

GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TYPES OF MARINE MANAGED AREAS

This information is a general description of the types of marine managed areas in Oregon, Washington and California. Please refer to the more detailed information provided in the following documents: [background document](#), [table](#), and [GIS layer](#) related to fishing regulations in marine managed areas of Oregon, Washington and California.

Federally Designated Marine Managed Areas:

- 28 National Wildlife Refuges, covering approximately 89,000 hectares. Regulations vary by refuge, but generally, commercial fishing is not allowed in most refuges.
- 7 National Parks, covering approximately 570,000 hectares (although only a small fraction of this area is the marine portion of the parks). Regulations vary by park.
- 5 National Marine Sanctuaries covering approximately 3,000,000 hectares. Regulations vary by sanctuary, but in general, all types of fishing are allowed in federal waters of the sanctuaries
- 4 National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERR), covering approximately 8,000 hectares. All fishing and fishing gear are prohibited from the Tijuana River NERR and the Elkhorn Slough NERR (which doesn't include the Slough's main channel). All other NERR sites allow or do not address specific fishing regulations.

Other Federal Areas:

These are some additional areas under federal jurisdiction that may have restrictions to vessel access, rather than specific regulations having to do with fishing or fishing gear. These data were developed in 1998 by Al Didier for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), so the total number of areas may have changed since these data were compiled.

- 22 Regulated Navigation Areas (33CFR165) cover approximately 17,000 hectares, and are located generally in urban areas such as Puget Sound, Columbia River, San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles and San Diego.
- 49 Danger Zones and Restricted Areas (33CFR334) cover approximately 170,000 hectares. These are located in Puget Sound, San Francisco Bay, Monterey Bay, between Morro Bay and Point Conception, off some of the Channel Islands, and a few additional southern California locations/
- 27 weather and scientific buoys. 2 buoys are located off the Washington coast, 1 is located off the Oregon coast, 20 buoys are located off the California coast, with 6 of these located off Monterey Bay. 4 of these buoys are located outside the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

Fishing Regulated Areas Established by Pacific Fishery Management Council: [\(Figures 3-22 through 3-28\).](#)

- Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA): These areas have changed over time, as well as having a seasonal component to their locations. In addition, there are specific areas for trawl gear and non-trawl gear. Not all of the historical RCA areas have been developed into GIS data, but most of the areas from 2003 are mapped as an example

- *Cowcod Conservation Areas (CCA)*: Sections of the CCA cover a total area of 1,372,447 hectares.
- *Darkblotched Conservation Area (DBCA)*: The Dark Blotched Conservation Area covered 1,029,415 hectares.
- *Yelloweye Rockfish Conservation Area (YRCA)*: This area encompasses 59,285 hectares.
- *2 National Marine Fisheries sites (Pacific Whiting Salmon Conservation Zones)*, covering approximately 44,000 hectares. These two sites, one off the Columbia River and one off the Klamath River, prohibit fishing for Pacific Whiting with commercial mid-water trawl gear.
- *Trawl Rockfish Conservation Area (RCA)*:
 April 2003: 2,380,610 ha
 May 2003: 5,530,861 ha; North of 40°10' latitude, the eastern boundary moved to shore. Other boundaries same as April.
 June 2003: 3,850,239 ha; South of 40°10', the western boundary was moved further west. North of 40°10', the eastern boundary moved away from shore to a location between the April's eastern boundary and May's eastern boundary.
 July–August 2003: 2,865,640 ha; North of 40°10', the eastern boundary was moved away from shore.
 September–October 2003: 3,592,844 ha;
 November 2003: 3,590,423 ha;
- *Non-Trawl RCA*:
 April 2003: 4,864,260 ha
 May 2003: 4,864,260 ha; Same boundaries as April 2003
 June 2003: 4,864,491 ha; Same depth boundaries as May 2003 with a small change in coordinate locations
 July–August 2003: 4,855,405 ha; Same boundaries as June 2003, with modification in southern California for Newport/South Jetty open area.
 September–October 2003: 4,956,611 ha; South of Point Conception, eastern boundary moved towards slightly towards shore. Additional areas added around Channel Islands.
 November 2003: 4,956,611 ha; Same area as September–October.

State Marine Protected Areas California:

MPA boundaries for sites in California were downloaded from the California Department of Fish and Game website. In these data, there are 79 sites covering approximately 59,000 hectares. The California sites have been categorized into 13 designations. California is currently renaming and recategorizing these sites into 3 designations (marine reserve, marine park, and marine conservation area), however the existing designations are used here for descriptive purposes ([Figure 3-29](#)).

- *10 State Marine Reserves*: These areas are located adjacent to the Channel Islands. No commercial or recreational fishing is allowed in these areas.
- *2 State Marine Conservation Areas*: These areas are also located adjacent to the Channel Islands. Most commercial fishing, except for spiny lobster fishing, is prohibited in these areas.

- 7 *State Parks*: 5 of these coastal state parks are located north of San Francisco, one is south of Monterey, and one is near Irvine. Fishing regulations vary by park.
- 4 *State Beaches*: One is located north of San Francisco and the other 3 are south of Point Conception. Fishing regulations vary by site.
- 1 *State Historic Park*: This site is located north of San Francisco. There are no prohibitions on fishing gear of any type.
- 9 *Reserves*: Several areas in, near or north of San Francisco Bay. A few areas in southern California. Regulations are highly variable by site—some prohibit all fishing, and some allow all fishing.
- 22 *Ecological Reserves*: These sites are located all along the coast. Regulations are highly variable by site—some are designated as no-take reserves, meaning all fishing is prohibited, and some are designated to prohibit certain type of fishing. Some allow all fishing, but prohibit take of other types of resources.
- 4 *MRPA Ecological Reserves*: 3 sites are located along the central California coast, and one is north of San Francisco. Recreational and commercial fishing is prohibited at all sites
- 1 *Invertebrate Reserve*: This site is located on the central coast. Recreational fishing is allowed for finfish. Commercial fishing is allowed for finfish, lobster, abalone and crab.
- 1 *Natural Preserve*: This site is located in northern California. No access allowed to the site.
- 3 *Clam Preserves*: These sites are located on the central coast, just north of Point Conception. No clams may be taken, but all commercial and recreational fishing and fishing gear are allowed.
- 1 *Marine Gardens Fish Refuge*: This site is located in Monterey Bay. Most commercial fishing gear is prohibited, except nets. Recreational pot gear is prohibited, other recreational gear is allowed.
- 14 *Marine Life Refuges*: These sites are located primarily along the central and southern coast. Most commercial gear, except pot and 'other' gear, is prohibited from these sites. All recreational gear types are allowed.

State Marine Protected Areas Oregon:

MPA boundaries for three types of sites in Oregon were provided by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. These are all small intertidal sites encompassing approximately 460 hectares ([Figure 3-30](#)).

- 7 *Marine Gardens*: Generally, commercial and recreational pot gear is prohibited, other gear types not restricted.
- 6 *Research Reserves*: Generally, commercial pot gear is prohibited
- 1 *Habitat Refuge*: All commercial and recreational fishing activities are prohibited.

State Marine Protected Areas Washington:

The Washington State GIS data for MPA's contain 68 individual sites covering approximately 28,000 hectares. The areas are managed by one of the following organizations: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR), San Juan County Marine Resource Committee (MRC), Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC), or The Nature Conservancy (TNC). The total area figure is a bit of an overestimate because some of the areas, such as state parks and TNC areas, include the upland portions of the sites as well as the marine portions ([Figures 3-31 and 3-32](#)).

- 9 *WDFW, Marine Preserves*: generally prohibit most types of commercial fishing gear.
- 2 *WDFW, Wildlife Refuges*; generally closed to all access.
- 9 *WDFW, Conservation Areas*: most restrictive of fishing—all fishing and gear are prohibited from nearly all of these sites.
- 2 *WDFW, Sea Cucumber Closures*: closed to commercial harvest of seacucumbers and urchins.
- 6 *WDNR, Aquatic Reserves*: no restrictions on commercial or recreational fishing
- 7 *WDNR, Natural Areas Preserves*: highest level of restriction—only allowable activities are scientific or education functions. Therefore, no commercial or recreational fishing allowed.
- 2 *WDNR, Natural Resource Conservation Areas*: No specific prohibition of fishing activities.
- 8 *San Juan County MRC, Bottomfish Recovery Zones*: These are voluntary bottomfish no-take zones—no specific prohibition of fishing activities.
- 7 *State Parks*: Prohibited to take non-game invertebrates and seaweed. No specific prohibition of fishing activities.
- 2 *TNC Conservation Easements*
- 14 *TNC Nature Preserves*: Limitation on public access and all fishing activities prohibited

REGULATORY AGENCY ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE TABLE:

AFB Air Force Base
CDFG California Dept. of Fish and Game
CDPR California Dept. of Parks and Recreation
DOI-NWR Dept. of Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
DOI-NPS Dept. of Interior, National Parks Service
EPA Environmental Protection Agency
NOAA-NMS Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine
Sanctuary Program
NOAA-NMFS Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine
Fisheries Service
NOAA-NERR Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Estuarine Research Reserve
ODFW Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
MMS Minerals Management Service
PFMC Pacific Fishery Management Council
RWQCB Regional Water Quality Control Boards
SLC California State Lands Commission
WDFW Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR Washington Dept. of Natural Resources
WSP Washington State Parks
USFS- U.S. Forest Service

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