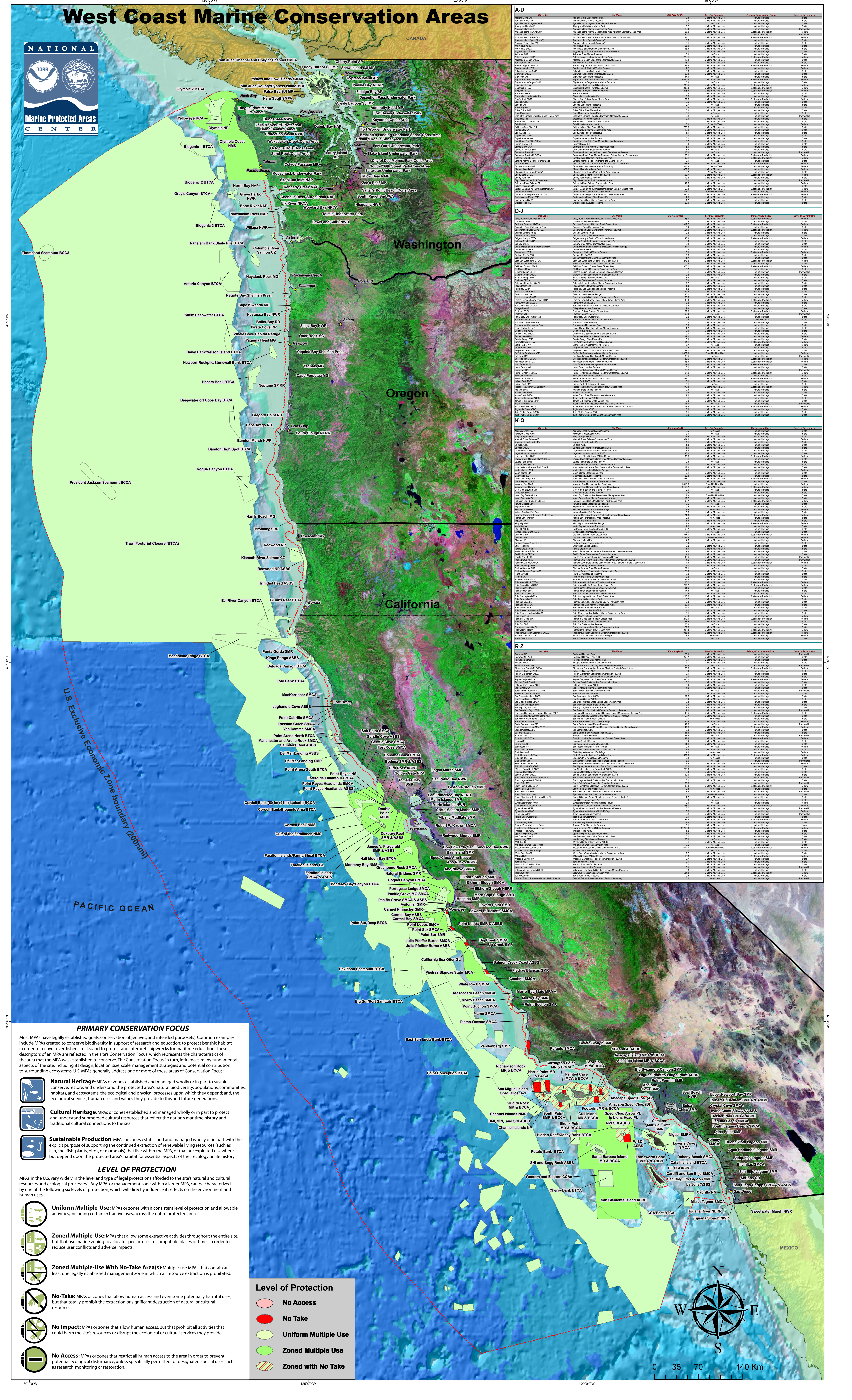


West Coast Marine Conservation Areas



MPA Label	MPA Name	MPA Area (sq mi)	Level of Protection	Primary Conservation Focus	Level of Management
Alsea River SMR	Alsea River State Marine Reserve	1.1	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	State
Alsea Valley SMR	Alsea Valley State Marine Reserve	1.1	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	State
Alsea Valley MCA	Alsea Valley Marine Conservation Area	1.1	Uniform Multiple Use	Natural Heritage	State
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PRIMARY CONSERVATION FOCUS

Most MPAs have legally established goals, conservation objectives, and intended purpose(s). Common examples include MPAs created to conserve biodiversity in support of research and education; to protect benthic habitat in order to recover over-fished stocks; and to protect and interpret shipwrecks for maritime education. These descriptors of an MPA are reflected in the site's Conservation Focus, which represents the characteristics of the area that the MPA was established to conserve. The Conservation Focus, in turn, influences many fundamental aspects of the site, including its design, location, size, scale, management strategies and potential contribution to surrounding ecosystems. U.S. MPAs generally address one or more of these areas of Conservation Focus:

- Natural Heritage:** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to sustain, conserve, restore, and understand the protected area's natural biodiversity, populations, communities, habitats, and ecosystems; the ecological and physical processes upon which they depend; and the ecological services, human uses and values they provide to this and future generations.
- Cultural Heritage:** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part to protect and understand submerged cultural resources that reflect the nation's maritime history and traditional cultural connections to the sea.
- Sustainable Production:** MPAs or zones established and managed wholly or in part with the explicit purpose of supporting the continued extraction of renewable living resources (such as fish, shellfish, plants, birds, or mammals) that live within the MPA, or that are exploited elsewhere but depend upon the protected area's habitat for essential aspects of their ecology or life history.

LEVEL OF PROTECTION

MPAs in the U.S. vary widely in the level and type of legal protections afforded to the site's natural and cultural resources and ecological processes. Any MPA, or management zone within a larger MPA, can be characterized by one of the following six levels of protection, which will directly influence its effects on the environment and human uses.

- Uniform Multiple-Use:** MPAs or zones with a consistent level of protection and allowable activities, including certain extractive uses, across the entire protected area.
- Zoned Multiple-Use:** MPAs that allow some extractive activities throughout the entire site, but that use marine zoning to allocate specific uses to compatible places or times in order to reduce user conflicts and adverse impacts.
- Zoned Multiple-Use With No-Take Area(s):** Multiple-use MPAs that contain at least one legally established management zone in which all resource extraction is prohibited.
- No-Take:** MPAs or zones that allow human access and even some potentially harmful uses, but that totally prohibit the extraction or significant destruction of natural or cultural resources.
- No Impact:** MPAs or zones that allow human access, but that prohibit all activities that could harm the site's resources or disrupt the ecological or cultural services they provide.
- No Access:** MPAs or zones that restrict all human access to the area in order to prevent potential ecological disturbance, unless specifically permitted for designated special uses such as research, monitoring or restoration.

Level of Protection

- No Access
- No Take
- Uniform Multiple Use
- Zoned Multiple Use
- Zoned with No Take

