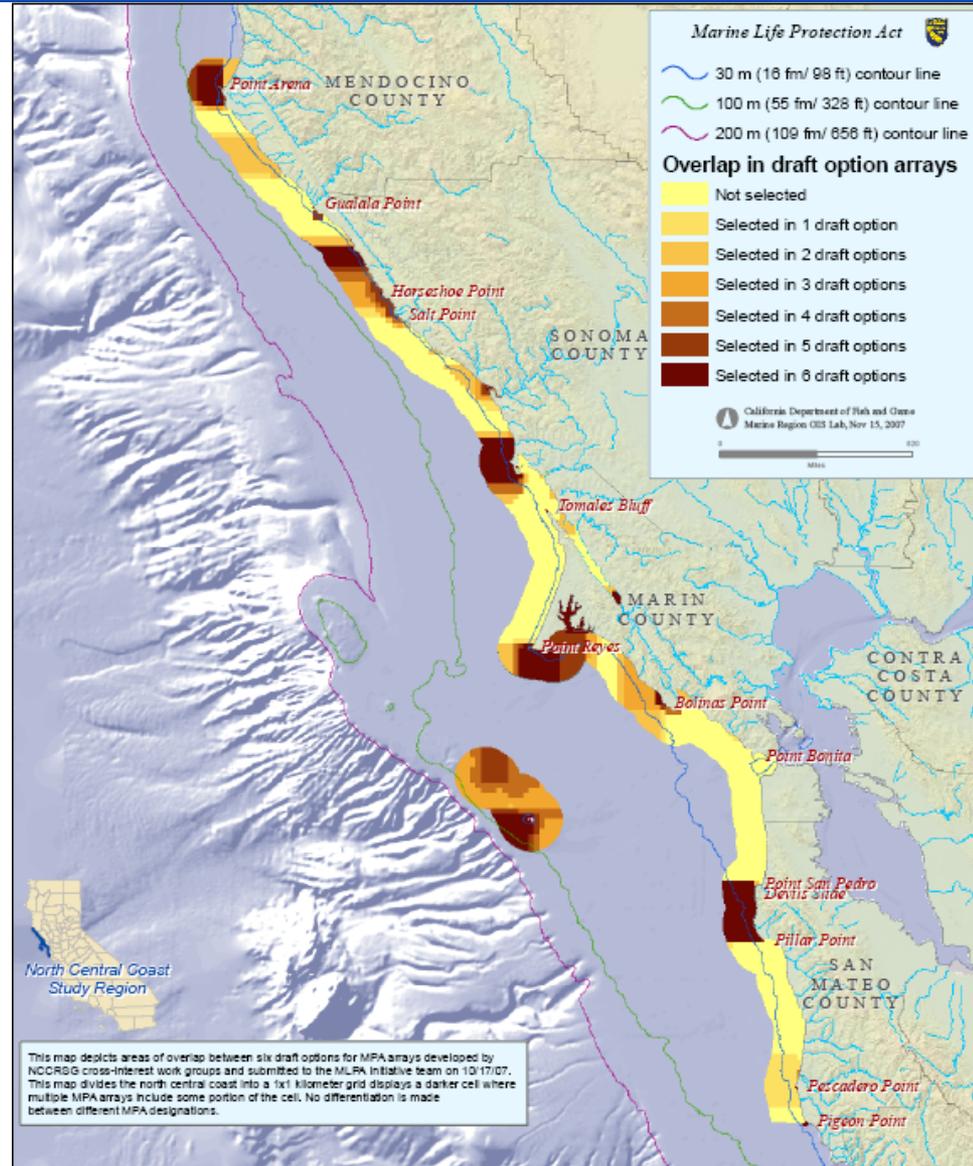
# Key Considerations

## Existing MPAs and Other Regulations

- Existing MPAs
  - Modification of boundaries/regulations
  - Incorporation without change
  - Proposed for deletion
- Rockfish Conservation Areas and other fishery closures

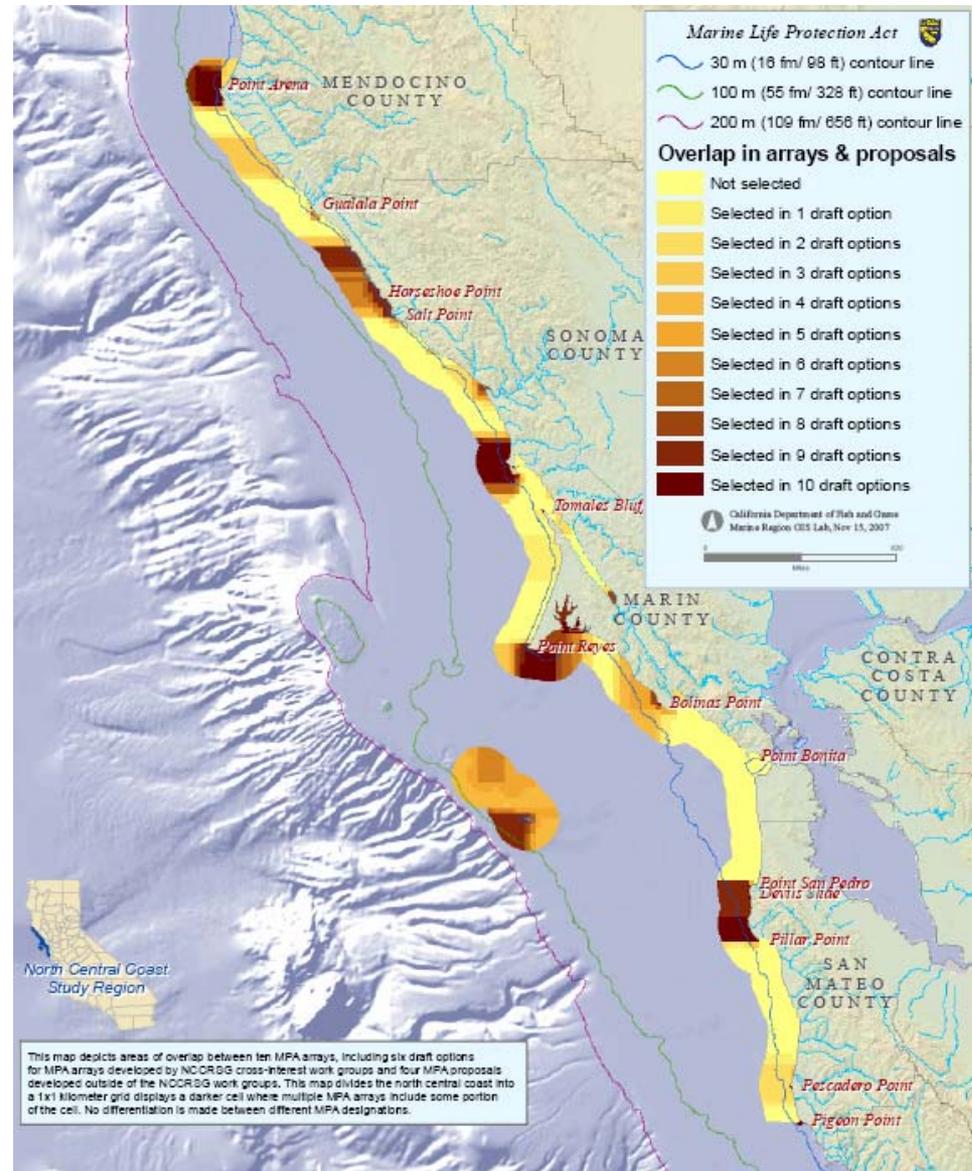
# Overlap Between Internal Workgroups

## Overlap among 6 Internal RSG Workgroup Draft Options for MPA Arrays



# Overlap Between All Arrays

Overlap among  
Internal Draft Options  
and External  
Proposals (n = 10)





# Subregion 1

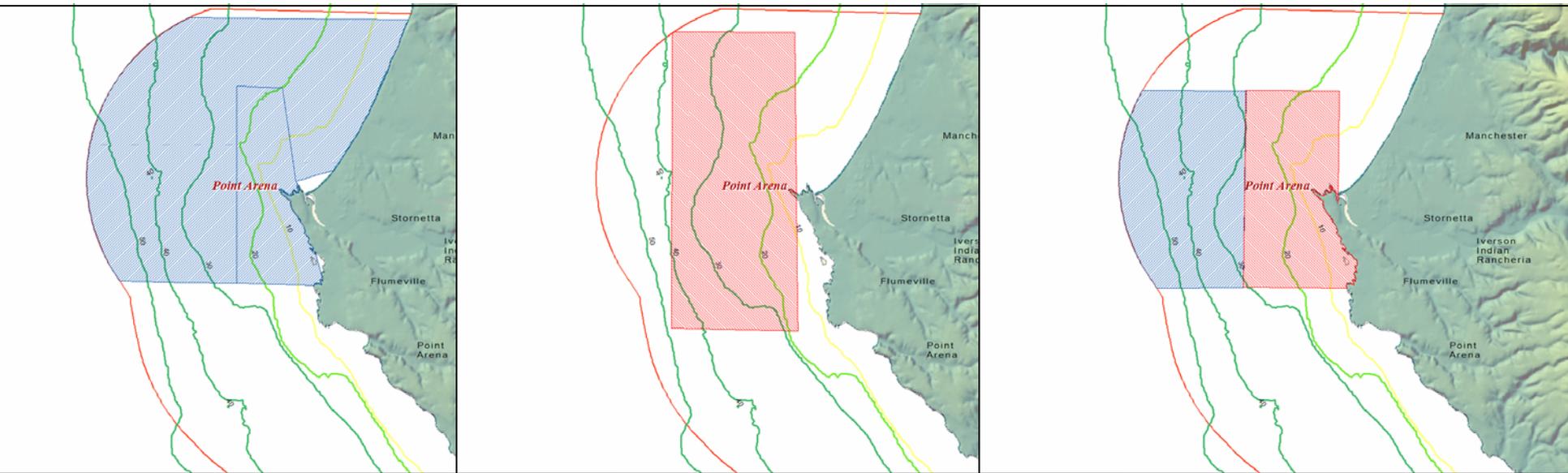
- Large upwelling center, fairly extensive rocky and kelp habitat (large near-shore reefs)
- Gualala and Garcia estuaries
- Port of Point Arena; Arena Cove
- Consideration of MPAs along private (Sea Ranch, etc.) vs. public land ownership
- Abalone fishery - Stornetta Ranch, abalone index site



# Subregion 1

Some Point Arena boundary options

All Options include SMR or SMCA in this region



EB

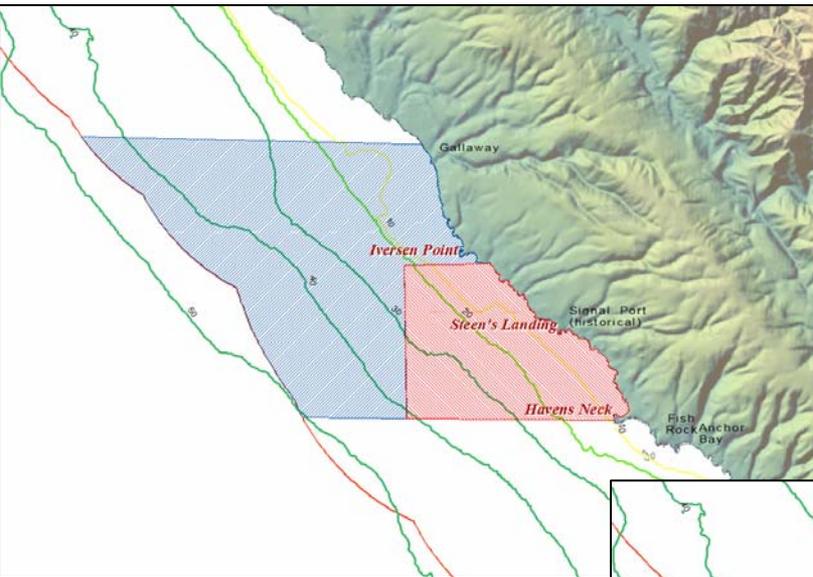
TA

JA

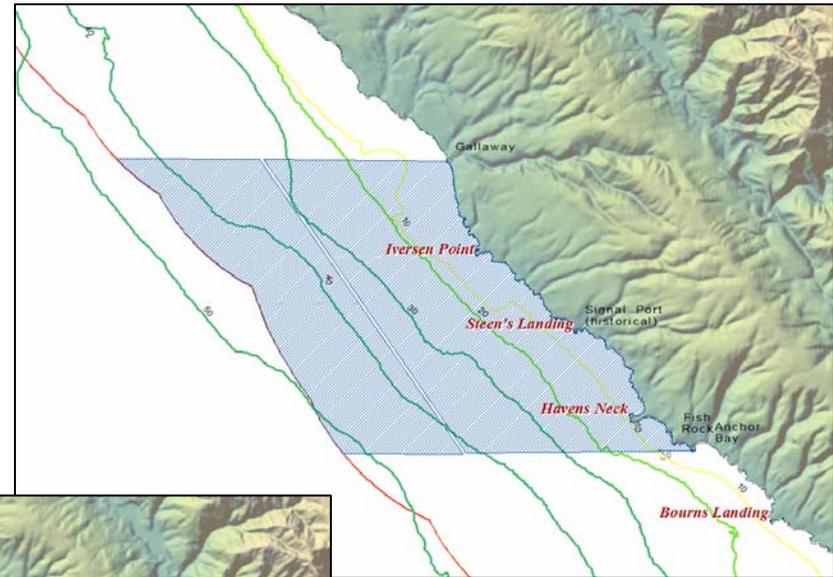
# Subregion 1

Some Haven's Neck/Saunders boundary options

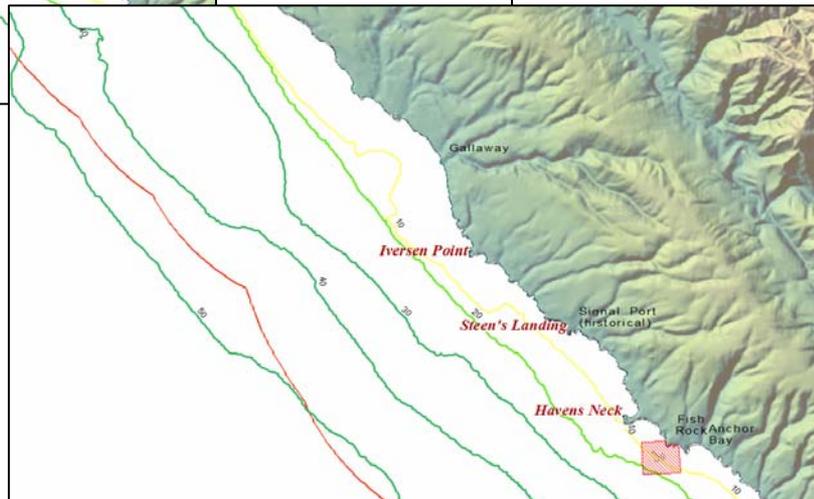
4 Options include MPAs in this area



EB



JA

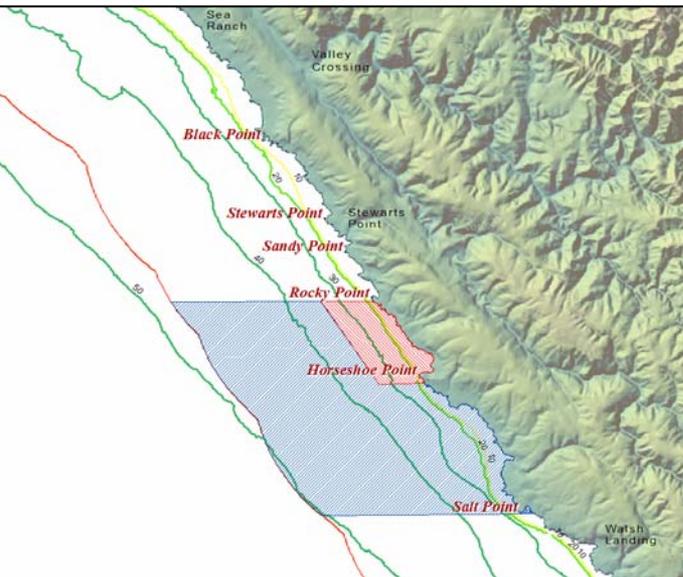


D

# Subregion 1

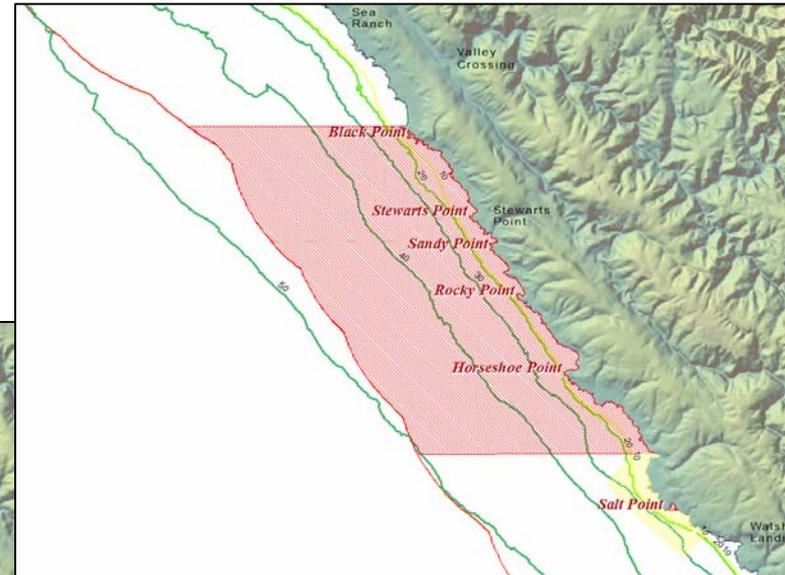
Some Salt Point boundary options

All options include an MPA in this area

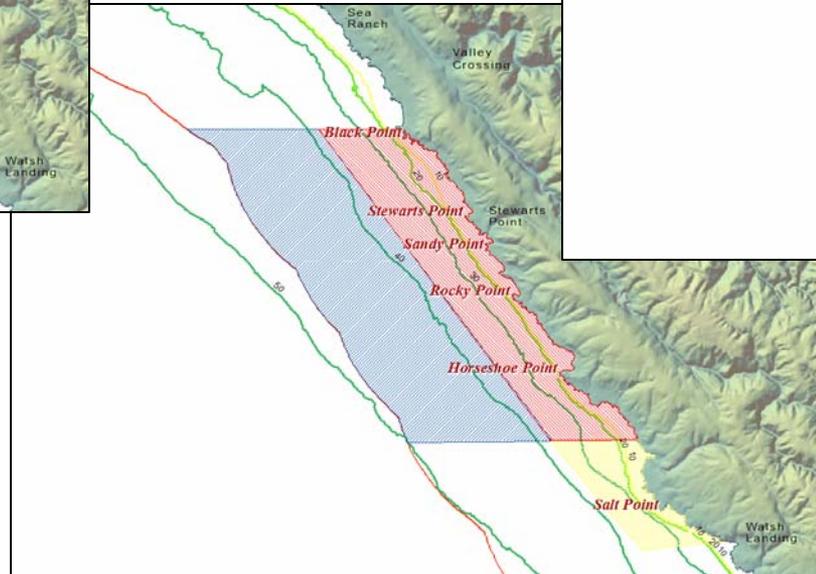


A

JA



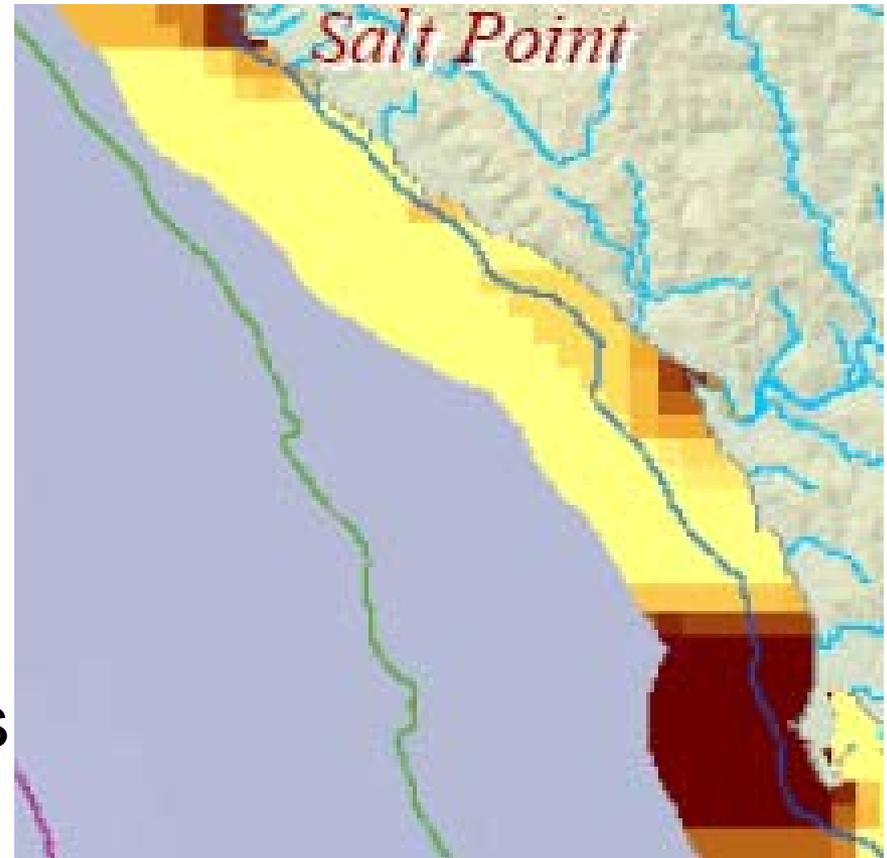
EA





## Subregion 2

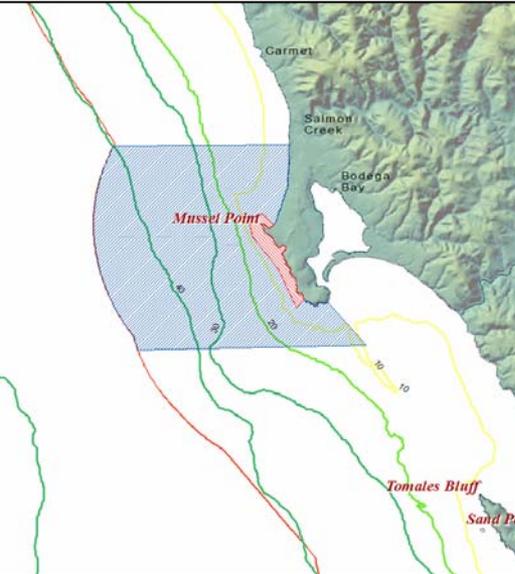
- Nearby port of Bodega Bay – recreational and commercial fisheries (salmon, crab, rockfish)
- Russian River estuary
- Four abalone index sites
- Four existing small MPAs



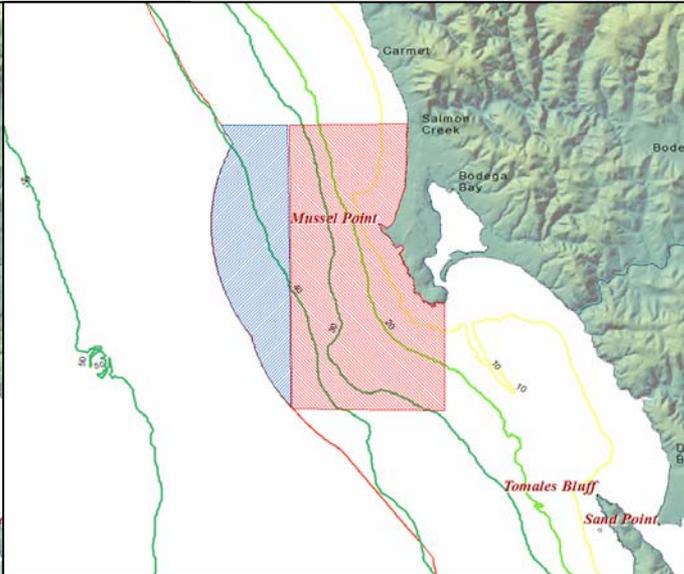
# Subregion 2

Some Bodega boundary options

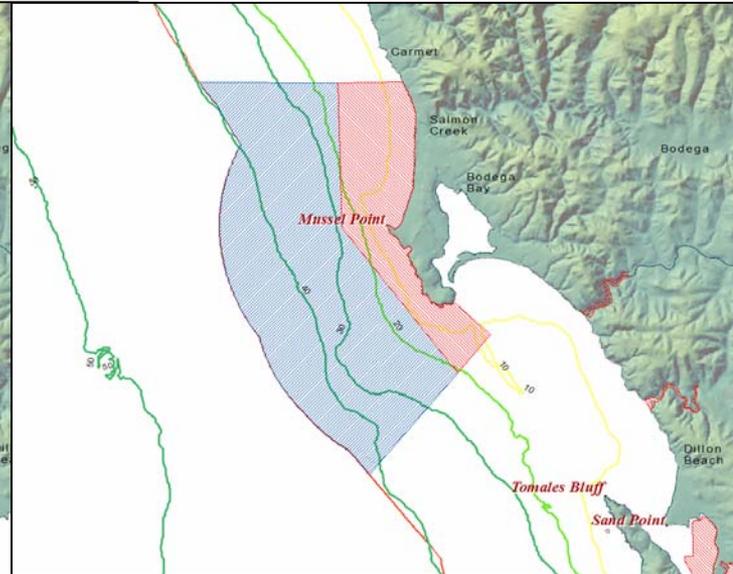
All options include an MPA in this area



A



C

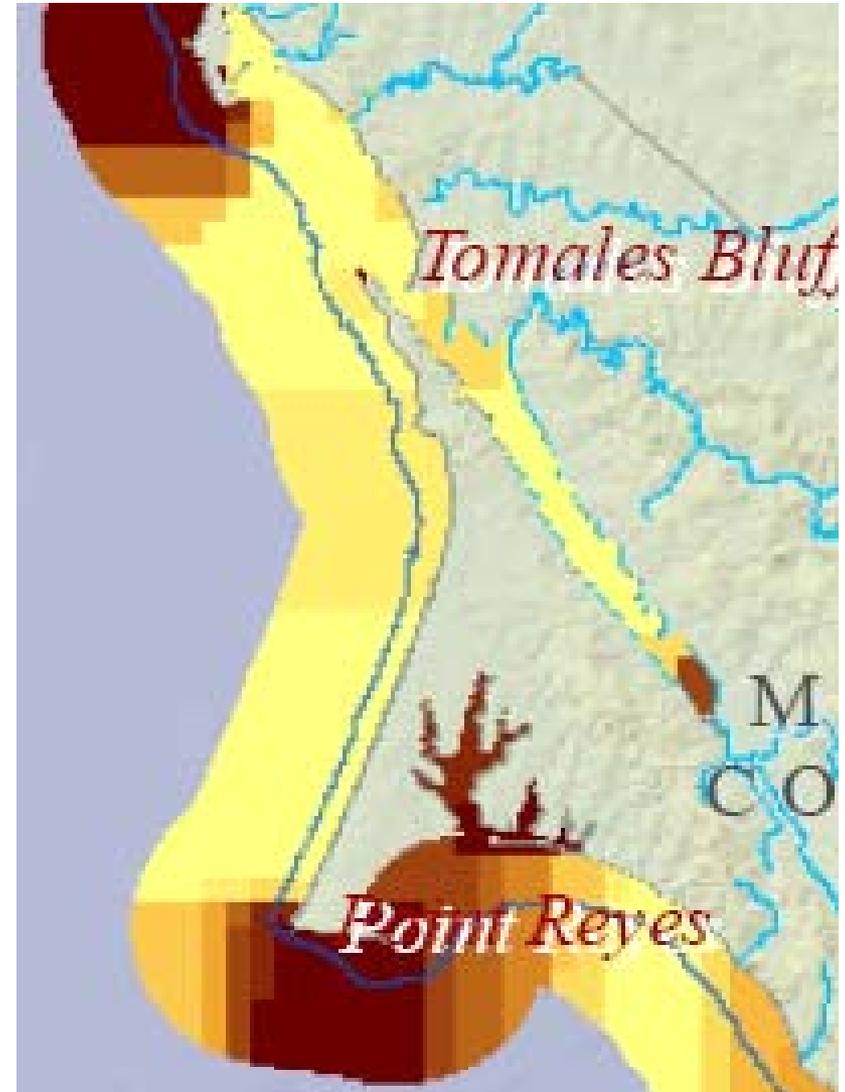


B



# Subregion 3

- Characterized by rocky, sandy, and estuarine habitat
- Numerous bird and mammal rookeries
- Numerous estuaries (Tomales, Drakes, etc)
- Port of Bodega Bay – rockfish, salmon, crab, halibut fishing
- Tomales Bluff and Point Reyes important ecologically and economically
- Mariculture leases

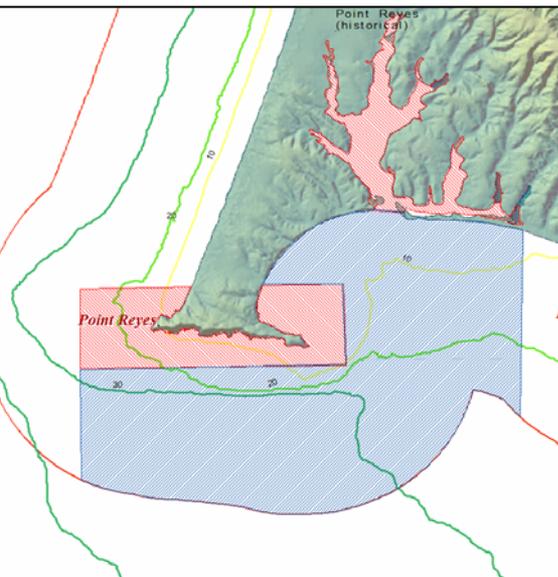


# Subregion 3

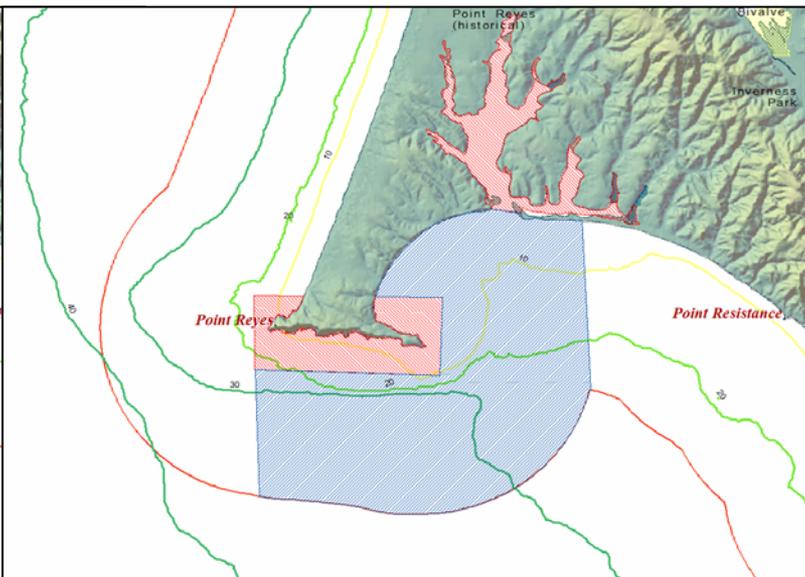
Some Point Reyes boundary options

All options include an MPA around Pt. Reyes

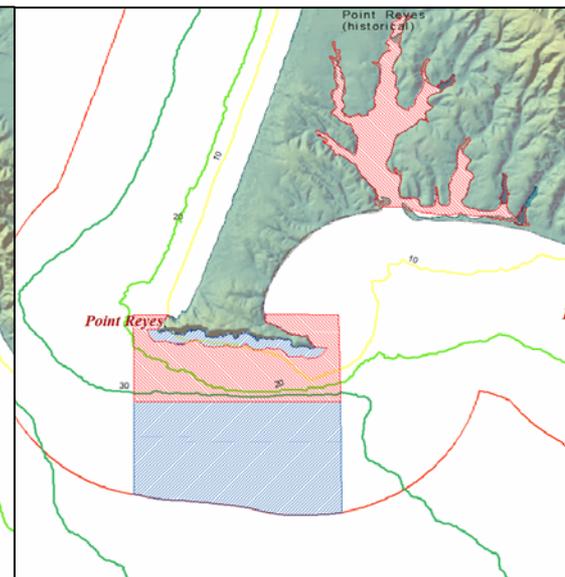
All options include SMR in Drakes Estero



TB



D



EB



## Subregion 4

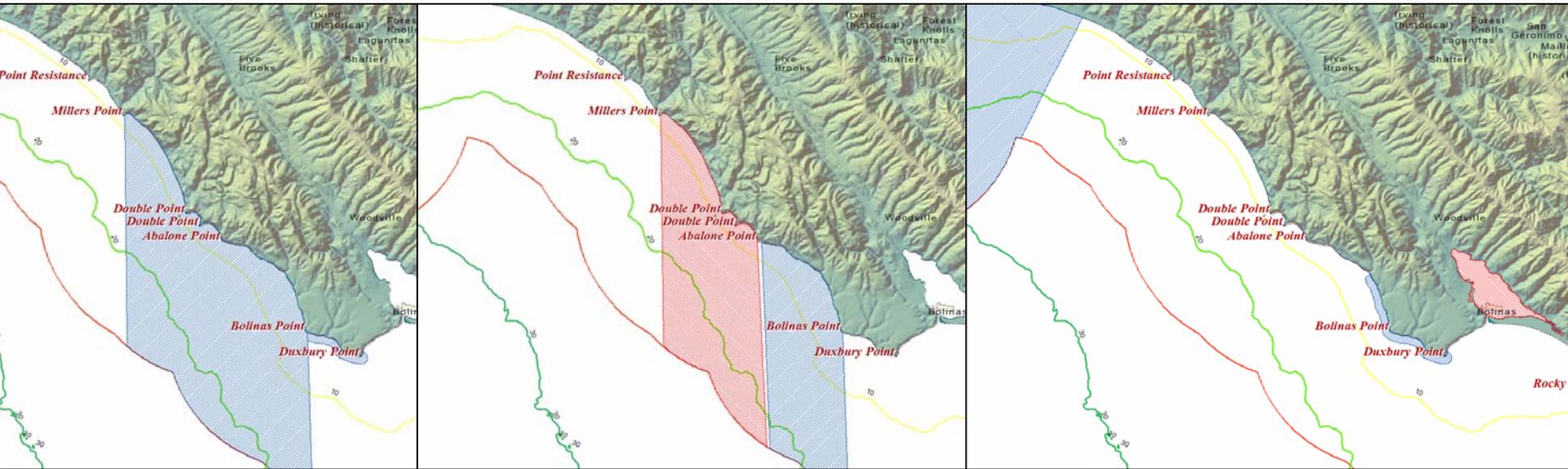
- Influenced by output of SF Bay
- Ecologically/economically important Duxbury Reef
- Bird, mammal colonies
- Bolinas, San Francisco ports – rockfish, salmon, crab fisheries



# Subregion 4

Some Duxbury/Bolinas boundary options

Eight of Ten Options include an MPA in this area



EA

C

JA



## Subregion 5

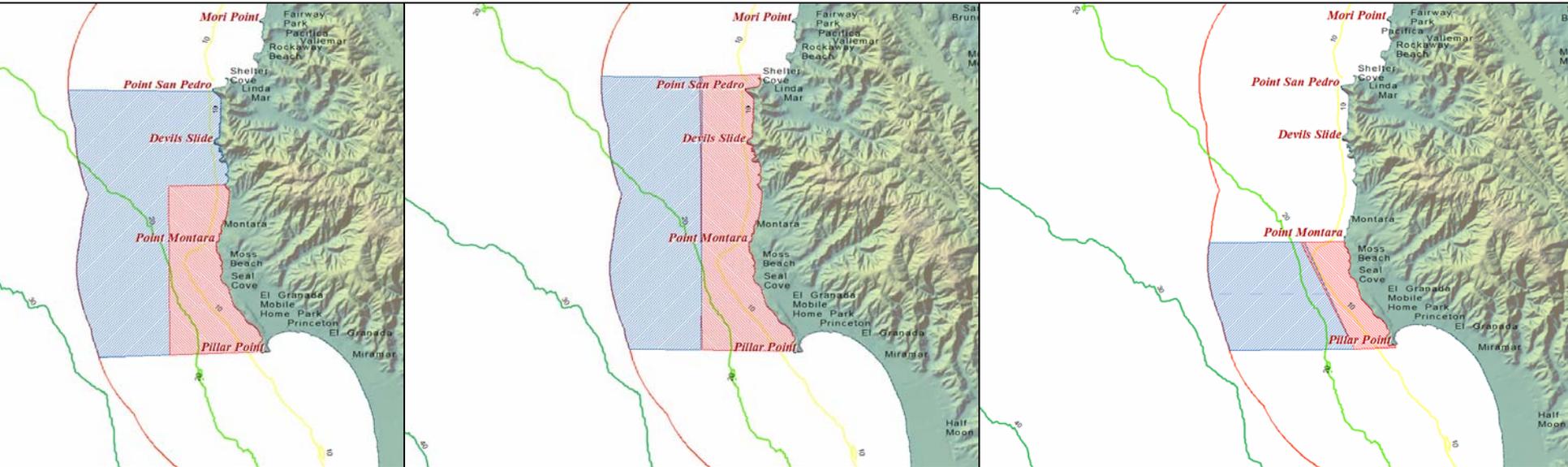
- Shallow sandy shelf; more limited rocky habitat
- Important seabird colonies (eg. Devils Slide)
- Pescadero Marsh
- Port of Half Moon Bay – salmon, crab, rockfish, squid
- Existing Fitzgerald SMP



# Subregion 5

Some Fitzgerald boundary options

All options include an MPA in this area



JB

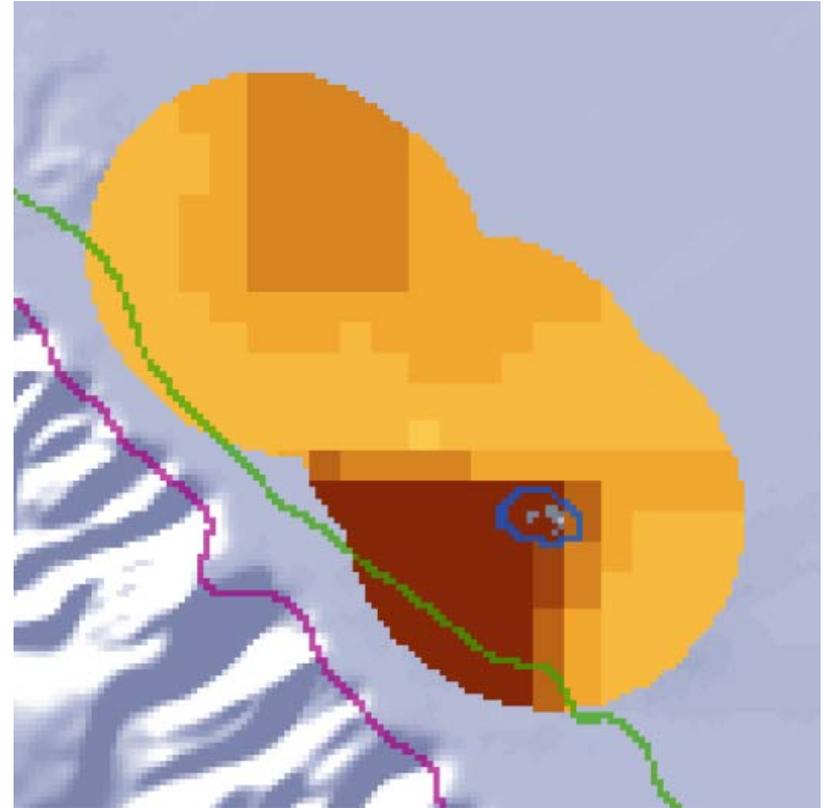
EA

A



# Subregion 6

- Unique habitats; globally significant bird and mammal colonies; deep water habitat
- Socioeconomic importance – recreational and commercial
- Rough weather/ anchorages
- Existing fishery regulations already protect some depth zones

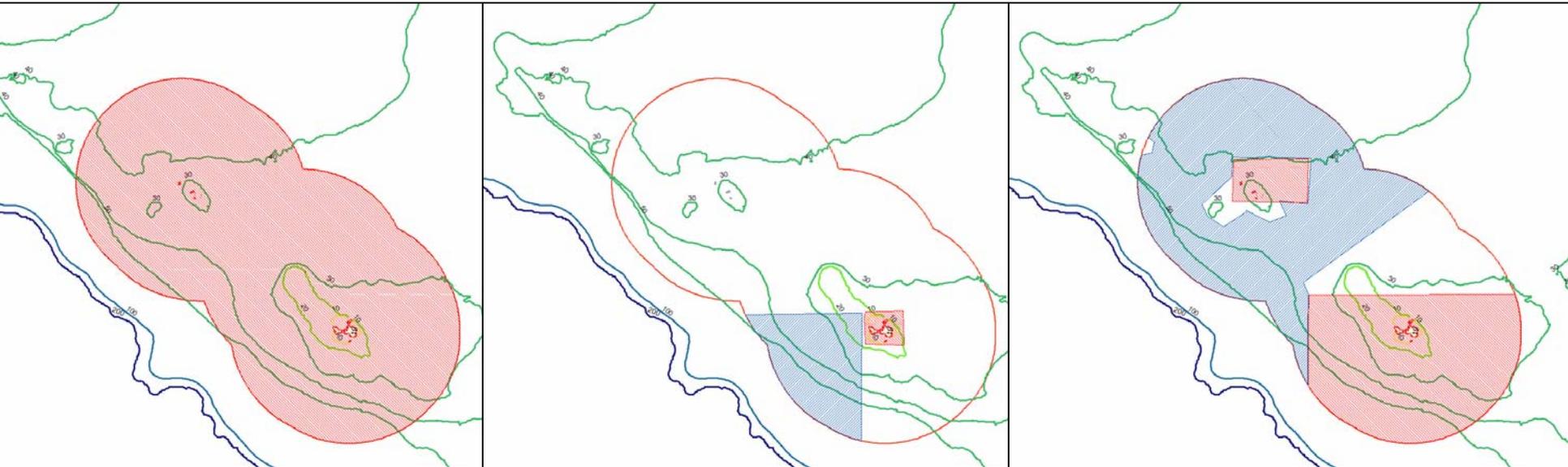




# Subregion 6

Some Farallones boundary options

All options include an MPA in this area



C

A

EA



# Convergence

- NCCRSG members have expressed desire to converge to the extent possible
- Many areas of geographic overlap between arrays (though regulations and specific boundaries differ)
- Multiple array options attempt to address “key considerations” – BRTF and SAT guidance may facilitate winnowing