

Appendix B

Special-Status Marine Species

Special-Status Wildlife Known to Occur in the Project Region and Their Potential to Occur in the Project Area

Species	Federal Listing Status ¹	State Listing Status ¹	Habitat
Reptiles			
Green sea turtle <i>Chelonia mydas</i>	FT	—	Green sea turtles are found worldwide primarily in subtropical and temperate regions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans and in the Mediterranean Sea. In the United States, nesting green turtles are found primarily in the Hawaiian Islands, US Pacific Island territories (i.e., Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa), Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Florida. Nesting also occurs annually in Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and Texas. This species is completely herbivorous and needs adequate supply of seagrasses and algae.
Pacific leatherback sea turtle ² <i>Dermochelys coriacea</i>	FE	SE	The Pacific leatherback sea turtle has the widest global distribution of any reptile, occurring in the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. This species nests mainly on tropical or subtropical beaches. Pacific leatherback sea turtles undertake the longest migrations between breeding and feeding areas of any sea turtle, some averaging 3,700 miles each way.
Olive ridley sea turtle <i>Lepidochelys olivacea</i>	FT	—	Olive ridley sea turtles are mainly pelagic but are also known to inhabit coastal areas. Olive ridleys are globally distributed in the tropical regions of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans. In the eastern Pacific, they occur from southern California to northern Chile. In the Pacific, large nesting populations occur in Mexico and Costa Rica.
Birds			
Ashy storm-petrel <i>Hydrobates homochroa</i>	—	SSC	Colonial nester on offshore islands. Usually nests on driest part of islands. Forages over open ocean. Nest sites on islands are in crevices beneath loosely piled rocks or driftwood, or in caves.
Bald eagle <i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	FD	SE FP	Ocean shore, lake margins, and rivers for both nesting and wintering. Most nests within 1 mile of water. Nests in large, old-growth, or dominant live tree with open branches, especially ponderosa pine. Roosts communally in winter. Sometimes forages at sea.
Black skimmer <i>Rynchops niger</i>	—	SSC	Nests on gravel bars, low islets, and sandy beaches, in unvegetated sites. Nesting colonies usually fewer than 200 pairs.
Black storm-petrel <i>Hydrobates melania</i>	—	SSC	Colonial nester on Santa Barbara Island. Forages in open ocean, in channel waters and far offshore. Primarily a warmwater species.
California brown pelican <i>Pelecanus occidentalis californicus</i>	FD	SD	Colonial nester on coastal islands just outside the surf line. Nests on coastal islands of small to moderate size that afford immunity from attack by ground-dwelling predators. Roosts communally.
California least tern <i>Sternula antillarum browni</i>	FE	SE FP	Nests along the coast from San Francisco Bay south to northern Baja California. Colonial breeder on bare or sparsely vegetated, flat substrates: sand beaches, alkali flats, landfills, or paved areas.
Fork-tailed storm-petrel <i>Hydrobates furcatus</i>	—	SSC	Colonial nester on small, offshore islets. Forages over the open ocean, usually well off-shore. Birds choose offshore islets that provide nesting crannies beneath rocks or sod for burrowing.
Marbled murrelet <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	FT	SE	Lower montane coniferous forest, old growth, redwood. Feeds near-shore; nests inland along coast from Eureka to Oregon border and from Half Moon Bay to Santa Cruz. Nests in old-growth redwood-dominated forests, up to 6 miles inland, often in Douglas fir.
Scripps's murrelet <i>Synthliboramphus scrippsi</i>	—	ST	Open ocean except during breeding season. Breeds on offshore islands in southern California. Nests in rock crevices, under bushes, in old burrows, and among human-made debris.

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Tufted puffin <i>Fratercula cirrhata</i>	—	SSC	Open ocean bird; nests along the coast on islands, islets, or (rarely) mainland cliffs. Requires sod or earth into which the birds can burrow, on island cliffs or grassy island slopes.
Fish			
Coast cutthroat trout <i>Oncorhynchus clarkii clarkii</i>	—	SSC	Small coastal streams from the Eel River to the Oregon border. Coastal cutthroat trout may be classified into an anadromous life history strategy where individuals migrate to the estuary and/or ocean before returning to freshwater to spawn.
Coho salmon - Central California Coast ESU <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> pop. 4	FE	SE	Coho salmon are anadromous—they hatch in freshwater streams and spend a year in streams and rivers then migrate out to the saltwater environment of the ocean to feed and grow.
Coho salmon - Southern Oregon/Northern California ESU <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i> pop. 2	FT	ST	Coho salmon are anadromous—they hatch in freshwater streams and spend a year in streams and rivers then migrate out to the saltwater environment of the ocean to feed and grow.
Green sturgeon <i>Acipenser medirostris</i>	FT	SSC	The most marine species of sturgeon. Abundance increases northward of Point Conception. Spawns in the Sacramento, Klamath, and Trinity Rivers. Spawns at temperatures between 8 and 14 degrees Celsius. Preferred spawning substrate is large cobble, but can range from clean sand to bedrock.
Pacific lamprey <i>Entosphenus tridentatus</i>	—	SSC	Found in Pacific Coast streams north of San Luis Obispo County; however, regular runs in Santa Clara River. Pacific Lampreys are eel-like in form and anadromous, using both fresh water and marine habitats to complete their life cycle.
Steelhead - Central California Coast DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 8	FT	—	From Russian River south to Soquel Creek and to, but not including, Pajaro River. Also San Francisco and San Pablo Bay basins. Steelhead are the anadromous form of rainbow trout. Steelhead are born in fresh water, emigrate to the ocean where most of their growth occurs, and then return to fresh water to spawn.
Steelhead - Northern California DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 16	FT	—	Coastal basins from Redwood Creek south to the Gualala River, inclusive. Does not include summer-run steelhead. Steelhead are the anadromous form of rainbow trout. Steelhead are born in fresh water, emigrate to the ocean where most of their growth occurs, and then return to fresh water to spawn.
Steelhead - South-Central California Coast DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 9	FT	—	South coast flowing waters. Federal listing refers to runs in coastal basins from the Pajaro River south to, but not including, the Santa Maria River. Steelhead are the anadromous form of rainbow trout. Steelhead are born in fresh water, emigrate to the ocean where most of their growth occurs, and then return to fresh water to spawn.
Steelhead - Southern California DPS <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus</i> pop. 10	FE	—	Southern steelhead likely have greater physiological tolerances to warmer water and more variable conditions. Steelhead are the anadromous form of rainbow trout. Steelhead are born in fresh water, emigrate to the ocean where most of their growth occurs, and then return to fresh water to spawn.
Invertebrates			
Black abalone <i>Haliotis cracherodii</i>	FE	—	Marine intertidal and splash zone communities. Middle to low rocky intertidal areas. Black abalone range from about Point Arena, California, to Bahia Tortugas and Isla Guadalupe, Mexico.
White abalone <i>Haliotis sorenseni</i>	FE	—	Marine intertidal and splash zone communities. Rocky pinnacles and deep reefs in southern California; especially those off the Channel Islands. Lives at depths of at least 80 feet to over 200 feet.

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Mammals			
Blue whale ² <i>Balaenoptera musculus</i>	FE MMPA	—	Blue whales in the eastern Pacific range from the Chukchi and Bering Seas in Alaska in summer south to Panama in Central America in winter. Although it is known that blue whales migrate south in winter to subtropical waters and to temperate waters in summer and fall, their migratory routes are not well mapped. During the northward migration, blue whales apparently travel farther offshore, but they are closer to the central California coast when they migrate south. Off California, sightings are made seasonally between June and December in the Southern California Bight and between May and November in northern and central California.
California sea lion <i>Zalophus californianus</i>	MMPA	—	California sea lions range from Baja California, Mexico, north to Vancouver Island off British Columbia. The current breeding range of this species extends from Año Nuevo Island in central California, south to the tip of Baja California, and the core breeding area centers on the California Channel Islands. California sea lions are coastal animals that feed in nearshore waters over the continental shelf and are rarely seen farther than 20 miles from land.
Common bottlenose dolphin <i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	MMPA	—	Common bottlenose dolphin occurs in all tropical and temperate seas. In California, coastal common bottlenose dolphin stay close to shore, most within approximately 0.3 mile of land. Offshore, dolphins are found far beyond the coastal shelf of California and Baja California, over the deep oceanic plains. After the extreme 1982–1983 El Niño–Southern Oscillation, southern California coastal bottlenose dolphins extended their range northward to Monterey Bay and, more recently, to San Francisco.
Common dolphin <i>Delphinus delphis</i>	MMPA	—	Common dolphins have the widest distribution of all whales and dolphins of the world, ranging across all temperate and subtropical regions and throughout the Pacific, Atlantic, and Indian Oceans. The core range of this species is from southern California south of Point Conception to the tip of Baja California and into the Sea of Cortez. Common dolphins occur north of Santa Cruz only occasionally. Long-beaked common dolphins are more associated with warmer and shallower water than short-beaked common dolphins are.
Dall's porpoise <i>Phocoenoides dalli</i>	MMPA	—	Dall's porpoises are endemic to the North Pacific, ranging from Baja California in the east, to the Sea of Japan in the west, and as far as the Bering Sea in the north. Along the west coast of North America, this species occurs from shelf waters to the deep ocean. In the Gulf of the Farallones, Dall's porpoises are the most abundant and commonly sighted cetacean.
False killer whale <i>Pseudorca crassidens</i>	MMPA	—	False killer whales are widely distributed in tropical, semitropical, and warm-temperate oceans. This species is occasionally sighted off the US coast, particularly in warmwater years, from Washington to California. False killer whales are regarded as rare seasonal transients in Monterey Bay.
Fin whale <i>Balaenoptera physalus</i>	FE MMPA	—	Fin whales are widely distributed in the world's open oceans between latitudes of 20 and 75 degrees N. Fin whales migrate annually between winter breeding and calving grounds and summer feeding grounds. Migration between high and low latitudes occurs in open ocean, so routes and timing are not well mapped. Fin whales are present year-round off central and southern California, with an apparent concentration between September and February.

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Gray whale - Eastern North Pacific DPS <i>Eschrichtius robustus</i>	FD MMPA	—	Gray whales occur in coastal waters, ranging from the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas in Alaska, south to Baja California and mainland Mexico. Gray whales migrate close to shore, following a distinct route less than 5 miles offshore, which bifurcates off Point Conception, with some whales continuing along the mainland shore and others following a route through the Channel Islands. Northward migration, when female gray whales are with their calves, is slower and occurs close to shore, likely to avoid detection by killer whales. Some gray whales, called the "Pacific Coast Feeding Aggregation," spend the entire summer off the Pacific Coast, forgoing the full migration to Alaska.
Guadalupe fur seal <i>Arctocephalus townsendi</i>	FT MMPA	ST FP	Breeds on Isla de Guadalupe off Mexico and is occasionally found on San Miguel, San Nicolas, and San Clemente Islands. Prefers shallow, nearshore island water, with cool and sheltered rocky areas for haul-outs.
Harbor porpoise <i>Phocoena phocoena</i>	MMPA	—	In the Pacific Ocean, harbor porpoises have been observed as far north as the Bering Sea, Alaska, and as far south as Point Conception, California. Harbor porpoises prefer bays, estuaries, and nearshore waters. Along the California coast, most harbor porpoises are sighted over the continental shelf, within approximately 5 miles of shore.
Harbor seal <i>Phoca vitulina</i>	MMPA	—	Harbor seal is the most widespread of all pinnipeds, occurring throughout the oceans of the northern hemisphere. In the eastern Pacific, harbor seals occur from Ascension Island, Baja California, northward along the Alaskan peninsula. Harbor seals generally reside in estuaries or in nearshore waters with both rocky and soft-bottom substrates on the outer coast. This species rarely ventures more than 12 miles from shore. Harbor seal colonies may be on intertidal rocks, tidal mudflats, or sandy beaches.
Humpback whale - Central America DPS and Mexico DPS ² <i>Megaptera novaeangliae</i>	FE MMPA	—	Humpback whales are cosmopolitan, and on the west coast of the United States, this species spends spring, summer, and fall feeding in coastal waters from Washington to California, particularly in the superabundant waters of the Gulf of the Farallones and Southern California Bight. Humpback whales are associated with shallow continental shelf and shelf break habitats; with islands such as the Channel Islands; with offshore banks and seamounts, such as Cordell Bank and the Santa Rosa-Cortez Ridge; and with reefs.
Killer whale – Southern Resident DPS <i>Orcinus orca</i>	FE MMPA	—	Southern Resident DPS killer whales spend several months of the summer and fall each year in Washington State's Puget Sound. The population is composed of three family groups of whales that have been named the J, K, and L pods. Although the Southern Resident DPS usually spends the summer near Washington State and southwest British Columbia, in the winter, the L and K pods are known to travel to the northern coast of California as far south as Monterey Bay.
Killer whale (transient population) <i>Orcinus orca</i>	MMPA	—	Killer whales are cosmopolitan but typically favor colder, fertile waters near coasts. Transient-type killer whales appear to prey primarily on marine mammals, cover a more extensive range, and are less seasonally predictable than the resident killer whales. The transient "ecotype" is the most commonly observed killer whale ecotype in California.
Minke whale <i>Balaenoptera acutorostrata</i>	MMPA	—	Minke whales are distributed throughout most of the oceans of the world, but three separate subspecies have been identified in the northern hemisphere, including one associated with the California Current. Although some minke whales migrate, year-round residence has been noted in Drakes and Monterey Bays in central California. Minke whales are associated with areas of consistent upwelling with high primary productivity and where the seabed sediments are gravelly sand or mud.

Species	Federal Listing Status ¹	State Listing Status ¹	Habitat
North Pacific right whale <i>Eubalaena japonica</i>	FE MMPA	FP	The North Pacific right whale is the most endangered of all the large whales, with fewer than 50 believed to be in existence in the eastern North Pacific. Before whaling decimated right whale populations, this species was documented to range broadly throughout the North Pacific, north into the Bering Sea and south near Monterey Bay.
Northern elephant seal <i>Mirounga angustirostris</i>	MMPA	FP	The range of northern elephant seals covers a vast area of the North Pacific Ocean, extending from Central America north to Arctic waters of the Bering Sea and west as far as Japan and the Commander Islands of Russia. In California, northern elephant seals breed on the southern Channel Islands, Año Nuevo Island, Gorda, Cape San Martin, San Simeon, southeast Farallon Islands, and Point Reyes. At sea, females forage at midwater depths (i.e., 1,000 feet) in the North Pacific Gyre, and males forage on the bottom of the ocean along the continental margin.
Northern fur seal <i>Callorhinus ursinus</i>	MMPA	—	Marine intertidal and splash zone communities, rocky shore, and sandy shore. Breeds on land on large offshore rocks and along rocky or sandy island shorelines. San Miguel Island is only breeding location in California. At sea, northern fur seals occur mostly off the continental shelf in deep waters, 20–70 miles offshore.
Northern right whale dolphin <i>Lissodelphis borealis</i>	MMPA	—	Northern right whale dolphins occur in the North Pacific Ocean. In the eastern Pacific, this species occurs along most of the California Current, although rarely south to lower Baja California. The population in California appeared to be centered between Point Sur and Point Conception, including the northern Channel Islands.
Pacific white-sided dolphin <i>Lagenorhynchus obliquidens</i>	MMPA	—	Pacific white-sided dolphin is endemic to the North Pacific Ocean, ranging from the South China Sea to the Aleutians and south to the west coast of North America to the tip of Baja California and into the Sea of Cortez. The species occurs along the entire California Current and is considered an offshore species. Off southern California, Pacific white-sided dolphins are typically most abundant from November through April.
Risso's dolphin <i>Grampus griseus</i>	MMPA	—	Risso's dolphin is cosmopolitan and can be sighted far offshore of the west coast of North America. Risso's dolphins favor continental slopes, seamounts, and underwater escarpments. In California, Risso's dolphins are most often seen in the Southern California Bight, Monterey Bay, and the Gulf of the Farallones. Risso's dolphins may occur closer to the coast on the continental shelf in their pursuit of squid.
Sei whale <i>Balaenoptera borealis</i>	FE MMPA	—	Sei whales occur throughout most of the temperate and subtropical oceans of the world but rarely venture above latitude 55 degrees N in the North Pacific or south of California. The North Pacific stock ranges almost exclusively in pelagic waters and rarely ventures into coastal waters.
Short-finned pilot whale <i>Globicephala macrorhynchus</i>	MMPA	—	Short-finned pilot whales are cosmopolitan, and in the eastern Pacific, these whales are associated with habitats with complex topography, such as seamounts and ridges, and along the continental shelf break and slope. Pilot whales were once seasonally common in the Southern California Bight; however, following the extreme 1982–1983 El Niño–Southern Oscillation, pilot whales virtually disappeared from this location.
Southern sea otter <i>Enhydra lutris nereis</i>	FT MMPA	FP	Nearshore marine environments from about Año Nuevo, San Mateo County, to Point Sal, Santa Barbara County. Needs canopies of giant kelp and bull kelp for rafting and feeding. Prefers rocky substrates with abundant invertebrates.

Species	Federal Listing Status ¹	State Listing Status ¹	Habitat
Sperm whale <i>Physeter macrocephalus</i>	FE MMPA	—	Sperm whales are cosmopolitan, and in the eastern Pacific, this species favors deeper waters near or beyond the continental break, rarely venturing close to shore. Sperm whales are present off California year-round, and off central California, abundance is greater in mid-May and mid-September, a pattern likely related to the whales' migration along the California Current.
Steller sea lion <i>Eumetopias jubatus</i>	FD MMPA	—	Breeds on Año Nuevo, San Miguel, and Farallon Islands; Point St. George, and Sugarloaf. Hauls-out on islands and rocks. Needs haul-out and breeding sites with unrestricted access to water, near aquatic food supply and with no human disturbance. Generally, Steller sea lions feed nearshore on the continental shelf, but individuals have been observed at sea up to 300 miles from land.

Notes: ESU = evolutionarily significant unit; DPS = distinct population segment.

¹ Legal Status Definitions

Federal:

FD Delisted from ESA

FE Endangered (legally protected)

FT Threatened (legally protected)

MMPA Protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act

State:

SD Delisted from CESA

SE Endangered (legally protected)

ST Threatened (legally protected)

FP Fully protected (legally protected)

SSC Species of special concern (no formal protection other than CEQA consideration)

² Actionable Species under the RAMP Regulations and Covered Species included in CDFW's Incidental Take Permit application and proposed implementing agreement.

Sources: Allen et al. 2011; CNDDDB 2024; USFWS 2023.

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