West Coast Marine Managed Areas: Trends in Place-Based Ocean Management

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Regional Trends in MMA Use

- 269 MMAs off West Coast
  - CA, WA, OR
- Combination of federal, state and local sites
- Many MMAs span state and federal waters
- Recent addition of EFH Sites radically changes the marine landscape of spatial protection
- Most established after 1970’s with another big increase in 2000’s
Area of West Coast Waters Covered by MMAs

Overall Coverage by MMAs

- No spatial protection 53%
- Total MMA area 47%

Contribution of EFH to MMAs

- Other MMAs 14%
- Trawl Footprint Closure 86%

- Dominated by a single EFH site; EFH designation occurred in 2006 – 52 individual sites
- 47% of west coast waters are covered by some sort of MMAs
- Recent designation of federal EFH areas dramatically increased MMA coverage from 2% - 47% of West Coast waters
Who Manages West Coast MMAs?  
*Number versus Area*

**Number of MMAs**
- State: 173 (65%)
- Federal: 81 (30%)
- Partnership: 14 (5%)
- Local: 1 (0%)

**Area of MMAs**
- Federal: 99%
- State: <0.1%
- Partner: <0.01%
- Local: <0.01%

- Twice as many state MMAs as federal MMAs
- Federal MMAs cover vastly more area than state or other MMAs
Differences in MMA Size Among Governments

Federal: 5168 km²
State: 29 km²
Partner: 6 km²
Local: < 1 km²

Median: 171 km²
Level of Protection in West Coast MMAs
by area

Overall Patterns Among All MMAs

- Multiple Use 99.9%
- No Take MMAs < 0.1% of all MMA area

Who Manages No-Take MMAs?

- State 95%
- Federal 4%
- Partnership 1%

Less than 0.1% of West Coast waters are in No Take MMAs
Size of No-Take vs. Multiple Use MMAs

- Most MMAs are small
- No-take MMAs are small
- No large no-take MMAs
Area Covered By No Take MMAs on the West Coast
Conservation Focus: What do West Coast MMAs Protect?

What Do MMAs Protect?

- Many MMAs have >1 conservation focus
- Natural heritage is most common focus
- Dual NH/SP MMAs cover the majority of waters in MMAs

Number of MMAs
- NH 157
- NH & CH 33
- NH & SP 70
- CH 1
- SP 7

Percentage of MMA Area
- NH & SP 90%
- NH & CH 8%
- NH 1%
- SP 4%
- CH < 0.01%

SP = Sustainable production
CH = Cultural Heritage
NH = Natural Heritage
Fishing is managed in most MMAs
All fishing is prohibited in a very small fraction of MMA area
- MMAs regulate commercial fishing more than recreational fishing

- Commercial fishing is typically restricted (e.g., gear restrictions), but rarely prohibited
West Coast MMAs: 
*Types Of Protection*

- **Permanence of Protection (permanent vs. conditional vs. temporary)**
  - 100% (269) of West Coast MMAs are permanently protected

- **Constancy of Protection (year round vs. seasonal)**
  - 99% (265) provide year-round protection

- **Ecological Scale of Protection (ecosystem vs. focal resources)**
  - 44% of MMA area targets focal resources (e.g. fish stocks)
West Coast MMAs in summary

• Almost half of the West Coast waters in MMAs; BUT........

• Overwhelmingly majority (99.9 %) are multiple use; < 0.01 no –take

• Federal MMAs are typically large and multiple use

• State MMAs are typically small

• No-take MMAs are primarily state sites

• Largest MMAs are Federal with dual conservation focus—Sustainable Production and Natural Heritage

• Patterns confirm some, and refute other, widely held perceptions about how MMAs are used regionally.
MPA Center Contacts

West Coast Pilot Web Site:

mpa.gov/national_system/west-coast-pilot.html

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National Marine Fisheries Service
National Marine Sanctuary Program
National Estuarine Research Reserve System
National Parks System
National Wildlife Refuge System
Tribal Contacts
State Agency Contacts: CA, OR, WA
Coastal States Organization
West Coast MMAs: Overlapping Boundaries

Layers of Protection?

- Overlapping MMA boundaries are common

- Some areas contain up to 6 layered sites

- Overlapping MMAs account for 33K km²

- 8% of all WC MMA waters has > 1 site

- Some jurisdictional overlays add little new protection
When Were West Coast MMAs Created?

- Majority established after 1960, Big increase in 1970’s and another in 2000’s
- Relative number of federal vs. state MMAs is growing over time