

Elkhorn Slough State Marine Reserve and Marine Park and Moro Cojo State Marine Reserve

Size of MPA(s):

2.03 mi² (combined area)

Depth range of MPA(s):

Shore to 10 feet

Key habitats protected:

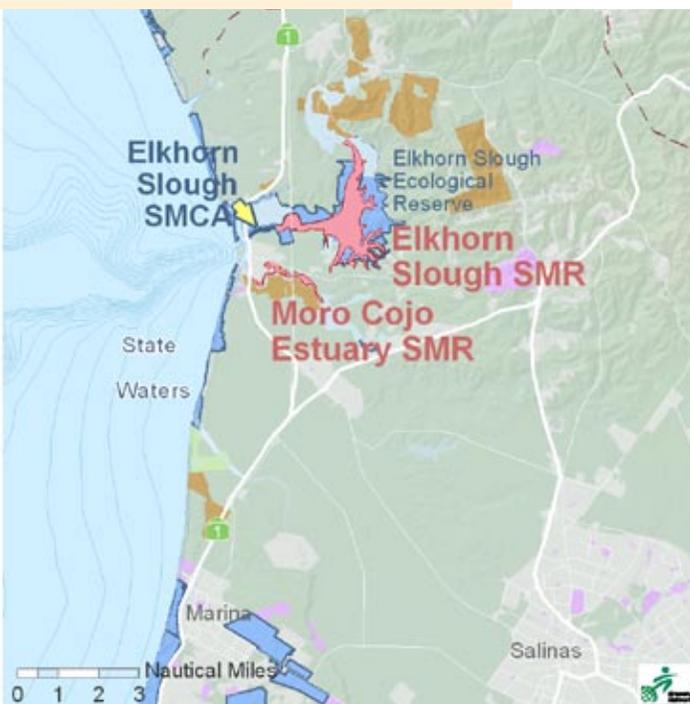
Mudflats, tidal creeks and channels, and eel-grass beds



Hoffman



Zaretsky



Elkhorn Slough, one of the largest estuaries in California, provides essential habitat for over 700 species, including aquatic mammals, birds, fish, invertebrates, algae, and plants. Moro Cojo Slough provides representation of rare brackish habitats that support threatened species.

- Meandering tidal creeks and channels are flanked by broad mudflats and salt marshes in a watershed setting of rolling hills supporting a mosaic of land uses. Elkhorn and Moro Cojo sloughs host year-round residents tightly associated with estuaries, such as pickleweed, eelgrass, oysters, gaper clams, and long-jawed mudsuckers, as well as important seasonal visitors such as migratory shorebirds, sea otters, and sharks and rays.
- The expanded MPAs will enhance both protection of the sloughs' diverse habitats and species while improving recreational opportunities. The Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve and Elkhorn Slough Foundation provide on-site management, education, and stewardship and offer public access via extensive trails, as well as a Visitor Center and volunteer opportunities.