

General Facts & Information

* In 1999, Californian State Legislature adopted the Marine Life Protected Act (MLPA). Central coast MPAs were adopted by Fish and Game Commission in April 2007 and implemented in September 2007.

* Four MPA designations: 1. State marine reserve (SMR): No take 2. State marine park (SMP); Allows or limits some recreational take; no commercial take 3. State marine conservation area (SMCA); Allows selected recreational and/or commercial take 4. State marine recreational management area (SMRMA); Some recreational and commercial take allowed in specified areas (See MPA for specific details).

*The 29 central coast MPAs make up 18% of the study region; there are 15 state marine reserves (SMR); 11 state marine conservation areas (SMCA), 2 state marine parks (SMP), and 1 state marine recreational management area (SMRMA)

*Many of the central coast MPAs lay within the boundary of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary (MBNMS). The sanctuary restricts oil/gas extraction, discharging of unauthorized materials, removal of historical resources, alterations of underwater habitats, taking of any marine mammal, sea turtle or bird, operation of aircraft and watercraft outside of authorized areas. MPAs protect marine ecosystems: animals and habitat.

* MPAs restore degraded marine ecosystems on a local scale; act as buffers to larger scale impacts; they preserve biological diversity, protect habitats (both healthy and degraded), aid in recovery of depleted fisheries, promote recreational, scientific, and educational opportunities.

* To report a poacher or polluter dial toll free, 24 hours a day, seven days a week 888-DFG-CALTIP (888 334-2258)